

**LPYS  
CONFERENCE**  
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# Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR AND YOUTH ISSUE 201, 11 APRIL 1974

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5p

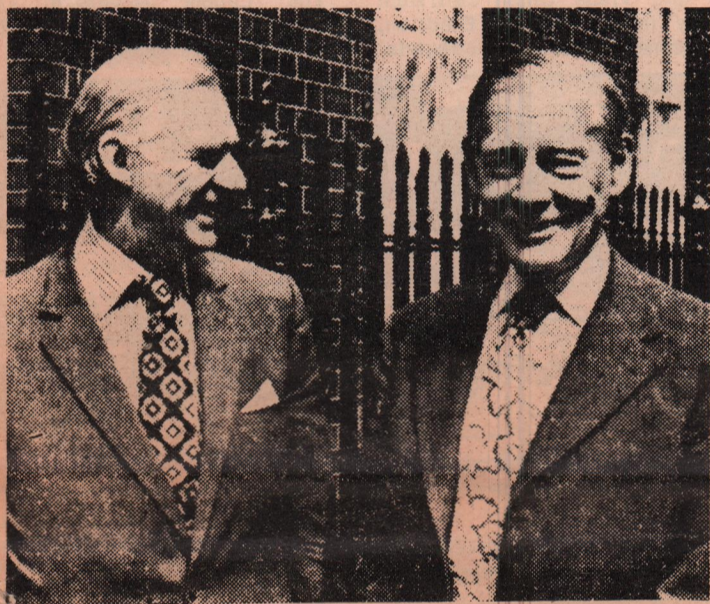
## LABOUR MUST MOBILISE TO BREAK BOSSES CONSPIRACY!

### ESSEX PICKET KNOCKED DOWN

On Tuesday 9 April the police moved in to supervise the taking down of the barricades at the University by University workers. In the same morning a convoy of four lorries went through. But also, a hired van, carrying food rushed the pickets and knocked down one student who was carried away injured on a stretcher.

We will make sure of a more detailed report next week, but all socialists and trade unionists should support this fight. We are hoping that contingents from the Clacton Rally of the LPYS will come and assist us in the next week.

JIM McCABE



Campbell Adamson and Michael Clapham of the CBI — the bosses' union. Labour must stand firm against the pressure of their class.

The Tories have left the working people a terrible legacy of misery, poverty, hardship and crisis. Every measure that they took only tightened the screw on the budgets of working class families.

Now, in 1974, conditions are developing which are reminiscent of the worst of Victorian Britain. So high is the cost of food that over the whole population consumption has dropped in the last couple of years, so just imagine what is happening to the poorest!

A recent National Food Survey showed that in 1973, average family expenditure on food went up by 14.2% while food prices went up by 17.5%. In other words, more was spent to buy less! But it is the poorest families, those with several children, the millions on low wages and others who are literally going hungry now. The same survey showed that the amount of "energy giving food" eaten by families with four or more children dropped to 94 points — 6 points below the minimum level recommended by the Department of Health. The low wage earners with large families are reaching a position of utter desperation.

Yet that was last year. This year it is going to be worse! All predictions are that inflation will run at over 20% in 1974. The measures of the budget, even the food subsidies, will do little to abate this — they will only be paid for out of other price increases.

In order to keep pace with inflation this year, net increases of £5-£6 a week will be needed by working class families.

It can only mean that the living standards of the working class which have fallen since the beginning of the Tory Incomes policy in November 1972, will be cut even more savagely if the present restrictions on wages are maintained.

But that is exactly what is happening. The new secretary of Employment, Michael Foot, has insisted on the maintenance of Phase 3 controls. But what else is Phase 3 but the same old Tory policies?

### BY NICK BRADLEY (Deptford LPYS)

Labour was not elected to continue the discredited attempts of the Tories to hold back workers' living standards while profits and prices soar, which, in a nutshell, is the meaning of any "Incomes Policy" under capitalism.

Labour must break from these capitalist policies starting by revoking the statutory controls over wages which still exist.

On top of this, millions of union members will want to know by what right Len Murray of the TUC, Jack Jones of the TGWU and many other prominent leaders have given even vague assurances that they will restrain their members' wage demands as a result of the budget?

At a recent meeting between the TUC and the NEDC, the TUC accepted the continuation of Phase 3 for the moment despite the fact that it means the continual, frightening erosion of their members' living standards. For what? For the continuation of capitalism?

So far, under Tory wage controls, profits have rocketed, up by nearly

### SCRAP IRC

We have just heard that Donaldson of the Industrial Relations Court has stated that if the AUEW does not pay the £47,000 to Con Mech which the court ordered, within 20 days then he will seize the whole assets of the union.

This is a scandalous and blatant attack on the working class by this Tory judge and his Tory court. It is nothing more or less than an outright provocation. Every worker will be seething with anger at this vicious action. Not one penny to the judicial robbers! The organisations of the workers, built by struggle, must be defended.

It is a blatant challenge to the Labour Government on the part of its declared enemies. There must be no equivocation. Labour must immediately rush through a bill to abolish the Industrial Relations Act and all the machinery that goes with it, now.

All these Tory institutions must be swept away. The fines already levied must be repaid. If the Tories could introduce "retroactive" legislation in Northern Ireland then they should have nothing to complain about if Labour now does the same.



Hugh Scanlon

one half on a year ago. That is the real result of Phases 1, 2 and 3, and who but the workers have paid for it?

The union leaders should take up the question in a realistic and concrete way: they must mobilise for wage claims which both recoup what has been lost and guarantee against further price rises — they must demand that wages be increased with the cost of living as it mounts

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## LPYS RALLY

EASTER '74 AT CLACTON  
Begins this weekend — see pages 3-6 for special Conference material

## PRESS BARONS DIRTY CAMPAIGN AGAINST LABOUR

BY BOB REEVES  
(Norwood CLP)

The hype and cry of the Press Barons about the property deals engaged in by associates of Harold Wilson, is a dirty campaign designed to discredit the Labour leadership. It stinks of hypocrisy, coming from those who themselves are up to their necks in the dealings that they accuse others of.

It is a concerted attempt to discredit Labour because they are scared of a "snap" election in which Labour would get a majority.

They are railing and ranting about the activities of small time Midlands operators whose profits are peanuts compared with those from the deals of the Fleet Street magnates.

Beaverbrook Newspapers, the publishers of the Daily Express, are engaged in major property development in Fleet Street worth about £24 million. Other properties are estimated worth £30 million. All this has not prevented them closing down the Glasgow works because of financial difficulties.

Associated Newspapers, the publishers of the Daily Mail, owns property worth £30 million and has launched a new £8 million "development plan" in South London.

Reed International, publishers of the Mirror, is involved in a joint property company with Metropolitan Estates, to develop property worth £35 million. Also involved in a

massive project on the London South Bank worth £15 million.

That is just a sample, the tip of the iceberg, for these sanctimonious hypocrites, up to their ears in making millions out of the misery of working people in London and other cities.

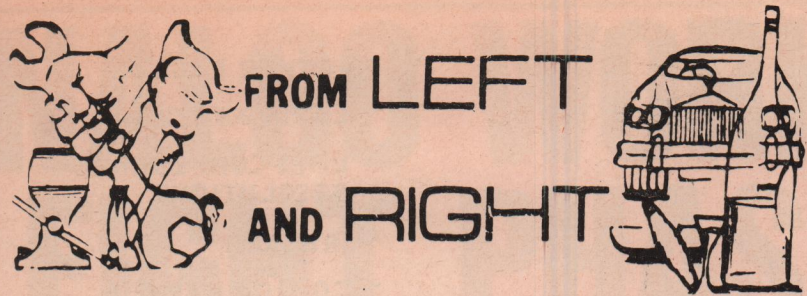
These worthy guardians of the public conscience have been prepared to turn a blind eye to the fabulous sums made by Tory MPs and their friends in the past few years, but now pretend to be scandalised. What campaign did they wage over the proposed sale by Lord Carrington, Tory Cabinet Minister, of his estate to High Wycombe Council at a profit of £10 million? The fact that since the deal has come into the open he claims to want to give away the profits to a charity does not alter a thing.

The capitalist press is prepared to use every dirty trick imaginable to discredit the Labour Movement — we should not be in any doubt that these sudden "revelations" are anything but that. The press have carried out an almost frenzied campaign to throw mud at Harold Wilson and to undermine the credibility of the whole movement.

Front page headline treatment has been given by every single popular newspaper to the issue of deals made by the family of Marcia Williams, Harold Wilson's political secretary. Even after Wilson's statement in Parliament, the Daily Mail continued its muck-raking and "further revelations" of new deals.

But they will never propose the measures that will really put an end to all this. MPs such as Dennis Skinner have demanded urgent legislation to get rid of land specula-

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## RECORD PROFITS

The fabulous wealth of the most successful film actors and musicians is legendary. Recently, Richard Harris, the actor, sold his Kensington home for a profit of nearly £300,000, according to the *Daily Mail* (3/4/74). It was sold for over £350,000 to Jimmy Page, guitarist of the Led Zeppelin group, who outbid David Bowie for the property. Richard Harris has now gone on to buy a £200,000 beachside house in the Bahamas (incidentally also a "tax haven")

27 year old Jimmy Page, already owns a home by Loch Ness in Scotland. Most young workers would be happy to have a couple of his rooms! Record companies, promoters and top performers must be making a fortune from the pockets of their fans to go in for deals like this!

## NIXON MAKES ANOTHER 'MISTAKE'

"Thus far of Mr Nixon's intimate former staff, his counsel and personal lawyer are self-confessed felons, his appointments secretary now a convict. His former deputy assistant for domestic affairs, Mr Egil Krogh, is also a confessed felon but so far is the only White House man to have actually begun his jail sentence ..." (*Times* 4/4/74).

It is to this level that the Government of the most powerful capitalist nation in the world had sunk, until the even further revelations of Nixon's tax affairs. Almost without pausing for breath he has taken responsibility for paying back over half a million dollars in taxes which had illegitimately been deducted from his tax returns. All terrible "mistakes" of course, and, mistakes of his staff, his advisers, or anyone but himself.

One of the more notable "mistakes" was the deduction of \$5,391 to pay for Tricia Nixon's masked ball, deducted as a business expense.

"Of course any of us can make mistakes in working out tax returns. But the illegitimate deduction of \$576,000 on one transaction can hardly be passed off as a "mistake", especially by the man who more than any other American had a political and moral responsibility to see that his personal affairs were above suspicion, and who moreover was a tax lawyer by profession". (*Times* 5/4/74)

Every investigation conducted, every fact uncovered, only releases the further stench of corruption and graft from the ruling circles. So rotten has American capitalism become that cracks in its facade are opening at every level right up to the top. Every new revelation adds ammunition to those fighting to overthrow not only the Nixon Government, but the whole capitalist system.

## CAPITALISM NO ANSWER

Professor Galbraith told a recent conference that unless cities were run as "Socialist enterprises", then they faced disastrous problems. He said: "Capitalism has never in any country been efficient for building houses which, it seems necessary to stress, are a rather important urban artefact ... nor does it provide good health services ..."

Until recently Professor Galbraith was one of those economists whose views were the lifeblood of all those in the Labour Movement who declared that Marxism was outmoded. His supporters in Britain argued that because capitalism had changed its nature, the modern "industrial state" could intervene to deal with social problems, making socialism outmoded ...

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\* 1911 Children's strike  
Price: 20p plus 5p postage

### Spanish Young Socialists Defence Campaign. London Section

Next meeting: "The situation in Portugal" will be held at Labour Party HQ, 95, St Paul's Road, N1 8pm Friday 26th April. All interested welcome. For further information contact John Simmons, 40 Fassett Square, London E8

# HAMMERSMITH.N. LPYS CAMPAIGN ON IRELAND

BY HELEN INGRAM

For further information contact at 200 Cleverly Estate London W12 0TD

# CLASS UNITY ONLY WAY

One of the highlights of this year's LPYS Conference and Rally will be the first public meeting of the campaign organised by Hammersmith North LPYS branch on the question of Ireland. This campaign could not be launched at a better time, with the election of a Labour Government, giving the whole movement in Britain the opportunity to look closely at its policies in relation to Ireland.

The continuing toll of sectarian murder and army repression clearly illustrate the dangers faced by workers in the North of Ireland, and pose fundamental issues for the British workers.

The Tory Government, whilst hypocritically preaching "moderation" in reality continued and strengthened the policies of repression. To further this they introduced such measures as the Emergency Provisions Act which allows detention and search purely on the basis of "suspicion". Under these measures of internment, the police and army have the right to round up and lock away for a number of years any opponent on the "evidence" of suspicion on the part of police or army officers. No proof of having done anything is required!

It is not all that widely realised among the workers in Britain, the extent that the basic democratic rights, fought for bitterly here, have been revoked in Northern Ireland.

Would the Labour Movement stand idly by while such measures were introduced to shackle and muffle the workers here? The answer to that question is in the resistance to the Tories' Industrial Relations Act which attempted to limit the rights of the trade unions.

Unfortunately, both the repressive legislation, and the bogus peace moves were supported by the Labour Party Parliamentary leadership under what has been called the "Bi-partisan" approach.

The Hammersmith North campaign demands a different approach. Labour must base its policies on the needs of the workers, not, as with the recent Sunningdale agreement, on the needs of the different shades of Tories both here and in Ireland.

The Sunningdale agreement moved not one inch nearer a solution on any one of the fundamental problems which face the workers: high unemployment; chronic housing; poverty. Yet the roots of sectarianism lie in just these conditions. Only a Socialist policy for sweeping them away can finally deal with the horror of sectarian bitterness and violence.

The leaders of the Assembly, as was patently the strategy of Whitelaw, are only searching for a "solution" in the sense of developing what they would regard as more "normal" conditions in which capitalists would

be prepared to invest. They have not one shred of a solution for workers of either religion.

A class lead would find a response at a time when inflation is eating into the standards of all workers. Historical precedent shows that class unity in Ireland is not a myth. Within recent memory, strikes by postal workers have been solid, with sectarian barriers completely broken down. Frequently the level of militancy has been higher than in Britain - the hospital workers in Northern Ireland voted 92% for strike action last year. The proportion of workers organised into unions is actually higher than in Britain.

Even more recently, the 1000 plus votes for Dickie Foster, the Labour and Trade Union candidate for Derry in the General Election, were gained with a skeletal

among the workers even wider. Such tactics have driven the Protestant workers into the arms of reactionary leaders, and more recently have provoked a further wave of counter-terror and murder.

The Hammersmith campaign says what the LPYS national conference has said over the last few years: the only guarantor of peace can be the organised workers in the unions. A trade union defence force could protect the workers from sectarian attack. Only the unions can bring together the workers of both religions, as they do on the basic economic questions.

The Labour Movement should convene a conference of Trade Unions, tenants' associations, shop



Ritz cinema, Belfast:

organisation and derisory finance against the big party machines and without the endorsement of the Northern Ireland Labour Party.

If at such a local level a clear class policy could win both Catholic and Protestant votes, how much greater would a concerted campaign from the Labour Movement have been?

The British Labour Movement must see that the repression in Ireland affects them. The army is using the situation as a training ground for future battles in Britain: it is preparation for struggles against the Labour Movement. Already CS gas is stockpiled in Britain; the Territorial Reserves are training for potential civil war situations.

The role played by the Provisional IRA has clouded the role of the British Army in the eyes of millions of British workers. The mistaken policies of terror - bombings and shootings - have only succeeded in making the sectarian division

stewards etc to discuss the formation of such a defence force. Based on a clear socialist perspective, the unity of the vast majority of workers could be forged in action. The campaign in Britain aims to fight for this demand and for the Labour Movement to adopt a class approach on the question of Ireland.

- The campaign demands:
- \* End of the "bipartisan" approach. For Socialist policies and support for the Irish workers' organisations.
  - \* For a Trade Union defence force to defend all areas, Protestant and Catholic, from sectarian attack.
  - \* Withdraw British Troops.
  - \* End internment, and all repressive legislation.
  - \* Release all political prisoners in Ireland and in Britain.
  - \* End the savage practice of force-feeding.
  - \* Trade Union rights for the soldiers.
  - \* For a conference of workers'

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BOOKS

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## MILITANT IRISH MONTHLY

ISSUE NO 23, APRIL contains articles on - NATIONALISM ... STUDENT PROTESTS IN SOUTH ... LETTERS ... BRITAIN ... STORMONT AND THE GENERAL ELECTION ... RISING PRICES ... GARDAI AND ARMY USED AGAINST DUBLIN STRIKE ... DERRY ELECTION FIGHT ...

## MAY DAY GREETINGS

Send your May Day greetings to the workers' movement throughout the world through the pages of Militant.

The May Day issue will have a special feature of messages from many sections of the movement. Make sure your Labour Party, Trade Union, Co-op Party, Trades Council and Young Socialist branch gets its message in.

The charges will be a minimum of £1 for every column inch, either vertical or across columns, £13 for one eighth of a page; £25 quarter page, £45 half page; £80 full page.

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# 1974 LPYS CONFERENCE

## CONFERENCE AGENDA GIVES ... A FIGHTING LEAD FOR SOCIALISM

BY JOHN PICKARD  
(National Committee LPYS)

"The Labour Party Young Socialists gather again this Easter almost certain of facing a General Election in the next year. This will be the most decisive since the war, the most bitterly fought for years".

This opening paragraph of one of the documents presented to the LPYS conference this year was written before the general election was announced. But the point it makes is every bit as true today - the last election was but a skirmish compared to the "next" election that everyone expects soon and to the class battles opening up in the coming years.

The resolutions and the documents, although all written before the election show a wide awareness in the YS of the need for Socialist policies and a mass Socialist movement to face the years to come.

As would be expected, many of the resolutions take the Tory Government as the starting point - showing how Tory policies have produced an alienated and embittered working class:

"4,000,000 people living below the poverty line, mass unemployment, bad housing etc.

Every year 90,000 old age pensioners die from hypothermia..." (Shibley LPYS).

"More than two million homes are slums, and four million more lack basic amenities, over 150,000 people are homeless ... In this situation over one hundred new property millionaires have arisen since the Tories came to power, and major building firms have seen their profits soar".

(Leicester West LPYS).

In a nut-shell - "... the policies of the Tory Government are designed to maintain profits and privileges, for the ruling class at the expense of the working class".

(Walton LPYS).

The criticisms made of the Labour leadership in the aftermath of the by-election results are just as applicable today in the aftermath of the General Election - "The Labour leaders have shown no enthusiasm at all for the policies overwhelmingly approved at the recent Labour Party Conference".

(Epping Forest LPYS).

The gains of the Scottish National Party and the Liberals are due to "the inability of the Labour leaders to explain the relevance of Socialist ideas and give a socialist lead to the

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### NATIONAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ON -

# Latin America

BY ROB SEWELL

(National Committee LPYS)

It is appropriate that the LPYS Conference this year has on its agenda an extended resolution on Latin America. This is important, not only because of the dramatic events that have taken place there since the last National Conference but above all because these events have an immediate bearing on the future faced by the British and world Labour Movement.

War between the classes has raged unabated throughout Latin America over the last year. Militant has published one article after another describing the repression of trade unionists in Peru, the massacre of Bolivian farm workers, the ghastly deeds of the torturers, executioners and assassination squads in Brazil. Faced with the desperate resistance of starving workers and peasants, the owners of the wealth in Latin America - bankers, industrialists, landlords, shareholders waxing fat in the stock markets of Wall Street, the City of London, the Bourse and the other financial palaces of world capitalism - have systematically handed over state power to the military protection gangs.

Unrelieved horror is what capitalism means to the working people of Latin America today.

Towering above every other event have been the seizure of power by the military dictatorship in Chile on the one hand, and the final collapse of the old military regime in Argentina.. The triumph of the Generals in Bolivia in 1971, in Uruguay last July, and - at a cost of 50,000 murdered workers - in Chile last September, completed the armed encirclement of Argentina as it trembled on the brink of a whole era of revolutionary upheavals. Apart from revolutionary Argentina, the entire Latin American continent is one vast prison camp.

But, however bloodthirsty the ambitions of the dictators of Brazil, Chile and other countries, and however hard they try to trample on every last vestige of the workers' rights, they cannot stamp out the proud traditions of the trade union movement, or the workers' undimmed aspirations for Socialism.

The heroic resistance of the Bolivian, Uruguayan and Chilean workers testifies to this, as does the overthrow of the Argentine dictatorship in a huge elemental wave of general strikes and insurrections, which shook every government in the continent and gave hope to every worker.

Nothing could be more foolish for British socialists than to wave Latin

CON PAGE 5



## solidarity with workers under

## CONFERENCE MEETINGS

PUBLIC MEETINGS AT LPYS CONFERENCE organised by

SPANISH YOUNG SOCIALISTS' DEFENCE CAMPAIGN

### SPAIN- THE APPROACHING REVOLUTION

Hear: PETER TAAFFE (Editor of Militant) and a SPANISH SOCIALIST Chair: JOHN SIMMONS (Secretary of the Campaign) Friday 12 April 7.30 pm The Theatre, Butlins', Clacton

MILITANT

### "THE WAY FORWARD FOR LABOUR"

Hear: TED GRANT (Militant Editorial Board) DAVID SKINNER (Clay Cross Labour Party) Chair: PETER DOYLE Saturday 13 April 7.00 pm The Theatre Butlins', Clacton

# WORKERS OF THE

## FACE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE

All supporters of the Militant will welcome this conference and Rally at Clacton this Easter. There is every sign that it will have a record attendance, over 1500: a wonderful display of the active youth in the Labour Movement.

As the first conference in the Movement in the 6 weeks since Labour was elected, we are sure that it will live up to its record of clearly arguing for a bold Socialist Programme to sweep away the Tory system.

This conference will be a real tribute to the work of the LPYS over the past few weeks in mobilising support; but more than anything it will be a tribute to the patient work of the youth over the past few years.

## GENERAL ELECTION

Since the Skegness rally a year ago, enormous strides have been taken. The LPYS has shown itself to be up to the tasks in front of it.

The intervention in the General Election, reported in *Militant*, was a clear sign of the fighting strength and even more so of the potential. The work done in that election has probably resulted in a doubling of the LPYS membership.

There can be no doubt that the LPYS is on the verge of a real breakthrough towards its goal of a mass socialist youth movement. The response to this rally is but one sign of this!

When the *Militant* was begun, nearly 10 years ago, the situation in the (then) Young Socialists was in marked contrast. Beset by sectarianism and bureaucratic heavy-handedness, enormous opportunities were lost.

## FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM

Our firm perspective of fighting to build the youth movement, to win over the rank and file to Marxist ideas, was scorned as Utopian, by many so-called "Marxists".

The way in which the LPYS has grown and has increasingly shown its ability to give a lead to the whole Labour Movement in the struggle for Socialism is a testament to the correctness of that outlook.

The months and years following this rally will be ones of storm and stress. Great working class battles are on the order of the day.

The Labour Party Young Socialists, armed with the programme of Marxism, can go forward in the lead of the struggle to put the whole movement on the standpoint of a fighting Socialist programme. It is that which can fill every Socialist, young and old, with confidence for the future.

# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SOCIALIST YOUTH

Any Socialist organisation worthy of the name holds high the banner of internationalism. As Karl Marx put it, "the working man has no country!" We declare that the whole world is the theatre of operations in the worldwide struggle for a new and higher stage of human civilisation - Socialism.

We start from the position that internationalism is a matter of necessity for the Labour and Trade Union movements of all countries. Capitalism, in its period of rule over the world, has developed the productive forces available to mankind and pushed the world market into all corners of the globe. The world economy is thus, more and more, an interconnected and interdependent whole. This means that the fate of the working class struggle in one country is inextricably bound up with the economic and political fate of the world economy and the world working class as a whole.

This fact has emerged ever more clearly in the crisis situation which the whole capitalist world now faces. The post war boom, one of the longest in the history of capitalism, has ended and has given way, on a world scale, to a more "normal" period of capitalist development - a period of economic disruption and dislocation against a general background of recession and downturn, ie. a period of enormous social storms and stress.

## "AFFLUENT SOCIETY"

In countries such as Britain and Italy, this has been abundantly clear for some time. No more do we hear from Labour leaders the plaintive cries about the "affluent society" and the "apathetic working class" in these countries! But the disease of inflation now combines with the tendency for the rate of profit to decline and the classic problem of overproduction to spell disaster even to the "miracle" economies of West Germany, Scandinavia and Japan.

The dwindling of the boom and the onset of economic crisis in all capitalist countries opens up the prospect of huge class battles in which international solidarity and support will increasingly be posed as a real and burning need.

It is in this context that the International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY) assumes significance for all readers of the *Militant* and for members of the LPYS.

We have already seen the effect which the unfolding crisis has had on the traditional organisations of the working class in Britain. The attacks of the last Tory Government brought forth a huge response on the part of the trade union movement of strike action, political strikes and mammoth

250,000 workers poured through the streets of London, and rousing events such as the mass strikes to free the Pentonville Five in 1972.

The second great miners' strike of 1974 was the epitaph to the failed attempts of Heath's Government to cow the spirit and resolve of organised labour. In turn these big industrial battles had a reflection in the Labour Party - the traditional political weapon of the British working class. And it is absolutely no accident that it was the youth of the Labour Party that was the first section of the Labour movement in Britain to embrace the programme of Marxism in 1970.

connections has begun to change in response to the movement towards Socialist ideas on the part of many of its sections.

The LPYS is committed to the task of building a real Socialist youth international - not just a body which arranges the exchange of correspondence and which organises seminars for leading officials of the various youth organisations, but a real fighting, campaigning youth international that is unified in its programme and ideas and which co-ordinates the struggle of the youth for Socialism not only on a European but on a world scale, with mass affiliates in every continent.

the unfolding crisis.

Millions of workers in the Social Democratic and Communist Parties will move in the direction of a Marxist programme. We must find a road to these masses. We believe we know a way in Britain - the Labour Party is the key arena.

But equally, in Germany it is the SPD; in Sweden it is the SAP, in France and Italy the workers in the mass CPs can be reached by Young Socialists who know how to fight for the ideas of genuine Marxism who know how to repudiate the errors of ultra-leftism and sectarianism as well as the errors of piecemeal reformism and Stalinism.

We would say that the international activities of the European sections of IUSY, indeed of all IUSY sections, should be geared also to providing material assistance for those sections that are struggling in particularly difficult or critical circumstances. An example of this are the comrades in Spain, working in conditions of illegality, and the comrades in the North of Ireland who, with very small forces, are carrying out an implacable struggle against the stream of sectarian division for working class unity around a Socialist programme.

We believe that the experience of the Spanish Young Socialists' Defence Campaign in Britain should be taken up throughout the IUSY in a serious and systematic way to assist our Spanish comrades. But a commitment to this kind of work and a commitment to real internationalism in practice can only come from a Marxist understanding of perspectives and the stage through which the international class struggle is proceeding at the present time.

Time only serves to underline the importance of the fight for a correct understanding of perspectives and theory.

## CATASTROPHES AHEAD

What, then, lies ahead for the Socialist Youth of the world? The period of apparent social harmony which bred numerous themes of the "fundamental changes" in the nature of capitalism, and of the working class, is behind us. Even Willi Brandt, symbol of the "outdatedness" of Socialism for the capitalists, believes that within the next 20 years "the lights may go out again over Europe", that we will face a choice "between fascism and communism".

It will be in the next few years that profound economic and social crises will shake Western capitalism to its foundations. The tremors affecting the Common Market, the oil crisis, accelerating inflation are all symptoms of the economic catastrophes ahead. Such conditions will provoke furious resistance from the working class, and will shake up the old, mass working class parties almost out of recognition!

The Socialist youth can and must play a key, leading role, in participating in the workers' movement and in spearheading that movement which will re-arm the working class with a decisive programme for a Socialist transformation of society.

The explosive developments in Britain over the past couple of years, in themselves only a shadow of what is to come, will be repeated in Germany, France, Holland, Scandinavia and other places.

It is the Socialist youth who can lead the way!

ANDY BEVAN



May 1968: Workers shake France to its roots. In 1974 the workers all over Europe are beginning to move.

The position of strength of the LPYS, with the commitment to a Marxist programme on the part of its majority, has not fallen from the skies. It has been built on a foundation of painstaking, consistent work, struggling with confidence even in times of low ebb in the movement. Now the crisis of British capitalism has driven home the correctness of our policies.

We believe that in the period ahead the economic shocks and mounting tempo of events will bring about corresponding changes in the trade union movements and mass working class parties on the continent, and indeed, in all parts of the world. In that situation, just as the LPYS has learnt how to act as a spearhead for Marxism in the British Labour Movement, so the youth sections of the Social Democratic parties in Europe can fulfil the same role if they fight on the programme of Marxism.

IUSY is the organisation that brings together the Social Democratic youth organisations of the world. IUSY has changed considerably in the past period. What was once an

The LPYS can win a tremendous amount of support in IUSY, particularly among the rank and file membership, by patient work, our Marxist ideas and our campaign proposals.

This is crucial work that must be continued. Every opportunity must be seized to reach and discuss with comrades from YSSs abroad. The value of the LPYS's international work is proved by the magnificent response from foreign delegations to our Conference and Rally at Clacton this Easter which will be attended by delegations from Sweden, Germany, France, Italy, Finland, Ireland, Norway, Ceylon, Spain, Chile and no doubt a few besides!

## YOUTH INTERNATIONAL

If we work in the correct way we can win hundreds and thousands of Young Socialists in many lands to a common struggle and enormously step up the fight for the creation of a real youth international. In the decade that lies ahead every mass organisation of the working class in

# WORLD UNITE!

## COMMON MARKET-NO

As the Labour Party Young Socialists debate the Common Market in Clacton, at their annual conference, in Brussels the Labour Government will be beginning their "renegotiation" of Britain's terms of entry into the EEC.

It could not be more important for the youth of the Labour Party to understand what the EEC really is and what attitude should be taken to the "renegotiation" talks, the results of which are to be put before the electorate for approval or rejection.

The document "Common Market - No, Socialist United States of Europe - Yes" provides the basic facts about the EEC and analyses all the arguments used both by supporters and opponents of Britain's entry, concluding that both miss the most fundamental points about the class nature of this institution and both fail to relate it to the struggle for socialist policies in both Britain and Europe.

First of all, the document explains the relationship of the Common Market to developments in the world economy - "The EEC is a demonstration that the productive forces - science, technology and the organisation of labour - have outgrown private ownership and the nation state."

"Today's giant monopolies plan for markets not of 55 million as in Britain, but the 250 million of the EEC, and even the world. ICI, for instance, could supply the world with chemicals".

It was to compete with the two giant super-powers of America and Russia, plus the new power of Japanese imperialism that the capitalist nations of Western Europe formed a customs union... "It was to have a single external tariff, and abolish all internal ones; laws governing economic policy, trade and industry, prices and taxation, were to be unified".

Such hopes have foundered on

the rocks of economic reality however. The early successes of the EEC countries, which in any case reflected the world-wide economic boom of the fifties and early sixties, has been replaced by a series of crises. The capitalists of each nation have always reacted by looking after their own interests first - "none of the separate national capitalist classes can surrender any of the sovereignty of their own national state - its army, police and civil service."

They need these as a defence in the event of competition in trade leading to open political and military conflict.

"When it becomes necessary,

roughly the same low level as the British economy, which for twenty five years had lagged behind.

But British Big Business had no alternative, as their trade became more and more with Europe rather than the Commonwealth and the rest of the world, as it had at the end of the war. The biggest monopolies, and especially the banks, saw rich pickings for them in the enlarged market. Only the smaller businesses feared the effects of greater competition. Property speculators in particular have seized the chance to make themselves even richer, by buying up huge chunks of Paris and Brussels.

But for manufacturing industry, the EEC provides no solution to the long term problems of the British

stand for the national interests of their own ruling class, in its manoeuvrings for a bigger share of the markets of the capitalist world; their "internationalism" is miles from the struggle of the workers of the world for a united fight against their bosses.

Thompson and Co, however, could make use of the fact that most opponents of entry within the Labour Party used the worst kind of nationalism to justify their argument. Although reflecting the deep distrust of the Common Market felt by ordinary workers, instead of portraying the EEC in class terms, they resorted to "the arguments of yesterday's Tories... They appeal to British 'patriotism', the 'sovereignty of Parliament', the 'British way of life' and the commonwealth".

In the main, the leaders of the party did no more than oppose the "terms". They failed to see, as the document reveals, that "the terms negotiated by the Tory Government were the best that British capitalists could get from the point of view of their interests. No Labour Government is going to squeeze any more from the bosses of the continent".

As a capitalist trading group, it can never agree to policies by its members which challenge the right of the big capitalist firms to own and profit from industrial wealth. There is an irreconcilable conflict of interests between the rulers of the EEC and not just British workers, but the working class of Europe as a whole.

The answer to the problems facing British workers lies not in the "renegotiation of the terms", nor for that matter in pulling out of the EEC - "The only alternative is a Socialist one". The document concludes that only by the working class parties in all the West European countries carrying out Socialist policies of nationalisation under workers' control and management, can the workers of Europe be united and the economy be integrated and planned for the benefit of the whole population.

Finally the document points to the vital role that the Labour Party Young Socialists can play in this struggle -

"Everywhere the internationalist ideas of the British LPYS must now launch a drive to build up a mass working class youth movement in Europe. Our ideas are the only ones which can provide the basis for this international working class unity and a Socialist United States of Europe!"

# SOCIALIST UNITED STATES OF EUROPE - YES

BY BOB LABI

(LPYS National Committee)

currencies will be devalued against each other, protectionist measures will be taken to safeguard national industries and subsidies will be given to bolster up the capitalists of each particular country". These words were written before the present row over the Regional Aid Fund, in which the German capitalists are objecting to handing out assistance to their economically poorer partners like Britain. They didn't see why their profits should finance what they saw as the inefficiency of their rivals for the same markets.

It was in this period of crisis, that the British ruling class made their entry into the market, just at a time when the economic growth rates of all the EEC countries had fallen to

economy.

Already after only a year of British membership, the optimism of those who advocated entry has turned sour. The document is fully vindicated in its criticism of the Labour MPs whose votes kept the Tory Government in power. Their lofty phrases about the benefits of Common Market membership have to be tested against the grim reality of rising prices and increasing conflict between the member states.

George Thompson, now an EEC Commissioner claimed that "the advocates of entry stand squarely within the socialist tradition of internationalism". In fact, they

queues and in the sweatshops.

The impatient reaction against these opportunist policies of a stratum of radical intellectuals who have adopted the futile and romantic tactics of guerrilla struggle, has provided no alternative to those activists and militants in the Labour Movement who are thirsting for a bold and clear revolutionary programme.

On the contrary, by treating the socialist revolution as fundamentally a military rather than a political event, and naively assuming that once they had formed "revolutionary combat detachments" to shoot it out with the army and police, victory was assured, they played right into the hands of the capitalists.

We have seen in Bolivia, in Uruguay, in Chile and - most tragically of all - in Argentina today, how the Generals gratefully seized on the guerrillas' exploits to declare war on "Marxism" and "terrorism", building up a fiendish network of death squads and internment camps, cashing in on the insecurity of the middle class and the passivity of the working class to edge further and further on to the political stage and jostle the politicians away.

This resolution is a weapon in the hands of all Socialists and all internationalists. It is the only

## LATIN AMERICA

FROM PAGE 3

America aside as a remote, alien universe, where barricades, guerrillas and firing squads are commonplace features of the landscape. True, there have been 138 Bolivian Presidents in 150 years, and 12 Argentinian Presidents in 20 years. But this is no music-hall joke about tinpot colonels in Ruritanian banana republics.

The explosive nature of Latin American politics is the result of the utter deadlock in the unending struggle between the classes. Abundant in mineral riches, the economy of the continent has been stunted, crippled and bled white by imperialism.

The teeming peasantry scratch a bare existence out of the soil, mute beasts of burden whose only hope of tasting the fruits of civilisation lies in a socialist reorganisation of society. The workers face vicious wage cuts. Capitalism cannot afford the luxury of trade unions and a democratic parliamentary facade.

The working class in every industrial

firmly grasping the levers of industrial power, has the collective strength and cohesion to lead the masses in nationalising the economy and usher in a classless society in which production would be rationally and harmoniously planned in accordance with the needs of the people.

There is only one reason why all Latin America is not ruled by the working class, in a federation of workers' democracies: because of the policies of the workers' leaders. If only the courage of the Latin American workers were matched by the leaders of their parties, capitalism and landlordism would have been abolished decades ago. But instead of mobilising the working population of town and country on a socialist programme, arming the workers and forming revolutionary committees within the armed forces to disarm the ultra-reactionary officer caste, they preferred to play politics with the representatives of the capitalists.

In Brazil, in Bolivia, in Uruguay, in Chile, again and again, these cowardly equivocations have had a rapid and deadly end - a catastrophe, not for the leaders who in most cases graciously obliged the triumphant dictators by going into

## BUSINESS MANAGER APPEALS TO YOUNG SOCIALISTS

This year's LPYS Conference seems set to repeat with a bonus the huge success that the Conference was last year.

The success of the conference last year was not just in numbers but in the quality of debate, the clear analysis of the major problems facing the working class movement here and abroad which laid the basis for a fighting programme capable of appealing to all sections of working class youth.

We think that a large number of delegates will agree that this was in no small way due to the fact that they read the *Militant* regularly. Even those who do not agree with all our ideas still read it as an indispensable source of authoritative facts and analysis written by workers actively participating in the struggle for Socialism.

Without possessing a crystal ball, we were able to warn that unless the Labour leaders fought on a programme aimed at mobilising every section of the working class around a Manifesto for a Socialist transformation of society, the election result would be very close. Unfortunately we were right. The return of a Labour Government was a step forward but the Labour leadership is still intent on softening the blows of capitalism without tackling the real cause of this crisis ridden system: the private ownership of the means of production.

There will be a *Militant* meeting at the Conference and we urge all our readers to attend. Not only that, they should make sure that anyone they know should attend as well. Here is an excellent opportunity to put your point of view if you agree with our ideas or not, as well as hearing other Young Socialists explaining and putting forward the ideas of *Militant*.

No one can afford to stand on the sidelines in view of the crucial battles lying ahead. Not only do we want you to agree with our ideas but to make sure that every worker you know, every mate at work, school or college, gets the opportunity to read the *Militant*.

The best way you can do this is to take out a regular order either for yourself or persuade your YS branch to take out an order. The experience of the General Election proved that it is very easy to sell the *Militant* if the effort is put into it. If you would like further details, contact any seller at the Conference or write to us at 375, Cambridge Heath Road, London.

In order to improve and expand the *Militant* we also need to build our Fighting Fund with its £15,000 target. Last year we were able to reach our target of £10,000 and a large proportion of donations came from LPYS members and branches.

This year, reaching our target is as urgent as ever. The best way of helping us is by your branch either holding regular collections for our fund at their meetings or by sending us a lump sum every now and again.

Boosting the circulation of *Militant* is an urgent task for

experiences of the Chilean workers are to be avoided by those of Argentina, of Spain, of Italy or of Britain, then militants in the Labour Movement must learn from them.

Europe now is facing the prospect of Latin American inflation rates. Economic crisis will erode all the gains of the last thirty years. In Britain, too, we face all the cunning and ruthlessness of a ruling class with 300 years' practice at the art of repression. If the British workers are to win, we too must resist any pressures either in an opportunistic or adventurist direction.

Like the other material of the LPYS, this resolution deserves to be studied by every Young Socialist branch, translated into foreign languages, circulated throughout the International Union of Socialist Youth, so that the youth of every country, and especially Latin America, can open up a discussion that will raise the whole international Socialist youth movement to the level of the historic tasks facing it.

The Labour Party Young Socialists' Conference meets this year at Clacton seven weeks after a general election in which there was a huge anti-Tory vote from the organised working class.

Young Socialists everywhere, manning the polling booths and knocking up on election day, have reported a massive turnout in the solid working class areas.

But the Labour Party failed to gain a clear majority in Parliament and the Liberal Party ("the other party of private enterprise" - Cyril Smith) gained 6 million votes. Today the Labour Party, in Government, is posed immediately with the problem of what to do now.

"Labour to Power on a Socialist Programme" (written last November but still vitally relevant) is presented to the LPYS Conference by the National Committee as a Socialist Programme for action.

The 1974 election, as we have pointed out in the pages of this paper, took place when there was an entirely different mood in the Labour Party and Trade Unions from that of 1970. There has been a radicalisation and move to the left of the rank and file worker and party activist. *Militant* no 176, reported that at the 1973 Labour Party Conference there was a massive number of resolutions and amendments calling for nationalisation of the 250 monopolies under democratic workers' control and management. All indications are that the working class are watching the Government most carefully and the question of the moment is "which way forward?"

## AVERT DISASTER

It was in this context that the National Committee decided to present to the LPYS Conference a statement of our analysis of British capitalism and our alternative Socialist Programme. In a sense, the conference is in a position to see some of the validity of the analysis through the best test of all - events.

The document was written before the General Election was announced. The National Committee realised that an election was imminent and therefore felt it was important for the YS to develop its programme. In one sense

# A SOCIALIST PROGRAMME FOR LABOUR

events caught up with the timetable, and overtook it.

Nonetheless the discussion of this document and the ideas raised become all the more important because it is a programme of action. The Labour Party is faced with the opportunity - as the document puts it - to avert disaster - *the disaster for millions of workers that will inevitably arise if the present Government stumbles from one crisis to another trying to bolster up a rotten, diseased, system which can only get its life-blood by squeezing the workers, who produce the wealth.*

"If Labour fails in the next period, then all the rottenness of capitalist society will be nurtured into a mass movement of reaction, aimed to move in the workers for a real kill". Thus as well as being an election programme it is also a programme of action for the Labour Movement.

The document analyses the state of British capitalism now and looks at the three and a half years of Tory Government, the harshest 3½ years the working class has had since the depression of the 20's and early 30's. Tory policy was one of cutbacks in the standard of living of ordinary workers to enable the capitalists to maintain the rate of profit.

In particular the document points out the effects of the Tory Incomes Policy, Phases 1, 2 and 3 - the increasing of profits by the squeeze on workers. The

cuts in social services, the staggering rate of inflation, the terrible housing record and life on a pension maintained at barely subsistence level are some of the issues mentioned illustrating the reality of Tory Government.

## BY PAUL DYSON

(National Committee LPYS)

Yet a Marxist analysis does not stop there. The document does not finish with a chronicle of Toryism and a rallying call to get them out. The crisis represented by the facts and figures presented is not so much one of Toryism but one of British capitalism.

The decline in the rate of profit and the squeezing of workers' living standards arise because of the decline of the system.

The *Militant* and the Marxist majority of the LPYS have continually called for the implementation of a Socialist policy as being the only answer to the present situation. The LPYS document this year, sensed the urgency of the situation and warned of the consequences if Labour did not take up a Socialist Programme.

Today we have a Labour Government, welcomed by all readers of this paper, but already the argument is seen to be true. Inflation cannot be curbed by the present Government (an increase of 18% in prices is

predicted for 1974), a budget to quote this paper of two weeks ago, that "robbed Peter to pay Paul" all reflect the problems faced by a Labour Government that tries to "work" the capitalist system.

The document states, on page 12, that "from the very beginning we have to warn that unless firm measures are taken against the capitalists, in particular Big Business, and the sources of finance are taken under the control of the state, then it will be well-nigh impossible for Labour to effectively carry through the sort of programme which the workers will expect".

Events have caught up with this document already. There have been some immediate reforms undertaken (the promise of rise in pensions, freezing of rents etc) but in effect the standard of living of workers is still declining. In the coming months this statement will be tested in earnest as the crisis of capitalism deepens.

The document and amendment state that Labour will not solve the problems and implement its programme while it bases itself upon capitalism. Indeed, already calls for "belts to be tightened" and "National Unity" are being heard from Government spokesmen (eg Healey, TV broadcast on the budget 26/3/74) indicating that the new Government is bowing to the pressures of Big Business and finance capital that Harold

Wilson so clearly illuminated in his memoirs of the 1964-70 Labour Government.

The LPYS say now, as then, that unless the power of capitalism is broken it will dictate that the Government serves its interests despite all the best intentions the Labour leaders might have.

"Labour to Power on a Socialist Programme", after putting forward the YS election programme, analyses the prospects for the movement if a Socialist Programme is not implemented, it also analyses briefly the Labour Manifesto. The document, for example looks at the lessons of recent events in Chile.

Here "the attempt to carry through revolutionary measures by gradual means within the framework of the capitalist state ended in one of the bloodiest chapters in Chilean history ... The lesson is that half measures, even three quarter measures, are not enough in the face of the might of the ruling class here (my emphasis) or in Chile" (p15). The document speaks for itself.

Finally the document states the need for the Labour Party to be "keyed up for the gigantic battles - now". The parliamentary leadership must be made to represent the rank and file - the working class - and not act as an elite existing on the backs of workers. Again the LPYS call for Conference decisions to be acted upon - what a scandal it is that Jenkins should be in a Labour cabinet after the routing his policies received at the Conference!

## LABOUR GOVERNMENT

The document was originally written as an alternative to Labour's election programme. Now that we have a Labour Government this programme is more relevant than ever. All readers are encouraged to fight for the adoption of this programme now.

This is the message for the YS Conference this year. It is only by adopting the bold policies of nationalisation put forward in this document now that the crisis of capitalism can be overcome.

**Urge all delegates to vote for this document and all readers to buy a copy from local LPYS and read and study it. Fight for Labour to adopt a Socialist Programme now!**

## FIGHTING LEAD

FROM PAGE 3

working class ... the solution to the problems facing workers in Scotland lies not in a Scottish Assembly but in a Socialist programme on a British and international scale". (Glasgow Kelvingrove LPYS).

But despite Labour's Programme proceeding "from an acceptance of the continuation of capitalism, rather than a determination to end the system" (Crosby LPYS), resolution after resolution pledges the LPYS to be in the front of the fight against the Tories - "...no section of the party will make greater efforts to replace the Tories ..."

(Washington Newtown LPYS). It has been made clear from LPYS National Committee reports that this pledge by the LPYS was honoured and in every constituency where there is a LPYS branch, the political authority and respect of the YS has risen because of the work done during the election.

The resolutions do not confine themselves to Tory-bashing. The

Socialist Programme or a "moderate" programme (ie no programme), and the manner in which the new Labour Government tackles the problems facing the workers.

Here again, the resolutions have anticipated the election and the call is made time and time again for real socialist policies. As the resolution from Scarborough LPYS says, "In a diseased capitalist system ... the reforms as advocated by the NEC are inadequate, as no lasting solution can be achieved by any Government unless it begins by taking over the commanding heights of the economy, ie the banks, land and the 250 monopolies".

## NATIONALISATION

And from Cardiff North West LPYS, "Under capitalism it is impossible for prices to be held back and a Prices and Incomes policy will only serve to restrict wages for the benefit of the capitalist class".

Clearly, the lessons of the last Labour Government have not been lost on the LPYS -

capitalism better than the capitalists". (Deptford LPYS).

Time and again, the resolutions call for a nationalised economy and a plan of production as the only way that the resources and wealth of the country can be used to solve the day to day problems of the working class.

Nationalisation is never raised in the sense of the bureaucratic state corporations of today, but as several resolutions point out, nationalisation must mean workers' control of the day-by-day running of the factories and workers' management of industries and the economy as a whole.

In all the different aspects of "domestic" policy, there are resolutions demanding socialist policies - the health service, social services, transport, housing pensions and so on and a huge majority of them point, correctly, to the basic over-riding factor in determining policy - the need to change from a system based on profit, to one based on need.

At this year's conference there will be many more fraternal delegates from socialist parties abroad, and approximately, there

tions do not look at international events from an academic point of view but attempt to draw fundamental lessons from them.

The events in Chile over the last four years are of particular importance - "In the future, with the election of a left-wing Labour Government in Britain it must be understood that the military and other forces of the state will be prepared to overthrow such a democratically elected government pledged to the introduction of socialism. The only way to prevent such an event would be for a Labour Government to mobilise the Labour Movement for the implementation of a bold socialist programme". (Birmingham Edgbaston LPYS)

## THE FUTURE

However, it would be a fatal mistake to see the annual conference as a time for holiday speechifying. The job of the LPYS has barely begun. As the resolution from Huddersfield LPYS puts it: "the LPYS faces in the coming year the dual task of sinking deeper and deeper roots in the Labour Movement and extending

class youth".

Many resolutions point to the need for a democratisation of the Labour Party, and especially the LPYS - where we have the situation that there is no full-time elected field worker, where *Left* appears infrequently, where full-time officials often harass and spend time working against the LPYS and so on.

The LPYS must take up these issues in their constituency parties as well as in the LPYS itself

In particular, the resolutions on Youth Opportunities, taking up all the issues facing young people such as Education (or lack of it), job training, youth unemployment, housing and so on, must be used in actively campaigning and building the LPYS.

All these problems are related directly to the need to change society and our job is to show that this is so. As Wallsend LPYS says, "The LPYS must be seen as the champion of the needs of youth".

## FORWARD TO SOCIALISM

# GLASGOW DEMONSTRATION - BREAK LINKS WITH FRANCO'S SPAIN

On 1st April 1939, the Republican side of the Spanish Civil war was finally defeated, and 35 years later this day is still celebrated by the Fascist regime in Spain as "Victory Day".

On Monday, 1st April 1974, the Labour Lord Provost of Glasgow attended a ceremony to mark the opening of an exhibition of paintings by one of the officially-backed Spanish artists, and accepted a work presented on behalf of the Fascist mayor of Barcelona.

But the usually smiling Mr Gray soon lost his smile, for when his car drew up outside the art gallery he was greeted, as the painter had been before him, by loud cries from a 40-strong picket, organised by the Centro Cultural Espanol "Miguel Hernandez" (Spanish Cultural Centre, Glasgow).

A leaflet was handed out, and

the many placards displayed, protested against this fraternisation with representatives of the military dictatorship, which will be used by the press in Spain to lend a false respectability to Franco's rule; and also drew attention to the "ugly face of Spain" - the harsh reality behind the tourist image of Spain.

A picket is being maintained throughout the week, with the support of the Labour Party Young Socialists, Communist Party, International Marxist Group, International Socialists, Communist Federation of Great Britain, and the International Brigade Society. On Saturday morning, 6th April, the week's activities culminate with a mass picket and street meeting outside the gallery.



## WHY NOT WRITE TO MILITANT?

The letters page of *Militant* is one of the most important. It is a forum for workers in the movement, for youth, for students, for housewives, for pensioners.

Unfortunately in the last few weeks, for one reason or another, we have not had the usual overflowing post bag. We make an appeal to all our readers, those who have been with us for some time and those who have only just begun to read *Militant*.

If you like the paper and agree with us or if you don't, we would like to hear from you. Write about your experiences, your criticisms and your views. If you have suggestions for improving the paper don't hold back in sending them to us. - EDITOR

# SPECULATORS GAMBLE WITH OUR LIVES

Dear Comrades,

Hearing so much of those termed speculators and the bitterness their transactions cause through the huge profits they make, holding to ransom those who need land, houses, or other commodities, I was prompted to find out the meaning of "speculation" as applying to the business sense of the

word.

Speculate - "to pursue an inquiry, to form conjectures or views by consideration in the mind, to theorise, to make purchases, investments etc on the chance of profit". In fact; gambling.

Now if I wish to gamble on horses or dogs or football

pools, then both the bookmaker or pools promoter and myself are quite highly taxed, so what is the difference?

So why aren't these speculators treated as gamblers and taxed in the same manner as all those who enjoy a flutter?

Yours fraternally  
A McEWEN (Thornton Heath)

## POST OFFICE

Dear Comrades,

I was interested to read Phil Holt's article on Big Business and the Post Office. I, too, work in the Post Office, in a grade which is represented by the Society of Post Office Executives (SPOE). We are not directly affected by the investment cuts as yet, but at the time of writing, two of our grades are in dispute with the Post Office over productivity claims. The PO is showing what kind of employer it really is in using the Tory Pay Board machinery to withhold productivity agreements.

One agreement, reached in December last year, has been with the Pay Board informally since then. As you are probably aware, with claims put to it informally, the Pay Board can take as long as it likes to reach a decision. The Post Office is refusing to send the claim formally, as formal claims must be dealt with within a rigid timetable.

The other productivity claim is to restore in some part,

differentials eroded in successive settlements for the Executive Engineer grade. Under Stage 3, which unfortunately is still with us, productivity agreements have to have been working for three months before they can be considered. Engineering pay claims are revised annually on 1st July hence a decision must be reached by 31 March if a productivity element is to be included in this year's claim, otherwise the differential will be eroded still further as the grades immediately below the Executive Engineer (also represented by SPOE) already have productivity agreements in force.

The disputing grades will therefore refuse to operate any productivity agreement after 1st April, if no decision has been reached. Also, as the Executive Engineer grade is seriously undermanned we are refusing to allow promotions into the grade and blacking recent posts.

I was interested too, in comrade Holt's comments about Swedish Ericson. Much of our diabolical International Subscriber Dialling (ISD) can be ascribed to contractual delays by manufacturers such as Plesseys and GEC. The Post

Office does not have penalty clauses for contracts not completed on time. Thus, in one international switching centre alone, contractors are a year behind the installation programme (others are even further behind!) and Swedish Ericson, by contrast, installing plant into an expedient switching centre in NW London are 3 months ahead of schedule!

Some probably know what went on within the PO over which new exchange system, crossbar or electronic to invest in and install in the next 50 years. Electronic exchanges are technically more advanced but the big suppliers are not willing to develop them commercially as Britain would have been their only big customer. Yet another argument for the Post Office to manufacture their own equipment!

This is to be contrasted with the fact that Plesseys was one of the top 20 contributors to Tory Party funds last year with a cool £11,000!

Nationalise the telecommunications industry with benefits for all workers, not Big Business!  
Yours fraternally  
CHRISTINE BUTTERWORTH  
(London City Branch SPOE)

## IRELAND FROM PAGE 2

organisations from Ireland and Britain to forge links against the common capitalist enemy.

In this campaign we need the support of every LPYS branch in the country. We will be taking this appeal to Labour Parties and Trade Unions.

The meetings at Clacton this Easter will be a prelude to a series

of meetings addressed by Socialists from North and South of Ireland, up and down the country over the next few months. In September we are aiming to hold in London, a national delegate conference with representation from the Labour movement which can really take up the questions we have raised and make a step towards the unity of the working class of Ireland and Britain.

# EVERY PENNY COUNTS!

The £224.84 coming in this week is a real improvement over several of the previous weeks. This is somewhere near the sort of figure we need to make sure we reach the £15,000 target at the end of the year. But the amount we need each week is over £325 and we hope that every effort will be made to send us this money. A few more donations like the £43 from a jumble sale in Glasgow will put us well on our way. We are glad to see that all the areas are taking seriously the question of raising cash at readers' meetings as can be seen from below.

As this issue comes out in time for the LPYS National Conference, we would like to make an extra appeal to all our supporters in the LPYS to persuade their branches to follow the example of Reading LPYS, who

sent us a very welcome £5.50.

Further in the *Militant* Readers Meeting at the Conference, this will be an excellent opportunity for our supporters to make the appeal for the Fighting Fund at this meeting a really bumper success by putting every penny you can spare into the collection.

Thanks to the following for their donations:

- Harlow £11 Stevenage £2
- SE London Social £11
- P Hanson (London) £5
- Ealing Marxist discn. group 80p
- Taunton Readers Meeting £5.70
- Bradford £6.50 Oxford MDG £1.44
- Oxford £10
- Driffield Readers Meeting £2
- W C West (Blyth) £2
- London Readers Meeting £23.44
- Visitors from German Jusos £1 and others ...

## CAPITALIST PRESS

Dear comrades,

The blatant confrontation with the miners by a tremulous Tory Government, spearheaded by Willy Whitelaw has been what the national press take pride in calling the "right approach".

Of course, the capitalist press can pick and choose what they wish to print. Very few, if any, Marxist-inspired letters are ever printed by leading newspapers; mainly because the views and opinions expressed by fellow comrades and other workers in struggle are not in the "national interest".

This clap-trap, pouring out daily from the press of an insatiable Fleet Street, must be viewed by the working class as being the sad symptoms of an intellectual class in times of crisis. We must defend ourselves in the press (ours) from their savage attacks now, in order to safeguard our precious rights to freedom of speech and public speaking, which have not been won to this day without a struggle.

The Tories do have their selected hirelings in the press as we all know. There is none more apparent than the work of the Sunday Express who have campaigned in true "Dunkirk Spirit" to "help get Britain back on its feet again" by supplying all of its interested readership with Union Jacks - to fly them "for Britain"!

Only the most docile of workers will fall for this game, but it is up to us as individuals and the Labour Movement in general, to point out the repercussions of this patriotic, nationalistic revival - if left unchallenged.

Alongside this hysteria for

the miners, or any other section of the working class - we, who are denounced as being self-indulgent Communists simply because all we ask for is a slice of bread in our hands and a decent living wage; soaring inflation; the unhappy prospect of 1½ to 2 million workers unemployed and on the streets, living a new life of Utopia - but with less pay!

The "man in the street" will be talking the militant kind of politics he has never talked before; increased union activity and even more industrial unrest brought to bear upon the shoulders of the working class of this country by the brunt of more factory closures, leading to more savage attacks upon the living standards of each one of us; rising food prices (daily) and with less money to pay for them!

No comrades. The above is not the basis of a Militant leaflet prepared for a Labour propagandist exercise. Neither is it directly intended to be an attack upon the Capitalists who have sunk the British economy by their failure to re-invest and re-tool British industry - and have either abandoned ship or are being harboured by their representatives the Tories, and the ruling class under a cloak of bureaucratic secrecy.

No, my intentions were, to state only the declining conditions of the British way of life. But look again comrades. There, too, are the conditions necessary for the emergence of an underlying threat ...

There will soon be the conditions under which Fascism can come to power - if we let it. One is instantly reminded of der Fuhrer and his "Brownshirts", and of Il Duce and his "Blackshirts".

within both the Labour and Trade Union movements will these conditions either subside or at least be "toned down" to avert the road that can only lead to a crippling disaster!

One reason alone why Fascism may not ever prevail is that there exists today in this country, no such orator with the experience of public speaking and the expertise to preach to the masses his doctrine of dissent and slogan-making, "showmanship", which is necessary if one is to capture the hypnotic attention and support of the people; as in the cases of Hitler (1933) and Mussolini (1922).

We may be spared this - though not without a united stance, effort and explanation clearly written for the benefit of all workers from within the Labour Movement itself, or from the Militant!

This is why all Marxists should be quite open with their views, and they must be prepared to publicise the fact with pride.

Yours fraternally  
GEORGE HAUXWELL  
(Blyth LPYS)

## DERRY DONATIONS

Comrades,

Herewith £1 for the Fighting Fund from supporters in Strabane who are convinced that the real Socialist Programme of the Militant is the only one capable of winning mass working class support both in Britain and in Ireland.

There will be many more donations from Strabane and the North West of Ireland generally; Ireland's target will be reached this year. Please increase our weekly order to 30 papers, there is a growing demand for the

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# NALGO WORKERS FIGHT PHASE 3

**MILITANT**  
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 Correspondence: 375 Cambridge Heath Rd. London E2 9RA.  
 Printed and published by THE CAMBRIDGE HEATH PRESS LTD (TU)  
 375 Cambridge Heath Rd. London E2 9RA. Tel. 01-7397176  
 Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

The following interview was given to Bill Webster (Militant Editorial Board) on 8 April by Bro John Hall, Chairman of Wandsworth NALGO and also Staff Side Secretary of the Joint Staff Committee, and Bro Mick Lyne (GMWU) Secretary of Wandsworth Council manual workers Joint Shop Stewards Committee (JSSC).

John Hall started by saying: "The claim is for an increase in London Weighting Allowance to £400. It was presented to the Employers on the National Joint Council in June 1973. The claim is based upon the fact that the present allowance of £144.00 pa for those workers in the Inner Zone (ie 8 London boroughs) and £105.00 pa for those in the Outer Zone (ie 24 London boroughs) is totally inadequate. The claim takes into account the high cost of housing, mortgage repayments and other costs which Local Government staffs are faced with. "One example of this is that in the NALGO document 'The London Weighting Claim' it points out that in order to equalise the expenditure on items such as housing and transport between the regions in the country which is based on the Family Expenditure Survey 1971 (Table 54) to Local Government white collar workers in the Greater London area must receive an increase in earnings of £395 pa!

- What was the mood of the NALGO members towards the refusal of the employers to meet the claim?

Because of the pressure exerted by the members for action the EC decided that selective strike action would take place in seven London boroughs from 25th February. The EC also instructed all NALGO members to ban overtime in all departments (emergency services to be manned) and to refuse to work with

agency labour (scabs) brought in by local authorities in an attempt to break the strike.

- What was the result of this action?

The leaders of the London boroughs, under the pressure of the white collar workers made a recommendation to the Greater London Whitley Council that they were prepared to meet the claim in full over 2 years, ie £250 now and £75 in 1975 and £75 in 1976.

(At a meeting in Camden after action by the computer staffs the Labour leader of the Council stated that Camden would only pay if Foot agreed to give the go-ahead. He also stated that if the action continued the Local Government White Collar workers would lose the support of the Labour Group! - BW).

Following this move and faced with the possibility of a virtual shutdown of the Local Authority Services in London, the General Committee of the GLWC staff and employers alike, agreed an interim increase of £226 pa for Inner London and £186 pa for Outer London backdated to November 1973. This to be without prejudice to the outcome of the Pay Board Inquiry.

- Did the Union then call off the action?

No. They decided not to escalate the strike until after the outcome of the meeting with Michael Foot on April 1st. Action that had already been taken continued in force.

- Now that Labour is in power, did your members feel that Mr Foot would endorse the agreement made on 19 March?

Yes. We felt that the Labour Government would be sympathetic to our claim.

- What was their attitude when Mr Foot stated that the Interim Settlement (costing £1.2 million) could not be paid and that you would have to wait until the Pay Board produced its report in June?

The reaction from the members was one of total disbelief and anger. They couldn't believe that a Labour Employment Secretary would take this position.

- Why do you think he refused to sanction the claim?

Because he knows that to concede our claim would mean that this would lead to even greater pressure for similar treatment from sections such as the teachers, tube workers, banking staffs etc who are also feeling the pinch.

This attitude of Foot has only served to antagonise the members and this has pushed them towards adopting a militant position. You have to remember that Local Government White Collar workers have a long history of non-militancy. The situation in Wandsworth now is that I am getting repeated requests from many departments, particularly from the lower paid members for strike action in order to force the issue. In fact since we started the overtime ban quite a number of former non-unionists have now joined NALGO.

Over 65% of NALGO members are earning less than £1600 gross pa (£31 a week). In Wandsworth the majority of the members are in the lower grades, ie Typists, Clerical workers etc. These workers face a desperate position in relation to rents, food prices, fares etc.

It is no accident that they are the most militant at this time. We have learnt that once the lower grade workers take action, like banning overtime, the borough virtually

comes to a standstill.

- What is your attitude to selective strike action?

Personally I would have liked to have seen total strike action throughout London in order to achieve the claim. I estimate that over 50% of the members, particularly the low paid would also support this if it was explained to them.

I also firmly believe that only 100% trade union membership will provide the basis for real improvements in our wages and conditions. There must be thousands of workers in the Greater London area who are not members of a trade union.

- I now asked Mick Lyne for his comments - Mick, what is the position with the manual workers. Do they stand to gain from the action of NALGO?

Yes! But the point is there has been no activity from the union leaders, as to what positive action should be taken. In fact a large number of manual workers do not realise that they are involved in this question?

- How do you mean?

Well, the following statement has not really been broadcasted by the union to the members. This applies to all manual workers in the 32 London boroughs.

The statement comes from a meeting held on 25 March between the union officials and the employers. It reads thus:

"As a result of this interim agreement (ie White Collar workers'), discussions have taken place on the question of the London allowance for Manual Workers at the Executive Committee of the Greater London Joint Council for Manual Workers held yesterday and we advise you that

the following decision was taken:

"This Greater London Joint Council Executive Committee for Manual Workers records its decision that with regard to the London Allowance, we will treat Manual Workers on an equitable basis in respect of the treatment secured for APT&C staff and also in regard to the operative date".

This is really a scandalous situation when you consider it. Because the manual workers stand to gain about £3.50 per week and therefore should be involved in the action. I should also point out that at the Greater London Regional Council of the Labour Party held on March 31st, a resolution was accepted unanimously calling for a realistic London Weighting Allowance and also that the GLC should ignore Phase 3.

- I asked John Hall and Mick Lyne what happens next.

John Hall: We will be taking selective strike action from April 17 in selective departments. We have set up a Campaign Committee to plan the strike and we have links with the other boroughs. At the moment there has been no attempt by the individual Campaign Committees to link up in order to co-ordinate the action. This is being planned from the union headquarters.

Mick Lyne: I will be raising the whole question at my union branch in order to inform all the Manual Workers' Shop Stewards on the reality of the situation.

- Finally, John, what do you think will come out of the situation?

Closer unity between the Manual and White Collar workers.

- Mick?

We should strive together - not separately - to improve the conditions of all Local Government workers.

## CONSPIRACY

FROM PAGE 1

month by month. This sliding scale should be based on a cost of living index worked out by the Labour Movement, not on the phoney index worked out by civil servants.

A crisis demands crisis measures. The question is, what measures, and in whose interest? While the leaders of the Labour Party stand on the basis of capitalism then the system will insist on measures of "austerity" for the workers to improve the prospect of profits for the few.

We must completely reject any suggestions of cutbacks for the workers. It is the bosses' crisis - let them pay for it!

The press may wail about "democracy" but the blunt truth is that in Britain the real rulers are the directors of the big banks and the 250 big monopolies which between them overwhelmingly dominate the economy. It is they who are insisting on restraint not for themselves of course, but for the mass of the population.

Only bold action to crush their power, by full nationalisation, with compensation on the basis of need, can take power out of their hands.

There are only two ways in which the Labour Government can go: either to bow down to the increasing pressure of the rich which means not only taking up the tattered remnants of discredited Tory policies, but also the abandoning of the programme and Manifesto of the election; or to break entirely with the policies of capitalism by proceeding with a bold Socialist programme.

This choice is urgently facing the movement. To continue with the present policies will see the retreat turn into a rout in the face of massive Tory pressure. Every concession made allows them to breathe a little easier and to perfect their plans for overturning the Labour Government. There can be little doubt that,

Government after the election, they now aim to see it discredit itself by failing to live up to the needs and expectations of the workers. They calculate that within a few months the massive inflation and rising unemployment will be sufficient to disorientate the movement sufficiently for them to bring down the Labour Government and install a National Coalition of Tories, Liberals and right wing Labour even without another election.

Such a move which the capitalist press has been openly discussing ever since the election, would, they claim, be entirely "constitutional". It is for just such eventualities that the Monarchy and the House of Lords and all the other expensive, parasitic, paraphernalia of the "constitution" have been reserved.

But by firm action now, Labour can cut across all these plots and intrigues and avoid the terrible cuts in standards that the bosses are preparing for the future. All that would be required would be an Enabling Act to be introduced, giving the Government blanket powers to take full control of the commanding heights of the economy.

If a mass campaign were waged among every section of the working class, organised and unorganised workers, housewives and old age pensioners, explaining that only on these lines can their minimum and moderate demands be met, then overwhelming support would be forthcoming.

The Parliamentary sabotage of the Tories and Liberals could be met with a new election, confident of a sweeping Labour victory. Every desperate attempt of Big Business to sabotage the Socialist demands of the workers, to prevent Labour carrying out such a programme could be met by the mobilisation of the trade unions to defend the enormous gains which would be made.

Labour must break the conspiracy of the Tories and the capitalists! Act now in the interests of the



Harold Wilson

## PRESS

FROM PAGE 1

tors. Harold Wilson himself, on TV on Monday 8th April said that the only answer to the nation's problems - whether it is land for housing, for schools or for development of slum clearance - was that all the land required should come into public ownership.

That is part of Labour's programme. The Government must nationalise all land, except that of owner-occupiers, without any compensation to the landlords and speculators except on the basis of need.

Harold Wilson's distinction between "reclamation" and "speculation" will not be accepted by the Movement. Whichever word describes it, it is still money-making out of property deals.

But the question raised in the minds of Labour workers is this: why is it that prominent leaders can lay themselves, and consequently the whole movement, open to such attacks? The fact is that the life

Cabinet Ministers and many of the Labour MPs is hardly different to that of their enemies across the floor of the House of Commons. It is well known that such men as Harold Lever are extremely rich business men, that James Callaghan is a director of several banks, that most own several houses and in general enjoy a standard of living a million miles from that of the rank and file of the movement that they represent.

Such facts may placate the City of London that the Labour leaders are not enemies of capitalism, but can it give the workers much confidence?

## LIFE STYLE

How can men and women who live such different lives from the workers really represent them, really feel about and understand their problems? Is it so surprising that an enormous gulf lies between the leaders and the rank and file?

If the movement is to be protected against such scurrilous attacks from the press, and is to be welded together with a leadership which is really representative then the



Marcia Williams

demands for real democratic control advanced in the Militant are ever more vital.

\* No MP to receive more than the pay of an average skilled worker. The remainder of the Parliamentary salary to be donated to the movement.  
 \* Right of recall over MPs by their constituency party.

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