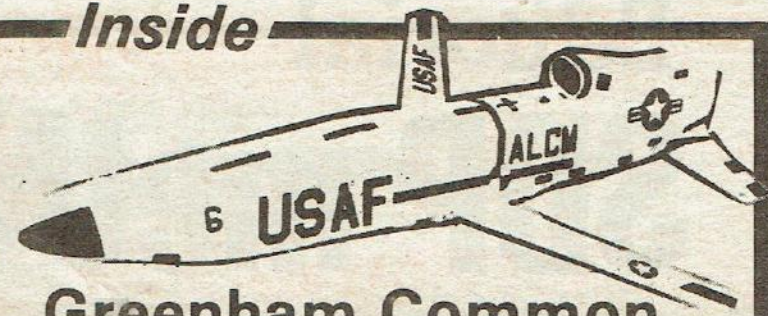


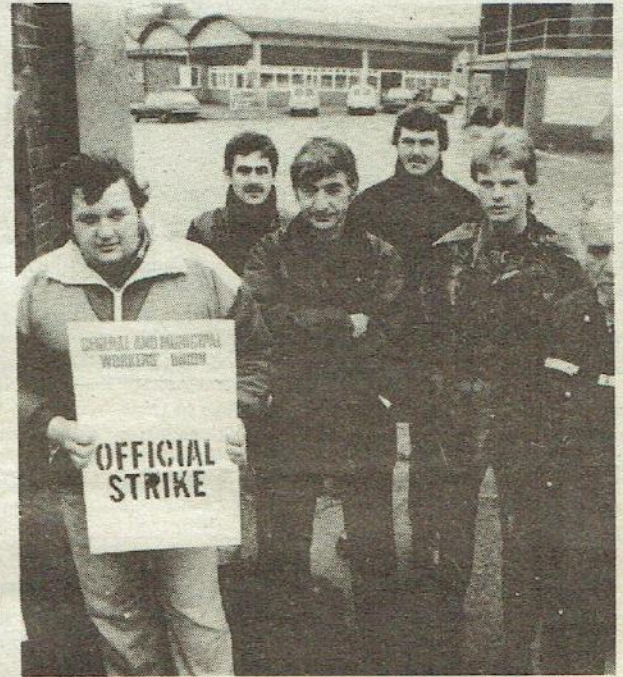
Socialist Challenge

Inside



Greenham Common women speak out pp 6-7

SUPPORT THE WATER WORKERS



The fact that the waterworkers are taking on Thatcher's government and its four per cent pay norm should be welcomed by every working person.

This government is determined that the working class will pay the price for a crisis that has been brought about by a system which is run by big business and its Tory party.

The waterworkers have rejected that idea. They have insisted on the right of workers to get a decent wage and they have no intention of accepting lower living standards so that capitalism can solve its problems.

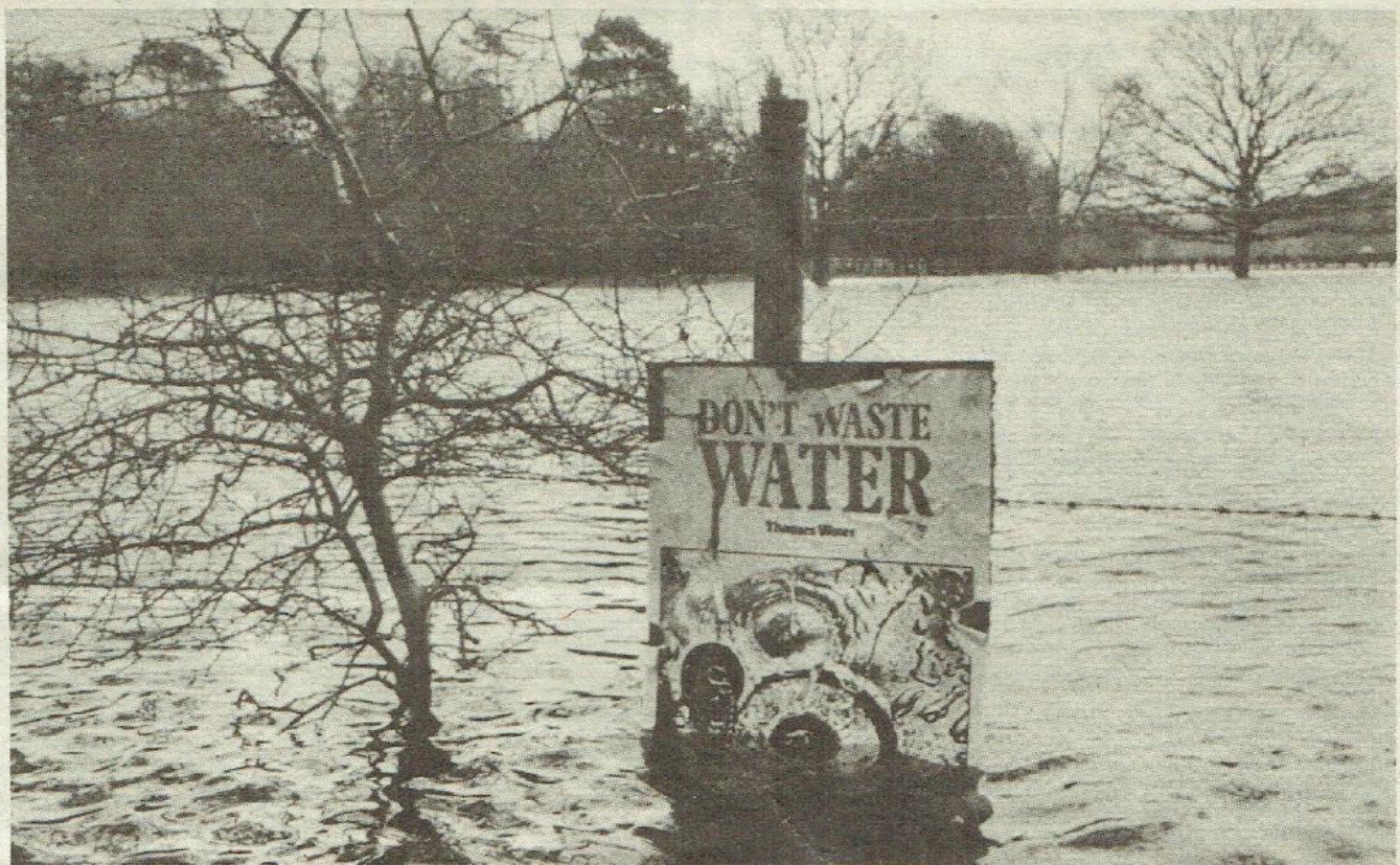
This shows the way to all the trade union movement. If they defeat Thatcher they will drive a great hole in the Tories' four per cent norm which will make it easier for those workers following in their wake. Furthermore they will show to the rank and file of the trade unions that Thatcher and her

government can be defeated and that the ignominious retreats in the NHS, steel and cars by the Spanswicks, the Sirs and the Duffys, were the fault of cowardly leadership, not the strength of the Tories.

A victory for the waterworkers will therefore breathe new life into the trade unions encouraging militancy and confidence.

That can only be to the benefit of the labour movement and after the retreats of the past year can turn the tables on the Tories which would augur well for Labour at the next election.

Of course the strike will cause inconvenience and discomfort, and no doubt rags like the *Sun* and the *Daily Mail* are already manufacturing their 'hazards to health' stories. There is one simple answer to this. Any discomforts, any health dangers that come out of this strike are the responsibility of Thatcher and all those who support her.



FOR THE FULL CLAIM

LABOUR AND TRADE UNION SOLIDARITY WITH THE WATERWORKERS

Editorial

SDP methods in Labour left

The Campaign for Labour Party Democracy is on the verge of a split. This campaign pioneered the democracy struggle in the Labour Party and laid the basis for the Deputy leadership campaign. On one side of the split, as the *Financial Times* bluntly puts it, stand Benn and his supporters; on the other Foot's. Benn himself is attending the CLPD AGM this Saturday to motivate a joint left leadership slate.

Foot's backers — the right wing of the executive — have led a campaign of abuse against 'Socialist Organiser, the IMG and New Tribune', publicly circulating lists of names who are 'unfit to lead the CLPD'. They have now confirmed, in a joint statement backing their slate for election to the campaign leadership at its AGM on Saturday, that unless CLPD agrees to register and endorses their ideas, they will split and form a new campaign.

These are SDP tactics. Either you unite behind us, without dissent — or we split. Why are they doing it? Because they have swallowed a false road to unity: unity around the Labour leadership, around Michael Foot, and — since Foot is now Healey's willing prisoner — around Healey himself. But Healey, backed by Foot, is leading the drive to split the Party by means of the witch-hunt, to surrender it bound and gagged to Whitehall, the Treasury and the Foreign Office. The helpless quest for unity around a splitter leads them to reproduce, in a far more crude and disgusting form, Healey's tactics within the CLPD.

Nothing makes this clearer than their attitude to the witch-hunt itself. They oppose any deliberate defiance of the witch-hunt by CLPs. We must use 'constitutional means', they say — while half the members are driven out and so denied access to the constitution. And what constitutional changes do they want? They support the Manchester Withington amendment, which calls for a 'democratic' register, so that conference (in which the witch-hunters have a majority because of their control of the block vote) can expel the socialists instead of the NEC. Last year this got less votes than any other proposal. So their argument that



they are 'seeking a proposal which can obtain majority support' is nonsense. What they want is Foot's support — and that means Healey's. At the very moment when the register is almost dead, they want to give it the kiss of life.

How should the left respond? Unfortunately, Vladimir Derer and Pete Willman, two of the leading Foot supporters, use a quote from Tony Benn which tells us where the left's past mistakes lie. In a resolution on 'Party unity' they call for 'unity around the existing leadership, the existing membership, and the existing policies'.

But the leadership is junking the policies and trying to drive out membership because it wants a government acceptable to Whitehall and the CBI. The left must make a choice: unity round the policies and membership, or around the leadership? This was the origin of the tremendous crisis of CLPD at the last Labour Party conference, when it completely failed to organise the opposition to the witch-hunt, so that bodies such as Labour Against the Witch-Hunt had to take up the standard instead. CLPD was paralysed because its right wing balked at resisting a witch-hunt backed by Michael Foot himself. All their talk of 'finding policies acceptable to a majority of conference' is just a cover up for this. For the first six years of its existence CLPD's policies were not acceptable to a conference majority and this never deterred it from its campaign to change its minority support into a majority.

The demand for unity around the leadership is

an impossible demand. It is an appeal against rocking a boat when the officers are busily trying to throw the crew out of it. It is an appeal to drown quietly.

Is there, then, a different basis for unity? Unity is needed. The labour movement, which has neither wealth nor status to defend itself, cannot afford the luxury of division. Unity isn't just a tactic but a necessity. We agree, therefore, with *Tribune* who call for a common basis of unity in reply to the splitters, and we agree that the basis of unity should be a policy.

Unfortunately *Tribune's* own suggestion as to the basis of unity isn't an ideal one: the proposal to change the basis of representation at Labour Party conference to give the CLPs a greater say. This isn't an agreed policy. Even within the left there is an extensive discussion going on about it. But most important for all, it doesn't correspond to the most urgent problem of today, which is *what to do in an election year when Labour's democratically decided policies are being ditched by its leadership?* — and when the same leadership is concentrating its entire energies on expelling the socialists instead of fighting the Tories?

These — and above all the policy question — are the real tests of everything CLPD has done for the last eight years.

The NEC next month will discuss a draft 'campaigns' document — a draft manifesto — which doesn't have unilateralism in it. Two thirds of the

conference voted for this, one of the most popular in Labour's armoury. CLPD was formed to ensure that Labour's policies were implemented. If it cannot help stop this gigantic travesty of democracy, it will have neither credibility nor relevance in the eyes of the Labour Party ranks.

What is the left going to do about this? What hope can it offer that after eight years of struggle, there will be a difference if Foot moves into Number Ten?

CLPD can make two vital contributions to this goal. First, it can throw its entire weight behind the Greenwich constitutional amendment which establishes, clearly and without equivocation, the right of every group in the Labour Party to exist provided only that it does not stand candidates against the Labour Party.

Secondly, it can take up the struggle for unilateralism to be in the manifesto. Resolutions on the agenda, which will certainly be passed, commit CLPD to this policy. Of course, CLPD as a single-issue campaign is primarily committed to constitutional change. But, just as it threw its weight behind a broader campaign for Benn to become Deputy leader of the Party, it can take part in — and help establish — a broad campaign to defend Labour's socialist policies. Parliamentary Labour CND has 180 members — the biggest left group in Parliament. Unilateralism has majority union support. It will be hard for union leaders to justify breaking clear mandates from their members on this issue. Unilateralism had a two-thirds majority at conference. It must go in Labour's manifesto, and Labour candidates must be committed to defend it in the next parliament.

This is the road ahead. The left must immediately begin to explore the basis on which a united Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory centring on unilateralism can be formed. This is the next step forward; this is the basis for unity.

Activists' Diary

Trade Union CND AGM, Saturday 29 January, 2pm, County Hall, London SE1. Delegates from trade union bodies affiliated to CND.

Campaign for Labour Party Democracy AGM, Saturday 29 January, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1.

National Labour Briefing Conference, Saturday 5 February, 10.30-6pm, County Hall, London SE1. Speakers will include: Ken Livingstone, Ann Bliss, Jeremy Corbyn. Details from London Labour Briefing, 23 Leghorn Road, London NW10.

Socialist Society AGM, Saturday/Sunday 5/6 February, Sir William Collins School, Charrington Street, London NW1.

Labour Against Witch-hunt National Council, Saturday 12 February, County Hall, London SE1.

Labour Committee on Palestine, Open Steering Committee Meeting, Wednesday 16 February, 8pm, County Hall, London SE1. Open to members and others who wish to participate in the campaign.

Broad Left's Organising Committee Conference, 'Accountability of the Block Vote', Saturday 19 February. Delegates from trade union Broad Lefts and official TU organisations. Credentials from: BLOC 108 Princess Boulevard, Bebington, Merseyside, L63 7PE.

Labour CND AGM, Saturday 19 February, 11-5pm, County Hall, London SE1. Two delegates from each CLP affiliated to CND and open to individuals who are members of both National CND and the Labour Party. Registration £2 (£1 unwaged).

Ban Plastic Bullets, Labour movement delegate conference, Saturday 26 February, UMIST, Barnes Wallis Building, Sackville Street, Manchester 1. Credentials from: Plastic Bullets Conference, Box 15, 164/6 Hanging Ditch, Manchester M3 4BN.

Labour Democracy and Local Government, National Conference for District Labour Parties, Saturday 26 March, Manchester Poly Student Union, 10.30-4.30pm. Sponsored by Sheffield, Leeds, Manchester DLPs. Details from: Manchester City Labour Party, Hulme Labour Club, Istoneylow Close, Manchester M15.

NEC enquiry into Manchester LP

Golding takes witchhunt to the North-west

JOHN Golding, the Labour right's Judge Jeffries, was holding his witchhunting Tribunal in Manchester last weekend. This time it was the Manchester City Labour Party, the bastion of the left in Manchester, that was coming under the hammer.

GRAHAM STRINGER, chair of the City Labour Party and one of the left-wing minority in the ruling Labour Group on the City Council, explains why Golding's eye has been turned to Manchester.

The immediate context of the NEC enquiry into the Manchester City Labour Party is a very sharp divide between left and right. The left controls the City Labour Party, while the right controls the Council Labour Group.

Before the all-out local election in May 1982 we explained, as a City Party, that councillors not prepared to carry out the Manifesto would not be eligible for the panel.

As a result we dropped a substantial number of the right's candidates, although most were later reinstated by their Constituencies. This time around a smaller number of councillors were dropped and there have been no appeals from their constituencies. This means they have exhausted the rules of the Labour Party as a means to get back on.

The only way open to them is for the NEC to come in and use their rules — which basically say that they can do anything between conferences — to reinstate them.

Despite the reasons put forward by the NEC, in

our view, this enquiry is a smokescreen to get a small number of councillors back on the panel.

The other aspect of it is that the City Party has developed its policy over the last few years. And now has a high profile as a campaigning body in the North-west. The right-wing NEC is taking the opportunity to attack the City Party as an organisation.

The NEC's cover for this attack on the City Labour Party is a number of allegations of maladministration. But they have failed to bring forward any evidence for their claims.

One such allegation rests on the City Party rules that we should have no more than 40 per cent of trade union delegates. At present we are up to about 45 per cent. We pointed this out to the NEC two years ago, as we have no mechanism for stopping anyone from affiliating. Nor would we want to.

At the time the NEC said: 'Your rules are contradictory and you

can't be expected to make them self-consistent.' We have records of them saying that. The original rules were agreed with the NEC at the time of the Party reorganisation in the early '70s.

The other allegations hold even less water. It is all part of their smokescreen. And it won't work anyway. Really all attempts to attack the City Party in an administrative way are a dead end. They would still leave the left in the dominant position in the constituencies.

The NEC, and it shares this with the Manchester Labour Group, is out of phase with the membership. We have to make the wishes of the people in the constituencies felt, and campaign in that way. That can bring the witchhunt to a halt.

One obvious necessity is greater organisation of the left. We tend to forget that the right is permanently organised on a national level, while the left is very much less organised.

The City Labour Party is organising a conference on 26 March to this end. It is for District and Constituency Parties to discuss what experiences we share and what methods we can adopt to develop the fight for the kind of things we have been fighting for over the last few years. In essence the accountability of representatives.



Photo: GM COOKSON

Pay the water workers — Smash the 40%

says Pat Hickey

BOUYED UP BY their successes against the Health workers and the miners, the Tories have thrown down the gauntlet to the water workers.

This could well be the biggest miscalculation the Government has made.

The 29,000 manual workers in the industry are one of the most powerful groups in Britain. The consequences of this strike are potentially catastrophic. Large sections of industry, from cars to electricity are dependent on water supply. If the dispute goes on there will be massive layoffs and power cuts.

Virtually every home in the country will be hit. There are about 80,000 mains bursts and 5,000 major sewer faults each year. This is an average of 220 mains bursts and 14 sewer faults daily.

Alongside the economic disruption and inconvenience will be a serious threat to health as the antiquated sewage system collapses.

The Tories are prepared to gamble with the health and livelihoods of everyone in their fight to force down living standards. The response of the labour movement should be loud and clear: Pay the water workers — Smash the four per cent.

The water workers claim is one which is aimed at bringing them out of the poverty levels that they have endured for years. At present a water worker earns £82 for a basic 39hr week. The claim is intended to bring them into line with comparable grades in gas and electricity.

This would mean a flat rate increase of £13.50. In addition they are claiming a further increase in line with the going rate, to maintain that position.

The other aspects of the claim are also ones which the labour movement should support: a one-hour reduction in the working week and an increase to 5 weeks holiday after one year's service. These demands are fully in line with the TUC's position of reducing hours to combat unemployment.

This is why it is essential to build the greatest possible support for the water workers, the labour movement has to reply to the hysterical campaign which the press will unleash on the strikers.

This will mean starting now to build tours of the factories and workplaces for the water workers to explain their case and win support. Local MPs should be in the forefront of this — organising public meetings, arranging tours etc.

We should call on every Labour MP and Councillor to give their support and to get on the picket lines. This is not just a matter of helping the waterworkers. The outcome of their battle could be decisive in the coming election. If the Tories can win they will use it to revive the flagging Falklands Factor and go to



Strike can cause chaos the country on a Resolute Government line.

For the labour movement it is golden opportunity to break the myth of Tory invincibility and to go into the election with policies that defend the interests of the working class.

The Tories claim that this would mean a 'massive burden on consumers' is a total lie. The cost of the full claim would be £40 million,

which would mean a 3½p increase per week on the average bill. It would increase the industry's costs by just over 2½ per cent. The hypocrisy of the Tories on this question is demonstrated by their plans for the industry.

The new financial targets which they are setting would, according to Colin McMillan, Severn Trent Water Authority's Director of Finance, increase charges by about 15 per cent. Over the last

eight years charges have increased by 250 per cent, far more than the increase in wages, and despite a reduction in manual workers from 34,625 to 29,393, a cut of 15 per cent.

The water workers have been pursuing this claim for the last 15 months. The response of the employers has been to refuse to negotiate. In addition the government has declared its intention to

tear up existing national agreements and abolish the National Water Council. The claim for comparability has been rejected out of hand.

Rank and file members of the unions in industry are fed up with the weak and hesitant response of the trade union leaders to this situation. This has been demonstrated by the 100 per cent response to the strike call, and by the refusal of the craft grades to cross picket lines.

From the shop floor the call must be for: No retreat on the full claim, the water workers can win. The reason the Tories have been successful up to now against the public sector has not been a lack of strength on the part of the working class but weak and cowardly leadership at the top of the unions. Betrayals like those carried out on ASLEF and the Health workers must not be allowed to happen again.

Round-up Round-up

Socialist Challenge reporters have been getting around asking waterworkers and others what they think of the pay claim and the strike. Here are some of the comments we got.

Round-up Round-up

Sheffield are all out

OUR SHEFFIELD reporters inform us: 'Pickets were out in force on Monday and the strike is solid among the 350 manual workers in the area.'

At the Moonshine Lane Depot shop steward Chris Hague said 'our basic wage is £82 for a 39 hour week and we do not work shifts and there is very little overtime here. This is why we have been pushing for national action for years in Sheffield.'

At Blackburn Meadows sewage works Phil Hurst the union secretary emphasised 'our action is aimed at the cutting of supplies to industry not the individual consumer.'

Other workers stressed that they were not worried about the threat to use troops. They pointed out that the craftsmen were supporting them and the fire brigade had agreed not to strike break.'

In London

Out on the picket at Rosebery Avenue Authority Headquarters in London on the first day of the strike, was Chris Smith, prospective parliamentary candidate for Islington South who had brought a solidarity message.

Chris told us: 'I have come so show my solidarity with the water workers. The government has treated them appallingly. They deserve a living wage and they should be treated no differently to the gas and electricity workers who have won a wage rise.'

I hope that the trade union movement will show the same degree of support as they did with the health workers. The Labour Party leaders, and the National Executive of the Labour Party should be speaking on their platforms, and the picket lines, and put questions in the House of Commons to argue the case of the water workers.

'At the moment they are not saying this loudly enough.'

Also on the picket line was Paddy Carroll who is an inspector at the Rosebery Avenue office. He feels that 'a lot of people will support us because we are bashing Thatcher. The whole trend of Thatcher's policies disturbs me and this is part of the struggle against them.'

It's sad if other low paid workers can't benefit from the action we are taking. They should take the action we are taking.'

Interview with Derek Pattison

TGWU Waterworks Branch Sec Manchester Area

The majority of water workers are incensed at the four per cent offer. In actual figures this will mean only £3.15 to £3.45 per week for most of them. After tax etc they will be lucky at the end of the day to have enough even to pay their union contributions.

The feeling is very strong, we'll go for full 15 per cent. At the moment we're well behind Gas and Electricity workers; but we do similar jobs and want similar rates of pay.

The employers have saved £60m per year in lost wages through the introduction of new technology and natural wastage. The full claim would only cost £40m.

The water council were prepared to offer six per cent and to negotiate. They were instructed by the Tories to offer four per cent.

The consequences of a water strike will be catastrophic. The dirty jobs strike in the 1970's created enough problems. The government have said that they will dispose of sewerage by putting it in the river. They are also threatening to bring in the troops. Personally, if they do we'll withdraw emergency cover. We are particularly looking for support from the fire services and the FBU as they will be asked to move water. We would like them to refuse to cooperate with the troops.

LES HUCKFIELD, Labour MP for Nuneaton told us about one water authority: 'The Severn and Trent Authority under the chairperson of Sir William Dugdale is notorious for its penny pinching attitudes.'

'I have to deal with the cases of pensioners who have been cut off after simply writing to ask if they could pay their water bill on instalments or after a delay.'

'When the authority went over to direct billing by computer, it tied the hands of the local authorities who had often been more sensitive about the problems of hard-up people.'

'But the biggest scandal is the way they spend the authority's money. Last September, six of them went on a junket to Switzerland at a cost of over £7,000. It was supposed to be an international water conference, which does not explain why all six of them took their wives!'

'Making money from water is not new to Sir William, a big Warwickshire landowner. Shortly after he became chair of the Severn and Trent Authority it bought large tracts of land off him. So he was selling his land, as a private individual, to himself as chair of the board.'

Colin Roach

ON 12 JANUARY Colin Roach, a young black man, died of gunshot wounds in Stoke Newington Police Station. Police say his death was suicide but the black community has called for a full and independent public enquiry.

They have too much experience of the Stoke Newington force to believe a police statement without full investigation.

The death of Colin Roach comes after a whole series of incidents involving the terrorisation of black families in early morning raids by gun-toting, racially abusive police and torture of young blacks in police custody interrogated with guns held to their heads. Nor is his death the first to have occurred in local police hands.

Angered by Colin's death, the black community responded by 500 people marching through Hackney on Saturday 22 January demanding an enquiry free from police interference and calling for the closure of the infamous Stoke Newington Station.

Outside the station, a two minutes silence was observed in memory of Colin, and at Stoke Newington Common at the end of the march the need to continue the campaign to achieve the demands was stressed.

On the night before the march a meeting called by Hackney Black Alliance

and Hackney Legal Defence Committee of more than 130 people had been held at Hackney Town Hall where a demand was made: that Hackney Council withdraw all funding from the local police. This demand was seen as being part of a London-wide campaign for the withdrawal of local authority funding where the police are not democratically accountable to the local community. The argument being that non-accountability should mean non-funding by the community.

Cecil Gutmore, a member of Brixton Defence Campaign who spoke at Friday night's meeting, blamed Colin's death on the growing aggression of the British police. He said they learned directly from British state experiences in the North of Ireland. It was not by chance, Cecil emphasised, that Kenneth

Newman had been transferred from his job as boss of the RUC to one of overlordship the Metropolitan police.

A campaign waged by successive police leaders and sections of the British state, Cecil claimed, has continued since the late 1960's with the goal as the complete arming of the police and the systematic erosion of the rights of the population. The Police and Criminal Evidence bill, he said, threatens a huge leap forward in that direction. Cecil urged the need for united resistance by the black community and working people to stop Britain's 'progress' towards a police state. His words certainly caught the mood of the meeting.

The recent events in Hackney, with over 50 people arrested in protests since Colin's death, and the 'accidental' shooting of Steven Waldorf are evidence of the escalation of police aggression.

The police are fast becoming a brutal law unto themselves. The demands of the Hackney campaign must be supported as part of the resistance to the growing strength and unrestrained violence of the police in British society.

On your bike Norman!

By a Jaguar worker

AT HIS OWN very special request Norman Tebbit came to visit the Jaguar Assembly plant in Coventry last week.

Well he certainly got a rousing reception from hundreds of carworkers who were all obviously cycling fans. Even the Minister was so moved by his reception he described it as a 'most extraordinary demonstration.'

Before the visit, management told senior stewards that they should suppress any protest action that might come up from the shop floor and the local press contacted the senior stewards to ask them if there was any reaction to the visit.

Once the word had got around that Tebbit was coming people started discussing what to do. As workers pointed out he

was visiting Jaguar to try and cash in on its recent successes. Eighteen months ago, the plant according to management was in serious danger of collapse. Since then however there has been a dramatic turnaround in the company's fortunes which has got big publicity.

The visit was intended to cash in on this, and as a number of workers pointed out, if Tebbit got away with a trouble-free visit the public would think that this was also approval for his union bashing proposals.

So dozens of workers started asking the shop stewards 'What are we going to do about Tebbit'. Several sections met and

voted to walk off the job if Tebbit was brought into their shop.

The press wanted to know what was going to happen and they were told: 'If Tebbit goes into our shop — we go out of it!' That night the Coventry *Evening Telegraph* ran a headline saying: 'Clear Out Jag Men Tell Tebbit'. In fact many of the workers in the Trim sections, where a walk out was threatened are women!

Strike

That afternoon stewards on the two main assembly tracks called meetings and told our members that there seemed to be strong feelings against Tebbit's visit and a majority had to decide what they wanted to do.

Well, when he arrived about 250 of us showed what we wanted to do. We downed tools and lined up outside the main offices, booing him and sticking our fingers up in a V sign. Another held up a bike as Britain's best known advocate of cycling entered the offices.

Management wisely decided not to take Tebbit on a tour round the factory floor. He claimed of course it wasn't the demonstration that stopped him going on the floor but a lack of time. Well, I suppose even Tory ministers are allowed their own little fantasies!

But we at Jag know different. As our Transport Union convenor Ron Newcombe said 'Our protest was in effect a strike, and we consider it to be a victory.'



Jaguar workers show Tebbit where and how to go!

Scottish Labour CND is founded

By Chris Morris

FIFTY DELEGATES and Observers representing sixteen CLPs and eight local parties met in Glasgow 22 January for the founding meeting of Scottish Labour CND.

Opening the conference, Gavin Strang MP secretary of Parliamentary Labour CND stressed that our battle to have the party carry out a nuclear unilateralist policy in government was not yet won.

It was essential for CND to maintain its mass campaign up to and after the election. It had to pay more attention to organising in the unions if we were to hold the line there where leaderships had often been forced against their will to vote our position.

We had to go on battling to get parliamentary representatives backing

for CND. The present 120 members of Parliamentary Labour CND was still less than half of Labour MPs. The meeting broke to hear M Foot address a Scottish Labour Party rally. Foot said the LP could claim, like no other party in the world, to have led the peace movement and specifically the movement against cruise and trident. But he said nothing that committed a future Labour government to any immediate steps of disarmament.

Labour CND then reassembled even more determined to cut out the

dissembling. Walter Wolfgang brought greetings as vice-chair of British Labour CND and resolutions were passed on tasks for the coming year.

These included building for the August TU/LP day of action, and for all CND's mass actions, a day school, a regular bulletin directed at CND and party activists. This would explain to CND why its aims would only be achieved by a unilateralist Labour government. Conference ended by electing a committee including members from S Ayrshire, Paisley, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Perth and Arbroath. To be put on our mailing list send quid to T. Southall; Scottish Labour CND, 420 Sauchiehall St G2.



An appeal to Labour Party activists from Labour CND

By Joy Hurcombe, National Secretary of Labour CND

1983 will be a crucial year for both CND and the Labour Party. Labour CND will be carrying out a big campaign this year to ensure that the decisions of Labour Party conference on nuclear disarmament are carried out.

The Manifesto is to be drafted next month.

Although we won 71 percent of the votes at the 1982 Party conference for unilateral disarmament to be part of the manifesto, we are still not convinced that it will be included. Even if it is included in the first draft it will still have to deal with the hurdle of the coordinating committee, many of whose members will do their best to fudge the issue.

Nuclear disarmament is the most popular policy of the Labour Party. The more pressure we can bring to bear from the grassroots for the party to stand by unilateralism then the

more likely it will be that Labour can win the coming general election. Of all Party policies this is the one which the left cannot afford to lose because it will be the decisive one in 1983.

That also means insisting on the fact that Labour Party policy is not simply to stop Cruise and Trident but to get rid of all nuclear weapons on British soil, including the United States' bases.

In the coming year it will be important to keep up the pressure on the bases and the places that supply them. But at the same time Labour Party decisions must be carried through, both for a clear manifesto commitment and for a massive demonstration on Hiroshima Day coordinated with similar actions right across Europe.

We will be discussing all of this at Labour CND's AGM on 19 February in London.

For details write to: Labour CND, 11 Pembury Road, Worthing Sussex.

Socialist Challenge FUND DRIVE '83

HAVE YOU been hanging onto the odd pound or two in the hope that Maggie Thatcher is making them more valuable? Better get rid of them quick — it's not a good investment these days.

Where can you put it? Oil's not such a good bet these days either. You could, of course, join the flock of investment overseas — latest figures show £1½ bn went abroad in the third quarter of last year. Apparently they are worried a Labour government might be elected.

Or, if you don't want to invest in the exploitation of sweated labour, you can put your pounds in the only really worthwhile and secure enterprise going — the fight for socialism. Don't delay — send it now while it's still worth anything!

Blanco White	£ 40.00	Camden	80.00
Leeds	50.00	Coulson	4.00
Liverpool	50.00	Dunn	8.00
Leicester	50.00	Huddersfield	25.00
Bath	26.25	Southwark	70.00
M Eady	50.00	Pietrasik	3.00
York	8.00	Middlesborough	40.00
Sunderland	15.00	Coventry	40.00
Brent	132.00	Southampton	60.00
Hemel	20.00	Cardiff	100.00
Swansea	40.00	Oxford	120.00

Total so far

982.00
£1967.00

SOCIALIST CHALLENGE IS DEDICATED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL THAT I HOLD DEAR!



Jobs fight — in with a chance

By Anne McNea

THE FIGHT for jobs at Metal Box, East London continues. Nationally announced job loss of 300 representing 50 per cent of the workforce at the Clapton site have neither been confirmed nor denied by management.

The trade unions have responded by stepping up their demand for company recognition of the newly formed Joint Shop Stewards Committee. Recognition will ensure the maximum co-ordination of union policies and provide a joint negotiating platform to represent all the workers in the factory.

Although management offered the accounting information to the union convenors and senior representatives it was refused as the confidentiality restrictions were unacceptable.

The JSSC has released up to the minute newsheets keeping the workforce abreast of the latest company positions. The shop stewards have also provided leaflets giving the facts on the redundancies.

For example, a skilled male worker would get the equivalent of one year's

pay for 11 years service. The shop stewards have also shown how voluntary redundancy payments affect a workers' right to unemployment and social security benefits. Facts on the employment situation in London have been distributed. According to the Department of Employment Gazette an unskilled male worker competes against 16 others for each job and a technical male worker against 15 others.

Messages of support should be sent to the Leaders of the Hackney Borough Council c/o the Hackney Town Hall, Mare St, London E8; the GLC c/o County Hall, London SE1; Ron Brown, Ernie Roberts, and Stanley Clinton Davis the local MPs c/o The House of Commons for their attempts to maintain these jobs for Hackney.



Privatisation dispute Victory in battle for Bury's bins

BURY'S TORY council, under pressure from the unions, last week told private contractors to return the tenders they had prepared for refuse collection, street cleaning, vehicle maintenance and public convenience cleaning. This decision represents a tremendous victory for the 18 months fight against the privatisation plans of the Tories.

The campaign was organised by a joint committee of all the unions. It included a mass publicity campaign with over 60,000 leaflets distributed to every house in the authority. Members of the local government union, NALGO, refused to cooperate with the council and private contractors. And just before last year's local election there was an all out strike of staff, refuse collectors, sweepers, drivers and fitters protesting the Tory plans.

Ian Stephenson, NALGO branch secretary, explained: 'All the unions acted together and the employers didn't know what was happening. There was no way that we were going to be defeated while there was such strong trade union solidarity.'

'When NALGO members were taking action, the manual unions threatened to shut down the whole authority if any of our members were victimised. We refused to put in a tender ourselves because we said our jobs were not for sale. Neither were we prepared to accept massive cuts in the service.'

'It's the first time that staff and manual unions have come together in action. But it will not be the last. For years, the council have set white collar against manual worker — but not any longer. Our victory in the bins dispute has ensured that all the unions will work together from now on.'

But the unions do not think this is the end of privatisation attempts in Bury. Mark Hackett, last year's NALGO branch president had this warning: 'The Tories are using privatisation not only to line the pockets of the private profiteers but also as a weapon to beat the unions. We recognise the victory in Bury is just a small step in our fight against the Tories.'

'While all the unions should continue their fight against the privatisation plans in the health service, gas, British Telecoms and local authority services, the only way to beat the whole thing is to kick out the Tories and return a Labour government committed to nationalisation with no compensation.'

South London's women's hospital

By Islay Fullerton

A 'HOME birth unit' — where you can have your baby in an atmosphere as like home as possible, with all your family present. This is one of the things under threat in South London.

Day care abortion facilities is another. As is comprehensive treatment for women staffed by women. All these will go if Wandsworth District Health Authority votes to close the hospital.

A DHA planning group — with a majority of Labour members on it — decided unanimously to recommend full closure of the hospital from 1 April next year.

Previously there had been talk of closure only in 1988 when new facilities were supposed to be available in St Georges.

But 850 beds have already been cut over the last eight years in Wandsworth to finance the St George's development.

Representatives of the local women's movement, Labour parties, trade unions and the trades council have been out collecting signatures opposing the closure and have received a tremendous response.

As soon as passers by heard 'South London hospital for women' they stopped in their tracks, came back and asked what we were petitioning for. 'I

had my baby there', 'I'm a nurse — not another hospital closure'. Support particularly came from old people.

Anger locally has been such that the Labour Party member on the planning committee who proposed the closure is beginning to wriggle with embarrassment claiming that he has been misinterpreted and may well not vote for closure when it comes up on 27 January.

The morale of the campaign is already high. A public meeting attracted well over 100 people. One third were from the hospital itself.

A midwife and a doctor from the hospital told the meeting of the plans to expand the hospital by,

amongst other things, setting up a well-woman clinic, a breast screening clinic, and providing a day nursery for hospital workers' children and children of women attending as out-patients.

The hospital has just set up a clinic to help smokers give up. Almost half the maternity beds in the area are provided by South London.

Its much easier to get to on public transport than St Georges. An important factor, since three quarters of the women who have their babies there are working class, unlikely to have cars and most hit by other Tory attacks.

Very many women from the Asian community choose to have their

babies there, because it is staffed by all-women.

The special care baby unit is right next to the ward and whenever possible premature babies are raised in incubators by the mother's bedside.

Besides such facilities, the closure of the hospital will worsen unemployment in the area — particularly for women.

The workers in the hospital are fighting back. 250 angry employees have already met and formed an action committee to fight the closure with representatives from all the different sections in the hospital.

If you wish to help contact the campaign committee, open to everyone, on 01-874 6244.



JOIN THE FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM

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

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GREENHAM COMMON

GREENHAM COMMON has changed the political balance of forces on the disarmament question in Britain. It will take all the jingoism the Tories can muster — and indeed Maggie is trying very hard to muster it — to turn the tide against this truly massive feeling amongst women and men that Cruise must be stopped and stopped now. Why has this happened? Why has the Women's Peace Camp at Greenham Common become what the *Daily Mirror* calls the 'world's most powerful protest against nuclear war'.

Firstly because women acted when others in the disarmament movement sat and talked. In acting in such a decisive way, and being prepared to get arrested for their pains, they aroused the suffragette spirit that has always been part of the backbone of the modern women's liberation movement, the strength of women's feelings on the disarmament question giving a moral authority to that kind of action.

Focusing on a key target, the base where Cruise was to arrive, women turned Sunday 12 December into a truly mass event, an original event because women, young old, from all backgrounds, came through an informal network to protest as women against the mad militarism of this Tory government.

This action had the support of far more women than turned up. The non-violent direct action the day after also had a lot of sympathy behind it — which is why the popular press that day had to rave about 'Pravda journalists' and Soviet television or, trying the other old trick, playing the card of 'butch lesbians' leading the action.

The action was also based on a real feature of this wave of CND in Britain and the disarmament movement throughout Europe. Women are playing a leading role in this movement as they did in the solidarity campaigns with Vietnam in the late 60's. Women have marched to the Soviet Union demanding peace. Every Tuesday in Tel Aviv during the invasion of the Lebanon women protested against Begin's war and 200 women dressed in black marched through Jerusalem. In Britain women have not only participated in CND, setting up Women Against the Nuclear Threat campaigns, but also they were part of those forces opposing the Malvinas War.

The women's movement has consistently taken up the cause of Irish self-determination, symbolised best in the mobilisations outside Armagh gaol on International Women's Day. Also, as in Vietnam, women are playing a vanguard role in the struggle against imperialism in the semi-colonial countries.

Thirty per cent of the FSLN guerrillas who overthrew the Somoza dictatorship were women. The FMLN/FDR in El Salvador has not only a women's organisation, AMES, but its own women's brigade. And what has to be understood about this feature of the disarmament movement and the direct involvement of women in the armed struggle is that when women join a movement in large numbers, they bring their own demands and their own forms of organisation to that struggle.

Socialists reject the Tories' attempt to drive women back into the home in this country. We oppose the hypocrisy of Tory leaders like Margaret Thatcher or Patrick Jenkin who use the breakdown of family life imposed by unemployment and poverty not only to attack the welfare state but to make women feel guilty that they work outside the home. Therefore it seems to us that to put nappies and other reproductive objects on the barbed wire surrounding Greenham airbase, to symbolise a women's protest, is rather dangerous as it emphasises a traditional view of women. But we can also understand that many women view that statement in a positive way, as a way of saying that women's responsibilities for the bearing and bringing up of children are creative social functions, in contrast to the death and destruction of nuclear war.

This understanding informs our approach. Our sympathy is with the anti-capitalist, militant objectives of this movement. Our approach goes 100 per cent in the opposite direction to that of the Socialist Workers Party who can *only* criticise, and at worst do their best to alienate women, by their hostility to women taking action independently, as women. Not only did Socialist Workers Party coaches have a fifty per cent quota of men on them, unheard of in the socialist movement in this country to date, but many of their male Socialist Workers Party sellers arrogantly chanted 'Women and men unite to fight the bomb', to drive home the point just in case anyone misunderstood their position.

Socialist Challenge fully supported this event. All of our supporters will rally to the defence of the women arrested taking action on 13 December and demand support in the labour movement for their defence. On this basis of active support a constructive debate is possible and necessary.

We don't agree the nuclear threat is a male threat as Women Oppose the Nuclear Threat do, we see it as an imperialist threat. We don't think sex strikes as suggested by Brighton Women's Peace Magazine, Lysistrata, will stop the imperialists waging nuclear war.

Margaret Thatcher, our woman Prime Minister, is one of the world's leading war mongers. She calls for a stronger stand against the Soviet Union, a more interventionist role in the semi-colonial world for NATO, she opposes the PLO coming to this country and backs the Zionists' genocide in the Lebanon. She's quite happy to let Ronnie put his finger on the button to launch cruise missiles from bases in Britain.

We're not too happy with the idea that women are 'naturally' more peace loving than men. More women than men, in Britain today, are opposed to nuclear weapons.

In the past women have played a prominent role in movements against war, often because they have traditionally been left at home to bear the social cost of war. But although this is still true, it is changing. Women's changing social role has led them to play a more direct role in wars on both sides of the political spectrum. Thus we see the Israeli army recruiting women, and the National Organisation of Women in America heavily polarised on the draft issue.

In Vietnam, Angola, El Salvador, Ireland, Nicaragua, Palestine we see women taking up arms for national self-determination against imperialism.

Does the demand for Peace encompass the aspirations of these women? No it does not. The first group of women participate in imperialist war mongering even if it's out of no real choice in the case of conscription. In the latter case women can't afford the luxury of pacifism when the American war machine hurls napalm bombs on their homes or as in El Salvador today when the wombs of pregnant women are ripped open and the heads of their companions are placed inside by the death squads. What choice do these women have to be pacifists?

Other issues are also at stake in the Greenham debate. Helen Johns, one of the founders of the Peace Camp, has argued for all workers in the armaments industry to give up their jobs even if it means going on the dole because she believes it is morally wrong to produce arms.

Yet workers do not control the labour market nor do they control production. To live they must work wherever they can. Again they cannot have morals that deny them bread and butter.

These are just some of the issues for debate about the demands of the Greenham Peace women. There are many other questions to be considered, and socialists should be willing to discuss all of them. But the first thing every socialist should do is to defend these women, to demand the dropping of the charges against those arrested. We say right on sisters. Emily Davidson would have been proud of you. Forward to many more mass actions by woman on the scale of 12 December to stop Cruise in '83.



Diary of Events for Greenham

Monday 14 February	Trial of Women arrested at Greenham on New Year's Day starts Newbury Crown Court	Friday 1 April	Human chain from Greenham to Aldermarston, five miles, and from Aldermarston to Burfield, seven miles. Starts 1.30pm followed by Festival at Aldermarston that evening.
Thursday 31 March	12 hour blockade of Greenham, women only, Burfield, mixed.	Saturday 2 April	CND demo Glasgow.

AM N

By Valerie Coultas



'I'd like to see 30,000 women with ladders going over the fence next time.'

LAURA MITCHELL and VALERIE COULTAS went to Greenham Common last Sunday for Socialist Challenge. Unlike Anne Leslie in the *Daily Mail* of 13 Jan we didn't take the Greenham women out of their surroundings to get away from the atmosphere of the camp.

We sat and talked around the fire, listening to what the women had to say and writing down what they thought about the anti-missiles movement. The women do not all have the same views, nor do they see their stand in a separate way from other peace camps

A theme of many women we spoke to was that they are part of a much broader movement. Their camp is women only and it has hit the headlines because of this but anyone is welcome to visit the camp to support their action.

Juliet, who is 23, has been camping at Greenham Common since Christmas. She came for a few days then decided to stay. On New Year's Day she was arrested and she'll be in court at Newbury on St. Valentine's Day with the other women who have been arrested.

What made you decide to come and stay at the camp?

I've been to CND demonstrations in London for three years in a row. Each time you come away asking yourself what you've achieved? I came here at Xmas and stayed for the action over the fence (the women danced on the silo).

Support has mushroomed after the action over the weekend of 12-13 December. That was mass action because everybody could get involved. I'd like to see 30,000 women with ladders going over that fence next time.

It's been the first women's demonstration since the suffragettes. The women's camp here has given women the chance to do something without men. This just happens to be a women's camp and so it was appropriate that it should be a women's demonstration. Women who came, did so for their own reasons. Mine was to take part in women only, non-violent direct action. They say that within 16 weeks Cruise missiles may be here.

The camp has brought lots of women into activity for the first time. At Oxford police station, where we were taken on New Year's Day, there were 44 of us. They packed us in, nine to a cell.

Becky is seventeen years old and has been at the camp since December.

I came down for the big demo on the 12 December. I got arrested and then decided to stay indefinitely. I have been involved in a local peace group. I feel if I don't do this I won't have future. I can't do anything if there's no world left.

There are five layers of barbed wire on the fences here. It looks like a concentration camp. It really horrified me when I saw it because it shows how important this place is.

The fact that it's all women gives an incredible feeling of strength. Men tend to compete with each other. Women don't, and competition would destroy it. We all have so much in common and a lot of power.

Not physical power but mental power. We organise and plan action but in the camp, things just get done. A lot of us are on the dole and we use this address. But we haven't had to buy much food because we get so much help from people who support us. Actually we've had to give it away at times.

Lisa, is a German woman staying at the peace camp.

Our main aim is to be here to stop the missiles. This is the main point. We are so much under pressure. Obviously people all through the ages have felt like this. But now it is more, especially with these Reagans and Thatchers.

Men support us. They write letters or poems about how they have been inspired and say that they have plenty of things they can do. This place is just created as a women's space and quite a lot of men accept it.

I think it's important that actions are done all over the country and that they are non-violent. We are going out talking about Cruise and we're planning more tours. We support other camps even though they are mixed. We take them food and money because being the most famous camp we get most.

On 24 May it has been suggested there is an international strike. A strike in every arms factory. We've had quite a lot of support from the unions. The T&GWU don't let their people work here. All of those who work at the base are not unionised.

We haven't and we can't have the physical power to stop these missiles. If you try to beat them with their own methods it doesn't work. Terrorism in Germany lost contact with the people, it couldn't make them aware.

We have to create a new society which is non-hierarchical and non-oppressive. I personally want decentralisation and de-industrialisation.

Even if we prevent the missiles we have to do much more because the earth is running down anyway.

Julia is also at the camp she explained how it began.

It started off as a mixed camp and hierarchies developed and women just felt that it should be a women's camp. This way there's no risk of violence by anybody, we can contain the whole thing much better.

We get a greater feeling of strength from it being women-only. Lots of people come here and gain strength, women don't fight wars, war is a male principle. Rape and war are all related.

But surely there are just wars that women should support? What about women fighting in Vietnam, El Salvador, Ireland, they take part in direct combat today. Don't you support women who fight against oppression?

These women have difficult choices. They're forced to fight or support the regime in those countries. Your only alternative is to fight. It's not a question of just wars. Ideally I would never kill anyone but if you're in a situation and you have to. If you're raped it's no good to have no response.

Where you can buy Socialist Challenge

Scotland

ABERDEEN: SC available at Boomtown books, King St. For more info ring Bill 896 284.

EDINBURGH: SC sold Thur 4.15-5.15pm Bus Station, St. Andrews Square and bottom of Waverly steps 4.30-5.30; Sat 11.30-2pm East End, Princes St. Also available from 1st May Books, or Better Books, Forrest Rd. More info on local activity from SC c/o Box 6, 1st May Bookshop, Candlemaker Row.

GLASGOW: SC sales every Thur/Fri 4.30-5.30pm at Central Station. Also available at Barretts, Byres Rd; Clyde Books, High St; Glasgow Bookshop Collective, Cresswell Lane; Hope Street Book Centre.

HAMILTON: SC sale every Sat 1-5pm outside Safeway, shopping centre. For more info contact John Ford, 53 Elliot Crescent, Hamilton or Paul Youngson, 18 Forrest Crescent, Hamilton.

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.

PORT TALBOT: Sat 11am-1pm town centre.

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 643-5904.

BOLSOVER: Cross Keys, every Fri 8-9pm, Bluebell 9-10.

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.

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/BIRKENHEAD: SC sold in Birkenhead Precinct, outside Littlewoods, Sat 11-12am and Liverpool, Church St, outside Top Shop Sat 12-1pm.

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 at Gorton and Droylesden markets 11am-12.30 Sats and at Grassroots and Percivals Bookshop. Tel: 061-236 4905 for further info.

MANSFIELD: Fri 3-4pm, Stockwell Gate, Sat 10.30-12 Westgate. Four Seasons Shopping Centre Sat 10.30-12.

NEWCASTLE: SC on sale every Sat 11-1pm outside Fenwicks. Also available at Days of Hope bookshop, Westgate Rd. Every Friday outside Newcastle University between 1-2 and outside Newcastle Polytechnic between 12-1 every Monday.

NOTTINGHAM: SC sold every Sat 12-1 pm Slab Square. For info phone 863916.

OLDHAM: SC sold every Saturday outside Yorkshire Bank, High Street. For more information about local activities. Tel. 061-682 5151.

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POSTERS: Cheap, good and fast Order from The Other Printshop, 061-236-4905.

SPARE BOOKS! Any books you don't want taking up valuable space on your bookshelves? Send them to The Other Bookshop, 328 Upper St, London N1 2XP.

OXFORD: SC sold Fri 12-2pm outside Kings Arms and every Sat 10.30-12.30pm in Cornmarket.

SHEFFIELD: SC on sale Thursday, Pond St, 4.30-6pm; Saturday, Fargate 10.30-12.30pm.

SOUTHAMPTON: SC on sale Sat 10am-12 noon at Above Bar Post Office (Shopping Precinct).

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).

London

BRENT: SC sold Willesden Junction Thur 4.30pm.

EALING: SC sold Thur, Ealing Broadway tube, 5-6pm.

ENFIELD: SC at Nelsons newsagents, London Rd, Enfield Town.

HACKNEY: SC on sale on estates throughout Hackney, at public meetings and local factories. Contact us c/o PO Box 36, 136 Kingsland High St, London E8 2NF or phone Megan or John at 359 8288.

HILLINGDON: SC sold Fri, 4.30-5.30 at Uxbridge tube station; Sat 11.30-12.30 in shopping precinct, Uxbridge.

HOUNSLOW: SC sold outside Hounslow East tube, every Wed 5.15-6.15pm.

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KILBURN: SC sales every Sat, 10am in Kilburn Square, and Thursday 8.30am at Queens Park tube.

LAMBETH: SC sold Thur and Fri evenings and Thur mornings outside Brixton tube.

NEWHAM: SC sold Sat 11am to noon, Queen's Rd Mkt, Upton Park.

PADDINGTON: SC sold at Portobello Rd market Sat at noon.

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BANGOR: Rainbows, Holyhead Road, Upper Bangor, Gwynedd.

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BRIGHTON: The Public House, Little Preston St.

BRISTOL: Fullmarks, 110 Cheltenham Rd, Bristol 6.

BIRMINGHAM: Other Bookshop, 137 Digbeth, Birmingham.

DURHAM: Durham City Co-op Bookshop, 85a New Elvet.

ILFORD: South Essex Bookshop, 335 Ley Street.

MILTON KEYNES: Oakleaf Books, 109 Church Street, Wolverton.

OXFORD: EOA Books, 34 Cowley Rd.

LEICESTER: Blackthorn Books, 70 High St, Leicester, and V Karia, 53A London Rd, Leicester.

LIVERPOOL: News from Nowhere, 100 Whitechapel, Liverpool L1

LONDON: Central Books, 37 Grays Inn Rd; Colletts, Charing Cross Rd, WC2; Paperback Books, Britton and Charlotte St; Kilburn Bookshop, Kilburn High Road, NW6; The Bookplace, Peckham High St, SE15; Books Plus, Lewisham; Balham Food Co-op; Housmans, 5 Caledonian Rd, N1; Compendium, Camden Town NW1; Owl, Kentish Town; New Beacon, Seven Sisters Rd, N4; The Other Bookshop, 328 Upper St, N1; Bookmarks, Seven Sisters Rd, N4; Centerprise, 126 Kingsland High St, E8; Dillons, QMC; Page One, E15; The Other Bookshop, 328 Upper St, N1; Reading Matters, Wood Green next to Sainsbury's; Village Books, Streatham; Tethric Books, Clapham; Paperback Centre, Britton; Oval tube kiosk; Shakti Books, 46 High St, Southall.

PORT TALBOT: McConville's Newsagent, Station Road.

NOTTINGHAM: Mushroom Books, Heathcote St, Hockley.

SOUTHAMPTON: October Books, Onslow Road.

SUNDERLAND: The Geolfrith Art Gallery Bookshop, Grange Terrace.

YORK: Community Books, Walmgate.



Gandhi

By Alan Jones

Indira Ghandi certainly knew what she was doing when she put her support into making Richard Attenborough's film *Gandhi*. The Indian political establishment is never going to get a better mass advertisement no matter how much it pays.

I hope Socialist Challenge will have a review by an Indian Marxist. But it is obviously the western audience the film is aimed at. There is no doubt it does have a tremendous impact.

It's not hard to find out why. Firstly it's undoubtedly the best made film technically I've ever seen. It isn't just a question of good camera work but of how every single detail is integrated into the whole.

Secondly the distortion in the film is very rarely in what is actually shown. The wave of terrorism that preceded Gandhi's claim for Indian independence; the wealthy character of Gandhi's backers; that the support for Indian independence came from sections of the British working class (despite the policy of the Labour Party).

All that is shown clearly in the film and indeed a lot can be learned from it. Just to take one important detail. I had never really absorbed before just how significant was the role played by the United States and its press in wanting to get the British out of India to open up its

market for US goods. The host of American reporters who surround Gandhi in the film brings the point out clearly.

Richard's 'message' isn't hidden either. Indeed the very openness of it helps give power to the film and integrate its parts. 'Down with violence'. Long live 'inner transformation and pacifism.' That is hammered home from the very first scenes of the film to the last.

Racist

Where the film distorts Indian history — incredibly — is in what it leaves out. Take for example the first scenes in the film. They are set in Africa where Gandhi leads a struggle against racist pass laws for Indians. The South Africans are portrayed as brutal racist pigs. Excellent!

Except that not one single African appears in

the whole thing except for a railway compartment porter! The fact that *no* campaign was carried out for the African majority is naturally not mentioned. Gandhi's campaign aimed at getting a better position for Indians within the framework of white domination of the Africans.

Violence

The same happens when it comes to the big scenes in India. Here it is more easy to work out what is really going on because the film is forced to go into much more detail but the process is the same.

The tactic of 'non-violence' of Gandhi was in fact the Indian capitalist class's answer to a very specific problem. They wanted to get rid of the British and at the same time prevent any mass movement for independence escaping from their control and threatening capitalism in India.

The logic of such a policy comes out. In 1922 a general strike lead to violent clashes with the police in Chauri Chaura. Gandhi immediately called off the movement of opposition to the British. He wrote to Nehru, though this is obviously not shown

in the film, 'I assure you that if the civil resistance movement had not been suspended we would have been leading not a non-violent struggle but essentially a violent one.' Gandhi later ensured that the Indian Congress condemned what was described as 'mob violence' in the Punjab and Gujarat. But these *political* decisions are portrayed in the film as Gandhi wrestling with his conscience over 'violence' and morality.

The British of course replied to the calling off of the movement with little gratitude. Once they were sure they were over they promptly arrested Gandhi — which *is* in the film. British rule was maintained until it was finally broken by the colossal impact of the Second World War and the worldwide weakening of the British Empire.

Division

A final consequence of Gandhi and the Indian Congress's policies is shown in the film — although its causes are never explained. Because Gandhi and the Congress constantly broke the mass movement to ensure that independence happened on *their* terms, and that the British should remain rather than risk any threat to Indian capitalism,

localist and sectarian religious bourgeois politicians had a field day.

The first result was the division of India into India and Pakistan on independence and the terrible massacres — encouraged by the mass murderer Mountbatten.

Gandhi is shown opposing the massacres but the film does not mention that the Indian Congress, which he headed, inevitably led to the events. It is rather as though having allowed the patient to become infected with small pox a doctor is then praised for heroism because he puts some ointment on one of the sores.

There are good parts in the film. The British regime and politicians are portrayed as brutal, frequently ignorant, invariably and completely treacherous. Who could not enjoy that! The justice of the Indian demand for independence is openly supported and the inevitable consequences of the British policy of opposing it which led to massacre and repression shown without compromise. Those will have a positive effect. The photography is breathtaking.

But just don't imagine you're seeing anything to do with the real struggle of India for independence.

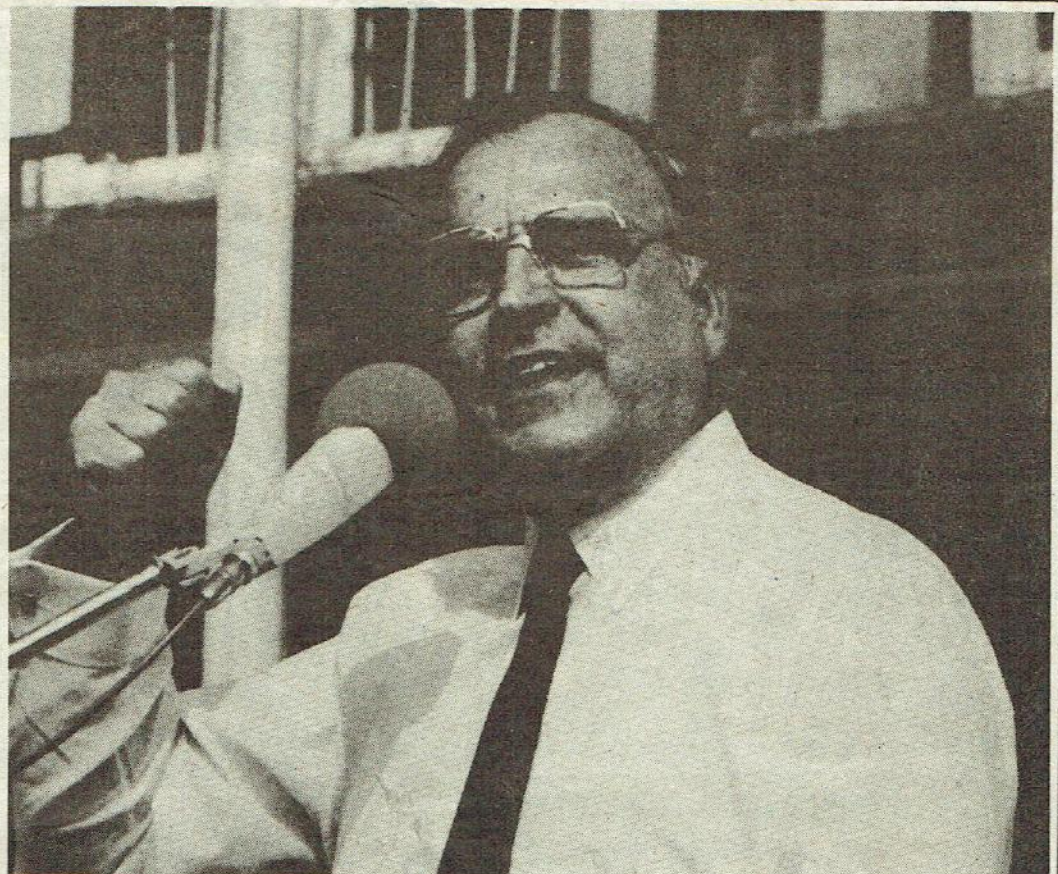
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Hans-Jochen Vogel



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WEST GERMANY:

The missiles election

By Hilary Driver

IN THE world's second strongest imperial power, the Federal Republic of West Germany, national elections have been called for 6 March.

The calling of the election was precipitated by a series of manoeuvres on behalf of the ruling class by the leaders of the major political parties.

The outcome of the election will have major repercussions, not only for the European bourgeoisie

— West Germany is the most decisive economic power in the EEC — but also for the stability of im-

perialism on a world scale.

For 13 years the Social Democratic Party (SPD) in alliance with the liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP) has held political power. This alliance was broken following a growing divergence on policy, and in particular plans to put right the ills besetting the West German economy. Although West Germany until fairly recently has been cushioned from the crises racking the rest of Europe, the recession is now coming home to roost.

The generalised recession and a period of stagnation has been fuelled by bankruptcies (including the collapse of AEG-Telefunken), growing unemployment which has now reached 2.3 million and massive debts externally. Although the SPD hardly has a record as a defender of working class interests, the West German ruling class felt that the situation demanded much tougher action than the SPD was prepared to take.

Turn

Heeding their masters' voice, the FDP did a quick turn around and transferred their allegiances to the right-wing Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and their rabid bed-fellows the Christian Social Union (CSU) headed up by Helmut Kohl.

The Christian Democrat and FDP alliance lost no time in sharpening up the policies already put in train by the SPD. They began an assault on social benefits and spending, in order to finance the arms industry and a nuclear reactor programme. This is being carried out in the context of a real decline in workers' living standards, mass unemployment and an economy in a downward spiral.

As well as these problems, there is a growing popular movement for peace — focused at pre-

sent in the anti-missiles campaign to prevent the siting of US Cruise and Pershing nuclear weapons in the country — to be installed, as in Britain, by the end of this year. This movement has been developed in a situation of growing mistrust of US imperialism, and until now a high level of support for the ecology/anti-nuclear party, the Greens.

Greens

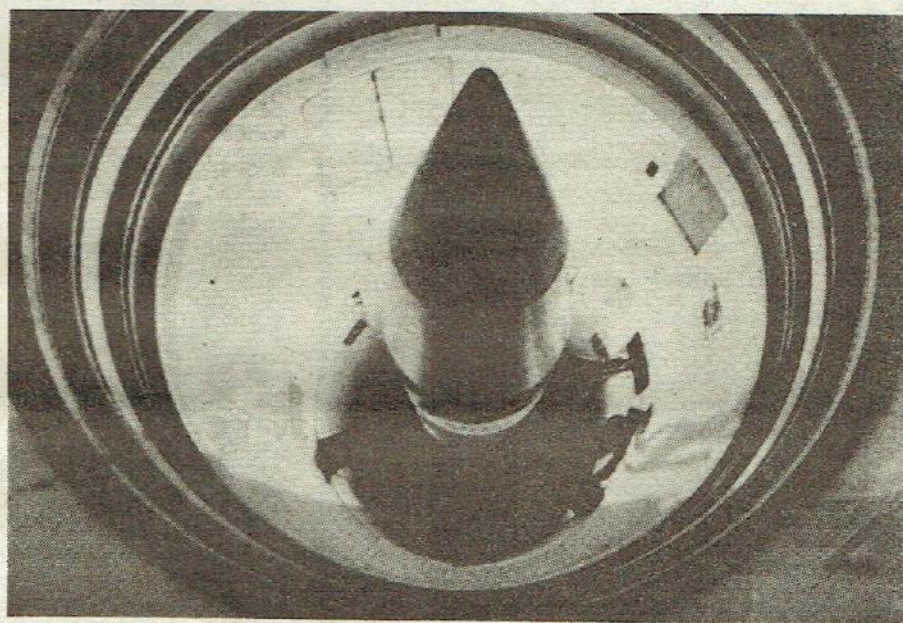
The Greens have won significant support in regional elections, and are expected to win seats in the coming election. In several local elections, they have replaced the FDP as the third force on the national political scene.

One of the most important aspects of this mass peace movement is its opposition to NATO. Both the SPD leaders and the Christian Democrat/liberal alliance are fully committed to the Atlantic Alliance and to NATO's military plans. Although the international recession has meant a conflict of interest between the West German and US bourgeoisies over, for instance, the Soviet pipeline, in general the economic and political allegiances are very strong.

Pressure

The last thing the ruling class wants to see is a bust up with the United States over military strategy. This was yet another reason for them to manoeuvre the SPD out of office, as the SPD leaders were under a lot of pressure from their left-wing and the 2/3 of SDP branches who are against the siting of the missiles.

The polarisation of the bourgeois political parties and inside the SPD itself, is just at its beginnings and will deepen over the coming year as the political and economic crisis worsens. The elections,



while necessary, are a huge gamble for the bosses.

While it is likely that the FDP could be wiped out, the ruling class are putting their money on a Christian Democrat majority which would be able to impose a Thatcher/Reagan-type solution at the expense of the workers. But it is not at all certain that this will be the outcome.

One of the election slogans of the CSU is 'Return order to Germany. Prevent the Red-Green chaos'. There is a good possibility that the SPD and the Greens combined votes will give them the majority. Whether the Greens would work with the SPD is another matter, but the immediate threat of the missiles may bring them into an uneasy alliance.

The result of the elections will be watched closely by leaders of Europe, the United States and the Soviet Union. It will be an important event too for the workers and oppressed.

Particularly in Europe, the elections one way or another will have a dramatic impact on the shape and development of the class struggle for years to come.

Sri Lankan women fight cops and bosses

SINCE last December 700 women at the Polytext Garments factory in Jaela, Sri Lanka, have braved police violence and bosses' harassment in their fight for decent better wages and working conditions. The women, many of whom come from rural areas hundreds of miles away from the factory, earn only 18.5 rupees a day — less than 60p. They work sewing jeans, blouses and shirts for consumption in the United States and Western Europe.

Despite the fact that over 70 per cent of the women are members of the Industrial Transport and General Workers Union, the union is not recognised by the bosses. The women have been trying to discuss their conditions with the company since last September, to no avail.

When they tried to ban overtime, seven workers were suspended 'for not working their overtime period', and the majority of the women walked out on strike.

They demanded a wage increase (that they be paid an equivalent of £1 per day) reinstatement of the suspended workers and other basic demands like medical facilities in case of illness.

Last December the strikers attempted to hold a meeting near the factory which was viciously attacked by the police, hospitalising three women and injuring others — one of the women hospitalised was five months pregnant. Leaders of the strike have

subsequently been charged under the country's emergency legislation

Since many of the women come from rural areas, they live in boarding houses near the factory. Since the strike started, the landlords have asked some to leave, others have had their rent put up. Union officials have been beaten up by bosses' thugs. Despite the financial difficulties the women are determined to win their struggle for the most elementary rights and living standards.

Help the Polytext women: send express letters, telegrams supporting their fight to: His Excellency, President of the Socialist Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka, Janadhipthi Mawatha, Colombo 10.

Send messages of support, donations to the Secretary of their union: W.L.D. Anto Marcus, 53 Rajamalwate Rd., Colombo 15, Sri Lanka. Socialist Challenge will give further news of the strike in subsequent issues.

International VIEWPOINT

Individual copies 65p from The Other Bookshop, 328 Upper St., London N1. Subscriptions £16 for one year. Send cheques POs made out to 'PEC' to IV, 2 rue Richard Lenoir, 93108, Montreuil, France.

IN PREVIOUS issues of Socialist Challenge we have examined the role of German, Spanish, and French social democracy, and shown how they have responded to the big events and crisis in their respective countries. Beginning this week, BOB PENNINGTON, looks at the rise of the British Labour Party, showing how it has responded to the crisis and opportunities for social change that have taken place in British society.

Labour: responsible, patriotic and moderate

Some historical landmarks in Labour's history

- 1892 General Election resulting in election of Keir Hardie, J.H. Wilson and John Burns, standing either as socialists or independent Labour. Formation at Bradford of Independent Labour Party.
- 1895 ILP stands 28 candidates in General Election, none elected. Hardie lost seat in South-west Ham.
- 1899 TUC Congress votes by 546,000 to 434,000 to instruct the Parliamentary Committee of the TUC to 'invite the cooperation of all the Cooperative, Socialist, Trade Union, and other working class organisations jointly to co-operate on lines mutually agreed upon in convening a special congress to devise ways and means for the securing of an increased number of Labour members to the next Parliament.'
- 1900 Formation of the Labour Representation Committee by 120 delegates meeting in London. LRC open only to Labour and socialist organisations, not to individuals. In General Election two LRC candidates win seats.
- 1901 Taff Vale decision forces Railway Servants to pay damages and costs amounting to £23,000 because of strike. South Wales miners also forced to pay up £50,000.
- 1906 General Election, LRC stands 50 candidates. Twenty nine of these get elected. Miners Federation not part of LRC has 14 representatives of its own. Liberal Government returned. LRC from now on is officially known as the Labour Party. Taff Vale decision reversed. Rights of organised workers to picket secured and freedom from collective responsibility obtained.
- 1907 Miners' federation votes to join Labour Party.
- 1908 Osborne Decision which declared raising of compulsory levies for political purposes was *ultra vires* — unlawful. This robbed Labour Party of its financial sources.
- 1913 Under pressure Liberal Government bring in Trade Union Act of 1913 which allows trade unions to pay money to a political party providing majority of its members vote to allow it to do so.
- 1914 By May '63 unions had voted on giving funds to Labour Party. Only three small unions voted against. Aggregate vote was 678,063 in favour and 407,356 against. August — outbreak of World War I.

When the Labour Representation Committee was formed in February 1900, it was to lead within a few years to the establishment of the Labour Party. The first real step had been taken by the working class towards having its own political party.

But that conference also decided something else. The leaders of the Independent Labour Party, particularly Keir Hardie, had decided that if Labour was going to get anywhere it had to be done through parliament.

As Milliband says in his book *Parliamentary Socialism*: the 'Labour Party has always been dogmatic — not about socialism, but about the parliamentary system. Empirical and flexible about all else, its leaders have always made devotion to that system their fixed point of reference and the conditioning factor of their behaviour.'

When Foot therefore made his speech to a grateful Tory Front Bench in the House of Commons in 1982, denouncing Peter Tatchell for the latter's alleged extra-parliamentaryism. Foot saw himself as the knight of social democracy defending its very holy grail.

The LRC Conference also set its stamp on the Labour Party in another way. The Independent Labour Party, and particularly Keir Hardie, had decided that a party like the ILP with a socialist programme, albeit a reformist one, would never get the votes, and membership, to make it a serious force.

In order to team up with the trade unions the ILP leaders therefore happily accepted that the declared only purpose of the new organisation would be the representation of working class opinion 'by men sympathetic with the aims and demands of the labour movement'. In a tradition that has been continued ever since, and which is dear to the hearts of Labour's present Shadow Cabinet, these demands were left undefined.

Class War

A resolution by the Social Democratic Federation to get the LRC to form 'a distinct party based on the recognition of the class war and having for its ultimate objective the socialisation of the means of production, distribution, and exchange' got only a handful of votes.

As the majority of the people leading the LRC, trade unionists, and ILP members alike, were hostile to the doctrine of class war, it was obvious that they would aim to achieve their objectives by compromise and alliances with sections of the ruling class.

And, of course, the place where the political representatives of the ruling class are to be found, is in that building alongside the Thames at the bottom of Whitehall.

Such a course demanded flexibility, and gradualness, therefore

Labour's representatives could not be tied down by dogmatic policies otherwise their chances to win over Liberal MPs and even Tories would be more difficult, if not impossible. So, to these cautious and reformist leaders, the idea of not defining the aims of the LRC was correct.

As soon as it got involved in the electoral field, the LRC had to decide what to do about the Liberals and the Tories, and it solved that by recommending that its affiliated organisations 'should run candidates, to begin with, in such a way as to make it possible for either the local Liberal or Conservative Association to leave an open field for the Labour candidates.'

Lib-Lab

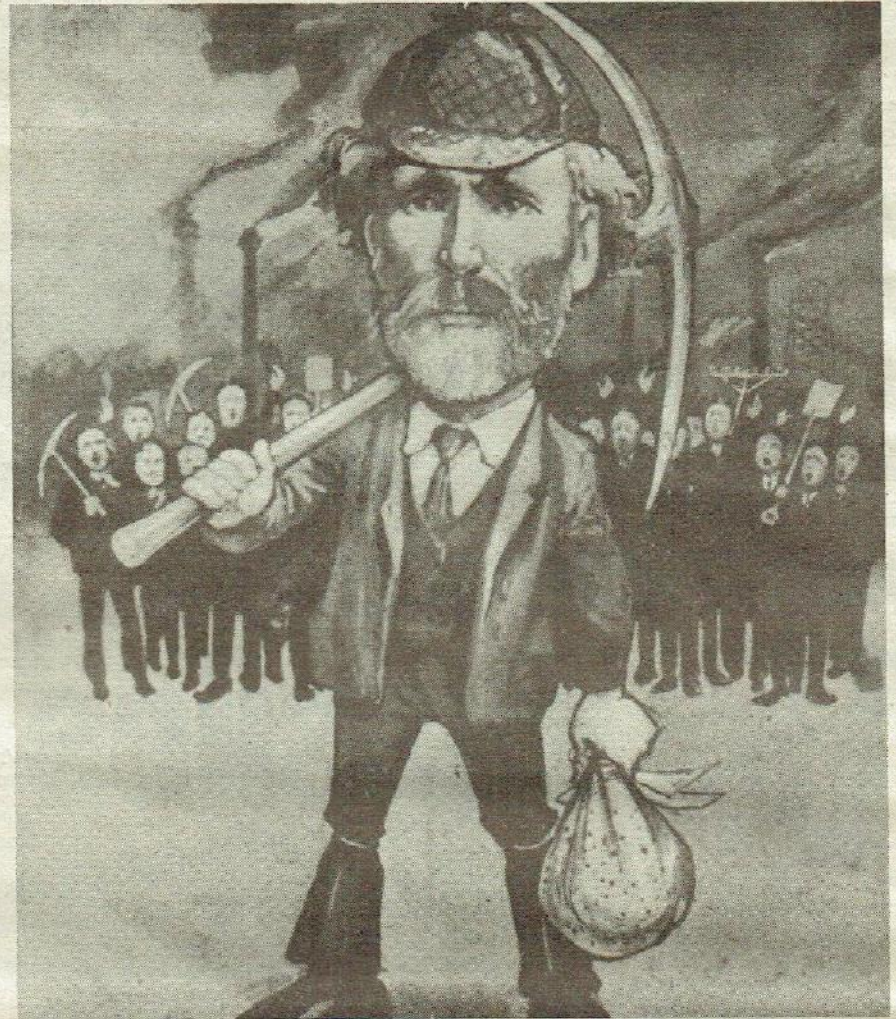
A number of the leaders even suggested that the LRC send a deputation to see the Tory and Liberal Whips and this only lost by the narrow vote of five to four.

As the LRC was quite happy to reach an understanding with local Tory and Liberal Associations, it did not take the leaders long to get round to the idea that it was better to run 'respectable' and 'moderate' candidates rather than those who insisted on talking about socialism and other such funny ideas.

Ramsay MacDonald and Keir Hardie took this reasoning to its logical conclusions and entered into secret negotiations with the Liberal Chief Whip, Herbert Gladstone. The Liberal leaders agreed to use their influence to prevent local liberal opposition to any LRC candidate who supported the 'general objects of the Liberal Party.' In return, the LRC had to 'demonstrate friendliness to the Liberals in any constituency where it had influence.'

Naturally, being good Christians, both Hardie and MacDonald denied the existence of any such agreements with the Liberals, at either national or local level.

The policies of these leaders played right into the hands of the Liberal Party. The growth of the trade unions, the rising confidence of the working people, evidenced in the fact that they had even formed a Labour Party, scared to hell the more astute sections of the ruling class. Lloyd George with his policies of limited reform therefore tried to provide an alternative to



Keir Hardie

Labour and bring the new radicalism safely in tow behind Liberals.

Instead of leading this radicalism against Liberalism, the Labour MPs saw it as a sure way of pressurising the Liberals, rather than a means breaking the Liberal Party. From 1911 until 1914, issues like Home Rule for Ireland, votes for women and trade union rights dominated radical British politics. But Labour under the chairmanship of MacDonald saw their main task as being to keep the 'progressive' Liberals in office.

As a result Labour could never place itself at the head of the Irish Home Rule Movement. Whilst being in favour of votes for women, its adherence to constitutionalism and its opposition to extra-parliamentary action meant it finished up on the wrong side. MacDonald wrote of the suffragettes: 'The violent methods are wrong and in their nature reactionary and anti-social, quite irrespective of vote or no vote.'

Unions

In 1913 Ramsay MacDonald declared, 'it is quite certain that up to now the power to strike has enabled Labour to secure the advances of wages and improvements in conditions which it has won.' But then came the rub. He insisted 'the trade union conflict has become the national conflict; the field upon which it has to be fought out is the state, not the workshop; the weapon is to be the ballot box and the Act of Parliament, not collective bargaining.'

Such a view was entirely logical for MacDonald. After all, he had argued 'the modern state in most civilised communities is democratic, and in spite of remaining anomalies and imperfections, if the mass of the ordinary people are agreed upon any policy, neither electors, privileged peers nor reigning houses could stand in their way.'

War

MacDonald never explained what the peers would do if their privileges were ever threatened. Nor did he go into any detail about what the reigning houses would do if some upstarts from the mass of the ordinary people ever tried to stop them reigning.

Then in 1914 came the biggest test of all — the Great War broke out and Europe headed on the greatest binge of slaughter humanity had ever seen.

Labour's response was immediate. On the 4 August the most important organisations of the labour movement met in conference. Their ostensible purpose was to form a National Labour Committee Against War. Instead they set up the War Emergency Workers' National Committee which was supposed to watch over workers interests during the war.

Twenty days after the war started, the trade unions and the Labour Party declared that there should be an industrial truce for the duration of the war. On the 29 August Labour also obligingly agreed to an electoral truce.

But some of the most important leaders said

they were against the official definitions and causes of the war. MacDonald, who resigned the leadership of the Labour Party. Keir Hardie, Snowden, Jowett and Richardson all declared their opposition to the blood bath.

But they had their qualifications. Hardie admitted 'A Nation at war must be united, especially when its existence is at stake.' MacDonald wrote: 'We must go straight through. History will in due time apportion the praise and the blame, but the young men of this country must, for the moment, settle the immediate issues of victory.'

Snowden who was against participation in the war effort, never let his 'principles' interfere with his patriotic duty, and confessed 'the whole labour movement will be united on one point — namely that it is the duty of the nation in its present difficulties.'

Now that was the 'raving' opposition of the 'left extremists'. The more responsible ones happily shouldered their responsibilities and accepted the offer to join the government. On 15 May Henderson, the Labour Party leader joined the cabinet along with William Bruce and G H Roberts who got jobs as junior ministers.

The TUC and the Labour Party Conference overwhelmingly endorsed this decision. The Labour leaders knew that when it came to the crunch they had to support their ruling class, who after all were British born and bred, against those foreigners, even though they might be workers and trade unionists.



Against all immigration laws

SOCIALIST CHALLENGE in this issue reports on the effect that the racist immigration laws are having on the lives of black people and Asians in Britain.

These are not isolated cases. Unfortunately they are only too typical of the hounding and persecution dished out by racist state officials, backed up by racist laws.

Racism is a poison that degrades and humiliates. It damages the interests of working people, because by identifying blacks and Asians as the scapegoats, it turns one group of workers against another and obscures who our real enemy is.

The purpose of immigration laws is to say that we do not have enough jobs, enough houses and enough social services, because we have too many black people in Britain. This is a lie. We do not have enough of what we want and need, because capitalism does not find it profitable to produce the goods needed.

When we take a stand against immigration laws we defend the basic democratic rights of people to earn a living where they choose without being degraded by the state and without living in a state of uncertainty and fear. In doing so we are fighting for working class unity and solidarity, and that serves the needs of every worker, be they black or white.



Anthony Brown faces deportation

Death by deportation

BRITAIN'S RACIST IMMIGRATION laws are causing increasing suffering to thousands of black people, and in some cases literally mean a sentence of death.

Hundreds of Iranian students in Britain, who are opponents of the Khomeini regime are facing death by deportation. Already many of those who have been forced to return have been summarily executed after getting off the plane at Tehran airport. Twenty thousand people have been executed in Iran.

For those who avoid execution, there is the brutal alternative of Khomeini's jails, 50,000 political prisoners crowd the jails. Women are particularly under threat from the vicious prison guards

Dead

Despite these barbaric horrors that face deportees, the Home Office has turned down requests that Iranian students be granted political asylum and has insisted that the regime in Iran is a 'force for stability'. Already Britain has deported 100 Iranians, a number of whom simply disappeared when they got back. The threat of Home Office deportation now hangs over the heads of another 900 people.

Racist

In some cases college administrators are collaborating with the Home Office to get rid of Iranian students. One college required Iranian students doing their HND to pass 'A' levels. No such requirement was demanded of English speaking students. Those Iranian who did not pass their 'A' levels did not get on the course, therefore lost their visa and now face deportation.

In applying its racist laws the states uses every possible means that it can muster against black people. Not only does it harass them with immigration officials and its police, but it also uses the

Department of Health and Social Security.

Parveen Khan and Manjit Kaur are two single mothers living with their children in the Manchester area. Not only are they being faced with the legal threat of forced deportation but the state has devised a way of starving them and their children. The DHSS has not only refused to pay them any supplementary benefit, but they have also been told that they are not allowed child benefit, despite the fact their children were born here.

Son

Enus Ali has been declared an illegal immigrant after living here for six years. Enus arrived in Britain in 1976 as a 14 year old boy. His father Tabarak had been here since 1963 and from then until 1974, he saved hard so he could bring his son to Britain. Enus like nearly every other immigrant suffered the deliberately long drawn-out procedure of the racist laws and waited nearly two year before he got permission to come and join his father. Just before he arrived in Britain, his father died of cancer.

Illegal

Now suddenly six years later the Home Office has discovered he is an illegal immigrant. This has happened because last year he went back to Bangladesh to get married and on his return naturally applied for his wife to come and join him in Britain.

When he was being interviewed at Ringway airport by an immigration officer about his wife's application, he mentioned that his father was dead when he arrived here. Last October, immigration went to see Enus, not to tell him that his wife could join him, but to say that he was illegally in Britain because his father had died before he could join him, and that he was being deported.

Residence

Anthony Brown is a Jamaican-born 22 year old who has lived in Britain since he was six, with the exception of a break of two years and ten months. He now faces deportation because of the history of his father's residence in the country. Derek Wilton Brown, Anthony's father, has resided in Britain since 1954. He had trained as an architect and worked for the Ministry of Works, journeying from Britain

back and forth to Jamaica where his wife and five children lived. Then in 1967 his family joined him in Britain.

Anthony was going to Stretford Grammar school when his father accepted a two-year contract to lecture at a College of Technology in Jamaica. Derek Brown then took his family with him to Jamaica, a procedure often adopted by white lecturers when they take appointments overseas, but then he was not white, and that is where the racist laws come into effect.

Status

Anthony went to school in Jamaica but was not happy there and asked to return to England to stay with his older brother who had not gone to Jamaica. His parents refused thinking he would be too great a responsibility.

Anthony's father renewed his contract in Jamaica at the end of two years, unwittingly breaching the 1971 immigration legislation, so when Anthony and his family got back to Britain they were surprised and dismayed to find they had breached the immigration laws, which stipulate that to preserve their resident's status, non-British citizens must not be away for more than two years at a time.

Support

The extra ten months his father had stayed away meant the threat of deportation is being used against him and he has been told that he must now leave the country.

These cases, starting with the fight to save the lives of the Iranian students, and defending people such as Parveen Khan, Manjit Kaur, Enus Ali, and Anthony Brown from deportation, call for the support of the labour movement and should also be the concern of the students unions.

Demo

The Campaign Against Racist Laws is holding a demonstration in London on Sunday 27 March, and we hope our readers pencil that in their diaries. But not only should we build the Campaign, and its March demonstration, but we have to start campaigning now inside the Labour Party and the trade unions for the support of its objectives.

That means we must get the Labour Party conference to pledge that it will repeal these iniquitous and barbarous laws which are used by the state to inflict suffering, and even death in the case of the Iranian students. A future Labour government must end such horrors, and by doing so show black and Asian people that their interests lie with the labour movement.



Parveen Khan and Manjit Kaur single mothers denied supplementary and child benefit by racist state.



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Organised by the Campaign Against Racist Immigration Laws

Socialist Challenge

BERMONDSEY: LABOUR MUST WIN!

WITHIN A MONTH official campaigning will start in the Bermondsey by-election. For over a year the Tory press have waged a bitter campaign against PETER TATCHELL, the Labour Party candidate. As he said to Alan Freeman and Redmond O'Neil 'This is going to be the most important election in this area since Labour won the seat in 1922. Over 20 candidates will be standing against us. This election is vital because the whole of the Left and the socialist policies we have stood for will be on trial.'

The Tory press will be giving their support to the 'Independent Labour'

candidate John O'Grady. He is the nominee of former right-wing Bermondsey MP Bob Mellish.

Peter explained: 'Some people have swallowed Mellish's line, in the past, about fighting the Left out of loyalty to Labour. Now O'Grady and Mellish are going all out to sabotage Labour's chances against the Tories and SDP/Liberal Alliance.'

'These two are nothing more than the latest in a series of anti-Labour turncoats. They both made a very good living out of the labour movement for years. They've been sustained by the dreaded local Party activists. Now they are trying to chop off and eat the hands that have fed them.'

Tatchell's campaign will home in on the devastation of Bermondsey over the past decade: 'Over 15,000 jobs have been lost in private in-

dustry over the past ten years', he says. 'Council rents have doubled since the election of the Tories, and one in four council houses were built before 1919. Yet Mellish and O'Grady are up to their eyes in the London Dock Development Corporation whose chief aims seem to be building luxury flats and three yacht marinas for the Surrey rich.'

The decision to select Tatchell as Bermondsey Labour candidate was based on a fight against this 'jobs for the boys' approach of the corrupt clique that had lived off the local labour movement for years.

As Tatchell put it: 'Yes I'm a socialist and a rebel. If you're working class in this area it's the only way you'll get anything done. The working class has only ever won major reforms by organising and demanding their rights.'

The Bermondsey by-election will be a decisive test for the Labour Party in the run-in to a general election. The witch-hunt organised by the right-wing as well as their declarations that they want nothing to do with socialist policies like unilateral nuclear disarmament are giving the Tory press a field day in their campaign to prevent a Labour victory.

Nowhere is this more the case than Bermondsey: 'The witch-hunt against myself and our party over the last 14 months certainly hasn't helped. Rather it has undermined us and given credibility to Labour's enemies' claims that we're a bunch of wild-eyed extremists. As a result we're on starting blocks with a severe disadvantage.'

The maximum vote for Tatchell will be a blow against both the Tories and the witch-hunters in the Labour Party. It must be campaigned for in that light. Against Tatchell enormous forces are being mobilised. It is up to activists in the unions, Labour Party and CND to do their utmost to tip the scales in Tatchell's favour because that is the most effective way that we can demonstrate the kind of socialist campaign for a Labour victory necessary in 1983.



Photo: CITY LIMITS

TATCHELL: 'Help our campaign'

WE particularly need a massive Labour victory in Bermondsey to show that candidates can win fighting for strong socialist policies. We want this campaign to demolish the myth that the turncoats and defectors like Mellish and the SDP have any hope of preventing a Labour victory in the general election.

We expect that in the course of the campaign Fleet Street will work overtime to undermine our support. So we are asking for an all out effort by labour movement activists to help with our campaign and prove that the Fleet Street lie machine can be defeated.

There are 22 candidates, and over two hundred canvassers have been bussed in by the Liberal Party. We have to reverse the damage of the last fourteen months; we urge everybody to turn up for our mass canvass on Sunday 30 January, and subsequently each Tuesday evening and Sunday morning.

Make sure your branch of the Labour Party and of your trade union pledges help; and above all don't wait for the election — start now!

For further information contact Dave Fryer on 732-8274.

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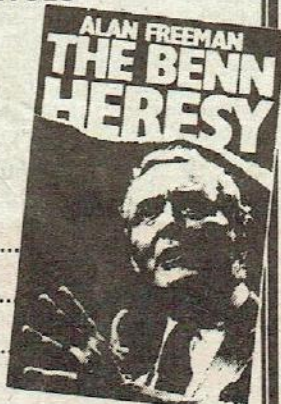
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