

Socialist Challenge

Working class unity
against racism!
Don't trust the law —
Self defence is the only way!
**DEMONSTRATE
IN SOUTHALL**
Sunday 19 July 1pm
Featherstone Road Car Park, Southall,
Middx

COPS OUT, TORIES OUT

'WE WANT JOBS, NOT RIOT POLICE'

Riot police, CS gas, rubber bullets and the army — that's the Tories' solution to the events in Liverpool and Southall.

But it is their policies and their crisis which provoked the youth rebellion.

Bankrupt British capitalism offers young people nothing but the dole queues, racist discrimination and police harassment. More repression will not stop the youth riots of anger and despair.

The labour movement should oppose 'law and order' solutions and defend the youth from the Tories' repression. It should offer a political alternative by fighting the symptoms of capitalist crisis — unemployment, police harassment and fascist violence — and by fighting to bring down this hated Tory government once and for all.



'A shorter working week with no loss of pay'

Last week, DES DUTFIELD, vice president of South Wales Area NUM, explained to *Celia Pugh* and *Barry Wilkins* of Socialist Challenge the importance of united action to defeat the Tories.

In the second part of the interview, Des Dutfield talks about the jobs fight in the mining industry.

What about the £300m the Tories have been forced to give to the industry following the miners' strike?

We've been given to understand that it's nearer to £500m. We don't know the details yet. It is obviously insufficient — that's why it has to be pursued.

It may cover the short-term situation, but it does not affect the long-term developments, like sinking of new pits. It's not simply a matter of withdrawing the closure list.

Without investment you can't keep pits open. We will see the inevitable contraction on exhaustion alone if there are no replacement policies. We want more money to keep present pits live pits and for expansion.

We are concerned that the government will try again to go ahead with closure plans, but we are not worried about closures being brought in because we've declared our intention to fight them.

Some people think that Morlais pit has gone out of the back door. The closure of Morlais was not a defeat, although the Coal Board and the government would like to put on that inference.

It's never been our intention to preserve a pit at the cost of anyone's health. Men were literally working, not with drippers but with water pouring through the roof; in some places there were holes as big as 50 feet. No way will we let them use back door methods to close the pits.



Arthur Scargill was here last week and he highlighted attempts to close Orgreave pit in Yorkshire. I told him that if a call comes, it is incumbent on us to explain to members that we should carry out our mandate for action to support them.

The Board has now dropped the closure threat on Orgreave. It shows again that if you don't include a threat of industrial action — you don't get anywhere.

They've had all this time for talk. Of course our national president, Joe Gormley, has claimed the February victory as his own, that he's done it by his own prowess, but it was the action not the talk that made the Tories retreat.

You've talked about government money for investment. What other policies are you taking up? For example, Scargill has said that a four-day week could create 55,000 jobs.

The four-day week has been a long-standing national policy of our union. We'd also like to cut out overtime, but unfortunately this policy is not applied rigidly.

There are a small number of workers, for example on safety, who are expected to do certain hours. But it would certainly be feasible for an overtime ban on other jobs.

When we talk of a shorter working week, this should be with no loss of wages. It is not the same thing as short

time working.

There's another confusion, too. A lot of people think that early retirement is the same as voluntary redundancy. If they put all the money from redundancies into retirement at 55, there would be opportunities for school leavers.

What about the policies in the Wales TUC plan, which are put forward as a social contract with the next Labour government?

We don't agree with this. You can't really talk about that sort of set-up until you've got a socialist state, which we haven't.

Do you mean set-ups like planning agreements?

Yes. You can certainly get round a table, if what you are saying is being taken notice of. You may plan certain strategies. For instance, I don't think nurses and ambulance drivers should be forced to strike. There should be a plan for adequate wages. But you can't go into the sort of policies the Wales TUC is proposing in the system we've got in this country.

At the Wales TUC Conference there was major opposition to the Wales TUC plan, led by the South Wales NUM and NUPE. Emylyn Williams (area NUM President) has stated that if the TUC go ahead with this plan, then the area NUM will pull out of the Wales TUC. Do you agree?

The frustration has built up to such a pitch that there seems no other channels open. I'd like to see a fight from within, but if the Wales TUC goes

ahead with it, one way or another I can see us leaving.

Isn't that a problem? In many right-wing unions, militants have been banging their heads against a wall for democracy. Many are tempted to set up alternative unions, or rank and file organisations outside the union. We'd argue they should stay and fight to change the leadership. Isn't this the same with your position in the Wales TUC?

Yes, in a way it is. But we are talking of the Wales TUC, not the national TUC. The Wales TUC is subservient to the national TUC.

People hide behind the national TUC for not calling action. Nationally they can't use this excuse.

But won't you be handing the Wales TUC over to the right-wing leadership, putting them in a stronger position to do damage like last year?

That argument is certainly open. All Emylyn has rightly done is to indicate the possibilities if these types of strategies are developed. On all the points you say, I cannot deny their validity.

The Wales TUC could be tremendous. It could still save jobs and services if it had the guts. Organised militant force is needed. It's a pity our leaders aren't as loyal to theirs as the Tories are to theirs. The TUC should be the chains of organisation not the fetters.

Fragmented we cannot do it, but united in action we could get rid of Thatcher in three weeks.

We want action for jobs

By Tessa van Gelderen

LAST Saturday's magnificent demonstration for jobs in Cardiff, showed once again that the labour movement is prepared to take on the Tories. But it also showed, yet again, that the leaders of our movement are not prepared to take action that will finally get rid of Thatcher and Co.

As Pat Hickey, deputy convenor at Rover, Solihull said 'The speakers at the rally are very long on rhetoric, but very short on policies.' True, the platform went on at great length about defence spending, the Common Market and North Sea oil but nothing was said about action.

Indeed, the platform was notable for the absence of any representa-

tion from those sections of workers who are fighting against the Tories. Laurence Scott workers who are occupying against closure were not allowed on the platform.

Instead, Alex Kitson, acting general secretary of the Transport Union, made a pious statement on their behalf. Ambulance workers from Scotland, who are leading the struggle nationally over their

pay claim were similarly barred.

As John Deery, a shop steward from Glasgow ambulance workers explained to Socialist Challenge, it would have been very embarrassing to have an ambulance worker speaking on the same platform as Alan Fisher, general secretary of the public service union, NUPE.

'In his speech,' John Deery pointed out, 'Fisher never once mentioned one person who's in dispute. And no wonder, as John explained, 'He's sitting on our dispute for higher pay. Fisher is just not backing us. We're sick of coming out on partial stoppages. To win we have to have an

all-out strike. If we get beaten, then so will the nurses and the fire-fighters.'

Fisher and Michael Foot and Alex Kitson are full of empty promises. The cheers given for Benn when his name was mentioned showed where the labour movement's allegiance lies.

It was left to the only woman speaker on the platform, Dilys Hardacre, to point any way forward.

'We're fed up with tokenism,' she said. 'I'm a woman and a worker. It would have been far better if we hadn't had to put up with chauvinism both on and off the platform.'

And Dilys ended her fighting speech for the right of women to work by making a call for the labour movement to support 'positive discrimina-

tion, so we can go on to win socialism.'

There was no doubt that Dilys Hardacre struck a vital cord, judging by the applause she received, especially from the women at the rally. But did our leaders really understand?

Not a bit if Alex Kitson's comments were anything to go by: 'Isn't the girl great', he patronised.

The demonstration was great, another nail in Thatcher's coffin. And the Labour Party is planning another one in September in Birmingham.

But more and more militants are looking to the Lee Jeans and Laurence Scotts of this world and more and more they want to know why the trade union and Labour Party leaderships are nowhere to be seen when the crunch comes.



Photo: PETE GRANT (Socialist Challenge)

'You have to fight your own battles'

SOCIALIST Challenge supporters in South Wales organised a meeting to provide a platform for those who are fighting back.

Tommy Lyons, branch secretary from the Electricians union at British Steel, Margam, drew on the lessons of the fight for jobs in the steel industry.

'We have seen closures, rundowns, slimlines, cutbacks; you name it, steel's had it!' Tommy explained. 'And each time we're left in splendid isolation to sort out our own destiny.'

What was needed, said Tommy, was a lead from the national leaders, 'for a national strike to remove Thatcher and her bunch of bandits. It has to be done now.'

Elsie Broad from the Royal Pride strike and Dennis Barry from Laurence Scott spoke about their disputes. They both reiterated Tommy Lyons' point that they had received very little sup-

port from their union leaderships.

'In the long term', said Dennis Barry from LSE, 'you have to fight your own battles.' And Pat Hickey, deputy convenor from Rover Solihull, spoke on the same theme.

'In BL the leadership of the unions nationally has not backed the workers against Michael Edwardes.' And Pat went on, 'When the working class say they want the Tories out, they are also saying they want a different Labour government to the last one.'

On the demonstration, on the official rally and in the Socialist Challenge meeting itself, that was the message. Kicking out the Tories means putting in a Labour government that will work in the interests of the working class.

That's why our present leadership is full of rhetoric and no action.

Socialist Challenge placards sum up the mood of the Cardiff demo

Socialist Challenge

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.

Labour should pay the tube workers

By Martin Eady, President NUR London, Transport District Council — personal capacity

THE National Union of Railwaymen's executive have called an all-out indefinite strike on the London underground starting 20 July, in support of a pay claim for nothing less than the rate of inflation.

The irony is that this first strike since 1926 would be against the most left-wing administration the Greater London Council (GLC) has ever had.

Labour's election manifesto clearly stated their commitment to improving the lot of London Transport workers, including progress towards a 35 hour week. Ken Livingstone, leader of the Labour GLC, has publicly stated that he will underwrite any settlement.

Yet the offer from management is for 8 per cent towards the cost of living (currently rising at nearly 13

per cent), plus a number of divisive sectoral productivity deals which could only lead to job loss and lack of unity.

Most startling, there is an offer of 1/2 per cent in return for a commitment not to progress any claim for a reduction in hours.

Undermine

Ken Livingstone, on behalf of the Labour GLC has to call the London Transport Executive to order. He has to state publicly that not only will he underwrite any offer but the increase should be in line with inflation without productivity strings.

Such a move will completely undermine the wheelings and dealings of Sid Weighell, NUR general secretary, and lay the basis for a

campaign against the right wing union leadership.

When workers and their trade unions fought for the election of a Labour GLC they expected that their interests would be championed against the attacks of the Tory Government — the GLC could be used as a bastion from which to fight for the rapid removal of the Tories from office.

When the Tories move against the Labour controlled GLC, as they certainly will, the GLC will need to call upon the workers of London to mobilise in their defence. The Labour GLC will get such support if it is prepared to defend workers' living standards.

The present offer amounts to a wage cut, something we expected from the Tories but not from Labour.

Unless the GLC instructs management to settle in line with inflation, we will be left wide open

to attack by NUR general secretary Sid Weighell, who would use the strike to discredit the GLC and its leader Ken Livingstone as part of his campaign against Benn and the left wing of the Labour Party.

All Labour Party members should put maximum pressure on the GLC to improve their offer.



Footnote: The London buses have already settled for 8 per cent, but will claim parity with whatever the underground get above this. The pay claim on British Rail is not yet settled.

A decent offer from the GLC would put pressure on Brother Weighell to push BR for more, and on BR to grant it. If the strike on London Transport becomes a reality it will be of the greatest importance that the buses and British Rail also come out, and that the Triple Alliance of rail, coal and steel unions is invoked.



Ken Livingstone and the tube strike

Mass action—the only way to win

By Tessa van Gelderen

THE Labour Greater London Council has been in office for barely two months and already it's under attack from the right — both inside and outside the labour movement.

Sid Weighell, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, has announced that there will be an all-out tube strike, because London Transport refuses to pay what the union is asking for. Yet Ken Livingstone, Labour GLC leader, has stated quite clearly that the GLC 'will underwrite any agreement management and the unions come to.'

So what's Weighell's game? Ken Livingstone told Socialist Challenge: 'Weighell has taken this position for his own ends. He's attacking the Labour GLC and he wants to get at the Benn campaign. As soon as the NUR conference is out of the way, he'll change his position.'

Settle

There is no doubt that Weighell is manoeuvring against the GLC. Ken Livingstone has stated publicly that 'whatever comes of the current British Rail inquiry into pay, the London Transport executive will more than match it. No London Transport worker will be worse off than a British Rail worker.'

It may well suit Weighell that London Transport does not settle before the BR claim. If underground workers received a wage increase in line with inflation, Weighell would certainly be put on the spot. It's a spot Ken Livingstone should put Weighell on.

In the short time Livingstone has taken control of London, the Labour GLC has already notched up a few landmarks. It gave marvellous hospitality to the People's March, London Transport fares are to be cut by 25 per cent, and hopefully, the price of school meals will also be reduced.

Livingstone personally has been on picket lines, openly supported the Irish hunger strikers and the Polish workers and has now announced that the Asians arrested in Southall

should be 'released without charge' because they were 'defending their community'.

There is no doubt that the Labour administration in County Hall is a big boost in the struggle against the Tories. All socialists should recognise that. But we have to say something else besides.

There have been setbacks to the promises made in the election manifesto for London: council housing will still be compulsorily transferred to the London boroughs; the Labour Group did not all vote for a reduction in school meals' prices despite the election pledge.

Such setbacks give ammunition to the right — to the likes of Sid Weighell and the London evening paper, *New Standard*, which is conducting a vicious campaign against the Labour left.

Action

Before the election Ken Livingstone knew the tasks confronting him and his comrades would not be easy. He thought — and still thinks — that the Labour GLC itself can choose the time and place

to take on the Tories. But the government is on the offensive, against Labour councils; the events in Lothian show that. The only way to take on the Tories — and win — is through mass action.

The Labour councillors are very concerned that they may be surcharged over one issue or another. Instead of discussing how to avoid these threats, they should be discussing how they can build support from the organised labour movement to defend them from the likely surcharges and jailings.

Ken Livingstone and the Labour left across

London Labour Briefing
Target 82' Conference
County Hall, Saturday
11 July

10.30am-5.30pm

Following our victory in winning control of the GLC, the Labour Party in London must centre its efforts in struggling for power in the local borough elections next May.

Briefing is holding a conference to prepare for the elections. Our tasks are twofold:

- To ensure that the London Party enters the elections with manifesto commitments which enable us to defend and extend our services and stand up to the attacks from the Government.
- To select councillors who can be trusted to be accountable to the Party and lead the struggles required.

Speakers include Ken Livingstone, Ted Knight, Bryn Davies, Merle Amory, Jeremy Corbyn, Frank Hansen, speaker from Lothian.

All Labour Party members are urged to attend the Conference. delegates credentials are £1 from 15 Thorold Road, Ilford, Essex, or turn up on the day

London has to be able to turn round to the workers in London and say 'We're with you. Are you with us? We will defend you up to the hilt in your fight for better wages and living standards against this government.'

'And when the GLC is attacked will you support us? Will you use the muscle that you have, the only muscle that will bring down this government, to defend us? In so doing you will be defending

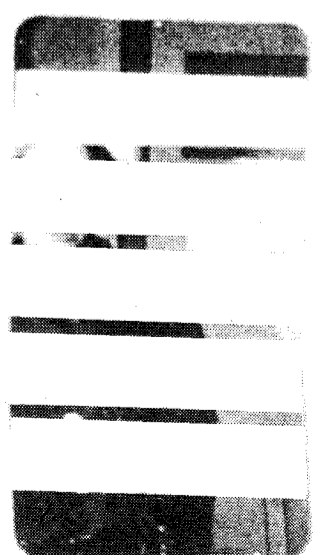
yourself.'

Ken Livingstone has been on the defensive in the Tube pay talks. He was a marvellous opportunity for him to open up to the rank and file militants of the NUR fight for the full claim: to defend the Tube workers' living standards. Together they could have exposed the deviousness of Sid Weighell.

United

In so doing, the Labour Party would have been far more united, far stronger. It would have been a boost for the policies of the Labour Party in London, and a boost for the Benn campaign. As is, whatever the outcome of these present negotiations, the left is left with a bitter taste in its mouth. Ken Livingstone will see to have bowed under the pressure from the likes of right wingers like Weighell.

The leader of the GLC committed to 'campaigning against the government' must lead that campaign — a campaign for mass action to bring down the Tories. We should organise in the Labour Party and the trade union in support of all progressive measures. Labour GLC takes, up to and including industrial action. That way we will not only get rid of the Tories, but we will also lay the basis for the return of a Labour government committed to socialist policies.



Red and black on white 20p each plus s.a.e. 15p for orders of 10 or more (post paid) c/o Birmingham's Other Bookshop, 137 Digbeth, Birmingham B5 6DR. Cheques payable to Birmingham's Other Bookshop.

'They're trying to close BL down...' Interview with Rover convenor

MICK CLARKE has worked at Rover Solihull for 16 years. When the company separated the plant into Range Rovers and cars, he became convenor of the new works committee of the SD1 plant — which makes the Rover Saloon. That was in May 1980.

Just over one year later Mick, along with every other worker in the SD1, now faces the loss of his job if the closure goes through. He explained to Valerie Coultas what the closure plans are all about.

When the SD1 was built in 1976 we were told

that it was the biggest single investment in the British car industry for twenty five years. The total investment in buildings and plant was £140 million.

The British Leyland management said it was 'an act of faith in the workforce' in the West Midlands. When Michael Edwardes had the shop floor ballot in 1979; the Rover workforce voted in favour, thinking that under him the SD1 plant would never feel the axe.

We feel that there were three conceptions of how British Leyland could survive. The Ryder plan meant massive investment with new models.

This would have allowed British Leyland to compete with their counterparts in Europe. However Michael Edwardes was ap-

pointed overlord and decided against Ryder.

He toyed with the idea of the second option — a European partnership, but we think that later on the Tory government and Michael Edwardes decided on the third option — a total slimming down and underinvestment, which has resulted in the closure of Canley, Castle Bromwich, Speke, Abingdon and the loss of 50,000 jobs. Now we have the present round — Solihull, part of Swindon, Coventry engines, Cardiff parts plant — another 8,000 jobs in total.

The car industry is still the biggest single exporter in this country, and we are the biggest customers of British Steel.

It's no good investing money in British Steel and then cutting back its biggest customer. The government should sub-

sidise the car industry. The Belgian, French and Dutch car industries are not nationalised and they're receiving secret funding during the recession.

We've accepted reductions in manpower, from 4500 to 2100 and, low wages — and all the changes in work practices, speed up etc. that were implicit in the management's 92 page document.

The high bonus earnings that we receive from hard work and efficiency — this week it's a record week of £18.90, and it hardly ever goes below £15 — are seen by the workforce as a symbol of their sacrifices, and still they've been betrayed.

There's a growing awareness in the shop stewards movement that the Edwardes plan is not so much a 'plan' as a recipe for the total shut-down of British Leyland as we know it. Now they've decided that enough's enough.

The right to work is a political stance. The policy of this government is to curb the unions and part of their economic policy is to create mass unemployment and to hold the working class back.



Mass meeting

picket the factory during the holidays, and ban work on the new paint process. One third vote in favour, two thirds against — this is a real body blow.

Wednesday 1 July

Action committee in the morning. There are two lines. One that campaign is over, that membership is useless and won't fight

and that we shouldn't waste any more time on them. I argue for having another knock. Point out that we won one third of the mass meeting, which is a hell of a lot more than we would have got six months ago when we started.

We need something for the 6 July 'conference' with management and we can go back to a mass meeting immediately after that. In the meantime we should have a shop stewards' meeting and a bulletin from the stewards to the membership.

The proposal for a bulletin is rejected but the shop stewards' meeting is agreed. It goes well. The stewards are keen to have another knock, reverse the action committee's position on the bulletin and agree to have section meetings over the next few days.

Pressure starts to build up for us to engage in negotiations for more redundancy money.

Immediately after the shop stewards' meeting I'm called to the track where a group which wants to accept the company's terms are furious that the results of yesterday's mass meeting are not being regarded as final. A long and heated argument aimed more at the audience which gathers round rather than the people I'm arguing with. Start the bulletin.

Thursday 2 July

Finish the bulletin. I explain that the mass meeting is a set-back for the

campaign and point to the growing support from the outside. Include a section on unemployment and the increasing restrictions on unemployment payments.

Also include a section on cost of closure, both in terms of the direct cost to the company and the social costs to the community. Argue the economic lunacy of closure. Do section meetings at lunchtime, but without much success.

In the evening I am due to speak to the Birmingham trades council about 15 August demo. Cancel the item and leave everything on ice until mass meeting next week.

Friday 3 July

Bulletin arrives. It is quite well received. Discussion continues throughout the day with shop stewards, sections and individuals. Try to get hold of Gren Hawley or Alex Kitson for mass meeting.

It is time for the union nationally to give a clear lead, instead of just asking us if we can deliver the troops. In the evening the 909 branch TGWU meeting, followed by a Banner theatre presentation of a show on BI, which is sponsored by us and the 357 branch. Home at 1am, tired as a newt.

Saturday 4 July

Cardiff for the unemployment demo. Listen to Alex Kitson fighting the Tories. It's like calling for the destruction of all canines, while letting the fox eat the chicken in peace.

'A real body blow'

THE shop stewards at the Rover SD1 plant at Solihull are leading a campaign to defeat the management's closure plans. Deputy convenor PAT HICKEY continues his diary of resistance.

Monday 29 June

In the morning at the action committee meeting we have a long discussion on management's plans to move plant to Cowley. General agreement that this issue cannot be ignored. It is also important that we have a national show of force for the national 'conference' with management on 6 July to pin down the national officials.

I propose that we ban work on the new paint process and the overtime associated with it. In addition we agree a 24-hour picket on the plant during the holidays which start on 10 July.

However, as in all these situations, you have to be prepared to back up your threats with action if necessary. We therefore need a mass meeting because if management don't back off we shall have layoffs after the July holiday.

Shop stewards' meeting at lunchtime. We have long discussion again, but there is no opposition to speak of. Agreed proposals from action committee for the mass meeting tomorrow. Meeting with management in the afternoon. They are clearly very worried and make threats about layoffs and so on.

Tuesday 30 June

Re-convene the shop stewards to explain the meeting with management. Supervisors have been telling the members that this will endanger plant closure terms — their redundancy money. They say that this is the

last mass meeting that will be allowed. Rumours start that the convenor, Mick Clarke, and I have been offered full-time jobs with the TGWU.

Mass meeting at noon. I open the meeting with an attack on the rumours. Mick introduces the shop stewards' resolution and reports on our success in getting official backing. 'Like Ansells' shouts someone, and gets a favourable response.

Another section shouts for more redundancy money. We go straight to a vote on our proposals to



Alex Kitson and Moss Evans



Pat Hickey

Mass picket step by Laurence Scott workers

By Steve Potter and Peter Clifford

'WE'RE taking the fight home to the boss — hitting him where it hurts.' That was how Laurence Scott steward Elaine Cross explained the mass picket of Mining Supplies in Doncaster last Monday.

The mass picket, came as the occupation against the closure of Manchester engineering factory, Laurence Scott, entered its 11th week.

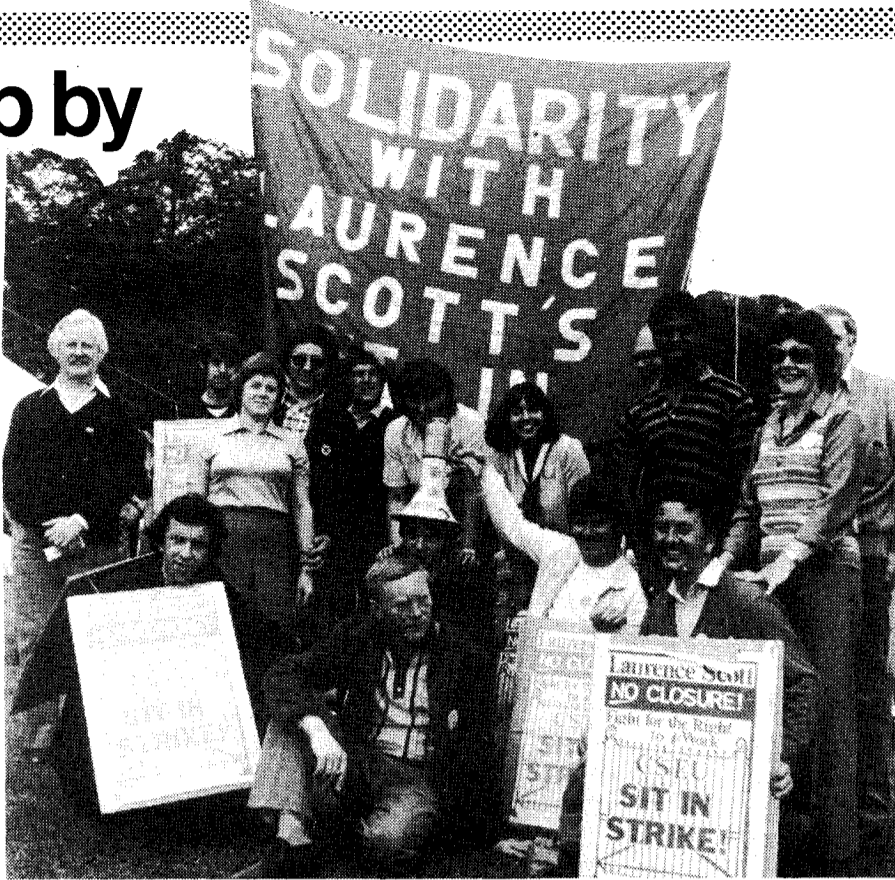
One hundred pickets took coaches to Doncaster, successfully turning away supplies for the firm including vital oxygen from the Rotherham BOC plant. The picket, which will now continue on a 24 hour basis, will bring new pressure on Mining Supplies management and the boss of both plants, Arthur Snipe.

Snipe was there to greet the pickets in his Rolls Royce with 'V' signs

and other crude gestures. He has made a name for himself in this dispute through his provocative and aggressive actions towards workers in his group. A steward in the Doncaster plant said that he couldn't speak to *Socialist Challenge* because, 'there are spies in the plant.'

These sort of methods are reputedly used by Snipe in his other factories in Wolverhampton, Norwich and Blantyre.

Snipe is making mistakes though. Last week he sent redundancy money to the workers in



Laurence Scott workers on Cardiff demo

occupation who, after taking legal advice, found that they could cash it without terminating their con-

trats. Unlike elsewhere, the question of workers losing redundancy money has

been confronted by the LSE workers stating that their struggle is to keep the plant open and nothing

less. The mass picketing of Mining Supplies has meant a retreat by national union officials in their backing of the occupation. However, official support for the picketing was withdrawn when Snipe offered talks if it was called off. The fear that the picketing would collide with the Tories anti-union laws was also a factor in their climbdown.

But Laurence Scott workers are prepared to confront that question as well. As Denis Barry, an AUEW steward in the plant put it:

'We've got to picket the parent company. Nobody's really clear about what secondary picketing is. It's not been properly put to the test. Today we are picketing more than two to a gate and the police are obviously in doubt about enforcing it. What we are doing today is a small test of the law. I don't call it a law — it's a guideline. And guidelines are made to be moved to the left or right.'

The Laurence Scott occupiers are confident of victory. With the massive support that their struggle has received, particularly in

the last week from workers on the march in Cardiff, they believe they can crack the resistance of Arthur Snipe, despite the backing he is receiving from the Engineering Employers Federation.

To make sure of it, workers from the occupation are in Jersey this week seeking further support from the miners' union.

The occupation is also fast assuming national political importance.

Support

John Silkin visited the plant last week, and on the same day Tony Benn phoned from his convalescence to renew his support for the occupation.

The size of the support which the occupation is receiving is due to the labour movement starting to see Laurence Scott as its front line in the battle against redundancies. A victory for them would be a victory for all workers fighting the Tories' policies.

Messages of support and donations to Laurence Scott Stewards, G Fryer, 20 Roundcroft Romily, Cheshire.

LCC Conference

Socialist policies and mass action

LABOUR CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

By Patrick Sikorski

TONY BENN will return to the centre of the political arena when he addresses the Labour Co-ordinating Committee (LCC) conference in Central Hall, London on 18 July.

Despite his illness, Benn has never left centre stage. It was his shadow that loomed so large over the latest Labour Party anti-unemployment march in Cardiff.

Benn's solidarity message got a two minute standing ovation and Foot had to intervene to defend Healey against the hecklers.

The Benn campaign for the Labour deputy leadership has acted as a focus for all those wanting to get rid of the Tories now. But more importantly, his supporters want a real change. They want the next Labour government to advance towards socialism — and they want to get rid of the right wing Labour leadership.

We agree with the guiding slogans of the conference for 'Joint trade union and Labour Party action to bring down the Tories' and 'For a Labour government committed to socialist policies.'

Fight

We agree with taking this fight into the unions and extending the fight in the Labour Party for full accountability over the leadership and manifesto.

The fight for socialist policies and for a left leadership in the Labour Party goes hand in hand with the fight to kick out the Tories.

The reason can be summed up in a short sentence — the bitter experience

of the last Labour government.

The struggle to remove the Heath government led to the Social Contract. A much greater political and organisational effort will be needed from the whole movement to get rid of Thatcher. It's not surprising that before launching such struggles the movement as a whole, not just the rank and file needs to be confident that the fight's worth the candle.

Taxes

The movement needs policies which can unite it nationally and which the next Labour government must be pledged to implement immediately.

Michael Foot outlined his alternative at the unemployment demo on Saturday. He promised to cut workers' taxes, massively increase public expenditure and put greater investment in the nationalised industries.

These measures, if carried out immediately, would be greatly welcomed by working people. But in order to be carried



Foot, Healey and other Labour leaders march against unemployment

through and financed, in the teeth of opposition from the bosses and the Tories, it would require

decisive measures to gain control of the banks and the finance houses, and the commanding heights

of industry. A real set of socialist policies for a Labour government to meet the

crisis would mean going much further than Foot and the Labour leadership are presently prepared to go.

Michael Foot and Len Murray have been discussing a new 'Social Contract'. We know from bitter experience, and Laurence Scott shows it today, that either the workers control industry — or the bosses extract from us the 'blood letting' that Michael Foot wants to stop.

Millions

The bosses say that they can only control and manage industry now by throwing millions out of work.

We must say that we will occupy those plants to bring forward the fight to bring down the Tories and to nationalise those firms under workers' control.

If it was decided that the next Labour government should nationalise such industries, this would send a cold shiver down the backs of the bosses and inspire working people to fight back.

Necessary

Michael Foot speaks of the need to borrow in order to embark on expansion. This is obviously necessary.

But it leaves open the question of who controls the credit. It assumes that the very same people who have got us into this mess will then be able to get even fatter on the interest they will demand.

Clearly, any socialist

government worth the name should implement Labour Party policy and take over the banks.

Implement

A massive campaign should be started now for a 35 hour week and wage sharing with no loss of pay. Are Foot and the rest of the Labour leadership prepared to take up the proposal of the Free socialists, which proved popular in the election and pledge to implement the 35 hour week?

There should be hanging back from fighting for these policies or from implementing them under the next Labour government. The basis of getting agreement with the CBI, the Tory or the IMF. Those people are complicit in Thatcher's 'mad monetarism'.

Thatcher

Unity with the Tories can only create a rift amongst our class. Unity with Edward Heath brought the defeat of Leyland workers. This type of unity foisted on us by the contract which led to the election of Thatcher.

Supporting workers in struggle against the Tories and the Tories means fighting to bring down the Tories. It also means fighting for socialist policies which can prevent the next Labour government repeating the mistakes of the last two Labour governments.

Labour inches towards Irish unity

By Geoff Bell

THE pro-Loyalists in the Labour Party have been forced to make a number of concessions in the recommendations to be submitted to the national executive on the future Irish policy of the party.

The Labour Party study group, which was set up nearly two years ago, completed its report last week. It proposes that the party should commit itself to a long-term policy of Irish unity.

The study group has also come out against the Labour Party extending its organisation to the north of Ireland, on the grounds that this would be seen as an endorsement of a permanent British presence in Ireland.

But the sub-committee has rejected a variety of calls for the withdrawal of British troops, and it is opposed to the granting of political status to the Irish prisoners.

Full details of the 29-page document are not yet publicly available, but already Loyalists have reacted hysterically to some of the reported findings. James Molyneux, leader of the Official Unionist Party, said the policy would 'encourage terrorists to believe that violence paid'.

The membership of the study group

suggested, until very recently, that it was unlikely that a unanimous report would emerge. It includes pro-Loyalists such as Roy Mason and Don Concannon and 'troops out' supporters such as Joan Maynard.

Up to three or four weeks ago the pro-Loyalists were planning a report which would have been unequivocal in its support for British presence in Ireland and partition. A majority was also believed to be in favour of the Labour Party organising in the north of Ireland.

Concessions

They have been forced to make concessions to the 'pro-unity' lobby for a number of reasons. First, the majority of the submissions to the study group from constituency parties was in favour of Irish unity, for the withdrawal of troops and against the Labour Party organising in the north. A small majority was also opposed to political status.

This meant that the bulk of the proposed report would be in direct defiance of the submissions from the CLPs. This was one pressure on the study group to change its proposals. Another was the statements of Tony Benn, who called for troop withdrawal.

It is clear that Benn's suggestions found an enthusiastic response in the rank and file of the party, and the study group, while not supporting Benn, felt the need to make some concessions.

Finally the widespread evidence of disgust among the party membership at the pro-Thatcher antics of Don Concannon, Labour's spokesperson on Ireland, during Bobby Sands' hunger strike, provided another reason for the study group to change its line.

It remains unclear as to how exactly the study group sees Irish unity being achieved. On the one hand there is an apparent emphasis that this should only be 'by consent'; yet, it seems the study group is sympathetic to the idea of abolishing the right of the Loyalist majority in the north of Ireland to veto possible unification.

There is no doubt that, in terms of what the study group seemed likely to come up with just a month ago, substantial progress has been made by those who have fought Tory/Labour pro-Loyalists bipartisanship on Ireland.

Nevertheless, if the commitment to Irish unity remains a vague principle then it will not, in practice, change very much.

That is why the left in the party and those who support the right of all the Irish to self-determination now need to concen-



Joan Maynard: Troops Out supporter

trate their attention on winning firm guarantees that the pro-unity sentiment will be put into practice, and that proposals to be debated at the party conference spell out such a policy.

A small victory has been gained against the supporters of the Loyalists in the Labour Party. That victory should be seen as a reason for pressing forward to unconditional support for Irish self-determination and British withdrawal.

An independent Ulster?

By Tom Marlowe

LABOUR'S ex-Prime Minister James Callaghan startled the House of Commons on Thursday when, during the course of a debate on the Emergency Provisions Act he proposed a new 'solution' for the north of Ireland.

Callaghan advocated the formation of a 'broadly independent State' in the six north-eastern counties of Ireland.

This would involve, said Callaghan, the withdrawal of the guarantee by which the north of Ireland remains within the UK until the population decides otherwise; the right of the new state to make its own decisions on all policy matters, including foreign policy; Westminster to legislate a Bill of Rights for the north which Britain would 'pass to' the 'fully independent' state; the withdrawal of British troops as an 'end result'.

amounts to is that Britain leaves the North of Ireland. While he says that such a withdrawal must be 'planned and orderly', it still adds up to an admission that Britain has got nothing to offer Ireland but the leaving of it.

The one substantial condition that he places on withdrawal is that Britain should hand over the six counties to unfettered Loyalist control. This is what his 'independent Ulster' would mean. As Callaghan said, 'the Protestant majority especially would have a great responsibility and a historic opportunity'.

Those words are

enough to send a shudder down the back of every Catholic living in the north of Ireland. The scenario is not hard to imagine: Ian Paisley as president with the thugs of the Ulster Defence Association as his army.

Indeed it is instructive to note that the only organisation in the north of Ireland which currently gives open support to the idea of an independent six-county state is the UDA which has a record second to none in organising anti-Catholic assassination squads.

In this context, Callaghan's 'solution' smacks of a 'final solution', with the Catholics of the North of Ireland replacing the German Jews as the targets. Callaghan is saying that Britain should leave Ireland, but in such a way as to ensure that the

anti-imperialist movement is wiped out.

Yet it is by no means certain that this is how things would turn out. The north of Ireland is not a natural state. It was created undemocratically. This is why, whether it has had Unionist or British governments, it has been run undemocratically.

It has maintained its existence because ultimately the British have safeguarded that existence by military might. If Britain was no longer prepared to do so, the state would collapse and the Irish majority would be in a position to assert itself.

However it is likely that if Britain were to hand over the north of Ireland to Loyalists, it would try to ensure that the independent state would have the opportunity to survive.

Callaghan said,

'Dublin's help is needed before this plan can succeed'. This would mean a joint wave of repression prior to Britain leaving, with Britain and the Southern government joining together against the opponents of Loyalism. It would mean H Blocks dotted across the entire country of Ireland.

In no way can an independent Ulster be judged as a progressive solution. It is just another way of trying to stop majority rule for all of Ireland.

Nevertheless, the fact that Callaghan and the *Daily Mirror* are now promoting that plan, and that even Tory spokesperson, Michael Alison, agreed Callaghan's speech 'is something to be pondered on', show how desperate the ruling class in Britain is now becoming when it comes to Ireland.

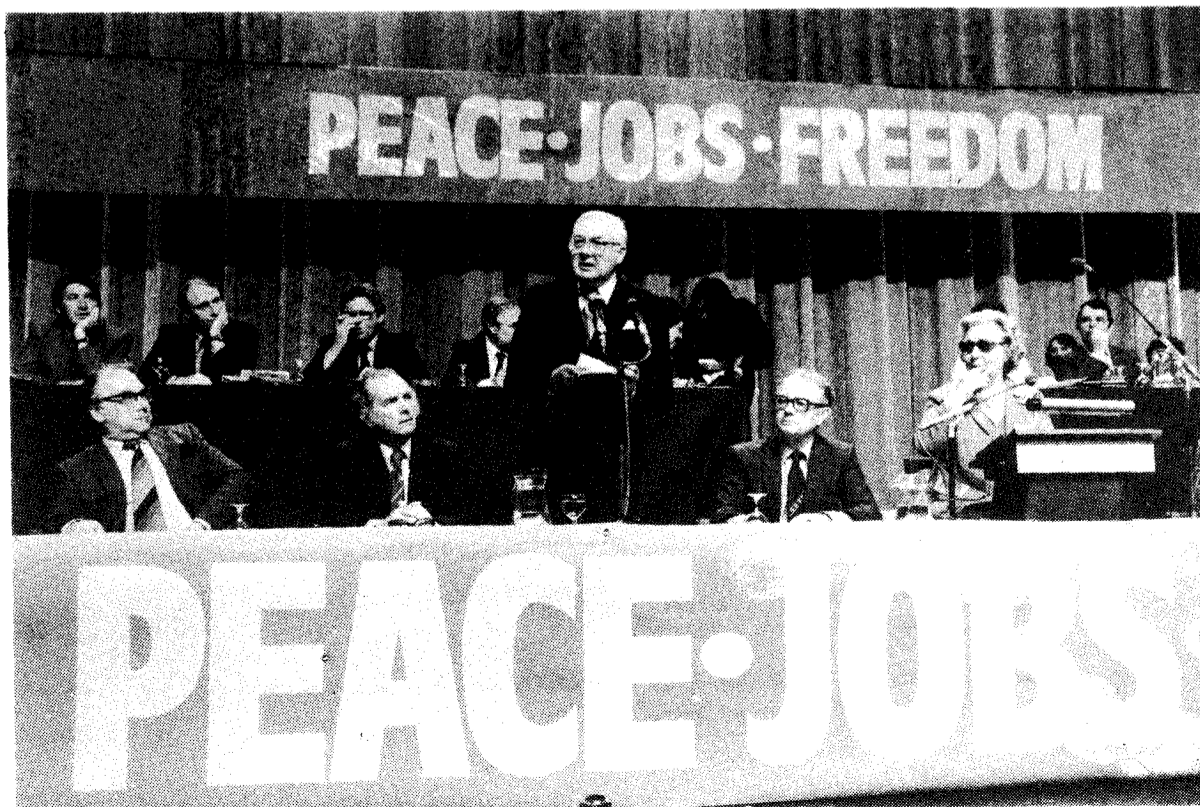
Stalemate

The first comment which can be made about Callaghan's speech is that it was made out of a sense of hopelessness. 'I fear we must conclude that Northern Ireland is in almost total stalemate, both politically and militarily', he observed. 'Does anyone believe that our dual policy of direct rule combined with firmness will result in Northern Ireland emerging permanently — I utter the word permanently — from years of torment', he asked.

Every plan or scheme that Britain has put forward has been criticised and ... ended in the waste paper basket', he noted.

This is very true, and has been the case for some time. What is important is that a politician of Callaghan's high standing in ruling class circles is now prepared to openly come out and admit as much. Moreover, the *Daily Mirror* quickly endorsed Callaghan's plan.

That shows how deep the crisis is for Britain in Ireland. For what Callaghan's suggestion



James Callaghan — will his plan bring peace or jobs to the north of Ireland?



The masked face of the UDA who support an independent 'Ulster'

Reselectors, please note

AMONG the issues on which the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy has advised Constituency Labour Parties to check the voting record of their MPs is the Emergency Provisions Act, the main repressive legislation for the north of Ireland.

The following is the complete list of MPs who voted against the EPA last Thursday:

Alton, David; Atkinson, H (H'gey); Barnett, Guy (Greenwich); Brown, Ron (E'burgh, Leith); Canavan, Dennis; Carmichael, Neil; Carter-Jones, Lewis; Cox, T (W'ds'th, Toot'g); Cryer, Bob; Cunliffe, Lawrence
Dixon, Donald; Dobson, Frank; Dubs, Alfred; Ellis, R (NE D'by'sh're); Fitt, Gerard; Flannery, Martin; Fletcher, Ted (Darlington); Freeson, Rt Hon Reginald
Heffer, Eric S; Holland, S (L'b'th, Vauxh'll); Home Robertson, John; Howell, Geraint; Kilroy-Silk, Robert; Lamond, James; Lyon, Alexander (York)
Marshall, D (G'gow S'ton); Maxton, John; Maynard, Miss Joan; Meacher, Michael; Newens, Stanley; Pavitt, Laurie; Powell, Raymond (Ogmore); Price, C. (Lewisham W); Race, Reg; Richardson, Jo; Roberts, Ernest (Hackney N)
Skinner, Dennis; Stallard, A.W.; Thomas, Dafydd (Merioneth); Thomas, Jeffrey (Abertillery); Thorne, Stan (Preston South); Welsh, Michael; Wigley, Dafydd; Wright, Sheila; Young, David (Bolton E). Tellers: D N Campbell-Savours and Mr Clive Soley.

Liverpool: 'An eruption of anger'



By Mark Turnbull, member of Toxteth Labour Party

'THIS is a no-go area you know' — the words of a ten-year-old boy on Monday morning following three days of clashes between police and the youth of Toxteth.

People were learning fast on the streets last weekend, improvising weapons, defence and uniforms.

The fighting began on Friday night, after police chased and arrested a youth who was riding home on his motor bike. They claimed he had stolen it: that was the first police lie of the weekend.

This arrest was the straw which broke the camel's back. The police have been harassing people in Liverpool for years and, as in Brixton and Bristol, it only took one small incident to ignite the powder keg.

Many people I spoke to in the area over the weekend said the same thing. Linda, 22, told me: 'We knew this was going to happen.'

'It isn't just the unemployment or the housing 'cause we've always had that. It's the police but they just don't accept that they're to blame.'

As they tried to make the arrest on Friday, the police issued an emergency code on their radio. Within minutes the area was full of police cars and vans. The weekend had begun.

Clashes broke out for about two hours, and then all was quiet. The next day, police flooded the area in a show of strength which soon crumbled when night came on.

Fighting broke out and their lines of riot shields were pushed back from the centre of Upper Parliament Street and kept out for most of the night.

During Sunday hundreds of residents came out to watch the cleaning up operation. Burnt out cars blocked the road and the ground was littered with bricks and glass. But this was only a lull before bigger clashes.

Shields

I arrived on Upper Parliament Street at 11pm on Sunday and half of it was filled with police vans. At the junction of Grove Street stood a line of police armed with riot shields.

Brick and bottles were raining down on them and soon they were being driven back along the road. Milk floats were being driven into police lines by the youth and the JCB excavator was brought in to

Soon the police had been forced a quarter of a mile back up the road. All the vans had turned tail. Upper Parliament Street belonged to the youth.

Hundreds of police with riot shields had been driven out of the area by no more than a few hundred youth. Many hundreds more were on the streets, watching but not fighting.

Victory

Meanwhile, at the other end of the road, shops were being broken into. When local people realised the police were not around they moved down Lodge Lane and broke in to just about every shop there. Washing machines, fridges and TVs were carted off.

Shopping trolleys loaded with groceries were moving in convoy from the Quicksave supermarket. The off-licence shelves were bare.

The newspapers linked this to the film Zulu — 'bunch of savages' attacking the good whites. But it reminded me of *Queen of the Damned*, the film about blacks rebelling against slavery in the Caribbean.

Only this time it was white as well as black people. They proudly wore police helmets and carried riot shields, the prizes of victory in battle.

For two hours the police just stood and



waited. They later admitted that they were beaten and had to withdraw while buildings burnt down. They claimed that 200 police had been taken to hospital. Reinforcements were brought in from all over the north west.

The turning point came at about 2am when, for the first time ever, CS gas was used on the streets of Britain. Twenty-five canisters were fired at the crowd over a 30 minute period.

Slowly the police moved forward and as dawn

broke they were back in control of the streets.

As I walked round the area on Monday morning there was a mixture of amazement and apprehension in people's conversations. Many were annoyed at the press reports that it was a race riot or caused by 'outside agitators'.

Chief Constable Ken Oxford claimed: 'This was not a racial issue. It was exclusively a crowd of black hoodlums intent on making life unbearable and indulging in criminal activity.'

This is an outright lie. At least half the crowd in Upper Parliament St were white, as were most of the people entering shops in Lodge Lane.

John Hamilton, Labour Party council spokesperson, replied to Oxford: 'We deprecate the statements made by the Chief Constable.'

'This is too simple an approach to the problem and provides too easy an escape from facing the deep-sided nature of the social problems on Merseyside.'

'The Labour Party,' he added, 'will set up a labour movement defence committee and has called for emergency meetings of both the city and county council to discuss the matter as a whole.'

The Community Relations Council issued a statement saying:

'The council has frequently warned in recent years that there could be an explosion of anger by local black youth against the prejudice and deprivation they face in general and against what they feel

as constant and unreasonable pressure from police on the streets.

'The events were an eruption of anger from a significant section of local youth and it is not helpful to attempt to lay blame on outsiders or a small number of individuals.'

What happened in Toxteth over the weekend was that the people of poverty and no hope reacted the only way they knew to the ravages of Tory Britain.

THE Toxteth events were predicted by none other than Edward Heath. Last Thursday, attacking the unemployment policies of his successor as Tory leader, Heath said: 'If you have two-and-a-quarter or two-and-a-half or three million unemployed the impact of this on the social system is, in my view, disastrous.'

'Of course if you have half a million young people hanging around on the streets all day you will have a major increase in crime. It is inevitable. Of course you will get racial tension when you have young blacks with less chance of getting jobs.'

At a general level that is the explanation for what happened at Toxteth over the weekend, as it is for what happened at Brixton a few weeks ago. No teams of investigative reporters are needed to prove the point.

No judge sitting in long inquiries are

City of despair

necessary to pronounce learned judgements bound up with a lot of legalistic mumbo jumbo.

The facts of Toxteth, and of Liverpool generally, tell the story as starkly as it could be told, and that story is a near perfect example of what the respectable Mr Heath was talking about.

Take the situation of blacks in Liverpool. In the last 20 years Tories, Liberals and Labour have controlled Liverpool council. Yet it seems whoever has been in charge of the city council — the biggest single employer in Liverpool — has operated a policy of discrimination which would make some of the racist city bosses in the southern states of the USA seem liberal in comparison.

Figures compiled last October show-

ed that out of 1,738 people employed in Liverpool's environmental health department only 11 were black. In the social services department, which employs 3,840 people, there was a grand total of 35 blacks on the payroll. Altogether, of the 30,000 blacks in Liverpool there were only 169 among the council's 22,000 workers.

It was not just blacks who took part in the events at Toxteth over the weekend, although it is in Toxteth where Liverpool's black community is concentrated. Young whites are also victims of unemployment, but while the overall level of unemployment in the inner areas of Liverpool is 25 per cent, unemployment among blacks has been estimated at 60 per cent or above.

In Toxteth specifically unemployment is officially recorded at 43 per cent and 47 per cent for blacks.

The Merseyside Socialist Research group in their book *Merseyside in Crisis* predicted that Liverpool would become the 'Jarrow of the 1980s'. They pointed out that in the 1970s unemployment in Liverpool trebled, compared to a doubling of the national average.

Worse is to come: the *Financial Times* recently estimated that another 100,000 jobs could be lost in Merseyside in the next five years, that's just under 20 per cent of the current workforce.

It is no wonder the TUC decided to start the recent People's March for Jobs from Liverpool. The city stands as an indictment of Thatcherism whose only answer to the jobless is a 'short sharp shock' if they are caught daring to throw a brick in protest.

Well, last weekend the youth of Toxteth gave Thatcher a sharp shock of their own. It is unlikely that it will be short-lived.



What remains of the Hambrough Tavern

By Socialist Challenge supporters in Southall

THOUSANDS of local residents strolled up Southall's main street on Saturday morning to look at the charred remains of the Hambrough Tavern.

Despite the presence of the police standing in front of the pub, many of these local sightseers could not resist breaking into big grins when they saw what was left of the previous night's racist watering hole.

The reason for this pleasure was simple — two years after we had been smashed by the police who had murdered Blair Peach in the street, Southall youth had proved that they could take on and beat the police and the racist skinhead gangs.

On Friday night Southall was subjected to an organised invasion of British Movement and National Front skinheads. They had come to Southall to see a band — the Foreskins — playing in a local pub, the Hambrough. But in

'The youth chased the

fact the coaches bringing in the 200 or so fascists didn't go to the pub at all.

They dropped the fascists in the middle of the Broadway, Southall's main street.

The fascists rampaged down the Broadway smashing the windows of Asian shops and beating up a shop assistant. As soon as it was realised what was happening, the local youth came boiling out of their houses and chased the fascists up the street, where they took refuge in the Hambrough pub.

Two fascists weren't fast enough and received a good thrashing at the hands of the local youth before being rescued by the police, who now that the fascists were losing had put in an appearance!

The police put a cordon round the

Hambrough to protect the fascists and refused to go in and arrest the fascists who had attacked the shop keeper, in spite of the fact that witnesses of the incident offered to identify the people involved.

Instead, the police told the youth to go home, and when the youth refused to do so, attempted to force them back.

The youth refused to be intimidated, and fought back with bottles, bricks, and eventually petrol bombs. For almost two hours police made no attempt to deal with the real criminals, who were sitting in the Hambrough listening to music and getting tanked-up.

In the period before the fighting broke out, they had been threatening to arrest Asian and West Indian youth under the Public Order Act. As soon



Youths use police shields

**SOUTHALL-A
BLACK SE**

ASIAN youth Southall have given the best possible answer to fascist attacks on their community. They came out onto the streets to stop the right wing thugs dead in their tracks.

It was obvious that the police had no intention of protecting them, so they took their defence into their own hands and ended up confronting the police.

The police were shown to be more concerned with protecting the racists who had come into Southall specifically to beat up, harass and intimidate the Asians.

The youth had no doubt what the invasion of 200 fascist skinheads would mean. The day before a Pakistani woman and her three children died in Walthamstow, East London, after petrol had been

put through her letterbox and set fire to.

Two weeks ago an Asian doctor in Coventry murdered in a racist attack, and in Peckham a youth was stabbed to death. The racist murder grows almost daily.

On Saturday, skinheads set fire to the Ealing Community Relation Council about four miles away from the Southall confrontation and beat up a blind community relations worker, Kevin Glover.

Vicious racist attacks on innocent individuals have been going on for some time, but the recent developments show a new boldness and level of organisation on the part of the fascists. They must be met by a firm response.

The police are part of the problem — they are

**Asian and socialist groups say
Police refuse to stop the
skinhead fascist gangs**

This is the text of a leaflet distributed by Asian, anti Nazi, and socialist organisations in Southall

ON Friday night 200 fascist skinheads came in coaches to invade Southall. They marched down the Broadway shouting racist insults, giving out fascist leaflets and abusing and beating anybody who came in their way.

They smashed shop windows and beat up an Asian woman shop assistant. Their plan was to frighten the people of Southall and then have a good time listening to Foreskins — a skinhead band that was playing in the Hambrough Tavern.

But local youth were not frightened of these bullies.

They came out of their houses as soon as they heard what was happening and chased the skinheads off the Broadway into the Hambrough.

Only two of the skinheads did not escape and they were given a good thrashing before they were rescued (and arrested) by the police. But the police refused to go and arrest

any more of the skinheads.

Witnesses who could recognise the skinheads who had beaten the shop assistant were told to 'buy a beer, go home and watch it on TV'. The police formed lines outside the Hambrough to stop the local youth entering the pub and driving the fascists out of Southall.

From about 8.15 to 9.30pm the police did nothing but protect the fascists. Instead of trying to deal with the trouble-makers they only seemed to be interested in a confrontation with local Asian and West Indian youth.

This is not unusual. Only three weeks ago gangs of skinheads repeatedly gathered

outside the house of an Asian family in South Ealing and broke their windows. The family was forced to move. On Thursday in East London three young Asian children and their mother were burned to death in their own home after petrol was put through the letter box.

Two weeks ago a white shop assistant in a North London socialist bookshop had her skull fractured by a fascist with an iron bar. The police have very little enthusiasm for stopping these attacks because they themselves are racists.

Why did the police not go into the Hambrough pub and deal with the fascist thugs?

For over an hour they did nothing but stop anybody from entering the Hambrough. Inside the pub the young Nazis were drinking, listening to music and drawing NF signs on the windows.

Do the police normally protect criminals to make sure they have a good time? The answer is Yes, when the

criminals are racists. But the black youth try to fight back, that is a difference in the eyes of the law more than one hour of a crazy situation it was in that a fight started between black youth and the police.

This must have been because the police were waiting because they immediately induced riot shields and so violently drive us back onto the Broadway.

The police got the worst of the fight. Hails of stones and broken bricks were thrown as well as a couple of petrol bombs. A police car was overturned, and lit up. Unfortunately, stones were also thrown at the excited youth at a first and an ambulance but they soon stopped by other

Later on the fascist youth of the pub. They were out armed with many weapons including petrol bombs. They must have brought them on the coaches. They could not have ma

Fascists...

as police had succeeded in provoking a riot they whipped out riot shields which they had waiting, and tried to drive the youth down the Broadway.

Behind them the fascists charged out of the pub carrying weapons and petrol bombs which they'd brought to Southall to burn down black houses and businesses.

But the police got the worst of the fight, and were forced to retreat back to the pub under a hail of stones.

A hijacked police van was used as a firelighter to set alight the Hambrough Tavern, which won't be holding any more racist gigs for a while.

With the pub burning well and the skinheads forced out of Southall back towards Hayes, the situation began to cool down. But despite the damage, everybody realises that it was only the

prompt response of the Southall youth to the invasion that prevented far more damage and violent attacks on local people.

The old community leadership has proved itself to be irrelevant at times of crisis like Friday night.

When the word flew around that the fascists were coming they stayed in their houses. This was another nail in their coffin — Southall had won a victory despite these leaders.

The next step is a national demonstration to be held in Southall in a few days.

It has been called by the Indian Workers Front, the Indian Workers Association, Great Britain Southall Branch, the Indian Youth Association and other local organisations which base themselves on support from the factories.

Anti-racists from all over the country will march through Southall to celebrate our victory and to push forward the message — self-defence is the only way!

'If skinheads come in and beat up women, and the police aren't going to do anything about it, then we have to defend ourselves.'

'In April '79 we had 6,000 police chaperoning the Nazis. It was the same on Friday. The cordon was to protect the skinheads.'

RAM SINGH, Southall resident

Maurice Ludmer Memorial

Sat 11 July 1981, 2.30pm-5pm
Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham

All anti-fascists are invited to appreciate the life and work of Maurice Ludmer

VICTORY FOR SELF-DEFENCE

the solution. All the evidence — from Blair Peach's death, to all the unsolved racist crimes, to the use of the 'sus' laws by the police, to their provocations in operations like Swamp 80 in Brixton — shows that the cops cannot be considered allies of the black community.

As rising unemployment impels more jobless white youth into the fascist gangs, answers have to be found.

Ultimately only a planned economy under working class control can answer the economic wasteland of Tory capitalism.

In the meantime the trade unions, and the Labour

Party should follow the lead of the organisations of the Asian and Afro-Caribbean black people and come forward with plans to beat back the racist attacks.

These plans should include organised self-defence of the black communities, labour movement campaigns among the unemployed youth and mass mobilisations in response to every racist incident no matter how small.

When Ken Livingstone, leader of the GLC, calls for the 15 Asians who were arrested in Southall on Friday to be released because they were 'fighting for their liberty' this should receive the backing of the labour movement. And when the Tory leader of Ealing Council claims that Livingstone is 'encouraging people to fight', we should say: 'Right on!'

come themselves, but hid in their houses and business premises.

The newspapers did not put the blame where it belonged. They had headlines like RACE RIOT FURY and FIREBOMB RAMPAGE. Their reports put equal blame on the local youth and the fascist thugs! In this way self-defence of the community is not described as heroic but as criminal.

The only victims, according to the press, are the police. In this way the mass media cover up what really happened and help prevent unity of black and white people against the racists. White people are led to believe that the blacks are troublemakers, instead of victims of fascist violence.

It is important that the truth of what happened on Friday night in Southall is told. Trade unions and community organisations should write a report of what really happened so that working people can be told the truth.

These are the conclusions from Friday: We must have working class unity to fight racism and we cannot trust the law — self-defence is the only way to stop the fascist gangs.

IWA (GB) Southall
Indian Youth Association Southall
National Association for Asian Youth
International Marxist Group Southall
Socialist Workers Party Southall
Anti Nazi League Southall



inside the pub.

This proves that the fascists came intending to burn down shops and houses in Southall.

In fact it was only the quick action of local young people which stopped massive damage and injury taking place to the people in Southall. The damage that happened in the fight with

the police was very little compared to what could have happened if the youth had not come out to deal with the skinhead invaders.

But it was with the local youth that the police provoked a fight.

The youth of Southall should be thanked by the whole

community. The police have shown that they will not stop the fascist gangs until far too late. But where were the community leaders? The youth came out to deal with the fascists at a time of need without any guidance from the so-called leaders.

These people did not even

The racists behind the Hambrough gig

THE coaches decked with Nazi slogans which brought the skinheads to Southall on Friday were organised by a racist who runs the Last Resort music shop in Aldgate, East London.

The shop prides itself on being in the forefront of the skinhead developments, and to judge by the literature available there and the comments of its owner, Mickey French, it scarcely disdains links with the fascist British Movement.

French, who is also the manager of the group which supported the 'Foreskins' at the Hambrough Tavern, told a London New Standard reporter on Monday: 'If an Englishman can't go and hear music in a part of England then what's it coming to? Our fathers all fought in the last war and we're proud of being British.'

'Look, if you can't fly the Union Jack in London where can you fly it?'

On Monday, leaflets about skinheads being handed out in the Last Resort said: 'Racism was channelled towards the Pakistani population who unlike the West Indians did not integrate with the whites. Instead they kept themselves in their own areas.'

'These areas were targets for Skins who went "Paki Bashing".'

Leaflets distributed in the Hambrough during the gig were a little less circumspect. One publicised a 'White Nationalist Crusade for Race and Nation' with a march to be held later this month.

It said: 'We Nationalists give clear notice and warning that this will be the last passive public display of our anger and disgust with the race traitors of Westminster.'

The manager of the 'Foreskins', Gary Hitchcock, told the New Standard: 'I'm a patriot, I was close to tears when I heard somebody had fired shots at the Queen. I nearly cried.' He does not seem to shed any tears over attacks on Asians.

Protest against the Walthamstow murders!

Demonstrate, this Saturday, 11 July

Depart, Bakers Arms, Leyton. Assemble, Stanley Rd, 10.30am

Called by CHAM Massacre Action Committee
Funeral procession will depart from Town Hall in the afternoon. Those attending are asked to behave with dignity.

Islington MP to join anti-fascist march

By Davy Jones

ANTI-FASCISTS from across London will be marching against fascist violence in Islington this Sunday.

Over the past weeks there have been a series of vicious attacks by fascists on left wing and community centres in the area which were on a local National Front 'hitlist'.

The fascists first struck at The Other Bookshop, which is run in conjunction with Socialist Challenge in Upper Street, attacking Sheila Malone and fracturing her skull. Eight days later a community centre in St Pauls Road which houses Community Press and other groups was burned down.

The local Islington Gazette reported last week that an armed gang of skinheads had invaded a local squat and stabbed a man repeatedly. A few days before the police reported that a group of 60 armed skinheads in Finsbury had dispersed on seeing the police.

Despite this obvious evidence of a series of fascist terror attacks the police comment on the burning down of Community Press was: 'There is not one iota of evidence to suggest a political motive.'

Local labour movement activists have taken a different view. The local trades council and numerous Labour Party branches have backed the call from the local Anti Nazi League for this Sunday's march. Local Labour MP George Cunningham has agreed to join the demonstration.

Socialist Challenge supporters across London are urged to attend this march to stop fascist violence against The Other Bookshop and other labour movement/community centres.

Rally against fascist violence
Sunday 12 July, 10am

Islington Green to Chapel Market

Supported by Islington ANL and trades council

Where you can buy Socialist Challenge

Scotland

ABERDEEN: SC available at Boomtown books, King St. For more info ring Bill 896 284.
DUNDEE: SC available from Dundee City Square outside Boots, Thur 4-5.30pm, Fri 4-5.30pm, Sat 11-4pm.
EDINBURGH: SC sold Thur 4.15-5.15pm Bus Station, St. Andrews Square and bottom of Waverly steps 4.30-5.30; Sat 11.30-2pm East End, Princes St. Also available from 1st May Books, or Better Books, Forrest Rd. More info on local activity from SC c/o Box 6, 1st May Bookshop, Candlemaker Row.
GLASGOW: SC sales every Thur/Fri 4.30-5.30pm at Central Station. Also available at Barretts, Byres Rd; Clyde Books, High St; Glasgow Bookshop Collective, Cresswell Lane; Hope Street Book Centre.
HAMILTON: SC sale every Sat 1-5pm outside Safeway, shopping centre. For more info contact John Ford, 53 Elliot Crescent, Hamilton or Paul Youngson, 18 Forrest Crescent, Hamilton.

LEEDS: Sat 11-1 at Lands Lane Pedestrian Precinct and 10.30-12.00 at Headingley Arndale Centre. Corner Bookshop, Woodhouse Lane.
LIVERPOOL: SC on sale from News from Nowhere, Whitechapel and Progressive Books, Berry St.
MANCHESTER: SC sold 11-1pm Sat at OLDHAM outside the Yorkshire Bank, High St; at BURY in the shopping precinct and at Metro Books; at BOLTON in the town centre; and in MANCHESTER outside the central reference library in St Peter's Square and at Grassroots and Percivals Bookshop. Tel: 061-236 4905 for further info.
NEWCASTLE: SC on sale every Sat 11-1pm outside Fenwicks. Also available at Days of Hope bookshop, Westgate Rd.
OLDHAM: SC sold every Saturday outside Yorkshire Bank, High Street. For more information about local activities. Tel. 061-682 5151.
OXFORD: SC sold Fri 12-2pm outside Kings Arms and every Sat 10.30-12.30pm in Cornmarket.
SHEFFIELD: SC on sale Thursday, Pond St, 4.30-6pm; Saturday, Fargate 10.30-12.30pm.
STAFFORD: SC on Sale Market Sq Sat lunch-time.
STOCKPORT: SC sold every Saturday, 1pm, Mersey Way. Can be delivered weekly: phone 483 8909 (evening), 236 4905 (day).
SWINDON: SC on sale 11-1 every Sat, Regent St (Brunel Centre).
TESSIDE: SC on sale Sat lunchtime in the Cleveland Centre, and in Newcastle, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, and outside Woolworths on Stockton High Street.
WOLVERHAMPTON: SC sales on Thur/Fri at Poly Students Union from noon-2pm and British Rail 4.30-6pm; and Saturday near Beatties, town centre from 11am-2pm.
YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

Wales

BANGOR: Sat 10-12 town centre.
CARDIFF: every Sat in Bute Town 10.30-12. Also available 1-0-8 Books, Salisbury Road.
NEWPORT: every Sat in town centre 11-12.30.
PONTYPRIDD: SC sales every Sat outside Open Market 11-1pm.
SWANSEA: SC sales outside Co-op, Oxford St, 11am-1pm, Saturdays.

England

BATH: SC on sale at 1985 Books, London Road, and Saturdays 2pm-3pm outside the Roman Baths. Phone 20298 for more details.
BIRKENHEAD: SC on sale at Labour Club, Cleveford St, Thur nights; in precinct outside Littlewoods, Sat 11-12.
BIRMINGHAM: SC on sale at The Ramp, Fri 4.30-5.40, Sat 10-4. For more info phone 643-0669.
BRADFORD: SC at Fourth Idea Bookshop, 14 Sandgate.
BRISTOL: SC on sale 11-1. 'Hole in the Ground', Haymarket. More info Box 2, 20 Fullmarks, 110 Cheltenham Rd, Montpellier, Bristol 6.
BURNLEY: SC on sale every Sat morning 11.30-1pm St James St.
CHESTERFIELD: SC sold outside Boots, Marketplace, Sat 11.30am-1.30pm.
COVENTRY: SC available from Wedge Bookshop. For more info about local activities phone 461138.
EMEL HEMPSTEAD: SC sales in the Square, Sat 10.30-1.30pm.
LDDERSFIELD: SC sold Sat 10-12pm. The Piazza. SC also available at Peaceworks.

London

BRENT: SC sold Willesden Junction Thur 4.30pm.
EALING: SC sold Thur, Ealing Broadway tube, 4.30-5.30pm.
ENFIELD: SC at Nelsons newsagents, London Rd, Enfield Town.
HILLINGDON: SC sold Fri, 4.30-5.30 at Uxbridge tube station; Sat 10.30-12.00 outside Woolworths, Uxbridge shopping centre.
KILBURN: SC sales every Sat, 10am in Kilburn Square, and Thursday 8.30am at Queens Park tube.
LAMBETH: SC available from Village Books, Streatham; Tetriche Books, Clapham; Paperback Centre, Brixton; Oval tube kiosk. Also sold Thur and Fri evenings and Thur mornings outside Brixton tube.
NEWHAM: SC sold Sat 11am to noon, Queen's Rd Mkt, Upton Park.
PADDINGTON: SC sold at Portobello Rd market Sat at noon.
WEMBLEY: SC sales Fri 6.45am at North Wembley BR Station.

Bookshops

BANGOR: Rainbows, Hollyhead Road, Upper Bangor, Gwynedd.
BRADFORD: Fourth Idea Bookshop, 14 Sandgate.
BRIGHTON: The Public House, Little Preston St.
BIRMINGHAM: Other Bookshop, 17 Digbeth, Birmingham.
DURHAM: Durham City Co-op Bookshop, 85a New Elvet.
ILFORD: South Essex Bookshop, 335 Ley Street.
MILTON KEYNES: Oakleaf Books, 4 Church Street, Wolverton.
OXFORD: EOA Books, 34 Cowley Rd.
LIVERPOOL: News from Nowhere, 41 Whitechapel, Liverpool L1

LONDON: Central Books, 37 Grays Inn Rd; Collects, Charing Cross Rd, WC2; Paperback Books, Brixton and Charlotte St; Kilburn Bookshop, Kilburn High Road, NW6; The Bookplace, Peckham High St, SE15; Books Plus, Lewisham; Balham Food Co-op; Housmans, 5 Calcedonian Rd, N1; Compendium, Camden Town NW1; Owl, Kentish Town; New Beacon, Seven Sisters Rd, N4; Bookmarks, Seven Sisters Rd, N4; Centerprise, 126 Kingsland High St, E8; Dillon, QMC; Page One, E15; The Other Bookshop, 328 Upper St, N1; Reading Matters, Wood Green next to Sainsbury's.
YORK: Community Books, Walmgate.

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. Phone 01-359 8180.

T-SHIRTS: 'Solidarnosc' symbol, red on white, 'Jobs not Bombs' red and black on white or yellow - all in small, medium and large. Women's symbol red on yellow, black on red, Fourth International symbol, red on white and red on yellow, black on red - medium and large. All above £2.99 incl. p&p. 'Fight racism' small only, red on white - only £1.50 incl. p&p. Orders to SCD T-Shirts PO Box 50, London N1. Cheques payable to 'The Week'. Bulk order prices on request.
BADGES: Make money for your organisation or branch. Huge reductions on anti-racist, Irish solidarity, women's badges and many more. Write for lists of incredibly low bulk rates - from as little as 5p. Free offers for large orders. Send to: SCD Badges, PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

IRELAND: Film show of 'Ireland: Behind the Wire' and 'March on Washington' (about anti-Vietnam war movement) on Sun 12 July at 7.30pm. London film makers' co-op cinema, 42 Gloucester Ave, NW1. Organised by Central London TOM.

CLAPHAM: South London TOM meeting, Thur 16 July at 7pm, St Anne's Community Centre, Venn St, Clapham SW4. Films: 'The myth of the Mau-Mau' (Britain's role in Kenya) and the new film 'Ireland's hunger strike'.

SC Events

BIRMINGHAM: Socialist Challenge supporters' educational series at Birmingham's Other Bookshop, 137 Digbeth, Mon 13 July 'Permanent Revolution'.
SOCIALIST Challenge Midsummer Draw 1st prize, E. Roberts; 2nd prize, Eve Oldham and 3rd prize Lewisham Socialist Challenge.

Revolution Youth notices

DISARMAMENT fraction on Sun 12 July in London. Every branch to send a representative. Phone office for details, 359-8371.

IMG notices

WOMEN'S Liberation fraction now on Sun 19 July at Argyle St Community Centre.
NALGO fraction on Sat 1 August at national centre 11am-5pm.

MASS delegation to Belfast - 8/9 August. Meeting for all interested on Thur 9 July, Hemingford Arms, Offord Rd, London N1. Organised by Camden and Islington TOM.
POLAND - What Next? Speakers: Mike Cooley, EP Thompson, Ken Weetch, Wiktor Moczyński. Mon 13 July, 7.30pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq, London WC1. Polish Solidarity Campaign.
BOOKS for Southern Africa. Funds urgently needed - cheques, POs to Books for Southern Africa, PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

Socialist Challenge News

Socialist Challenge: an organiser for the left

By Alan Freeman

PICK up the Sun, Mirror or Star tomorrow. You'll miss quite a few things you find in Socialist Challenge: You won't find them backing Benn. You won't find support for the hunger strikers, or arguments for socialist policies.

There's a reason: the media are backed by millionaire press barons, and dance to their tune. We speak for ordinary working people, for black people, for women, and for youth. We don't carry the press barons' policies, and we don't have their money either.

Why? Because we are revolutionary socialists. We know that only the exploited and oppressed of the world have the power to change it. So we place our trust in them.

But, because we are revolutionaries, we don't just preach. *We act.* We, and our supporters, build Benn's campaign in the unions, fight for women's rights, build the anti-missile movement, struggle against unemployment. Socialist Challenge puts socialist ideas into practice.

Centre

Thousands of people read Socialist Challenge. We're very pleased about that and we've tried to change our paper to make it more popular. But couldn't you do more for socialism than read about it?

Every week we carry a form which you can fill in to be put in touch with Socialist Challenge supporters in your area. You can work jointly with us in our fight for socialist ideas. You can help make Socialist Challenge a more effective organiser.

There's a second way you can help: *with cash!* We have been overwhelmed by the support for our drive for £100,000 to buy and equip a centre for the paper. We think we're within reach of this goal, and the drive will stay open until March 1982 to complete it.

But we are still desperately lacking in funds for our political campaigning work and for the weekly costs of our paper. That's why we are launching this quarter an ambitious drive for £16,500 from our supporters, for our paper and its campaigns.

Unions

Where will this money go? First of all, our paper has to be heavily subsidised. It needs a £500 subsidy every week. But secondly, *our political campaigns themselves* cost thousands of pounds.

Let's take a typical example: our fight for socialist policies in the unions. Last quarter we organised two major solidarity tours: for Lee Jeans and Laurence Scott workers. We organised active caucuses of supporters in seven major unions, and we held an industrial workers' conference of 250 people.

This is only part of the work we did. The staffing costs alone came to £2,550. Rent and rates for office space came to £430;

and the phone to £400. Costs of leaflets, placards and transport came to £220, and office costs to £200. The total cost was £3,800.

Our work building the anti-missile campaign came to £950. Our fight for socialist policies in the Labour Party similarly cost £950. And our fight for women's rights cost £1,900.

We spent £2,400 in support of revolutionaries abroad, and on our other campaigns including support for Irish freedom fighters.

Our total costs:
 Socialist policies in the unions £3,800
 Women's liberation 1,900
 Socialist policies in the Labour Party 950
 Anti-missile campaign 950
 Other campaigns 2,400
 Subsidy to the paper 6,500
 Total £16,500

Pledge

How did we raise this? From *you*, our readers; and particularly from the donations of members of the International Marxist Group, which sponsors Socialist Challenge. Every IMG member, in addition to membership dues for the IMG, makes a voluntary monthly pledge to the paper and its work: this raised £10,000 of the £16,500 we needed last quarter.

Unity

It's pretty obvious that doesn't cover our costs! If it wasn't for hundreds and probably thousands of other supporters, we would be bankrupt by now. We have those supporters because Socialist Challenge is now, and always has been, a vehicle for collaboration among revolutionaries. We are dedicated to the cause of unity amongst socialists. When we ask for your collaboration, we want your cash too!

Targets

The aim of our new fund drive is to extend this support. We want you to see exactly what your money goes on, how much we need, and how near or far we are from getting it. Each week we shall be reporting on progress.

We know from the experience of our £100,000 drive that the best guarantee of success is proper planning. Based on this experience, we have drawn up detailed targets for our supporters in each area, which we print below.

Our future depends on you. Let's hear from you!



Photo: PETE GRANT (Socialist Challenge)

Thousands of Socialist Challenge 'Jobs not Bombs' placards swamped last weekend's jobs demo in Cardiff: getting our message across so effectively costs money.

Fund drive targets

	400	600	800	1000	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600
Scotland												
North East	400											
North West												
West Yorks				1000								
South Yorks	550											
West Midlands												
East Midlands	750											
South Wales												
South West												
South	540											
Outer West London												
Brent												
North London												
East London												
South London												
												2333

Socialist Challenge Symposium

Marxism and Democracy
 Wed 2 to Sun 6 September in London
 Discussions, debates, forums on:
 Britain, Central America, Ireland, Eastern Europe, art, cinema, music and literature
Book these dates now - 2 to 6 Sept!

International

July issue now out!
 Articles on Labour and Ireland, socialism and disarmament, politics of porn, miners strike, Peter Fuller on art and much more.
Just 60p from your local Socialist Challenge seller. Socialist Challenge supporters place your orders now - bulk orders cash in advance 40p a copy.
 Send to: INTERNATIONAL, PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

Brixton defence goes forward

By Kumar Sen and Vanessa Wiseman

SEVERAL organisations met on 2 July at the invitation of the Lambeth Trades Union Council to discuss the defence of the arrested youths after the Brixton uprising, the opposition to the Scarman inquiry and to explore the possibilities for an alternative inquiry.

Although there was no agreement about setting up an alternative to Scarman they did agree to collaborate in a broad campaign for the defence of Brixton.

Represented were the Brixton Defence Campaign, the South East Region TUC, TUC Race Relations Committee, the Greater London Labour Party, the Labour Committee for the Defence of Brixton and four Lambeth Labour Parties.

This initiative is likely to be supported by the

GLC and the Lambeth Council.

It was agreed that there was a need to tackle the issues of police accountability, unemployment, the poor housing and the social service cuts caused by Tory cuts in Lambeth services.

The Labour Committee argued that an alternative inquiry should be organised to run parallel to Scarman in order to mobilise support for the Brixton community and also to expose the vicious policing methods used in

the black communities.

However the BDC argued that such an inquiry wouldn't help the youths arrested and that it would not reveal more than the previously published report prepared by Lambeth Council into police-community relations.

In addition they felt that such an inquiry would be prejudicial to the forthcoming court proceedings.

The spokespeople felt that the major tasks are to legally defend the arrested, to counter the publicity in the media and to tackle the wider issues. This would be the basis for an ongoing campaign on behalf of the Brixton community.

Jack Dromey for SER-

TUC spoke about the need for the labour movement to be self-critical about the failure to take up racism in the past, but felt that it was premature to go ahead with an alternative inquiry because of the lack of support by various black organisations.

However, he said, there was a need for positive action to raise funds, to campaign for the arrested youth, to consider the broader issues and to present a counter report to Scarman.

He said that a campaign for greater police accountability was needed.

Everyone felt that it was necessary to broaden the campaign especially among the youth of Brixton.



On the Frontline Brixton

A picket of Scarman is to be called.

For further information contact the Brixton Defence

Campaign c/o Abeng Centre, Gresham Road, London SW9.

Donations to the legal

defence can be sent to Brixton Legal Defence Campaign c/o Lambeth Community Law Centre, Brixton Road, SW9 tel 01-733 4245.

Letters Letters Letters Letters

Criticisms of the Labour Committee on Ireland

ISLINGTON Central Labour Party has just submitted a motion to the annual Labour Party conference which calls on the next Labour government to immediately begin a process of full political and military withdrawal from Ireland.

The motion also sets out what would have to be part of any socialist strategy of withdrawal ie the abolition of the Diplock courts; the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act; and the reversal of previous British governments' legitimisation of the Ulster Defence Association.

There is one glaring omission from this motion — the reintroduction of political status for political prisoners in Armagh and H Block.

The story behind this omission contains important lessons for the left in the Labour Party.

On the day that Bobby Sands died, the Labour Committee on Ireland (a body set up to campaign for a Labour Party policy of withdrawal from Ireland and whose aims include political status) issued its model resolution for Labour Party conference.

There are two major criticisms to be made, the first being that its unfortunate wording means that, if passed, it would still fail to give the Labour Party a positive policy on Ireland; the second, that there is no commitment to the reintroduction of political (or special category) status.

At the June meeting of Highbury ward Labour Party, a member of the LCI put this resolution. Amendments were put to add repeal of the PTA and reintroduction of political status.

The LCI member accepted the first amendment and argued against the second.

In doing this, he implied that the important thing was to get a motion

on Ireland to conference and that the demand for political status would jeopardise this.

Many members of the ward considered him to be an 'expert' on Ireland and in the subsequent confused voting, either abstained or voted against.

Ironically, he to preserve his political purity, voted in favour of political status but the vote was lost by 19 to 15.

Meanwhile, another ward which did not suffer the handicap of having an LCI member present, successfully amended the model LCI motion to include political status and a demand for the Labour Party to affiliate to the National H Blocks Campaign.

Mildmay ward rejected the format of the LCI motion and passed the following:

'This Conference recognises the evidence over a number of years that the clear popular wish of the Irish people favours a British withdrawal from Ireland and progress towards a united Ireland.

We recognise that the election of Bobby Sands and of the People's Democracy councillors is the most recent expression of a significant section of the population of the north of Ireland for Britain's withdrawal from the north of Ireland and for a united Ireland.

Conference therefore:

1. rejects the current bipartisan policies of the PIP leadership;

ing that the present disastrous situation remains unresolved.

3. condemns the legitimisation by the British government of the UDA and calls for the disarming of the UDA.

4. calls for the abolition of the Diplock courts.

5. calls for the reintroduction of political status for prisoners in H Block and Armagh.

6. calls on the next Labour government to immediately begin a process of full political and military withdrawal from Ireland.'

At the General Management Committee meeting, because of pressure of time, the ward putting the LCI-type motion withdrew theirs in favour of the above.

However, the majority of Highbury delegates are firm believers in account-

ability and felt obliged to put an amendment deleting the demand for political status.

This amendment was passed by 25 votes to 24 with the majority of the Highbury ward's seven delegates voting reluctantly for it.

The amended motion was then passed by 34 votes to 14.

There are four lessons to be learnt from this experience:

1. The LCI has misjudged the strength of feeling about Ireland in the Labour Party and the extent to which the argument that the LCI has been waging has been won.

2. The LCI's assumption that there is a need to water down politics to make them acceptable is indefensible on both political and pragmatic grounds.

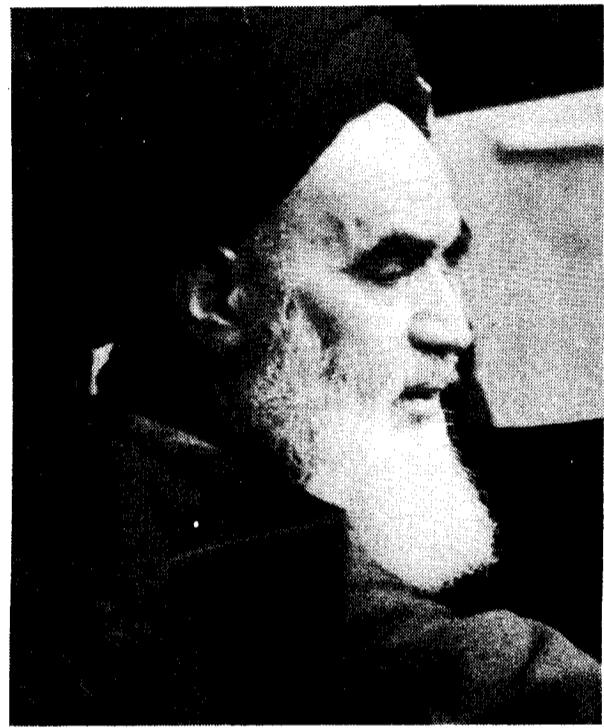
3. The LCI's reluctance to even engage in the political argument about political status — at a time when the hunger strikers are dying — is the height of political cowardice.

4. Political status is not an isolated 'extremist' demand in the way that the LCI is treating it (nor is it just a civil rights issue). It is an integral part of the socialist attitude that the British labour movement must develop on Ireland. To see political status in isolation distorts an understanding of the fact that it is an imperialist war which is going on in the north of Ireland.

We are worried that our local experience is being repeated in wards and General Management Committees throughout the country with the result that the Labour Party leadership will not be forced to adopt a demand which is vital not only in its urgency but also in its immediate relevance to the republican movement in Ireland.

JANE ANDREWS
JENNY MORRIS
London

PS We're now trying to put an amendment to our own Conference motion, calling for political status.



Road to dustbin of history

I MUST confess my astonishment on reading the article on Iran in Socialist Challenge of 25 June. (Islamic reaction threatens gains of Iranian revolution).

The very headline is totally misleading and confirms my previous opinion that SC has completely failed to understand the nature of events in Iran since the overthrow of the Shah.

Islamic reaction began almost immediately after the initial revolutionary impulse which toppled the Pahlavi dynasty. Steadily and consistently the most reactionary tenets of Shi-ite Islamism was imposed on the masses — summary executions; death penalties for prostitutes and homosexuals; the veil for women; the chopping off of fingers of thieves — the list is almost endless.

I have asked before and repeat: what are the gains which are now being threatened? Khomeini and the Islamic Revolutionary Party represented the counter-revolution and we failed to recognise this. We must not now fall into the error of giv-

ing the same full-blooded support to Bani-Sadr as we previously gave to Khomeini — even to the point of defending him in the war against Iraq instead of the correct Leninist position that the main enemy in a capitalist country is our

YOPS youth go on strike

THE first ever strike by Youth Opportunity Programme trainees occurred last week — appropriate in Consett, the town with the highest unemployment in Britain.

It ended in a demo at Consett Job Centre, where there is just one job on offer for hundreds of school leavers.

At least 250 young 'trainees' stopped work on 29 June in protest at the miserly £23.50 per week they are paid for their 'work experience', which often means doing a full week's work for this pittance for six months.

They then make way for another school leaver, so depriving one of the thousands of unemployed in the area of a job at normal rates of pay.

In particular, the youth were objecting to having to find the £14 of travel and expenses for a 20-mile round trip to work. The YOP scheme is a disgrace. We must not now fall into the error of giv-

own ruling class and calling on the workers in both Iraq and Iran to turn the war into a civil war.

Bani-Sadr was the representative in the government of the bazaaris and the Iranian petty-bourgeoisie.

Surely the supporters of permanent revolution cannot subscribe to the theses that either the Islamic fundamentalists or the Iranian (or more precisely, the Parsee bourgeoisie) can carry forward the struggle for democratic demands.

This can only be achieved by the working class under the leadership of a Leninist party. There are no short cuts.

The policy pursued by SC till now is nothing else but a somewhat distorted version of the Stalinist stagist theory of the revolution — first Khomeini (or Bani-Sadr) then us.

That is the road to the dustbin of history.

Incidentally, the article is strangely silent about the Iran/Iraq war.

Now that even SC recognises the reactionary nature of the Khomeini regime do we still support him against the equally repulsive Hussein?

CHARLIE VAN GELDEREN, London



20p each plus 11½p post, bulk order (over 20p) cost 15p each. Cheque postal order to be sent with order. Made payable to Hackney Book Group c/o PO Box London N1 2XP.

By Anibal Yanez

FOR the first half of the 20th century, Guatemala was the fiefdom of the United Fruit Company. The United Fruit Company grew to virtually own Guatemala. By the time of the second world war it controlled transport to the United States through its Great White Fleet.

It monopolised railroad transport within Guatemala, as well as the major Atlantic port Puerto Barrios, through its subsidiary, the International Railroads of Central America (IRCA); and it owned the best Guatemalan lands on which it grew chiefly bananas.

The United Fruit Company through its board of directors and its bankers brought together the top families of the American ruling class — the Rockefellers, the Morgans and others.

The struggles of the Guatemalan people against imperialist domination culminated in the election in 1950, of Jacobo Arbenz with the support of organised labour, peasants, the more radical sectors of the petty bourgeoisie, and the not yet legalised Communist Party.

Transform

When he took office in 1951, Arbenz clearly stated his objectives: '... first, to convert (Guatemala) from a dependent nation with a semi-colonial economy to an economically independent country; second, to transform our nation from a backward nation with a predominantly feudal economy to a modern capitalist country; and third, to accomplish this transformation in a manner that brings the greatest possible elevation of the living standard of the great masses of the people.'

But to carry out Arbenz's modest programme, Guatemalans had to go much further in confronting the United Fruit Company and the landed oligarchy, left intact by Arévalo.

Arbenz tried. He promoted the construction of a government-run hydroelectric plant, a highway to the Atlantic, and an Atlantic port, projects aimed at breaking the foreign monopolies' control of energy, transportation, and exports.

Compensation

In 1952, the Arbenz government passed the Agrarian Reform Law.

Approximately 100,000 peasant families received land, as well as credit and technical assistance from new state agencies. As rural social services were improved, the Indians for the first time since the Spanish conquest in the sixteenth century became the beneficiaries of government policies.

The law expropriated idle lands, with compensation to former owners. The intention was to 'develop capitalist methods of production in agriculture ... and to prepare the path for Guatemala's industrialisation.' Unused lands were to be a major target of the reform. United Fruit had no more than 15 per cent of its holdings under cultivation.

The agrarian reform polarised the country into supporters and opponents of the October Revolution.

Confidence

The United Fruit Company led the counterrevolutionary attack.

Increasingly the bourgeoisie moved into opposition — fearing both Washington's anger and the new-found confidence of the workers and farmers.

It was the beginning of a civil war which rages in Guatemala to this day.

To oust the Arbenz government, the US sent to Central America a team of operatives made up of CIA agents, experts in covert anticommunist operations, and businessmen with a stake in Guatemala.

On 18 June, 1954, Castillo Armas invaded Guatemala with this mercenary force of some 200 men, while CIA planes flown by American pilots bombarded the capital and

Guatemala - a people in struggle



Poverty is the lot of Guatemalan peasants

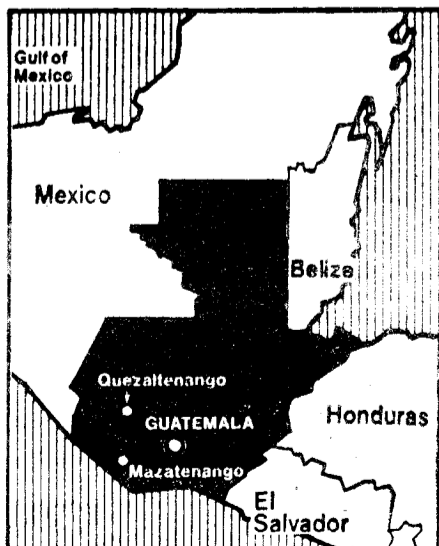
other cities. Militarily, the Castillo Armas invasion would have been a fiasco had it not been for the CIA's aerial operations.

Arbenz wavered and then resigned, turning the government over to three 'loyal' military officers. US

Ambassador John Peurifoy refused to accept Arbenz's replacements, and insisted on the installation of Castillo Armas, the CIA's chosen liberator. On 3 July 1954, Castillo Armas entered Guatemala City on Peurifoy's US Embassy plane.

Arbenz had relied on his military colleagues rather than on the masses to protect the revolution. The government proved unable to defend the conquests of the masses in the face of the imperialist onslaught. It became demoralised by the lack of support from the military, and the prospect of deep-going civil war between contending social classes.

Castillo Armas proceeded to liquidate the revolution. By conservative estimates, 9,000 political and labour leaders were jailed or tortured, the special targets being union



organisers on UFCO's plantations, and Indian leaders. Scores of peasants were murdered.

The US Embassy provided lists of communists to be eliminated. Peasant and labour unions were disbanded.

Social and economic measures that favoured the workers and peasants were uprooted. The United Fruit Company got its land back.

But between 1963 and 1966 left wing guerrilla organisations launched a struggle to overthrow the dictatorship.

Looking to Cuba — a number of guerrilla leaders travelled there in the mid-1960's — these Guatemalan revolutionaries agreed that armed struggle was the only way of waging the fight against the misery and oppression of the vast majority of Guatemalans.

Valuable

Guatemala had provided the Cubans with valuable lessons as to the limitations of a democratic revolution which stopped half-way. Cuba now offered Guatemalans the example of the first successful socialist revolution in the Americas.

An important section of the Guatemalan revolutionary leadership

assimilated the lessons of the Arévalo/Arbenz period. They saw it as the failure of a bourgeois democratic revolution with neither the capacity nor the desire to defend itself. They concluded that what was needed was an armed struggle aimed at developing an independent mass workers and peasants movement. They were convinced that to fight against imperialism in Latin America meant to fight for socialism.

Washington responded with a brutal counter-insurgency campaign in the middle and late 1960s.

Under the guidance of US Ambassador J Gordon Mein, the Guatemalan army occupied villages and executed peasant leaders. Tactics developed in Vietnam, including the designation of target areas for bombing and the use of US Special Forces (Green Berets) as advisers to the Guatemalan security forces, were rapidly implemented.

Entire villages were obliterated by bombing and napalm. US Air Force planes based in Panama participated in these operations.

It was in this period that the infamous death squads appeared in Guatemala.

Guatemala became in the 1960s the laboratory for the use of paramilitary terror as a counter-insurgency tactic. It would be employed later in countries like Argentina and Brazil, and is today being employed in El Salvador.

The guerrilla movement of the 1960s was crushed, Turcios Lima and Yon Sosa killed. But it was not gone forever. The surviving cadre and the masses assimilated lessons, and the movement would soon reappear — stronger and with even greater political clarity.

Alliance

But today, after each blow by the repressive forces, the Guatemalan masses respond by broadening the struggle against the regime. Leaders are killed almost every day, but new ones step forward from the ranks of the working class and the oppressed. Terror has failed to stop them.

A workers' and peasants' alliance is being forged by revolutionary mass organisations of the Guatemalan toilers: the National Trade Union Unity Committee (CNUS) and the Peasant Unity Committee (CUC).

In 1976 virtually the entire Guatemalan trade union movement, which had managed to rebuild itself after near annihilation in 1954, came together to form the CNUS. A determining event in its formation was a militant strike for union recognition by Coca-Cola workers which began in Guatemala City and won broad labour solidarity in Guatemala and internationally.

Four political-military organisations lead the mass movement today. They recognise that in Guatemala, armed struggle in conjunction with the mass movement of the toilers is the only road for the oppressed to take power and win freedom.

They are the Guerrilla Army of the Poor (EGP), the Rebel Armed Forces (FAR), the Organisation of the People in Arms (ORPA), and the Leadership Nucleus of the Guatemalan Workers Party (a split from the reformist PGT.) Reportedly, the leader of the EGP is César Montes.

Prepare

The cry of communist menace in Guatemala is intended to prepare the people of the United States for more US intervention in Central America, including possible use of US troops.

But times have changed. One American official is reported to have said recently, 'What we'd give to have an Arbenz now?'

Working people in the United States also have a stake in the Guatemalan people's fight against misery, oppression, murder, and exploitation. Like the workers and peasants in El Salvador, they are raising the banner of freedom for all of us against the Wall Street billionaires.

The struggle of the people of Guatemala should become a call to action for millions of working people in the United States to oppose a new Vietnam in Central America.

From a correspondent

ON the night of 31 May, the police and army of Sri Lanka launched a reign of terror on the Tamil city of Jaffna.

The state forces carried out both random and politically specific murders, destroyed Tamil political and cultural centres and burnt and looted large parts of the city.

Sri Lanka's present United National Party regime is essentially a right wing dictatorship which has smashed the trade union movement; dismantled the welfare state set up by previous governments; taken away the power of the Sri Lankan parliament; and runs the economy, on the advice of the World Bank, to the benefit of the multinationals from the US, South Korea, Japan and of course Britain.

It is now planning to give the US navy rest and recreation facilities.

It has also developed a unique style in repression with hired thugs and armed plain

State terrorism in Sri Lanka

clothes police who attack civil rights demonstrators, pickets, trade unionists and parliamentary opponents of the UNP government.

In line with all this it has also proved to be blatantly chauvinist against Sri Lanka's Tamil minority.

Franchise

It has consistently fanned chauvinism (started by British divide and rule policies) which has kept the tea plantation workers, who are Tamils, isolated from the rest of the working class.

This year 50 years of universal franchise is being celebrated, though hundreds of thousands of Sri Lankan workers, Tamils from the plantations, have been divested of the right to vote.

Meanwhile the Tamils in the north and east of Sri Lanka — Tamil majority areas — have

faced systematic harassment and have been made scapegoats for economic failure.

They have faced discrimination in education and jobs, and in addition Tamil is not recognised as an official language. The government has also imposed a policy of 'colonisation' which involves settling Sinhala families in Tamil areas.

In 1979 a six month emergency was declared in Jaffna, sparked off, it was said, by the murder of a policeman but in fact preceded by a long government campaign of Tamil harassment.

Within days a draconian Anti-Terrorism Act was passed and the army sent into Jaffna to 'eliminate the menace of terrorism'. In the six months that followed, indiscriminate arrests, torture and murder by security forces were common occurrences.

The Tamils have in the last

ten years or so been fighting back through a number of political organisations almost all of which are now demanding secession.

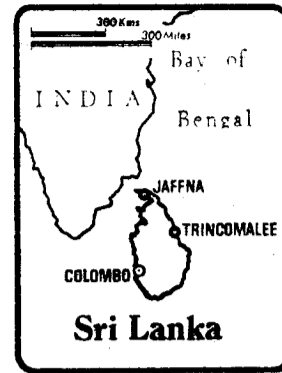
These range from revolutionary youth and student leagues who reject Sri Lankan parliamentary democracy to the *Tamil United Liberation Front* which has contested and won most of the seats in the north.

The TULF sees the provision of District Development Councils by the government as a worthwhile compromise.

Pretext

Ironically it was the elections for these very councils which provided the pretext for last month's police invasion of Jaffna. 500 policemen were sent to the town, officially, to maintain law and order during the elections.

The police in Sri Lanka are



and two of TULF activists.

This was followed by the arrests, on 4 June — the day of the DDC elections — of TULF leaders including Mr A Amirthalingam the Parliamentary Opposition Leader.

They were later released without being charged.

As for the elections, polling booths were often closed during voting time and some ballot boxes never reached the counting stations.

The TULF is now boycotting parliament demanding the withdrawal of Sinhalese police from Tamil areas, the removal of the army from Jaffna, and an international enquiry into recent events.

In Sri Lanka, anti-Tamil chauvinism has served the interests of the ruling class for years by dividing the workers, but the events in Jaffna show that as imperialism tightens its grip the regime is setting out to destroy the community for another reason too — because it represents group solidarity and resistance which is a potential threat to the pro-imperialist dictatorship.

Grenada—USA up to dirty tricks again

SEVERAL Caribbean governments have rejected the USA's proposal to bar Grenada from its share of a \$4m American grant to the Caribbean Development Bank.

By Pat Kane

This reflects a growing sensitivity to the heavy-handedness of the US government as it tries to contain the developing revolutionary ferment in the Caribbean.

It's now thirty months since the revolution which overthrew the corrupt, pro-West regime of Eric Gairy, and established the People's Revolutionary Government led by Maurice Bishop.

The 'dirty tricks' of the US government against Grenada include economic sanctions against the building of a desperately needed International Airport; the rundown of the island's electricity generating plant; the encouragement of counter-revolutionary activity within the country; and recently revelations have been made about US backing for an invasion by American Ku Klux Klan mercenaries.

Revealed

The KKK plan was discovered in April when ten heavily armed mercenaries were arrested by the FBI in New Orleans on their way to Dominica to overthrow its government. They were later charged with preparing a 'naval expedition'.

It was revealed that the attack on Dominica was decided on when the Klan failed to agree with deposed dictator Gairy on the logistics of invading Grenada.

Gairy wanted them to pose as tourists while the Klan, in best Hollywood tradition, wanted to sail right up to the island and invade it.

The FBI didn't take any action until it was clear that Dominica not Grenada was the target.

Last year two young women died when a bomb exploded in an attempt to assassinate the leadership of the PRG during a political rally.

Control

But it is the economic plots of imperialism that threaten the forward march of the Grenadian revolution.

The international airport, which is to cost £35m, is central to the plans of the PRG to achieve political independence



Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, 'We're opposed to a press which refuses to print the views of the overwhelming majority of the broad masses.'

and control over their economy. It is needed to encourage tourism which could become a major source of income.

Washington claims that the airport is to be used as a military base for the Cubans. When Grenada approached the British government and others for development aid they were rebuffed.

Selwyn Strachan, Minister for Communications in the PRG, told a British Grenada Friendship Society meeting last week in London that the

Cubans had 'no need for a stopping point in Grenada when they dispatched troops to our brothers and sisters in Angola. The scaremongering of the US is an attempt to isolate our revolution.'

Big business has also been trying to interfere in the internal stability of the country.

The island's power station had been deliberately run down by its owners Grenlec, which is a subsidiary of the Commonwealth Development Corporation.

For years Grenlec has used its monopoly to extract vast profits from the country.

Yet last year Grenlec asked for an increase of £160,000 in the domestic tariff to cover repair work which should have been carried out over the previous five years.

The PRG reacted by setting up a Commission of Enquiry to look into the company. Its report condemned the pro-capitalist management of Grenlec.

Since then Grenlec has used

its control of the electricity supply to disrupt the country and create discontent with the PRG.

On 21 May, the Esso Standard Oil Company which supplies fuel for the power station, issued an ultimatum that all outstanding debts owed by Grenlec must be paid before the island's oil would be unloaded.

Banned

Grenlec set up this situation by failing to collect outstanding debts, due it said, to 'breakdowns' in the office.

The government responded by taking control of Grenlec.

In another move by the PRG to head off the destabilisation plans of big business they suspended publication of the newspaper *The Grenadan Voice* which was initiated by local landowners, lawyers and business men.

The previous year when a similar paper called 'Torchlight' was banned, Prime Minister Maurice Bishop outlined the government's position in a radio broadcast.

He said, 'The PRG wants to make it clear that we are opposed to minority control of the press, we're opposed to a press which fabricates and distorts, we're opposed to a press which refuses to publish the reality of what is happening in our country.'

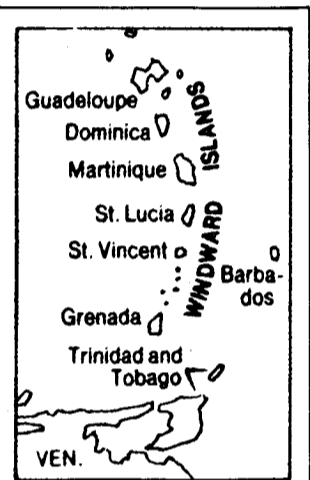
He went on, 'We're opposed to a press which refuses to publish the views of the overwhelming majority of the broad masses.'

'We remember the role played by the newspaper *El Mercurio* in the criminal overthrow of the Allende government in Chile.'

'We're not going to let the same thing happen in Grenada. That had better sink home because it's a fact!'

The suspension will hold until the PRG has elaborated a policy on the press and private ownership.

Each new development has been met by mass mobilisations of the Grenadian people to show their support for the



GRENADA is one of the most beautiful of the Caribbean spice islands. It's all year round warmth and sun and its tropical vegetation makes it everyone's dream of an exotic tropical paradise. And they've had a revolution!

The British Grenada Friendship Society are encouraging activists from this country to visit Grenada. They are organising a special charter plane to participate in the third anniversary celebrations in March next year.

They are also appealing for volunteers to work in Grenada. Any skills can help advance their revolution. Several Socialist Challenge supporters are hoping to travel in November to work for six weeks.

If you're interested in either trip, phone Steve at 01-359 8371.

revolution and their government's acts.

The PRG has appealed for international solidarity and have taken steps to strengthen their links with Cuba and the revolutionary movements in Africa and Central America.

Solidarity is urgently needed to defend Grenada and to ensure that the next Labour government is committed to a policy of aid.

The recently launched British Grenada Friendship Society aims to spread information about Grenada. It has slide shows with commentary, a booklet about education, and is organising public meetings.

Individual membership costs £2 a year (students, claimants and pensioners £1). Trade union branches and other organisations can affiliate for £3 to £10 according to size.

For further information write to Mike Marsland, General Secretary, British Grenada Friendship Society c/o 4 Wimpole Walk, London N16.

Abortion facilities bill—the first step

By Joan Twelves

POSITIVE LEGISLATION on abortion was introduced into Parliament last week when Jo Richardson attempted to amend the 1977 NHS Act so that abortion facilities would be provided freely on the NHS.

The vote was 139 for, 215 against, but it was significant. In 1979, only 98 MPs voted against the Corrie Bill.

Now, two years later, on a 10-minute-rule bill which would usually not get parliamentary time to proceed, a majority of the Parliamentary Labour Party voted to extend NHS facilities on abortion.

Of course, some MPs voted for the bill because it aimed to extend the NHS, and not because they have suddenly become pro-abortion.

However, while the Tory front bench disappeared the minute Jo Richardson started speaking (although Margaret Thatcher came back in time to vote against it!), the majority of the Shadow Cabinet felt obliged not only to stay and listen to what was being said, but also to vote for it.

Step

Putting forward the facilities bill was an important first step in the campaign for positive legislation on abortion. As Reg Race said at the press conference immediately following the vote: 'This is the beginning of the fight-back against those inside Parliament who seek to restrict abortion facilities.'

While the anti-abortionists may have won the vote, it was clear from their response that they could not cope with the debate taking place on our terms. Jill Knight's response to Jo Richardson was that allowing women access to abortion facilities was tantamount to abortion on demand.

A 10-minute-rule bill in Parliament is a limited tactic. But it had the desired effect. Local papers up and down the country carried articles on it.

Some unions, notably NALGO, publicised it throughout their membership. MPs were written to and lobbied. Motions were put through constituency Labour parties mandating their MPs to vote for it.

Sees

Jo Richardson made it clear how she sees the campaign going forward. First, if the facilities bill is presented as a private members bill, there would be a better opportunity of building a campaign around it.

Secondly she felt that this was not really an appropriate subject for private members legislation, but should be dealt with by government legislation — in other words, by the next Labour government.

Abortion campaigners specifically chose to

highlight the need for abortion facilities now, despite Tory cutbacks. As the saying goes: the best form of defence is attack.

Labour MPs are clearly open to pressure on this issue. We hope that at the next Private Members ballot in November they will not be contemplating further restrictions on abortion, but will be looking at how they can improve the situation.

We have to ensure that all representatives of the labour movement support a woman's right to choose

on abortion. This means not just Labour MPs, but councillors, members of health authorities, community health councils, school governors and so on.

A petition will soon be circulating within the labour movement. This will demand that a woman's right to choose on abortion is included in the next Labour Party manifesto. It will also ask for an end to the conscience vote by MPs on abortion.

It will be handed in to Labour Party conference in Brighton at the end of September, where a lobby is being organised by the Labour Abortion Rights Campaign (LARC) and the National Abortion

Campaign (NAC).

Local NAC groups will also be out on the streets with petitions aimed at highlighting the need for facilities in the area.

The NAC conference last month agreed to organise a health service conference, so that those working in hospitals and the community could discuss what we are fighting for and how to take it up.

They will also be organising a national forum on facilities. This will be open to unions, Labour Parties, community and women's groups. It would monitor the attacks on abortion facilities and draw up a clear and detailed plan for what facilities we need and the role of legislation in achieving it.

Roach Bridge: pickets step up the struggle

By John Shutt

AFTER a thirty week unionisation dispute, pickets at Roach Bridge paper mill have called for a mass trade union picket of the works on 14 July at 7am.

Bill Conway, a cutterman at the mill, told Socialist Challenge: 'Trade unionists in the north west and elsewhere have got to help us shut the mill down this time and bring the management to its knees.'

'This is the second attempt in three years to get the place unionised. Conditions inside are appalling. All health and safety regulations are ignored. We had no set meal times or tea breaks. Workers often worked double shifts with no breaks. Management used to breathe down our necks just for being one minute late back from the toilet.'

'Wages prior to the dispute were unbelievable. I took home £66 after working 12 days on and two off. You had to agree to the management, with no union we had no choice.'

There are seven Asian comrades on the picket line. Mohammed Fazal from Preston took home £57 for 12 days on:

Youth CND under attack

By Richard Rozanski, Revolution Youth

CND national council set its face against youth and the labour movement at its recent meeting on 20 June.

paings till the decision is overturned.

Later the same national council meeting rejected Youth CND's request for a speaker at next October's demonstration on the grounds that there wasn't a 'big enough name'. They went on to argue over whether or not to have a trade union speaker!

The council voted against having Tony Benn as a speaker at the rally on the grounds that it would tie CND too closely to Labour's left wing. Instead Michael Foot was proposed, the man who appointed a multilateralist, Brynmor John, as his shadow spokesperson on defence.

Dangerous

The decisions of this national council are very dangerous for the disarmament movement. CND's misleaders have turned their guns against the only force in society capable of defeating the Tories' war plans: youth and the labour movement.

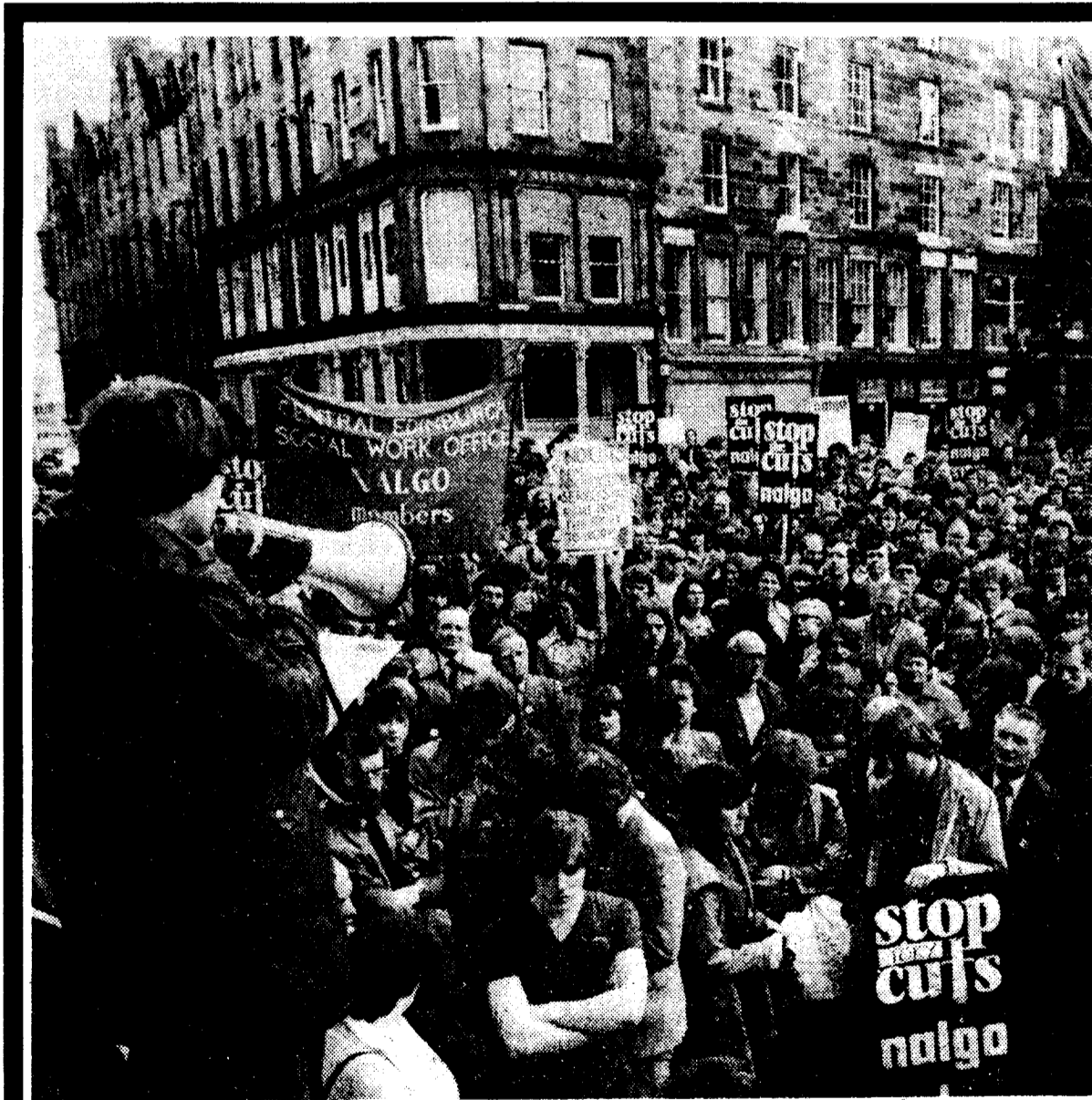
Over the summer Socialist Challenge and Revolution Youth should fight all the more inside CND for an orientation to youth and the labour movement to stop Cruise and Trident missiles and for unilateral disarmament.

The decisions of last April's Youth CND national conference in Birmingham were reported to the council. After a paltry five minutes' 'discussion' the council refused to ratify the youth conference's overwhelming vote to raise their age limit from 21 to 25.

CND national organiser Sally Davidson explained that at stake was 'whether CND national council should be dictated to by a bunch of people who happened to be meeting in Birmingham.'

In other words CND national council will block any democratically decided actions taken by sections of CND if it feels they threaten the CND leadership's 'people's movement' approach.

Revolution Youth supporters, a leading force in Youth CND, have consistently opposed this approach, arguing instead for mass action involving youth and the labour movement in the fight for unilateralism. Revolution Youth has called on Youth CND groups to defy the bullying of CND national council and to involve youth over 21 in the cam-



Lothian workers march against the cuts

By Janice McGhie, NALGO shop steward

A MAGNIFICENT day! Fifteen thousand strikers paraded the length of Edinburgh's Princes' Street on 30 June shouting: 'Maggie Maggie Maggie, out out out' in protest at the Scottish Secretary of State's threat to cut £53m from Lothian Region's budget.

Speakers from Lothian Labour Party, the STUC, and officials of

the public sector unions shuttled between two of the city's largest halls to address thousands of workers whose stoppage — the largest in the city since the war — showed their full support for the Lothian Labour Group's stand against the Tories.

In a document replying to the Scottish Secretary of State George Younger, Lothian Labour Group justifies its £400m expenditure, saying it was elected to provide decent services and in fact needs to increase spending to fulfil its election pledges.

However sections of the Labour Group are clearly willing to come to a compromise around some sort of 'realistic figure' — perhaps a package involving natural wastage and voluntary redundancies.

Socialist Challenge supporters will be trying to build a campaign to ensure the Labour Group refuses to put through any cuts and defends the entire budget. The Labour Group should use the massive support which 30 June expressed as the basis for a national campaign against the Tories' expenditure cuts.



'Jobs not Bombs' — the T-shirt to be seen in ideal for all CND and unemployment marches. In tasty red and black on yellow. Medium and large sizes, £2.99 each. Orders to: SCD T-shirts, PO Box 50, London N1. Cheques to 'The Week'.

Northern Carnival Against the Missiles

Alexandra Park, Manchester
Sat 8 Aug, 1-10pm

Bands include: Hawkwind, Damned, John Cooper Clark and Harlem Spirit

Bill Forsyth's boy

By Yvonne Taylor

GREGORY is a teenage disaster area. In the first eleven, he displays the sort of ball control you'd expect from a teenage giraffe.

And persuading the elusive ball into the back of the net is not his only problem. 'Scoring' off the pitch is harder than it looks, too. But at the end of the day, though Gregory has failed to keep his place in the team or to get the girl, he remains undaunted by the trials and tribulations of adolescence.

Gentle

Gregory's Girl, written and directed by Bill Forsyth, is a gentle, humorous look at growing up. It says a great

many things about youth and adulthood that are true, although it creates society anew in order to do it.

In Gregory's world, the problems and cares created by school and home assume a new proportion. Adults are not all-powerful here. It's the youth who are in control. Adults occasionally pop up — generally with a little reason as the lost penguin wandering the school corridors, and usually proving to be eccentric.

Agonise

It's not simply the youth are given greater authority, even the roles which men and women normally play get reversed.

The superstar of the football first eleven is a woman, while the school's supercook is a

bloke. The brand new science laboratory has women students presiding over the new technology, and it's two male students who agonise over their lack of women-appeal.

Compared to the stark brutality of Ken Loach and Tony Garnett's depiction of school life in *Kes*, Gregory's Girl is practically dreamlike. Forsyth's youth are often worldly wise but their wisdom is matter of fact, not bitter.

Gregory's Girl is about the way our own youth should have been but wasn't. Like *Kes*, it's a small budget film and is only showing at a few cinemas in London. But from the approval it has received at the hands of the press, it looks like it may find a greater showing in the country. The film certainly deserves it.



The Romans trial Enter the moral centurions

By Geoffrey Sheridan

NOT so long ago a gentleman known as the Lord Chamberlain sat through every play before it was publicly performed in Britain and went to work with a blue pencil.

Dialogue about sex, or still worse any enactment thereof, stood little chance of gaining the Lord Chamberlain's approval. Politics fared badly, too, and subjects like the Royal Family were taboo.

What the Lord Chamberlain said had to go, went — in some cases whole plays. His censorship provided the backdrop for the sterile drawing-room charades which were passed off as British drama until a couple of decades ago.

Mary Whitehouse, apostle of Victorian-age morality, wants to wind the clock back. Her immediate target is *The Romans in Britain*, which was performed at the Na-

tional Theatre in London. The theme of the play was political — it compared the Roman invasion of Britain with the role of the British troops in Ireland. Whitehouse has gone for a scene which show the homosexual rape of a Druid priest by a Roman soldier.

In the words of the theatre's director, Peter Hall, it is 'a precise and inevitable metaphor about the brutality of colonialism'.

Obscene

Theatre censorship was abolished by the Theatres Act 13 years ago. But Whitehouse has sidestepped this legislation,

which prohibits a prosecution being brought for committing an obscene or indecent act on stage.

Her private prosecution under the Sexual Offences Act charges the play's director with 'procuring an act of gross indecency'. Having won the backing of magistrates, the case now goes to the Old Bailey.

Homosexual rape might well be more disturbing to the judiciary than heterosexual rape, which when it is committed in real life often meets with nothing more than a judge's mild disapproval.

Mary Whitehouse's war on sexuality has its counterpart in history. Germany under the Nazis was subjected to the same 'purity', with the extermination of gays and the elevation of women to be the heroic breeders of the Herrenvolk.

Thatcher's Britain would hardly be complete without a legal march back to the 'sanctity' of the family. Socialists should join with Equity, the actors' union, in wholly opposing this prosecution.

We want to decide for ourselves!

By Paula, for the Shocking Pink Collective

Shocking Pink is described by the collective that produces it — aged from 12-21 — as an alternative magazine for young women. Why?

First, the people who produce the established magazines designed for young women are older men and women, sitting in plush offices, cut off from the young women they are trying to reach by their position in society, which also affords them access to skills, equipment, and money that young women are denied.

Editors of these magazines say they are giving us what we want, when there are no readily available alternatives for us to choose from.

They regard the young women in their stories as 'sinners' to be used to keep the rest of us in line, following the already well-trodden path to female respectability — marriage, children, and perhaps a job to provide us with pin money.

Negative

Secondly, the sort of material that they produce are stories of rape, where the 'victim' doesn't report the attack to the police, with no analysis of why this might be; articles on racism, when the majority of the 'models' are white and the magazine pushes a totally white culture.

Occasionally, a bright spot shows through the dark clouds, like a spread in *Oh Boy* about how to defend ourselves when attacked by a man. In the same issue, however, a young woman writes in saying she thinks she is a lesbian and the answer she receives is negative, uninformative, and condescending.

We and others felt the need for an alternative magazine because the existing ones do not give a realistic impression of our lives. These are some

of the comments made to us:

'Although I am guilty of buying a well-established magazine for girls, I consider many of their attitudes absolute rubbish and they never seem to face life with a realistic attitude.'

'...Thank god someone has at last made the move to get out a real magazine for people of my age (16).'

'I'm sick to death of all the crap which is forced down my throat ... At last, someone has realised that we don't want the mythical female 'role' of mother, wife, or lover pushed upon us — we want to decide for ourselves.'

Alternative

None of the established magazines encourages us to feel complete or independent as young women. They encourage us to feel that we have to lean on somebody (usually a boy) or something (usually clothes and make-up).

They don't give us any credit for intelligence. Like the rest of the media, they presume that we are only interested in clothes, cooking, the home and family, and getting our man:

'I am sick to death of being told just what make-up to plaster myself in and instructed on exactly how to wear my clothes to attract the most attention.'

We are interested in some of these things, but not in the way they are presented. For example, we don't necessarily wear 'fashionable' clothes to catch a boy's eye, but we like dressing for ourselves and for practical and comfort purposes, too.

There are many issues which particularly concern younger women. It is not us who are ageist. We are forced into certain situations because of our age. We have fewer rights than men and older women.

Our social and every day lives are



'The existing magazines do not give a realistic impression of our lives.'

controlled by laws and attitudes which presume that we have to be 'protected', but in fact stop us from choosing what we want to do.

The very real alternative that *Shocking Pink* offers is the chance for the readers of the magazine to control the contents, because it allows young women to express their opinions, feelings, and experiences of the things that really affect us, without an editor expressing his/her own opinion about the subject by editing the articles.

It has also given some young women a chance to work collectively on producing a magazine, learning and practising skills that we have had little or no opportunity to gain experience of before and to prove to the 'grown-ups' that we are capable of doing these things on our own.

● *Shocking Pink* is in desperate need of financial aid. Please take out a founding trust to enable us to continue production, only £10 for the next three

fabulous issues of *Shocking Pink*! For individual copies please send 34p (includes p&p) to: *Shocking Pink*, 4 Essex Road, London W3. Any donations also welcome!

● This article is reprinted from *Free Press*, bi-monthly magazine of the Campaign for Press Freedom. The latest issue includes a 4-page supplement presenting a radical programme to change TV.

Details of the magazine and the campaign, from: CPF, 274-288 London Road, Hadleigh, Essex. Tel. 0702 553131.

Socialist Challenge

TRADE UNIONS AND SOCIALISM
a conference for trade unionists
Tony Benn, Bernard Dix, Audrey Wise
18 July, Central Hall Westminster

Information from LCC (TU conference), 9 Poland St, London W1

H BLOCK STRUGGLE REACHES CLIMAX

AS Socialist Challenge went to press Joe McDonnell's life hung by a thread. By Tuesday, Joe had been on hunger strike 59 days in the prison camp of Long Kesh in the north of Ireland.

He, and the now dead hunger strikers, Bobby Sands MP, Frankie Hughes, Raymond McCreesh and Patsy O'Hara had waited three long tortuous months for the Tory government of Margaret Thatcher to make some move to ensure that the Irish political prisoners would not die.

Reaction

Now, at long last, Thatcher has entered into negotiations with the hunger strikers. At this point Socialist Challenge has no way of knowing how sincere the British government is in these negotiations, what has been offered to the prisoners, or what the reaction of the prisoners will be.

But a number of things are obvious. The British government has been forced to at least appear to be making concessions because of the world-wide disgust at Thatcher's intransigence over the H Block issue, and by the mass support for the prisoners in both parts of divided Ireland.

Waited

Also, by negotiating

with the prisoners through the Irish Commission for Peace and Justice, the government have acknowledged that the H Block inmates are indeed in a 'special category'. When has any British government ever negotiated with 'mere criminals' in Brixton, Strangeways or Dartmoor prisons?

Thirdly, that the British have waited so long to negotiate once more underlines the callousness of Thatcher and her friends. They demanded their pounds of dead flesh in the shape of Bobby Sands and the others before they would agree to talk.

Heroic

Whatever those talks produce it is up to the prisoners themselves to decide their attitude. It is they who have borne the brunt of the suffering, the pain and the death of these last four months. They have earned the right to say what is a satisfactory outcome to their heroic struggle.

The best, most long-lasting and just settlement would be for Britain to concede the five demands

of the prisoners — the right to wear their own clothes, associate freely, refuse prison work, and have full remission of sentences.

Dignity

If Thatcher had made those concessions weeks ago the dreadful experience the prisoners and their relatives must have gone through in the recent months — of hopes being raised, dashed and raised again — needed not have happened. And the deaths which Thatcher's brutal obstinacy has caused would not have occurred.

Whatever happens by the time these words are read, whatever the outcome of the negotiations, whether Joe McDonnell lives or dies, there are two conclusions which will stand the test of time.

Through their long ordeal the prisoners have displayed remarkable dignity. And whether the British government agrees to finally settle or not there will be no honour, or glory attached to the actions they have taken.



This graphic is taken from *The H Blocks — An indictment of British prison policy in the North of Ireland*, an excellent new pamphlet from Information on Ireland, 1 North End Rd, London W1. Price 40p plus 25p for p&p.

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Miners' leaders scuttle democracy

FOR months the right wing of the Labour Party, their friends in Fleet Street and their former buddies in the Social Democratic Party have moaned and groaned about the decisive role the trade union bloc vote plays at Labour Party conferences.

'Undemocratic', they all shout. 'Decisions made in smoke filled rooms', they cry. 'Union leaders have too much power', they insist.

Well, this Monday, these super democrats were given the opportunity to display their wrath.

At the conference of the National Union of Miners a proposal was put

forward that the delegates should have the right to decide who the party should vote for in the deputy-ship of the Labour Party.

That proposal was defeated. Instead it will be left to the union's national executive to decide who to support on the eve of Labour's conference.

Were there any screaming headlines complaining at this manoeuvre not to allow the national conference of the NUM to vote on the issue, a body which is more representative than the national executive?

Press

No, there was not a single such headline, there was no press statement from Denis Healey complaining about 'left wing wreckers', even Roy Jenkins failed to use the occasion to attack the con-

cept of the union bloc vote.

The reason is simple. Had the conference of the miners been allowed to vote, they would have endorsed Tony Benn. Just as had the conference of the Transport and General Workers Union been allowed to take a similar vote a couple of weeks ago, they would have endorsed Tony Benn.

And Tony Benn being deputy leader of the Labour Party is, for the Labour right, too high a price to pay for democracy

either in the party or in the unions.

Fight

Whatever the effect of the decision at the miners' conference on Tony Benn's bid to become deputy leader, one lesson is clear: the fight for democracy in the Labour Party and the trade unions is one and the same struggle.

And it is the left in the party and unions who are the chief exponents, as well as the main beneficiaries, of that struggle.

Miners a proposal was put