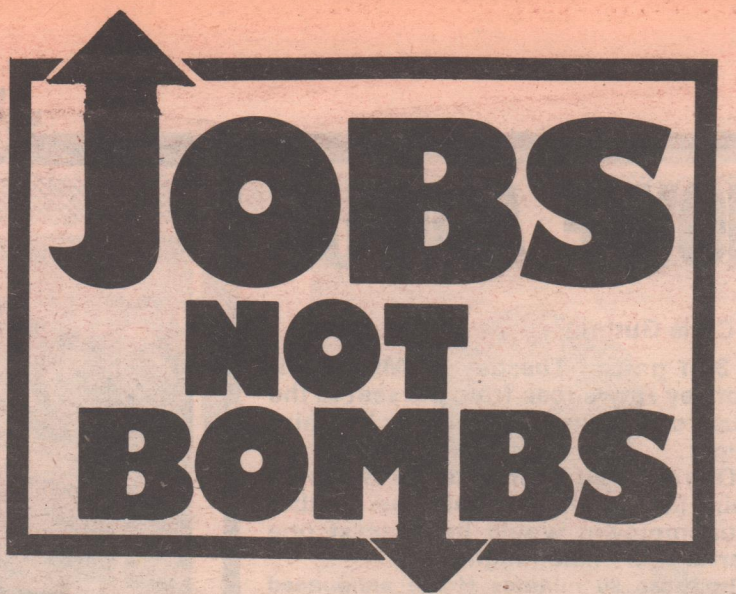


# Socialist Challenge



## TORY GOVERNMENT IN CRISIS

# OUT



# OUT



# OUT



**BATTERED!** That's the state of the Tory government after last week's disastrous budget.

Howe's disaster package will hit working class living standards through higher taxes, and further plunge the economy into gloom.

Even inside the cabinet it's becoming obvious that Tory monetarism has been a disaster.

Through deflationary policies which deliberately put up unemployment, the Tories hoped to smash workers' militancy and create a pliant and submissive workforce.

At the same time the 'lame duck' companies would go to the wall. British capitalism would emerge strengthened and the workers would be battered.

But neither has happened.

The disastrous slump is hitting both profitable and unprofitable firms. In the first two months of this year, 3,000 firms went bust. Over the past year industrial production has declined by 1 1/2 per cent.

Despite the outcry against the budget, Thatcher and Howe have signalled their determination to plunge ahead with their disaster policies.

Like cornered animals, the Tories will continue to lash out at working people while they stay in power.

The Tory crisis is an opportunity to push home the fight to finish them off.

In April the TUC's week of action will mobilise thousands of trade unionists against monetarist madness. In May the Liverpool-London jobs march will end in a monster protest in London.

Also in May the local elections take place, which can be an opportunity to remove the Tories from office across the country.

By creating a lot more Labour councils, working class votes can begin to turn the tables on the Tory cuts strategy — it will be much more difficult for Heseltine to force cuts on local councils if Labour wins massive majorities.

After a week of turmoil in the Tory Party, including the almost unprecedented defection of a Tory MP, the task for us is evident.

**The Tories' crisis is our opportunity — provided we organise now to capitalise on it.**



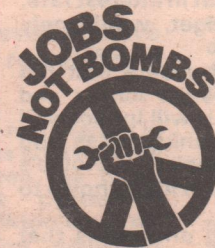
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## HOWE AWFUL

By Chris Guthrie

AT 3.31 pm on Tuesday 10 March, Sir Geoffrey Howe rose from his seat in the House of Commons to deliver his third budget.

One and half hours later he sat down again, having ensured that the number of unemployed would be at least one quarter of a million higher.

In those 90 minutes Howe announced measures which together with last November's mini-budget will take £5bn out of consumers' pockets and £1.4bn from oil companies and banks.

Most of this money will be used to cut government borrowing, with only a small amount being ploughed back into industry.

The details of Howe's measures are, by now, well known. The freezing of personal tax allowances, together with the rise in national insurance contributions in April, will mean that pay packets will be worth less in money terms, never mind real terms.

The huge increases in taxation on alcohol, tobacco and petrol will add about 2 per cent to the rate of inflation.

### Tax increases

These tax increases will mean an average fall of £5 a week in a family's income, according to the TUC economic committee. And the budget will hit the poor hardest of all.

The Low Pay Unit estimates that a further 13,000 families will join the 100,000 already caught in the poverty trap, whereby they lose more in tax and benefits than they gain in income if their earnings improve.

Neither were there any big hand-outs to industry. Yet one of the objects of the budget was, in Howe's words, 'to respond to the imbalance between consumers and industry'.

While last year trade unionists managed to secure a small rise in their real earnings, company profits — excluding banks and oil companies — fell. The budget was expected to change all that.

But the Confederation of British Industry called it 'at least a brush-off and at worst a kick in the teeth'. The Financial Times share index reacted by a fall of 14.3 points, the largest fall in a single day since Howe's first budget.

Why did a bosses' government give so little of the money it had wrenched from consumers to its friends in industry? The reason lies in the difficulties the Tories have had in implementing their monetarist strategy.

The core of their plan is to boost profits by weakening trade union organisation with the threat of unemployment. This strategy has certainly been furthered with the budget. Most forecasters now expect the number of registered unemployed to top 3m by the end of the year.

### Financial aims

Monetarism also has a financial aim. By holding down the money supply and the amount of government borrowing (the famous Public Sector Borrowing Requirement, PSBR for short) the government hopes to help industry by lowering interest rates and inflation.

However, the Tories have found this increasingly difficult. Resistance to further spending cuts, the refusal of public sector workers to accept a cut in real wages, the government's need to bail out BL and BSC, and its capitulation to the miners have all prevented public spending falling.

On the other hand, the government's revenue has fallen by more than forecast because the recession has been deeper than it expected. As a result the PSBR was heading for a level twice as high as aimed for last year.

The government's view is that if the extra revenue raised in the budget had been handed back to industry, rather than being used to reduce the PSBR, then the cut in interest rate, also announced in the budget, would only have been temporary.

Last week's budget will ensure that the current recession will be even longer and deeper. The fall in demand it will induce will lead to further company bankruptcies and unemployment. Yet the logic of Howe's monetarist philosophy left him little choice to do anything else.

What Howe is gambling on now is that working people will further reduce their wage claims. But if the reverse happens, then Howe's third budget may well prove the harbinger of the fall of the Tory government.



Camden NUPE strike in 1979 — the victory is now threatened

# Camden's struggle against the cuts

**THE Tory budget is only one of a number of financial burdens which are being imposed on working people in the next couple of months.**

**Already, many council tenants are faced with massive rent rises, and higher rates are on the way.**

Many of these financial attacks have, as their source, the Tory's public spending cuts, but these cuts are often implemented by Labour-controlled councils.

One such council is the London borough of Camden which last week imposed a rent rise of an average of £3 a week and a rate increase of 44 per cent.

Some 600 redundancies in the council's building department are also under way.

And yet, just two years ago during the 'winter of discontent', Camden council agreed to pay its low-paid workers an increase of between £5 and £11 above that agreed nationally.

How is it that Camden has now capitulated to Michael Heseltine and the Tory choppers?

As secretary of the local NUPE branch, John Suddaby is in a good posi-

tion to explain what has happened, and what the lessons are for the future.

In the past, says John, 'the Labour group leadership's attitude has been to keep its head down, and hope that, as a so-called high spending council, it would go unnoticed.'

'But recently, under threat from the district auditor, the council reversed its position on a number of policies.'

### Crucial

It was this intervention by the district auditor which proved crucial. The council was threatened with court action, and the councillors with having to personally pay surcharges to make up for what the auditor considered to be past 'over-spending'.

Part of this was the pay supplement agreed by the council during the winter of discontent. The council are now proposing to



John Suddaby

withdraw that supplement.

The reaction of the trade unions to these measures has been disappointing. Originally, John explains, there was 'a unity of opposition to the cuts by the unions. But when the district auditor entered the scene — and we are talking here about the law and the effectiveness of legal intervention — that unity was seriously weakened.'

'Thus, a NALGO mass meeting agreed to co-operate with the council, and the building workers agreed to the possibility of voluntary redundancies.'

'On the other hand we in NUPE had a one-day strike on 1 March, but the fact that other unions are temporarily out of action has had serious implications.'

### Constraints

The reaction from the local Labour Party was also mixed. John recounted: 'At a party meeting I attended last week, there were a large number of Labour Party members who criticised the leadership of the council.'

'The council replied by saying there 'were legal constraints and the council had to obey the law. And, of course, they used the fact that there is not a London campaign against the cuts, or a national campaign or campaigns in other boroughs to justify their attitudes.'

The building of such campaigns is, believes John, crucial for the fight against the Tory cuts.

'There is in Camden a grouping of the Labour left — indeed ten councillors voted against the

cuts package — supported by many rank and file party members.'

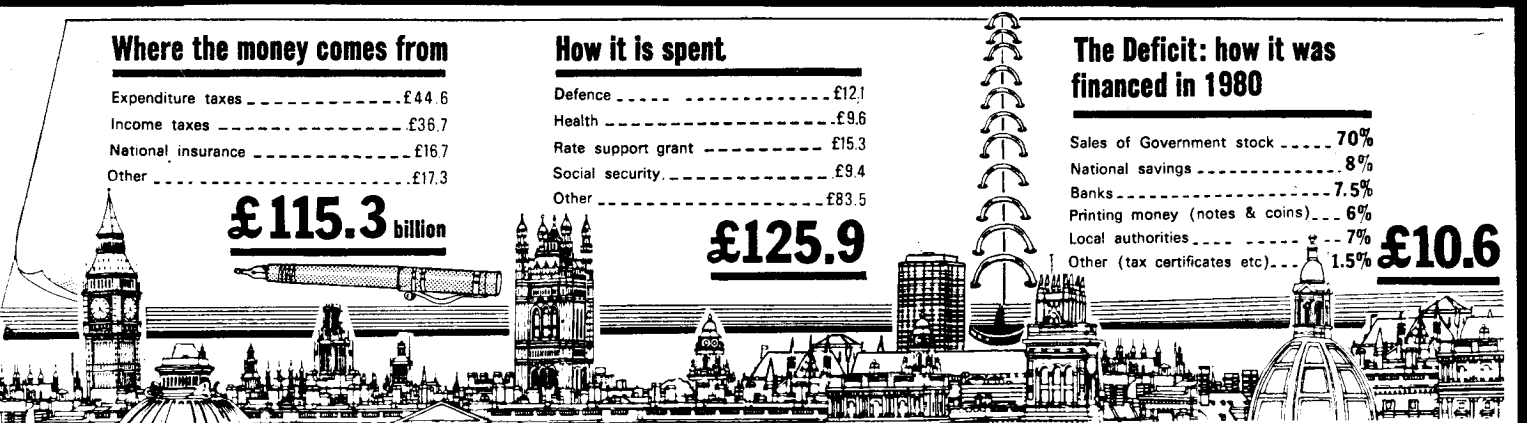
'What you need to get is a situation where the Labour Parties dissociate themselves from councils who implement cuts. But such a split should not just be directed towards re-selecting councillors.'

### Outwards

'What is also involved is the Labour Parties turning outwards, involving themselves in a campaign with the trade unions and tenants associations to mobilise the community and demand that the council takes a stand.'

Such questions are becoming more important with the local elections looming.

The twin policy of Labour Party members working to remove as council candidates those who implement cuts, while turning to the community as a whole to mount a campaign to back up such a stance is something which deserves the most active consideration by militants both inside and outside the Labour Party.



# We will bankrupt the country if necessary



Phil Dexter

ON 9 March, for the first time ever, all nine civil service unions joined together in a united campaign and went on strike for the day.

Since then other selective strike action has closed airports, given smugglers golden opportunities and restricted the operation of Britain's racist immigration laws.

Some civil servants are on long-term strike — like the 250 workers at Newcastle's Central Office, which deals with national insurance contributions for the whole of the country. DAVE NORMAN and ANN MARIE MALER asked PHIL DEXTER, one of the 250, about the dispute.

Phil began by detailing the civil servants' case:

'The claim is for 15 per cent, with a £10 underpinning minimum increase for the lower grades. We regard this as fairly moderate, and 15 per cent as the absolute minimum necessary to keep pace with inflation.'

'The government originally offered us 6 per cent, but this has now been increased to 7 per cent, provided we accept one per cent "good housekeeping" cuts. This offer was an insult, and was totally unacceptable to the unions.'

## Suspended

There is more to the strike than a simple wage claim. The government has suspended the Pay Research Unit (PRU), which has assessed civil servants' pay for the last 25 years.

Phil explains that 'the left in the Civil and Public Servants Association has long been an opponent of the PRU because comparability with similar jobs elsewhere, the principle on which it works, has meant that we have always been a year behind in receiving our pay rises.'

'However, this year the PRU would have recommended rises of between 15 and 20 per cent. This would have embarrassed the government, hell bent as they are on maintaining a 6 per cent limit in the public sector.'

## Organised

This civil service strike is the first time Phil's own union section — employed by the Department of Health and Social Security — has been involved.

Says Phil: 'We are the largest, most active and best organised section of the CPSA. The failure to involve us in industrial action in the past was a big mistake and meant that the union was not exerting its full industrial muscle.'

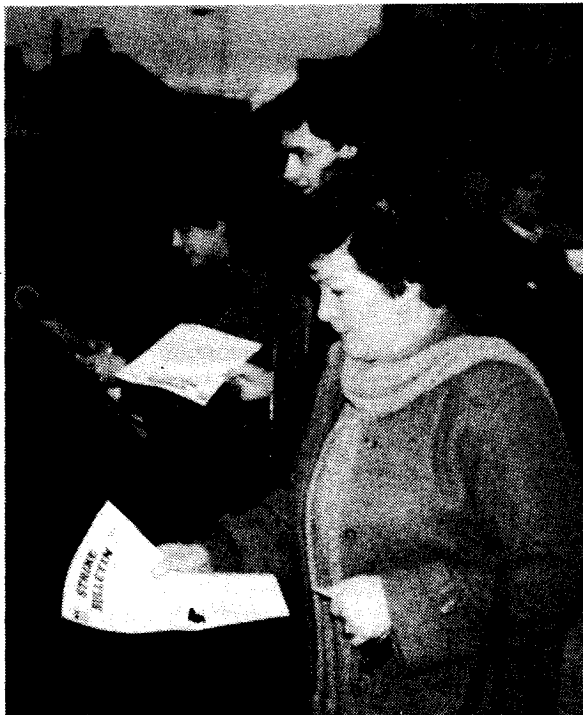
But now that these workers are involved, wouldn't claimants be affected? Phil says no: 'The strategy is to hit the government and to disrupt the flow of revenue into the treasury. The object is not to hit unemployed workers, the sick or pensioners.'

'Those of us on strike work on the contributions computer. We hold all the personal details and records for the whole of the British Isles. The effect of our action will be that all claimants will have to be assessed as having paid contributions for a full year. This will result in many overpayments.'

'Nobody will lose their benefits, and it is unlikely that overpayments will be recovered as this would be an extremely costly exercise for the government.'

## Militant

The mood of the strikers at Newcastle Central Office is, according to Phil, 'extremely militant' and '100 per cent solid'. This hardly squares with



Strikers' leaflets read avidly



the media view of civil servants.

But, says Phil, 'the image of a civil servant as someone with a bowler hat and a briefcase is so alien to the majority of workers in Newcastle that it isn't even a joke.'

'Newcastle Central Office is a clerical factory, the majority of the staff are women and we are all

on low pay. It was no easy decision to go out on strike, and if we are going to come out and put our necks on the line for the rest of the membership then we are not going to let a bunch of scabs destroy our unity.'

'Picketing during the one-day strike was more aggressive in Newcastle than anywhere else in the country.'

Such militancy is not a reflection of the lead being given nationally. The CPSA is led by Kate Losinka, one of the most right wing of all union leaders.

## Avoid

In the past the union's leadership has always sought to avoid conflict but if the national executive do so this time Phil believes they will pay 'a very heavy price'. As to how the strike should develop, Phil's views are uncompromising:

'There are real weaknesses in the selective strike strategy. However, the reality is that a national all-out strike is probably unrealistic at this stage in the union's development. The present action is the most extensive involvement that the

CPSA has ever been engaged in.

'The main task, for the moment, is to maintain the confidence of those on strike, and to make sure that all those still working pay the strike levy. But we must campaign — and I mean campaign now — to win this dispute.'

'Escalation will probably be necessary, and we must be prepared to immediately respond if management attempt to suspend people. In the end it will only be with large scale involvement that we can win.'

Phil's parting words were a reflection of the obvious anger and determination of many of the civil servants who have captured the headlines this past week:

'We have had enough, and we now realise that if we are to achieve decent conditions and a living wage we are going to have to fight. If necessary we will bankrupt the country to win this dispute.'

## Civil servants action empties airports

Donations to the Newcastle strikers, and messages of support to Kevin McHugh (chairperson CPSA), Room 615 CPSA Office, DHSS Benton Park Rd, Newcastle.

## Strike stops world war rehearsal

By Keith Legg

CIVIL servants in Cleveland have prevented a dummy run of World War Three.

This is because the main target in the area for continuous strike action over the pay has been the Royal Navy's spare parts centre at Eaglescliffe, near Stockton-on-Tees.

Thirty two striking computer staff at this Ministry of Defence establishment have prevented stock records from being kept up to date.

Consequently NATO's military exercise, code-named 'Wintex', which is a dry run for World War

Three, is being severely curtailed. Pickets at the main gates have turned away 85 per cent of deliveries, and many suppliers, including Rolls Royce drivers, will not deliver until after the strike is over.

Pickets were in high spirits when I spoke to them. 'Our action will hit the government where it really hurts — right in the ego,' one of them said.

Spare parts for all British navy vessels will be held up, and many vessels, including nuclear submarines, will have to return to port.

Letters of support, especially from other civil service branches should be sent to: COCSU, c/o NUP Offices, 83 Borough Rd, Middlesbrough.



## Labour students to oppose union president

By Ann Henderson, national executive member, NUS

**LABOUR** Party members in the National Union of Students have decided to challenge the Communist Party president of the NUS, Dave Aaronovitch, in the coming election.

This marks a significant cleavage in the union's 'Left Alliance', which in the past has been supported by the Communist Party and the National Organisation of Labour Students, as well as by members of the Liberal Party.

## Welcome

Now NOLS is putting up Helen Connors as a challenger to Aaronovitch.

These differences within the left Alliance come at a time when the very existence of student unions is threatened at a local and national level, at a time, too, when education at all levels is facing massive cut-backs.

The policies of the Left Alliance, based as they are on a strategy of negotiation and compromise with the Tory government, has proved incapable of defeating these attacks, and incapable of turning the NUS into a campaigning organisation involving all its membership.

In this respect, the initial move away from the Left Alliance by NOLS is welcome.

## Forefront

Yet NOLS is still supporting two other Left Alliance candidates for membership of the executive of the union, and there is a further contradiction in that NOLS is also backing a candidate of the Socialist Student Alliance for another post on the executive.

For its part, the Socialist Students Alliance has been in the forefront of the struggles to defend student unions over the past year, as well as organising opposition to British presence in Ireland, and in support of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

## Unity

In the elections the SSA is stressing the need for unity of all those prepared to build a campaigning NUS and to fight against the Tory government.

On these issues the SSA is calling for unity with the Socialist Workers Students Organisation and with those students in NOLS who have shown their commitment to fighting for socialist policies.

# Linwood workers prepare to occupy

By Des Tierney

**TIME** is running out for the workers at the Talbot plant at Linwood in the west of Scotland, where 4,800 jobs are threatened by closure.

At a mass meeting three weeks ago approximately 30 per cent of the workers voted to accept the closure and negotiate for higher redundancy pay.

However, since then there has been the highly successful labour movement demonstration in Glasgow against unemployment, and growing support for the VF workers who are occupying their factory in Greenock against closure.

Then, on 11 March in Glasgow a rally was held which pledged its support for the Linwood workers.

The rally, which brought together shop stewards from the major plants in the west of Scotland was called by the Talbot Action Committee. It was opened by Jimmy Livingstone, the Transport and General Workers Union convenor at Linwood.

## Failure

He stressed that the last ten years had seen a failure on the part of the shop stewards movement to effectively fight redundancies. But then, an example of how such a fight could be waged was given by Ellen Morgan, spokesperson for the occupying VF workers.

## Strikers hold out for union recognition

By Pete Clifford

A MASS picket greeted anti-union boss Robert Nowak last Monday at the Royal Pride furniture factory in Salford where 18 members of the furniture union FTAT have been on strike for three weeks.

Nowak agreed to concede the original demand for a nationally negotiated wage rise on the condition that the workers gave up union membership.

When the strikers, who are mostly women, refused, he threatened to close the factory.

Shop steward Marie Fenel explains: 'Nowak says he won't recognise the union. Our principle is that we should be able to join.'

All the strikers treat the closure threat as a bluff.



Photo: TALBOT VOICE

Hugh Wyper

Ellen emphasised that the Greenock occupiers were demanding that the jobs of all the VF corporation workers in Britain and Ireland should be secured through work-sharing, and that the only way to achieve this was to 'put up the barricades'. The VF workers are now in their sixth week of occupation.

Another speaker at the rally was Hugh Wyper, regional secretary of the transport union, TGWU in Scotland, who outlined the support which Talbot workers could expect

Gardners' workers who successfully occupied against redundancies last year were among the first to support the strike with a shop floor collection.

They were followed by Shell, Chloride Schreiber, Kelloggs, Massey-Ferguson and two local bus depots. A magnificent collection of £112 was raised by miners at Ageoft pit.

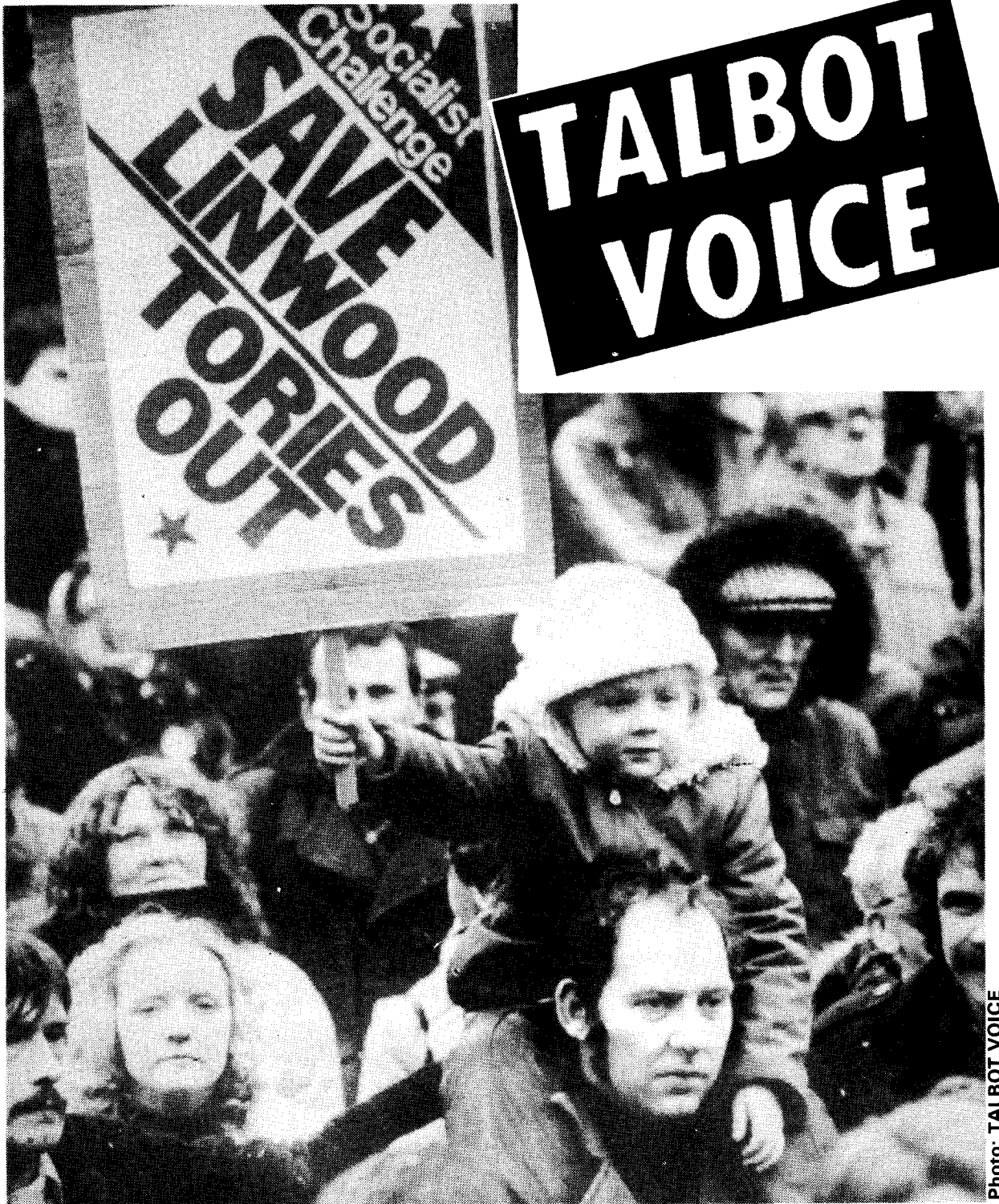
How you can support the strikes

- Send delegations to the daily pickets and the mass picket on Mondays at Royal Pride, Greengate, Salford.

- Send donations to Royal Pride Strike Fund, c/o FTAT, 37 Anson Rd, Manchester 14.

- Attend the support meeting on Saturday 21 March at 1pm, Black Horse, The Crescent, Salford. Speakers: Frank Allaun MP; Phil Davis, FTAT convenor at Schreiber's; and Val Harrop, Royal Pride striker. Social in the evening at the Black Horse organised by Women in Action supporters.

**STOP PRESS: As we went to press we heard that the Royal Pride workers had occupied.**



Youth shows the way forward at Glasgow demo

from the union.

He promised that all Peugeot goods would be stopped from moving; that no deliveries of Peugeot models would take place throughout Britain or at the ports. But first, he said, the Linwood workers would have to give a lead.

In a dramatic turn-about for the trade union leadership in Scotland

Hugh Wyper declared: 'We've got to draw the line at Linwood. Workers have got to stop worrying about rocking the boat. If we don't rock the boat we won't get anywhere. This has been proved by the miners.'

Other speakers also pledged support if the Linwood workers go into battle. Dave Cooper,

from Govan joint shop stewards committee, reminded the rally of the struggle waged against the Heath government by Upper Clyde Shipyard workers.

Sammy Barr, district secretary of the Boilermakers, said that as soon as the Linwood workers reach a decision £1,000 would be available from the UCS fighting fund.

But perhaps the last word should be left to Bridie Bellingham, another of the VF occupiers. She received rapturous applause from the shop stewards for her

exhortation to the Linwood workers: 'If we can do it, so can Linwood. Win, lose or draw, it's worth the fight to keep our jobs.'

## Socialist Challenge

### JOIN THE FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM

If you would like to be put in touch with Socialist Challenge supporters in your area or would like more information fill in the form below

Name.....

Address.....

Age.....

Union/CLP (if any).....

Send to: Socialist Challenge PO Box 50, London N1 2XP

## Ford threatens 25,000 jobs

**BILL** Hayden, vice-president of the European wing of the Ford Motor Company, is demanding an almost 40 per cent reduction in the number of workers employed by the company in Britain.

Altogether over 25,000 jobs have been earmarked for the axe over the next four years, and whole plants — especially those at Halewood and Dagenham — are threatened with closure.

This emerged at a union-management meeting at the weekend.

Hayden told Ron Todd of the Transport and General Workers Union that 7,000 jobs will be axed each year up to 1985. But Todd's immediate reaction appeared to be one of playing down the threat to so many jobs.

There was, he said, 'no immediate panic', and he offered the reassurance that Ford was not planning 'enforced redundancies'.

Whether or not the redundancies are 'voluntary', car workers can ill afford to lose another 25,000 plus jobs when unemployment is spiralling towards over three million.

An urgent campaign of action to fight any redundancies is needed immediately by the Fords workers.



# Labour Party

By Ralph Blake

THE annual conference of the Scottish Labour Party last weekend called on the next Labour government to withdraw from NATO. This followed a conference vote against stationing Cruise and Trident missiles in Britain and for unilateral nuclear disarmament.

The 'quit NATO' resolution proposed by Lothian regional Labour Party also endorsed Lothian council's refusal to subscribe to the civil defence exercise 'square leg'.

The conference went on to adopt a radical five-point programme for Scottish Labour. It included rejection of incomes policy and for the Labour left's alternative economic strategy; for withdrawal from NATO and the Common Market; and for a Scottish Assembly with tax-raising powers to redistribute wealth and regenerate Scottish industry.

The conference was addressed by Helen Liddel from the Greenock jeans factory occupied by over 200 women. She told the delegates they had to turn the lumps in their throats into hard cash and continuous support.

## Scottish Labour demands 'Quit NATO'

I won't die for Thatcher  
STOP CRUISE MISSILES

Each 20p + 11p postage. Bulk orders (over 20) 15p each post free. Make cheques/postal orders payable to Hackney Book Group, c/o PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

# Smash the Labour Party to prevent left take-over

## One Social Democrat's aim

By Julian Atkinson

STEPHEN Haseler is one of the 100 signatories of the first public appeal of the Council for Social Democracy.

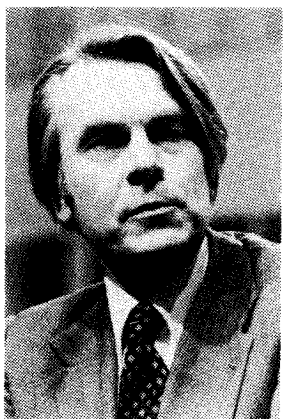
A number of articles, most usefully one in the recent *Searchlight*, have pointed out that for a 'moderate' Haseler has some odd political colleagues: the Reaganite think-tank, supporters of the John Birch Society and a leading member of the anti-semitic World Anti-Communist League.

And while that nice Shirley Williams had a brief, if embarrassing and uncharacteristic presence on the Grunwick picket line, Dr Haseler was writing for *Free Nation*, journal of the National Association for Freedom (NAFF) which was effectively organising the lock-out.

Haseler's book, *The Tragedy of Labour*, explains one of the important currents behind the emergence of the 'mini-split' in the Labour Party.

## Devotion

He was originally a hero-worshipper of Gaitskell and it was this devotion to the memory of his late leader that led him in



Social democrat leader David Owen. His supporter Stephen Haseler seems no different from the Tories.

the early '70s to cross swords with some of the other right-wingers such as Jenkins.

Haseler was a co-author of a pamphlet *Social Democracy: Beyond Social Revisionism* which argued that the right could lose out if it did not become populist.

## Learn

It had to learn from Gaitskell who, in rejecting the Common Market, stood up for 'one thousand years' of British history and evoked images of Vimy Ridge and Gallipoli. This was not liberal, progressive or internationalist — the curses of the Labour right — but populist.

The 1980 Haseler has developed these ideas and pushed them to the right. Initially he had the idea in forming the Social Democratic Alliance of reforming the Labour Party.

The '78/9 period changed his mind. There was an 'incipient industrial anarchy, a more generalised threat to all institutions'.

In Haseler's view the aim of the parliamentary left has been to gradually take over the Labour Party. He exaggerates its strength in order to draw his conclusion — to avoid a lurch to the socialist left the Labour right has to smash the party.

The gulf between the Labour right and left is too great and a choice must be made: Shore, Hattersley



The Grunwick picket. Social democrat Shirley Williams, a member of APEX, participated in an uncharacteristic gesture. At

the same time Stephen Haseler was writing articles for the National Association for Freedom magazine 'Free Nation'.

and Healey cannot play at being Mitterand and Marchais at the same time.

A through-going split could leave the Labour Party like the French CP 'isolated electorally, ideologically rigid, pro-Eastern in foreign policy but retaining its power in society through its influence in strategically placed unions.'

## Split

He also recognises that a precondition for this crippling split is a fragmentation of the unions: 'In dramatic circumstances the moderates in the trade unions could take whole unions or parts of unions out of the TUC in order to form a rival less socialist TUC.'

Certainly a split in the unions would be a disaster. But Haseler fails to grasp that a Labour Party based on a unified and militant union movement, that had rid itself of

all its crypto-Tories and was fighting for the working class, could be enormously popular and a real threat to established privilege.

For Haseler the Labour Party is against the working class. The party has been taken over by a 'new class' of educated public sector workers. These socialists insult the working class by assuming that it is potentially racist: 'Certainly working class hostility to Third World immigration is a fact of life. But hostility is not racism.'

'By the socialists this hostility is vilified as crypto-fascism.'

Haseler then engages in a stomach-turning defence of Callaghan's 1968 Immigration Act and the racist outburst of Bob Mellish with his vision of a thousand West Indians getting out of a train at Victoria station and threatening the housing of 'our people'. It also shows just how elastic the

Limehouse Declaration is.

Haseler then quickly argues the need for more law and order and defence of the working-class against over-assertive minorities like immigrant and gay liberation groups.

## Populist

A new populist party is needed of the real majority that will be "left of centre" (though not as left as the present Labour Party) on economic questions, and "right of centre" (more so than the present Conservative Party) on social, moral and international issues and in ideological posture. The real question is why does he not go over to the bloody Tories? Prentice is happily persecuting the unemployed and Lord Vairey went there yelping about hospitals run for the benefit of Trotskyite porters.

He is obviously tempted: 'The British have in

Thatcher a very unusual prime minister. One senses that she genuinely cares about the nation's decline and is untouched by the defeatism and cynicism which suffuses British intellectual and political life.'

Others of the Council for Social Democracy are learning new lessons. Roy Jenkins wants to cut social security benefits to strikers. John Horam has written a positive poem about the glory of market forces.

Bill Rodgers wants to cut public expenditure and David Marquand has found to his horror that; 'The private sector is so weak that the old slogan of "socialism is our time" is no longer fantasy.'

A rise in the class struggle could cause some of them to reject even more of their old prejudices and go the whole hog.

*The Tragedy of Labour* by Stephen Haseler, Basil Blackwell publishers £7.95.

## 'Be a democrat and resign'

By Gary Heaton, Farnworth Labour Party GMC

FARNWORTH Labour Party member John Roper has found his true home in the Council for Social Democracy.

One day after the 'Limehouse Declaration' he announced his defection to the media.

Local Labour Party activists are disgusted by his behaviour. Roper's right-wing views always were a liability in the solidly working class constituency. But informing the press of his decision before he bothered to tell local party members was the last straw.

First the Little Lever branch of Farnworth Labour Party called for Roper's resignation; the management committee sent him a letter expressing disgust at his behaviour, particularly his failure to attend the GMC meeting.

Finally the Walkden AUEW branch at a March meeting passed the following resolution:

'We call upon you to resign your seat and get the electors of Farnworth a right to say what political party they want to represent them in the House of Commons.'

'We believe that it would be an honourable decision because it was the Farnworth Labour Party which played a major part in getting you elected, not the Council for Social Democracy. Be a democrat or resign.'

## Bargaining Report

is the Labour Research Department's bi-monthly guide for trade union negotiators. The current issues contains:

- 200 canteen and allowances
- 45 major drivers' payments

Each issue looks at important pay conditions (hours, redundancy, maternity, travel etc) issues from the negotiator's position. £1.70 per issue, £10 p.a. sub.

Why not get your branch to subscribe? L.R.D., 78 Blackfriars Rd, London E.C. 4, 8 HF. Please mention this ad when replying.

## Conference Against Sat 21 March

10.30-5pm.

Central Library, Islington, London N7

(Tubes - Holloway or Highbury and Islington)

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Democracy in the Labour

Movement

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## We need an anti-monarchy festival

TOM Marlowe wrote that the royal wedding will take place in the summer when 'incidentally' unemployment figures will break the two and three-quarters million mark (26 Feb). It's no coincidence.

The wedding announcement was made on the same day as yet another bleak set of unemployment figures were released. Back in 1973, Princess Anne's wedding was announced in the middle of the Lord Lambton scandal, which was causing red faces among the ruling class.

Socialists who argue against the monarchy too often restrict themselves to explaining how much the Queen & Co costs ordinary people.

But there is more to it than that, such as the monarchy's massive capital holdings, and its role in maintaining the ideology of the family.

I think that the timing of the wedding and its announcement show that quite consciously and deliberately the state relies on the monarchy to divert attention from the problems facing the working class.

Socialism in Britain has to go hand-in-hand with the abolition of the monarchy. As a step towards both, the TUC and the Labour Party should call a huge anti-monarchy festival on the same day as the royal union.

MAX ANDREWS, Manchester

## Unifying the Irish working class

THE reasons why Marxists oppose the British Labour Party organising in the Six Counties were correctly expressed (5 March), but then the article argued against the Irish working class having its own mass political party. Such a possibility 'opens up' after the national question is solved, said the article!

Which class is to lead the movement to unify Ireland if not the workers organised independently of all other classes in their own mass political party?

The Trotskyist position, derived from the law of Permanent Revolution, says that the national problem can now be overcome only by the Irish working class making a United Ireland part of its programme for socialist transformation.

For more than 50 years our movement has fought for these ideas against the shabby and treacherous 'Theory Of Stages' of the Stalinist school, only now to find it repeated in the

pages of our own paper.

While we believe the slogan for an All-Ireland Labour Party is one Irish workers should raise now, the fake 'Trots' of the Militant tendency counterpose the solution of separate mass parties north and south which will then set up a 'liaison committee' to discuss unification.

This, of course, only means handing Loyalists a veto against workers' unity in Ireland.

Militant is presently mounting a major propaganda offensive around these slogans in the British Labour Party, and it will appear all the more attractive to young workers if Socialist Challenge does not immediately reassert its belief in the leading role of the Irish workers in the Irish Revolution.

AILEAN O'CALLAGHAN, 1/647 TGWU and Brent East CLP

GEOFF BELL writes: My article did not argue against an all-Ireland working class party.

Indeed in the final paragraph it pointed out that trade unionists in all of Ireland have already to some degree a unified organisation and that 'the same principle can be applied to the formation of an all-Ireland working class party'.

The point that was being made was that the prospects for such a mass party, in the sense that it would involve a substantial number of Protestant workers would only be fully realised after the solving of the national question.

# Unity in deeds

PAUL Andrews is right to criticise the Socialist Workers Party for ignoring the developments that are taking place in the Labour Party (26 Feb), but he fails to answer all of Geoff Collier's criticisms of the International Marxist Group's approach to building the revolutionary party.

Geoff claims to be a 'supporter of genuine revolutionary unity' and he wants individual IMG members to join forces with the SWP to help bring this about.

The IMG has a different position on revolutionary unity — it is in favour of fusing with the SWP but as an *organised tendency* and on the basis that a fused organisation would have full freedom for minority tendencies, that is real internal democracy.

The SWP and the IMG have drawn different conclusions from their experiences of tendencies within their respective organisations, and the SWP's general conclusion is that tendencies are disruptive. SWP comrades point to many instances to support this conclusion, but there is one result of their organisation's internal democracy which they rarely face up to or even recognise.

The political positions of the SWP majority are never adequately debated, either within or outside their organisation. It is therefore not surprising that Geoff only debates a caricature of the IMG positions.

He describes IMG members as sectarian for no other reason than their disagreement with the SWP's position that the developments within the Labour Party are a diversion from the class struggle. He also calls on individual IMG members to 'seriously consider splitting from their sectarian comrades'.

There are many revolutionaries in Britain, including some in the SWP, who believe that the emergence of a big left wing in the Labour Party has to be taken seriously. Presumably Geoff does not want to be in the same organisation with these 'sectarians'; he wants a 'genuine revolutionary unity' that essentially excludes political differences and therefore the majority of revolutionaries in Britain today.

Real revolutionary unity will require basic agreement on questions of programme and tactics, and in this respect there are some large differences between the IMG and the SWP. But there is little chance of clarifying these by debating caricatures of actual positions.

Only a common organisation can provide the necessary conditions for a real clarification of differences and therefore lay the basis for real revolutionary unity. Such an organisation must have full freedom of discussion of political alternatives and full rights for tendencies.

Clear debates that are accessible to all members ensure that the line of the majority is understood and put into practice by the whole organisation.

Until a unified revolutionary organisation is achieved, we will unfortunately continue to experience debate among revolutionaries that is too often simply utterance of commonplaces on which we can all agree in word but not in deed.

ROY RUDDITT, West London

## Is the gang following in Mosley's footsteps?

THE gang of Social Democrats could not have chosen a more appropriate time to announce the launching of their new party.

Almost exactly 50 years ago to the day (1 March 1931), Oswald Mosley announced his break with the Labour Party and the formation of his New Party.

Like the present gang, he had the support of a handful of Labour MPs disillusioned with the leadership of Macdonald, Snowden and Thomas.

In fact in November 1930, 17 Labour MPs signed the manifesto supporting Mosley's programme of 'national reconstruction' although in the end only five MPs actually refused the Labour whip.

Like today's Social Democrats, Mosley wanted to see an end to the class divide in British politics. He wanted his programme to be agreed by both capital and labour.



He decided that his supporters should cut themselves adrift from the Labour Party and appeal to the 'nation' as a new political force, to attract the disparate elements in British society.

At this stage his 'New Party' was not a fascist party. Its appeal, like that of the Social Democrats, was for social compromise as a counter to the 'sterile

class politics' of the other parties.

A by-election at Ashton-under-Lyne, a Labour seat, gave the New Party its first chance to put its policies to the test. Its intervention resulted in a Tory victory.

John Strachey, who was at that time one of Mosley's main aids, describes the scene outside the town hall when the

## Making demands on male power

I WOULD like to take up some of the contradictions in the confused article by Valerie Coultas on 'Women, rape and class' (26 Feb).

She attributes violence against women to capitalism's division of the sexes and yet says 'men think of women as their property because women have been subordinated for centuries.'

Women's oppression has transcended economic boundaries and cultures, and, as Valerie admits, women have to organise independently to ensure it won't continue into socialism.

Where does she think this oppression comes from? Men reap material benefits from women's oppression in many ways: through sexual and domestic service in the home; by being able to walk the streets without fear of sexual harassment.

All men benefit (albeit passively) from this and they have the potential to use the power it inevitably confers on them. This is not to suggest any 'innate characteristic' of men — it is a social, not a biological product. Nor is it to deny that capitalism also uses and produces women's oppression.

The point about an autonomous women's movement is that women understand their own oppression and a class analysis will not always be satisfactory.

We need to make demands on all locations of power — the state, and men as individuals and groups. The left does not need to cling to its notion of the class struggle as the only real one that explains all other points of oppression; some concept of patriarchy is essential in explaining the complexity of women's experience (and men's!).

A return to traditional economist Marxism that at least could be honest in condemning feminism as a bourgeois deviation would almost be preferable to all this empty gesturing towards an independent women's movement and the analysis it adopts.

SIAN FRANCIS, Newcastle-U-Lyme

## No local vacuum at the Coventry conference

PAT Hickey's report (5 March) of the conference organised by Liverpool, Newcastle, North Tyneside and Coventry trades councils misses the point. He assumes the purpose of the conference was to organise the fightback against the Tory government, and then slaps it off for failing to do that.

As if anyone would imagine that the organising basis for that fightback was four trades councils!

The trades councils which sponsored the conference cover areas where unemployment

has had a devastating impact; areas with traditionally strong trade union organisation, and where the unions have failed to provide an overall perspective for fighting unemployment.

The fact that the miners successfully defended their jobs and humiliated the government was welcomed by all delegates at the conference. But the miners' victory does not make the fight for jobs in Coventry, Merseyside or Tyneside any easier in the short term.

The idea of counterposing the social need of

the majority to profit and the 'logic' of the market is nothing new. It is one of the fundamental aspects of socialism. The conference was an attempt to explore ways in which concrete expression can be given to these arguments.

Not in a local vacuum, but in the context of developing an alternative way forward to that of the Labour Party, which also provides the basis for a fight within that party.

If the conference showed anything, it was the search for that political alternative.

There is a vacuum on the left and the danger is that that vacuum will be filled by the Labour Party and the Alternative Economic Strategy.

It was always likely that the conference would have a tentative, exploratory character. The four trades councils will be pursuing the themes of the inquiry, developing specific initiatives.

It is to be hoped that the International Marxist Group will be more fully involved in these future activities.

WILL REESE, Coventry

## Racist interpretation

I DISCUSSED your report (5 March) of the Black Peoples Day of Action with other Socialist Challenge supporters.

While it was good to see such in-depth coverage of the event, we felt that you had assumed all readers understood what was involved. For example, the headline 'Blacks take the streets' assumes that all readers know all about building a mass movement for black liberation and are in favour of it.

This isn't necessarily the case, and if a reader doesn't understand it, the headline can be seen from a racist viewpoint. For this reason, one supporter didn't take the paper to sell at his factory.

We also thought that there should have been more detail about what had happened over the fire, why black people feel angry about it, and why white people should support them.

MIKE BAER, Southall



# Stop the missiles

# What the missiles conference can achieve

THE *CND Labour movement conference against the missiles* takes place next weekend in Manchester.

*Socialist Challenge* talked to the conference's publicity organiser, **BRIAN HERON**, about his personal views on the conference.

**SC: What has been the response to the conference?**

BH: We're very pleased with the response. We have received national backing from the Labour Party national executive, and the executives of the TGWU, the Furniture Workers, the Fire Brigades Union, the Agricultural Workers and the Sheet Metal Workers.

At the moment it looks as if there will be more than 800 delegates at the conference.

**What significance does the conference have?**

Two things. First, it's the labour movement that really has the power to stop the Tories' missile madness.

Secondly, we have to start the fight inside the labour movement to win the clearest possible posi-

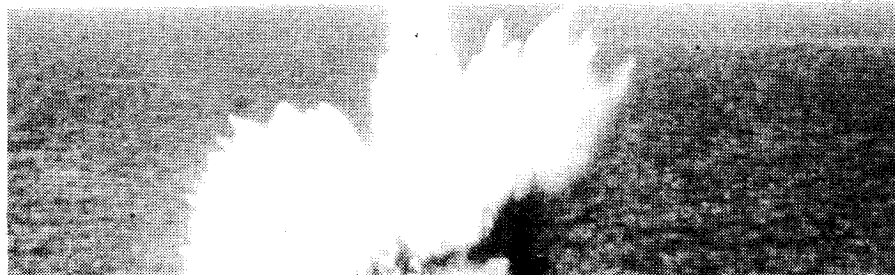
tion within these organisations. There's still a lot of confusion.

Last year the Labour Party passed 'composite 45' which simultaneously supports unilateral and multilateralist disarmament.

## Foot

This ambiguity has allowed Michael Foot to retreat on unilateral disarmament, for example by appointing anti-unilateralist Brynmor John as his 'war' spokesperson.

The TUC's position, supported by the *Morning Star*, calls for 'a campaign of education on the dangers of nuclear war'. In fact, as Betty England pointed out in her recent pamphlet, they have done precisely nothing.



**How have left-wing parties responded to the conference?**

In my view, the Communist Party has acted in a fashion which could be at best described as lukewarm support.

Consistent with its position of building a 'people's movement' which doesn't concentrate on the labour movement but tails behind middle class opinion, the CP has

done very little to build the conference.

For example, the promised feature article in the *Morning Star* has never materialised.

The best builders of the conference, as far as I can see, have been supporters of Labour CND.

Despite many differences that I and Socialist Challenge would have with many of these

comrades, they have consistently taken the most positive attitude towards the conference because they understand the need to carry the struggle through the labour movement.

**What do you expect to come out of the conference?**

In my view the position narrowly adopted by the organising committee against having a statement

of aims coming out of the conference was a mistake.

But the major task the conference can fulfill is to put real force behind the winning the official bodies of the movement to a clear anti-missiles, mass action stance.

The debate at the conference must surely cover those issues like the battle against the wardrive and austerity, breaking from any position which fudges over the class issues involved in these questions.

It means that in the debate we have to clearly point out the lessons of El Salvador, and show who is responsible for the war

drive. And it means we should press home the call for mass action in the form of the call for a joint Labour Party, trade union, CND demonstration in the autumn.

In my view Labour CND has shown itself as the vital forum through which to take the debate into the labour movement.

The resolution passed last week by the Scottish Labour Party — no Cruise or Trident, unilateral disarmament, and Britain out of NATO — is exactly the direction in which the conference and Labour CND can take the movement.

**CND LABOUR MOVEMENT CONFERENCE AGAINST THE MISSILES**

Saturday 28th. March in MANCHESTER at UMIST Students Union

Delegation will be accepted as follows:  
2 each from Trade Union branches, Trades Councils, shop stewards' committees, Constituency Labour Parties and branches, regional and national ex-  
Other political parties in the Labour Party  
on a national basis of up to 20 per party.  
Delegation fee £3 per delegate.  
Creche facilities will be available.  
Please mark all correspondence with LABOUR MOVEMENT CONFERENCE in top left hand corner of envelope.

To be completed by secretary of delegating body and returned to CND, 11 Goodwin Street, London N4

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Political party: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed registration fee £... (£3 per delegate) cheques payable to CND.  
Do you require creche facilities? ... for how many? ... ages? ...  
Full details of conference agenda etc. will be sent with delegates credentials.

## The story of the committee of 100

*TWENTY years ago the previous wave of British anti-nuclear weapons protest was at its height. The year 1961 saw the US-sponsored attempt to overthrow the revolutionary government in Cuba, the prolonged crisis over Berlin and the resumption of atmospheric nuclear tests. In this situation the*

*Committee of 100 emerged, pledged to direct non-violent action to stop the bomb.*

*TONY SOUTHALL, chairperson of Cambridge University CND from 1960-62 and at various times a full-time worker for the Committee of 100, tells the story of the campaign and analyses the reasons for its defeat.*



DURING 1961 the '100' initiated a series of mass sit-downs against the bomb: in February in Parliament Square, April in Whitehall, at Whitsun at the Polaris base at Holy Loch, in September both at Holy Loch and Trafalgar Square, and in December at the US bases at Weathersfield and Ruislip.

By the end of the year more than 4000 people had been arrested, and six leading members of the committee were awaiting trial on charges of conspiracy which would eventually bring them jail sentences of up to 18 months.

## Decline

But by the end of the year the Committee was already in a decline, from which it never recovered. Yet in the course of the year thousands of activists had been prepared to take part in illegal activity at some personal cost. We must honestly conclude that the net result of this activity was nil.

The Committee of 100 was a descendant of the 'Direct Action Committee' which was formed in the 1950s.

Their notion of direct action was heavily influenced by the Gandhian philosophy of 'satagraha' — non violent civil disobedience and passive resistance.

From the beginning there was a certain contradiction in this line.

Some members like Bertrand Russell insisted that the purpose of civil disobedience was to win sympathy and support, as a dramatic form of publicity.

On the other hand many leading activists posed it as a means of im-

mobilising the military and state machine.

But it was completely unrealistic for us to believe that our action could bring the state and military machine to a halt, as increasing numbers of our passively resisting bodies went to jail.

When the state showed its teeth, with police attacks and pre-emptive arrests of the '100' leaders before the December sit-downs, we had no reply.

The real tragedy of the year 1961 was that the committee emerged at a time when the labour movement — a force that was capable of winning the



lessons for us today. Again there is a Labour Party committed to unilateralism. And while there is no sign of the rebirth of something like the Committee of 100, there is a crucial lack of central drive and direction in the campaign — something which could open the way to schemes which promise quick results.

## Failed

unilateralist cause — had won the battle for unilateralism at the 1960 Labour conference.

Yet most CND groups and members didn't take up the campaign to consolidate that victory. Instead the initiative inside the Labour Party was taken by the right wing Campaign for Democratic Socialism (secretary William Rodgers) which won the battle to reverse the unilateralism decision at the 1961 conference.

Blame for this must ultimately be laid at the door of the then Labour left. Shocked by an unexpected victory in 1960, they failed to organise to extend and defend it. In particular they never fought for CND to take up the fight inside the labour movement.

Making politics at that level was never the strong point of Michael Foot et al, and most of the activists were influenced by the apparent quick results to be obtained through the sit-downs.

This contradiction was highlighted when the biggest ever sit-down was followed by the Labour conference decision to reverse its previous unilateralist position.

This period is rich in

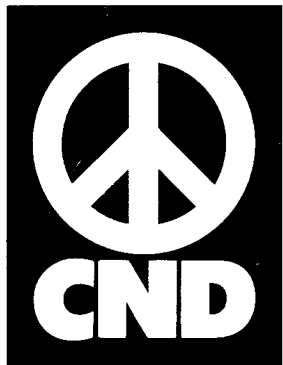
The lessons of 1961 reinforce the importance of the labour movement conference to ensure that CND can consolidate its victories.

This doesn't mean that mass demonstrations are without value — indeed it is potentially very damaging that CND is not yet committed to a major demonstration for 1981.

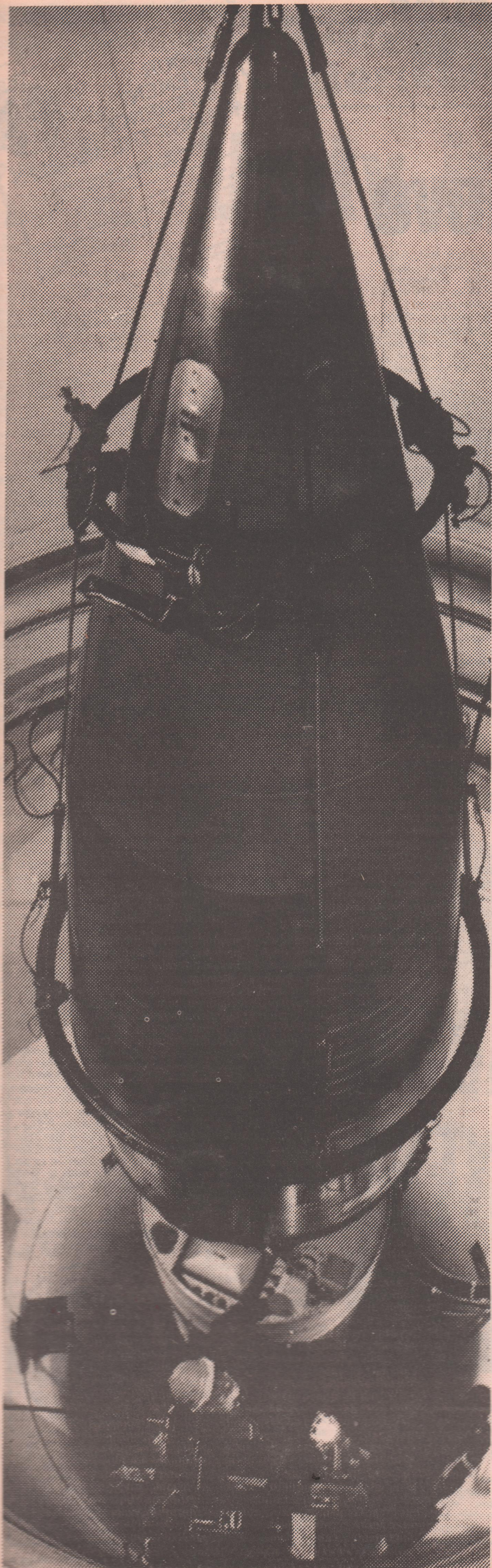
But it means also that we need an effective national co-ordination to do what wasn't done in 1961 — to take our message into every CLP, trades council and union branch, and make it impossible for the 1981 Labour conference to defeat unilateralism.



NEW badge from Newcastle Socialist Challenge supporters. 20p each + 12p post and packing or 12p each for bulk orders, payment in advance. Orders to: SCD (Newcastle badge), PO Box 50, London N1 2XP. Cheques payable to 'Socialist Challenge'.







# HOW THE US THE ARMS

By Will Reissner From *Intercontinent* Press

**WHEN** President Ronald Reagan addressed both houses of the US Congress on 18 February to lay out his economic programme, his nationally televised speech called for sharp cuts in all areas of federal spending except for the military.

As Reagan told the assembled members of Congress, the Department of Defence is 'the only department in our entire programme that will actually be increased over the present budget figure.'

To justify his call for a sharp increase in arms spending while slashing social expenditures by \$41.4bn, Reagan resorted to an old theme — the Americans have to catch up with the Russians.

According to the new president, 'since 1970 the Soviet Union has invested \$300bn more in its military forces than has the US.'

'As a result of its massive military build-up, the Soviets have made a significant numerical advantage in strategic nuclear delivery systems, tactical aircraft, submarines, artillery and anti-aircraft defence. To allow this imbalance to continue is a threat to our national security.'

This propaganda campaign, which tries to portray the United States military as a pygmy about to be swamped by the Soviet juggernaut, has been echoed uncritically in the entire US mass media. It is always easier to sell big arms programmes and

gressive magazine, in each instance it was subsequently discovered that *no such gap existed* and that US capabilities were *superior to the Soviet Union's*.

In 1975, the Department of Defence began warning of a new 'gap'. This time it was claiming that the US was falling behind the Soviets in developing MIRVs — multiple independently targeted nuclear warheads that are mounted on a single missile.

## Truth

But the MIRV 'gap' was simply more of the same.

Even as the Pentagon was issuing its dire warnings about the MIRVs, defence analyst James McCartney calmly noted that 'the United States has had MIRVs for years. It has hundreds of them ready to use, while the Soviets are just getting them.'

How much truth is there in Reagan's assertion

**Between 1970 and 1979 the US spent \$1,048,700,000,000 on the military. That's over one trillion dollars**

military interventions abroad if they are portrayed as defensive moves.

But the fact is that Washington has introduced every major new weapons system since the Second World War (see panel).

Each time a new system was introduced, it was claimed that the Pentagon was simply catching up with the Soviets.

## Gaps

In 1956, American working people were warned that there was a 'bomber gap'. In 1960, Kennedy campaigned for the presidency on the basis of a supposed 'missile gap'. In 1967 the spectre was raised of an 'antiballistic missile gap'.

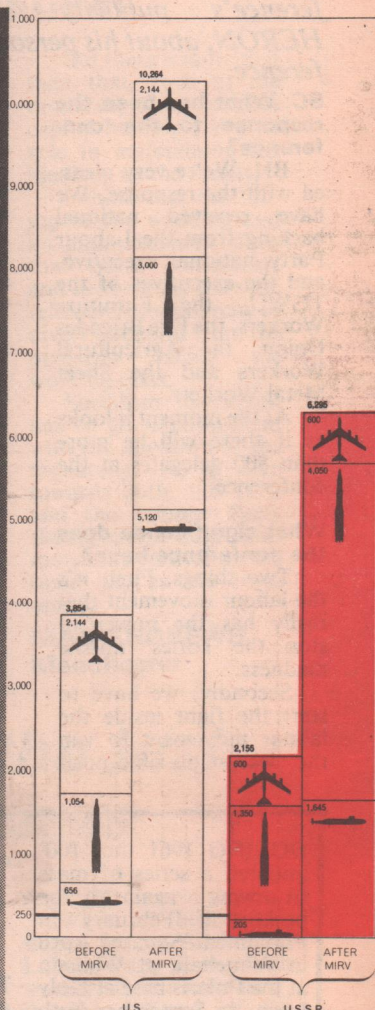
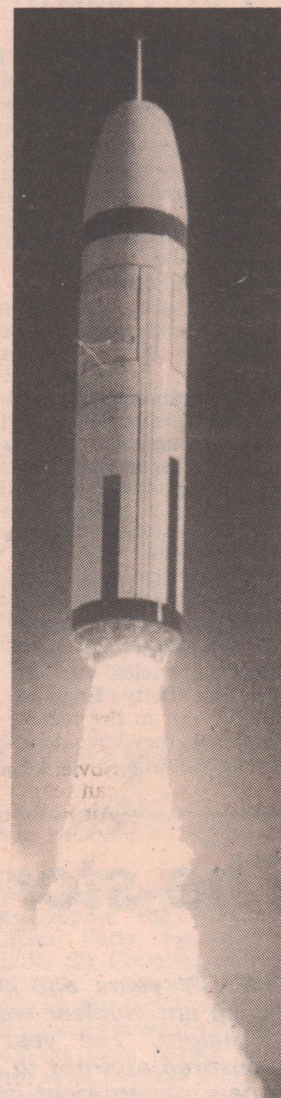
As Michael Parenti of the US Institute for Policy Studies explained in the July 1980 issue of *The Pro-*

that the Soviet Union has been outspending the US on arms for a decade? None at all!

According to its own figures, between 1970 and 1979, the US government spent \$1,048,700,000,000 on the military. For those who have trouble counting zeros, that comes to over *one trillion dollars*.

Is it credible that the Soviet Union, with an economy that is only two-thirds the size of the US economy, not only matched that rate, but exceeded it by \$300bn? Just on the face of it, the Soviet Union would face a big strain simply matching US spending, much less spending 29 per cent more.

There is an old maxim that anything can be proven with statistics. The CIA's figures on Soviet military spending, which Reagan used to push his claim that the Soviets are



**Multiple warheads on a single nuclear weaponry to increase limitation agreement.**

outspending the US, are a case in point.

If the figures do not support the charge that the Soviets outspend the US the best thing to do is to change the way arms spending is calculated, and that is precisely what the CIA recently did.

A detailed analysis of the CIA's method of calculating Soviet arms spending was made by Franklyn D Holzman of Tufts University. It appeared in the June 1980 issue of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*.

In the past the CIA compared what the US actually spent on arms, in dollars in the US, with what the Soviet Union spent in rubles in the USSR. By that method of figuring, which is the most accurate as we shall see, the Soviet Union spends only 60 to 70 per cent of what the Pentagon spends.

But since that cuts across the 'catch up with the Russians' theme, the CIA *retroactively* changed the way it computes Soviet spending.

## CIA

The CIA went back and recomputed Soviet expenditures on a totally different basis; it compared how much the US actually spends, in dollars in the United States, with what the Soviets *would* spend if they also purchased everything in dollars in the United States.

That simple change

suddenly made it appear that the Soviets had been spending up to 44 per cent more on arms annually than the US. This method, which is fundamentally flawed, maximises apparent Soviet spending while minimising that of the US.

**In 1978, the US's allies in NATO spent \$75bn on defence. The Soviet Union's allies in the Warsaw Pact spent \$12bn. Reagan does not include this in his arms comparison**

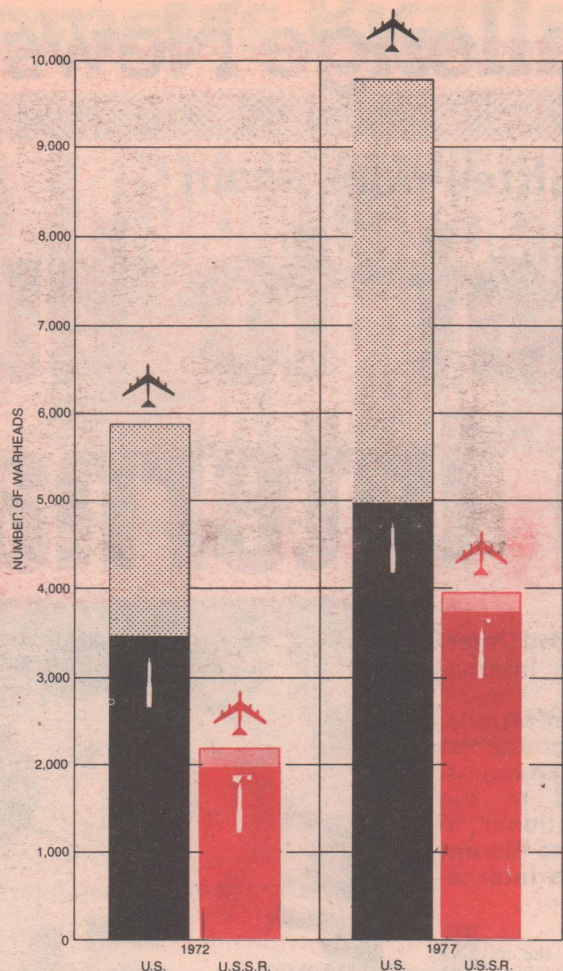
Each government structures its armed forces to take maximum advantage of the strengths of its own economy and to minimise reliance on its economy's weaknesses.

Each side maximises the use of resources and technology that are readily available in its own country, while minimising the use of resources or technical methods that are in short supply or excessively expensive.

The CIA further skews the comparison by using different methods to determine the effects of US and Soviet improvements in weapons.



# LEADS RACE



The warhead gap. The above diagram shows how in the period 1972-77, the American lead in warheads increased.

(2,504 compared to 2,058). But the US delivery systems are equipped with more than 9,200 warheads, while the Soviet Union has 6,000. Again, these figures do not take into account the British and French warhead totals.

## Cynical

Furthermore, while no Soviet nuclear bombers can reach the US, the US Air Force has hundreds of bombers in West Europe that can hit the main cities of the Soviet Union.

In addition, the US has already announced plans to place an additional 572 missiles in West Europe that are capable of hitting Soviet cities.

Reagan also cynically points to the Soviet Union's more sophisticated air defence systems as proof that US military spending must rise. But this is a totally spurious argument!

No matter how much money the Pentagon is given, it would not spend that money on air defence systems simply because the Soviets have no planes that can reach the US!

US bombers can hit the Soviet Union, so the Soviets build anti-aircraft defenses. Soviet bombers cannot hit the US, so the US does not build them. Hardly an argument for catching up with the Russians.

a military force specifically designed to intervene abroad in defence of imperialist interests.

The primary targets of the RDF are the Middle East and the Central America and Caribbean region. Already the RDF has carried out practice invasions of both areas. The RDF is aimed against revolutionary struggles that threaten the profits of US corporations, not against the mythical Soviet threat.

The second huge new programme is the MX missile system which could cost as much as \$106bn. This would be made up of between 200 and 275 missiles shuttled around

**No Soviet nuclear bombers can reach the US, while the US Air Force has hundreds of bombers in West Europe that can hit the Soviet Union**

underground between at least 4,600 shelters covering a large portion of the states of Utah and Nevada.

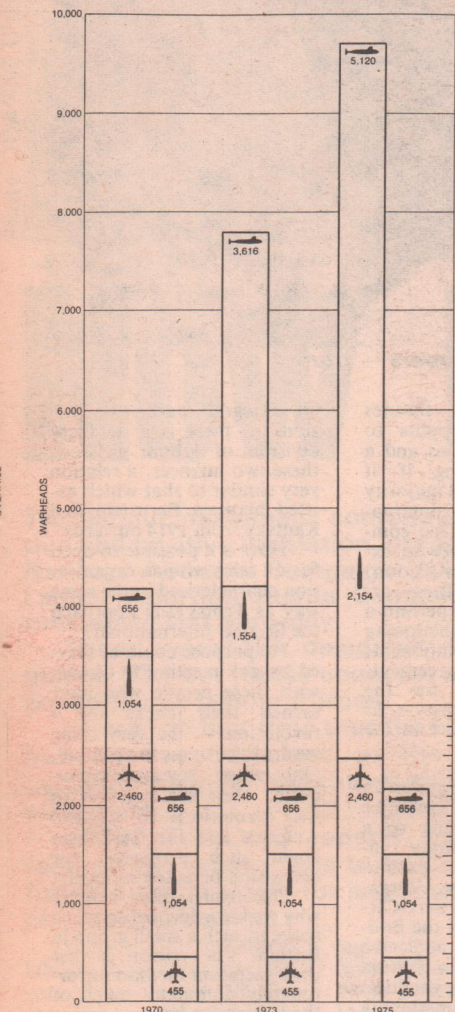
The purpose of building this system, together with the introduction of 572 new Cruise and Pershing II missiles in Europe (from which they could hit Soviet targets in as little as four minutes), is to maintain a US first-strike nuclear capability against the Soviet Union.

If the Reagan administration has its way, arms spending would soar to above one trillion dollars over the next five years while social services are slashed. War spending would rise from 24 per cent of the federal budget in 1981 to 32 per cent in the 1984 budget.

When Reagan presented his budget proposals to Congress, they were met by what *The New York Times* described as a 'thunderous' ovation. The reaction of American working people, as the cuts begin to be felt, will not be to applaud. But it may well be thunderous.

The US military does not have to catch up with anyone. The big increases contemplated in the Reagan arms budget are offensive in character.

Two of the biggest spending programmes show that to be true. More than \$17bn is earmarked over the next five years for the Rapid Deployment Force (RDF),



## The Pentagon's record

The United States produced:

- The first atomic bomb in 1945.
- The first intercontinental bomber in 1945.
- The first hydrogen bomb in 1954.
- The first nuclear submarine in 1954.
- The first submarine launched ballistic missile in 1960.
- The first multiple independently targeted warhead (MIRV) in 1970.

ed at the Soviet Union, which Reagan does not include in his total.

More importantly, it pinpoints the delivery system without taking into account the number of nuclear warheads that can be delivered.

The Soviet Union, it is true, has more nuclear-armed bombers and missiles than the US.

# THE HORROR OF EL SALVADOR

## 'Look how they tried to cut off the boys hands..'

By Ana Maria Hernandez in El Salvador

DOMINGO Garcia is twelve years old. He comes from a little village in the La Paz region in the centre of El Salvador. In October his village was occupied by the army, with the help of members of the para-military fascist organisation, ORDEN.

Domingo's father and many others were killed, but most of the inhabitants managed to escape up into the mountains. But not Domingo. He was left alone in the village.

'When they found me they took hold of me. One held me firm and the other hit me with his machete, here, and here, and here.'

## Machete

Domingo points out where he was hit. Both of his wrists are scarred and swollen forming a terrible bracelet around this small boy's arms. He showed me the right side of his neck, where a long scar, also swollen, indicates where he was hit by the machete. He explains at the same time why he has to carry his head bent to the left all the time.

He takes off his cap and shows me a large bald patch right in the middle of his head. 'I thought I was almost going to die,' he says.

The army tried to kill him. But he didn't die. He lay there for two days where the soldiers had thrown him unconscious, with the blood drying on his body and the flies buzzing around the open machete wounds.

'He looked dead,' says his sister. 'When we came back to the village and found him, we were sure that he was dead. But he wasn't. Thank god that he is here with us now. But when he lay there.... the boy just lay there swollen up, completely still. We were sure that he was dead. But here he is, here he is....'

Domingo's sister pulls him closer to her, but she doesn't start to cry. She lifts his scarred arms and says: 'Look how they tried to cut the boy's hands off. Look at them. What did they think he could have done?' she continues. 'That is what I ask myself. What do they think he could have done?'

She doesn't cry, there is no fury in her voice either; she appears rather calm and collected.

Domingo and his sister are now together with 4000 others in one of the eleven refugee camps in San Salvador, the capital. Almost all the people in these camps are women, children and elderly people.

## Camps

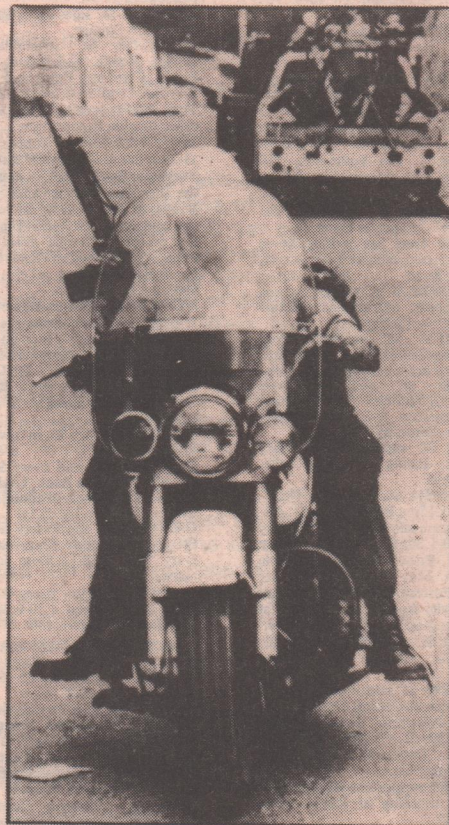
The president of the Salvadoran military junta, Napoleon Duarte, has said that these camps are camouflaged hiding places for the rebels. According to him people from these camps are given weapons' training and recruited to terrorist activities.

When I asked Domingo's sister what she thinks about this she just shakes her head while she looks straight into my eyes. I wonder if Napoleon Duarte could look her in the eyes like this - if he ever dared to come down to these camps.

Other people do come into the camps. Three times uniformed and civilian armed men have violently entered the camp, where Domingo and his sister are now staying. The last time they were there, Domingo's sister told me, they said they would kill all of them the next time they came.

The gap in this country between official 'truth' and what people tell you is so great that it is sometimes difficult to comprehend.

After the January offensive the official propaganda, which totally



National Guard motorcyclist

dominates all the newspapers, radio and television, carried out an aggressive lie campaign against anyone who objected to the junta in even the mildest way.

The starting point for this propaganda is that the armed rebel groups were totally defeated in the January offensive. Those who are left, say the junta, are foreign mercenaries and armed groups who have become pure bandits. The government is using systematic lies to spread this falsification of reality.

One of the lawyers who works for the Catholic church legal rights organisation, the only institution since the Commission for Human Rights was forced underground a few weeks ago to record what is the real state of political and human rights, shows an example of how the propaganda works.

## List

He shows me a special feature article from one of the morning papers, where the rebels are accused of blowing up a bus and causing the deaths of 20 people. The paper includes a list of the dead.

In reality, explains the lawyer, three of the names belong to people that are known to have been killed a week ago by a uniformed army patrol who stopped their car. A fourth passenger who was in the car succeeded in escaping.

'Now I ask myself,' he continues, 'where they killed all the others who were on the list.'

The campaign in the press is constant, vicious, inflammatory and menacing. Nobody dares to say anything against it. Circulars from the Church human rights organisation, the Human Rights Commission and the political organisations don't reach many people.

What will be the effects of the press witch-hunt? Won't people finally believe what they write? Will they come to believe that Napoleon Duarte is correct when he says that the refugee camps are nests of subversion? Won't they believe that the armed groups are responsible for all they are accused of?

No, not yet. Too many people have seen too much in El Salvador. I'm still surprised that almost everyone I meet spontaneously expresses their contempt for the press.

'They don't tell the truth,' they say, 'they lie.'

But there is no possibility of going against the official version. Someone says: 'Today it is not enough to just speak against them, we have to act. But to act is the same as risking your life.'

## selective

ouldn't those con- sions be taken into uation?

fter making his false at the Soviets out the Pentagon, an went on to gue a highly selective of areas where the



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## International Committee rides again

# How not to build the Fourth International

By Brian Grogan

AT the end of last year a new so-called 'International Committee of the Fourth International (IC)' was set up.

One of the main sponsoring organisations, the French International Communist Organisation (OCI) described it as 'an important step forward on the road to the reconstruction of the Fourth International'. In reality the IC is a formation set up to disrupt and attempt to destroy the Fourth International.

The IC claims the allegiance of groups from 40 countries, but most of them are tiny, as with the Socialist Labour Group in Britain (about 50 members), often split at a national level into the diverse groups from which the IC originated.

The only significant organisations in the IC are the Argentinian Socialist Workers Party (PST), the French OCI and the groups from Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Canada, Venezuela and Portugal.

Up until the recent 11th World Congress of the Fourth International the OCI and its international organisation, the OCRFI, were discussing fusion with the Fourth International (FI). But the impact of the Nicaraguan revolution changed that.

Despite all the advances made by the Nicaraguan revolution the Parity Committee chose to see only counter-revolution. There was no workers' government or revolutionary leadership in Nicaragua but a military dictatorship intent on suppressing democratic rights and smashing the workers' organisations.

Proof of this was alleged to be the expulsion from the country by the Nicaraguan government of the Simon Bolivar Brigade — a formation inspired by the Argentinian PST which engaged in a series of adventures against the revolution.

Accordingly, the main international campaign of the Parity Committee throughout autumn 1979 was 'a campaign against repression (sic) in Nicaragua'. This coincided with an imperialist witchhunt against the Nicaraguans for their alleged violations of human rights.

This sectarianism is not new. It took the OCRFI 20 years to recognise that a revolution had actually occurred in Cuba. If anything its attitude to the Nicaraguan revolution so far is even worse.

## Discipline

The immediate reason for the split from the FI by the BF and LTT was the FI's decision to put all Trotskyists in Central America where there were no recognised sections under the discipline of the United Secretariat of the FI.

This step stemmed from



International Committee 'Gang of Three' leaders — from left, Nemo, Moreno and Lambert

the Simon Bolivar Brigade incident and other sectarian tactics of groups claiming adherence to the FI who were harming the revolutionary process and discrediting Trotskyism in the process. The FI decision was characterised by the Parity Committee as 'a liquidation of Trotskyism'.

The largest of the groups affected in Central America was the Costa Rican OST led by Fausto Amador, a leading figure in the split from the FI. But by September 1980 he was out on his ear. The Parity Committee declared: 'The departure of Amador from Central America was the only solution to the serious political problems that his presence in Central America poses.'

Three of the four Central American organisations whose 'liquidation' was the pretext for the split from the FI were therefore refused entry to the 'Open (sic) Conference' which established the IC. So were any other organisations which didn't accept the leadership role in advance of the OCRFI or the BF.

Only two organisations were present at the conference as observers, one from Brazil and one from the USA. The founding conference of the IC was therefore no more than the formation of a block of the two main organisations: the French OCI and the Argentinian PST.

In this regard, their claim to operate according to democratic centralism is a

joke. The draft statutes adopted give no rights to tendencies or factions and a decision is binding if it receives a 75 per cent majority on the 16-person international leadership. This committee has the power to exclude any militant or section.

The sense of these arrangements is clear: it permits a hypercentralist functioning when the two big components of the IC are in agreement, leaving no space for the emergence of a minority — as already is the practice in the OCI and the PST.

There has already been an International Committee functioning according to a regime of unanimity interspersed with excommunications: Healy, Varga, the Israeli section of the OCRFI, the departure of the Bolivian POR-Lora and the Argentinian Politica Obrera are just some of the products of a mode of functioning which treats political differences as 'criminal affairs'.

From the founding conference of the IC a letter was sent to the United Secretariat suggesting a joint meeting 'to explore in common all the possibilities of overcoming together the crisis of the FI'.

This is a blatant and breathtaking manoeuvre. The IC at its founding conference defined the USFI as 'a block between an openly revisionist current and a centrist current which, if it does not break formally with certain Trotskyist formulations, is nevertheless

an integral part of revisionism: there is a de facto division of labour between these two nuances, a relation very similar to that which existed between Bernstein and Kautsky from 1914 onwards.'

How is it possible to open fusion talks with an organisation characterised in the same way as Trotskyists approach the Second International?

No purpose could be served by any meeting to discuss with these people who have turned their backs on a revolution — the very thing we are in business to promote. Only when they have abandoned their sectarianism to the revolutions in Central America and the Caribbean could such proposals for discussion be taken seriously.

Our readers may wonder why we have devoted so much space to such a small group in Britain. The reason is that their sectarian method unfortunately dominates much of the British far left.

Recent journals of Workers Action and the Workers Socialists League have both endorsed many of the IC's criticisms of the FI. Both groups accept that it is necessary to agree on some version of the history of the FI as the basis for fusion of Trotskyist forces.

Confronting the sectarianism of the International Committee's new 'Fourth International' is to fight against the deep hold of traditional 'British' Trotskyist sectarianism.

## SC Events

**ROCK** against Giscard! Any readers interested in going to the LCR Fête in Paris on the 11th/12 April write for details to SCD (Fête), PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

**WOLVERHAMPTON:** Socialist Challenge public meeting, 25 March in Posada pub, Lichfield St, 7.30 pm. 'Stop the American war drive — support the people of El Salvador'.

## What's Left

**RATES** for What's Left. 5p per word or £4 per col. inch. Deadline: noon Sat. prior to publication. Payment in advance.

**EALING** trades council coach to Labour Movement Conference Against the Missiles. Cost £6 return. Leaves Sat 28 March 6.55am Southall town hall, 7.10am Ealing Common, junction of Uxbridge Rd & Nth Circular Rd, 7.30am junction of Nth Circular and Gt North Way. Contact A. Lacey phone 574-2895 evenings.

**LEEDS** Troops, Out Movement. Torchlight protest to support the Irish hunger strikers. Fri 13 March and Fri 20 March, 5.30 to 7pm Town Hall steps, the Headrow, Leeds. Public meeting to support the hunger strikers, speakers from Sinn Fein and TOM. Fri 27 March 8pm at Leeds Trades Council Bluc, Savile Mt, Leeds 7. TOM Day School on Ireland, speakers from Sinn Fein, information on Ireland, TOM, Women and Ireland etc. Contact Box 1969, 29 Blenheim Terrace, Leeds 2.

**SANA** (Scientists Against Nuclear Arms) will be holding its inaugural conference on the weekend of 21-22 March at the Open University, Milton Keynes. Scientists, engineers, social scientists, economists etc, all welcome to discuss investigation and action to help nuclear disarmament movements. For details and booking in advance only contact: MJ Pentz, Science Faculty, Open University, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA. Cost is £18 (£12 students and unemployed) including accommodation and meals.

**HARINGEY TOM** Benefit: 23 March, 7.45pm at the trade union and community centre, Brabant Rd, Wood Green. British Rail and Underground. H Block film and social with Anrinnee. Food and bar. £50 waged, £1 unwaged.

**NORTH LONDON H** Block/Armagh Committee public meeting with speakers on 24 March. John Barnes Library, Holloway Rd, (next Holloway Prison). Buses 29, 253, 260.

**TOM** Benefit: Oxy and the Morons with guests. Sat 21 March 8pm, Dame Coley House, Ben Johnson Rd, London E1. £1.20, 60p unwaged.

**SOUTH LONDON TOM** public meeting: Mon 23 March, Brixton Tube Library, opp. Town Hall.

## Revolution Youth notices

**MEMBERSHIP CARDS:** Cards now available for members of Revolution Youth. All branches should place orders with national office.

**MISSILES:** national fraction Sun 5 April, London. A meeting for all RY members involved in building YCND

or other anti-cruise work. UCL students union from 11am.

**REVO** 16: next issue underway, out for beginning of April. Get your branch reports in now.

**S WEST & WALES:** Regional aggregate on Sat 28 March in Bristol. Ring Revo national office for details.



**NEW Socialist Challenge Anti-Nuke postcards.** Set of four beautifully produced black and white original designs. 50p the set or 15p each + 12p post and packing. One third discount on bulk orders! Payment in advance. Orders to: SCD (Postcards), PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

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18 March at 2pm	Manchester Poly, Aytoun St, Manchester
20 March at 8pm	Hattersley Community Centre, Hyde
21 March at 7.45	Clarence Hotel, Bolton St, Bury
24 March at 5.30pm	Ealing College of Further Education
25 March at 8pm	Pentameters, Three Horseshoes, Heath Street, Hampstead
26 March at 1.15pm	City University, Northampton Square, London
26 March at 8pm	Hemingford Arms, Hemingford Rd, Islington, London
28 March at 9pm	The Globe, High St. West, Glossop
30 March at 8pm	Everyman Bistro, Hope St, Liverpool!



# Women's Rights

MOVEMENT  
MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>

NATIONAL ABORTION  
CAMPAIGN



Jo Richardson MP addresses the labour movement conference on abortion

## Now let's get going

THE labour movement conference on abortion and positive legislation, organised by the National Abortion Campaign (NAC) and the Labour Abortion Rights Campaign (LARC), took place last Saturday.

There were 183 delegates from trade unions, 23 from trades councils, and 70 from constituency Labour Parties.

It was the first time that the Labour Party had been so involved in the campaign. Labour's national executive supported the conference.

JOAN TWELVES reports on the conference and what needs to be done to carry forward the struggle for a woman's right to choose on abortion.

'ONLY the organised labour movement has the sort of muscle that can win changes in society that would bring women's rights.

'But the labour movement needs the National Abortion Campaign to give a lead on positive

legislation' — that was how Kate Holman from NAC summed up the feeling at the conference.

The conference was an overwhelming success.

Although the 1967 Abortion Act is not directly under attack from MPs, the number of trade

unionists and Labour Party members attending the conference showed that abortion remains a concern of the labour movement.

### Positive

The main discussion was on obtaining better facilities for abortion under the National Health Service; repealing the laws which still make abortion an offence, and working towards positive legislation for a woman's right to choose when and if to have children.

Over the last few years many trade unions have formed policies on abortion — it is no longer a minority 'woman's' issue. But as Kate Holman said: 'In some unions the argument is still not won.'

The action proposals decided by the conference will allow delegates to take the issues back to their unions and local Labour Parties.

### Shadow

The support of the trade unions and TUC in the campaign against the Corrie anti-abortion Bill was seen to be a turning point.

Now was the time to go forward to build the pro-choice movement, since, as Terry Marsland, assistant general secretary of the Tobacco Workers' Union, explained: 'We are not under a shadow of restrictive legislation.'

The conference was a milestone in the campaign for a woman's right to choose. Not only did it have many delegates from the unions but for the first time delegates from the constituency Labour Parties were also present.

### Party

LARC speaker Sue Freund argued that the Labour Party 'must be made to see that abortion is as much a serious issue as any other. We want to see members campaigning

NAC/LARC Trade  
Union Liaison  
Committee

Tuesday 14 April, 7pm

Friends House, Euston  
Rd, London NW1

Meeting to discuss the  
follow-up to action  
proposals passed at the  
labour movement  
conference

to fight for better facilities for abortion and to lay the basis for support for positive legislation.

Local and regional activity were suggested, and the TUC will be asked to back demonstrations called in support of positive legislation to go through parliament.

Sue Freund put forward the message: 'The Corrie campaign showed that it is possible for the objectives of the women's movement to be upheld in the labour movement.'

### Push

'The rank and file of the labour movement have been able to push the leadership into helping defend women against restrictive legislation.

'It is time,' she added, 'that this leadership stopped thinking with their moral consciences about abortion and started thinking with their social and political consciences.'

This needs to be taken up by trades unionists and Labour Party members.

for adoption of candidates who support party policy on abortion.'

The 'right' of MPs to vote according to their conscience and not according to party policy was condemned by Sue Freund and Terry Marsland, to the loud applause of the conference.

As MP Jo Richardson said, it was important that abortion was part of the next Labour manifesto and that women were 'top of the agenda'.

The main theme that came out of the conference was for delegates to go back to their organisations

## The Insane Society

### Is anything safe for women?

A MYSTERIOUS disease strikes, resulting in high fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, skin rash, and a sharp drop in blood pressure leading to shock and even death.

Such serious symptoms would normally have the medical profession rushing to find the cause, especially when a large proportion of the population is at risk. But this 'new disease' has hardly raised a murmur in the medical profession, let alone made headlines.

Maybe it is because toxic shock syndrome (TSS) only affects women. The disease occurs in healthy, menstruating women. A toxin or poison enters the blood stream, causing some or all the symptoms described.

Where tampons of affected women have been tested, the bacteria of TSS has been found to be present in 90 per cent of cases.

Tampons are big business. The British market is controlled by Tampax and Southalls, a subsidiary of Johnson and Johnson, which sells Lillies. Last October the Monopolies and Mergers Commission found that the duopoly in the tampon market operated against the public interest, as prices were higher than would be expected 'in conditions of keener competition'.

Playtex, which is attempting to move into the British market has produced a tampon which increases the risk of TSS. It is scented (for no good reason), 'super-absorbent', and is inserted by means of a plastic applicator. In the United States, 40 women are known to have died from the use of similar tampons.

### The 'Authorised Version' of being a woman

KIM Turley was sacked from her job at Alders department store in South London while she was pregnant. She did not have sufficient length of service to bring a claim for unfair dismissal.

Kim said she was sacked because she was pregnant, which amounts to being sacked because she was a woman. This happens to be illegal under the Sex Discrimination Act, but when her case went to an employment appeals tribunal, two male adjudicators rejected her appeal.

They said: 'When she is pregnant a woman is no longer just a woman, but "a woman with child" as the Authorised Version accurately puts it, and there is no masculine equivalent.'

Other useful cases can be found in *Employment Law under the Tories*, by Jeremy McMullen. Pluto Press, £1.95.

### No sex, please, you're under 16

PREGNANCIES for under-16s have increased in the last ten years, while the number among 16-19 year olds has fallen. An important factor is that contraception is more accessible to older teenagers.

Over the past few months several right-wing pressure groups have been formed against the 'permissive society'. They are concerned that under-16s can obtain contraception.

Dorset county council is trying to stop women under sixteen in care from receiving contraceptives. The council has been lobbied by an organisation called 'Responsibility and Welfare', run by a general practitioner, Dr Rogers, who refused to prescribe the pill to women in care.

Rogers' outfit is part of a larger organisation, the Responsible Society. One of its other offshoots, Parents in Suffolk, has complained about a doctor in Glasgow who prescribed a condom to a male under 16. In Suffolk a GP has agreed to a father's demand not to prescribe the pill to his 'under-age' daughters.

Gerard Vaughan, Tory health minister, has sent out guidelines stating that doctors 'will proceed from the assumption that it would be most unusual to provide advice about contraception without parental consent.'

But all this will only result in more pregnancies, not less sex. As Susie Hayman at Brook Advisory Centre puts it: 'Young women who are told by their doctors that the best contraception is "no" end up having an abortion.'

Perhaps this is what is meant by being part of the 'responsible society'.

### What trade union leaders and MPs say

'As a sponsor I naturally fully support the general aims of the conference to discuss the ways in which the law may be changed to give women the right to choose for themselves the right for abortion both in law and in practice.'

'I have always believed that the NHS should provide abortion facilities nationwide.'

'It is important to stop the exploitation of women who suffer terrible worries and anxieties which non-availability of facilities brings about and which drives them into the private sector or condemns them to bear an unwanted child.'

MARIE PATTERSON, national officer, Transport and General Workers Union

'Not only myself but my union executive is firmly of the opinion that we must maintain the TUC and Labour Party policy on abortion.'

BILL SIRS, general secretary, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation

'I feel very strongly that the labour movement must not only defend the contents of the '67 Abortion Act but must do everything in its power to stop the present government changing the way in which NHS facilities are available to those needing terminations.'

'We must ensure that the defence of these facilities is mounted in the most energetic way.'

GWYNETH DUNWOODY, MP

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# Ireland: a cause for concern in the labour movement

By Penny Duggan

**FRANKIE Hughes has now joined Bobby Sands on hunger strike in Long Kesh. This is the latest stage in the Long Kesh and Armagh prisoners' campaign to win their five demands.**

The campaign outside the prisons has achieved wide backing, with support committees throughout the 32 Counties of Ireland.

The National Smash H Block/Armagh Committee in Ireland has won support in the labour movement, among young people, and from local councils.

In the North some councillors have withdrawn from local councils in support of the prisoners' demands and will not retake their seats until the issue is settled.

International support is growing. The Portuguese government has declared its support. In France the CGT, the largest trade union federation and CP leader George Marchais have called on the British government to grant the prisoners' demands.

Support committees are widespread in West Europe and North America.

The strength and determination of the campaign show that it is more than prison conditions which are at stake. It is part of the struggle of the nationalist population of Ireland to oppose the attempts of the British government to impose its rule in the Six Counties.

Since 1976 the policy of both Tory and Labour governments pretend that all is 'normal' in Northern Ireland.

The active involvement of British troops in the 'security forces' has been reduced, and the role of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and Ulster Defence Regiment has been stepped up.

The 'special category status' previously granted to Republican and Loyalist prisoners has been withdrawn and a major propaganda campaign waged to brand them as terrorists and criminals.

Yet the nationalist population remains convinced that these prisoners are fighters for the right of the Irish people to decide themselves how their country should be ruled — and that the first step is to get the British out.

While a single British soldier remains on the streets of Belfast or Derry, it is evident that Britain retains its 'right' to rule and bolster up the sectarian statelet formed to protect the interests of the Loyalist population.

There is a war going on in Ireland and the prisoners are a result of that war.

Only when the British government acknowledge that these prisoners are political will the five demands have any chance of being conceded.

## Tasks

And that campaign to force the government to recognise its political prisoners will be a first step in challenging Britain's right to rule in the North of Ireland.

It is the British labour movement that has the major responsibility in the campaign for support of the prisoners and to get the troops out.

One of the most important tasks confronting the trade unions and Labour Party is to get the leadership of the Labour Party to break from its pact on Ireland with the Tories. The policy of 'bipartisanship' which it operates both in and out of office must be overturned.

The labour movement leadership has followed the lead of the large majority of Labour MPs and allowed no open discussion of Ireland. The media have done the same, with a resulting wall of silence around the events in the North of Ireland.

## Labour

But as the resistance of the people of the North of Ireland has continued it has been impossible to maintain the silence. There has now been two serious attempts to portray the history of Ireland on television. The *Daily Mirror* has called on the British government to set a date for withdrawal and to resolve the prisoners' issue.

The most significant developments have been within the Labour Party.

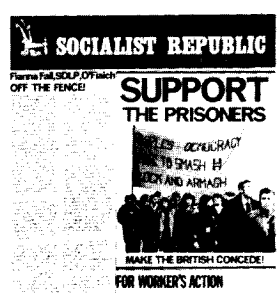


A THOUSAND people took part in a picket of Armagh jail on Sunday 8 March — International Women's Day. A large international contingent was present from Britain and other West European countries.

Messages of solidarity were read out from women's and labour movement organisations throughout the world. Solidarity greetings were sent by Bernadette McAliskey, Vanessa Redgrave, and Frances de la Tour.

While the demonstrators stood outside Armagh prison and sang the Internationale and the Women's Army, they were surrounded by a cordon of armed Royal Ulster Constabulary men and women. British soldiers looked on from a distance.

The display of international solidarity with the women in Armagh was a boost for the Republican movement and all those fighting British imperialism in Ireland.



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- \*H Block/Armagh Strategy for Victory
- \*Reviews: The Troubles and Victory to the Armagh Women

Available from PO Box 50 London N1. 25p incl p&p or ask your local Socialist Challenge seller

The Labour Committee on Ireland argues within the Labour Party to commit the next Labour government to withdrawal.

While it supports the prisoners' campaign, the LCI's annual general meeting last weekend rejected a long-term orientation to link up with the solidarity movement outside the Labour Party.

The Labour Party's consultative document on Ireland gives the labour movement the best opportunity for years to discuss the Irish situation, and for those committed to fighting for British withdrawal to put their position across to a wide audience.

Much education will be needed to win the support of the British labour movement for immediate British withdrawal. And part of that support will be to campaign to defend the hunger strikers in the North of Ireland jails.

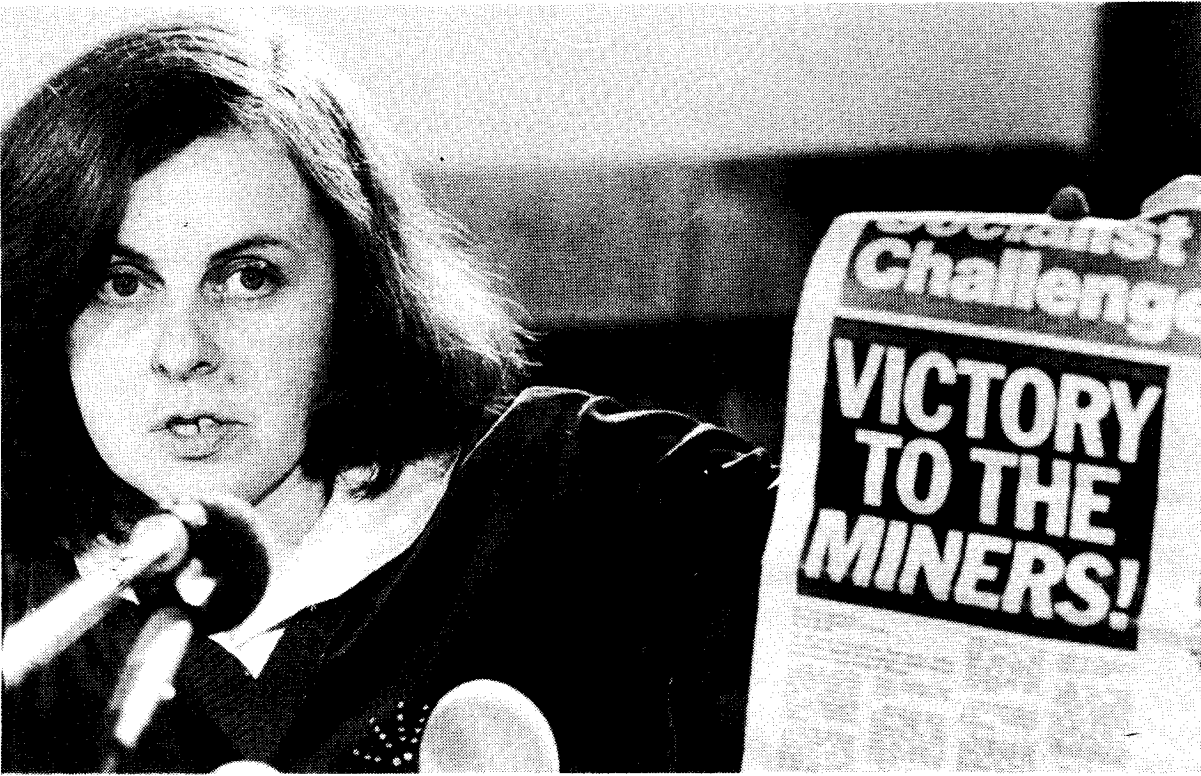


Photo: DEREK SPIERS (Report)

## No progress until the troops go

**BERNADETTE McAliskey refers reporters to Socialist Challenge for detailed information on the attack on her and her husband's life.**

Despite the British army's part in saving their lives, Bernadette was still adamantly opposed to the army's presence in the North of Ireland.

'It was never based on personal

animosity, prejudice or any other irrational emotion,' she told the press conference. 'Historical reality is that there will be peace or progress in Ireland while they are here.'

As the hunger strike continues, Bernadette plans to resume her activities as publicity officer for the National H Block/Armagh Committee.

*Public meeting*

## H-Block hunger strike

**Friday 20 March, 7.30pm**  
Conway Hall, Red Lion Square,  
London WC1

Speaker from National H-Block/Armagh Committee in Ireland plus Alistair Logan, solicitor, and others.

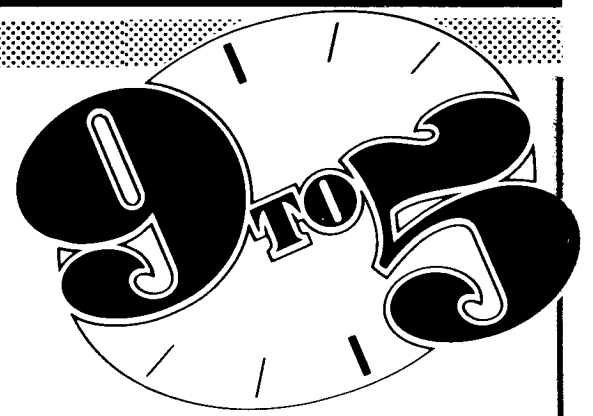
**National Demonstration**  
Saturday 25 April, in London

## Support Irish prisoners — grant the five demands

*Called by H-Block/Armagh (London) Committee*



# Under Review



## An office worker's point of view

By Pam Singer

**MY** only pleasant memory of my first office job is of my success in organising the women workers to refuse to type a letter by our male chauvinist pig boss which read: 'My girls and I would like to express... We were neither girls, nor his, we said.'

Imagine my delight when I saw this illiterate jerk's counterpart shot at, lassoed, harassed, poisoned, kidnapped, and generally outmanoeuvred by a team of 'his girls'.

### Fantasy

I was absolutely transported, and relived all my old fantasies.

And this is the strength of *Nine to Five*. It's comic fantasy with a positive twist — instead of women being degraded and humiliated in the name of 'humour', women are getting even with the petty tyrants who plague our working lives.

A trio of Doralee, Judy and Violet (Dolly Parton, Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin respectively), from various rungs of the office hierarchy, are thrown together by a shared disgust of their boss. Over a joint, they swap revenge fantasies.

### Justice

Through a series of events, they get the opportunity to act out these feats of poetic justice. They then hold the boss hostage in his own house, while gathering enough evidence

to have him sacked for moonlighting. But while he's kidnapped, they take over the running of the office.

### Memos

They put out memos in his name raising salaries, instituting job-sharing, flexi-time, setting up a company creche, reinstating a sacked worker, and generally making the office a pleasant place. And nobody misses him.

And why should they? After all Violet trained him; Doralee does all his work. Those who actually work in the office are shown as being much more competent at running it than he is.

But what we see in the film is not simply the uselessness of lower echelon management, but the infuriating injustice of the sexual division of labour.

### Wrong

Women do all the behind-the-scenes work (just like we do at home) — all the organising, managing, planning — and men get all the credit, promotions and top salaries.

Unfortunately, the movie's answer is dissatisfying and just plain wrong. Outwit these privileged twits, we're told, and you too can make it on your individual merit and initiative. Within the system, of course.

But if for nothing else the movie is worth seeing for audience reaction. Collectivity may be lacking in the film, but women in the audience were certainly unified in our whoops and cheers of delight as we watched and reflected...



Doralee, Judy, Violet and boss

# What's a feminist like me doing on a magazine like this?

By Sally Feldman, Editor, 'Love Affair'

'OH, God, Greg — I want you,' I murmured as he crushed me to him and covered me with fierce, hungry kisses. 'I... I love you...'

This is the stuff of real-life romantic fiction — the kind of fiction that you can read each week in *Love Affair*. As its title suggests, this IPC magazine deals primarily with love, romance, sex — matters of central concern to young teenage women.

With a circulation of around 120,000, it is obviously an enticing package.

### Justified

The sort of accusations levelled at publications like ours are: You're not presenting an accurate picture of life. Should you really be telling teenage girls that boys and romance are the most important factors in their existence? Aren't you feeding popular myths about the relationship between the sexes?

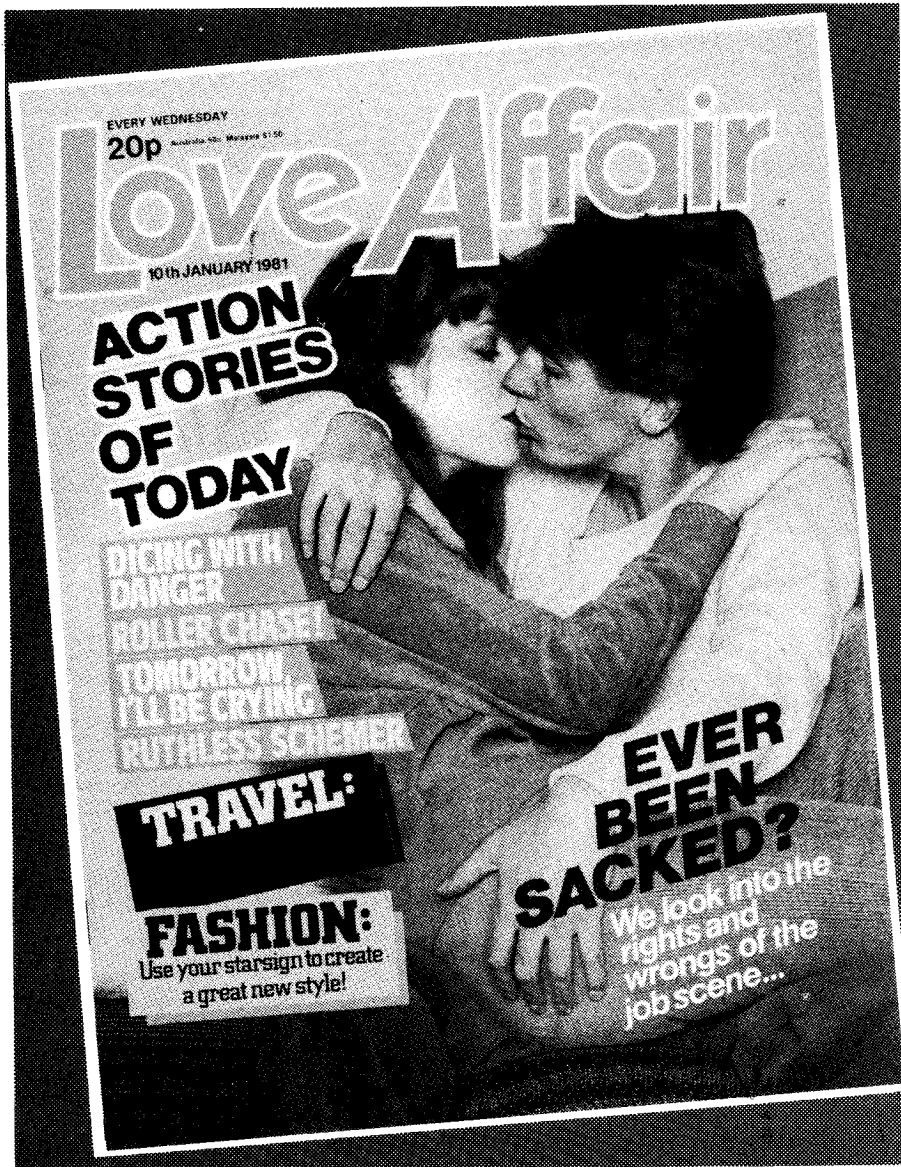
To some extent these accusations are justified. A magazine with a title like *Love Affair*, with a mooning couple on every cover, and a basic content of stories about romance and sex, is undoubtedly appealing to girls who are obsessed with boys. And, yes — I guess it's feeding that obsession.

But within that context, what exactly do you find?

### Fate

First of all, our stories, with their irrepressible first-person narrators, are not really romantic in form. Our characters never rely on Fate stepping in and rescuing them from cruel destiny.

The stories are, rather, confessions, which means that our heroines are wrong-doers. They are people who have learned from past mistakes, and want to pass on their



wisdom to the reader, by telling their stories. Once that form is established, the field is wide open.

In the past year, for example, we have had heroines who are race prejudiced; sniff glue; fight at football matches; break the confidence of their mates; blackmail; shoplift; tease a friend who's been raped; trap boyfriends into marriage; are too possessive; run away from home; neglect work or domestic responsibilities...

In each of these stories, the 'sin' is used not simply to create an exciting story,

but to pinpoint attitudes or forms of behaviour.

Our heroines are rarely passive or helpless. We've had stories of girls who form a rock band, girls who drive minicabs, girls who choose their own destiny and make their own futures — and the atmosphere we try to create is one of constant excitement and challenge.

While we won't suggest alternatives that would be too remote from our readers' lives, we're always trying to comment on the choices they do have.

What's a feminist do-

ing working on a magazine like that? I think I'd be answering for most of *Love Affair's* staff by saying that we have a commitment to our readers

For example, we are well aware of the propaganda fed to young girls about topics like abortion, contraception, rape.

If these subjects come up in stories or in our problems page we are careful to present an uncompromising, honest and often radical stand.

Though our heroines are sinners, their sins are never: 'I invited rape,' or 'I killed an innocent unborn child'. Our heroines

### Far cry

It's a far cry from the feminism of *Spare Rib* or *Shocking Pink*. It's a mass paper — with a conscience.

We all feel that, given a large, female readership who trust and enjoy us, we must continue to strive for balance between the entertainment we know we do well, and the instruction and inspiration which makes us more than just another love comic.

From the March-April 1981 issue of *Free Press*, bulletin of the Campaign for Press Freedom.

The 8-page bulletin includes articles on the Polish workers' struggle for press freedom, how the press sells-out over advertising, the background to Thatcher's *Times*, and much more.

*Free Press* costs 10p (plus p&p) from: CPF, 274-288 London Rd, Hadleigh, Essex. It is sent free to campaign members, for whom the individual membership fee is £3.

### Other THE BOOKSHOP

*Feminist Review*  
Spring 1981, £2

Includes articles on abortion, women in the labour movement, Valerie Coultas on 'Feminists must face the future' — about the state of the women's movement and its relationship to the Labour Party.

*New Left Review*, No. 125  
£1.50

Includes Eric Hobsbawm on 'History and the Future', Tamara Deutscher on Poland, and Philip Corrigan on 'The Bolshevik Legacy'.

From The Other Bookshop, 328 Upper St, London N1 2XP. Add 15% to each title if ordering by post.



By Mike EAUDE

**THE judge in the trial arising from the black rebellion in St Pauls, Bristol, has instructed the jury to acquit three defendants, in one case because the accused had not been mentioned once in four weeks of state evidence.**

Nine blacks still face trial for 'riotous assembly' and other more serious

## Nine blacks still on trial for St Paul's rebellion

charges.

The case arises from the events in St Pauls on 2 April last year, when local residents exploded in rage after years of racist harassment by the police.

A bank was burned down, nine police cars were destroyed, and police were ejected from the area

for five hours.

Several hundred people were detained and interrogated after 2 April, but the political cost of convicting a whole community was too great.

The 16 who were singled out for prosecution had their charges changed and shuffled about, showing

the random nature of the arrests.

Three of the 16 didn't reach trial because police evidence was so confused during the six weeks of committal proceedings that the police were forced to admit that their notes were concocted several days after the event. A fur-

ther case was dropped, and now three others have been acquitted.

The whole community is 'guilty' of self-defence and nine people should not be victimised.

The defence committee set up in the community has sent out 'A cry to all black organisations and

ethnic minorities sympathetic to the destruction of racism within the British society to hear the cry of St Pauls.

'Ask questions in your local communities; if possible organise a trip to Bristol during the period of the trial. The right to live in any British community is at stake. Racism harms every community.'

Further information from: St Pauls Advice Centre, 146 Grosvenor Road, St Pauls, Bristol. Tel 0272-552981 or 556925.

## New black newspaper promotes Grenada revolution

By Toni Gorton

**CARIBBEAN Times, a mass circulation newspaper aimed at the national black community, was launched week.**

Although there was no statement as to its editorial policies, the paper appears to be more radical in its political stance than *West Indian World*, the present mass circulation black weekly.

According to a spokesperson, the editor Arif Ali supports the ideals of the Grenada revolution and the launch issue features a 16-page supplement on Grenada, with a long interview with Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

On British questions the paper concentrates on the Nationality Bill with the headline 'Divisive, destructive and disgraceful', plus a historical outline of laws on race and immigration.

Other items include black youth unemployment, the New Cross Massacre Action Committee's Day of Action and El Salvador.

*Caribbean Times* is available from any newsstand/price 20p.

# Police occupy factory in immigration clamp down

By Oliver New, in Southall

**IN A major operation, police and immigration officials removed five African night-shift workers from the Lyon's factory in West London on 5 March.**

Police suddenly appeared at the security office of Lyons Sol Cafe in the early hours of the morning and told security officers not to leave or make any phone calls. The factory was effectively sealed off.

Police and immigration officers then entered the main part of the factory and arrested four Ghanians who worked as packers.

Although they only had a warrant for the Sol Cafe site, the police also went into the nearby Lyons Tetley factory to arrest Ken Barber, a Nigerian worker who had recently transferred there.

Ken's wife had gone to Nigeria for health reasons taking one of their two children with her. The other was in the care of a child-minder. It was left to shop stewards from Ken's union, the TGWU to discover this and arrange for the child to be taken to a relative.

## Held

A worker from the Tetley factory who nipped into the Sol Cafe while the raid was in progress was held for two hours.

The police later complained to the Lyons management that one shop steward had managed to 'escape' and phone a lawyer.

This is not the only recent raid for illegal immigrants. A month ago David Baah, a dye worker, had been arrested at his West London factory and deported to Ghana. At 6am last Saturday police went to David's house and seized a 17-year-old

Ghanian who lived there with his parents.

Surjit Mann, the TGWU convenor-elect for the group of Lyon's factories in Greenford, told Socialist Challenge that the raids could only enhance the sense of anger and frustration in the immigrant community.

'You see people asking if you have got your passport — next time it's your turn,' he says.

## Organise

'If we had a movement to fight this sort of thing people would follow it, but in the absence of a movement people will sit back and take it.'

Surjit Mann believes that shop stewards in factories like Lyons where there are immigrant workers should organise to be ready for raids before they happen.

He says: 'We told management that if you don't stop this sort of co-operation with the police, one day we will all march to the police station — and you wouldn't like that sort of publicity.'

In the past 18 months there has been a steady increase in the number of police raids on workplaces. They are part of a growing trend towards



**THREE skinheads slashed the initials 'NF' and a swastika across the chest, stomach and hands of an Asian youth in Southall last week. The attack took place at 9.45am while**

**the youth was waiting for a bus.**

**Police say that the attack 'was not part of a pattern of racial attacks in the area'.**

'legal' and illegal persecution of blacks.

The defence of black workers should be seen as an urgent task for the labour movement. The demonstration call by the Campaign against Racist Laws on 5 April against the Nationality Bill will be important to this defence.

**Vishnu Sharma, Communist Party speaker at a meeting in Southall against the Nationality Bill.**

**Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary, withdrew his agreement to speak on the grounds that Sharma is standing against Labour in the forthcoming GLC elections.**

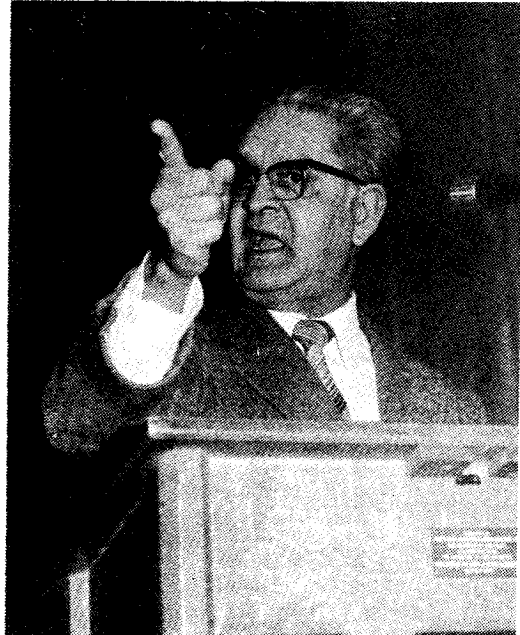


Photo: PETE GRANT (Socialist Challenge)

## Defend New Cross marchers

**A NUMBER of demonstrators were arrested during the Black People's Day of Action on 2 March, especially in the Blackfriars area.**

The New Cross Massacre Action Committee is organising a unified defence campaign for them.

The first case is being heard at Marlborough St Magistrate's Court at 10 am on 16 March. Most of the other cases are at Camberwell Green Magistrate's Court on 24 March.

The Committee is appealing for witnesses to any of the events to contact them and for people to attend the court hearings.

For further information contact the New Cross Massacre Action Committee, c/o 74 Shakespeare Road, London SE24. Tel: 01-737 2268.

## Building workers give to New Cross Fund

**JOHN La Rose, chairperson of the New Cross Massacre Action Committee was given £248 by building workers at the Barbican last week for the Deptford fire victims and their relatives.**

This is typical of the sort of response that the fund is getting from working people all over the country.

The staff association at the TUC has given £50 and the fund, which will continue until 30 April, has now received more than £16,000.

Its purpose is to help Mrs Ruddock, who lost two children, her home and belongings in the fire; to help the other families who lost their children; and to help the families of the injured, two of whom are still in hospital and another of whom is in a mental hospital.

Get your labour movement organisation to send donations to: New Cross Massacre Action Committee, c/o 74 Shakespeare Road, London SE24.

### Immigration and nationality LABOUR MUST ACT

All London Labour Parties Conference

Sunday 29 March 2 pm.

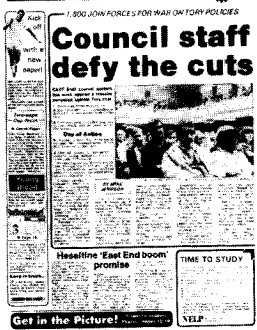
Brabant Road Trade Union and Community Centre, Station Rd, Wood Green.

For further information, contact Charlotte Atkins, 129 Ramsden Rd, London SW12, phone 01-675 3874.





## East End News



## Good news for East London

By Geoffrey Sheridan  
**EAST** Londoners who picked up a new local newspaper last week would have had no difficulty distinguishing it from the usual amalgam of crime-scare-stories, potty pranks, and anti-union huffing.

The weekly *East End News*, launched on Friday with a print-run of 14,000 copies, is unmistakably linked to the working class community on which it is based.

## Lead

The front-page lead is on council workers defying the cuts. Action against the fees increases for overseas students, opposition to council house sales, and the local Labour Party response to a Social Democracy defector are among the news stories.

History is there, too, in the shape of an account of local rebels who participated in the 1381 Peasants Revolt, and an article on Tom Mann's influence on the East London labour movement.

The local women's movement has contributed a column on women's news and events, and there is a promising youth page. There is also sport in the 24 pages, together with a radical entertainments coverage, and an ethnic cookery column.

Missing are the contrived and often trivial stories which decorate the pages of local newspapers, as well as the morbid image of a community which usually emerges.

## Target

Although the *East End News* co-operative is close to its launch fund target of £25,000, the project will require advertising revenue of about £1,200 a week to be viable.

An important avenue that could be explored is to secure a commitment from shop stewards committees to contribute to and sell the paper.

Tower Hamlets council manual workers, for example, have voted for a one-day strike to greet the Liverpool-London march against unemployment. The *East End News* will no doubt be helping to build such action, and support for the newspaper from the 1,800 manual workers could generate a healthy debate in its columns on alternatives to the Thatcher axe — as well as aiding the paper's survival.

Details from: *East End News*, 17 Victoria Park Square, London E2. Tel 01-981 1221.

## FERRANTI JOBS VICTORY

By J Silberman, Ferranti worker

**WORKERS** at Ferranti Measurements in Hollinwood, Manchester, won a significant victory against redundancy last week.

The company backed down just one day after a mass meeting had overwhelmingly voted in favour of industrial action to meet the threat of 40 compulsory redundancies.

As one Engineering Union member put it: 'No one in this factory can now say that it is impossible to fight against redundancy and win.'

The stewards' committee had negotiated voluntary redundancy and early retirement, but last month the company announced that not enough workers had agreed to go and that compulsory redundancy was necessary.

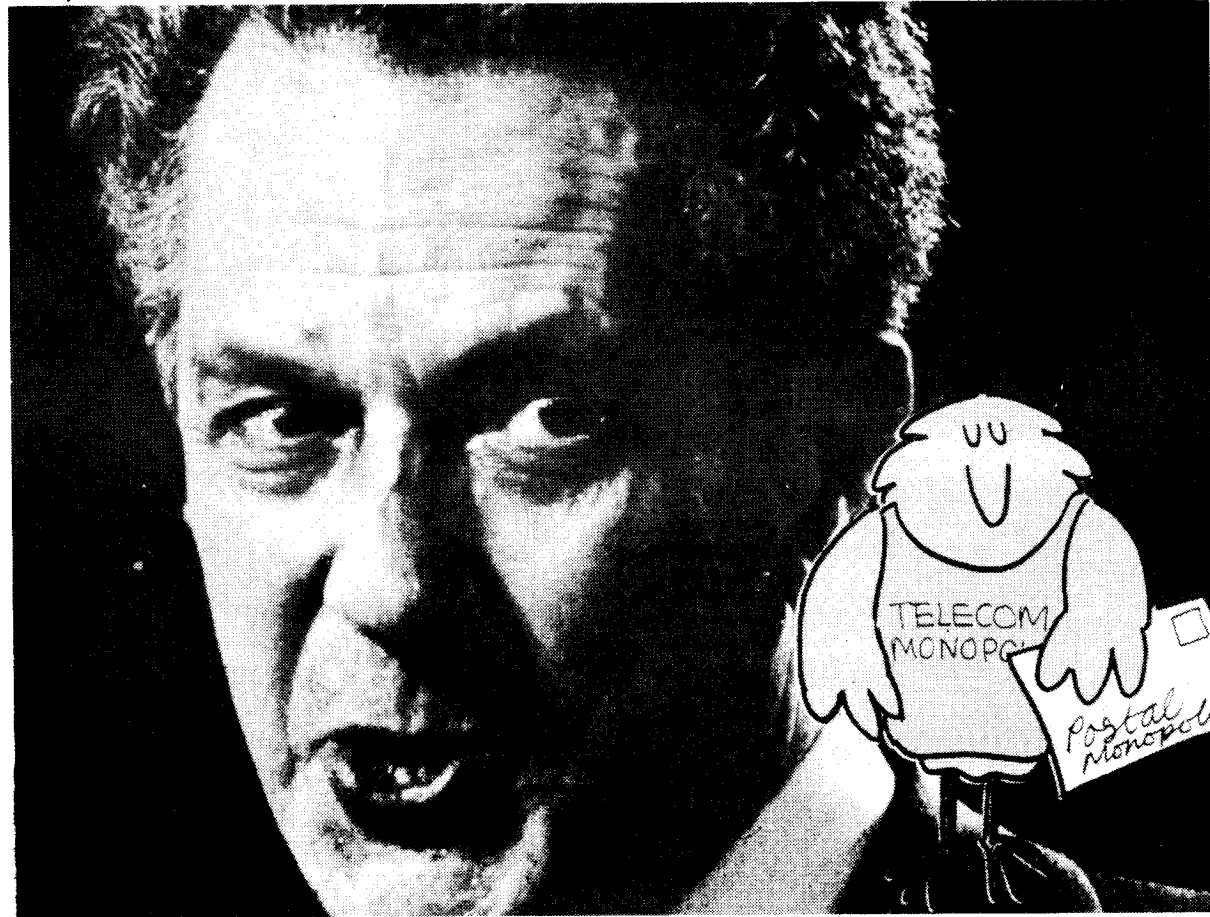
The depth of the recession was given as the reason for the cutbacks. Management's goal was to rationalise the workforce, increase productivity and boost profits.

Ferranti Measurements produces electricity meters and the company wants to produce a new meter, the F2K, which has fewer parts, and so would need a smaller workforce.

Ferranti needed a victory on compulsory redundancy to move ahead to massive job reduction. Management rejected short time working and even went so far as to refuse 59-year-old women and 64-year-old men early retirement.

The unions took up a position of 'cut hours, not jobs'. It was calculated that 40 redundancies were equal to a two-hour cut in the working week.

When management refused this option the mass meeting decided to go on a 38-hour week, leaving two hours early every Friday and also to take industrial action to stop the redundancies.



## Post Office unions plan lobby on telecoms bill

By Colin Talbot, deputy secretary, Westminster branch POEU (personal capacity)

**THE national executive of the Post Office Engineering Union has rejected by 11 votes to 10 a call for a one-day strike against the Tory attacks on the Post Office.**

Instead, the POEU and the two other major Post Office unions, the UCW and CPSA, are to hold a delegate lobby of Parliament on 1 April.

## Squatters occupy Wandsworth flats

By Piers Corbyn

**SQUATTERS** occupied a newly-completed block of flats in Wandsworth last Friday. Situated on the East Hill estate, they were scheduled to be sold off by the Tory-controlled Wandsworth council.

A private estate agent was due for a fat fee to overcome the difficulties of selling private dwellings on an estate designed for council tenants.

The occupation, which is supported by local tenants groups, was organised by Wandsworth Against Tory Housing (WATCH) and Squat and Sales (SAS). They are demanding that all the flats are let to local people and those in need, and that the council re-house the squatters.

The South London occupation takes place at the same time as the occupation of Sherry's Wharf in Hackney, East London, which also aims to thwart Tory attacks on public housing.

Information from: WATCH, tel 01-870 7511; or SAS 01-701 5691 or 01-237 8277. Homeless welcome.

The Union of Communication Workers and the Civil Servants' Union are calling for a mass turnout, but not the POEU.

'This is not intended to be a mass lobby' is the stirring call from the POEU leadership who aim to 'persuade MPs, whatever their political complexion, to vote against the sections of the Telecoms Bill which we find objectionable.'

## Steam-roll

The Bill was introduced by the Tories last November to give them power to hive-off profitable parts of both posts and telecoms, while splitting the Post Office in two.

For the two months the Bill has been in parliamentary committee the government has used its majority to steam-roller over all objections. It is due for its third reading in April.

The POEU annual conference decided to use industrial action in order to defend the monopoly, and the Broad Left within the union has been pushing for this policy to be implemented.

In its view, only a campaign of industrial and

mass action can stop the Tory attacks on the nationalised industries, as the miners have shown.

## Scared

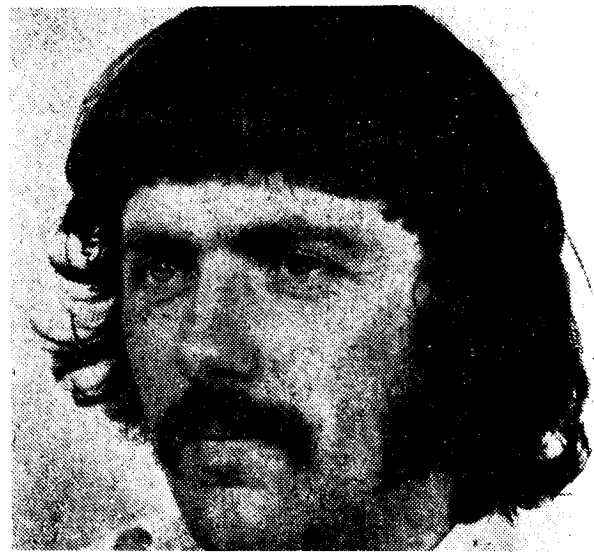
The POEU has the power to cripple the City of London, the banks, finance houses, big companies and government departments. But the right-wing majority on the union executive refuses to take up the challenge.

They are so scared of mass action that they have even stopped union branches using local funds to cover the wages of the delegations to the lobby.

A national conference has been called by the POEU Broad Left for 28 March to organise the fight to commit the POEU to action. The only action that will make the Tories take note is — All out on 1 April!



London Broad Left meeting on 23 March in the Marquis of Cornwallis, Marchmont St, WC1 at 6 p.m. Further information from Dermot Hunt, tel 01-928 9329.



Tom O'Carroll

## Two year sentence for PIE defendant

**LAST** week Tom O'Carroll, chairman of the Paedophile Information Exchange was sent to prison for two years.

He will almost certainly spend this time in solitary confinement because of the hostility from other prisoners and guards against those accused of child-related crimes.

Because there was little evidence that PIE

supporters were engaged in anything criminal, the Department of Public Prosecution charged the three defendants with conspiracy to corrupt public morals for publishing its contact magazine.

This 300 year old law which had virtually fallen into disuse, established the power of judges to punish whatever they or their jury considered to be 'subversive of public morality'.

The dredging up of this law and the vicious sentence against O'Carroll represent a serious attack on democratic rights.

## Lowdown

### Of buccaneers and criminals

**ONE** of Britain's most eminent prisoners lost his appeal against sentence last week. But for Lord Kagan there are at least 325,000 consolations for his tribulations.

Kagan collected 10 months jail and a fine of £375,000 for stealing money and fiddling the accounts of one of his companies. He had skimmed a known £700,000 from this bit of free enterprise, which like a good patriot he deposited in a Swiss Bank.

So as the days tick by at Rudgegate open prison, Kagan can enjoy the time by working out the compound interest on £325,000.

But this pay-off is not enough for the Wilson-appointed lord. He is chafing at the bit to get back in harness. His 'brief', Gilbert Grey QC, knows what makes a good capitalist.

In an impassioned plea for a reduction of sentence

he told the court: 'Whatever may be said in criticism of his swashbuckling, buccaneering personality and his capricious and cavalier behaviour, nonetheless it is the very stuff of which merchant adventuring is made.'

Grey is a wise and astute man. He knows that buccaneering, defined by the dictionary as piracy, is an indispensable quality needed by every capitalist.

All Kagan's friends and competitors are engaged in buccaneering. Most of them don't get caught out because they employ smart lawyers, clever accountants, and know the right people. If buccaneering was an offence under capitalism the jails would be full.

Even when those like Kagan are caught, they generally seem to find some understanding judge who is prepared not to be too harsh. A net profit of £325,000 for 10 months is not bad odds.

It is a pity Tom O'Carroll of PIE could not find a judge like that.

## Scots protest US role in El Salvador

**SEVERAL** hundred people marched to the US consulate in Edinburgh last Saturday to protest against Reagan's aid to the military junta in El Salvador.

Ron Brown, Labour MP for Leith, told a rally at the end of the march that the campaign has to be taken into the labour movement where many people were unaware of what was going on in the Central American dictatorship.

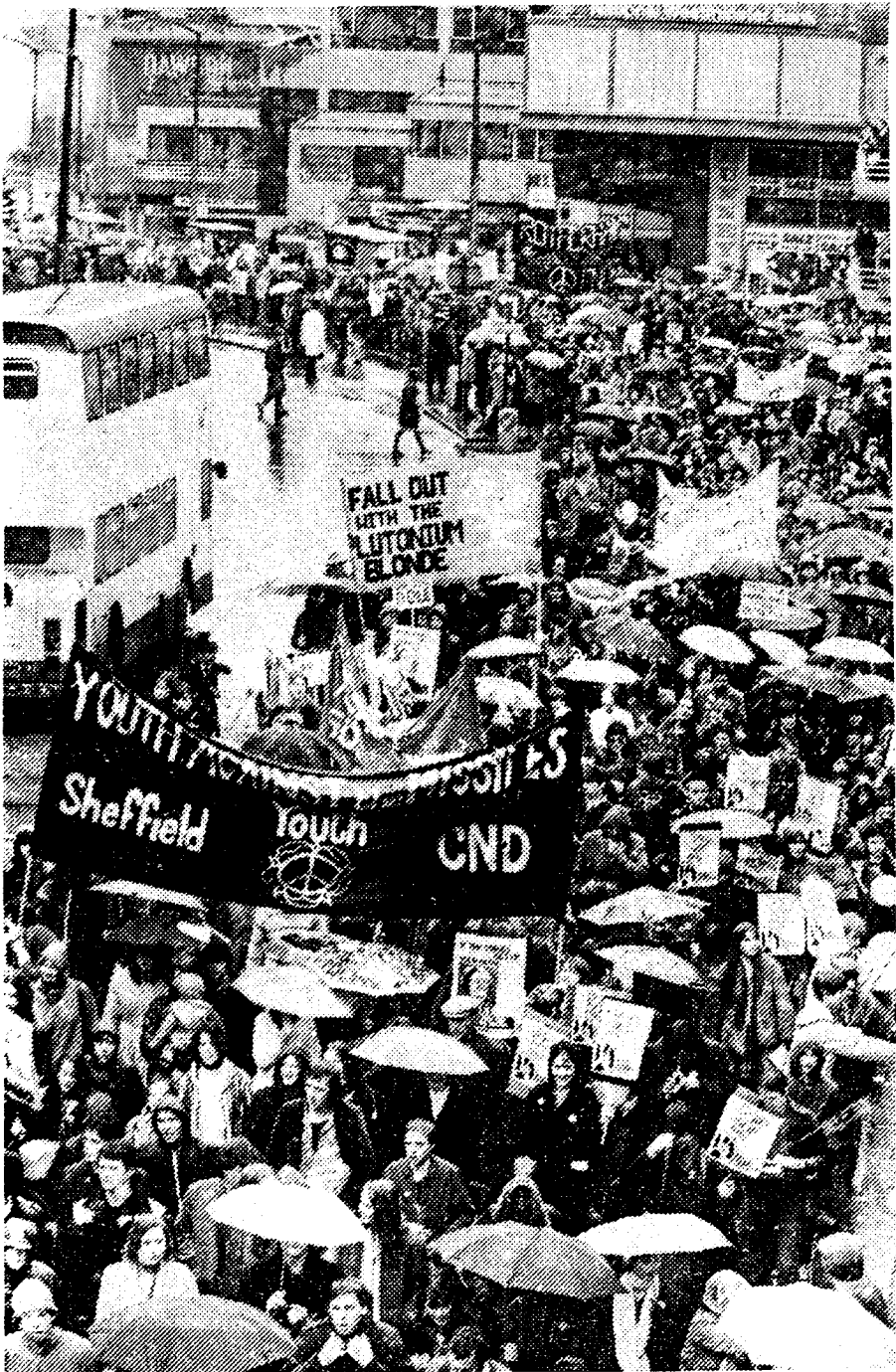
The Edinburgh Latin American Solidarity Campaign, which organised the march, is to hold a series of public meetings in major Scottish towns.

Further information: Edinburgh Trades Council, Picardy Place, Edinburgh.



# Socialist Challenge

# TAKE ACTION FOR JOBS



## Sheffield marchers against the bomb

**MORE than 10,000 people marched against the missiles in Sheffield last Saturday. This huge turnout occurred despite teeming rain — an indication of the massive support which CND now enjoys.**

**If the movement can gather this many for a regional demonstration, how many more can be gathered for a national demonstration? See pages 7, 8 and 9 on the missiles. Watch next week's paper for more photos and full story of the Sheffield demonstration.**

## The price of your paper

'IT'S the first time I've read a newspaper that puts the working class point of view.' That's how one shop steward from Royal Pride in Manchester described Socialist Challenge last week.

Printing the truth costs money. Our paper has been costing £1300 to print each week. This week, we face a rise in typesetting and design costs of £200 per week.

Our sales bring in £900 each week. Because we take the side of working people, we don't carry expensive advertising. There's no Tiny Rowlands or Rupert Murdoch to bail us out — we are not the tame creature of any Fleet St magnate.

Our paper is subsidised — by the sacrifices of thousands of dedicated supporters. We can't put this subsidy up another £200. It is beyond our reach.

This is why with great regret we are increasing our price to 25p from our next issue.

Our price has stayed put for 18 months. We know the burden it places on you. Fleet St haven't held back as we have. In the same period the *Mirror* has gone up three times, from 8p to 12p — 50 per cent; the *Sun*, four times from 7p to 12p — 70

per cent; the *Star*, three times from 6p to 10p; the *Sunday Express* from 18p to 22p the *News of the World* and the *Sunday Mirror* from 14p to 20p; and the *Sunday Times* a staggering 22p to 35p.

The labour movement press doesn't rake in profits. But it's still squeezed by rising costs. In the same 18 months *Tribune* has gone up by 20p to 30p *Labour Weekly* from 10p to 20p, the *Morning Star* from 13p to 20p, and *Militant* and *Socialist Worker* both from 15p to 20p.

We feel bitter that just when our sales are going up, bringing socialism to hundreds of new readers, an insane economic system forces us to put 5p on the weekly bill of the very people hit hardest by this system.

But we appeal to you not just to keep buying Socialist Challenge but to sell it, and if you can, to help us with your donations and subscriptions. Every hundred papers we sell cuts our loss by £20 and reaches a hundred potential new socialists.

Their pences won't grease the paths of Fleet St barons or help them print their lies. They will be working for your cause. They will be working to get rid of the media millionaires and to build a new society in which freedom of speech is — for the first time — really free.

By Tessa van Gelderen

'WHAT we're looking for is a change of policy — it's not the job of the TUC to bring down governments.' Len Murray, like the rest of the trade union leadership, is full of verbal appeals for the government to change course.

When it comes to action such as the occupation of the VF jeans factory in Greenock, the battle against the closure of the Talbot plant in Linwood, and the civil servants pay dispute, the TUC is nowhere to be seen.

Building support and activities around the Liverpool-London march for jobs can begin to put the likes of Murray on the spot — actions like that of Tower Hamlets council workers who have voted for a one-day strike to greet the marchers.

## Support

Despite the efforts of the march organisers, particularly the Communist Party, to restrict the numbers on

## LIVERPOOL TO LONDON 1-31 MAY

# ON THE MARCH AGAINST THE



# TORIES

the march and activities planned, it is proposals like those of the Tower Hamlets workers that will begin to take hold.

Support for the march grows by the day. The public employees union, the transport union, building workers union UCATT, local government, and the print union SOGAT are all officially supporting the march.

When the march passes through the main urban areas which

are affected by rising unemployment the best support for those on the march will be industrial action.

## Tories

The day the march arrives in Southall, West London on Friday 29 May, there should be the biggest demonstration yet organised against the Tories. The Communist Party has called for a march in Southall on that day and Ealing Trades Council is being asked to organise

strike action. Murray and his cohorts want an alliance with the bosses and the Confederation of British Industry in order to 'restimulate' the economy. This is their answer to getting on for 3 million unemployed.

## Answer

The left leaders do see the need to mobilise the labour movement to protest against the government. They want the Tories removed 'at the earliest opportunity'. But they are not prepared to call for industrial action to kick out the Tories.

So a demonstration on a week day that is bigger than those in Glasgow or Liverpool will start to show the Tories that the labour movement means business.

That's the answer that should be given to Murray and the TUC. There is an alternative to making the government change course — kick them out!

So let's make the Liverpool to London March, and especially 29 May, a time the Tories won't forget.

## London leads the way

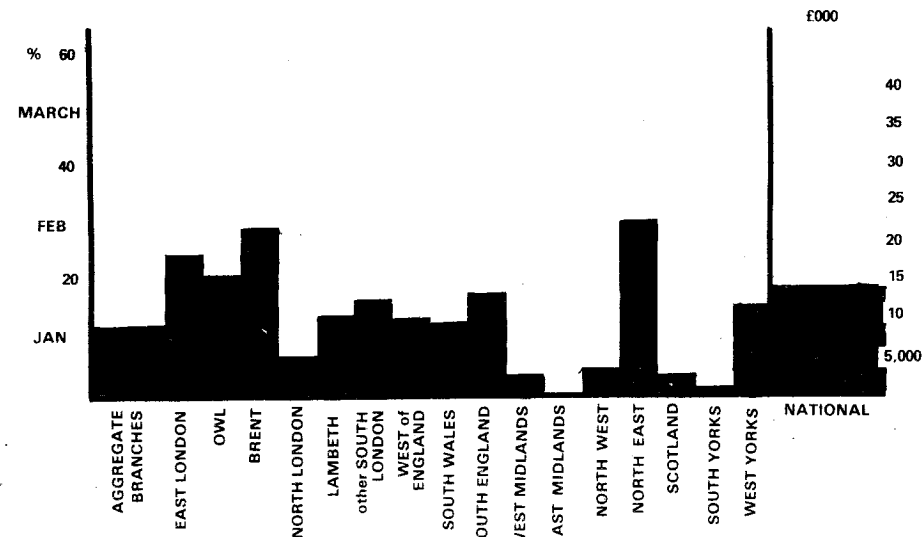
LONDON supporters in four different boroughs each raised over £100 on the same weekend for Socialist Challenge's £100,000 Development Fund Drive.

Tower Hamlets, Hackney, and Camden supporters used the time-honoured method of funding the revolution — they held jumble sales — while comrades in Brent organised a 'Russian Evening'.

For a small sum over fifty people enjoyed a Russian meal, a nip of vodka and home-screening of Eisenstein's classic film 'Battleship Potemkin.' A good time was had by all and another step was taken on the road to buying us a building.

Also in the post this week was the £5 honorarium received by a supporter from his position of branch registrar; while another donor writes: 'I agree with your recent slogan, namely "Kick Out The Tories". I would like however to add the following — completely, absolutely and for ever.'

We agree 100 per cent, so keep the donations coming in. Remember, anything is considered: honoraria, legacies, used stamps, pounds, shillings



## Our fund drive

and pence: organise to house your paper.

Our thanks this week to:	
MB	£20.00
S Sleath	5.00
Standing orders	98.50
Maryhill Copper collection	5.00
Ed Mahood	£10.00
Under Freds Bed	5.00
Des Stevens	5.00
Cardiff	75.00
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