

Socialist Challenge



Photo: GM COOKSON (Socialist Challenge)

STOP THE REPRESSION

A WAVE OF POLICE REPRESSION has followed the youth uprising. Evidence is mounting of a vicious campaign by the police and the courts to exact vengeance against youth and black people, against a background of press hysteria about 'subversives' and 'extreme left agitators'.

Amongst the evidence is the following:
★ In Hackney in East London a mentally disturbed black man, Winston Rose was taken from his home on 13 July by dozens of police with 'restraining shields'. The next morning he was dead. His family said that his body was 'covered in bruises'.

★ The Bishop of Manchester and local doctors have confirmed stories of widespread violence against black youth held in custody in Manchester. Dr Donald Bodey told the *Times* that he had seen injuries 'I never expected to see in England'.

★ In addition to the raids in Brixton, police have mounted raids in Southall and other parts of the country. The excuse of looking for 'looted' property is being used to harass and intimidate the black population.

★ Hundreds of youth arrested during the uprising have been refused bail — in general only those pleading guilty have been given bail. A curfew has been put on those on bail, and prison camps are being prepared to house those eventually imprisoned.

★ There are numerous reports of sexual abuse and taunts from male police against young women in custody.

★ Many relatives have not been able to establish

the whereabouts of youth arrested during the uprising. Police have given deliberately wrong information to relatives, to increase their distress and suffering.

★ It has been proved that police in Liverpool deliberately fired lethal CS gas bullets, designed to penetrate doors and reinforced glass, at people on the streets during the rioting. Now the police are to be given a whole new armoury of repression.

★ The response of the Labour leadership to this wave of repression has been pathetic. All they could do was congratulate Whitelaw on his statement in the Commons, including his insulting proposal to send axe-man Heseltine to Liverpool to investigate inner-city problems!

Even Eric Heffer grovelled to Whitelaw saying his statement was 'very good'.

Instead of going along with this disgusting spectacle of Labour support for the Tory repression, the labour movement should take up the demand of Islington South CLP for an amnesty for all those charged during the riots, and the demand for a withdrawal of the proposals to re-equip the police.

All the predictions that the technology of repression used in the North of Ireland would be eventually used on the streets of Britain, are being proved correct.

The labour movement must campaign against these repressive moves and against the bans on demonstrations. Only the labour movement has the power to throw back the atmosphere of strong state repression.

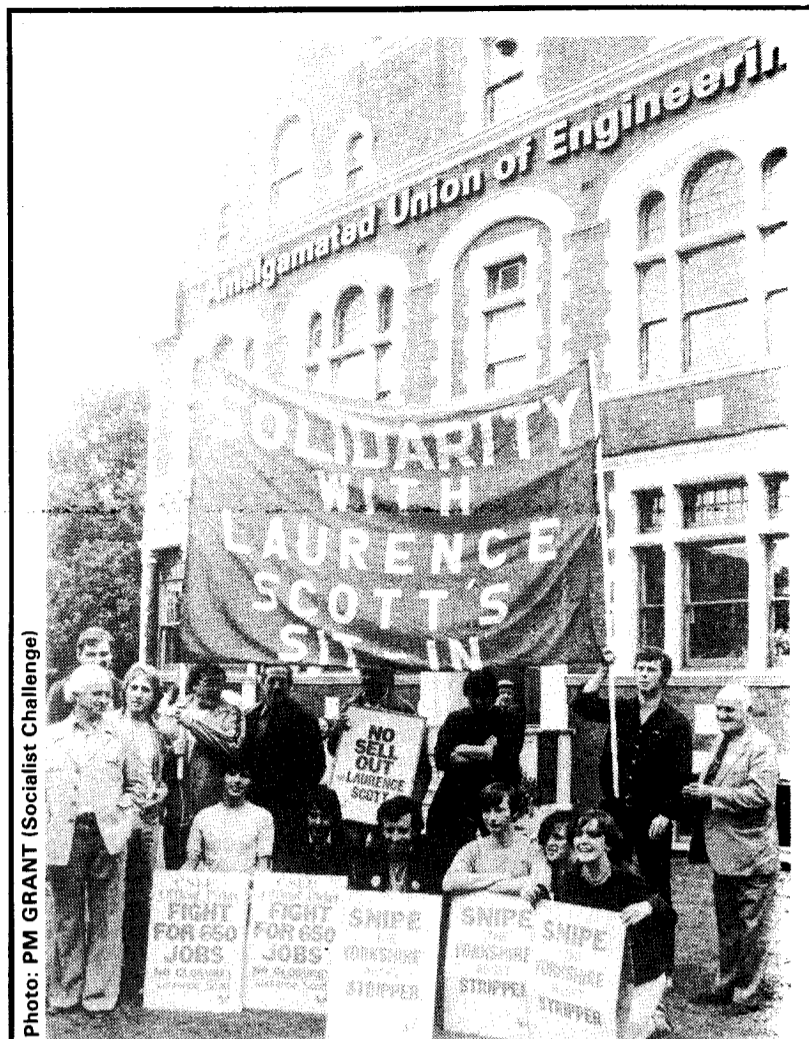


Photo: PM GRANT (Socialist Challenge)

Laurence Scott workers occupy union HQ

OVER 150 workers from Laurence Scott occupied the Engineering Union's head office last Tuesday, 21 July.

They were protesting at the scandalous behaviour of the union executive.

A mass meeting of the workers the previous week had voted overwhelmingly to reject the agreement cooked up by the union leadership and the company's boss, Arthur Snipe.

Now the executive is sending Ken Cure to try once again to persuade the workers to accept the agreement at a mass meeting on Thursday 23 July — a meeting called over the heads of the elected strike committee.

When union general secretary John Boyd and president Terry Duffy were asked by Laurence Scott workers sitting in at the head office what the executive position would be if the mass meeting yet again rejected the agreement, Boyd answered: 'Yes, we would withdraw official support.'

Boyd and Duffy also informed the police that they have 'complete freedom' to clear the building.

The labour movement has to respond immediately to this new threat to the Laurence Scott workers fighting for their jobs.

See p5 for a report of the events leading up to the picketing of the AUEW executive and the subsequent sit-in at the union HQ.

WANTED: £3000 for socialism

By Alan Freeman

WE'RE closing down for two weeks for our summer break. We'll be back with another issue on 13 August. But our work doesn't stop while the paper shuts down.

Throughout Britain our supporters are helping Revolution Youth put out a special free broadsheet on the youth riots. We'll be building massive support for the national demonstration planned for Southall in the next two months.

Our work for the Laurence Scott occupation for jobs in Manchester will be doubled

and redoubled.

We'll be building CND activities around Hiroshima Day — like the 8 August Northern Carnival in which our supporters are heavily involved. And we're building support for the 24 October CND demonstration in London. Help us make it the biggest yet!

In the run-up to this autumn's Labour Party conference we'll be campaigning for support for the Irish hunger strikes and for an end to Labour's bipartisan policy on Ireland.

And we're also defending our own building. A special security programme has begun following attacks on our

shop and its staff by fascist thugs.

All this campaigning for socialist policies needs cash! Our quarterly fund has so far brought in £2,229 from a quarterly target of £16,500. By the time we come back from our break we need £5,500 to stay on target. That means we're £3,271 short. So we appeal to our readers:

Don't forget! Socialist Challenge this summer. Send us a donation now to keep our work going!

Rush your cash to: Socialist Challenge, PO Box 50, London N1 2Y2

Labour leaders back Tory repression

'WHAT we have to deal with now is to put the police in a position to deal with serious violence immediately and restore public confidence.'

Thus spoke The Right Hon Michael Foot, MP for Ebbw Vale and leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition at the height of the youth rebellion.

Labour MPs have been far more concerned about the protection of the police and the defence of 'law and order' than any protection and defence of those who attempted to break from the despair and hopelessness of Tory Britain.

Last Thursday, the day of the Warrington by-election, Roy Hattersley, chief opposition spokesperson on home affairs, backed the use of CS gas in Toxteth.

Apparently oblivious to the extensive injuries caused by police use of the gas cartridges he said: 'The use of a temporarily incapacitating gas was, unfortunately, better than death or injury.'

Earlier in the week, Michael Foot refused to condemn the use of CS gas and water cannons. But it was 'left-wing' Liverpool MP, Eric Heffer, who said that the Tories' plan to send Michael Heseltine to Liverpool 'sounds good'.

Heseltine's swingeing cuts, which are the backbone of Tory economic policy, have done more to contribute to the total devastation of our cities than anything else. It is an obscenity to send him to Liverpool to 'investigate inner city problems'.

The problem is the Tories — and the Labour leaders who go along with them.

Labour MPs have not been crushed in the rush to state their opposition to both the increased militarisation of the police force and the erosion of democratic rights.

They have not spoken out against the bans that have been imposed on demonstrations yet again.

They have not spoken out against what amounts to a curfew on all those arrested.

Repressive policing techniques have increased over the last few years, not as a result of the riots as some would have it, but the result of the ruling class's increasing inability to rule by consent.

Bans are enforced, state racism is further institutionalised with the Nationality Bill, and workers' rights are further eroded with Prior's law.

Now we are faced with a new Riot Act and while Labour MPs may bleat a bit, most have been silent in the past in opposing such undemocratic laws as the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

The youth rebellion has symbolised all that's wrong with Tory Britain — cities allowed to rot while billions of pounds are spent on the country's nuclear weapons.

Labour leaders have to state now that they are for an amnesty for all those charged during the recent upsurges.

They have to openly oppose the use of bans and the attacks on the right of communities to defend themselves from racist and fascist attacks.

They have to state that the only solution for youth, for the whole working class, is to get rid of this government once and for all. And that means acting now.

We want a Labour government committed to socialist policies, not yet another one that does the Tories' dirty work for them.

Liverpool 8 defence committee swings into action

LIVERPOOL Trades Council has called for the dismissal of the Merseyside Chief Constable, Ken Oxford.

At the July meetings of the Trades Council and Toxteth Labour Party, delegates were told by speakers from the Liverpool 8 Defence Committee about the background of Oxford.

In Paul Foot's book 'Who killed Hanratty', Foot showed that it was the evidence of a certain Detective-Inspector Kenneth Oxford which sent innocent Hanratty to the gallows.

It was also Oxford who said that the black people of Liverpool 8 were the 'product of a liaison between black seamen and white prostitutes.'

Again it is Oxford who is responsible for the Ferret barricade-penetrating cartridges being used against people in direct contravention of the manufacturer's instructions.

Local magistrates are dealing out hefty sentences

to those appearing before them.

Three people who were charged with stealing £20 worth of drink were sentenced to three months in prison. In another case a woman of 65 was fined £250.

Many of the youth who have been held in custody for a week or more appear with black eyes and other signs of beating. In many cases police will only agree to bail if the people charged plead guilty.

The Liverpool 8 Defence Committee is meeting on Sunday 26 July at the Caribbean Centre on Upper Parliament St to discuss the campaign against Oxford and to plan a demonstration. They can be contacted c/o Charles Wootton Centre, 248 Upper Parliament St, Liverpool 8. Tel 051-708 9698/8188.



Photo: MILITANT

Part of the welcome for Thatcher on visit to Liverpool this week

Defending ourselves

ELEVEN people were arrested in dawn raids in Southall on 17 July in connection with the events on 3 July when Asian youth resisted a fascist invasion.

Police are conducting house-to-house inquiries using photographs and films taken during the confrontations.

The Southall Anti-Fascist Committee is calling for a national demonstration within the next two months to protest against fascist attacks on the black communities and heavy policing methods.

For further information contact SAFC c/o 9 Pluckington Place, Southall, Middlesex.

BRIXTON Defence Campaign is co-ordinating different defence campaigns throughout the country.

If you have any information write to Brixton Defence Campaign, 41 Stockwell Green, London SW4.



Police drag away demonstrators protesting outside the British High Commission in New Delhi about violence against Asian communities in Britain

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

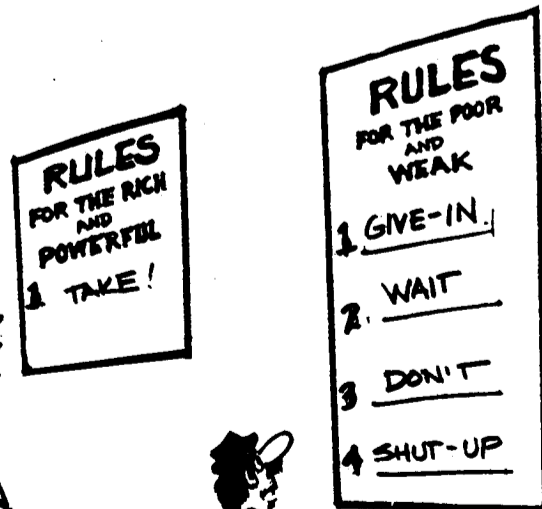
Name.....

Address.....

Age.....

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

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



Are the police out of control?

PLASTIC bullets in Toxteth, wholesale destruction of houses in Railton Road, Brixton, indiscriminate arrests and house to house searches throughout Britain — that's the grim picture of police activity. The careful fiction that British police are unarmed, act only in a defensive way and are concerned about community relations has been totally discredited.

Their role as an instrument of Tory terror against youth, blacks and the working class becomes plainer to see as repression mounts daily.

Phil Robins, a professional footballer, was shot by Merseyside police during the Toxteth uprising on 6 July. He and an assistant community relations officer were helping people affected by CS gas when he was hit in the chest — 'blood was squirting through his hands.'

As he tried to get away he was hit again in the back. Ten days later it was revealed that he had been shot with Ferret 'barricade-penetrating cartridges' a form of CS gas canister.

The cartridge pack warns, 'Specifically designed for barricade-penetration only. Do not fire at any person or crowd. Projectile may inflict serious injury should it strike anyone within a range of approximately 300 yards.'

The US firearms company who manufacture the cartridge condemned the Merseyside police action: 'If you're going to fire them directly at people you might as well fire live ammunition because you'd have the same effect.'

Dragged

In a series of raids on Brixton's 'Frontline', TVs, shop windows, guitars, mattresses and doors were smashed to bits.

Maureen Boyle, wife of a local councillor was bludgeoned to the ground by a Brixton Detective Inspector.

Chris Mullin reported in *Tribune* that he saw two young black women in Brixton being dragged into an unmarked transit van by heavy young white men in shirt sleeves.

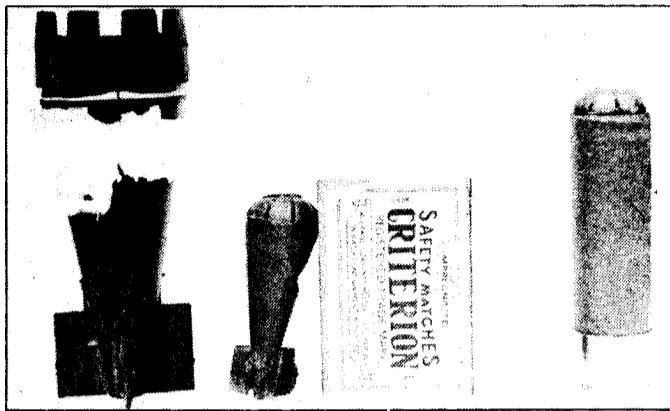
They claimed to be police but it took several minutes of argument to make them identify themselves.

When one finally did so, he held his finger firmly over his number and no detail could be noted.



Brixton on 10 July

By
Toni
Gorton



Ferret barricade penetrating cartridges and police marksman

As Mullin went to note the van's number, one of the men brandished a truncheon at him and only just stopped short of coshing him.

As the van drew away one of the men called out 'Black shit and white trash, that's all that lives around here.'

In another incident, in Leyton, East London, a black man with a history of mental illness locked himself in a garden shed. A social worker called in police, ten of whom arrived and smashed down the shed.

On arrival at the psychiatric hospital he was 'found to be dead'. The family have called for an inquiry into the affair.

The day is long gone, if it ever existed, when Britain's police kept order through the 'consent' of the community.

Firearms

Since 1968 surveillance and control techniques have become more sophisticated, with computers, modern equipment of every description, national para-military training, co-ordination and organisation.

Over the past ten years there has been an almost 700 per cent increase in arms issued to police, far outstripping criminal use.

More than 12,000 rank and

file police are trained to use firearms and several local forces have special firearm units.

In Brixton last week, plainclothes police were openly displaying sidearms by carefully arranging their sportsjackets around the holsters.

The Special Patrol Group, which an internal police investigation concluded was responsible for the death of Blair Peach in Southall two years ago, is organised in some 27 areas from Hampshire to Strathclyde.

Strikes

It goes by different names such as Special Operations Group, Force Support Unit, Tactical Aid Group or Task Force.

At least 400 members are attached to the Royal Ulster Constabulary to whom chief constables went for advice on 'riot control' last week.

While SPGs are officially meant to provide saturation policing in areas of high crime they are clearly a para-military force used in public order situations.

In addition, Police Support Units, supposedly for assisting in civil defence after a nuclear war (!), are primarily organised for demonstrations and strikes. Training of the estimated



11,000 strong PSUs is in 'riot shields' and 'crowd control'.

Other forces include the Special Branch, which gathers intelligence about political and trade union activity, and the Illegal Immigration Intelligence Unit which has been involved in the recent swoops on factories in search of 'illegal' immigrants.

Zeal

The intensity of the repression of the working class in the inner city areas is a conscious policy of Thatcher's government. It is not simply a few cops running 'amok' and out of control, although this is undoubtedly happening.

Occasionally a little too much police zeal may result in a slight embarrassment but the objectives are clear.

Isolate

Get the population used to an increasingly militarised police on the streets, isolate and intimidate militants among the black and white youth, scare the hell out of workers in their homes where they are most vulnerable, prepare the way for laws that limit rights of assembly, especially demonstrations and picketing, and impose harsher penalties on those infringing the law.

Battles

Why? Because the ruling classes know that social tensions are going to get worse not better. There is no possibility under capitalism of returning to full employment, to homes and health care for all.

Thatcher knows that big battles are on the horizon, when the central forces of the working class are going to fight to defend the class against the ravages of the economic crisis.

Fight

Earlier this year she backed off from a confrontation with the miners. She wasn't prepared then but she intends to be next time. Ideologically and materially she is putting her class in the best position to defeat workers in struggle.

Her forces are being trained in the north of Ireland and in the streets of Britain against the youth — it's up to the working class through trade unions, the Labour Party, black, youth and women's organisations, to take the lead now in our defence.



MIGRANT WORKERS BENEFIT

featuring: FROM GUJARAT GARBA
CHILEAN REFUGEE GROUP MAYAPI
FILIPINO CHAPLANCY
THE FILIPINO DANCE GROUP
BANGLADESHI ARTISTS
AMORA KOJONA

poetry reading from: T BONE WILSON
IMRU CESAIRE * FIRDOUS ALY

speakers: ANWAR DITTA * NASIRA BEGUM
AND MANY OTHERS FROM
IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

EXHIBITION * MUSIC * BAR
FOOD FOR SALE

FRIDAY 31st JULY

FROM 6pm to 12 midnight
TICKETS £2.00
COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE
230 KENSINGTON HIGH STREET W 8

pSp London Immigration Action Group 11
United Filipino Association
Migrant Action Group

In Wales with LSE

By Celia Pugh

LAURENCE Scott workers collected hundreds of pounds and as many messages of support on a visit to South Wales last week. In a packed tour, co-ordinated by Socialist Challenge, Frank Pennington and Eric Pine visited stewards and convenors at 21 engineering union organised factories; had meetings with full time AUEW officers in Swansea, Merthyr, Pontypridd and Newport and spoke to meetings of Newport Trades Council, Cardiff TASS, an AUEW shop stewards quarterly and Swansea ASTMS.

Without exception, their reception was encouraging. A Swansea Ford steward explained that it was a privilege to meet workers prepared to take a stand against job cuts.

Howard Griffiths, shop steward at a foam matting plant in Merthyr, echoed this, 'Some day they may try to shut us too, but it's Maggie we want out.'

Frank and Eric replied, 'If you want help with an occupation, we'll give you a hand.'

Many of the convenors promised to organise special stewards' meetings and factory collections.

At the Hymac earth-moving equipment plant in Rhymney, shop stewards met before Frank and Eric arrived and voted to immediately give £100.

At the British Steel Corporation plant in Port Talbot, full time convenors and stewards from EETPU, Boilermakers, TASS, AUEW and UCATT pledged financial backing from their members.

Special attention was given to the miners, who work with Laurence Scott motors. As well as meeting officials from the South Wales NUM executive and six pits, Frank and Eric spoke to pit head meetings of between 70 and 200 at Tower, Mardy, and Coedely Collieries before the men went underground. Collections will follow.

This successful tour was rounded off with perhaps the most important visit of the week. NUM Lodge officials at the National Coal Board stores and workshops in Tredegar arranged for Eric and Frank to tour around, listing the LSE and Mining Supplies equipment used in South Wales pits. Discussions about blacking can now proceed.



Warrington - towards the recomposition of British politics?

By Phil Hearse

IT IS always a hazardous operation predicting fundamental shifts in British politics on the basis of the evidence of mid-term by-election results. A whole 'Liberal revival' was widely predicted on the basis of the Orpington by-election in 1962 — a revival which never in fact took place.

Similar wide-sweeping predictions are being made on the basis of the Warrington by-election result, in which Roy Jenkins got 42 per cent of the poll and came within 1,700 votes of

beating the Labour candidate Douglas Hoyle.

Turnout

The Tory vote collapsed completely, from 9,000 to 2,000. Since the total turnout was virtually the same in the by-election as the general election, it is safe to assume that up to 7,000 Tory votes went to Jenkins — many of them 'tactical' anti-Labour votes.

Together with the nearly 3,000 votes which last time went to the Liberals (who were standing down in Jenkins favour), this amounts to something like 10,000 votes from non-Labour voters, out of a total of 12,500.

Argue

Nonetheless, a significant minority of the Labour vote switched to the SDP. The Labour right have been quick to argue that this represents the disastrous effects of the shift to the left inside the party. Benn and Scargill, on the other hand, argue that it is the result of an absence of socialist policies and/or the results of the media support of the SDP.

However the SDP vote is put together in Labour seats, there is no doubt that the aim of the SDP is to deprive Labour of a general election victory, playing the same role as the short-lived social democratic split from the

Australian Labour Party in the early '50s.

For the ruling class the SDP operation presents major difficulties of assessment. The SDP aim is to break up the present two-party system by getting enough MPs to hold the balance of power after the next election.

As the price for co-operation in a coalition the SDP would demand the establishment of proportional representation (PR) — thus institutionalising a system of permanent coalitions. PR might well be an inviting solution so long as the two main parties are sharply polarised — it makes it difficult for Labour ever to get an overall majority.

Crisis

The problem is that with an SDP-Liberal alliance, it would also be highly improbable that the Tories would ever get an overall majority either. Permanent coalition government would tend to permanently 'centre' British policies — not so useful when even the bourgeoisie needs radical solutions to the crisis.

The question which will be debated in the labour movement is whether the SDP is a media flash-in-the-pan, or whether it can take a significant slice of the Labour vote at the general election. The second, subsidiary question is to what extent this possibility is

Blame

caused by the move to the left inside the party — is Bennism to blame?

Much hinges on the outcome of the struggle inside the Labour Party between now and the election. If Benn were elected deputy leader, and the left were to carry the major policy debates at Labour's September conference, then without doubt another 20-30 Labour MPs would defect to the SDP.

Crush

It would be naive to believe that with socialist policies and a left wing leadership the Labour Party would automatically crush the SDP threat. The notion that left-wing policies automatically unite the whole working class, regardless of circumstances, is mythical — even when Labour has won its largest vote, as in 1951, something like 40 per cent of the working class vote went to the Tories.

Slice

But the fact that the SDP could well take a slice of the working class Labour vote is not the fault of the Labour left. Those to blame are the Wilsons, Callaghans and Healeys who have made large numbers of working people deeply cynical that Labour governments will ever solve their problems.

One point has evaded the media commentators who have been quick to point out the threat that the Warrington result represents to Labour. It is virtually excluded that there will be any upturn in the economy before a new general election. The Tories will almost certainly suffer a major defeat, unless they completely change their policies and dump Thatcher for good measure.

With disillusioned Tory voters going over to the SDP, it is not excluded that the Tories could end up being the third party after a general election. If that happened, then proportional representation and a historic defeat for the Tory party would be the outcome.



By Tessa van Gelderen

THE London tube strike is off. The offer of 11.6 per cent without productivity strings has been accepted by the National Union of Railwaymen.

It was Sid Weighell, the NUR general secretary, who had threatened to bring the transport workers out. Such a strike would have been highly embarrassing to left winger Ken Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council, the paymaster of London Transport.

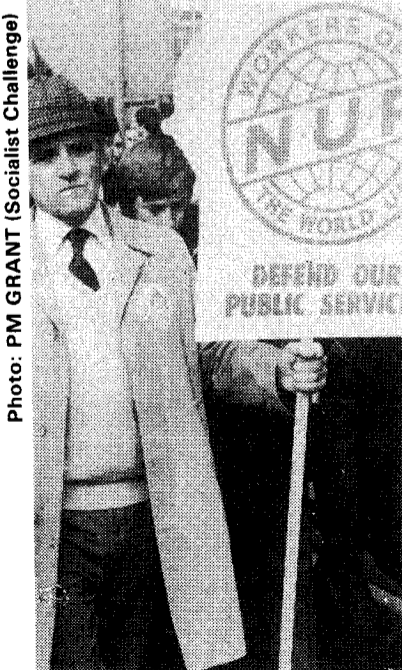
Credit

But the Labour GLC cannot claim the credit for the strike threat being averted. Its refusal to immediately grant the tube workers a pay increase in line with inflation without productivity strings played right into the hands of Sid Weighell.

Weighell was never interested in a strike to improve his members' standard of living. All he wanted was to put Ken Livingstone and his comrades on the spot. The effect of the GLC not openly supporting the workers' claim was to demobilise them.

If he had openly united with the rank and file workers against Weighell, Ken Livingstone could have defeated Weighell and assisted the British Rail workers, whose claim still has not been accepted by the British Rail Board. More than

No tube strike, but...



Sid Weighell

that it would have armed the tube workers to successfully fight against future negotiations on productivity.

A spokesperson for the NUR informed Socialist Challenge that the London Transport Executive was determined to go ahead with discus-

sions on productivity levels which the union 'agreed with in principle.'

At a mass meeting of nearly 1000 London Transport workers last Thursday, hours before the tube strike was called off, the mood was militant. London Transport workers, like those in British Rail find themselves up against productivity deals made at local level.

Despite Weighell's blusterings over the tube strike, the union leadership does very little to fight against these deals. Geoff Revel, executive member of the NUR, informed the mass meeting that 'we are not going to instruct our sections councils to implement productivity.'

Productivity

What all union members want to hear is the executive instructing sectional councils not to implement productivity. British Rail and London Transport workers want a lead from their union leadership.

The Labour GLC could have contributed to that process. Now it has lost the confidence of at least some of its supporters. In the coming months that may be a high price to pay as the GLC attempts to implement its election promises and increasingly comes into conflict with the government.

Decisions of the conference

- Support for all activities, especially industrial action and occupations, to kick out the Tories at the earliest opportunity.
- Campaign for Tony Benn for deputy, especially in NUPE, the TGWU and the POEU.
- Fight against the right wing challenge to the left on the Labour Party NEC. Every district of the AUEW should send resolutions condemning the switch by the union's executive of the bloc vote from left winger Norman Atkinson to Eric Varley for party treasurer. Bernard Dix and Jo Richardson are also threatened.
- Build support for the Birmingham unemployment demonstration on 19 September and all other regional and national demonstrations against unemployment.
- Build support for the demonstration at the Tory Party conference in Blackpool on Friday 16 October.
- Build support for the CND national demonstration on 24 October.
- Build support for a national women's right to work demonstration early next year.
- Consolidate and extend the fight for democracy in the labour movement through the establishment and strengthening of campaigning Broad Lefts in the unions.

LCC conference

Verbal opposition is not enough

By Mary Jacobs

THE first trade union conference of the Labour Co-ordinating Committee met last Saturday at a crucial turning point for the labour movement. The Tories' policies are in tatters on the streets of Toxteth yet the Labour leadership has failed to give any alternative solution to the crisis.

But the LCC conference didn't meet the challenge. Miners' leader Arthur Scargill made a stirring speech, pleading guilty to the accusation of 'wanting to take people onto the streets to change governments. It is this Tory government which has put 3 million on the streets', he added.

But stirring speeches are not enough. The LCC still does not see itself as an open campaigning force

inside the unions. This was clear from the poor attendance from key unions like engineering, transport, rail, steel and the mines.

Many Labour parties were represented at the conference but the success of the Benn campaign and ultimately of a Labour government committed to implement socialist policies, will depend on the unity that can be forged between the unions and the party.

The LCC should be organising to provide that focus now. It should champion the struggles of workers confronting this Tory government head on — workers like those in Laurence Scott occupying against closure; workers like those in Lee Jeans, fighting for a woman's right to work.

At the same time as organising solidarity and support for these struggles, the LCC should launch a campaign of mass political agitation not to 'protest' against unemployment, but for a 35 hour week and worksharing with no loss of pay.

It was Bob Wright, assistant general secretary of the engineering union,

who raised the real problems in launching a fightback:

'The labour movement is in crisis because those who led us to betrayals are still, by and large, in positions of leadership, and are held guilty for those betrayals by the mass of the movement. There is a search on for leaders and policies.'

In the past, he said, betrayals had been covered up by calls for unity — but always on the basis of right wing policies. What was needed now was a unity based on left wing policies.

It was therefore a great pity that the conference failed to break with some of the, at best, ambiguous statements, from the

Labour leaders on the riots. Even Tony Benn assured the conference that the Labour Party did not believe in rioting as a route to social progress, nor was he prepared to see the police injured in the course of their duties.

While at great pains to roundly condemn a Tory-Labour pact on Ireland, unemployment, and racist legislation, the conference did not distance itself from the Foots, Hattersleys and Heffers when it came to the riots.

Youth

While 'understanding' the underlying causes for the riots, no one called for an amnesty for those charged or defended the youth involved. No one argued the need for the unions and the Labour Party to reach out and organise black and white unemployed youth under the banner of Jobs not Bombs.

The massive CND demonstration planned for the autumn against nuclear weapons, along with the TUC's lobby for unemployed youth were ideal initiatives for the LCC to build over the coming months.

It was left to a speaker from the floor, Phil Holt, national secretary of the Post Office Engineering Union's Broad Left, to explain how control could be wrested from the right in the unions.

Victim

If Benn's campaign was to be successful, the bloc vote was crucial. In the POEU, the Broad Left had openly campaigned for a programme which had won them 9 out of 25 places on the executive.

Although Phil Holt admitted that the Broad Left was much stronger among the branch officials than the rank and file, he explained that the problem with Broad Lefts in the past was that they had been electoral machines.

'In a period of reaction, a mere electoral machine can become a victim of an alliance between an even more effective right wing electoral machine and the mass media.'

An effective LCC needs to be a campaigning LCC. It is not enough, as Harriet Harman, from the Transport Union, pointed out, simply to have a policy of a woman's right to work without actively campaigning for positive action for women in employment and job training.

Support

Nor is it enough for the miners or any section of the labour movement to verbally oppose Prior's Employment Bill. The most effective opposition to the Bill is for Scargill to support Laurence Scott workers on the picket lines at Mining Supplies at Doncaster, and for a boycott of all the company's products.

Only then can the LCC play a real and effective role in securing Benn as deputy leader and in supporting those struggling against this Tory government — a government that has to be removed as soon as possible.

Laurence Scott workers picket Duffy

DENNIS BARRY — Convenor, Joint Shop Stewards Committee, Laurence Scott and Electromotors, Manchester, speaking at the LCC conference

THERE'S been a lot of doubt and confusion put about by the press and media as to exactly what's happening at Scotts.

Well, just to clear up any doubts on that question we're down here from Laurence Scott with an official delegation and we're still fighting.

We're in the fourteenth week of our occupation against an attempt by Arthur Snipe, managing director, chairman of the board and chief shareholder of Mining Supplies, Doncaster to close us down with the loss of 650 jobs and move all our works to the Laurence Scott factory in Norwich.

We decided not to lie down but to give a platform from which the unions could fight.

The support from the rank and file of the unions both inside and outside Manchester has been tremendous but the biggest problem we have faced all along

has been the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions and the executive of the AUEW.

When you're fighting people like Snipe you need official support and backing. Snipe was refusing to even negotiate until we started picketing his Doncaster factory.

Then when he came forward with his very first offer, engineering union leader Duffy and the rest wanted to force us to accept it.

Snipe's proposals didn't guarantee a single job. But the officials threatened that unless we accepted them, strike pay and backing for the Doncaster picket would be withdrawn. Our mass meeting on Tuesday last week overwhelmingly rejected the official deal and supported the stewards' position for *no enforced redundancies*.

Then Ken Cure was sent down from the executive to persuade us to accept the deal. But he had no chance. We are still in a position where we have to make sure that the executive doesn't pull the carpet from under our feet.

That is why we are picketing it this Tuesday. At some point we'll have to get rid of Duffy and the 'Magnificent Seven' on the executive.

In the meantime we're fully supporting the campaign by Tony Benn for the deputy leadership.

Messages of support and donations to LSE stewards c/o G Fryer, 20 Roundcroft, Romiley, Cheshire.

The end of a strike

ELSIE BROAD, former shop steward at Royal Pride Manchester, and a member of the Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union spoke at the LCC conference:

WE had been on strike for union recognition at our Manchester furniture factory for 21 weeks up to yesterday (Friday 17 July) when the strike ended.

The pickets have been withdrawn and the workforce has accepted severance pay of £150 each. Our dispute shows what is wrong with the unions at the moment.

We came out on strike because we couldn't get our boss to pay us the newly agreed deal signed between FTAT and the employers. We were out for the money and for union recognition — for our democratic rights.

Our boss Mr Novak

had long said how much he admired the democratic traditions of the British. But when asked about recognising the union he said we must remember that we are the workers and he is the boss.

He always said that the union would do nothing for us. Then a couple of days ago our union official Joss Davidson came to us with a deal that had been arranged with Novak. Davidson had assured Novak that £200 would be enough to get the pickets off the gate. Novak offered £150.

Davidson wanted a vote as soon as possible. One of the girls who had been on the picket



Elsie Broad

line since the beginning was off sick last week and wasn't due back until Monday. I rang her before the vote. I asked her if she would call it off for £150. She said: 'I wouldn't call it off for £1,000. We're out for union recognition.'

But the official

wouldn't accept the proxy vote or delay the vote until Monday. The girls voted to accept by a majority of one vote. Immediately after Novak called us in and on his desk was the money. It had all been cut and dried between Novak and Davidson.

Activist

On the way out Davidson asked me: 'Elsie, do you really think you could have won that strike?' 'If you had tried as hard to win as you've tried to sell us out then of course we could,' I replied.

Then he said: 'You're a union activist now. Will we be seeing you at branch meetings?'

I turned to him and said: 'You bet your life you'll be seeing me at branch meetings. I'll be there just as long as it takes me to get rid of you and your kind from out of our unions.'

LABOUR GO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE



Three bus-loads of Laurence Scott workers came down from Manchester last Tuesday to picket the engineering union executive. When the executive manoeuvred to reverse the decision of a mass meeting to continue the occupation, the delegation sat in at the union HQ.

For a woman's right to work demonstration

Model resolution for Trade Unions and Labour Parties

This branch/conference/trades council notes that women are bearing the brunt of unemployment.

One of the factors affecting women and not men is the view, still all too common in the labour movement, that women's right to work is an optional extra, and that women's economic dependence is acceptable. This is an idea that should be opposed and challenged by the whole of the labour movement.

We therefore call on the leadership of the labour and trade union movement to organise a national demonstration for a woman's right to work.

The slogans of the demonstration should stress the importance of women's independence, the need for defence and extension of services, especially childcare, the special need to defend part timers' jobs, the fight for adequate maternity leave, and the fight against low pay and job segregation.

The demonstration should include special facilities for children, and in the localities the labour movement should be encouraged to organise creches for the day.

Stop the missiles

Rock not rockets

By Tom Marlowe

THE message will be rock not rockets in Alexandra Park, Manchester on 8 August when thousands are expected to attend the Northern Carnival Against the Missiles.

John Cooper Clark will be among those providing the music when bands, activists from the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and speakers from the labour movement will be uniting in a mighty sound of protest against missile madness.

The date for the carnival has been deliberately chosen as the nearest possible weekend to the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, although those who initiated the carnival — members of Young CND in Manchester — were not even alive when these fateful bombs were dropped.

Kerry Wade of Young CND said: 'A big carnival will bring in kids who just go for the music. But we hope that they will leave the event at least sympathetic to the ideas we'll be putting across.'

Attracting the youth to the carnival will be Hawkwind, Damned, Harlem Spirit and others. There will be stalls at the event and speakers from the labour and anti-missile movements.

Kerry explained: 'I felt the Anti Nazi League carnivals weren't strong enough on politics. Of course they were fun, and so will ours be, but we do aim to put out a lot of propaganda to make the aims of the carnival — nuclear disarmament —

absolutely clear.'

The youth content of the carnival will be very high. Kerry believes: 'When the older generation see youth on the streets, they're going to wonder what they're doing sitting on their arses.'

'Youth will inspire people who think nothing can be done about nuclear war. But we do need the chance to do our own thing and organise ourselves.'

Another Young CND member helping to organise the carnival is Kate Denning. 'Luckily', says Kate, 'the carnival is taking place in Moss Side. We know the type of carnival atmosphere people in that area can create.'

The day of protest and fun will start at 11am when a demonstration will assemble in Strangeways car park in Manchester. A brass band and a steel band will then lead an anti-missile march.

It is hoped that leading members of the labour movement will agree to speak during this part of the day's activities.

Already a number of union branches have given their support to the carnival. These include branches from the AUEW, TGWU and NALGO.

All in all, Alexandra Park, Manchester will be the place to be on 8 August.



'Jobs not Bombs' T-shirt. Red and black on yellow. Ideal for all unemployment and CND demos. Only £2.99 incl p&tp. Sizes medium and large. Orders to SCD T-shirts, PO Box 50, London N1. Cheques payable to 'The Week'.

The horror of Hiroshima



By Bob Pennington

'MY watch stopped at 8.15. It was 6 August. As I got slowly to my feet after the blast, the yellow dust that had enveloped everything gradually dispersed to reveal literally a hell on earth — half-burned people, their skins peeled, hanging in strips, the flesh raw, groaning in agony. Unable to move they crouched there. Some were trying to escape.'

That is how one survivor, Kiyoshi Sakuma described the day the United States dropped a bomb on Hiroshima. The bomb was equal to 20,000 tons of TNT. Today there are bombs 500 times as powerful.

So, on the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, imagine the effects five hundred times over of what happened there.

At a conservative estimate a quarter of a million people died when the two Japanese cities were bombed. Another 580,000 were injured in the holocaust. Up to 1.2 kilometres from the centre of the explosion people simply shrivelled and roasted.

Burns

Even four kilometres away thermal radiation was 20 times greater than that from the sun, and human skin was badly burned. The fireballs reached temperatures of several million degrees centigrade. It has been estimated that 50 per cent of the deaths in the two bombings resulted from burns.

hells to suffer in the future. Leukaemia, genetic defects, retarded development, malignant diseases, cancer of the lung, the breast and thyroid, were just some of the after-effects of the bombs.

Myth

One of the worst was Keloids, thick overgrowths of scar tissue which led to a horrible disfiguration of the skin.

By March 1977 the number of people given official 'Hibakushu' status totalled nearly 370,000. It is not a static figure. Even now there are still-born deaths or infants are born grotesquely deformed — due to the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The diseases will be passed on to generation after generation.

Despite all the horrors which flowed from the dropping of the first atomic bombs, the myth is still peddled that they might have saved lives — that the bombings did at least end the war with Japan.

Defeated

But even Dwight Eisenhower, the supreme commander of the Allied Forces, and later to become US President was later to admit that, 'Japan was already defeated... It wasn't necessary to hit them with that awful thing'.

The reason why the bombs were dropped has been explained by historian John Bagguley:

'The decision to use the atomic bomb had been made at a higher, political level: not in order to defeat Japan with the minimum expenditure of American lives, but in order to induce a Japanese surrender before the forthcoming Soviet invasion of Manchuria had time to take effect.'

Control

'If an immediate peace could be obtained, the control of Japan in the postwar world, and predominant influence in the Pacific and East Asia, would pertain to the United States alone, untrammelled by Soviet claims to influence. The sudden surrender of Japan, moreover, would underline the immense, atomic power now at American disposal.'

So, the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki had the purpose of out-influencing the Soviet Union. In that respect they were not so much directed against Japan, but as a warning to the Soviet Union. They were a 'pre-emptive strike'.

That over a million people died, were injured or have suffered the effects was, for the United States the price to be paid for the security of US 'democracy'.



The aftermath

BEHIND THE WEDDING



This month's episode of the soap opera of the extra-but-ordinary Windsor family is the marriage of their eldest son. This is a saga of epic proportions threatening to involve the entire population of Britain as 'loyal' extras.

On the production side the entire resources of the BBC have been deemed inadequate and additional cameras have been flown in. The audience for this special episode is no less than the world, with the latest development in satellite technology beaming the happy couple to an expected 750 million viewers in the 'Commonwealth' and sympathetic capitalist countries.

The bill is picked up by Her Majesty's loyal subjects.

From the point of view of the British ruling class and its establishment the marriage is a timely reinforcer of the cherished myth of national unity. The royals are put to work in the service of maintaining a dominant and reactionary social order.

Today, the monarchy, having lost its position with the downfall of the aristocracy, is a pampered hostage of capitalism. But the privileges given to the present 'royals' are not freely given by the ruling class.

They are given in exchange for the work of obstructing and suppressing progressive changes in Britain and the neo-colonial domains.

This role would be certain to come to the fore in the event of the election of a socialist government determined to govern in the interests of working people.

The two ugly sisters were horrified to discover that Cinderella was the beautiful princess who had been at the three balls. They were so angry that they were pale with rage.

At the palace, the King was glad to welcome his son's bride. He arranged a magnificent wedding for the prince and Cinderella. All the kings and queens, the princes and princesses, in the land, came to the wedding. The wedding feast lasted a whole week.

And so Cinderella and the prince lived happily ever after.



But Lady Diana did not need long to make up her mind, 'I never had any doubts about it. It's what I always wanted'

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR

'We want to make her like a fairy princess' said the designers of the wedding dress.

DAILY EXPRESS

LADY DI-THE GIRL NEXT DOOR

REGARDLESS of the actual Diana Spencer, the 'Lady Di' image is built from nothing to precise specifications. She must have NO PAST (no more Mrs Simpsons) — so her father assures journalists she never had a lover.

She must, of course, be Aristocracy — so her Family Tree discovers a common ancestor in the homosexual Henry VI. She must be fertile, but not earthy, attractive but not astounding, bright but not a know-all.

She will lead fashions, change definitions of intelligence and beauty, but above all, must be constructed as the personification of the family — so that we, from our own families, will identify with her.

Thus we see 'The Lady Diana' slumming it in Kensington, doing her own shopping and even working in a kindergarten — a job she gave up as soon as she got engaged.

This identification works twice — at the level of wish-fulfillment, the fairy story, and at the level of families we know. In her ordinariness we are meant to forget her class, her lineage, her wealth, and rejoice in the assured continuation of another Royal Family.



The girl next door, Diana, as she was at three—at Park House, Sandringham



Her friend said, 'She's so domesticated, she always seemed to be washing dishes or cleaning up'

THE ROYAL WEDDING

Janet Reger, renowned for her slinky, sexy lingery, is a firm favourite with Lady Di.

WOMANS OWN

She knew how to shoulder her new responsibilities..... She plunged through the crowd

SUN

It gave Britain an uplift..... It caused cleavage amongst the public.....

DAILY EXPRESS



ALL THE WORLD loves a lover — especially a fairy princess — because through her we can live again our dreams. In our fantasies, again carefully constructed, we believe love can conquer all — a force so powerful it could even thrust us onto the throne of England against insurmountable odds. Prince Charming will do anything to get us

In England today, the most literate nation on earth, Romance remains the most popular form of literature. Reality, we all know, is a little different... behind the courting lies the erotic, the sexual and the State power, feudal oppression, huge inequalities of wealth and privilege. He was told to get married for political rather than romantic reasons... the choice was narrowed to around 30 high-born ladies... and so on.

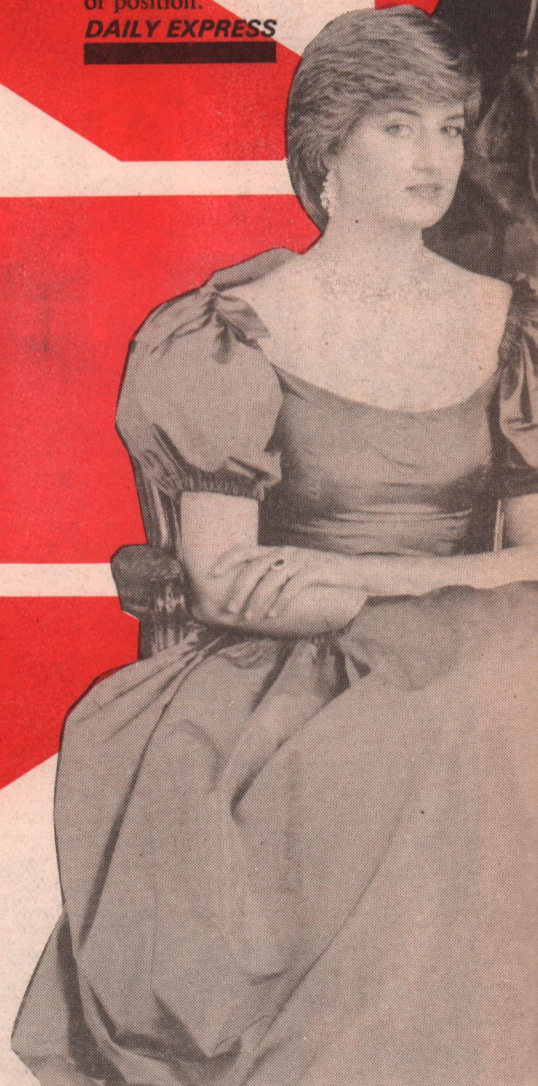
Romance works not by forgetting the realities, but by glorifying their trappings. We are invited to celebrate the wedding publicly, titillate ourselves privately by thinking about the wedding night, and thereby accept continuing relations of power.

Barbara Cartland says: 'The royal wedding mirrors my plot lines where a virginal heroine like Di falls passionately in love with a man of nobility and rakish, if not raffish, characteristics, like Charles.'

DAILY MAIL

Diana 'told me she would marry for love, not for money or position.'

DAILY EXPRESS



For the monarchy it means that the direct succession is almost certainly assured.

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR

Her father, E... physical spec...

In the later sta... subjected to a... that she could

WOMANS O...

We are asked to celebrate a wedding — but made to identify with a family. Why? Not simply to take our minds off Thatcher and unemployment. But because families endure (while capitalism does not); because families are human, fallible and accepting (while capitalism is technical, divisive and ruthless); because families inherit (while capitalism disinherits); and because, above all, families give (while capitalism takes).

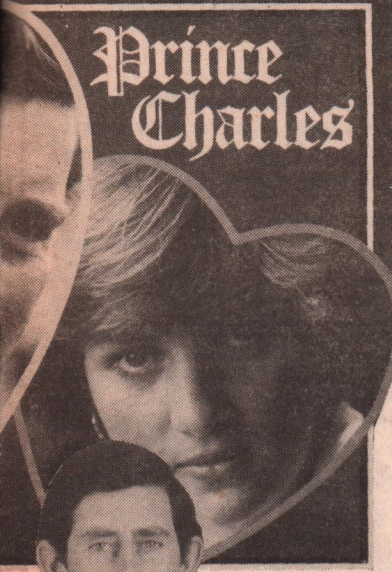
But wouldn't a President, complete with family album, do just as well? Not so. Presidents have to be elected (by someone),

ROYAL



Lady Diana

THE ROMANCE



Prince Charles



The dashing bachelor sowed a few wild oats... but at heart he was always looking for his discreet English rose...

WOMANS OWN

WHILE SHE is rapidly constructed to fit the position, Future Queen, he occupies a position constructed over the centuries — that of the Ruler.

The task is to re-construct a ruler while concealing the ruled. Thus this ruler has sown a few wild oats, is active, dashing, even rakish — but he'll settle down to be a good constitutional monarch.

There are two lines of connection — the historical monarch, genetic heir to the Kings of Olde that put the 'Great' in Britain, but also a practical leader of men, a military uniform, a hint of the forces of the state — but so symbolic that we cannot hold him accountable for the massacres of history, the rubber bullets in Belfast and the CS gas in Toxteth.



Of earlier Princes of Wales: 'Some won their spurs with great courage fighting against the French... others died bravely in battle, fighting for their birthright'

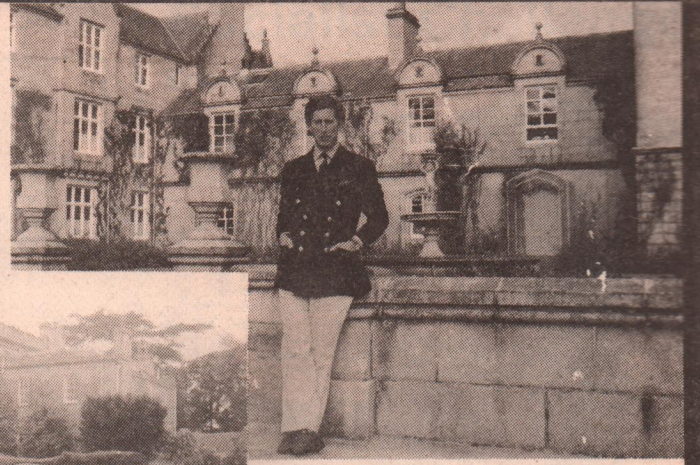
THE ROYAL WEDDING

One favourite swear word from Prince Charles silenced an angry crowd yesterday. 'Bloody' was the word. And that was enough to calm down demonstrating students at Delhi University. The students, all members of a militant Hindu group, wanted to hand him a letter complaining about virginity tests conducted on Indian women by immigration officers at London's Heathrow Airport.

DAILY MIRROR

Spencer, said 'She was always a fine of her romance with Charles, she was meet gynaecological check out to ensure for him heirs.

they can be impeached, they have real political power and they represent, in some sense, the people. To the monarchy all this is alien — they represent an unrepresentative class, vestigial, overtaken by history, politically outwitted, economically dependent. They represent the past — knights in armour, wild Welsh Princes with silver tongues — they represent tradition, a false history, precisely as it is presented in school, and thus become, for the English, their passion and their torment.



The home of the Prince and Princess of Wales joins a list of distinguished properties Charles owns in Devon, Somerset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and London which account for the bulk of his income

THE ROYAL WEDDING

As Duke of Cornwall he is entitled to all the revenues from the Duchy. The land involved is about 140,000 acres, including not just Cornwall, but most of Kennington, South London. Latest estimates put the Prince's personal income at £300,000 a year.

LABOUR RESEARCH

THE FAMILY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

AS A 'Family' of loyal nations the Empire lies in ruins. Why does the ruling class insist on continuing the sham — the 'Commonwealth Prime Minister Conferences', the Privy Council, Royal visits — instead of letting the monarchy 'rule' Britain — well England, excepting of course Wales, and Brixton and parts of Bristol, Bradford, Southall... Liverpool...

There's the answer. The Empire Strikes Back. Naked class struggle, violent oppression, racism and bloodshed, for so long kept 'out there' in the 'colonies', is now reimported to metropolitan Britain.

The 'troublesome natives', once silenced by a Royal Word, are now British workers who join unions and run British Rail.

While the capitalists construct a media event and the aristocracy construct their family reunion, we, the 'consumers' are constructed as (loyal?) subjects.

The careful construction of the image of Royalty mirrors the real construction of their political power. Commander-in-chief of the armed forces but unable to direct their actions, chooser of governments but unable to make policy, owner of fabulous wealth but unable to distribute it, titular head of state but unable to marry a black, or a catholic, or a commoner... this is the formula for a profoundly conservative system whose options are only open to anti-democratic forces... it is inconceivable that the three-pronged coalition of Capitalist, Monarchy and the Armed Forces would ever allow a democratically elected Left government to take power.



TRUNK CALL FOR CHARLES!

PRINCE Charles comes face to face with a jumbo-sized problem... in the shape of a five-ton elephant called Laxmin. Villagers at Pipili in north-east India were determined to meet the Prince on his eastern tour. So they set up Laxmin as a mammoth roadblock, dressed in her best finery. It worked. The Prince stepped smiling out of his car to see the 75-year-old elephant — who nearly hit him with her trunk. Charles ducked and said: 'That was a close call!' But he didn't mind his encounter on the trunk road. Picture by ARTHUR EDWARDS



Doing the Royal Reggae

PRINCE CHARLES really got into the swing of things during a tour of a city's ethnic communities yesterday. He joined in the reggae dancing with delighted young West Indians at a Derby community centre. Disco fan Tony Stanley, 23, said: 'The Prince has got good rhythm. He taught us a thing or two.' And for the Prince's next dance... please turn to page 3

ROYAL ROCKER: An enthusiastic dancing partner for Prince Charles.



Support the youth rebellion!

By Andy Buchanan, Revolution supporter

IF socialists needed any confirmation of the importance of organising youth around socialist policies, the events of the past weeks have surely provided it.

Revolution Youth recognises these events for what they are — outbursts of rage against a system which offers youth no future at all. They are massive mobilisations of working class youth, black and white, united by a common desire to hit back at the representatives of Tory Britain.

But we also know that unless the energy of these uprisings can be harnessed and directed, unless it can be linked to the fight of the whole of the working class against the Tory government, the rebellions will peter out, battered down by riot police, water cannon and rubber bullets.

Socialist Challenge supporters can play a vital role in channelling this energy. The fight should be taken up in union branches and local Labour Parties for the labour movement to support and defend the youth facing massive police repression. The shameful stance of the labour movement leaders in failing to defend the youth from Tory rebellion has to be challenged.

But we need to do much more than this. Socialists should reach out to the rebellious youth

themselves, and help them to organise politically. To do this we need a socialist youth organisation.

Revolution Youth, together with its supporters within the LPYS, is working to build such an organisation. We have already been out on the streets in force, selling papers, discussing with people and organising meetings.

We have been fighting for the LPYS branches to do the same so that a whole new force of youth can be brought directly into the struggle for socialism. Such an approach would enormously strengthen the whole of the left.

But all this costs money. The resources of Revolution Youth are already badly overstretched, and we're aiming to produce a free 4-page broadsheet centred on the rebellions to boost the work of our supporters on the streets.

So we would ask Socialist Challenge supporters both to help our political work in the rebellions locally and also to send us a hefty financial donation.

You can contact Revolution at PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

SUBSCRIBE TO SOCIALIST CHALLENGE

For new readers we are offering TEN ISSUES of Socialist Challenge for the incredibly low price of £2 (real value £3.15!)

With 12 month subscriptions we are giving away a FREE COPY of Malcolm X — An Autobiography by Alex Haley and Malcolm X, published by Penguin Books (usual price £1.95)

Complete the form below and rush your order to: Socialist Challenge, PO Box 50, London N1 2XP. Cheques and POs payable to 'Socialist Challenge'.

SPECIAL OFFER

12 months: £14
plus free copy of Malcolm X — An Autobiography
6 months - £7
10 issues for £2 only.
Overseas: 12 months — Surface mail & Europe air mail £17.
Other air mail £24.
Delete as appropriate.
Name.....
Address.....

For multi-reader institutions double the above rates.

New free book offer

OUR new free book offer for summer is 'Malcolm X — An Autobiography' by Malcolm X and Alex Haley, published by Penguin Books.

Malcolm X joined the Black Muslims after spending six years in prison for burglary. Twelve years later, he left the Muslims and spent what was to be the last year of his life developing his political ideas.

He died a black nationalist and a revolutionary internationalist fighting to build an independent, united black movement through the Organisation of Afro-American Unity.

There is much for socialists today to learn from the life and ideas of Malcolm X — a life cut tragically short by brutal murder but rich in political ideas and action.

With 12 month subscriptions to Socialist Challenge we are giving away a FREE COPY of 'Malcolm X — An Autobiography', normal price £1.95.



Other Bookshop Appeal Fund

MORE than six hundred pounds has now been raised for the Other Bookshop's £750 Appeal Fund.

The fund was established to raise money for Sheila Malone — who received a fractured skull when fascists attacked the shop last month — and for improved security measures at the shop.

Monies have come from Labour Parties, trade unions, anti-racist committees, Socialist Challenge

groups and dozens of individual donations. As a result we are able to send Sheila on a convalescent holiday.

Sheila told Socialist Challenge: 'I would like to sincerely thank all the individuals and organisations who have sent me cards, messages and gifts over the past weeks. This overwhelming response has given me great strength during the last few weeks.'



Individual badge 20p + 11½p postage; 10 badges or more cost 15p each post free. Order from Hackney Book Group c/o PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

International

July issue

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.

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 Barrett, 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 Eliot Crescent, Hamilton or Paul Youngson, 18 Forrest Crescent, Hamilton.

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, Cleveland 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 Southgate.

BRISTOL: SC on sale 11-1, 'Hole in Ground', Haymarket. More info Box 2, c/o 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-12.30pm.

COVENTRY: SC available from Wedge Bookshop.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD: SC sales in Time Square, Sat 10.30-1.30pm.

HUDDERSFIELD: SC sold Sat 11am-1pm. The Piazza. SC also available at Peaceworks.

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.

WEMBLEY: SC sales Fri 6.45am at North Wembley BR Station.

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.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

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 Newsfare, 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.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

H Block crisis threatens Irish government

By Geoff Bell

UNLESS Margaret Thatcher abandons her 'no talks' and 'no concessions' attitude to the H Block hunger strike the recently formed Irish coalition government is likely to fall from office within several weeks.

The Fine Gael/Labour coalition presently survives by a majority of two. But there are two Irish MPs who are unable and unwilling to take their seats in the Irish parliament. One is hunger strike Kieran Doherty, the other is fellow H Block prisoner Paddy Agnew.

Kieran is likely to die this week, and when that happens Paddy will resign his seat. The resulting by-elections will probably lead to the election of two candidates from the opposition Fianna Fail party. The parliamentary majority of Irish premier Garret FitzGerald would be wiped out.

That is why FitzGerald is now applying considerable pressure on Britain to compromise over the demands of the hunger strikers.

Last week it was revealed that FitzGerald had sent a letter to US President Reagan, 'the contents of

which' according to a spokesperson at the White House, 'dealt with Northern Ireland and the prisoners'. The letter was widely reported to be a plea for Reagan to tell Thatcher to drop her intransigent stance.

That has not been the limit of FitzGerald's international endeavours. According to the *Irish Times* the Irish premier has asked 'a number of foreign governments to put pressure on the British government to enter into direct talks with the hunger strikers.'

Quoting a 'source close to the government' the *Irish Times* said the lobbying was 'the most persistent effort ever seen and far beyond anything the British have ever had from this country'.

On Sunday Britain again rejected the chorus of international demands for direct talks with the prisoners. Humphrey Atkins — Thatcher's puppet in Ireland — declared he would not negotiate while the hunger strike lasted.

This effectively ended the latest 'peace' intervention from the International Red Cross. They are also believed to have told Britain that there could be no progress unless there were direct negotiations with the prisoners by the government.



The scene in Dublin after Irish police had attacked H Block demonstrators

FitzGerald is now likely to take an increasingly hostile public stance against Thatcher, especially after the scenes outside the British Embassy in Dublin on Saturday when there were bloody clashes between H Block demonstrators and the Irish police.

The Irish government is consider-

ing calling out the army to protect the Embassy from the wrath of the Irish people when another demonstration is due to take place there next Saturday.

But FitzGerald knows that strong arm tactics against H Block demonstrators will not secure his own

government. Because of the growing strength of feeling in the South of Ireland against Thatcher he desperately needs an H Block solution.

Otherwise the H Blocks on the one hand and Thatcher on the other will make his premiership one of the shortest in Irish history.

Ireland to be major issue at

OVER 50 resolutions on Ireland have been submitted to the Labour Party conference in October. The vast majority call for British withdrawal and a break from Labour/Tory bipartisanship on Ireland.

Altogether there are four times as many resolutions as were submitted last year — a reflection of the rapidly growing feeling within the rank and file of the Labour Party that Ireland should be an issue in British politics.

Many of the resolutions are based on the model circulated by the Labour Committee on Ireland. Among its demands is a call for ending of the Loyalist right to veto any political settlement in Ireland.

Contrary to the clear feeling in the constituencies, the study group set up by the party's national executive to produce a policy in Ireland has come out in favour of such a veto.

It has recommended to the NEC that a North of Ireland referendum would have to approve any moves towards Irish unity.

With the in-built Loyalist majority in the North of Ireland — a majority artificially created by the British in 1921 — this would mean there would be no prospect of such unity.

The study group's proposals were due to be debated by the NEC as Socialist Challenge went to press. If the Labour leadership support the study group's last minute decision to back the Loyalist veto they will face stiff opposition should they try and sell that line to the party conference.

But if nothing else, it is obvious that a serious debate on Ireland is well underway in the Labour Party. That is one victory for the Labour Committee on Ireland.

The next one would be to win the conference to support for a commitment to unconditional British withdrawal.

Labour conference

By Geoff Bell



See how the Irish revolt!

By Loretta Loach

TWELVE years ago the minority community in the North of Ireland, driven to anger by discrimination in housing and employment, took to the streets to demand equal rights.

In doing so, they were met with the same brutal repression that rebels in Liverpool, London, Birmingham and Manchester were met with last week.

No one would suggest that these uprisings had identical causes but one thing remains common to them both: the brutal response of the ruling class.

Groups of police officers are now being trained in the use of plastic bullets, CS gas, and water cannons. They are to be equipped with anti-riot gear and specially protected vehicles, befitting that of a militarised police force such as the Royal Ulster Constabulary that operates in the northern six counties of Ireland.

The techniques of repression, used for the first time in 'mainland' Britain, have been well perfected in the British army-occupied part of Ireland. The plastic bullet — 'one of the most valuable weapons ever produced' according to the British military — was first introduced in the North of Ireland in August 1972.

Several people have died having been shot at point blank range with this weapon. Many more have been maimed and seriously injured.

The water cannon, used frequently in former British colonies was first used in Derry in October 1968. Nearly one year later, civil rights demonstrators in Derry were choked and sickened by CS gas.

The 'Irish' experience provides important lessons for the British labour movement. These were expressed in Tony Benn's speech at last weekend's Labour Co-ordinating Committee Conference, where he attacked repression in Ireland and said: 'We must not allow the government to try this policy again here.'

It would be dangerous, he continued, to respond to riots by turning the police into 'temporary armies of occupation'.

The British Army, which went on the streets of Derry and Belfast in 1969, was meant to be only 'temporary'. Instead, it has ended up perfecting the technology of repression and passing the lessons on to the sectarian Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Last week police chiefs from Britain went to visit the RUC to study their methods of dealing with popular revolt. But what these British cops didn't seem to notice was that the Irish revolt has not been suppressed.

So perhaps blacks, youth and labour movement organisations in this country could in turn learn something from those who have resisted repression in the North of Ireland. Fortunately the Troops Out Movement is providing such an opportunity.

It is organising a mass delegation to Belfast on the weekend 8/9 August. It will mark the 12th anniversary of British troops in Ireland and the 10th anniversary of internment — which has now been replaced by the notorious H Blocks.

For further details of the TOM delegation phone 01-267 2004 or fill in the slip below:

To: TOM, PO Box 353, London NW5 4NH

Name

Address

Tel. no.

Organisation (if applicable)

I am interested in joining the TOM mass delegation to West Belfast on 8/9 August. Please send me further information.

By Davy Jones

MANY heads rolled at last week's Polish Communist Party congress. First to go was former party leader Edward Gierek. He was expelled from the party for his part in the corruption and mismanagement which brought the country to the brink of economic chaos.

Next to be cleared out were many old Central Committee members. Only 18 of the 146 members of the old CC were elected by secret ballot to the enlarged 200-strong body. Thirty-three of the 49 regional party secretaries got the chop, including those from Warsaw, Gdansk, Poznan, Krakow and Katowice.

Hardline

Many former top leaders were given the thumbs down. Head of State Henryk Jablonski, General Moczar and Tadeusz Grabski, Moscow-backed 'hard men', failed to be elected to the new CC. Even Mieczyslaw Jagielski who signed last summer's Gdansk agreement with

Polish CP congress: Old wine, new bottles

Solidarity lost his CC place.

It wasn't only 'hardliners' who were edged out of leading positions. Tadeusz Fiszbach, noted as a leading 'reformer' also failed to be elected to the CC.

Solidarity

Forty members of the new independent trade union movement Solidarity were elected to the party Central Committee. One of them, Zofia Grzyb, a party member for thirty years is the first woman ever to be elected to the party Politburo.

The emergency party congress with its election by secret ballot represented a major break with the usual 'democratic' congress in Eastern Europe. The fact that the party members were able to remove the old leaders shows the

strength of the movement for workers democracy in Poland since last summer.

But these dramatic changes in personnel at the top don't represent a real revolution. Any doubts on this score were soon settled by the Soviet press who cautiously welcomed the outcome of the congress.

And Polish workers were soon brought down to earth when Prime Minister Jaruzelski calmly announced at the end of the congress that they would have to pay for the economic crisis by price rises of up to 110 per cent on foodstuffs and oil!

Airline

Such an attack on workers' living standards is bound to deepen the growing unrest. This week Polish airline (LOT) workers are due to take further

strike action. They are campaigning for the right to nominate their own boss and to veto appointments made by the party apparatus.

These twin themes of defending living standards and fighting for workers' control will dominate the coming months now that the party congress is out of the way. The party leadership will increasingly try to saddle Solidarity with responsibility for solving the economic crisis.

Debate

As the union movement prepares for its opening in August, the debate is shaping up between those who accept the need for a joint government/Solidarity partnership to solve the economic crisis and those who favour the workers charting an independent course. Acceptance of the former view could lead to the demoralisation of the workers and the loss of the gains of the past year's struggles.

And whatever new faces are at the top of the Polish CP, they would like nothing better than to wear down the new union movement and get rid of it altogether.



SHOW where you stand with a SOLIDARNOSC T-shirt. Small, large and medium sizes. Just £2.99 (incl p&p) from SCD T-shirts, PO Box 50, London N1 2XP. Cheques to 'The Week'.

Israel moves to war in Middle East

By Toni Gorton

ISRAEL'S ON Beirut, the capital of Lebanon on 17 July represents a major escalation in its terror campaign in the Middle East.

This latest move, which resulted in over 400 civilians dead and several hundred injured, follows hard on the heels of the Israeli bombing of Iraq's nuclear reactor on 7 June and months of repeated bombing and shelling of towns and villages in southern Lebanon.

Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin declared: 'We shall continue to attack terrorist bases and headquarters even if they are purposefully located in the vicinity of, or within, civilian concentrations.'

Several days before, Reagan had received a letter from Begin in which the situation in Lebanon was compared to the period leading up to the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

This war was initiated by the Israeli regime with a series of Israeli air strikes against the Egyptian air force and followed by the destruction of the Syrian and Jordanian air force and the capture of large pieces of territory by Zionist forces.

Syria

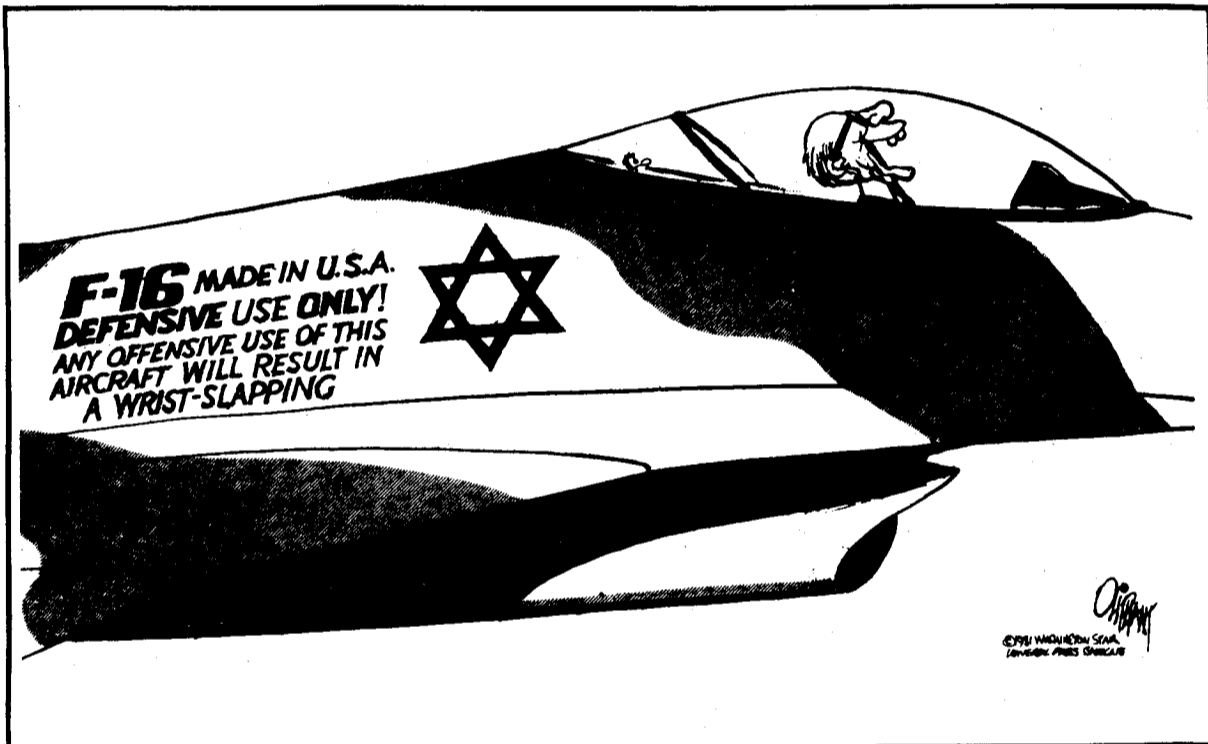
Earlier this year on 28 April Syria removed anti-aircraft missiles from Lebanon after Begin had warned that Israel would resort to 'military action' and shot down two Syrian helicopters.

The Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam pointed out that Israel just 'wants security for its planes to bomb and strafe Lebanese population centers and Palestinians. So Israel wants the uncontested right to strike at peaceful Lebanese...'

Altered

But 1981 is not 1967 and the international balance of forces has altered in favour of the oppressed and the working class.

Although the British government may express its 'extreme concern' and Reagan is described as



'vexed and perplexed' the likelihood of western governments limiting or stopping the Israeli war drive is remote.

Depends

American imperialism depends on the existence

of the Israeli state as its main ally in the Middle East against the Arab revolution, especially since the overthrow of the Shah in Iran.

Without US aid Israel would sink without a trace. Each year Israel receive \$2.2 billion in US

governmental aid and another \$1 billion from the US Jewish community.

Condemn

Following the Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor the United Nations Security Council voted

unanimously to strongly condemn the venture although without calling for any sanctions.

The US delegate Jeane Kirkpatrick stated at that time 'Nothing has happened that in any way alters the strength of our commitment or the warmth of

our feelings'.

She said, 'We in the Reagan administration, are proud to call Israel a friend and ally.'

Inflation

Israel's international isolation and the catastrophic state of its economy — it has a current inflation rate of 133 per cent — has grown out of Israel's permanent war against the Arab peoples.

The military war against the Palestinians, against the Arab revolution and the measures that have been taken against the Jewish workers within Israel are necessary to maintain Israel as a Zionist state.

Force

The recent elections show that the Jewish working class has not yet broken from Zionism, although there is obviously deep discontent.

The only force that can turn back the revolutionary mobilisation of the Arab and Jewish masses and the sooner that comes about the better.

NEWS DIGEST
19 JULY 1981

3,000 killed by Yangtse

THE Yangtse river's worst flood of the century has killed more than 3,000 people and injured nearly 50,000, Chinese officials said yesterday. A huge surge of floodwater was due to reach China's biggest dam at Gezhouba this weekend.

In Taipei, Taiwan, there are plans to air-drop relief supplies over the stricken mainland province of Sichuan. They will be delivered by balloons released from a military base in Taiwan.

19 JULY 1981 No. 8:35 Price 35p

THE SUNDAY TIMES

111 die in US hotel 'tea dance' disaster

by Florence Frischer, Kansas City

AT LEAST 111 people died on Friday on the rubble-strewn dance floor at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Kansas City, Missouri, when two crowded balconies in the 12-month-old building broke away and crashed onto the guests below.

...bodies, dragged from the ... were laid out among ... side flower

... while discussing tactics.

to a ... pr ... response ... formity ... port in ... unity."

A do p ... phrase, ... Labour's ... was "a p ... which it ... charge."

Mrs T ... judged. ... reality ... lishm ... Social ... anti-g ... supp ... of p ... on ... wi ...

No Comment

Women's Rights

Positive action for a woman's right to work

By Hazel MacPherson

READING through two articles on women in the *Militant* (26 June) recently, I was struck with the familiarity of the arguments they advanced in opposition to positive action for women.

When I first joined my union — the National Union of Railwaymen — I went up to union headquarters to ask about special structures and training facilities for women.

I was told that no such structures existed because, after all, women are no different from men. I was also told that to promote such facilities would be to invite divisions in the union.

As I'd just got a job

where I'm the only woman in my section and I'd been through an intimidating and sexist interviewing process to get it, I was in no mood for such platitudes!

Heather Rawlings' article about the Labour Party Women's Conference makes exactly the same points as the NUR administrator.

She says: 'Some delegates were putting forward demands for positive discrimination with

measures like job quotas. These demands could be used to divide the working class along sex lines... such demands in a time of recession and slump will not mobilise men and unify all workers'.

Logic

In other words, no divisions exist, but even if they do, it wouldn't be right to mention it in a time of recession!

In the same issue of *Militant* Margaret Crear argues that positive action would not create more jobs and that positive action within the structures of the labour movement

would be a 'shortcut' to involving women. It would produce female officials elected because of sex rather than suitability.

Of course the argument that positive action does not create more jobs is quite correct — if you accept the logic of the bosses and are prepared to shoulder the responsibility for their crisis.

Fiat

It is because we don't accept this logic that Socialist Challenge supporters fight around the demand for a 35-hour week, and work sharing with no loss of pay and for

a minimum wage. The fight for positive action for a woman's right to work cannot be seen in isolation from these other demands.

The workers at the Fiat factory in Turin are among the most militant and politically conscious in Europe. They won their fight for a sliding scale of wages some time ago and went on to fight for and win demands for positive action for women. They now have a fixed quota of 50 per cent for women workers. Their class action won this right for women workers.

Unless women win the argument for positive ac-

tion within the labour movement, we will never achieve our aims. Only the organised labour movement can win a woman's right to work.

Focus

That's why we need to fight for special structures and facilities for women which recognise that, at present, working women do not look automatically to the labour movement as a focus for their own struggles. And those that do, don't feel competent to play a leading role.

Special training programmes, branch meetings in working hours and

similar measures would ensure that reserved places would be filled by large numbers of women with the necessary self-confidence and expertise.

Militant advocates the unity of the class on the basis of the lowest common denominator, and it is ironic that they do, because that is precisely the concept put forward by the right wing of the Labour Party to stifle debate and stop the move towards greater democracy and involvement within the Party.

If *Militant* continue to abstain on the questions which most divide the class, if they fail to take up the rights of women then they place themselves firmly on the side of reaction.

Fighting for real equality

By Valerie Coultas

FOR a long time, *Militant* has turned its back on the women's movement. Now, with debates on feminism spreading through the ranks of the trade unions and the Labour Party, *Militant* is changing its attitude.

They have heralded women's sections inside the Labour Party as the answer for working class women in Britain. This is a welcome change, but how real is it when, at the same time, they have become one of the most outspoken tendencies opposing positive action for women?

In an article entitled 'The Way Forward — Positive Discrimination or Class Action?' in *Militant* 26 June Margaret Crear spells out their position:

'In a period when mass unemployment is biting into the living standards of the whole working class "positive discrimination" is a recipe for dividing the working class.'

Class action and the unions working harder to involve women in the general economic battle, is the only solution *Militant* offers to women.

Yet the idea of positive action is not new; Karl Marx was one of the first to point out that equal opportunity applied to unequal individuals or groups is a sham.

The ruling class tells the workers that everyone has the same opportunity to become a capitalist. But they conveniently 'forget' that their members begin with huge amounts of inherited wealth including the factories themselves. Working people start out owning nothing, except their capacity to work.

Similarly, women do not enter the labour market, or any other sphere of society, on equal terms with men. For centuries, women have had limited access to training and education. Their political rights have been restricted, and they have not been regarded as personalities in their own right but as possessions of men.

Is it divisive to recognise this discrimination and oppression against

women, and to want to redress the balance through positive action?

Margaret Crear refers to the problem of the 'dead weight of tradition and prejudice within the labour movement' but the whole emphasis of her article is to try and avoid recognising that divisions exist within the working class movement today. Tradition and prejudice still divide the male and female worker; black from white; young from old and skilled from unskilled.

It becomes even more important to counter divisions in the working class movement at a time of economic crisis. You only have to listen to Enoch Powell's attempts to stir up race hatred today to realise that.

Militant object to legislation being the focus

of a campaign for positive action. We would never suggest that women should rely on Parliament or any other capitalist institution to win their liberation.

But it's only by women winning the labour movement to a perspective of fighting for real equality for its female members, committing the next Labour government to new equality legislation, that a focus for mass class action can be created.

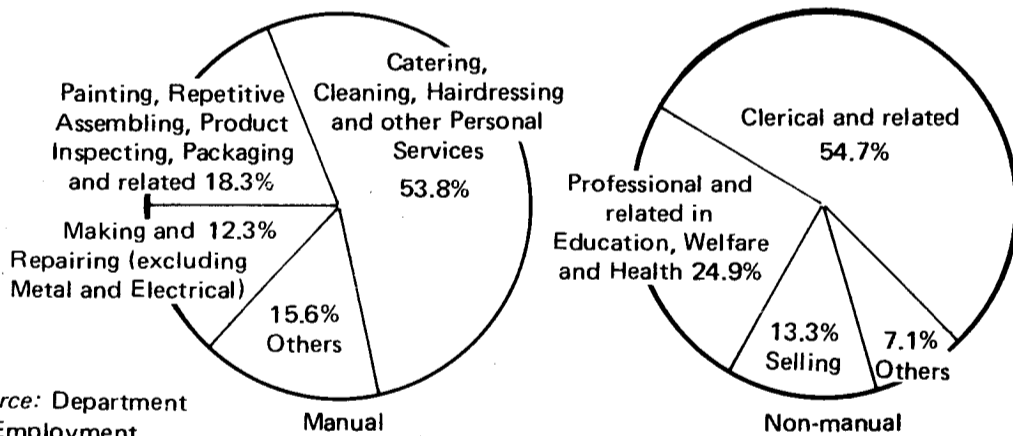
Positive discrimination is not a policy against the working class as *Militant* suggest. There is no objective reason for working people to be opposed to freedom and equality for women.

Prejudice only — and in some cases it's a big only — holds them back from realising this. *Militant* offers no political way forward for women — it has succumbed to the dead weight of tradition in the British labour movement that it claims to oppose.

POSITIVE action for women's rights has received widespread support within the labour movement. Both the Women's TUC and the Labour Women's conference supported positive action proposals. Opposition to the idea has generally come from the right wing bureaucrats in the labour movement.

But now the *Militant* — which describes itself as a Marxist paper for Labour — had added its voice to this opposition.

Valerie Coultas — former staff writer on *Socialist Challenge* — and Hazel MacPherson from the railworkers' union examine the views of *Militant* on women's rights and conclude that they have little in common with Marxism.



Source: Department of Employment, *New Earnings Survey 1979*.

WOMEN'S WORK

'The overall picture is one of continued and increased concentration of women into the lowest grades

of white and blue collar work.' CIS Report: Women in the 80's.



Photo: CHRIS DAVIES (Report)
Trico workers struck for equal pay in 1976. In 1980, women were still only earning 72 per cent of men's

average wages because they still didn't have access to the better paid jobs.

LATEST issue out now.



JULY/AUGUST 1981 No. 4 10p

The 220 Women and 16 men at the Lee Teasdale factory in Greenock have now been in occupation against closure for 22 weeks. They are leading the fight of all workers against unemployment and for the equal right of women to a job. The occupation has achieved magnificent support from the labour movement in Scotland and are receiving over £2,000 per week in donations from trade unions such as the Green Shipbuilders. This is a vital supplement to the paltry £5 strike pay they get.

Theresa: I think the support we're getting will be what will help us to win.

The women themselves are just as determined now as they were at the beginning. For as they explain, they have nothing to lose. For example, 70 per cent of the women are under 25 years of age so most of them would have got about £10 minimum monthly income if the women this is a life and death struggle since they are the sole breadwinners of the family.

Caroline: Women have just as much right to work as men.

The women at Lee Teasdale have shown all workers the way to really fight unemployment and they have shown that it is often women who are prepared to fight longest and hardest for what we want. Women have as much right to a job as men do and we refuse! From attempts to direct men and women and to imply that women should sacrifice jobs in a time of crisis, the women at Lee Teasdale have thrown down a challenge to everyone in the labour movement, we have to take up that challenge by getting the maximum support for their struggle in our own unions and down the country and by using this campaign to break out the fight for jobs and against the policies of the government.

Caroline: I think a lot of people have been shocked by us women doing it, but we never dreamed we'd get the support we have.

Linda: It's not just our jobs, there's the whole working class. If we win or if Teasdale had fought, it would really boost a lot of people up. Somebody has to make a stand otherwise Britain's just going to be a big scrapheap.

For more details about the call for a demonstration, see *Women's Rights*.

For more details about the call for a demonstration, see *Women's Rights*.

A Paper for Action in the Unions on Women's Rights

Red Door Without a Bolt

By Kathy Kirkham

SADLY, a lot of feminist plays, and political theatre in general for that matter, end up as earnest agitprop but are theatrically just plain dull. Not so the Sadista Sisters.

Their programme warns the audience to expect 'a collection of bleak, modern fables, innocent music, violent lyrics, crude actors, filthy humour and sex'.

And from the first disconcerting moments of their 'Red Door Without a Bolt', you certainly get the feeling that with this feminist rock 'n' roll theatre company anything can happen.

'Red Door' is due to go on tour this

autumn. The story line, such as it is, follows the fortunes from womb to women's movement of Susan, our working class heroine. Her father, bullied and humiliated by his boss, metes out the same treatment to her mother, Winnie.

But Winnie eventually breaks free from the ironing board. And daughter Susan, her youthful feminist consciousness unfolding, turns to books and discovers 'the pen is mightier than the prick'.

Using a skilful mix of wry humour and music the Sadista Sisters somehow achieve the impossible. They send up themselves and their audience while hammering home the many kinds of pain and exploitation that scar women's lives.

For Susan the traumas start with dirty rain-coated 'Uncle Ted'. Then comes school with its

academic put-downs and cookery classes. Finally it's a dreary low-paid job on the factory floor (just until a suitable young man comes along).

There her women workmates decide that if they're going to be exploited, they might just as well make some money out of it and go on the game — with devastating consequences.

Each new scene puts the audience through a whole range of emotions. The device of women playing men's roles, for instance, adds to the humour of the funny sequences, yet makes the scenes of child-molesting and sexual violence even more chilling.

It would have been easy, no doubt, for the Sadista Sisters to settle simply for slick anti-male sketches. Men are never let off the hook, certainly. But the show has a definite political edge: the ruling class is cleverly ridiculed, and Margaret Thatcher falls foul of 'superwoman'.

If 'Red Door Without a Bolt' sometimes meanders, if its political framework could have been mapped out more sharply, it never loses for a moment its energy or impact.

'Red Door' is showing at the Tricycle Theatre, Kilburn until 1 Aug.



Jude Alderson and Felicity Steel in 'Red Door'

Can't Pay? Won't Pay!

ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST was a real breakthrough in bringing radical theatre to the West End. Now a new Dario Fo farce 'Can't Pay? Won't Pay!' is opening at the Criterion Theatre. **Phil Hearse** and **Kathy Kirkham** talked to **ALFRED MOLINA**, who played the maniac in the original production of 'Anarchist' and is now one of the leads in 'Can't Pay? Won't Pay!'.

Tell us what the new Dario Fo play is about.

It centres around two working class families in a suburb of Milan. The character I play, Giovanni, is a Communist Party member of the old school — you know step by step, parliament, the whole business, — and doesn't believe in direct action.

His wife Antonia and her friend Margueritta, and all the women in the block where they live are so incensed by constant price rises, that they decide to go to the supermarket and either just take the goods or pay what they think they're worth. They don't realise that they can't get away with it with their husbands.

One of the CP members says 'If I found any wife of mine stealing food, I would make her eat the lot of it, can and all, I'd kill her and then I'd get a divorce'.

So the farce revolves around the women trying to hide this food and convince their husbands. At the same time the husbands become radicalised by things happening in their lives, when one of them is made redundant.

The play's got all the elements of farce, except that it's political and people don't lose their trousers.

All of us involved in the play are socialists. All theatre's political — there's no such thing as non-political — but this kind of theatre gets labelled 'political' because it's left wing.

'Anarchist' came to the West End after it had already been on tour with shows in front of trade unions and so on. But this is starting the other way around?

Actually there's already been a tour of 'Can't Pay? Won't Pay!', but it wasn't very successful. But there's a built in irony here. Dario Fo has proved himself as a play-

wright and has been writing this kind of thing for years, and it's only recently that he's become well known in this country. Now he's become a bankable commodity after the success of 'Anarchist'. That's why this play's gone straight to the Criterion, rather than starting off in arts centres and community halls.

One of the interesting things about Italy is that the struggle against price rises has been organised by the unions — for example the auto reductione movement in Turin, where the unions organised people to refuse to pay fare increases and burn their gas bills. Is there anything of that in the play?

The play makes it quite clear that the women's raid on the supermarket wasn't just individual people looting. They are organised and have a cogent view of what the world is doing to them.

There's a point in the play where one of the women says to her husband who is telling her that stealing is wrong: 'We were out there today fighting, but where was your party, your union — and where were you?'.

Do you think Fo has anything to teach us about political theatre?

There have been two plays by Fo put on in Britain and I've been in both of them. What I've learned is that most British political theatre — like Howard Brenton, David Hare and Trevor Griffiths — is theatre of ideas.

We're bogged down with this literary tradition, so the actors have debates on stage. Fo doesn't do that. He says 'Bugger ideas, let's have a good time, let's enjoy ourselves — our job is to entertain'.

What I've learned is that there's a place for theatre of ideas, but I'm not really interested in it at



Alfred Molina as Fiat worker Giovanni

the moment I'm interested in making politics fun — theatre of action.

You were talking earlier about political theatre breaking into the West End. But surely the audiences there are pretty privileged anyway? You don't get many workers going to the theatre in the West End of London.

Well sure, our audiences are going to be young, upwardly mobile, trendy lefties. The working class don't go to the theatre — they've got the best theatre in the world, British television.

Live theatre has to compete against very high technical standards of theatre production on British TV, very high standards of performance.

So what's the point for ordinary people going to of their way to check out what is ultimately an unknown quantity, when they can just turn on their TV?

The only way that left wing political acting will ultimately get its ideas across is by getting into the mass media that count — television and films.

So our play at the Criterion, the little cell of liberated cultural activity, isn't going to change the

world. In this sense theatre isn't revolutionary; what is revolutionary is controlling television, radio and films.

The only kind of live working class theatre now is variety — and look at it, it's racist, sexist and so on. Look at your average club comedian, what does he talk about? The size of people's cocks, about blacks, women, the Irish. Real vicious stuff.

I think that anyone who's involved in the performing arts, and I know a lot of people disagree with me, has got to be a success to have any kind of influence.

That's what Fo says. If you want to be a socialist artist, then first of all you've got to be a good artist. No amount of commitment will make up for not being a good artist. So what I suppose I'm really talking about is burrowing away from within.

That's what we're starting to do with the West End, starting with 'Accidental Death'. The West End is changing. All these theatre managers are shitting bricks, because they know they're a dying breed. Whereas they've been shrinking over the last 10 years, the fringe has been expanding attracting

new directors writers and so on.

I think what we should do is play them at their own game, and say 'OK, you can have our show, on our terms. You can have our little leftie cabaret on our terms.'

At 'Accident' the performers insisted that the management had different ticket prices for OAPS, students and claimants — that's never happened before in the West End. You're not going to tell me that that's selling out?

'Can't Pay? Won't Pay!' is now showing at the Criterion Theatre, Piccadilly Circus.

Socialist Challenge



WE RULE YOU



WE FOOL YOU



WE SHOOT YOU



WE DO ALL THE WORK