

Socialist Organiser

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15p with Women's Fightback

Paper of the Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory

The Picket Line is the Front Line

by STEPHEN CORBISHLEY

ON FRIDAY 1st August the Employment Act becomes law. This week the Tory government will announce the dates when the different parts of it come into force.

Under the Employment Act, all flying and solidarity pickets will be outlawed. Most sympathy strikes and blacking will fall foul of the law, and a Code of Practice will say: no more than six workers on any picket line.

In the Brixton dole office strike in South London, the police are already trying to enforce this line. The strike has been going for five weeks and since the third week there have been 100 or 150 police there every morning to insist on no more than six pickets.

Strong local contingents of NUT and NALGO members, and groups of CPSA members, have come along to support the strikers — but every one beyond the chosen six is forced to stand on a piece of waste ground opposite the office. They are forbidden to shout 'scab', boo, hiss or say anything the police consider offensive.

The strike is against the sacking of Phil Corddell, the union branch secretary at Brixton dole, and Richard Cleverley, the branch organiser. They were sacked for trade union activity.

Corddell and Cleverley have also been picked out by police for arrest on the picket line: one for being the '7th person' on the picket line (he was charged with 'obstruction'), another for allegedly damaging a scab's car.

This is an important test case for the Employment Act. Today, the police try it out on the white collar civil service workers' union. In the months to come they will use it against the more powerful engineers, dockers, miners...

But if enough workers turn out to support Brixton dole, then the police and the Tor-



CPSA members picket Brixton dole office — in the front line on picketing rights as well as fighting victimisation.

ies will be powerless. When there are seven on the picket line, they can arrest the seventh as 'one too many'. When there are 700, then they can't arrest all 700.

The police and Tory bully-boy attack on our democratic rights can succeed only if we allow ourselves to be scared or passive.

So the strikers and the campaign have called for a national mass picket on August 13th, the day Phil Corddell's case is heard at the Civil Service Appeals Board. Maximum turnout is vital to beat the victimisations and to beat the police attempt to establish strict control over picket lines.

The strikers' main problem is the right wing leadership of their union, the CPSA. The strike is unofficial. It started after the union executive refused to extend a 3 day official strike.

Despite being bound by an

unanimous vote at the May CPSA conference to take 'all action possible' to win reinstatement, the executive has insisted on total reliance on the Civil Service Appeals Board. CPSA General Secretary Ken Thomas has sent round a circular condemning the unofficial strike as 'divisive'.

But the strikers have managed to raise over £8,000 in donations, a lot of it from union branch levies. Their

Support Brixton, Aug 13

IN A DOLE office strike in South London, the police are already trying to impose the Tories' new "no more than six pickets" rule. A mass picket in protest has been called for August 13th — 7am at Brixton dole, Coldharbour Lane, SW9.

We are deeply concerned at the provisions of the Tories' proposed Employment Bill, and of James Prior's so-called "Code of Conduct" for trade union disputes. These set out to remove rights for which our movement has fought for generations.

But in particular we are outraged that these provisions are already being put into effect.

At Brixton Unemployment Benefit office in South London, two members of staff have been dismissed for what their union, the CPSA, regards as legitimate trade union activity. In the strike which has followed, union members seeking their reinstatement have been prevented from picketing, as is their right, by decisions taken by South London police.

Chief Superintendent Newlove has decreed that not more than two pickets per gate are permitted at the

Brixton office! This restriction is backed up by the regular presence of two hundred police.

This decision exceeds even the dangerous nonsense of Prior's "Code of Conduct" which proposes limits at picket lines. The Brixton case is a dangerous precedent. If it goes unchallenged the police, the courts, and of course the Tory Government, will feel free to further the attack on our rights.

On Wednesday August 13th the first of the appeals for the reinstatement of the two sacked CPSA officials, Phil Corddell and Richard Cleverley, will be heard by the Civil Service Appeals Board.

On that morning we are calling for a mass demonstration which will express our solidarity with the CPSA strikers, but also our outrage at the denial of trade union rights.

We urge you to ensure the widest possible support.

Signatories include: Stuart Holland MP, John Tilley MP, Reg Race MP, Jo Richardson MP, Ernie Roberts MP, Dennis Skinner MP, Pam Corr (NUT Executive), Bob Hart (SCPS Executive), Des Bailey (IRSF Executive)

defence campaign is sending pickets to every major computer centre organised by the CPSA to explain the issues and prepare for action. They have managed to make it the longest ever unofficial strike in the civil service over an issue not connected with pay.

They can win — if they get the support they deserve from the labour movement.

Contact: Defence Campaign: 16 Knowlton House, Cowley Estate, London SW9.



A threat or a promise?

YET AGAIN, David Owen, Shirley Williams, and William Rodgers have threatened to split from the Labour Party if the Left gains ground.

The Rank and File Mobilising Committee replied! "If the Gang of Three would only stop threatening to leave the party and actually do it, they would spare us all a great deal of trouble."

"They are out of place in the Labour Party for they are, in all essentials, Conservatives."

"During the last Labour Government every key decision they made was supported by the then Tory opposition. They fought side by side with the Tories in the referendum for our continued membership of the EEC: they supported deflation and incomes policy against the advice of the Labour movement and with the support of the Tories; and they cut public spending by £8 billion, in line with Tory policy."

And Vladimir Derer, secretary of the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, told *Socialist Organiser*:

"The Labour Party constitution clearly defines the Party's object: 'to secure for the workers by hand and by brain the full fruit of their industry and the most equitable distribution thereof that may be possible upon the basis of the common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange'."

"However, Owen, Rodg-

continued on p. 6

August 17:
STOP THE N.F.!

ON AUGUST 17th, the National Front is marching in West Bromwich in the West Midlands calling for 'British jobs for British workers'.

For the NF, predictably, the human misery caused by growing unemployment is just oil to grease their machine. The West Midlands, previously the prosperous industrial centre of Britain, is facing closure after closure and redundan-

cies from firms such as Birmids in the Black Country, where mostly Asians are employed.

by MARIAN MOUND

Birmingham Trades Council has just supported an emergency resolution supporting the local demonstration being organised by the Anti-Nazi League, the Campaign against Racism and Fascism, and the

Campaign against Racist Laws, which will march from Handsworth to link up with the national ANL mobilisation and the march from the Asian community in Sandwell.

The NF were greatly demoralised by their set back in the general elections last year and have suffered a major split since then. They are attempting to rally the unemployed, the young kids, appealing to them on

the worst possible racist and chauvinistic basis.



In fact, unemployment amongst black people is four times higher than among whites. For black people under 25 it is eight times as high.

Black people are victims of unemployment, not the cause. In Britain in the

'30s, unemployment reached 4 million and there were almost no black people living here.

Meanwhile, the people really responsible for the unemployment, Thatcher, Joseph and Co., sit back while the Nazis turn white worker against black!

Assemble Handsworth car park, 11am, Sun. 17 Aug.

by JOHN BLOXAM

Labour democracy: it's in the balance

THE RANK and File Mobilising Committee's work has been crucial in influencing the Labour Party National Executive to support the major demands for Party democracy, Tony Benn told the RFMC at its last meeting on July 23.

But the pressure must be kept up until conference, he stressed.

The NEC has backed the broad electoral college proposed by the Left, rejected the Inquiry's idea of re-imposing a rule which says no constitutional question can be raised by CLPs twice within three years, and agreed to prepare a constitutional amendment providing for NEC control of the manifesto.

But the NEC has not yet decided whether to recommend support for the amendment on the Manifesto. And moves to get a different

electoral college formula are possible at the eve-conference NEC meeting.

A strong campaign is necessary to make sure the NEC stands firm and that all possible Constituency Labour Party (CLP) votes are cast for democracy. This could be crucial.

The resolutions put to Conference — especially on nuclear arms, Ireland, and the police — show the CLPs are moving Left. But bureaucracy in the unions means that their block votes do not

respond so quickly to the militant mood of working class activists.

On democracy, the votes are finely balanced — and except on mandatory re-selection, the odds are probably against us.

Of the two major unions previously in the balance, the NUR will vote with the Right on all three issues: election of leader, control of manifesto, re-selection. The NUM delegation will probably be mostly right-wing. It has been instructed by the

union executive to vote against change on electing the leader; the delegation will decide its attitude on the manifesto at conference; but it is bound by NUM policy to vote for mandatory re-selection.

That makes the line-up of the union vote probably about 3.3 million to 2.7 million on NEC control of the manifesto and election of leader, and about 3.1 million to 3 million on mandatory re-selection — as far as we can tell at the moment. So if the 600,000 CLP votes are thrown solidly in support of democracy, it is just possible that we can win.

In the few weeks left before the Conference on 29 September - 3 October, the Mobilising Committee will be going all out to explain the issues and rally maximum support. Even if we do lose this year, the battle for democracy will certainly continue. The more organisation and fighting spirit we build up now, the better placed we will be to carry on.

Mobilising Committee

EDINBURGH: Sunday 31 August, 7.30pm, Trades Council, Picardy Place. Speaker: Reg Race.

T.U.C.: Monday 1 September, 5.15pm, Preston Room, Royal Albion Hotel, Brighton. Speaker: Tony Benn.

BASINGSTOKE: Tuesday 2 September, 7.30pm, Chute House, Church St.

BROMLEY: Wednesday 3 September. Speaker: Reg Race.

TOWER HAMLETS: Wednesday 3 September. 7.30, Town Hall, Patriot Sq, E2. Speaker: Frances Morrell.

PADDINGTON/BRENT: Tuesday 9 September, 7.30. Speakers: Jack Dromey, Bernard Dix, Audrey Wise, Bob Wright.

LONDON: Monday 15 September. 7.30pm, Camden Town Hall. Chair: Jo Richardson. Speakers: Tony Benn, Eric Heffer, Bob Wright.

MANCHESTER: Wednesday 17 September. 7.30pm, University of Manchester Students Union. Speaker: Tony Benn.

BRISTOL: Saturday 20 September, 2pm, Central Hall, Old Market St. Speaker: Reg Race.

BIRMINGHAM: Monday 22 September. 7.30. Speakers: Tony Benn, Bob Wright.

SOUTHAMPTON: Tuesday 23 September. 7.30, Civic Centre. Speakers: Reg Race, Bob Wright.

SHEFFIELD: Wednesday 24 September, 7pm, AUEW House. Speaker: Tony Benn.

BASINGSTOKE

Contact address not yet fixed but phone Martin Timmins, 59582.

BIRMINGHAM

Simon Temple, 40 Landgate Road, Handsworth. 554 1503

BRISTOL

George Micklewright, 10 Hanbury Road, Bristol 8. 39249.

CARDIFF

Martin Barclay, 21 Dogo Street, Canton; or phone Marguerite Games, Rogerson 4320.

CHELMSFORD

John Brownfield, 516 Linnett Drive, Chelmsford. 81534.

COVENTRY

John Lowe, 124 Kenilworth Court. 503480.

EDINBURGH

Joe Baxter, 4 Glengyle Terrace. 229 4591.

GLASGOW

(No joint committee established because LCC unwilling to take part).

LEEDS

Barry Winter, c/o 49 Top Moor Side, Leeds 11. 703664.

LEICESTER

38 Portland Road. 700498. Leicester West CLP has backed the Mobilising Committee.

LONDON

BRENT

Ron Anderson, 128 Dollis Hill Lane, NW2. 450 4509.

BROMLEY

George Wilson, 659 3824, or Collin Moore, 778 0688.

HACKNEY

Ann Cameron, 12 Pains-thorpe Road, N16. 229 7554.

HARINGEY

Jeremy Corbyn, 28 Lansanne Road, N4. 340 9044, or Ernestine Labour Party, 21 Mudge Lane, N4.

LAMBETH

Graham Norwood, 25 Fawnbrake Avenue, SE24. 274 0042.

NEWHAM

Contact address not yet fixed, but phone Mike Foley, 555 9957.

PADDINGTON

39 Chippenham Road, W9. 286 9692. Paddington CLP has backed the Mobilising Committee.

TOWER HAMLETS

Eddie Bradden, 87 Matilda House, St Catherine's Way, E1. 480 6915.

MANCHESTER

Dave Gardner, 312 Robert Adam Crescent, Hulme, Manchester 15. 226 6879.

MEDWAY

Gordon Monsarrat, 378 High St, Rochester, Kent.

MERSEYSIDE

WIRRAL

John McCabe, 10 Heyes Drive, Wallasey. 639 2739.

LIVERPOOL

Andy Dixon, 30 Church Road, Roby, Huyton. 489 4242.

NEWCASTLE

Martin Lightfoot, Trade Union Studies Information Unit, Southend, Fernwood Road, Newcastle.

NORTHAMPTON

John Dickie, 2 Western View, Black Lion Hill, 22188; or Steve Schofield, 24 Hallam Close, Moulton. 499543.

NOTTINGHAM

Peter Radcliff, Flat 1, 8 Vickers Street. 625499.

OXFORD

Mike Picken, 64777 x472.

SHEFFIELD

John Cunningham, c/o 10 Burns Road, Sheffield 6. 686773.

SOUTHAMPTON

Alan Whitehead, 11-13, 225

Where we stand

SOCIALIST ORGANISER is the paper of the Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory, an alliance of Labour and trade union activists sponsored by six Constituency Labour Parties, four Trades Councils, and several trade union branches and LPYSS: We aim to build a class-struggle left-wing in the Labour Party and trade unions based on a revolutionary socialist platform.

★ Organise the left to beat back the Tories' attacks! No to attacks on union rights; defend the picket-line; no state interference in our unions!

★ No to any wage curbs. Labour must support all struggles for better living standards and conditions!

★ Wage rises should at the very least keep up with price increases. The same should go for state benefits, grants and pensions.

★ Start improving the social services rather than cutting them. Stop cutting jobs in the public sector.

★ End unemployment. Cut hours not jobs — share the work with no loss of pay. Start now with a 35-hour week and end to overtime.

★ All firms threatening closure should be nationalised under workers' control.

★ Make the bosses pay, not the working class. Millions for hospitals, not a penny for 'defence'! Nationalise the banks and financial institutions without compensation. End the interest burden on council housing and other public services.

★ Freeze rents and rates.
★ Scrap all immigration controls. Race is not a problem; racism is. The labour movement must mobilise to drive the fascists off the streets.

★ Purge racists from positions in the labour movement. Organise full support for black self-defence.

★ The capitalist police are an enemy for the working class. Support all demands to weaken them as the bosses' striking force: dissolution of special squads (SPG, Special Branch, MI5, etc.), public accountability, etc.

★ Free abortion and contraception on demand. Women's equal right to work, and full equality for women.

★ Against attacks on gays by the State: abolish all laws which discriminate against lesbians and gay men; for the right of the gay community to organise and to affirm their stance publicly.

★ The Irish people — as a whole — should have the right to determine their own future. Get the British troops out now! Repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Political status for Irish Republican prisoners as a matter of urgency.

★ The black working people of South Africa and of Zimbabwe should get full support from the British labour movement for their strikes, struggles, and armed combat against the white supremacist regimes. South African goods and services should be blacked.

★ It is essential to achieve the fullest democracy in the labour movement. Automatic reselection of MPs during each parliament, and the election by annual conference of party leaders. Annual election of all trade union officials, who should be paid the average for the trade.

★ The chaos, waste, human suffering and misery of capitalism now — in Britain and throughout the world — show the urgent need to establish rational, democratic, human control over the economy, to make the decisive sectors of industry, social production, and workers' control.

The struggle for the labour movement is a class struggle. It is a struggle for the abolition of the capitalist system, for the establishment of a socialist society.

Is the ILP bottling out?

by NEAL SMITH [former secretary, Manchester ILP]

ON JULY 23rd, several leading members of the ILP turned up to the Steering Committee of the Rank and File Mobilising Committee. Eric Preston, a leading ILP supporter from Leeds, announced at the meeting that the ILP had changed its position on the election of the Labour Party leader.

Previously, the ILP had supported the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy proposals for an extensive electoral college, with a big majority for the trade unions and the constituency parties. Now the ILP has changed its mind and supports an electoral college very similar to that proposed by the Commission of Enquiry.

Although the ILP proposals, adopted as a resolution to Labour Party Conference by Leeds South CLP, envisage a larger electoral college than does the Commission of Enquiry, the balance of power within it would be firmly with the Parliamentary Labour Party, who would have 50% of the votes.

Eric Preston argued that there was a move to the right in the Labour Party and trade unions, at least in the North, and the left must not become isolated. Not surprisingly, this fatalistic approach was attacked by everyone else at the meeting — both by other organisations and by members of the Labour Party National Executive Committee.

Comrades also pointed out that the Leeds South resolution could only confuse the issue and Conference and divert support from the CLPD resolution supported by the Mobilising Committee.

The ILP could not support the Leeds South motion and at the same time remain a member of the Mobilising Committee.

The ILP was asked to reconsider its position — but this seems very unlikely. The ILP leadership has never seemed very enthusiastic about the Mobilising Committee. They

positive discrimination towards women in the labour movement, and they have not tried to mobilise rank and file ILP supporters to work enthusiastically for the Committee and its initiatives.

The whole affair becomes still more curious in the light of how the ILP changed its mind. At the Easter Conference of ILP supporters, their National Administrative Council (NAC) proposed a resolution on LP democracy which stated that "ideally, the Leader of the Labour Party should be elected by Annual Conference", and in the past they have broadly supported the proposals of the CLPD.

The same resolution stated: "proposals within the Party for the use of an electoral college should be pursued as a practical alternative". At the time this resolution was drafted the only such concrete proposals were those of the CLPD.

However, by the time the Commission of Enquiry produced its report, the ILP leaders were getting cold feet. The Labour Leader article on the Enquiry (by Molly Temple) was very equivocal about the Enquiry's proposals for a restricted electoral college, and lectured the left "against adopting too rigid a stance over the issue". The apparent strength of the right wing and the fear of being on the losing side at Conference persuaded Eric Preston to push his resolution through Leeds South CLP.

Only after this did he and his supporters go to the ILP NAC and get an acceptance of their 'fait accompli'. Hardly a very good example of democracy in action!

Such behaviour should incense the rank and file supporters of the ILP, who have shown their willingness to get involved in the Mobilising Committee and who have been active in the CLPD despite the lukewarm attitude of the ILP leadership.

The NAC's change of heart was not discussed amongst ILP supporters before the decision was taken, and cuts directly against the ILP's avowed aim to "organise the left". Like it or not, rank and file ILP supporters who agree with the ILP's new position will find themselves not working with the left — but lining up with many on the right wing.

They should reject the Leeds South resolution and instead support the Mobilising Committee.

They should also support the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy.



3,000 people, mostly Asians, marched through East London on Sunday 3 August protesting at racist attacks. The demo was called by the Steering Committee of Asian Organisations after the murder of Akhtar Ali Baig. Just three days before the demonstration there was another attack in Stepney. A 19-year old Asian standing at his front door was stabbed by white youths and may lose an eye.



Birmingham TC backs Tameside

BIRMINGHAM Trades Council has joined the growing outcry against the TUC's disaffiliation of Tameside Trades Council.

The disaffiliation took place because of the TUC leaders' objection to a labour movement conference being organised by Tameside.

Apart from the grossly undemocratic nature of the decision, the ruling also highlights the union leaders' fear of any labour movement discussion of Ireland that goes beyond the empty platitudes of the non-existent "Better Life for All" campaign. [Tameside TC was well known for its principled anti-imperialist policy].

The Birmingham resolution reads: "This TC resolves to support the Tameside TC in its attempt to be reinstated to the TUC. We see the disaffiliation as undemocratic, and we call on the TUC to organise the widest possible debate on Ireland."

This was passed in a close vote despite being strongly opposed by the Secretary, Sir David Perris, and by members of the Communist Party.

Socialist Organiser supporters must raise similar motions in their union branches, Labour Party wards and Trades Councils. It is crucial, too, that the defence conference organised by Tameside later in the year is well supported. On Wednesday 3rd September there will be a lobby of the TUC protesting at Tameside's disaffiliation: assemble 12 noon at Brighton railway station.

Messages of support for Tameside to Dave Hallsworth, Honorary Secretary, 186 Kings Road, Ashton-under-Lyme, Lancs.

Scottish dragnet law goes through

SWEEPING EXTENSIONS of police powers will soon become law in Scotland. The Scottish Criminal Justice Bill passed its 3rd Reading in late July and is likely to be in force early in 1981.

It gives the police the right to detain people on 'suspicion' for six hours without arresting them. They will then be able to take their fingerprints and search them. The police will also be able to search anyone on 'suspicion' of carrying offensive weapons.

The Bill also includes an attack on the rights of arrested people to remain silent without that being considered evidence against them. The English police have wanted this right scrapped for a long time, and pressed for it in evidence to the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure.

Some of the clauses in the original Bill went even further. A proposal that detention could be extended by further six hour periods, effectively as long as the police wanted, was removed, as were powers to detain witnesses or anyone having information about an offence in order to get their

name and address.

A clause was added bringing the law on homosexuality in Scotland (where it was still illegal) into line with that in England (where the age of consent for homosexuals is 21, though for heterosexuals it is only 16).

Yet the Bill still provides the Scottish police with powers to harass anyone and pull them in off the streets on vague grounds of 'suspicion'.

A similar Bill was introduced in 1978 by the last Labour government, but it didn't get through before the Election. When the Tories introduced the current Bill, the Labour Party opposed it as a whole, though it has still not campaigned hard to prevent it from becoming law. For example, there was no whip to oppose the 3rd Reading.

The Labour Party must be committed to repeal of the police powers in the Bill. The Campaign against the Scottish Criminal Justice Bill is considering taking up this battle, as well as monitoring and arousing protest against the way the police use their new powers when the Bill becomes law.

BRUCE ROBINSON

St. Pauls defence campaign appeals for aid

THE DIRECTOR of Public Prosecutions has fired charges of riotous assembly at sixteen defendants from St Paul's, Bristol, as a result of the outburst there on April 2nd, when police were forced to quit the area.

The sixteen come up in court on September 22nd. Their defence is the focus for the United Defence Committee who desperately need money and messages of support.

The media latched on to the recent carnival to show that it was "all smiles now in St Paul's", but behind the scenes the fight goes on.

Send messages of support, money, and requests for speakers to: United Defence Committee, Albert Villas, 146 Grosvenor Road, St Paul's, Bristol BS2.

IAN HOLLINGWORTH

Martin Meehan on the conveyor belt

by ALAN WOODS

RECENTLY the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party were attacked by the press as apologists for the Irish Republican Army and Irish National Liberation Army, because they accepted a relatively mild resolution calling for trade union rights for prisoners and deploring conditions for them in the prison camp of Long Kesh and in Armagh women's prison (not to mention the remand prisoners in Crumlin Road or the 80 prisoners in English jails).

The NEC decision was a significant development, especially when taken together with the resolutions on Northern Ireland tabled for discussion at the Labour Party conference.

But the laws allowing the judicial process known as the "conveyor belt from 'ghettoes' to prison camp" were renewed on July 22 with less than one-fifth of the MPs present. These laws do away with juries and rules of evidence as known in British courts.

The case of Martin Meehan, an active North Belfast Republican, highlights the use of these laws — and the lies of Mason and Rees, who deny special courts exist in Northern Ireland. Being a prominent campaigner for the reintroduction of political (special category) status, Meehan was a continual thorn in the side of the British propaganda machine.

Meehan was arrested with three others and charged with kidnapping 17 year old Stephen McWilliams. The case reveals several aspects of Britain's policy.

After being on remand for nearly a year, Meehan and his co-defendants were brought to court. This is typical. Internment has been officially ended, but many people are held for periods of up to two years on remand, and some never have charges brought against them.

It became clear as the case progressed, and was admitted, that McWilliams was a paid army informant and a petty burglar. McWilliams had been shown pictures of Meehan and was told to get information on him only days before he was kidnapped.

Subsequently McWilliams identified Meehan as the driver of a car involved.

Meehan was able to prove he was not there, and indeed a further witness showed that on the day in question he was not driving the car. This witness's evidence was dismissed as partial. The "judge" Gibson stated that he

had been observing the witness look at Meehan's wife and therefore he concluded him to be dishonest.

Under these conditions Meehan was sentenced with two others to 12 years' imprisonment. For the pundits who say direct rule crosses the 'sectarian divide' — only a month earlier, members of the RUC convicted of kidnapping a priest, causing an explosion, and shooting a man, received one year sentences suspended for two years!

Meehan decided to go on the blanket protest, but after six weeks he stepped up his campaign by going on hunger strike, against the advice of the Provisionals leadership. Meehan came off the blanket protest so as not to precipitate a full scale hunger strike.

By the 60th day of his hunger strike community activ-



Martin Meehan

ity included riots, street demonstrations, and motions through Derry City Council calling for a retrial.

The Northern Ireland Office denied Meehan was ill and claimed he was secretly eating. Meehan's immediate response was to go on a third strike.

The next day the Northern Ireland Office claimed a "massive and serious deterioration". With literally hours to live, Meehan was persuaded to end his strike the intervention of Cardinal O'Fiaich and Sean McBride on behalf of Amnesty International, as well as the wide-scale public support.

The level of community support can only be a taste of what will occur if any of the H Block or Armagh protesters dies or comes close to dying.

While Owen, Rodgers and Williams carp about extending democracy and socialism and warning of 'extreme' associations, under their noses these denials of rights continue (and they don't vote or turn up in the Commons on extending the repressive laws).

The fight for democracy in the Labour Party and for its commitment to a socialist programme must include: 'Political Status', 'Troops Out Now', and 'Self-determination for the Irish People as a Whole'.

TROOPS OUT NOW!

Brent East CLP resolution for Labour Party conference

This Conference recognises the evidence that the clear popular wish of the Irish people favours a British withdrawal from Ireland and progress towards a united Ireland. Furthermore, it recognises that British involvement in Ireland constitutes a major obstacle to developments towards socialism in that country.

Conference therefore:

[a] rejects the current bipartisan policies of the British Labour Party leadership;

[b] repudiates the policies of successive British governments which have effectively guaranteed the right of veto to the Unionist minority in Ireland, thereby ensuring that the present disastrous situation remains unresolved;

[c] feels that effective communication between British and Irish working class organisations is essential and urges that measures be taken to ensure that British trade unionists and Labour Party members are provided with accurate information about the views of their Irish count-

erparts;

[d] instructs the Labour Party leadership to adopt a policy favouring immediate political and military withdrawal from Ireland;

[e] calls on the next Labour Government to immediately begin the process of this full political and military withdrawal;

[f] instructs the Labour Party leadership to support political status in H Block and Armagh gaol and to support the immediate repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Tories make thousands stateless

LAST WEEK'S Nationality White Paper brought us one small step nearer a racist pass-laws system. According to ANN DUMMETT of Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, "Many lawfully settled people will continue to be rounded up in police raids because of their colour."

"It will be increasingly necessary for blacks to carry their passports with them in order to prove their right to be here, to work and to use social services like the National Health Service".

While the White Paper does not introduce any drastic changes for most people, it will leave 3½ million existing nationals with a new status that effectively means nothing in citizenship terms. Almost all of these are of non-European descent.

Certain groups receiving the new British Overseas Citizenship will be made

effectively stateless. Ann Dummett points out: "About 20,000 East African Asians living in Africa, plus about 25,000 who left East Africa and returned to the Indian sub-continent, plus

100,000 Chinese in Malaysia will find themselves classified as British Overseas Citizens."

"In fact, they will be worse than stateless because their citizenship entitles them to no rights. Because they are not legally stateless, they lose the few rights accorded to stateless people by the UN. They will have no right to live or work anywhere".

She added that naturalised and registered citizens' children born outside Britain will have no rights. "For instance, if a Pakistani man goes home on holiday and his wife — who may be waiting to be admitted to Britain —

bears him a child, then that child is now not British".

This is in line with the general drift of the new proposals: to further control entry into Britain and to reduce the numbers of children born overseas eligible to become British.

The new situation is both more complicated and more vague than before. This is bound to lead to considerable insecurity among immigrants and potential immigrants. Ann Dummett thinks that

the vagueness of the new proposals, the fact that it is not clear what definite rights the multiple categories will have, will mean that existing rights can be picked off one by one.

The only positive thing about the new proposals is that the sex discrimination introduced by the 1948 legislation and entrenched

by ANDREW HORNUNG

FOR THE TORIES, It's a matter of shaking the system out, getting brisk competition, and restoring healthy profit levels. For the working class, an official total of 1.9 million jobless means devastation and despair. And the total number of jobs in Britain is dwindling at the rate of 600,000 a year.

Last month 500 young people queued in Sheffield for eight jobs in a boutique at £30-odd a week. Sunderland has 50 jobs at the careers office for 4,500 school leavers. Liverpool has 5 for 6,097; Birmingham has 700 for 10,000.

At the British Aerospace factory in Manchester 3,000 have applied for 115 apprenticeships.

Glasgow is one of the bleakest black-spots. Male unemployment there is 14.5% overall and 30% in some areas.

Cambuslang is one of the worst-hit districts... a model of the way the Tories and capitalism are battering working class communities. STAN CROOKE reports.

CAMBUSLANG is an area threatened with total de-industrialisation. Thousands of jobs have already been lost in recent years, and now the last outposts of employment in Cambuslang are disappearing one by one.

Cooperation between unions and bosses — i.e. class collaboration — has been no defence. "Industrial relations", as the mass media would put it, were "good" at the Chunky Chicken factory. But that has not stopped the bosses wanting to shut the place. On the contrary, the weakness of union organisation is now exposed at the very time when strong organisation is needed to prevent closure.

At both Chunky Chicken and Hoovers, calls have been made for the quack remedy of import controls. But British bosses are the enemy, not European industry. German steelworkers raised money for British steelworkers during their strike this year. Calling for German steel to be kept out of the country is a pretty bad way of repaying that solidarity.

The policies of the present Tory government and previous Labour ones have not provided any answer to unemployment in Cambuslang.

The local Labour MP has done nothing to get a fightback going. The only threat that more closures and job cutbacks seem to pose for him is that he might run out of clichés with which to describe the dismal, catastrophic, deteriorating etc situation.

The bosses have been able to conduct a successful offensive for so long, not because of their own strength, but because of the lack of any clear lead for a fightback. Yellow unions, unions with scab-herding leaders, a mealy-mouthed right-wing careerist MP, calls for class collaboration in the form of import controls — all these have contributed to blocking any successful campaign against unemployment in the area.

But a campaign must be launched right now. There can be no question of waiting for the next general election, in 1984, in the pious hope that Labour might win and might do something against unemployment. Not just because there can be no guarantees that Labour will win and do the right things in power, but because there won't be anything left to save in Cambuslang by that time.

A fightback against unemployment must break with the logic of capitalism. The unions must reject the capitalist idea of "business secrets" and demand that the books are opened up to

union inspection. If the bosses aren't making a big enough profit, then that's their problem, not the workers'. Any factory threatening closure should be nationalised under workers' control and financed by state subsidies — at the expense of the profiteers and the arms trade.

Where new machinery is introduced, it should be used to cut the workload, rather than to cut the number of workers and increase the workload for the remainder. And any cut in working hours made possible by new machinery should not be accompanied by any cut in pay. This means fighting for work-sharing with no loss of pay.

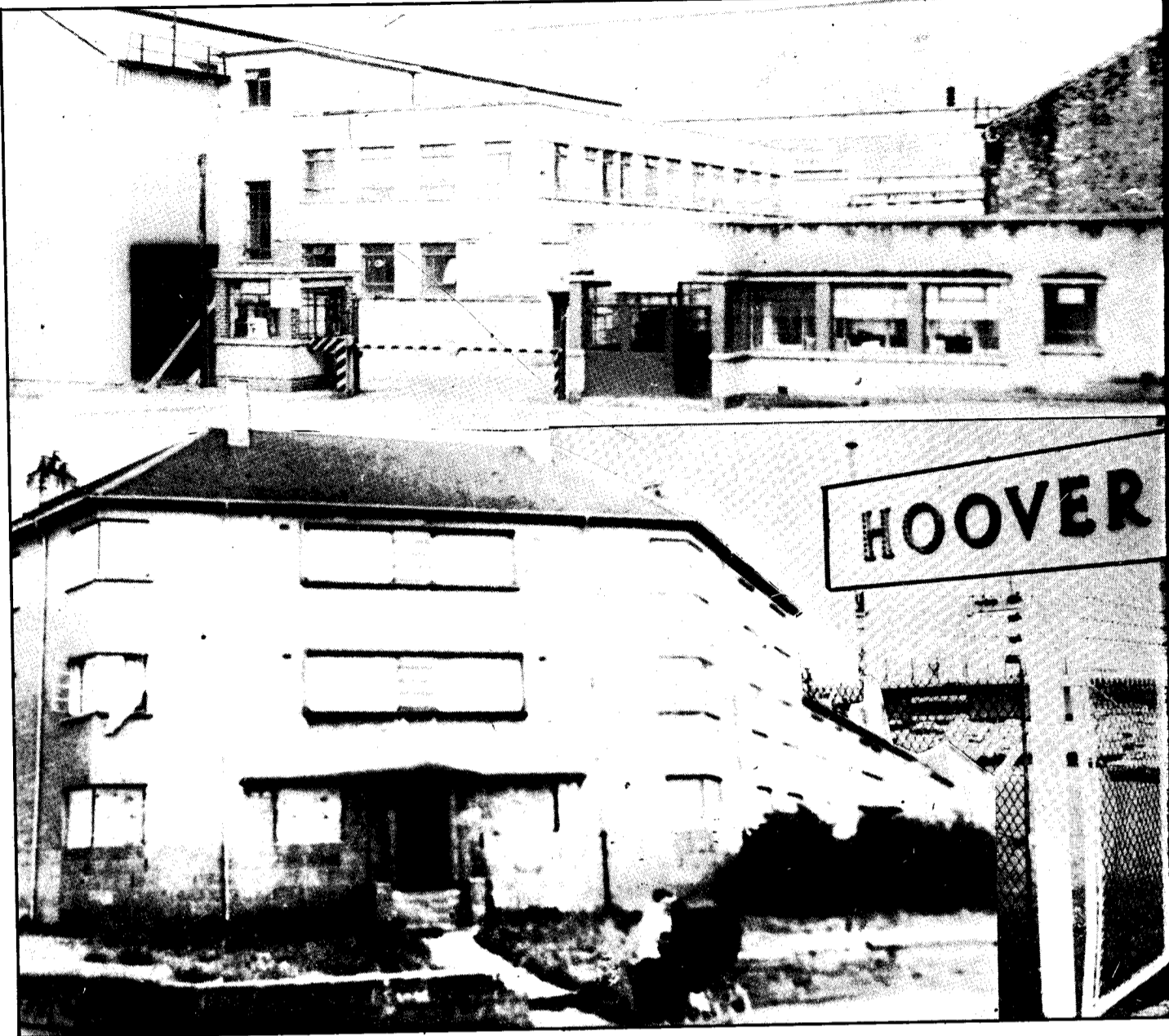
But such demands cannot be won by the labour movement the way it is organised at present in Cambuslang.

We need a fightback. We can't afford to have leaders who aren't prepared to help build that fightback. This applies to the shop stewards on the factory floor just as much as to the MP in the House of Commons bar. All Labour councillors should fall in line with the motion passed by the Constituency Labour Party for the national conference, demanding non-implementation of cuts and no rent and rate rises.

Membership of both the Labour Party and trade union movement should be revived. This means regenerating, or building from scratch, joint shop stewards' committees in the individual factories, and combine committees for factories in the same combine. The local Labour Party branches should be carrying out recruitment campaigns, and unions opening their doors to the already unemployed. Labour Party factory branches should be established.

And the links between the Labour Party and the unions must be strengthened. Trade union branches should send delegates to the GMC of the constituency party, and the Labour Party branches should turn outwards, helping to initiate and build campaigns against the bosses' offensive. In particular, a joint union-Labour Party campaign against cuts in social spending should be organised, drawing in tenants' associations.

The jobs slaughter in Cambuslang won't be stopped by any pleas from MPs or union officials. It will only stop either when there are no jobs left, or when a successful fightback is organised. And unless that fightback is launched now, there's no hope of saving Cambuslang from devastation and despair.



Where the Tories' axe cuts deepest

Diary of depression

JANUARY 1979 — the giant Hoovers factory in Cambuslang announces 225 redundancies. Management justifies the sackings on the grounds that operating costs have to be cut and that the previous policy of natural wastage is not working.

Jim Patterson, AUEW convenor at Hoovers, says: "Realistically, there is little we can do but accept the situation at the moment. Obviously we are not happy."

July 1979 — Component Containers Ltd., which makes metal containers, shuts down in Rutherglen, throwing 24 people out of work. The announcement of the closure comes on the day of a return to work after a strike against a 12½% wage increase offer — and just a few days before the beginning of the summer break. Management claims there is no alternative to closure because of the loss the factory is supposedly making.

September 1979 — Ful-

creme, the cream factory, is shut down for repeated infringements of health and hygiene regulations. Bosses lose their licence after making flea-infested ice-cream; workers lose their jobs.

October 1979 — the local Manpower Services Commission says that youth unemployment is increasing faster than adult unemployment, and there are now 50 people chasing after every job.

December 1979 — Hallside Steelworks in Cambuslang announces a shutdown, throwing 600 local steelworkers on the dole. BSC say that shutdown is due to need to make savings, and because machinery at the

Cooperate — a

THE LATEST closure in Cambuslang is at Chunky Chicken. Shop stewards there are not confident about a fightback, but the local Labour Party has already been in touch to offer support, and the LPYS is also planning action. Rutherglen and Cambuslang Trades Council will also be contacting the shop stewards.

Shop steward THOMAS TALENT spoke to *Socialist Organiser*.

■ ■ When was the closure announced?

□ □ On Fair Friday, the day before the start of the summer holidays. Fraser, the manager, called a meeting for all the factory and told us it would be closing down. The notice is due to run out on the 17th October but the week before that is the winter holiday week, so in fact we'll be shutting on the 10th.

■ ■ What reason did he give for the closure?

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Hospital workers occupy

300 MEMBERS of NUPE in the Royal Gwent Hospital in Newport struck and linen women occupied their huts when management attempted to move the linen women into a new working area.

The women occupied their huts after viewing their "new room", part of a new extension to the hospital. The room contained no windows and one exit/entrance, alongside which the management placed fire door signs after a grievance was registered about safety. A suspended ceiling hid pipes carrying hot water, which are renowned for bursting.

Management refused to carry out any improvement of the building.

They have also made several attempts to remove the women from the huts. They have turned off the water supply to the toilet and the electricity, and even held up payment of their wages for 5½ hours. Two students who were working in the linen room were

sacked after refusing to scab.

Other NUPE members came out on strike in support of the women. Ambulance drivers are only bringing in emergency admissions. The main linen depot in St. Wooloes are supporting the strike and no supplies are going to the Royal Gwent Hospital.

Management agreed to negotiate over the weekend after refusing for four days to talk to the union side. They have probably sobered up after seeing the support the strike has — and also after the Sector administrator was soaked by a bucket of water that he demanded and got from Stuart Barber, the NUPE full-timer, who had taken it to flush down the toilet in the hut.

The linen women are maintaining a 24 hour occupation and picket and are determined not to move into the new workplace.

Messages of support to: Jack Taylor, 91 Lime St, Newport.

Bristol Eight win appeal

THE REBEL eight councillors sacked from the ruling Labour group on Bristol City Council for opposing the cuts have been reinstated. (See April Socialist Organiser for original story).

In a fairly low key affair, Bristol Labour Group on July 4th agreed to abide by the NEC recommendations:

- (a) that the eight have the whip restored;
- (b) that the Bristol Group adopts new Standing Orders "in line with" model Standing Orders for Labour Groups;

(c) that the distribution of committee places for the eight be reconsidered.

After an initial surge of support from local trade union and Labour Party branches, the rebel eight's fight vanished up the corridors of power, where it arrived as a fairly confident appeal to the NEC for reinstatement.

Although it's good to see the eight reinstated, it would have been better if they had managed to operate together as a fighting anti-cuts focus during the course of their

appeal. This way they could have tried to build on local support and keep the anti-cuts issue to the forefront.

Instead, what happened was a refocussing on to the issue of reinstatement — in other words, internal justice and Party democracy for its own sake, with the cuts issue obscured. We mustn't lose sight of the links that bind the fight for Party democracy to the fight for socialist policies.

IAN HOLLINGWORTH

Teachers: follow the Scots!

DESPITE PRESS headlines about Thatcher losing the Cabinet battle on teachers' pay, there is really little cause for celebration.

According to the National Union of Teachers, the arbitration award is worth only 13½%, and not 14% to 16%, because it is not fully backdated and is paid in stages. And inflation is far more than that.

Suggestions about teachers getting two increases in a year are totally misleading. The famous Clegg award was only a catching-up exercise, which fell short by some 7 to 8% in

restoring the purchasing power of teachers' salaries since April 75.

It was 18 months late, and not fully backdated to April 79, saving local authorities some £1000 a teacher (£500m).

No wonder it was ratified by management in record time!

The award increased differentials between classroom teachers and head teachers. As for the "error" which failed to notice that teachers received an increment for an extra year's training, this was more than cancelled out by another error pointed out by the NUT. Clegg compared the salary

of a graduate trained teacher, who would normally be 22 years old on starting teaching, with a civil servant graduate at 21 years old.

The Tory cabinet clearly agrees that teachers are an easy target. And they insist that in the coming year, local authorities must carry out sackings and cuts to pay for this puny wage settlement.

The NUT should take a lead from the Scottish teachers' union EIS who have rejected a 14% offer and are taking strike action to win their 20% claim.

Bakers call mass pickets

FOR THE LAST three weeks there have been pickets of more than 50 at King Henry Meat in Levenshulme, Manchester. Bakers' Union members have been on strike now for five weeks for union recognition against the 19th century management and conditions in the plant.

Before the strike, arbitrary sackings, especially of union members, were the order of the day and hygiene and safety conditions were appalling. School children of 14 and 15 were hired to work Saturdays and Sundays for £5 and £6 a day. Hollings, the manager, also appeared to have special

relationships with factory inspectors and the Job Experience Scheme.

He was always warned of visits so he could shut down unsafe machines, put guards back and send the staff home early. Colin Barnett, the NUPE divisional officer, has now removed this firm from the Job Experience list but Hollings is continuing to recruit youngsters as scabs.

Liverpool dockers have blacked outlets to the Isle of Man and donated £250 to the strike. NUPE members at UMIST are starting to black pies and the plant is now working short time. Most of the

strikers carry scars or have lost fingertips, if not fingers, in machines and a description of the condition under which pies are made should put any potential customer off... water pours through the ceiling when it rains.

It is vital that we shut this firm down. There are mass pickets every week on Tuesdays and Fridays from 6.00am onwards. Support the mass pickets. Send donations and messages of support to BF&AWU, Room 4, George House, 30 Dudley Road, Manchester 16.

MICK WOODS



A threat or a promise?

continued from p.1

ers and Williams are proposing to realise Labour's values and philosophy through a commitment to the successful management of the mixed economy, i.e. capitalism. The question they are raising is not a tactical one of how the transition from private to common ownership might best be brought about...

"They disagree not just about the method of achieving the Party's objectives. They appear to regard a large private sector as something desirable in itself. How else is one to interpret their claim that 'the mixed economy is here to stay — and rightly so'?"

"What Dr Owen and the

others really object to is that unlike in the past, the debate on this occasion may end with the majority decision in favour of the rank and file. Having lost the argument, they are now resorting to threats..."

To try to rally support, Owen, Rodgers and Williams accuse the Left of being out to destroy democracy and flirting with extremists.

Democracy? Owen, Rodgers, and Williams recognise no other form of democracy than parliamentary democracy — and they specially defend the most undemocratic feature of parliamentary politics, the fact that we get only one vote every five years and no way of stopping MPs misrepresenting us all the rest of the time.

Extremists? When he was

defending the Shah, Owen did say the bloody tyrant was a 'moderate'. It depends on your point of view.

NATO, the mixed economy, the Shah, these are the causes and the friends that they choose for themselves.

They have nothing positive to give the Labour Party as a party based on the working class. As the struggle sharpens, they threaten again and again to resign. As Reg Race commented: "They are still talking in terms of reforms, but there is no more room for reforms".

They make more fuss with each threat — as if they are worried that perhaps no-one in the Labour Party rank and file would really be upset if they resigned.

Perhaps no-one would.

STOP THIS SCAB TRUCK

WORKERS AT Tandy's Warehouse at Wednesbury near Birmingham are now in the 11th week of their strike for union recognition. 54 workers came out, nearly the entire workforce, when the company refused to recognise the T&G or discuss a wage increase.

12 have since given in to management's threats and returned to work and another 10 have found other jobs, but the remaining 32 are still determined to win.

They face constant harassment from the management and from a minority of lorry drivers who are prepared to cross the picket line. Recently a scab driver leapt out of his cab and punched a 60 year old woman in the face and chest as she set on a box beside the entrance. She had to be taken to hospital for X-rays.

Then the strikers discovered that Tandy goods were being stored at a warehouse in Netherton a few miles away. When a car load of strikers

went to picket it, they were told that their car would be turned over with a fork-lift truck.

Most of the goods now coming into Tandys are being brought by an owner-driver with the name Dorney Transport Ltd, registration number XYT 242 T, and the strikers need urgently to find out where he is loading.

T&GWU are now trying to organise solidarity pickets outside Tandy Hi-Fi Shops all over the country to try to hit their sales. They're asking the LPYS to organise pickets nationwide.

The strikers have covered several of the shops in the Black Country in the last week and reckon they have already hit sales considerably. Although the strike is official, the financial situation is desperate. Donations are urgently needed. Information, donations and messages of support to Tandy Strikers, c/o J. Jones, Transport House, 32/33 Berry St, Wolverhampton.

T.U. conference planned for November

DISCUSSIONS ARE under way between the SCLV and the Labour Coordinating Committee [LCC] on cooperation for a left-wing trade union conference on November 1st.

The SCLV originally planned a conference for that date focusing specially on trade union democracy, and it was advertised in Socialist Organiser. When the LCC chose the same date, or one only a fortnight away, for their trade union conference, we approached them for a joint effort.

The LCC executive has rejected that proposal. The SCLV can sponsor the conference, they decided, but it must be an LCC event rather than a joint one.

However, talks are still going on about the possibility of cooperation, and details will be in the next Socialist Organiser.

FRIDAY 8 AUGUST Rock against Harassment. 7.30 UMIST SU. Social to raise money for Moss Side Defence Fund. Punk band, reggae band, 4 Star Funk Sound and Jah Yabys Reggae Sound. 50p tickets, 60p on door.

MONDAY 11 AUGUST. Mass picket at Adwest. From 6am, at Headley Road [East], Woodley, near Reading.

MONDAY 1 SEPTEMBER. Lobby of TUC for Women's Right to Work, organised by Fightback.

TUESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER. Young Socialists' lobby of Labour Party Conference on youth unemployment, organised by Barricade.



Labour Coordinating Committee (LCC) members will soon be voting for a new executive. Among those standing is John Bloxam, secretary of the Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory and organiser of the Rank and File Mobilising Committee. His platform stresses the need to link the fight for labour democracy to a fight for democracy in the trade unions.

barricade

Youth for socialist revolution

No.4
10p



YOUR FUTURE?

Barricade 4 now out — 10p plus 10p postage from PO Box 135, London N1.

Bolivia: the naked fist of bosses rule

by BAS HARDY

"WE CANNOT permit the people of this country to vote for a man we disapprove of. Until the people learn what is correct and begin making the correct choices, we will have to shepherd them, for we, among Bolivians, know what is correct".

This statement by the army high command is a fairly accurate reflection of the mental workings of the Bolivian army's top brass. The Bolivian people, whenever they have had their chance to vote in reasonably fair elections, have continually made the 'incorrect' decisions. This has led to their leaders being 'shepherded' into concentration camps, torture chambers, and cemeteries by the military.

Last month, yet again, the army took over, after a presidential election didn't turn out the way they wanted.

At least 1,000 people have died resisting the repression. Prominent labour politicians were killed in the storming of the Trade Union Federation building in the capital, La Paz. Countless militants have disappeared.

The former President of the republic, Lidia Gueller, and the trade unions' General Secretary Juan Lechin are behind bars. The President-elect, Siles Zuazo, has gone underground.

Although it is difficult to gain a clear picture of how much resistance is still being put up against the coup now, there was heavy fighting in the first fortnight both in La Paz and in the south-eastern mining region. The miners are well-organised and have a record of resist-

ance to military repression going back at least forty years.

In fact, in the 1952 national revolution, the miners and their peasant allies formed a militia which virtually eliminated the old Bolivian army. The Bolivian generals have never forgotten that defeat. They are determined never to grant workers' organisations such an opportunity again. They clamp down viciously on the mildest signs of reform.

Since 1964 Bolivia has been ruled by a succession of military governments with two very brief 'democratic' intervals. The one that ended last month was interrupted by a coup in November last year.

That coup failed, because of massive popular resistance which the military were unprepared for. The Bolivian army stepped back, to prepare for a more thorough show-down with the working class.

This present coup could be as drastic as the coup in Chile in 1973. And like the Chile coup, the fact it was coming was obvious to the leaders of the workers' movement months in advance.

The Bolivian union leaders called for it to be resisted with a general strike and the setting up of barricades to prevent military movements; but they took no steps to arm the workers.

In the run-up to the presidential elections, Lechin withdrew his candidacy, so there was no workers' candidate.

Yet again, the workers' movement has paid a heavy price for the cowardly and compromising spirit of its leaders.



The Shah: Rot in peace

FEW PEOPLE bothered to turn up to the funeral of the ex-Shah of Iran. There was a throneless King of Greece, a pilloried ex-President of the US and a handful of low-ranking representatives of states friendly to Washington.

The dictator was laid to rot before this shameful handful, which included a British diplomat, thus continuing this country's bipartisan grovelling before America's favourite tyrants.

The only head of state present was President Sadat of Egypt. His presence, like his playing host to the Shah for the last six months, underlines Egypt's new status as the unquestioning servant of American imperialism.

Will the death of the deposed dictator lead to the release of the American hostages being held in Iran? Apparently not. This is not surprising: sheltering behind the perfectly just demands for the return of the Shah and his property, and behind the perfectly just claim that the US Embassy was a centre of conspiracy against Iran, there is a reactionary campaign directed by the religious leaders against the Left — even the Muslim left — the workers, women, and Iran's national minorities.

As long as the holding of the hostages can be used to fuel that campaign and as a factional lever against President Bani Sadr, they will not be released.

Turkish fascists slay left union leader

by ALEXIS CARRAS

ON TUESDAY 22nd July, Kemal Turkler was shot outside his home in Istanbul. He died on the way to hospital.

Turkler was one of Turkey's most prominent trade union leaders. Between 1966 and 1977, he headed the Confederation of Revolutionary Workers' Unions [DISK], which is allied to the banned Turkish Communist Party. He also led the Metalworkers' Union, which he played a large role in founding over thirty years ago.

His murder was almost certainly the work of fascists, in retaliation for the assassination, a few days earlier, of Nihat Erim, a former right wing Prime Minister, who introduced martial law in 1971.

The response of the Turkish working class to the murder of Turkler was immediate. 2,800 workplaces and factories in 21 of the provinces came to

a standstill as 800,000 workers struck.

The latest killing by the extreme right wing National Action Party [NAP] is part of their attempt to smash the organisations and the morale of the Turkish working class. They have been responsible for the massacres of entire communities in the past.

The leader of the opposition Republican People's Party has over and over again accused the Prime Minister Demirel of sheltering the armed gangs of the NAP, on whom he relies for maintaining his parliamentary control. Nevertheless, Ecevit himself, when he was in office, was the first to impose martial law over the provinces of Eastern Turkey after the Karaman-maras massacre by the NAP in 1977.

Once again, after the murder of Turkler, Ecevit has agreed with Demirel on the need for more 'anti-terror' measures to be passed through Parliament. Three of the Bills deal with increasing the

powers of martial law governments as well as the greater sentences for terrorists. However, Ecevit did balk at supporting two extra Bills dealing with the declaration of a state of Emergency and the creation of special military courts to try political offenders.

Ecevit is simply tightening the noose to strangle the Turkish workers. For inevitably any 'anti-terrorist' measures will be used almost exclusively against the left. The fascists will emerge even more strengthened, as their strategy of chaos and murder gains ground day by day, bringing closer the prospect of either a military coup or the assumption of power by the fascists, with the help of the army.

If the Turkish working class cannot begin immediately to wage an effective anti-fascist struggle with the aim not only of driving back the NAP but of taking power, it will most certainly be faced with its bloody destruction in the not too distant future.

Jo'burg strikers deported at gunpoint

OVER 11,000 of Johannesburg's 15,000 black municipal workers came out on strike for five days last week. It was the biggest strike by black workers against a single employer in South Africa's history.

The strikers were mainly migrant workers who are particularly vulnerable to deportation. And it was the deportation of 1,100, packed on buses at gun-point to be sent to their 'homelands' [the virt-

ual deserts of the Transkei and Venda] that brought the strike to an end.

Initially a solidarity strike over the dismissal of 1350 black electricians demanding higher wages, the strike soon developed into a demand for the recognition of the Black Municipal Workers' Union, organised by Joseph Mavi. Mavi is now in jail, accused of sabotage.

The definition of sabotage

under the Sabotage Act includes the disruption of 'vital services': the provision of light, power, water, sanitation, fire control, and public transport.

But the mass support for the strike has decisively defeated the claims of the Johannesburg Municipal Workers' Union [set up by the City Council] to represent the workers.

LAWRENCE WELCH

Fascist bomb kills 86

AT LEAST 86 people, according to the latest reports, died as a bomb ripped through the waiting room at Bologna's railway station last Saturday.

Days later, the rescuers were still searching through the mangled concrete and steel to discover the last remaining bodies of holidaymakers, rail workers and other people.

Were the bombers suddenly horrified at their own lunacy? No. As the death toll mounted, they telephoned the Rome-based newspaper La Repubblica and the Naples Town Hall to claim responsibility.

NAR — the Armed Revolutionary Nuclei, an underground fascist organisation — had placed the bomb in the crowded station to protest at the imprisonment of one of their leading 'theorists' and members, Mario Tuti.

He is a fascist from Tuscany, serving a life sentence for the killing of two policemen. On Friday he was charged with bombing the Italicus express train between Florence and Bologna in 1974.

It has taken six years for this criminal to be brought to trial. The explosion in Bologna is the way his fascist cohorts saw fit to honour Tuti and to commemorate the sixth anniversary of that attack, which claimed twelve lives.

In Italy, there is a fairly large fascist party, the MSI (Italian Social Movement), which is seeking to present itself as a respectable parliamentary political formation. It seeks to emphasise the 'constructive' aspects of Mussolini's fascist regime. It has officially disclaimed involvement in the attack.

It seems that the hotheads of the Italian fascist movement have drifted into the more extreme armed groupings, such as the NAR, disillusioned with the MSI parliamentary emphasis. Yet the difference between them is simply one of tactics, as is the difference here between the British Movement and the more cautious National Front.

A national strike was called by the Italian trade union movement to protest at this massacre. But it will take much more than taken 4 hour strikes to stop these murderers and their clandestine supporters inside and outside the Italian state and army.

by ANDREW HORNUNG and MICK WOODS

OLYMPICS Carter gets the wooden spoon

BEFORE THE 1980 Olympics started, we were told that the US-led boycott had reduced the games to a phoney affair. Without the Americans competing, we were told, gold medals would be give-aways.

Without the US there, it seemed, any idiot could jump just short of eight feet in the air, get full marks on the asymmetric bars, or break world records in swimming.

And, according to the Tories and most of the press, the medals would be tainted as well. Every athlete stepping into that stadium, it was argued, was giving comfort to the USSR's criminal invasion of Afghanistan.

The 'keep politics out of sport' brigade had ditched its old slogans justifying playing with apartheid in South Africa and insisted that sport too had political significance.

The arguments don't matter to these people, so long as they fit in with the politics of Cold War Carter. They were the ones who

complained when black American athletes gave a clenched fist 'black power' salute at the Mexican games. When the 1972 Munich Olympics were boycotted by black African nations, they didn't say the contest would be made a farce by the absence of so many brilliant athletes — they moralised about the boycott spoiling the 'Olympic spirit'.

Of course, when the medals started coming, they changed their tune a bit. Particularly when Britons were winning them. The Coe and Overt rivalry, Wells' win in the 100 metres, Thompson in the decathlon, Goodhew in the 100 metres breaststroke, the judo silver and bronze, the boxing bronzes... they were all occasions for flag waving and



cheering.

And nobody, however narrowly nationalistic, could play down the achievements of the Ethiopian runners, the Cuban boxers, the Russian and Rumanian gymnasts, and the East German women

athletes.

Before the Games, the Cold Warriors had put pressure on the athletes not to compete. In America that pressure paid off. In Britain they nobbled the big firms to get them to withdraw offers of funds, they took journalists to dinner to persuade them to go along with the boycott, and they even took one local council to court for daring to pay out £1,000 to support local athletes.

When they failed they withdrew cooperation in small things. The National Anthem wasn't played (one good result of the boycott campaign!), and the athletes returned home before the final ceremony.

Throughout the Games we were treated to a concerted campaign of sniping. The Russians are cheats, the judges are bent, the organisation inhumanly military. The electronic scoreboard

was even denounced as being in some way against the Olympic spirit!

No commentary was complete without some mention of the soldiers standing around. No interview went by without asking about the military strictness of the regulations in the Olympic village. (Yet in fact it was the British team managers who sent two Scots athletes home for arriving back at 10.30).

Journalists scoured the streets of Russia for voices of dissent — avoiding like the plague the clear voice of the growing left opposition. The depths of cynicism were reached by the British journalist who, having been contacted by an Afghan athlete about defecting, exposed him at a press conference... just for the sake of a bit more

anti-Soviet propaganda.

Sport is never above politics. The ballyhoo about national teams is whipped up to fever pitch; chauvinism is presented as the expression of legitimate rivalry. The way women's events are taken less seriously — certainly in Britain — makes the Games not just nationalistic, but sexist.

In Moscow, the ruling bureaucracy tightened the screws to squash any possibility of protest during the Olympics. In Mexico City in 1968, troops smashed into the city's campuses, killing hundreds to make sure student militancy was crushed before the Olympics.

Sport is political. The boycott effort was political — and its politics were the politics of hypocrisy and cold war.

Socialists should be glad about the failure of the boycott — not because we support the politics of the Olympics or the politics of Moscow, but because the politics of the boycott were the politics of our own ruling class and of all the world's worst warmongers.

Socialist Organiser

by SYD MORANT

BIG BROTHER is in the news again. A report by the Post Office Engineers' Union claims that phone tapping is far more common than official government sources are prepared to admit, and that any form of accountability is totally absent.

The report says that... "there is some truth in allegations that phone tapping is used to monitor the legal actions of political and trade union activists." It is difficult for people who think their phone is bugged to get evidence of this, but PO engineers in the course of their activity have come across clear evidence of taps being fixed to phones.

These claims by the POEU follow closely the revelations about the vast phone tapping operation run by the GPO at its national phone tapping centre, OP5. From a building in Ebury Bridge Road, SW1, opposite Chelsea Barracks, thousands of phones up and down the country are tapped and the information supplied to 'customers' like MI5 and the Special Branch.

The centre has been in use for almost ten years, and during that time its capacity has increased dramatically. It was established at the end of the 60s to replace the obsolete tapping centre at Petty France, SW1, and apparently has the capacity to tap 1,000 lines simultaneously.

The tapping network at Ebury Bridge Road covers the entire country, with lines connected to the group exchange of the major cities. To preserve the secrecy of this system, its lines are included in the Defence Communications Network and the details of their operation kept secret.

Taps are installed in exchanges by teams of special engineers. The tappers are not popular with ordinary PO engineers. They usually place the tap outside normal working hours, and sometimes find that the tap has been removed by other engineers.

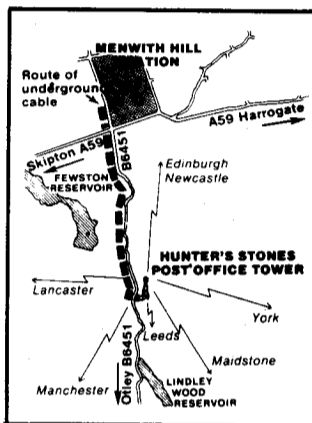
During the Grunwick strike, a tap was placed on the phone used by Brent Trades Council. A local engineer tried to remove it, but it was quickly replaced by a team of special engineers from OP5.

Big Brother listens in

Other forms of bugging were used during the Grunwick strike. In hired rooms in a pub near the Trades Council offices, Special Branch officers set up long-range microphones so that

and cheaply, on a scale never dreamed of before.

As if it wasn't enough having the PO listening in on our phone calls, facilities at Menwith Hill near Harrogate in Yorkshire have been provided for the US National Security Agency to run what seems to be the biggest phone tapping centre in the world. From the PO microwave tower at Hunter's Stone five miles away, a special underground high-capacity cable runs into Menwith Hill. It seems the NSA uses this snoop on phone calls between Britain and Europe.



At Menwith Hill, in Yorkshire, the US National Security Agency taps thousands of international phone calls

they could listen in to conversations through windows.

The rapid development of electronic systems over the last ten years has been a real boon to the snoopers. In the past, tapping phones involved long, laborious hours of listening to tapes and sorting out any important material. New technology has overcome these difficulties.

Connections can be controlled by a computer which makes sure that a phone conversation is only recorded when it is to or from a particular number. OP5's equipment at Ebury Bridge Road was designed by GCHQ (the government code and signalling centre at Cheltenham), which has access to all the latest American spy technology, including computerised voice-recognition. All this means that phone tapping can be carried out, easily

The list of people who have been bugged by the NSA includes civil rights activists like Jane Fonda and Dr Spock; foreign leaders, like Robert Mugabe; US politicians, like Robert Kennedy and Texas governor John Connally. By 1974, messages referring to these people and others, including 75,000 US citizens, had been monitored by the NSA.

Menwith Hill is ideally suited to allow the NSA to bug international connections to and from Britain. By 1979 this amounted to 13 million telegrams and 184 million phone calls. Even this kind of traffic can be dealt with by the NSA. In 1974 alone, the HARVEST computer and others like it were, in the US alone, sifting through 75 million telegrams in one year! Nearly two million of these were later subjected to human analysis.

All this evidence points to the fact that the Big Brother state is a lot nearer than most people think.

ROGER DARLINGTON, Assistant Research Officer of the Post Office Engineering Union, told Socialist Organiser:

"The people who do the tapping are all volunteers under the control of the Home Office. They are not known by the ordinary members and normally work completely out of sight."

"The ordinary members of the POEU have the same mixed feelings about phone tapping as the general public."

"The POEU wants a full public inquiry".

Successive Home Secretaries, including Labour ones, have all played down the amount of phone tapping carried out and have claimed that tapping is under political control.

In a recent attempt to allay fears about tapping, the Home Office released a White Paper on the 'Interception of Communications in Great Britain'. This is more of a whitewash than a

White Paper. For example, in discussing the safeguards in tapping rules, tapping by the police is described as being only permissible for a 'serious' offence. In this case, 'serious' can mean an 'offence of lesser gravity in which a large number of people are involved' — this could be used to cover any industrial dispute or 'conspiracy' case.

The so-called 'safeguards' affecting the Security Service are even weaker, since all they have to show is that the information 'will be of direct use in compiling information that is necessary... in carrying out its task'.

Before a phone is tapped it is necessary to get a warrant for the tap from the Home Office. The White Paper shows that 428 of these were signed in 1978.

This doesn't sound a lot, but a warrant can cover an organisation or activity and there is no restriction on the number of lines involved.

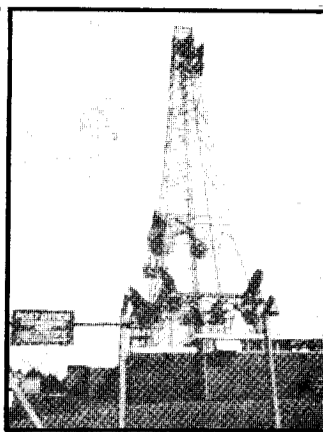
So, once the Home Secretary has approved a single tap of an organisation, lines to other members of the organisation can be tapped without his permission. In other words, far more phones are tapped than there are warrants issued.

During a conversation with journalists, Merlyn Rees revealed that while he was Home Secretary, between two and three thousand phones were tapped every year! This was nearly ten times the number of warrants in force...

Despite all the protestations of government and civil service, Britain is one of the most secretive societies in the 'free' world. Other countries have more control over tapping activities. In Germany, for example, tapping is supervised by a parliamentary commission and the victim has to be informed eventually.

In the US, Senate commissions have unearthed details of the operations of the security services. Yet in this country, journalists are forced to operate under the restrictive conditions of the Official Secrets Act and now the Law Lords have refused them even the right to retain confidential sources of information.

Let there be no doubt about it. If you are involved in important trade union activity or radical politics, the chances are that Big Brother is watching you.



Menwith Hill

CLP says: take the lid off!

THE REACTION of the Coventry Evening Telegraph to Coventry South-East CLP's resolution to the Labour Party Conference was predictable. The motion, from Godiva ward, called for a labour movement investigation into intelligence service infiltration of the movement.

A leading article in the Telegraph equated the call with McCarthyism — and lambasted the CLP for not producing concrete examples of infiltration. CLP Secretary, Mohammed Iqbal, replied to the editorial at length, quoting well-known examples.

Surprise, surprise — the letter wasn't published. Instead, the editor replied personally, explaining that Mohammed had missed the point!

In any case, he argued, you say that the Labour Party and NATO are incompatible — well, Jim Callaghan finds them quite compatible!

This Conference welcomes the establishment of the National Executive Committee Subcommittee investigation into the British security services, believing that a wider understanding of their role would be beneficial to the Labour movement.

Conference is disturbed, however, that there is mounting evidence of the activity of the British secret services, the American Central Intelligence Agency and other related big business organisations in attempting to affect the internal democracy and discussion of the Party, which still remains largely unpublished.

The actions of the Central Intelligence Agency in Chile showed the dangerous role of these organisations as the working class moves towards establishing socialism.

Conference therefore calls for a fuller investigation into the activities of the British and foreign secret services, and a campaign to warn the rank and file of the Labour movement of the danger they pose.

A bigger paper next month

by Fightback secretary RACHEL LEVER

AFTER a meeting to discuss practicalities, and a larger gathering on July 26 of readers and supporters of both papers to talk about what sort of paper we want, **WOMEN'S FIGHTBACK** will from next month incorporate the magazine **WOMEN IN ACTION**.

Women's Fightback started as a 16-page broadsheet produced in January 1980 to prove a background to the debates at the first conference of Fightback for Women's Rights last March, and to introduce the work of the 20 or so women's campaigns that were to participate in that conference. Then, starting in May, it

went to its present format with a print order of 6000 copies a month.

While the May and July issues had to give up a lot of space to reporting the two Fightback conference, all the issues so far have laid the main emphasis on action by women against the cuts, unemployment, the immigration laws, and the dismantling of the school meals service. **Women's Fightback** has also carried analyses of other important women's conference, and launched a campaign to fight sexism in the labour movement.

Women in Action started with a pilot issue in January 1979, followed by a magazine-format issue in February of this year, which opened up a discussion on protective legislation, reviewed the effects on women of the Tory govern-

ment, carried interviews with prominent women trade unionists and with Jo Richardson MP, and called for support for the Working Women's Charter and the two TUC charters for women.

Supporters of the paper concentrated their efforts on gaining support and orders for the magazine from trade union bodies at different levels, in readiness for the second issue.

Shortly before our June conference, sisters from **Women in Action** approached us to suggest that it wasn't very sensible to continue two papers which, while different in format and frequency, had very similar aims.

The conference approved the merger idea, and also agreed certain guidelines for the new paper: it would rest primarily on the Fightback campaign, and also open its

pages and its editorial board to other campaigns in the women's movement. This idea was taken up in the more recent discussions, where it was suggested that a major campaign such as NAC could be offered a regular column.

These discussions revealed a wide area of agreement. For example, a woman from the **Women's Fightback** editorial board expressed concern that, since **Women in Action** had been very trade-union oriented, we shouldn't after the merger neglect the issues affecting women in the home; while a paper from **Women in Action** suggested a regular 'sexual politics' column.

It was everyone's view that the paper needs to be expanded as soon as possible to 8 pages — the only way to accommodate the sort of longer features that made up **Women**

in Action as well as getting in cartoons, photo-features, and 'something you could get your teeth into'.

The new paper, which will retain the name and format of **Women's Fightback**, will be launched at a big rally in London in September. It will need a big injection of cash too, and a fighting fund target will be announced in the September issue. Meanwhile, donations are urgently needed to keep up with our debts and expenses so far.

The merger of these two papers is a major breakthrough on the road to a big circulation women's newspaper to report and unite our struggles. The unity of the two papers will bring wider contacts, a bigger circulation, and many more ideas, reports, and women involved in writing and producing it.