

# TORIES DECLARE WAR ON WORKERS

Mrs Thatcher claims she is maligned. "Labour will try to paint me as a reactionary, implying a sort of early return to the Middle Ages," she moaned recently.

What she really wants, the Tory leader explained, is "to get everyone a capitalist... so they can start with nothing and end up with something."

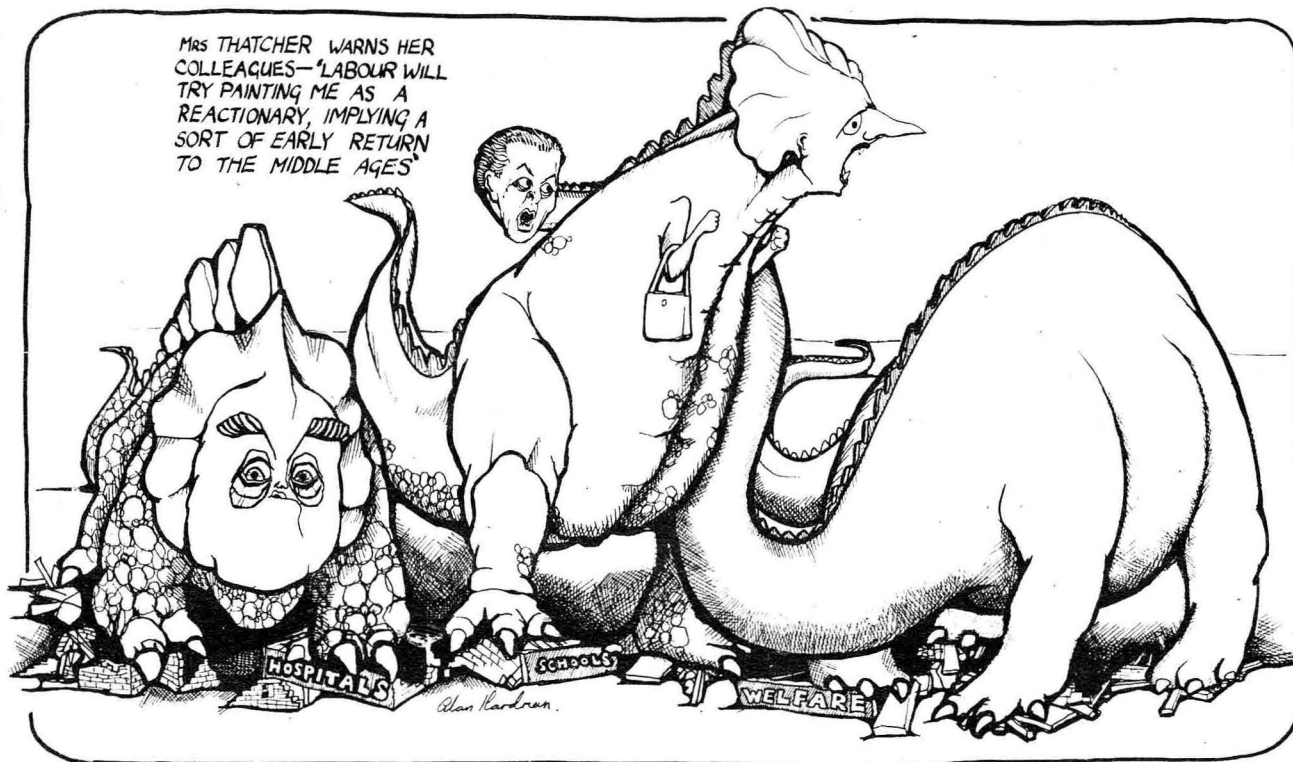
Wonderful! But how do the Tory leaders propose to help those with "nothing"—e.g. the 1½ million unemployed, the 4½ million workers on less than £50 a week, the pensioners, the sick, the millions of children who live in poverty?

By Lynn Walsh

For a start, by slashing public spending, pruning nationalised industries, sacrificing "lame ducks", and by giving the blind "market forces" their head, they would soon put hundreds of thousands more workers on the dole. If you have "nothing" and the bosses won't give you a job, hard luck!

Next, vital services would get the chop. In the NHS, for example, the Tories would increase prescription charges, impose "hotel" charges in hospitals, put in more private beds. If you have "nothing" and get sick, well, tough luck!

Michael Heseltine as-



Dinosaurs were large, cold-blooded creatures with minute brains, and were at one time to be found in most areas of the world. However, due to their anti-social habits, such as eating one another's young, their voracious appetites which destroyed resources, and the emergence of superior species, they became extinct.

sure us that a Tory government would pass a law to force councils to sell council houses. If you have nothing, and can't afford a mortgage, too bad!

James Prior promises that a Tory government would suspend key sections of Labour's Employment Protection Act. So if you're unfairly dismissed, or the boss refuses to have you back after having a baby, and you have "nothing", sorry!

The Tories' main target, however, is the trade unions—which prevent the bosses riding rough-shod over workers.

Sir Geoffrey Howe recently denounced the trade

unions' "profoundly undemocratic domination of the Labour Party." But the Labour Party was created by the unions as their political arm. Its basic, democratic aim is

**Guest Keen & Nettlefolds, for example, paid their Chairman £63,000 last year—and donated £25,000 to the Tory Party.**

control of society by the majority who create the wealth, the working class.

Who do the Tories—these people who rant about "democracy" and "freedom"—stand for?

Money talks, and it's big business that finances the Tories.

Take a few examples. Last year, Guest Keen & Nettlefolds (profitable, private steel-makers) gave the Tories £25,000. S Pearson & Son (a big 'conglomerate'), Bowater Corporation (the big paper monopoly) and Cadbury Schweppes (the giant food monopoly) each gave the

Tory Party £10,000.

This year, in the run-up to a general election, big firms will give hundreds of thousands to their party.

The directors of big business scream about

Labour ruining "their" businesses and taxing them almost to penury.

But they are really not doing so badly!

Mr Barrie Heath, for instance, the Chairman of GKN, was paid a cool £63,000 last year (not counting "fringe benefits" and "perks"). Three top directors of Pearson, Bowaters and Cadbury's were paid £152,770 between them.

These are the people who buy private medicine, who send their children to public (i.e. private, fee-paying, schools) who travel by chauffeured car.

Is it a wonder that through their Tory mouthpieces they are clamouring for the destruction of the NHS, a boost to private education, and the slash-

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## ARMS BAZAAR

This was the week of the Arms Bazaar.

As the five-week United Nations special Session on Disarmament was drawing to a close in New York, the Defence Sales Organisation (DSO) of the Ministry of Defence opened its second major arms fair at Aldershot.

The UN special Session, needless to say, achieved nothing. But the 200 arms manufacturers and dealers exhibiting their lethal hardware at Aldershot will now be well on the way to confirming their highly profitable shares of Britain's annual £1,000 millions-worth of overseas arms sales.

The military commanders of some of the most reactionary and repressive regimes in the world came to rub their hands over the array of missiles, tanks, fighter aircraft and guns offered for sale.

Sixty per cent of Britain's arms exports go to Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The police chiefs of the dictatorships are also well catered for. One firm boasts the "cost effective answer to riot control." Others offer the latest in surveillance devices, percussion grenades, anti-riot batons, and so on. The smart-suited representatives wined and dined by the staff officers of the DSO and the private arms salesmen, come to buy up the gear for their thugs in the torture chambers back home.

Aldershot's Arms Bazaar is a grotesque event. It combines the slick sales gimmicks of the Motor Show—scantily clad women to draw attention to the latest sub-machine gun—with the extravagant eating and drinking of Ascot.

It is a symptom of the sick system under which we live. Based on exploitation and oppression, with inevitable conflict between rival states and exploiters, capitalism is soaked in the blood of a thousand wars.

And war, of course, is still highly profitable for those who make and deal in the means of destruction.

World military expenditure today is about \$380,000 million—over \$1,000 million a day, or roughly \$1 million a minute. Most of the arms exports go to under-developed countries which overall squander 40% of their national wealth on arms. Most of the world's

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# LABOUR'S YOUTH ON THE MOVE

Throughout Britain the Labour Party Young Socialists have made an impact on working class young people through their Week of Action. Labour's youth have taken the message of socialism to the schools, factories, youth clubs and on the streets to recruit and organise young people.

Hundreds of school students, apprentices, young workers, unemployed and young immigrants have come to the Labour Party Young Socialists in the last few days to join the fight for Socialism. Here is a cross section of the many reports sent to us from all over the country.

## HARLESDEN

Fifteen Young Socialists greeted our call. We hit the main shopping street in Harlesden, North London, last Saturday as part of the LPYS recruiting drive.

Brent South is an area where the LPYS branch is very new, and we have been able to collect huge lists of names and addresses of many people, including several young West Indians, who are interested in joining the fight for socialism. We should soon have a very big branch as a result of this work.

In the afternoon we went up to Wembley shopping centre where large numbers of young Asians

greeted our call. We shouted our slogans over the megaphone to hundreds of shoppers waiting in the very long bus queues. Most of them nodded in agreement with our demand for a £70 minimum wage tied to the cost of living.

Because of the impact of our ideas and the thousands of leaflets we handed out, a small group of irate Tory shop-keepers gathered around us to try and stop us from making such a political stir, but this did not deter us and we continued to campaign for our socialist ideas.

**Joan Bower**  
(Brent South LPYS)

## BRISTOL

A dozen LPYS members worked every day in Bristol's Week of Action, joined by many more each evening, and they managed to distribute 40,000 leaflets.

On Tuesday we sold over 40 'Militants' outside labour exchanges. On Wednesday we covered six large factories with leaflets. Ten schools were visited for leafletting and at one comprehensive there was such interest that we held an impromptu open-air meeting.

Saturday saw our motorcade of cars decked out with posters and slogans touring the main shopping centres.

On Friday night a meeting of 40 heard **Tony Benn MP**

and **Kevin Ramage** (LPYS National Committee). Tony Benn congratulated the LPYS on the work we had done in recruiting young people to the Party.

But the whole meeting was burning with indignation at the blatant butchering of the previous night's TV broadcast by right wing party officials.

Throughout the week we linked all our activities to publicising a demonstration against racialism which we have called for **July 1st. The march will assemble at 11.30 at St George's Park, St George, Bristol.** It looks like getting a massive response

**Rob Cadwgan**  
(Chairman, SW Region LPYS)

## COVENTRY

Our Week of Action in Coventry consisted of leafletting schools, dole queues and the main bus station every day and included a disco on Friday evening with over 100 young people turning up.

On Saturday we held a street meeting in the city centre with up to 400 people listening to LPYS and local trade union speakers on unemployment, racialism and the Tory threat.

During the week we sold 125 copies of 'Left' and 50 'Militants'. The name of the LPYS is now well established in Coventry.

**Steve Chinn Coventry SE LPYS**

## NORTH EAST

The successful work put into the Week of Action in the North East has begun to bear fruit immediately. Following the cavalcade in Teesside on June 10th, Hartlepool LPYS had an increase of eight new members. They followed up on Thursday 15th with a 'Broadcast Disco'.

Many schools, factories, dole queues and housing estates received our literature and all branches are now following up with public meetings.

The effect of leafletting the schools seemed to be that wherever the headmaster complained, the school students queued up for leaflets! In one school the headmistress stood in the yard attempting to

take leaflets off the pupils, but with so many going past she didn't have much chance!

Car cavalcades took place last Saturday from Durham to Sunderland, calling at Chester-le-Street and Washington, and one from South Shields to Newcastle calling at Jarrow and Gateshead. South Shields LPYS showed initiative in getting a float in the town's sports week parade publicising the LPYS and leafletting on-lookers. The car cavalcades ended with a disco in Sunderland.

**Wilf Flynn**  
(LPYS National Committee)

## BIRMINGHAM

We've just had an excellent Week of Action in Birmingham, with over 400 'Lefts', 'Militants' and PNP Youth Bulletins sold during the course of the week. Two comrades from Hall Green LPYS sold 25 'Lefts' in the space of 45 minutes outside the dole queue in the south of the city.

On both week-ends Days of Action were held in the local areas and in the town centre. A good impact was made by loud speakers on vans which

toured around explaining the LPYS programme and announcing our meetings.

Every branch now has a list of names of school students, unemployed youth, immigrant youth and young workers who want to join the LPYS. In the next few weeks, further activities on the same lines are being planned by the Youth Advisory Committee of Birmingham District Labour Party.

**Phil Luker**  
(Selly Oak LPYS)

## SOUTH YORKS

The LPYS activities in South Yorkshire have so far been very successful. On Saturday June 10th in the main towns in the area Days of Action were held with a car cavalcade, loud speakers etc. shouting out the message of LPYS policy.

This was followed up with door-to-door canvassing, systematic leafletting of schools, dole queues, youth clubs and entertainment centres on selected days. Meetings are being arranged and publicised in Sheffield, Barnsley, Doncaster and Penistone and have already taken place in Maltby and Rotherham.

Of particular importance is activity directed to young miners, where we plan to use the new

LPYS/S Wales NUM leaflet for that purpose. One meeting has already taken place in Maltby directed at young miners, and on Saturday 17th June a highly successful Youth Campaign Against Unemployment meeting was held at the Yorkshire Miners' Gala in Doncaster with Nick Bradley and NUM speakers attracting an attendance of about 70.

Already new LPYS branches are in the process of formation in Don Valley, Penistone and Barnsley. This activity has really begun to put the LPYS on the map in the area.

**Rob Jones**

# Brick Lane...

photos: Julian McKittrick



This handful of fascists giving their Nazi salute [above] kept to the side streets as...



...2,000 immigrant workers and members of the labour movement marched down Brick Lane on Sunday to warn the racials against any more attacks on immigrants

## LPYS MEETING

# £70 for 35 hrs

The Birmingham District Labour Party's Youth Advisory Committee held a public meeting on Monday in order to fully explain the policies of the LPYS to the many young people who had met us for the first time this week.

**Tony Saunois**, the LPYS delegate-elect on Labour's NEC, received an enthusiastic response from around 80 young people for his rousing speech on "Join Labour's Youth."

"Young workers today," he said, "are forced to put up with appalling conditions. This summer a quarter of all school leavers will spend six months on the dole."

"75% of those lucky enough to get jobs will receive no training. This means a future of low pay, long hours and boredom." He compared this to the lifestyle of the idle rich whose pampered wives can afford £500 a session for beauty treatment at Harrods.

"The possibility of a return of a Tory government is an horrific one for young people. They are barbarians in favour of corporal punishment, detention centres, labour camps and conscription for youngsters. The LPYS must lead the fight to return a Labour government at the coming General Election."

"But to defeat the Tories for good and build a decent future, Labour needs a fighting programme. The LPYS can arm the mighty labour movement with such a pro-

gramme.

"Our central demand must be for a shorter working week with no loss of pay. Jack Jones estimates that a 35-hour week would create 700,000 jobs. This must be taken with a national minimum wage of £70."

"A programme of useful public works could create jobs and provide the schools, hospitals, houses and leisure facilities we need. The money for such a programme could be found by nationalising the banks and the 200 monopolies which control over 80% of production, and planning industry for the needs of the many, not the profits of the few."

From the floor a number of speakers expressed disappointment that Labour's youth broadcast did not put forward such a socialist programme. If it had, it could have won Labour the next Election.

Nevertheless, there was a determination to go out and build the Young Socialists and to take up the challenge of war that the Tories have made on working people.

It was refreshing to see new faces at the meeting, who had joined the LPYS during the Week of Action, and the collection to make sure that the LPYS in Birmingham could continue the campaign in the same way raised £23.

**Simon Heather**  
(Secretary, Birmingham Youth Advisory Committee)

# END TORY PRESS MONOPOLY



Young Socialists giving it straight to the 'Daily Express' as the protest march goes down Fleet Street

photo: Julian McKittrick

"Smash the bosses' lie machine—nationalise the press!" This was the chant of 150 members of the London LPYS who marched on Fleet Street on Friday night, indignant at the blatant political bias of the press.

All the "popular" newspapers, having failed in their campaign to prevent any LPYS member appearing in Labour's Party Political broadcast, had thrown a blanket of silence over the activities of the Young Socialists, so afraid were they of young people hearing our ideas.

The pre-demo rally at Temple Place heard Pete Jarvis (NGA) tell of how the big papers intend to bring in new technology to their industry to in-

crease profits by making print workers redundant and so weakening the unions.

Tom Doyle (Paddington NUR) then explained how the bosses' press often inflates seemingly insignificant events to whip up racialism in an attempt to divide the working class. He cited as an example the case of the five Malawi Asians temporarily housed in a luxury hotel by a local council who were cynically used to give the impression that a flood of immigrants were living it up at the taxpayers' expense. They ignored the fact that this was done by a Tory council.

Andy Bevan, Labour Party National Youth Officer, wound up the spee-

ches by saying that the evening's activities would do little to alter the attitude of the bosses' press and so the fight must be taken back into the labour movement with the LPYS demands for a democratically controlled workers' press.

The Young Socialists then marched down Fleet Street, handing in letters of protest to the various newspaper offices and selling newspapers that give the story from the workers' point of view—'Left' and 'Militant'!

Janet Scott

(London Regional Committee LPYS)

## Black and white workers unite — fight racialism

### BUSTER MOTTRAM-RACIALIST BIGMOUTH

The real face of fascism was recently shown in an interview with tennis player Buster Mottram. Mottram, who earns £50,000 a year, described himself as "a great supporter of the National Front."

He felt that the Conservative Party were too "weak" and "ineffective" for him. He had left them because they didn't support the Smith regime in Rhodesia.

His comment on the African majority, that: "These people don't have the brains to rule themselves. You can't tell me the majority have any intelligence," is his justification of undemocratic rule and is also an insult to black workers in Britain.

For Britain, he was in favour of statutory repatriation of immigrants, hanging and "the demolition of the welfare state."

Peter Lush

(Hendon South LPYS)

He had little sympathy for people who were unemployed or poor: "I believe that a man, through his own efforts, should be able to reap the riches of the world. I'm a great believer in the survival of the fittest. The capitalist system should chew up those who can't survive. If that means only 40%, too bad."

He has been active in his support of the National Front and two years ago, he spoke from the plat-

form at their AGM.

However, already the labour movement have started to show their abhorrence of his activities. The LPYS and others from the movement demonstrated against him in Bristol recently, and this activity should be repeated up and down the country until he gives up his fascist activities. Already, his agent has urged him to do this, afraid of what action may be organised against him at Wimbledon.

The interview also gave a sickening insight into the world of professional sport. He also commented that: "The attitude of most tennis players are well over to the right. Don't single me out... These people are pretty indicative of the tennis world. It's the survival of the fittest isn't it?"

### Young Tories praise Soweto

This week, General van den Bergh, the all-powerful head of BOSS (South Africa's notorious secret police), found that he wouldn't be able to visit the United States as planned. Even the US government feels the need to "distance" itself from this spokesman of the Apartheid police state and had refused Bergh a visa.

Meanwhile, however, a spokesman of a delegation of British Young Conservatives on a visit to South Africa was talking on SA radio. Among other things, he said how impressed they had been with what they had seen in Soweto.

Soweto! Where just two years ago the black youth rose against the police state of Vorster and van den Bergh. Where hundreds of blacks, including women and children, were brutally shot down

and beaten by the Apartheid police.

According to Dr Connie Mulder, South Africa's Minister for "Plural Relations" (i.e. segregation and discrimination), Soweto will soon be "the most beautiful black city in Africa."

This, it seems, is a view shared by Britain's Young Tories. Yet only a few months ago Dr Mulder and her ministerial colleagues were still debating whether or not Soweto should be provided with electricity!

Nthato Motlana, leader of Soweto's unofficial "Committee of Ten", heard the Young Tories' sickening remarks. This is what he had to say:

"When I hear that I get real mad, it makes me sick... Soweto is a monstrosity, created to pander to white prejudice, to move poor

workers miles and miles from their place of employment. Visitors should come in the evening and see the pall of smoke, the soulless monotony of four-roomed houses, the overcrowding, the lack of lighting, the crime..."

"As for the Young Conservatives, whose only interest is in protecting investments and talking bloody rubbish about Soweto, they make me sick..."

They make us sick too! Their acceptance in practice of the horrors of racialism and exploitation by British big businessmen in SA is matched by their attitude to black workers and trade union members in this country. That's why we're building the Labour Party Young Socialists.

Bob Lee

(National Secretary PNP Youth)

## Thousands under exam pressure

For thousands of school students the past few weeks have been amongst the most stressful of their lives.

For more than one million young people, the fine weather and sunshine of June has not meant a time to relax, enjoy the World Cup or other sports but has only acted as a further irritation as they plod through their notes and essays, memorising irrelevant strings of facts in a vain attempt to guarantee some sort of decent future for themselves by gaining CSE and 'O' and 'A' level passes.

Exams show education in its most distorted form. Far from being an accurate measure of skill or ability, they test very little more than

Helena Wray  
(Southgate LPYS and NUSS)

"exam technique"; having a good memory for dates, facts and quotations and a calm personality that can cope with the stress involved. Many pupils do very badly in exams not because of stupidity or lack of revision but because of the pressure they feel themselves to be under.

A report in the 'Observer'

last summer showed how some pupils, unable to stand the worry and tension, "had written their names on the paper over and over again, indicating mental stress; some pupils even wrote in detail about their private lives, including sexual problems. One person filled an entire paper by repeating the names of all the countries mentioned in the question" ('Observer' 10.7.77).

Naturally the pampered children of the rich have it all much easier for them. Not only do they have a head start with better nursery facilities, comfortable private schools and parents who can afford to allow them to stay on, but when it comes to the exam

year they are taught in smaller classes or have private coaching.

The LPYS says that education, far from being run to develop the talents and interests of the working class, serves only the interests of big business. Industry needs a certain proportion of skilled labour, a certain proportion of technical and professional staff and a certain proportion of factory fodder.

Exams are designed to segregate and supply the correct proportions. And it is the factory fodder, i.e. the working class, who get the poorest facilities, the slum schools, the overcrowded class and the fewest and oldest books.

That is why we are bullied and punished, why we are forced to wear uniform and obey petty rules and why we are not allowed to have any real say in the running of schools. We are being 'prepared' for later life—as obedient servants of the bosses, unquestioning and unthinking.

The LPYS fights for an end to the 'bosses' system, in education and in the whole of society. We demand socialist education policies to give working class people the chance of a decent education with good facilities so that all our talents can be developed to the full!

We demand:

\*A fully comprehensive

education system

\*An end to the present system of streaming, setting and exams

\*A living grant, tied to the cost of living, for all students aged 16 and over

\*Higher Education to be open to all

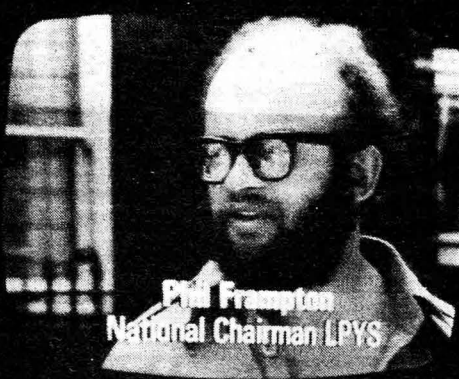
\*A guaranteed job for every school leaver, with full training

\*A massive expansion in education expenditure, to end slum schools and overcrowded classes

\*All school students to have the right to organise a union and political societies

\*Schools to be run by democratically elected boards of pupils, parents, teachers and trade unionists.

# LABOUR PARTY YOUTH BROADCAST



Labour Party Young Socialist members Jane Doyle, Phil Frampton and Linda Clarke.

Photos: Julian Mckittrick

## Right wing officials censor LPYS

With bated breath, thousands of young socialists and many Labour Party members waited to see the Labour Party political broadcast on Thursday, June 15th, a broadcast which was intended to appeal to youth.

Even to get such a broadcast screened at all had taken an enormous struggle.

The 'Sunday Times' Editorial of June 18th raved against the broadcast as "a resonant echo of the 1930s" couched in terms of "class warfare, brainless despair and pathetic fantasies of capitalist iniquity."

We stand accused by the 'Sunday Times' of daring to state that, "The Boss class is still out to hammer the poor. The 'profit system' still creates 'slums and misery for millions'." Obviously, we hit a tender spot with the 'Sunday Times'.

For many years the Labour Party Young Socialists have pushed for a youth broadcast which would make a direct socialist appeal to young people and which could help to build the LPYS. The right wing detractors of the LPYS in the Labour Party's hierarchy have always opposed this idea, just as they generally oppose any serious attempt to attract the beginnings of a mass membership to the ranks of the Party and the LPYS.

They understand fully what an influx of new young members would mean in radicalising the ranks. The attitude of key right-wing officials to this broadcast was no exception.

Last December the NEC of the Labour Party, after much pressure from below, finally approved a plan for a youth broadcast. When this proposal came up at the very end of the December meeting of the Labour Party Campaign Committee, the body which is made up of NEC members, Cabinet representatives and the Prime Minister, it was deferred to the January meeting.

However, a "leak" to the press was made to the effect that "Jim" had "crushed"

agreed, for filming to begin. Ultimately, the LPYS officers produced our own script and submitted it to the NEC Youth Committee in May. This, at last, provoked a response.

The Broadcasting Officer and Press Director at Transport House then made their counter-move. They asked a professional script writer to produce a script according to their own terms of reference. In our view, this script was appalling and we got it blocked with the support of the NEC Youth Committee chairman, Eric Heffer.

This script was replaced, under pressure from us, by an "outline" which conformed to LPYS plans which was so general that the bulk of it consisted of unscripted interviews. The choice of interviewees was clearly therefore of key importance.

As a result, at its meeting of May 20th, the LPYS National Committee called for control over selection of interviewees to counter-balance control of the filming process, editing, commentary etc. which were almost completely out of our hands. On May 24th, the NEC considered the matter fully. They rejected the LPYS's call for complete control of interviewee selection but approved an expanded outline for the broadcast written by Nick Bradley.

The spirit of the NEC was clearly in favour of a youth broadcast with full LPYS involvement and to maintain good relations between the NEC and the LPYS. However, the actual decision of the NEC was so unclear as to leave effective control over the broadcast in the hands of the top officials closest to No 10.

Nick Bradley took the NEC's "offer" back to the LPYS officers to seek our view. Consequently, Nick, myself and Andy Bevan (LPYS NC secretary) were instructed to proceed further with "negotiations" with the General Secretary. The outcome of these negotiations was that four interviewees

would be selected by the LPYS, four would be selected by the National Agent's Department and one by NOLS.

As an important bonus, however, it was also agreed that Nick Bradley should do the commentary and write his own script. On balance, we now felt that it was necessary to proceed with the broadcast on the basis that we should inject into it as much of a class, socialist content as possible, to utilise it to attract youth to the Labour Party and to take forward the fight for democratic Party control over political broadcasts in general.

### Class appeal

The result of this action was seen on June 15th, except to say that a number of the officials involved predictably broke the agreement entered into in a number of respects. First, instead of four interviewees from the LPYS, four nominated by the NAD and one from NOLS, we ended up with 3:6:1 on film!

Secondly, the clear reference to the Labour Party Young Socialists at the end of the broadcast was completely deleted on the authority of the Press Director on the morning of June 15th, contrary to our agreement and totally without consultation with LPYS officers.

So, what is our verdict on the broadcast which finally appeared? The fact that it appeared at all was undoubtedly a victory for the LPYS in the constituencies and due to the stamina and determination of the LPYS in seeing the struggle through.

Even the day before the broadcast, when it was screened late at night in a special preview for the Prime Minister's office, attempts were still being made to scrap it altogether. Apparently, the Prime Minister declared the commentary to be "too strident" and called for it to be "completely rewritten".

In particular, objections were raised to the class nature

of the commentary which, in a Labour Party political broadcast, made the point that "we still live in a divided society. 3½% of the population own 96% of the land and 90% of company shares." It also stated clearly that "100 firms control 50% of output" and called for common ownership of these firms to form the basis for a plan of production which could "satisfy the needs of the working people rather than the pockets of the rich".

The commentary established that "every democratic right we have—the right to vote, to organise, the right to strike and of freedom of assembly and free speech—was not handed to us on a plate. These rights were won by the struggles of the labour movement."

Scandalously the Prime Minister personally took exception to our call for a 35-hour week, despite the fact that this is now official TUC policy. One party official even felt it was "provocative" to include the comment by Sandhya Naik that "blacks are here to stay". The fact that these points stayed in and that a broadcast so bitterly opposed by the right wing went ahead was an important step forward.

Having said that, an honest appraisal of the broadcast itself is required. It was not an LPYS broadcast. It was a broadcast dogged by official control into which the LPYS injected some excellent material.

### Health cuts

Nick Bradley's commentary was strong and clear—and would have emerged ten times more forcefully if it had been backed up by the film we wanted of the TUC march against the Tory Industrial Relations Act, of May Day in Lisbon 1974, of the miners' strike etc. instead of meaningless street scenes!

The section on the NHS was false in that while it correctly praised the NHS, virtually all the material

condemning the cuts was removed. Most of the interviewees nominated by the NAD were wet, weak and middle class in their approach.

The anger of youth and the bluntness of the young miners and steel workers who we had wanted to be interviewed was not there. Young engineering worker and LPYS NC member, John Ingham, was chopped altogether.

### Protest

Compared to what could have been achieved if it had been an LPYS broadcast under our control, it fell short. But LPYS members can see it in perspective as a significant partial victory in a struggle which is far from completed.

'The Times' of June 17 correctly commented that the broadcast had been "subjected to heavy censorship by their Party seniors."

A full explanation of the facts behind the broadcast is provided here to supply information needed for a storm of protests from Constituencies at the ham-fisted restrictions placed on the June 15th broadcast and to highlight the undemocratic way these things are run at present. Finally, we would do well to return to the 'Sunday Times' Editorial of June 18th which stated, "The Labour broadcast was the annual slot allotted to the Young Socialists."

For once, the 'Sunday Times' has hit on a great idea! We should welcome the gains made during the LPYS Week of Action and from the Labour Party's youth broadcast and begin to raise now the demand for a future broadcast run by the LPYS itself—then we'll show what can really be done.

### Phil Frampton

LPYS National  
Chairman

## MILITANT NOTICES

### Meetings

**LEICESTER Militant Public Meeting** 'The Coming Revolution in India'. Speakers: Gordhan Parmar (Councillor); Sardul Singh (Birmingham LPYS). At Richard III pub, Higher Cross Street, Leicester at 7.45 pm on 26th June. All welcome.

**HARLOW Militant Meetings for June.** Thursday 22nd June: 'Zaire—The Colonial Revolution'—social, economic and political developments in the underdeveloped world. Led off by Brian Bostock, LP and NUT member. Meeting at 48 Morley Grove on Thursday 22nd June, 8.00 pm.

Thursday 29th June: 'Bureaucratism or Workers' Power'—discussion on Russia since the 1917 revolution, examining the nature of the Soviet state. Led off by Dae Fairlamb, LP and ASTMS member. Meeting at 176 Upper Mealines, Harlow, on Thursday 29th, 8.00 pm.

Enquiries to B Edwards, 200 Rivermill, Tel 31215.

**STEVENAGE Militant Public Meeting.** 'Which Way Forward for the Trade Unions?' Speakers: Brian Ingham ('Militant Industrial Correspondent'), Ron Durham (Chairman of British Aerospace Shop Stewards' Committee, personal capacity). Stevenage Leisure Centre Committee Room 2, 8.00 pm, Tuesday 4th July.

### Discussion Groups

**MANCHESTER Militant Trade Union Forum** 'Marxism and Trade Union Democracy'. Tuesday 27th June, 8.00 pm, Mitre Hotel, Long Millgate, Manchester.

**SOUTH MANCHESTER Marxist Discussion meetings.** The Albert Inn, Walmer Street, near junction of Wilmslow Rd and Great Western Street. 8.00 pm, Wednesday July 5th—'Southern Africa'. 8.00 pm Wednesday July 19th—'Reform or Revolution?'

**SUNDERLAND Marxist Discussion Group.** Every other Friday starting at 8.00 pm. June 30th—'The Orlov Trial in Moscow and the Russian Dissident Movement'. July 14th—'The Future of the Labour Party'. For further details, contact Diane English, Sunderland 44365.

**ROTHERHAM Militant Discussion Group**—'The Menace of Fascism'; R Aylett (Youth Officer, Sheffield Heeley CLP). Thursday July 6th, 7.30 pm, "Tollbar", Rotherham Road, Maltby.

**LONBENTON, Newcastle. CPUSA 'Militant' supporters Marxist Discussion Groups.** Every other Wednesday, Brandling Villa pub, South Gorforth, 6 pm. June 28th—'The State and Revolution', pamphlet by Lenin. July 12th—'Is Russia Socialist?' July 26th—'Marxist Economics'.

### Events

**ONE WEEK TO GO to the closing date for the MILITANT HOLIDAY RAFFLE!**

A holiday in France for two must be won! So must the £150 frame tent, the caravan for a week and another £100 worth of super prizes!

★ Sell every book and ticket!  
★ Order more by phone if you still have outlets!

Rush cheques and POs (to 'Militant') with counterfoils to 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

ADVERTS: page 13

# Left & Right

## Where the money goes

What do the big industrialists do with the millions they wring out of workers, with the profits they say they "must increase" by labelling millions 'redundant', sentencing school leavers to the dole queues, scheming desperately to get away with another year of held-down wages?

Sixteen of Britain's big employers spent £190,476 in political hand-outs last year. Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds gave a cool £25,000 to Thatcher's Tories, another £3,150 to the Economic League. Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance handed out £25,756 to British United Industrialists, and Cadbury's added £10,000 to Conservative Party funds.

These 16 firms between them gave £91,045 to the Tory Party; £77,781 to British United Industrialists; £11,650 to the Economic League and £3,000 to Aims for Freedom and Enterprise. They tell us that they need to boost profits [at our expense] to invest and modernise. But these 'investments' show just how much confidence they have in their seized-up, anarchic running of society. They are arming their political representatives for the looming battles with the trade union movement.

If the unions and shop stewards' committees opened up company books to trade union inspection, and revealed the sort of political hand-outs the bosses are making while they extract more than £20 million every day from government funds, the employers wouldn't get much sympathy for their cries for "sacrifice" and belt tightening.

## Peace or Profit?

The United Nations doesn't have a very good track record in averting wars and military clashes. There have been "small" wars—sometimes killing more people and costing more money than the 1st and 2nd world wars—every year since it was founded. 'Uniting' nations controlled by warring capitalists, each interested above all in their own profits, and in mortal fear of the organised working class, is a bit like trying to pacify hungry hyenas.

But even in its role as a fatherly protector and adviser to international capitalism, the UN's efforts are not well received. A report published in Zurich recently revealed how the UN is controlled by the multinationals.

Entitled 'The Infiltration of the UN System by Multinational Companies', it explains how a number of companies organised to lessen the possibility that a UN-appointed "Group of Eminent Persons" might make harsh recommendations to control their exploits. Its proposals in fact were rather "meek and mild". Of the leading "Eminent Persons", one is now managing director of Nestlé's, another is vice-chairman of Sandoz. Both these companies were involved in organising the report!

The document also reveals "an active co-operation between top Swiss government officials, Nestlé's and other private firms in efforts to take the sting out of the UN investigations." (*Financial Times* 1.6.78).

## New World Games

The "new society"—where capitalism works and there isn't even a Labour Party—that's how the USA is always being portrayed.

The recent miners' strike has rather tarnished that myth, but at least one American is capitalising on the developing class battles in America. A "Marxist" professor of politics at New York University is selling a board game called 'Class Struggle', to help players "prepare for life in capitalist America."

He says that existing board games promote a view of life "involving greed, competition and gaining power through acquisition"—his game is meant to present a socialist view of society.

The game has only been on the market a few weeks—and is selling very well. A chain of bookstores has had to re-order three times in three weeks, and one of the exclusive Manhattan stores is constantly selling out.

But with the gathering crisis in America, the capitalist class will find that "class struggle" is more than just a game!

# The soldiers' revolt

## The Soldiers' Revolt



By Dudley Edwards

'Soldiers' Revolt' by Dudley Edwards [Hove LP and AUEW retired]—Spokesman pamphlets No 62—Price 35p.

"But what about the army?" This is a common objection to the carrying through of the socialist transformation of society.

What it doesn't take into account is that the same causes which provoke a mass movement among workers (or peasants) must also affect the rank and file of the army.

In Russia, the war-weariness of the troops and their revolt against their Tsarist commanders spelt the end of the old regime. The policies of the Bolsheviks ensured that the soldiers, including even backward Cossacks, were won over to the side of

the revolution.

Many examples throughout history of the revolutionary ferment among soldiers could be given. Dudley Edwards' pamphlet, 'The Soldiers' Revolt', vividly reconstructs the little-known, but significant, episode of the Newhaven mutiny of 1795.

### Political

In the summer of that year, soldiers of the Oxfordshire Militia stationed on the south coast seized grainships lying in Newhaven harbour and distributed the flour to local people. Clearly it was pri-

## Lessons of the Newhaven mutiny

By Lynn Walsh

marily a bread-and-butter question.

But there was more to it than that. By carefully sifting what little direct evidence there is—the soldiers left no documents and ruling-class historians had every reason to bury the events—Dudley Edwards shows that there were almost certainly radical political sentiments behind the mutiny.

social scene revolved around the Prince Regent's famous Royal Pavillion, "a chapel at one end and a brothel at the other."

The most graphic—and horrifying—pages are those describing the ceremonial flogging and execution of the mutiny's "ringleaders". This, of course, is in the history books.

The reprisals were out of all proportion to the scale of the mutiny, which even military historians admit led to long-overdue reforms. It was simply brutal revenge, a symbolic warning to the rest. Here, the Duke of York and the 'Bankocrats' were the precursors of Pinochet in Chile.

Dudley Edwards' pamphlet is far removed from the dead history of the textbooks. It recreates a bitter episode of struggle and repression. In touching on the need for the labour movement to fight for trade union rights in the armed forces now, he relates his story to the living struggle of today.

Order from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

### Repression

The fact that the Militias—originally mobilised for use against the Jacobin regime in France—were mainly used to maintain "Law and Order" at home testified to the ruling class's fear of revolution. Agitation against the hardship brought by the war with France, and the growth of popular clubs and societies inspired by radical, democratic ideas terrified the government, which resorted to brutal repression.

The soldiers of the Militia not only had their hardship to put up with, but the sickening spectacle of the aristocracy squandering its war-booty in Brighton. While the common people suffered severe wartime deprivations, a glittering

## NHS SLIDE SHOW

Health worker supporters of 'Militant' have now compiled a slide show on the National Health Service.

It is most suitable for use at a day school session where plenty of time is available to show the slides at a leisurely pace and to have a good discussion. A section of the slides could easily be made for evening meetings.

We had our first showing a couple of weeks ago at an LPYS school on the Isle of Wight. The audience was enthusiastic. At the end, one comment was: "I'm overwhelmed"—this comrade was eager to go out and get his hands on the capitalists responsible for the rundown of the health service.

The show would be enjoyed by anybody with an interest in socialism and the health service, but would be useful also to trade union branches or shop stewards' committees, especially in the NHS. It can provoke a good discussion on how we in the movement can struggle for a better health service and how socialist change in society will bring about a great advance in the health of the working class.

If you would like us to show the slides at one of your meetings, telephone Ian Burge on 01-247 5454 ext 617, or write to him c/o John Elliot Centre, The London Hospital, Whitechapel, London E1 1BB

# Song of the Tory back-bench

I've been in the House so long, it's such a bore,  
Can't keep my eyes open no more,  
My shares are beginning to fall, I fear,  
The company only made five million this year.

Don't want to cause a hue and cry,  
Got to make a profit before I die,  
Capitalism is alive and well,  
But those damn unions keep giving us hell.

Better write an article in the Tory press,  
Better blame the unions for the nation's mess,  
Better say socialism is a threat  
If we want to be elected, it's our best bet.

Better put our finger in another pie,  
Better say immigration is far too high,  
Better tell the people, Maggie, say it with a sigh,  
Better seem sincere, Maggie, it's just a little white lie.

What about the homeless, Maggie,  
What about the slums?  
We could say we'll build new ones,  
When the profit comes,  
Oh what luck, Maggie, up goes the interest rate,

Better spread a rumour, it's caused by the welfare state.

Oh look at the polls, Maggie, we're on a winning streak,  
Let us hope at the election, Maggie,  
we'll reach our winning peak,  
But just in case, Maggie, we'll keep the temperature high,  
Create another platform, spread a Tory lie.

Shout about freedom, Maggie, shout until you're hoarse,  
We the Tory Party know all about that of course,  
Tell the people, Maggie, freedom's the right of every man  
To join the profit race, make as much as he can.

Some will win, Maggie, but most will lose,  
Tell the people, Maggie, they have the right to choose,  
And when the workers are struggling,  
Maggie, when they begin to complain,  
We'll build another platform, tell the same old lies again.

Paul Gardner, Weston-S-Mare LPYS

# Northern Ireland- PERMANENT REPRESSION NO ANSWER



photo: Philip Jones Griffiths

In recent months the government and the media has been proclaiming a decisive change in the Northern Ireland situation. Their message is that the British army has finally broken the Provos and the next phase is a 'political settlement'.

The reality is more complex. It is true that the violence has declined significantly, reflecting mainly a downturn in Provo activity. The number of people killed in the period from January to April was 'only' 33. Compare this to the January-April period of 1972 when a horrifying 468 people died!

Another indication of the changed situation exists in the town centres. For years these have been sealed off to traffic and all pedestrians were subject to searches, to stop bombers: Now restrictions have been lifted in areas like Derry and Newry. The British authorities have become confident indeed, deducing that the Provisional IRA do not even have the resources to mount a firebomb campaign of any significance.

However, the methods of British imperialism are incapable of posing a long term solution. Only an independent approach by the Labour Movement in Ireland and Britain will bring a lasting period of peace.

The main factor behind the decline in violence has not been the superior military might of the British Army. The Army itself has contributed substantially to the toll of innocent civilians killed since 1969. Also, if the Ulster Defence Association and the Provisional IRA were still able to draw hundreds of young recruits, and had the backing of their respective communities, no amount of Army repression could contain the situation. What has held back violence is the mood of the working class. That mood has for long been one of disgust with sectarianism in all its guises.

However, this mood will not last for ever. Working class youth face mass unemployment and squalid ghetto poverty. At some stage their frustration will seek an outlet. Unless this energy is harnessed by the labour movement the only escape valve left will once again be that of sectarianism. The labour movement must confront all issues and emerge as the unchallenged upholder of workers' rights.

It is even conceivable that there will be occasional upturns in sectarian violence despite the mood of the

*"Only the labour movement, with socialist policies, can break the spiral of sectarian violence and military repression arising from the atrocious exploitation and oppression of workers in Northern Ireland."*

## Dennis Tourish

South Belfast Branch,  
Labour and Trade Union  
Co-ordinating Group.

army was indicated by the blatant censorship of Thames Television's planned programme on Amnesty's report. Following the report, the government has agreed to an inquiry, but only one held in private which will convince no one of its validity.

From the establishment of the Prison Complaints Board last September until its recent report, over 500 complaints had been lodged against the

Widgery's investigation of Bloody Sunday in 1972, when 13 innocent demonstrators were slaughtered by paratroopers. In the event, Widgery tamely concluded that the paras were blameless.

Who would a public inquiry consist of and where would their loyalties lie? Recent confidential "discussion documents" of the Tory Party show sections of the British ruling class contemplating open conflict with the trade union movement. Any repressive legislation supposedly passed for use against the Provos will only be invoked by

and doing prison work.

Since then, the prisoners have protested by refusing to co-operate. They have spent months locked in their cells—naked and with only a blanket for warmth. Reportedly their cells are dirty and infested with fleas, they receive their food cold and are physically worn down by the present situation. A clear class stand on this issue is necessary, too.

Above all, all workers, are entitled to defence from repression. British imperialism nurtured sectarianism for its own ends over hundreds of years, as our paper has often explained. Now they self-righteously condemn and terrorise those youth who were caught up in sectarian organisations. It is rather like a modern Jack the Ripper moralising about the ill effects of hanging.

The only way to put an end to the spiral of sectarian violence and army repression is by tackling the appalling conditions at the root of the problems of Northern Ireland. Even in the period of post-war boom, the unemployment, low wages, slum housing, and poor health and education facilities were the worst in western Europe.

There is no possibility of a solution now on the basis of a diseased British capitalism in a period of world economic crisis. Only socialist measures, based on the nationalisation and socialist planning of all the key sectors of the economy, could dramatically raise the living standards of Northern Ireland workers and eradicate imperialism's legacy of sectarianism.

The British army can never guarantee the safety of ordinary working class people and military occupation will never be a basis for any lasting political solution. The labour movement must therefore demand the immediate withdrawal of the British army, while at the same time taking steps to prevent sectarian violence and protect the working class community through the organisation of a Trade Union Defence Force, democratically controlled by working class organisations that cut across the sectarian divisions.

We also need, in order to mobilise the mass support necessary to achieve these aims, the building of a mass party of Labour, which, with socialist policies, would unite the workers in struggle against their common enemy—the capitalist class.

We need a socialist alternative now!



Everyday life in Northern Ireland: military occupation will never produce a solution.

photo: Philip Jones Griffiths

workers. The various paramilitaries have no reason for existence other than violence—in a desperate attempt to reignite the sectarian inferno they may again step up their campaign. They share the dilemma of a drug addict—more of the same involves only a greater reaction, while their whole organism has grown dependent on such activities.

But it would be criminal for the labour movement to ignore the repressive methods of British Imperialism. In particular, the interrogation methods of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and conditions in the prisons are a serious cause for concern.

'Militant' recently publicised the case of Brian Maguire—an active trade

unionist, who was arrested and then 'found' hanged in his cell. His example is only a particularly harsh case of brutality.

Under Section 12 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act "suspects" can be held for up to 7 days, and deprived of access to lawyers, friends or relatives. The European Court of Human Rights recently found Britain guilty of ill-treatment during interrogations in 1971—but without evidence that the situation had in any way improved.

In actual fact the recent report of Amnesty International concludes that such treatment still goes on.

The extreme sensitivity of the Northern Ireland Secretary, Roy Mason and the tops of the RUC and the British

RUC alone. In reality these are only a fraction of the practical brutality. After all, most people would see little point in complaining about the police to the police.

The implications of this are immense. One estimate put forward is that about 75% of all convictions for political offences over the past 2½ years were carried because of alleged "confessions". How many people are languishing in gaols who are totally innocent of any 'crime'?

The call has been made by various groups and individuals for a public inquiry into this situation. But such an inquiry would be useless. Its outcome would be a stage-managed, foregone conclusion. We have had inquiries before, such as Lord Wid-

gery's investigation of Bloody Sunday in 1972, when 13 innocent demonstrators were slaughtered by paratroopers. In the event, Widgery tamely concluded that the paras were blameless.

Workers can only rely on an inquiry conducted by themselves through their organizations: in the main, the trade union movement. The demand must be for a full inquiry into the whole role of the "Security Forces" by the trade union rank and file.

An integral part of this issue is the campaign for political status and conditions in the prisons. The Government decided that those convicted of political offences after March 1976 would not have political status. In other words they would be classified as so-called common criminals, wearing prison uniform

# SHIFT WORK RUINS YOUR HEALTH

**Trevor Spooner**  
(GMWU Leicester Metal Box)

*As the value of capital equipment employed by modern industry increases, the capitalists in order to realise the maximum rate of profit, are continually looking for ways of increasing the exploitation of labour. One such method is the introduction of shift working.*

The proportion of the working population employed on shift work rose from 12½% in 1958 to its present level of one third of the workforce involved in some type of shift system. Very few questions, however, have been asked about the physical and social effects shift working has on the people working these "unsocial hours."

Most active trade unionists are well aware of the early history of the capitalist system of production, the unhealthy conditions, the why it killed, crippled and maimed men, women and even children.

The position has changed today, or so we are lead to believe. The capitalist is now more humane and interested in the well being and health of the working class.

But a close look at the present system shows the detrimental effect of modern industry on the health of workers. The asbestos industry is just one of the more glaring examples.

Many of the resultant effects of shift working are not always apparent immediately but may be revealed after working a shift system for a number of years. Those that are known give cause for concern.

The human body functions are based on a 24 hourly rhythm geared to the alternation of day and night. The temperature of our bodies is at the highest in the day and at the lowest during the night. Speech, hearing and nutrition reach their maximum activity during the day.

Although partial adjustment is possible, complete reversal of the body rhythm is out of the question. When a worker works a night shift, he or she is placed under considerable stress in trying to adapt physically to an unnatural situation.

The most common complaint of night shift workers is lack of sleep. One of the reasons of course is noise from traffic, young children, the normal activities of daily life.

But the main reason is linked to the daily pattern of "body functions". Night shift workers can be woken two or three times during day time sleep by the need to relieve themselves.

The consequences of lack of sleep, if built up over a period of time, can be very serious

photo: Chris Davies (Report)



Above: Ford paintshop worker  
Top right: mobile stretcher at Ford's, Halewood

to both physical and mental health. The constant changing of shifts which occurs in the three and four shift patterns, plays particular havoc on a person's appetite and digestive system.

Many shift workers find it impossible to eat normally when working a night shift. Due to eating at irregular hours the risk of stomach ulcers is eight times greater for shift workers than dayworkers. Constipation is another complaint that shiftworkers are susceptible to.

The disruptive effects that shift working has on social and family life places considerable stress and strain on the workers. A recent survey calculated that the divorce rate amongst shiftworkers is approximately 50% higher than the average worker. Worrying about family problems and relationships has probably caused many an accident due to the workers' lack of concentration.

Women are protected under the Factory Act from working between the hours of 8pm to 7am. Exemption orders however can be obtained by the employers allowing women to work shifts. The protective legislation of the Factory Act was introduced because shift work was considered to be physically and socially detrimental to women's health.

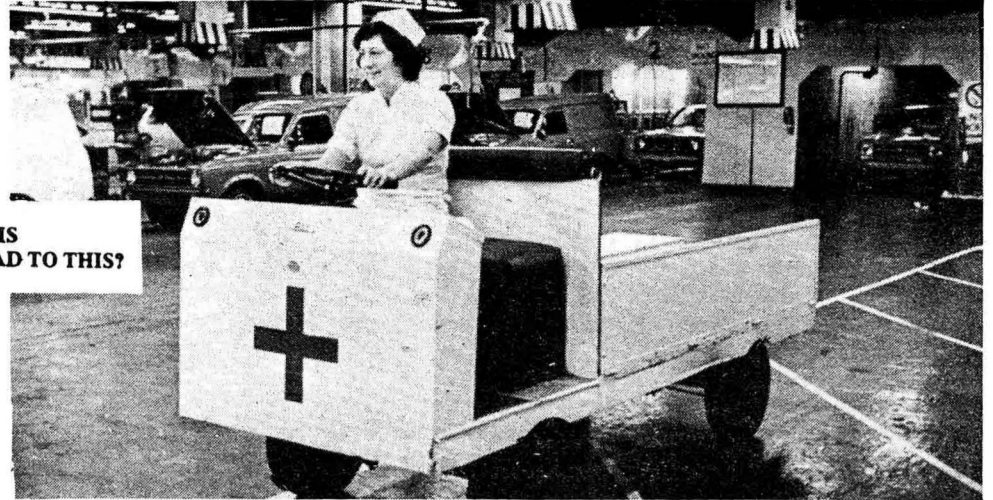
*During the past few years the number of exemption orders granted have greatly increased, and attempts have been made by the CBI to repeal the legislation. Women should not have to pay for their "equality" by accepting nightshift working with its ruinous effects on health and family life.*

The trade union movement should not only be in the forefront in the campaign to improve the material standards of its members but also in the improvement of their social well-being. To just negotiate shift premiums is not sufficient.

One of the first acts of the Paris Commune of 1871 was the abolition of the nightwork of Bakers. In the hundred years or so since then the working class have gone a long way in beginning to gain its emancipation. But, in more than one respect, it still has a lot to learn from that historical event.

If the trade union movement initiated a call for the abolition of night working, the capitalists would no doubt oppose it in the same way as they opposed the introduction of the ten hour working day. Shift working only benefits the capitalists and if they can only operate their system of production by continually jeopardising the health of the working class then their replacement is well overdue.

photo: John Sturrock (Report)



## OFFICIAL PRICE INDEX CHALLENGED

The reliability of the official Retail Price Index as a yardstick of inflation for workers was seriously challenged last week, when the Civil and Public Services Association and the Low Pay Unit published an alternative price index for those on low wages.

The Low Paid Price Index, which is to be published monthly following the official index, registered a rate of price increases since 1974 almost five percentage points higher than that shown by the RPI [101.9% as compared to 97.3%].

The new index uses the same basic data as the RPI, but constructs an alternative index based on the expenditure patterns of the lower-paid sections of workers as revealed by the Family Expenditure Survey.

The "average" family represented in the official RPI, for instance, is

considered to spend more on motoring than on housing; more on alcohol than on fuel for heating; and more on stationery and related goods than on milk or bread.

**Pat Byrne**

(CPSA National Executive, personal capacity)

Clearly, based on this sort of "model" family, the official "inflation" rate bears little relation to the experience of most working class families. In fact, the group that worked out the new index found that the RPI most closely mirrored the impact of price changes on the budget of a typical household in the top tenth of income distribution.

It is significant that the CPSA has got together with the Low Pay Unit [an independent research group financed by the Rowntree Trust] to produce the new index. Not only are CPSA

members responsible for collecting the data for the government's official index, but a large proportion of government clerical staff who belong to the CPSA fall within the low paid category, i.e. those currently earning about £55 a week or less.

The Low Pay Unit recently estimated, moreover, that in 1977 there were over 3,800,000 workers earning less than £50 a week [which was then about two-thirds of average earnings]. If overtime earnings are excluded, the total of low paid workers increases to 4,500,000!

The CPSA/LPU team have produced a valuable additional lever for the trade unions. It clearly emphasises the need for the labour movement to set up its own committees composed of elected workers' and housewives' representatives, with the assistance of experts, to cut through the fog of official statistics and monitor the actual earnings of workers and particularly the real effects of price rises.

Above all, the new data produced by the CPSA and the Low Pay Unit underlines the need to campaign for a minimum living wage for all workers, which should currently be at least £70 a week. This is the only way poverty could be eliminated and decent living standards assured.

## When you want to leave home...



Thousands of young people are trapped in Britain today, forced to continue to live with their parents just at the time when they most want to leave home.

Getting a bedsitter or flat, even sharing a house with friends, has become a financial gamble for many and an impossible dream for thousands more.

Young people want to leave home for many reasons: overcrowding, restrictive parents, and the lure of freedom and independence.

Illusions about what living away from home will

mean can be rudely shattered by reality. First, you have to find a place you can afford, checking the cards in the windows of newsagents, scanning the "Flats to Let" adverts in the local paper, and-if those don't work—a trip to your friendly neighbourhood "property agency".

**Pete McNally**

(Ladywood LPYS)

Of course, as everyone knows, it is illegal for such firms to charge a fee before they find you a flat. But if they ask for a fee and you want a flat, well, is there any choice?

If and when you find a place, however, your problems are only just beginning.

Unfurnished flats and houses take time, energy and money to furnish.

Landlords, of course, vary considerably in how they treat their tenants and in how much care they take of their property.

A major worry can be finding a deposit, usually a month's rent or a fixed sum, around £50.

Whichever way you look at it, the difficulties facing anyone searching for a bedsit or flat are considerable, if not downright off-putting.

Young people need and deserve a decent place to live when they leave their parent's home and go it alone.

When the human breed of shard no longer controls the property market and the building industry is controlled and managed for and by workers, then we can have houses and flats built for peoples' need and not landlords' and financiers' profit.

# When workers in uniform went on strike

By Nic Boulter

The years 1917-20 were amongst the most turbulent and formative in British labour history. The struggles of the labour movement are fairly well documented—the rise of the shop stewards' movement; the impact of the Russian revolution; the immense strike wave which led to a doubling of the size of the trade unions in under four years and the winning of higher wages and shorter working hours; the adoption of the socialist Clause IV of the Labour Party's constitution calling for nationalisation of industry.

But much less known was the ferment which existed in the army, navy and airforce. These forces represent, together with the police, the "armed bodies of men" that Marx explained form the ultimate basis of state power for the ruling class to protect their power and privilege from the working class.

Capitalism prefers to rule society through its own, distorted form of democracy, using its control of the press etc. to direct 'public opinion' and drawing the leaders of the workers' movement into the system as a tame, 'loyal opposition'. But in a revolutionary situation, when the diametrically opposite interests of the ruling and working classes become starkly clear and the continued existence of capitalism is threatened, the bosses will spare no hesitation in using their monopoly of arms to thwart the wishes of the majority.

This is the lesson not only of the Spanish Civil War, the coming to power of Hitler and Mussolini and the coup in Chile 1973, but also of the British ruling class's use of troops against the Russian revolution and to break strikes in this country, particularly the 1926 General Strike.

## Peaceful change

'Solidarity' have produced a pamphlet on "Mutinies, 1917-1920". While this pamphlet suffers from the anarcho-syndicalist short-comings of its author (David Lamb) and his opposition to political struggle, it is valuable in showing that the social turmoil in "civilian" society was paralleled amongst the workers in uniform.

The demands for trade unionisation were widespread. Mutinies, far from being isolated occurrences, were very common in the army and navy, especially in 1918-19. And up to 1920 at least, the majority of troops would have refused to blackleg in industrial disputes, or fight in Russia against the Bolsheviks.

Thus, in these years of great labour militancy, the Tory-Liberal government could not place any reliability on the majority of the armed forces to do their dirty work.

Had the leadership of the labour movement properly understood this, they could have ended forever the terrible poverty and misery suffered by the vast majority of the population by leading a peaceful socialist transformation of society. But afraid of unleashing the tremendous power and initiative of the downtrodden millions they sought to safely channel the workers' discontent merely into voting themselves into Parliament, allowing the ruling class to reconsolidate itself for the 1926 showdown.

As the World War of 1914-1918 dragged on the "esprit de corps", of comradeship between officers and soldiers—where it had existed—gradually became lost in the mud and carnage of battles like the Somme and Pashendale. To the generals and officers, the rank and file soldier was just cannon-fodder, a statistic to be thrown into the battle.

Their cynical attitude and methods of training were shown in the memoirs of Brigadier General Crozier, whom Lamb quotes: "...The British soldier is a kindly



British troops blinded and choked by gas during the war.

*...it is necessary to corrode his mentality. Blood lust is taught for the purpose of war, in bayonet fighting itself and by doping their mind with all propagandic poison* such as "German atrocities, many of which I secretly doubt."

Following this indoctrination, thousands of troops

a page from labour history



Berlin, November 1918. German soldiers end the imperialist war by turning their guns on their officers and starting the revolution.

were forced into battle to be slaughtered. Bewildered survivors may return to find the guns of their officers trained on them, forcing them back to certain death. Official historians have carefully swept over the extent of mutinies and desertions, such struggles do not fit in with their picture of British history. But it is clear that these increased as the war wore on.

## Deserters shot

For example, in 1916, sixty soldiers were shot for desertion; in 1917, 221; and in 1918, 676. This ignores the unrecorded number of soldiers "shot on the spot". The

base camps in France were seething with discontent. Raw recruits and war weary veterans would be subject to such intensive training at the hands of Crozier and his class, who handed out arbitrary and vicious punishment, that they were almost glad to get to the front.

By 1917, mutinies were

common amongst the French and Russian troops. But the first great mutiny of British soldiers took place at one of the base camps, at Etaples (near Boulogne) in September 1917.

It started with a typical arbitrary arrest, but the events it sparked off show the intense hatred that existed amongst the soldiers for the war, the officers and the conditions. Braving firing from the Military Police, and the risk of imprisonment or execution themselves, over 1,000 soldiers released the man, forced the Military Police off the camp, and then took over the running of the camp and the town, maintaining discipline all the time.

They surrendered several days later, when surrounded by officers and a machine gun squadron, but not before they had won concessions and a promise of no victimisations. In some neighbouring camps, where the mutiny was less strong, the authorities were more vicious—23 soldiers were killed in a mutiny at Boulogne on September 5th, and another four on September 11th.

## Victimised

Similar mutinies took place in England, for example, amongst machine gunners stationed at Pirbright, where the leaders were jailed, despite promises of no victimisation by the officers. One participant commented later: "I think we were naive to expect the public school code of honour [of officers] to have been extended to mere rankers."

By the time of Armistice,

November 1918, most of the armies of Europe were in a state of mutiny. A soldier quoted in the 'Solidarity' pamphlet wrote: "...after Etaples there developed a new spirit of taking care of oneself amongst the men, which ended in late 1918 in a few rifles being fired. It would, in a few weeks, have meant the cessation of the war by the Front line not refusing but quietly omitting to do duty. The Armistice came just in time."

## Soldiers' union

While many soldiers were preparing to accept discipline during the war, they quickly shed this attitude when Armistice came. Lloyd George, anxious to win votes for the General Election, immediately called, promised demobilisation.

Dozens of mutinies erupted amongst troops to turn these words into deeds, particularly those stationed along both sides of the English Channel. In Folkestone, for example, fears of being sent back to France led to 2,000 troops seizing the port, setting up pickets and refusing to sail.

They held a mass meeting the next day (January 4th 1919) of the 10,000 soldiers based there, and formed a soldiers' union, complete with 140 section committees. The War Office representative sent down from London was forced to recognise the union and agree to the demands for demobilisation.

Many other mutinies, discussed in the pamphlet, were successful in the demands for better camp conditions or

demobilisation. In the Navy a series of mutinies over pay took place. These resulted in pay—increased only by one penny between 1852 and 1917—being increased by over 200% in 1919.

Not all mutinies were successful. In Southampton, in January 1919, where 20,000 unarmed troops took over the port and refused to sail, Trenchard—future head of the Air Force—with soldiers with the safety catches of their rifles off, threatened a massacre if they did not surrender, which they reluctantly did.

## Russia

Whilst Lloyd George publicly promised demobilisation, the leaders of the Forces and the War Cabinet were trying to slow this down. Wilson (Chief of the Imperial General Staff) and Churchill had plans to keep over one million men in khaki as a minimum for their post-war policies—repression in Ireland, intervention in Russia, occupation of the Rhineland, and curbing industrial unrest at home. They even enlisted the willing support of the Tory press for a campaign for the reintroduction of compulsory service.

But their plans for aggrandisement were sabotaged by the active resistance of the rank and file soldiers and sailors, mere pawns in the Generals' eyes, but now taking on a living force of their own.

The refusal of many soldiers and sailors to fight in Russia is one of the great unwritten histories of the armed forces and of the labour movement.

In between 1918-20, the government spent nearly £100 million (at 1920 prices) in trying to defeat the Bolsheviks. Churchill claimed that only volunteers were being sent, but this is falsified by the number of mutinies of troops and sailors destined for Russia. Troops would refuse to board trains (and in one incident attempted to march on Whitehall).

In the Navy, refusals to weigh anchor for Russia were a regular occurrence at Invergordon, Portsmouth, Rosyth, Devonport and Fort Edgar. In Russia itself, the 'Solidarity' pamphlet gives many examples of refusals by British troops and sailors to fight the Bolsheviks; or of cases where they had a military advantage in a battle, but would refuse to continue; and of fraternising.

These "mutinies"—common in the other armies of intervention—were decisive in the eventual victory of the Bolsheviks over the counter-revolutionary Whites. Trotsky, leader of the Red Army, well knew that the purely military balance of forces was on the side of the well-equipped 24 armies of inter-



vention, but the unbeatable 'secret weapon' of the Russian workers was their class appeal to their foreign brothers.

The demands within the forces for soldiers' and sailors' unions were widespread. In cases, during mutinies, they would take on the same form as the soldiers' Soviets in Russia.

For example in Calais, in January 1919 (at the same time as the great Clydeside battles for an 8-hour day) when a soldier, Private John Pantling, was arrested for agitating for demobilisation, the other soldiers first released him from jail, and then took over the camp. They then organised their own camp, and then those surrounding it into Soldiers' Councils.

### Camp committees

Within days, 20,000 men had joined in. They called the Strike Committee the "Calais Soldiers' and Sailors' Association".

Their method of organisation was strictly democratic: each group of huts elected a delegate to the Camp Committee. These Committees then sent delegates to the Central Area Committee. By-passing the officers, these committees issued daily orders from the occupied Headquarters.

Many concessions were granted, but then the soldiers were tricked into calling off the strike. They were very soon demobilised. Up against strength like this there was little the authorities could do. (However, they were able to vent their anger on Pantling who later was re-arrested and died of pneumonia in a damp

military jail.)

In February 1919, Churchill was given another example of the militant mood in the army on his own doorstep at Whitehall. On February 8th, 3,000 troops refused to board trains for France. No "loyal" troops could be found to cover them, so they marched on Whitehall and assembled in Parliament Square to put their demands.

Eventually, they were forced to surrender when the government drew up the Household Guard and Grenadiers, bayonets at the ready, and threatened a massacre of the unarmed soldiers. This time Churchill was reluctant to review the troops. He later said: "I remained in my room, a prey to anxiety."

The ruling class was more than alarmed at the militant mood in the forces. Failure to be able to rely on the troops to intervene in the growing number of strikes weakened the hand of the ruling class, and forced the bosses to concede wage increases and reductions in the working day.

### Strike-breaking

The labour movement could have won more if it had not been for the cowardice of the leadership. When Lloyd George confronted the leaders of the Triple Alliance of Miners', Dockers' and Railwaymen's unions on the eve of their strike in 1919, saying: "...the Army is disaffected and cannot be relied upon. Trouble has already occurred in a number of camps. If you...strike, then you will defeat us," they postponed the strike.

To determine which troops



1917, Russian soldiers join the workers. 'Down with the Monarchy' demands their banner.

the government could use in blacklegging, the War Officer sent a secret circular to all Commanding Officers (later leaked to the Labour *Daily Herald*) requesting that they provide weekly reports on a number of matters, including: "Will troops in various areas respond for assistance to preserve the public peace? Will they assist in strike-breaking? Will they parade for draft to overseas, especially to Russia? Have any Soldiers' Councils been formed?"

Churchill gave a four-month report in May 1919 on the results of these requests. They are very illustrative of the mood in the forces at the time. "Troops...deprecate being used in strike-breaking and the general feeling is that it would not be fair to ask troops to do what they would themselves consider blacklegging work...Troops will parade for draft overseas with the exception of Russia."

Eventually Lloyd George urged the withdrawal of troops from Russia, telling

the Cabinets that if the troops were left in Archangel there would be Soviets in Westminster.

In summary, it can be seen that the bravery and actions of many rank and file soldiers, who faced the risk of very strict reprisals by their infuriated officers, were able to greatly diminish the strength of the ruling class, decisively in Russia, and considerably in Britain.

However, it is not enough today for socialists just to praise the courage of these men, as does the pamphlet. We must draw the lessons for today, and the battles opening up.

### Trade unions

The real tragedy of the radical movement of the troops was that the leaders of the labour movement gave them no political direction. At the same time as the workers in uniform were forming councils and challenging the whole authority of the officer caste, the industrial workers were

engaged in titanic battles with the bosses, yet there was no attempt to link these movements together.

In 1918 a General Strike throughout Clydeside was put down by 10,000 troops sent from other parts of Britain, while the local troops were kept in barracks in case they joined the workers. In the camps in France and Britain the Labour *Herald* was avidly read and passed round all the men, looking for a lead that never came.

In 1920 Councils of Action, described by Lenin as Soviets in all but name, were formed in towns throughout Britain to halt the capitalists' intervention against the Russian revolution. London dockers refused to load arms onto the 'Jolly George' for use against the Russian workers. But unlike in Russia, where the troops were integrated into the workers' movement through the Soviets of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies, in Britain the workers' leaders left the soldiers isolated and prey to the tender mercy of

the officers.

Today soldiers in several European countries have moved towards forming trade unions and have looked for help from the labour movement. Limited union rights have already been won in Sweden, Holland and Germany.

*In Britain the Labour Party and the TUC should launch a campaign to recruit the troops to the trade unions and demand negotiating rights. Only by establishing democratic rights and safeguards for these workers and winning their sympathy for their class brothers can the labour movement break the grip of the ruling class, through the reactionary officer caste, on the armed forces and avoid new defeats like the General Strike and Chile in 1973.*

"Mutinies in the Armed Forces, 1917-20"  
By D.Lamb. Published by 'Solidarity'.

Order from World Books  
1 Mentmore Terrace,  
London E8 3PN.

# Refuse to fight!

## TO BRITISH AND AMERICAN SOLDIERS

### Comrades!

Now that the war with Germany is over, you no doubt, in common with your fellow-countrymen in France and at home, are demanding to be discharged from further military service, and to be allowed to return to your dear ones. Do you know that your comrades in France and at home are practically "raising hell" because demobilisation is not proceeding quickly enough? Why are you not being sent home?

You are probably being told that peace cannot be restored in Europe until peace is restored in Russia, and that you are still required in that purpose. But who stands in the way of peace in Russia? Not the Soviet government.

### The Soviet Government's efforts for peace

The Soviet government has made repeated offers to the Allied governments to discuss peace. In November last through the medium of neutral governments it informed the Allies of its readiness and willingness to open negotiations. On the occasion of the departure of the Swedish consul from Russia the Soviet government requested him to convey to the Allied governments its desire to discuss peace. At the last All-Russian Convention of Workers' Soldiers' and Peasants' Deputies, the supreme parliament of Russia, a resolution was carried instructing the Soviet government to offer to negotiate peace with the Allies. This resolution was telegraphed far and wide.



The Royal Marine Artillery keeping Bolsheviks prisoner in Murmansk, 1919.

Finally a letter was sent to President Wilson personally when he arrived in Europe, to the same effect. No reply was received to any of these offers. Towards the end of December Reuter's Agency sent out a message to the effect that the peace offers of the Soviet government had been received, but as the Allies did not recognise the Bolsheviks, no reply would be sent.

### Hands off Russia!

In the meantime, however, the workers and soldiers in your home countries had discovered the real reason for the Allied armed intervention in Russia. They saw through the lies and calumny spread by the capitalist press about the Bolsheviks. They know that intervention was undertaken for the purpose of overthrowing the working class government, and restoring the reign of monarchy and capitalism.

There is now a tremendous agitation which is taking a revolutionary character in

## Extracts from a Bolshevik appeal to British and American troops.

your home countries against the war on Russia. Huge protest meetings of workers are held in the big cities under the motto "Hands off Russia!" Strikes have broken out in the mines and railroads, and in some places riots have taken place in which workers and police have been injured.

The strongest agitation against the continuation of the war on Russia is carried on by the soldiers. Discipline in the army at home has completely gone. Soldiers are parading the streets demanding immediate demobilisation. In Aldershot, the largest military camp in England, there were huge demonstrations of soldiers shouting, "You want to send us to Russia, but we won't go!"

### Allies' insincere invitation

In order to allay the storm of popular indignation the Allied Governments sent out a statement in which they expressed their deep concern and sympathy for the sad plight in which the Russian people found themselves. They expressed their keen desire to assist Russia to get out of its difficulties. They had no wish to interfere in the internal politics of Russia, they said, nor endeavour to impose any particular kind of government on the Russian people.

They definitely declared that they recognised the Russian revolution, and would under no circumstances support any counter-revolutionary attempts. They invited all the political groups which had achieved or were striving to achieve governmental power in Russia to meet Allied representatives on the Prince Islands in the Sea of Marmora in order to submit their claims. They suggested in the meantime that an armistice should be arranged between the warring sections, and demanded that the Soviet government should withdraw its troops from those territories outside of European Russia.

If this were a sincere offer of peace it would have been communicated to the Soviet government through the usual diplomatic channels. But it was not even addressed to the Russian government, but sent out by wireless for anybody to read who cared to take notice of it. The Allies still refuse to recognise the Soviet government. The other political groups referred to are the

counter-revolutionaries Tchaikofsky, Admiral Kolchak and Generals Denikin and Krasnoff. In inviting them the Allies place them on the same level as the government of Russia.

The Allies have been, and are still helping the Counter-Revolution. That is what you American and British soldiers are here for. In demanding an armistice with these, and the withdrawal of the Soviet troops the Allies demand that the Red Army give up the fight just when it is beating the Tzarist counter-revolutionaries hands down. It is not a peace offer, but a demand to the Bolsheviks to surrender.

These conditions were attached to the invitation, as the London 'Times' frankly stated, with the expectation that the Soviet government would refuse it. The Allied governments would then be able to say to their people: "You see, we have offered peace to the Bolsheviks, but they refuse. There is nothing else for us but to go on with the war..."

### ...British and American soldiers!

You can see now who stands in the way of peace. It is the capitalist governments of your countries, who compel you to undergo the horrors of war, and who keep you away from your loved ones who are yearning for your return. It is they, and not the Bolsheviks, who are bringing ruin and anarchy into Russia. It is they who maintain the civil war in Russia, for without the support which they are giving through you, the counter-revolutionaries would long ago have been crushed, and normal life restored in Russia.

Do not permit yourselves to be deceived by the lies of your officers. Your countrymen at home, soldiers as well as civilians, are violently opposed to the attempt to crush the Russian Workers' Revolution. Their protests have so far been so strong as to compel your government to pretend to desire peace. You can help to make the desire real, by refusing any longer to do the dastardly work you have been brought here to do. Why, if you refuse to fight, then peace is made, and there is no more to it! That is sense, is it not?

Your fellow workers at home have given up their blind obedience to the capitalist and military class; they are going to dictate the policy of the governments. Are you going to lag behind? You, too, wake up, be men, and we shall soon sweep away the reign of capitalist exploitation and plunder!

# SPOTLIGHT ON EUROPE...

## GERMANY

1978 has really marked a turning point in the recent history of the West German working class. The class struggle has intensified on a scale which by West German standards is hitherto unknown.

Dockers, printers, metalworkers and building workers all showed the bosses clearly that they were no longer prepared to bow their heads or back down as in the past. Particularly the dockers and the printers proved by example the effect that a preparedness to struggle and resolute action could have.

The bosses reacted in many cases with lock-outs. The Press tried everything to isolate the printers and

metalworkers, reproaching them for sabotage of the economy, etc. The "captains of industry" appealed to all the possible values—and they should know!—in order to bring the actions of the struggling workers to a halt. Quite blatantly, the bosses have been saying "Less wages plus higher profits equals more jobs". For the right wing leaders of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) this is a bafflingly simple matter and the logic of the bosses is easily acceptable to them.

Reality, however, proves otherwise: Hans Saalfeld of the Hamburg DGB (equivalent of the British TUC) quoted in the May Day leaflet of the DGB: "For four years more than a million unemployed. 350,000 youth unemployed. From the school bench to the ranks of the unemployed—that's the reality now for many young people."

Saalfeld summarised the process which has taken place in the recent period:

"...1976: increase in investment of more than 7%. At the same time almost 250,000 jobs disappeared.

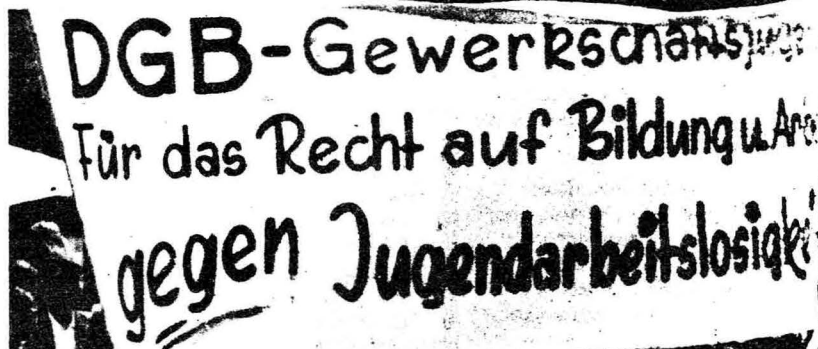
**Greg Powell**  
(Remscheid JUSOS)

"—1970 to 1976 rationalisation-investment rose from 34% to 54%.

"—1970 to 1976 the amount of investment creating new jobs sank from 55% to 16%."

But we could quote a capitalist paper to reveal the "poverty" of the West German bosses. 'Die Zeit' (12.5.78) compared exports and imports and came to the following conclusion: "Altogether in 1977 the Germans (!) bought 235.2 billion Marks worth of goods abroad. At the same time the Germans exported goods to the tune of 273.6 billion Marks to other countries. Thus the Federal Republic of Germany reached another considerable export surplus of 38.4 billion Marks, 4 billions more than in 1976."

It was this that formed the economic background to the DGB Congress this year. 504 delegates from all parts of Germany representing the 7.4 million workers organised into the 16 trade unions of the DGB met to discuss the



DGB-Gewerkschaften  
Für das Recht auf Bildung u. Arbeit  
gegen Jugendarbeitslosigkeit

The DGB youth, who called for socialisation of industry and finance

# UNIONS DEMAND 35 hr WEEK

problems facing the German working class today and tomorrow.

The congress itself was uneventful until it came to the discussion on resolution 219, which called for a 35-hour week with no

loss of pay, linking it to the need to nationalise—or rather "socialise"—the key industries, banks and insurance companies.

This resolution has great significance as a symptom of developments within the

trade union youth, who are groping for real solutions to the problems posed by capitalist society. It reflects the pressure on the trade unions to find a way out of the desperate situation in which thousands of young people find themselves here.

However, this was opposed by the DGB leaders. The full time officials have become more used to compromise and negotiating a share of industry's wealth than mobilising their members' strength to gain their full demands.

Now that the German economic 'miracle' is over and the rank and file are willing to struggle, the huge gap between the lifestyles and attitudes of the workers and their leaders is apparent. Delegates voted for the retention of the 35-hour week. When the final vote came, the whole resolution was accepted, including the demands for "socialisation."

But this only lasted for about 18 hours. The DGB bureaucrats, on seeing the television coverage of the conference and that they had voted for this, immediately began hastily telep-

honing around the hotels and asking what the hell was going on.

The next morning's session was suddenly interrupted and the leading officials from all the unions were called together in private to discuss how to get out of the decision of the conference. After about 90 minutes Vetter himself appeared to take over the conference and asked for a retake of the vote on resolution 219. This time distinctly fewer delegates still voted for the resolution. Vetter, the DGB leader, cynically made the comment "Well at least we've taken the attention off the Queen for a while."

Nevertheless, despite the final result, the question of the 35-hour week was not solved to the DGB committee's liking—here the bureaucrats had to accept defeat. They only seemed relieved that the DGB hadn't obliged itself to call for socialisation and a planned economy.

And even after all the arm-twisting had been turned on, there were still some delegates who voted for the resolution. There have been tremendous pressures on the local officials and it is clear that the delegates also had to convey something of the moods of the rank and file.

The recent struggles have awakened many workers to the need to act and influence "their" leaders. As the coming world economic downturn hits Germany and forces more and more sections of the working class to struggle to defend the gains in living standards already won, the trade unions will be transformed as fresher, younger militants replace the old comfortable compromisers. This in turn will affect the SPD as workers look to a Socialist programme as the only answer to the crisis of capitalism.

## HOLLAND Bosses exploit 'guest workers'

In many European countries the capitalists make super-profits by exploitation of foreign workers [or 'Gastarbeiter' as they are called in Germany] from Spain, Turkey, Greece, Morocco and other poverty stricken countries of high unemployment. Now that capitalism is in crisis, in many countries, such as West Germany, rising unemployment has been hidden by deporting unemployed 'Gastarbeiter'.

The foreign workers live and work in the worst conditions, under constant fear of deportation if they lose their jobs. Kevin Ramage [LPYS National Committee] spoke to

members of KMAN [the committee for Moroccan workers in Holland] in Amsterdam, who explained the conditions foreign workers face.

**By Kevin Ramage**  
(LPYS National Committee)

There are 40-50,000 Moroccan workers in Holland. They do unskilled work in the big factories, often for low pay.

Many live in appalling "housing", 4 or 5 to a room, with high rents to pay. Moroccan workers also face the problem of racial discrimination.

The Moroccan workers organised in KMAN, like

many workers from former colonies, face military dictatorships or feudal regimes, if they return home. The present regime in Morocco,

under King Hassan, has ruthlessly oppressed and murdered socialists and trade unionists. The regime is petrified of Moroccan work-

ers returning from abroad "infected" with the "foreign" ideas of socialism.

To harass KMAN, the Moroccan government has set up an "all Moroccan culture organisation" called AMICALE in Holland, which is a cover organisation for thugs and spies to harass Moroccan workers and prevent them from becoming politically active while abroad.

AMICALE is headed by Prince Mohamed—son of King Hassan—and relies on use of fear, religion and nationalistic feeling to organise sections of Moroccans against each other. The main support for AMICALE comes from small businessmen and shopkeepers among the Moroccans in Holland, who need the assistance of the Moroccan consulate to operate their business.

Despite the oppression many Moroccan workers are not members of AMICALE. A member of KMAN explained the situation they face:

"If you criticise AMICALE

you criticise Morocco, nation and government, and you are against King Hassan. This is very dangerous for us. Problems between KMAN and AMICALE began long ago. Always there are fights—sometimes violent, sometimes a "cold war".

"We cannot agree. We are enemies. AMICALE is like a guard for American and French imperialism in Morocco. They try to teach against us, but they have no success."

Facing unemployment, deportation and attacks, the Moroccan workers, like Greeks in Germany and Turks in London restaurants, are becoming more and more militant and looking to the organisations of the working class to defend their basic rights.

It is vital that the organised labour movement in all countries defends the rights, conditions and interests of foreign workers against these conditions, and draws them into the common struggle of all workers for socialism.

# SWEDEN

## Public services under attack

By Glenys Ingham  
(Deptford LPYS)



Women workers protest against public service cuts

Firemen in Sweden, like their counterparts in Britain, are now being forced into taking action for better conditions and pay.

Firemen in Stockholm are in dispute concerning dangerous conditions and equipment. The banner outside an area fire station proclaims: "We demand decent working conditions."

The men are backing this claim with sanctions against some of their normal duties like cleaning and maintaining the equipment. And as one of the men said, "Soon the hose will be finished and then it is going to be very difficult to fulfill any duties at all".

The feelings are running high at the station and many want to stop the sick transports and also not to attend small fires. But at the same

time the men are afraid what the reaction would be from the public.

The firemen are supported from other firestations and also by the part-time firemen nationally and they have opened their doors to the public so that they can see the bad conditions for themselves. Recently when the station was inspected, the conditions were compared with the British firestations,

which have a bad reputation here.

The men were promised that a new station was going to be built and that in the

meantime the present premises be renovated. But the Council, which is controlled by the Social-Democrats, claims a lack of finance and refuses to negotiate with the union. But if the alterations are not made the new fire engine won't even go in through the door!

"It is the council's refusal to negotiate that is causing this dispute. They are creating this dangerous situation, not us", the shop steward at the station told me. He also said that they had been forced to close down parts of the station because of the danger to the men working there. (A shop steward has the right to close a factory or workplace if it is considered dangerous to the men by him and his union.)

The firemen are also complaining about their pay. If they were paid the average wage they would be earning two thirds more than at present, for their 56 hour week.

The firemen in Sweden

have a clause in their agreement which denies them their right to strike and until now they have not been known for militant trade unionism. But now things are changing. "We can no longer keep quiet, but to succeed we need the support from the public."

This dispute is a further small example of the continuing crisis of the world economy. Sweden, the once proud example of a flourishing, prosperous society which cared about Social Services, is now being forced, like Britain, to cut spending on essential services.

Although the SAP [Social Democratic Labour Party] were in power until 1976 for a period of 44 years, the system is still one based on profit. It is only when the banks and large scale industry is nationalised under workers control and management that the economy can be planned so that living standards and the public services can be guaranteed.

# DENMARK

## 8% CUT IN LIVING STANDARDS

Members of the Danish parliament, "Folketinget", are looking forward to their summer holiday. They have up to now failed to solve the pressing economic problems in the country, and now they can try and forget about them.

But it's not that simple for the Danish workers. The recent strike among catering workers, as well as the port blockade by the fishermen, which topped all ferries from Sweden to Denmark, are signs that it will be a difficult autumn for Danish MPs and the ruling class as a whole.

With unemployment around 8%, and steady cuts in living standards it is not possible for the workers to forget their problems. The unemployment and fall in wages have been completed by attacks from the state also on trade union rights.

Workers on strike have been fined up to 5,000 dkr (£500) and workers who have refused to act as scabs up to 3,000 dkr. All strikes in conflict with the Danish "social contract" are illegal and have been met with all sorts of anti-working class laws, old and new.

It is the difficult situation

Stig Westerdahl  
(Swedish Young Socialists, SSU Gothenburg)

in the Danish economy that makes it so important for the bosses that the workers pay for the crisis. Inflation totalled 12% during 1977. Industrial investment, which had improved slightly, will fall again in 1978-79. The foreign debt is catastrophic—up to 18% of the GNP. Denmark can show every one of the symptoms of the other sick capitalist economies in Europe.

The Danish workers could not realise in 1974 that the coming Social Democratic governments were going to take the same political measures as the bosses' government under Hartling which they had just thrown out of office. The cuts in living standards have been made possible by an incomes policy dictated in Parliament.

The "social contract" began in August 1976. That "August 1" set a frame of only

2% to negotiate around. This has been followed up, in the main agreed to by the trade union leadership.

The LO (TUC) chairman, Thomas Nielsson, was forced to confess, though, that the agreement in August 1977 had meant a fall in real income of around 8%. At the same time a tax system with lots of loop-holes makes it possible for speculators to make huge profits on land and estates as prices rocket.

There's no wonder that the anger is now growing in the trade unions as a new round of collective bargaining is approaching. The anti-working class policy of the Social Democratic government has weakened its base in the trade unions.

But the discontented rank and file are moving to the left. The youth organisation of the LO has been banned by the Social Democrats and the LO leadership and no longer gets any money from them. It's totally controlled by the left.

The demands from the LLO (TUC youth) and many trade union branches are now:

\*No to any incomes policy dictated by Folketinget—free collective bargaining.

\*Cost of living bonus to the



The Danish workers waged a successful campaign against Common Market prices, but inflation continues

workers now! (This is an index-linked rise the workers get, according to the agreement, when inflation gets higher than expected. This money has now been stopped by parliament and there are plans to invest it in industry instead of giving it back to where they belong—the workers. In all, it would mean around 6,000 dkr per worker.)

### Hot autumn

Even if the Social Democratic government has clearly demonstrated its willingness to do all the dirty work of capitalism they are still dependent on the support from the workers. This has meant some difficulties in compromising with the bosses' parties on taxes and housing. The decisions on these issues have been postponed until autumn.

But even more difficult for the ruling class will be the attempt to solve the wage problems. A new wage agreement must be settled before April 1979. It will be very difficult for the LO leadership to accept such a fall in real wages as the earlier incomes policies have meant.

On the other hand there are pressures on the Social

Democratic minority government from the economic "advisers" in the world, such as OECD, and the capitalists in Denmark to continue sacrificing the standard of the working class. The relations between the LO and the party will become strained as the trade union leaders are forced to reflect the growing anger of their members.

But there will surely be a "hot autumn" on the industrial field and it is possible that the difficulties will lead to a new election. Frequent elections have been the clearest sign on the social and economic instability in Denmark.

The minority position in parliament has, like the Lib-Lab pact in Britain, become an alibi for the non-socialist policies of the Social Democrats.

In spite of all the suffering and sacrifice from the working class it's very unlikely that the economy will return to an upswing. The Danish capitalists realise that they need a real super-boom internationally if Denmark is to get any benefit from it.

It was the weakness of the Danish export industries that was the reason for Denmark becoming one of the first countries to be hit by the international recession. This has also meant that Denmark

has been one of the hardest struck by it.

Danish export industry will have great problems in competing on world markets even in the case of an upswing in world trade. And a decline will mean further cuts in social services and living standards.

It is only the lack of any viable alternative that makes the support for the Social Democrats as great as 37%. The Stalinist Communist Party, the Socialist People's Party and the Left Socialists are all represented in parliament but have only around 4% each. But the loyalty which the workers have to their traditional mass party shows what strength a Marxist alternative would get by patiently working in the labour movement.

There is certainly no hope for a social stability under capitalism. The class contradictions in society are openly growing. The threat from reaction as well as the permanent crisis in the economy makes the need for a Marxist alternative more and more urgent.

The Danish workers have great traditions of struggle. The potential of the workers' organisations is surely to be demonstrated again in the struggle for a socialist way out of the crisis.

LETTERS TO: The Editor, Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## LETTERS

## Links with Trade Unions

Dear Comrade Editor

There should be nothing but praise from the whole of the movement for the actions of members of the Young Socialists who recognise the progressive value of building a real bridge with rank and file trades unionists to secure the future.

The initiative of the LPYS in sending fraternal greetings to this Conference recently meeting at Scarborough through John Ingham of Leeds should be responded to by establishing a link as a permanent feature of all future conferences. If Conference President Jack Cooke of Reading had any doubts about allowing John to address Conference before he heard him speak, he surely could have had none afterwards when the 200 delegates gave John the only spontaneous standing ovation of the day.

For too long the old guard of hard-working but isolated trade union activists have lived on the other side of the divide from the new generation with new ideas. The Young Socialists have set their feet upon a hard road if the example set by John Ingham is part of their future policy, but who dares to deny them a hearing? Any trades union conference that chooses to do so only proves by default that the LPYS must be right.

Best regards  
John Kay  
Retiring Secretary to  
NUR Conference

## Divided Justice

Dear Comrades

Eddie Black unemployed, forty one years old, fed-up with the establishment, who threw the lemonade bottle at Prince Charles' car, was jailed for a massive six months.

Mark Phillips, relative of Prince Charles, stopped by the police for speeding 60 mph in a built-up area could have killed, or injured, innocent women and children, fined the paltry sum of twelve pounds.

Yet again this is another example of the law being prejudiced in favour of the rich and influential.

I wonder if it was worth the energy or the deposit on the lemonade bottle?

Yours fraternally  
H C Williams  
2/28 T&GWU

## Books on Australia

Dear Comrades

In connection with the letter that Comrade West wrote to 'Militant' Issue 408 requesting information on the Australian labour movement. Perhaps he already knows but the series 'Power Without Glory' is taken from a book of the same name, written by Frank Hardy and published by Panther. Frank Hardy has also written a fictional/true to life novel about the Australian CP entitled 'But the Dead are Many', also published by Panther.

Fraternally  
Bob Wylie  
East Kilbride LP

## Party rejects race report

Dear Comrades

After two months' delay, Sunderland North CLP passed the following resolution on the 12th June:

*"This GMC condemns the findings of the Select Committee report on Race Relations. By calling for further immigration controls this paper panders to the bigotry of the media and the Conservative Party. This report can only harm still further race relations and cause suffering to immigrants already living here. This GMC calls for a campaign against racialism to be launched in earnest by the Labour Party and for the total rejection of this report."*

The sitting MP for Sunderland North is Fred Willey, Chairman of the Select Committee on Race Relations. In the debate on the resolution he failed to answer criticisms that the report totally ignored Labour Party policy on Race Relations and that Labour MPs should be accountable to the Labour Party.

He implied that the Select Committee was set up to obtain an all-party agreement on Race Relations and immi-

gration and that he agreed with the recommendations set out in the report. However, the GMC of his Constituency disagrees with him and reject the report and its pandering to the Tory Party, with the credence it gives to the racist lies of the mass media.

Yours fraternally  
Diane English  
Sunderland North CLP

## UPW—where now?

Dear Comrades

It was a breath of fresh air, reading a report on the UPW Conference by Bro Dave Griffiths. It certainly was a new mood!

But the many important issues Dave pinpointed and the many more that were discussed shows quite clearly that an advance has been made. The important issue of Grunwicks indeed gave the EC a fright and that they should not forget.

Dave's report should be a basis of "Where do we go from here?" No doubt many branches will have had a report back on the UPW conference. My own branch taped some of the speeches.

Also it called for the return to normal collective bargaining. Although discussed by many delegates, Jackson managed to get away with it. Unfortunately it was not composite so there was no right of reply.

As Dave states, the important issue of the other public sector unions should be a major step forward.

In closing I noted the report on the UCATT Conference. It does not seem that long ago since the national building workers' strike in 1972, where great solidarity took place. Also what has happened to the building workers' charter?

So let us be more active in our trade union and Labour Party branches as Annual Conference is only four months away. There is still a lot to be done.

Fraternally  
Bill Murray  
UPW, North Edinburgh  
CLP (personal capacity)

## Militant's 'Lip Service'

Dear Comrades

Paul Schofield's claim that 'Militant' supporters back mandatory reselection of Labour MPs is incorrect. Some have given support in a personal capacity, but others have opposed it. In any case, my criticism was of 'Militant' itself. Of course 'Militant' has always paid lip service to the idea, but neither Paul Schofield nor Tony Mulhearn can point to any practical steps it has ever taken.

On the contrary, 'Militant' has always echoed the establishment's arguments for the present system, and connived in the establishment's manoeuvres to prevent a vote on

the principle of the 68 identical constitutional amendments submitted to the last Party Conference, by consistently pressing for additional demands. The 1977 Conference overwhelmingly accepted the NEC's promise to sponsor at the 1978 Conference "automatic reselection in the way and in the sense" of the 68 identical amendments.

The NEC Working Party on Reselection was set up to break that promise, and although the Minority Report comes closer than the Majority Report, neither corresponds to the NEC's promise. Unfortunately you did not

publish the CLPD Secretary's letter explaining our exact position, which is not as Ray Apps claims.

The Working Party has been condemned by every Regional Labour Party Conference which debated it. Instead of promoting splits in favour of three individual Working Party members—however well-meaning—"Militant" supporters should join CLPD in standing by the clear wishes of Conference and the labour movement as a whole.

Yours fraternally  
Victor Schonfield  
Treasurer, Campaign for Labour Party Democracy

## Change of Tune

Ray Apps replies:

Instead of taking up the arguments put forward in several substantial articles and letters in the "Militant", Victor Schonfield resorts to jibes and distortions.

The best answer to his latest attack is the letter he wrote to me at the time of last year's Annual L.P. Conference (5 October).

Dear Ray: The meeting of re-selection delegates was a bit better attended than Monday's—over 30. The following views were proposed, put to votes, and carried nem con, and I was asked to pass them on—am putting them in writing in case we miss each other!

(1) The meeting felt that the NEC request to remit should be accepted no matter what. It was better to have some chance next year than none until 1981. (2) The meeting asked you to note that theirs was a democratic decision after full discussion, and hoped that you would respect it accordingly. (3) The meeting endorsed your shrewd tactics in exploiting the situation to get the best possible assurances out of the NEC, and confirmed wholehearted support of the composite.

Several delegates gave apologies for absence and either said they would accept whatever decisions were reached, or else gave their own views roughly on the above lines. Looking forward to the debate, and good luck with your speech.

Fraternally  
Victor Schonfield.  
(My emphasis—RA)

Does this letter not completely contradict what he is now saying? Has Comrade Schonfield such a short memory?

It was the composite moved by Brighton Kemp-town which ensured that the issue of reselection was debated by conference. (Well in advance, we had advised the CLPD on how they should formulate their resolutions to ensure they were debated; but they ignored this, and their 68 amendments were (wrongly) excluded from the agenda.) The emittance of the composite, which CLPD clearly supported at the time, surely implied that the NEC, or a committee appointed by the NEC, would draw up new proposals. Once the motion had been remitted, should we then have washed our hands of the subsequent argument until the next time it came up at conference?

In fact, together with Jo Richardson, a vice president of CLPD, and Bernard Kisson, a prominent supporter of CLPD, I continued to fight on the working group for proposals that matched up to the assurance given to Conference.

Our proposals, now the minority report (see Militant nos 400,409), include both guarantees of a fully democratic, mandatory re-selection procedure and the retention of paragraph B (rule 7 clause XIV, Party rules) as an ultimate safeguard. If Comrade Schonfield disagrees with the report, he should say why, setting out arguments, not fire off unsubstantiated denunciations.

Finally, Comrade Schonfield says Militant "unfortunately" did not publish the CLPD Secretary's letter. Militant was quite willing to print this (long) letter and was preparing a reply. But after at least two conversations between Vladimir Derer and the editors, Comrade Derer then told us that he did not want the letter published.

Militant is still prepared to publish Comrade Derer's letter, or a new letter. We are not frightened of arguing our case and taking up criticism.

## Police files on Labour

Dear Comrades

I recently had to go to see our local police because of the Day of Action in the local LPYS was organising in this area. I went up to the enquiry desk and asked the procedure for distributing leaflets in Hanley Town centre—the uniformed constable behind the desk did not know so he said I had better speak to Special Branch. When asked my name I said Mr Campbell.

The constable phoned Special Branch and told them there was a Mr Campbell wanting to know about leaflet distribution. When the Special Branch officer came to speak to me he knew all the ins and outs of the local LPYS branches.

He then asked for my

address so that he could get in touch with me if there were any problems—when he wrote my name down, he wrote, not Mr Campbell, but, you've guessed it, Mr David Campbell!

Merlyn Rees was recently asked questions in the Commons on Special Branch activities at Keele University [I am on the Committee of Inquiry set up by the Students' Union into the affair]. In answering, Merlyn Rees said Special Branch do not compile political files on labour activists.

I'll leave readers to draw their own conclusions!  
Yours fraternally  
Dave Campbell  
Chairman, Keele  
Labour Club

## Blue blood

Dear Comrades

You misread my contribution for the 'Left and Right' column in issue 409. Wilf Proudfoot was ex-Tory MP for Spenborough, not Scarborough.

It has been recently disclosed that his special treatment to have his wrinkles removed cost £1,000 alone. Now his blue veins show up all the more, revealing the true Tory colour of his blood. Perhaps there is another treatment in the offing to patch up his ugly face of capitalism.

Yours fraternally  
Bob Young  
Scarborough CLP

# Three ways to build the Militant

## 3 weeks to go to half-year target

There are now only three weeks left in which to reach the half year target and a total of £13,000 has to be raised by then. That's over £4,000 to raise each week!

Impossible? Not if every supporter gives that extra push to put their areas back on target.

There are three ways of raising money: (1) Individual donations; (2) Trade union and labour movement donations; and (3) Fund raising events. You have just three weeks to use three ways of raising money to put us back on target!

This week we received a total of **£694.64** made up of the following: £29.63 from the Eastern Region from a social in Cambridge £12; a 'bribe' to take a kitten £1; union expenses (Peterborough) £6; selling of old clothes (Ipswich) £5 and extras on paper sales.

From Hants and IOW we received £28.34 which has already pushed them over their half year target. **Well done comrades!**

£17 of this came from the Isle of Wight including collection of ½ps and 1ps (£3), food and drink £1.30, and a 'credibility haircut' £2.50. The rest came from a collection of coppers in a jar—£8, and small donations and extras on paper sales from South East Dorset.

Humber's total rose by £40 this week and came entirely from Scunthorpe, from back pay £15, a long standing debt being repaid and money not being missed £20, paper extras £2, £1 from H Grainger and £2 from three LPYS members.

From Lancashire we received £47, including money from a 'Militant' Readers' Meeting £15 and a jumble sale £20 (both in the Blackpool area).

£33.60 was sent in from North London, mainly individual donations including B Beadle (East London) £10, the Wobeyes of Hackney £2, J Turner (St Pancras) £1, C Welch (Tower Hamlets) £1 and H August (NUR rep. Temple Mills) £2. From South London we received £8.69 in small donations.

We received £13.95 from the Manchester area which included labour movement expenses in North Manchester £4, small donations amounting to £7.55 and extras on papers £1.

Merseyside raised £8.83, including E O'Donovan (NGA) £1.49, and B Costello £1 (both North Wirral NGA).

£109.95 came in this week from the East Midlands, and included donations from L

## This week: £694.64



Photo: Julian McKittick

There are plenty of potential supporters of the Militant!

Keeley (North Nottingham) £4.04, expenses for putting up a guest £20, a tax rebate of £45 and 'anon' £20 (both from Leicester South), from a collecting tin £4, and a comrade's union expenses £5.

From the West Midlands we received £16.37 which was made up of a £2 donation from C Mullins and sale of pontoon tickets £11.80.

Only £1 came in from Northern Region this week!

From the East of Scotland we received £9.28 including £1 from K Timmins (Aberdeen), £1.50 from B Murray (North Edinburgh CLP), J McMosh (also Edinburgh) £1.28, and J Wilson (Falkirk) £3, while from the West of Scotland we received £71 in total. This came mainly from donations including: C Judge (Barscadden LPYS) £20, V Carruthers £10, I Malcolm £13 and A Connolly £2 (all from Glasgow South). £6 came from the Hillhead coffee jar and £20 came from union expenses.

South East region sent £81.23, with 'a drink for the fighting fund' in Brighton £8.30, £8 from Eastbourne LPYS, a social in Canterbury which raised £15.26 and £7 from Hastings in small donations.

From the South West we received £25.62 which included a donation of £15 from J Sharpe, and sale of Spanish cigarettes £3.15. Unfortunately nothing came in from Thames Valley this week.

East Wales sent £2 (paper extras) while in West Wales they raised £48.74. This included M Edwards (Ammanford) £3.24, D Subacchi (Aberystwyth) £40 and supporters in Port Talbot £5.50.

Yorkshire's total went up by £99.41 this week. This was raised by: a public meeting in Huddersfield £7.88, a Marxist Discussion Group in East Leeds £5, union expenses £50, sale of Lenin badges in West Leeds £2, NALGO members in Wakefield £3 and the proceeds from a sponsored walk in Barnsley £23.85.

The 'Others' total went up by £20 which was collected at the POEU Conference. Many thanks to all those comrades who donated this week.

**Don't forget comrades, there are only two weeks left to sell those raffle tickets and get the stubs and money down to us. Don't leave it too late. Remember the closing date for the raffle is June 30th.**

## £35,000 NEEDED BY JULY 8th

FIGHTING FUND CHART		£70,000	
Area	Target 26 wks	Target 52 wks	Received
Eastern	2,200	4,400	1,069.47
Hants & IOW	1,050	2,100	1,062.15
Humber's	1,100	2,200	844.98
Lancashire	750	1,500	311.83
London: North	3,850	7,700	2,121.49
London: South	1,900	3,800	1,136.00
Manchester & District	1,450	2,900	502.50
Merseyside & District	2,250	4,500	991.33
Midlands East	2,200	4,400	1,306.02
Midlands West	3,700	7,400	2,158.91
Northern	2,450	4,900	1,271.42
Scotland East	1,250	2,500	592.03
Scotland West	1,450	2,900	717.56
South East	1,150	2,300	896.78
South West	1,150	2,300	746.45
Thames Valley	850	1,700	545.56
Wales East	1,000	2,000	600.55
Wales West	1,150	2,300	691.56
Yorkshire	2,600	5,200	1,131.04
Others	1,500	3,000	3,131.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>21,828.74</b>

Progress towards year's target      Towards July 8th target

## Key debates planned for Marxist weekend school

Applications are now flowing in for the 'Militant' Marxist Weekend School.

Some areas, such as Coventry [see advert] are organising transport to bring people to the school. All those planning to make 'block' bookings should send them in as soon as possible. Newcastle Poly Labour Club are sending five people to the school—over 250 miles. Areas nearer London should be able to double or triple that.

The school will be of interest to all from the newest to the longest-standing readers of 'Militant'. People who disagree with our ideas are also welcome, and will get a full chance to put forward their views.

In the debate on 'A Socialist Economic Programme for Labour', Paul

Omerod, a member of the NEC's Economic and Finance Committee, will be speaking for 'Tribune'. Andrew Glyn will be speaking for 'Militant'. The debate in the 'International' course, between a 'Militant' speaker and a speaker from the Communist Party will now be on 'What Strategy for Socialism in Western Europe Today?'. This will cover mainly 'Eurocommunism', and with the developments in Western Europe, should provide for a useful clash of ideas.

### Book Early

The registration cost for the school is £2. There is accommodation available for people coming from outside London. A 'pooled fare' will operate, to help those travelling long

distances, but it should be a fairly low one because of the number of people attending from London and the South East. A joint social with the London 'Militant' supporters has been organised for the Saturday night with a disco and group. Refreshments and a bar will be available at the school, with cheap prices!

To help the organisers, please send in applications as early as possible. Full programmes are sent on receipt of the registration fee. For application forms, or further information, please write to: 'Militant' Marxist Weekend School, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

By Mark Morton

NOLS National Committee

# BOOK NOW!

## ADS

**RATES**  
CLASSIFIED: 5p per word, minimum 10 words  
SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per 2 column centimetres.

All advertisement copy should reach this office by SATURDAY.

PAYMENTS must be sent with advertisements. Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to 'Militant'.

Hackney LPYS

DISCO

Saturday June 24th, 8.00 pm

Hackney Labour and Trades Union Hall, 96 Dalston Lane, E.8.

ALL WELCOME

WALTHAM FOREST LPYS presents 'Disco Fever'

Saturday 24th June, from 8 pm at the 'Grange'.

Grange Park Road, Leyton E.10

'Militant' Marxist Weekend School: Minibus for School leaves Coventry Railway Station Friday June 30th, 6.00 pm. 12 places available, £3 each (return). Book a place from: Mike Levene, 55 Barras Lane, Coventry.

BRISTOL LPYS Demonstration against Racism. 1st July 1978. Assemble at 11.30 am, St George Park, St George. Move off at 12 noon. Rally at the Corn Exchange at 2.00 pm. Leading Labour and Trade Union speakers. Bring banners—all welcome.

MARCH AGAINST RACISM sponsored by Redbridge CARF and Newham Anti Nazi League.

From The Drive, Ilford, to Plashet Park, East Ham. Assemble 1.00 pm, Saturday June 24th. Rock Against Racism Concert, Saturday June 24th, East Ham Town Hall, £1, 50p s/students and unemployed.

PENGE LPYS Public Meeting Hear: Andy Bevan (Labour's controversial Youth Officer). Thursday 29th June, Melvin Main Hall, Melvin Road, off Croydon Road, Penge.

New LPYS recruitment leaflet for week of action. Produced by London LPYS Regional Committee. Out now. Only £3.50 per 1,000 plus p&p. Enquiries to John Bulaitis, 10 Winbourne Court, Croydon Road, London S.E.10.

The overwhelming majority of workers will support the LP as their party in the general election.

Fight to campaign for socialist alternatives to right wing Labour policies with the labour movement drive to keep the Tories out. Send for a free copy of the Platform of SOCIALIST CAMPAIGN FOR A LABOUR VICTORY. Come to the SCLV Conference, London, July 15th. Write: SCLV, c/o 182 Upper Street, London N.1.

# Nationalise the Shiprepair Yards



Trade unionists at Westerns are demanding that the yard is nationalised

photo: Report (II)

"It's as good as being given a thousand pound note." That was how Myles Noonan, Secretary of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Shop Stewards at the threatened Western Shiprepair yard, described the vote at the recent mass meeting.

The men voted by an overwhelming majority to come back into work. They had been laid off with full pay, while negotiations continue to save the yard. Clearly the men were laid off by the management in an attempt to atomise and demoralise them.

The shop stewards' committee are waging a campaign to have the yard nationalised to save the jobs of the 650 men. This fight at Westerns is only the beginning of many struggles for ship yard workers in this

## Report by Richard Knights

country.

The House of Lords must take the blame for the fact that Westerns is not nationalised today. It was the 'bovver boys in ermine' who sank the Shiprepair Bill last year. The effect of this decision is now coming home.

The multi-million pound Laird Group are claiming that Westerns is 'uneconomic'. Nowhere have Lairds produced any figures to show how the losses are being made. Boilermakers' official Barry Williams has clearly demonstrated the yard's viability: he has produced figures that show that just in the tanker cleaning berth, the profit from the oil that can be salvaged would be enough to pay the wages of the workforce for the

next two years.

In spite of the readiness of Lairds to hand over Westerns to the government, the Industry Minister Eric Varley is now saying that the yard is uneconomic. It is a scandal that Labour Ministers are preparing to sell jobs down the River Mersey, as though the area hasn't suffered enough already.

However, while Westerns is being starved of work the other ship repair companies on Merseyside have full order books. The only way round the problems faced by Westerns, and by ship building in general, is to plan out the work. The whole ship building industry is in crisis. Only two years' work is on the order books for the whole world. If

this is not to mean mass redundancies in this country, the Labour government must draw up a national plan for the industry and share out the work without loss of pay.

The Merseyside group of Labour MPs are fighting to save Westerns. Unfortunately the response from local MP, Cabinet Minister Edmund Dell, has not been so forthcoming. At a recent meeting, his advice was to look for other work—so far the success rate is 0.6%, i.e. four out of 650. At a later meeting he advised the men to move to the South East.

Despite all the set-backs the men have suffered there is a determination to fight. A real fight back by the men at Westerns would lessen the blow of Standards, Speke, to the morale of Liverpool workers, and show that jobs cannot be sold.

## Capper Pass lock-out

Hull-based smelting works Capper Pass and Sons Ltd. have closed down production, locking out 650 T&GWU workers up till June 21st.

This medium sized company, a subsidiary of Rio Tinto Zinc (RTZ) made in excess of £6m profit last year from producing tin, copper, silver, bismuth, titanium, and exporting it on the world market.

The management have repeatedly attempted to split the craft workers from the process workers in order to divide and conquer. They made a payment to AUEW and EETPU craft day workers responsible for plant maintenance.

This payment over and above the annual claim is for unsocial hours and compensation for disruption to family life. However, it does not cover the 400 process workers on continual shift work, including weekend work, suffering maximum disruption of family life.

A night shift, including 100 of the 400, came out in a token demonstration and were told they were locked out. A mass meeting voted for all T&G members to withdraw their labour. Despite an agreed disputes procedure, management told them not to return until June 21st.

From Wednesday 14th, mass picketing has been taking place. There is support and understanding on the part of other trade unionists at the plant, who also see the need to prevent management from operating a "divide and rule" strategy.

A swift withdrawal of all labour would not only smash the attempt to use such a strategy against any section of the workforce, but would also ensure unity in struggle over pay and conditions in the future.

By Alan Hartley

## Jewellery bosses from 19th Century

*Birmingham's jewellery quarter is notorious for sweatshop conditions and pay, but recent moves by employers take us back to the conditions of the last century.*

The gold and jewellery trade section of the British Jewellers' Association (North area) are attempting to get agreement on rates of pay for new youths and trainees at levels below those of last year. In 1977 new entrants got for the first six months: skilled—£19.87; semi-skilled—£21.09; unskilled—£22.23.

The BJA wants the new starting rates to be £20 for all grades. Also they want to delay the time young workers go on to their age rate from 6

to 12 months.

This is at a time when the government is handing out £10 a week towards the wages of new entrants. The bosses are using high youth unemployment to blatantly exploit those young people 'lucky' enough to find a job. In negotiations they said: "We don't need to pay youngsters anything these days, I'm sure some would be only too pleased to work for whatever we want to give them."

The local trade union, NUGSAT, have instructed their members employed in the gold and jewellery industry not to train new entrants into the industry unless their employers are prepared to pay

rates above those paid in 1977. The union wants: skilled—£23.43; semi-skilled—£24.32; unskilled—£27.13, for first six months, then onto age rates.

However, the worst pay and conditions exist in the small non-union shops, where little training of any use occurs. There can be no more chilling contrast underlining the inequality of capitalism than to see young people working on gold and jewellery worth thousands of pounds, being paid wages of £20 and less a week.

*We must boost the fight for a £60 minimum wage for all workers. If these employers can't pay a decent living wage, then they belong in the 19th century and we must banish them to the dustbin of history.*

By Simon Heather  
(Secretary,  
Birmingham LPYS)

## SCUNTHORPE—20 SITES OUT

**UCATT official strike at A J and S Tighe. 42 men sacked.**

While the UCATT official and the convenor were away at UCATT national conference, Tighe decided to impose a 28% cut in bonus payments without any reference to the union.

Because of imminent Phase

III pay settlements the cut would in fact be 47%. This action broke the bonus system agreement, so all UCATT members and five CEU members withdrew labour on Wednesday June 14th.

The strike is official. Tighe have subsequently sacked all the men. The following sites have come out in support:

Lindsey Oil Refinery, Conoco, Foster-Wheeler, Fissons, Anchor, Nypro, Drax, Woodall and Duckhams, RDL Pipeline, Thorne Bridges, Barton-upon-Humber, Gas Holder—Dawes Lane, Cotex, Kirk Sandel, Heavy Maintenance bay (BSC), Dixon at Kirk Sandel, Heavy Section Mill, Norman B Park.

Official picket lines have been set up and others are to be organised throughout the Scunthorpe and Humberside area. We call upon all trade unionists not to cross these picket lines, and to assist us in any way possible to bring about a speedy victory.

A strike fund is being set up to help finance the picket lines, and for hardship cases. Please make a contribution if you can't help in any other way.

Local Labour Party and Young Socialists members are assisting the strikers on the picket lines and printing leaflets and the Labour Party have given typing, duplicating and telephone facilities and a room to act as the strike headquarters.

For further information, contact the Strike Committee headquarters at the Kinsley Labour Club, Scunthorpe. Tel: Scunthorpe 2000.

## EMHART STRIKE

**Members of the AUEW at Emhart [UK] Ltd. in Doncaster have taken strike action over a wages dispute. Emhart is a large multinational company whose Doncaster factory is part of the glass industry.**

Last year's basic wage was £53 (for 40 hours) which is £11 above the National Minimum Level worked out by the Engineering Employers Federation. The management offer for the current year is made up of a basic wage of £59 and £30 in bonuses.

The hostility of the workers to the new wage offer is because management are trying to reduce the differential between what the workers earn and the National Minimum level as worked out by

the Engineering Employers Federation (e.g. last year basic £53, NML £42, differential £11; this year's offer basic £59, NML £57, differential £2). If the wage offer was accepted it would also mean that a worker who went off sick would receive £59, while last year the minimum basic pay on sick was about £61.84.

All trade unionists, especially those employed in the glass industry should support the workers in their fight for a decent basic wage.

**Messages of support to: Mr D Tupman [shop steward], telephone Doncaster 53855.**

**By Lawrence Major**

(Doncaster)

## Portsmouth Docks— dispute sparks anger

On Wednesday June 7th at 10.00 am, AUEW members at Portsmouth Dockyard downed tools and walked out on a one-day protest strike. They decided to ban overtime, piece work and DIBS (Dockyard Incentive Bonus Scheme).

Confusion and rumour roam the yard, but the questions are quickly answered. We are protesting at the delay in dealing with our Phase III pay award due on July 1st, and fear that Denis Healey is trying to balance his books by using us as a whipping boy for those workers who achieved pay awards over the 10% limit.

The secondary but important issue is the productivity scheme which was introduced at Chatham Dockyard for a 12-month trial period, with a view to introduction to the

other dockyards. This trial period started three years ago.

As soon as the reasons became clear walk out after walk out took place involving craftsmen, labourers, canteen staff and even the dockyard's own traffic wardens; in fact the whole non-clerical workforce, some 8,000 men, with similar action taking place at naval out-station and shore bases. The bans mentioned above are now in force throughout the dockyard and a lobby of the pay board has been organised. The result will be told to the workforce by the trade unions at a mass meeting called for 8.00 am, June 20th. With an average take-home pay of between £45-£50 we need at least 25%; we want at least a fair deal.

By a Dockyard worker

## Cambridge workers fight Tory 'gift'

**Cambridge Trade Unions are fighting the local Tory Council over a decision to pay £40,000 to three private schools.**

Leading the fight are members of the GMWU who work as caretakers, cleaners and school meal staff in the Cambridge schools. They are working to rule in opposition to the Tories' gift. Not so long ago these workers accepted reductions in hours and other economies as part of the cuts in public expenditure. They are now outraged at seeing the money they have saved being squandered to prop up privilege. Here is today's shift in wealth...from workers to the rich.

The GMWU have found support from the Cambridgeshire Association of Secondary Heads and the NUJ. The NUT are also meeting shortly to discuss support, and Labour Parties are campaigning against this decision of the Tories.

Clearly the Tories have gone too far this time, and have goaded the labour movement into activity. With a concerted effort this move can be defeated, and the £40,000 used to better effect in the schools for ordinary workers or in the hospitals, to shorten the waiting list for instance.

By Pete Lee (Cambridge Labour Party)

# FIGHT STEEL SACKINGS

This week sees the opening of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation annual conference.

This could be one of the most important conferences we have ever held, with members facing the threat of more plant closures and redundancies added to those already carried out.

The eyes of many steelworkers will be turned to conference for a lead. Unfortunately, to date, we have lacked a fighting answer to the run down of the steel industry; even part of Shelton steelworks is due to close in the next few weeks.

One resolution on the conference agenda calls for the taking over of the profit-making section of the steel industry, which was left in private hands when the rest was nationalised. This would be a major step in the right direction: linked to the democratic running of the industry under workers' control and management, we could then put an end to the milking of state owned steel by private enterprise, and begin to use it to serve the interests of working people and their families, producing the steel for homes, hospitals and schools, on the basis of need, not a quick profit.



Scottish steel-workers lobby BSC—the ISTC must act to save jobs

photo: Andrew Wiard (Report) (II)

On another burning issue, unemployment, resolutions call on the government to do everything it can to solve the problem. While every member would agree with these sentiments, a clear programme is needed.

We need to take up the demand adopted by almost every trade union conference this year, for a cut in the working week to 35 hours, without loss of pay, and use the industrial strength and influence of the union to

ensure a fighting campaign by the whole TUC to win it.

One resolution raises the idea of import controls to save jobs. This offers no solution in the steel or any other industry.

It would simply insulate the old, inefficient British steel production methods from foreign competition and the need to invest. And when foreign bosses retaliate with restrictions on British exports, and other sections of British industry begin to suffer, steel

will be one of the first sections to feel the effects!

We should raise instead the call for a massive modernisation and re-investment plan tied to a shorter working week to guarantee jobs and provide the backbone to the expansion and development of production through-out industry. The bosses' drive for bigger profits and less public spending cannot be allowed to destroy the very sinews of industry, steel making.

The call for no phase 4 of

pay policy, must be wholeheartedly supported. As the resolution states "3 years of social contract have done no good for British working people". Every member has seen that pay sacrifices are no guarantee of jobs!

A resolution calling for the setting up of youth committees has already found support amongst younger members, who need a chance to meet together to discuss the particular problems of youth, and to develop into fully

active union members.

No-one believes that we have seen the last of the attacks on steelworkers' jobs, conditions and wages. We need officials who will represent the members' needs and wishes, and fight any attacks by BSC or a Tory government.

The resolution calling for the election of the General Secretary should be supported by all delegates, and by Bill Sirs himself, who stated when he first won the position that he wanted more democracy within the ISTC. But we must extend this to include regular election of all officials, to be paid the average wage of those they represent, so that we can build a union with a fighting programme and with representatives who genuinely represent the members' interests.

**But above all, this conference should set the tone for what will undoubtedly again be our main battle in the year ahead: the defence of our jobs. All the members want is a clear determined national lead. Then they will be prepared to fight to save their jobs, their industry, their towns and the future for their children.**

**By Andy Harrison**  
(Delegate, No 7  
Division Staff)

Workers in the telecommunications section of the Post Office are keenly aware of the onset of new technology and the threat that it poses to jobs and livelihoods at the present time.

Systems are being developed that would eventually put literally tens of thousands of POEU members (present strength—120,000) out of work. One of the delegates stated: "We're not Luddites. The modernisation train has been going for years. We don't want to derail it. We only want to stop it for a while to let the driver get on!"

Unanimously, conference passed a motion calling for adequate recompense before any further digital communications techniques would be

accepted. Many branches had sent their delegates with a reluctant mandate to accept the recent wage offer of 10%, but many opposed the "productivity deal" that was offered alongside it.

In the end the agreement was accepted along with the annual wage award but only after a strong speech by Bryan Stanley the General Secretary that presented the £1.23 almost as an ex-gratia pay-

ment that would not affect future negotiations on productivity.

A composite motion was passed expressing its "total opposition to wage restraint including any 12-month embargo" and instructing the NEC "to negotiate a 20% wage increase to be effective from August 1978."

When it came to the campaign for the 35-hour week, it was clear that the NEC had anticipated some criticism from the conference over the handling of the issue. As a result, they came forward with measures to escalate the campaign, to the clear acclaim of the overwhelming majority of the delegates.

In the words of the NEC Press Release, "major disruption of Britain's telephone service and a whole range of other Post Office services can be expected in the near future." The 8-month campaign to bring in a 35-hour week with no loss of pay has been stepped up so that no new equipment will be brought into service anywhere in the Post Office and plans are being made for selective stoppages, work to rule and overtime bans.

The question of the leadership and the political direction of the POEU is posed starkly over the campaign for 35 hours. The NEC must play a bold and decisive part in the campaign if it is to survive.

Outside the conference, in the many fringe meetings and discussions, the left was clearly aware of its own responsibilities. One branch put forward in its magazine a suggested "slate" of left candidates for the NEC and other elections. There were no great changes on the NEC, elected on the first two days, but by the end of the week, when the TUC and Labour Party delegations were elected, there was almost a clean sweep for the left.

**The growing mood of militancy and determination amongst Post Office engineers was well borne out by an excellent sale of 190 'Militants' and a very good Readers' meeting.**

## "Keep out Tories!"

At the Biennial Conference of the NUSMCH&DE (sheet metal workers), wage restraint was overwhelmingly defeated with only two votes (out of about 300) cast in favour.

Strong support was also given to the call for a 35-hour week without loss of pay, and that was coupled with other resolutions demanding the cutting of all overtime unless absolutely necessary. Unfortunately, the call for a basic minimum wage was not included.

Unemployment was seen as a contradiction of capitalism by Andy Barr of N Ireland when he said profit was made out of exploiting labour, but the capitalists continue to dump more potential labour on the dole.

A resolution from the NEC calling for the reduction in size of conference was defeated on a card vote.

Another interesting motion

called for the reselection of Lionel Murray every three years—that period should really be reduced to one year and apply to all officials. Workers are seeing the need for accountability.

There was a closed debate on amalgamation, but conference merely decided to look into the prospects for a possible merger.

There were a great many more motions, covering many subjects, including racism and fascism, N Ireland, South Africa, government spending cuts, etc. Unfortunately, no delegate pointed out that only socialism could answer all those problems.

Throughout the whole conference, however, delegates continually called for the need to re-elect a Labour government with a working majority and a socialist programme.

**By Tony Beere**  
(NUSMCH&DE)

## POEU - lead fight for 35-hour week

## BUILDING WORKERS

"When the economy sneezes the building industry catches pneumonia." That was how one delegate at the UCATT conference in Dunoon summed up the problems facing construction workers today.

With 20% of the unemployed in the UK building workers, and 25% of the jobless in Eire, the union has no room for complacency in any struggle for the defence and furtherance of the living standards of its members.

A wages settlement was agreed under the conditions of the Social Contract (see *Militant* 409), which the union rejected at its last conference two years ago. The new "deal" even accepts pay restraint in 1980 before the union achieves a fourth week's holiday! Undoubtedly the prospect of cash in hand now and the fact that no other

### Report by Jim Newlands in Dunoon

major union has broken the Social Contract were contributory to this settlement.

In one of the best contributions at the conference, *Betty Worthington*, a member of the *Yorkshire* delegation, explained in class terms the way employees are able to get around Equal Pay Acts. Sister Worthington, a shop steward in a factory which makes window frames, faces the bosses demands that women workers do a night school course to prove they are proficient at the jobs they have done for years.

If they fail to do this they will then have their pay reduced to that of a labourer. Sister Worthington stated that this would be fought and

was confident of success.

Delegates, using facts and figures, proved the advantages of Direct Works departments and attacked Labour councillors who sided with the Tories in attempting to close them. *Bro J Sheridan, Glasgow*, said that this was not solely a problem for UCATT itself but that the union must involve the whole labour movement to defend Direct Labour, which he saw as a basis for the social ownership of the industry through nationalisation.

The fact that the delegates reflected the members' readiness to fight to save direct works and that the conference rejected incomes policies is an indication that if the union leadership are not prepared to give a lead to these fights, then the shop stewards on the sites will.

## Bakers' Conference

"Last night we had two disasters, and that's what a six-day week, working short-handed and excessive overtime means," said Sam Maddox, General Secretary of the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union at their annual conference in Bridlington. Two delegates had collapsed the night before, one dying shortly after.

The main theme of the conference was the demand for an end to the long hours and a living basic wage to make shorter hours practicable.

The five day week, introduced following the Spillers-French closure, had led to cuts in wages for some bread bakers.

Danny Brown, of Mothers Pride branch, Salford received a tremendous reception when he argued for a fight to make up the loss of earnings. "My members don't work long hours because they want to—never mind the five-day week, we'd have a four-day week if there was a living wage," he said.

This theme was taken up by **Bill Godfrey of Cardiff**: "We're not prepared to put up with industrial murder: we're not going back to the 1930s, we shouldn't be talking of five days, we should be talking of a 35-hour week. We'll only get a good deal when we socialise our bakeries and run them for ourselves."

The conference rejected any stage four of the social contract and **Joe Marino [Manchester]** moved the EC motion calling for a minimum increase of £10 on the basic rate. Over one in four delegates bought a copy of 'Militant'.

**Report by Gerry Lerner in Bridlington**

# Militant

## YOUTH JOIN LABOUR

Reading a Labour Party Young Socialists' recruiting leaflet, Marylebone, London, during the Week of Action [full report pages 2 and 3].

Following the Labour Party Youth Broadcast last Thursday, over 200 applications to join the Labour Party have been received by Transport House. With all its limitations [see article page 4], the broadcast has to date produced as many, if not more, new members for the Party than the hard-hitting anti-National Front programme televised last December.

What would have been the effect if the Labour Party Young Socialists had been free to produce a broadcast which fully reflected their socialist programme?



Photo: Julian McKittrick

## UNEMPLOYMENT—FIXING THE FIGURES

When is a rise a fall?

"Unemployment fell again this month" declares 'The Times'. On the same day, 'The Telegraph' says: "The total number of workless in the United Kingdom rose by 59,251 to 1,446,061 on June 8th."

"Of course," they tell us, "the numbers may have gone up." But then it isn't the individual worker thrown on the dole that they care about. "When the poor results for Northern Ireland are excluded..." says 'The Financial Times,' glibly dismissing the more than one in ten workers unemployed there.

"Adjusted to leave out school leavers..." What cool-faced distortion, when unemployment actually rose from 5.8% to 6.1%.

A Manpower jobs agency director said that when you included the thousands who don't register as unemployed, because they won't get benefit or can't face the humiliation,

and almost a quarter of a million people temporarily on job creation schemes, the real unemployment figure is 2 1/4 million. No amount of figure twisting can hide that.

While playing down the unemployment figures, however, the press were doing their very best to portray the last quarter's miserable 1% increase in production as the beginning of a new "boom"! It's hard to know which strains credulity the most.

One in every eight 16-18 year olds is condemned to the dole. In the heart of London, Liverpool, Birmingham and other big cities it's one in three. Since 1972 unemployment for 16-17 year olds has increased more than 100%. These are the "embarrassing" facts that the press want to sweep under the carpet—youth refused useful work, dismissed and forgotten. But not by the labour movement!

The Tories' new report on youth suggests that every school leaver spends two years

in community work and job experience, to keep them off the job market and avoid the "frightening social consequences" of angry unemployed youth. What an insult!

At conference after conference, the trade unions have taken up the call for a 35-hour week without loss of pay. Linked to a sharing out of overtime, this would create millions of new jobs, a step towards guaranteeing work to every school and college leaver.

The CBI, the organisation of big industrialists, say they will fight any moves to cut the working week. It might affect their profits.

The TUC must act now to cut working hours. If the profit system and big business stand in the way, the mighty trade union and Labour movement has the power to sweep them away and put a permanent end to the shameful waste of unemployment.

By Eileen Short

When the fares on London Transport were bumped up on 18th June, the most noticeable thing was how little they have been publicised.

Most people did not know about the increase until they got on the bus on Monday. The usual posters on bus shelters and LT property were conspicuous by their absence.

The literature available (if you search for it) offers cold comfort. "Increased costs" are to blame, and the increases are only "keeping pace" with those costs.

They also take into account "reductions in government subsidies." These increases are approved by the GLC—the same authority which reduced the subsidies to London Transport.

It doesn't take imagination to see that since the Tories got control of the GLC, the transport system has gone even more down hill.

It's not unusual to wait 30 minutes for a bus which should arrive every 5 to 8 minutes. It's hardly credible that a service which is so unreliable should cost so much.

The fare rises are in some cases lower than 10%, but as

## FARES HIGHER—QUEUES LONGER

you can see by the figures, most are well above. Coupled with that, the decision to abolish the off-peak rate of fares will have a two-fold effect.

The people who use buses between 10.00 am and 4.30 pm are housewives, the

out London.

The transport union campaign "Save Our Services" really has a meaning, but it could easily be "Where Are Our Services?"

When you've waited half an hour tomorrow morning for your bus, or they cancel the 8.30 to Waterloo, think about what you would do to improve the transport system. Thousands of workers already are. So are the bus conductors who have to face being shouted at by irate passengers as part of their daily lives. So are the drivers who have to sit in traffic jams in the centre of London all day.

If we put together the workers of the industry, and the workers who use it, then add some of the money that is lying in the vaults of the Bank of England, that's a recipe for a bus that runs on time and doesn't cost the price of a taxi.

Alexandra Smith

(Greater London Regional Committee, LPYS)

### LONDON TRANSPORT NEW FARE CHARGES

7p	8p
12p	13p
19p	21p
24p	26p
30p	33p + 36p

unemployed, and others unable to use the service during the rush hour, such as disabled. These people have been dependent on the cheaper rates. When it becomes obvious that less people will be able to afford to use London Transport, this will provide a further excuse to the bosses for cutting the already poor services through-

## WAR ON WORKERS

Continued from page 1

ing of all expenditure on the health, welfare and education of ordinary people?

The rich and powerful who run the big firms which finance the Tory Party are the top 2% who own 80% of the country's personal wealth. Are they going to share out their wealth with the workers, so everyone can be a capitalist? Is this what Mrs Thatcher has in mind?

No. In reality, Mrs Thatcher and her cronies yearn for the "good old days", when more people

mistakenly believed that if they "worked hard" and "got on" they could be big tycoons, send their son to a top Public School (fees currently £2,000 a year), have their appendix out in a luxury private hospital (now about £2,000), etc. etc.

What the Tories really want is to go back to primitive, 'free for all' capitalism. Not so everyone has a "fair chance". But so big business can make even bigger profits, without paying "exorbitant" taxes, without the "burden" of social services, and without the obstacle of strong trade unions.

Only the organised labour movement stands in the way of their barbarous plans. That's why the Tories want to bind and fetter the unions with reactionary new laws. . . .

Only the labour movement can defend the living standards and rights of working people. But to make sure the Tories are defeated in the approaching general election and to guarantee a Labour government that will work in the interests of working people, the labour movement must fight on socialist policies.

★ A guaranteed job for everyone, with a £70 minimum wage for all.

## Arms Bazaar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

arms exports are sold by the United States, Russia, France and Britain.

Meanwhile, there are 250 million children in the world who get no schooling. Seventy per cent of the human race lacks safe water. Waterborne disease kills 25,000 a day. Over 570 millions are officially undernourished.

Is this not itself sufficient reason for fighting for an end to capitalism?

## STOP PRESS

Portsmouth Docks see article, page 14

The deal offered by management to the national negotiators on Monday was rejected. It amounted to consolidation of phase two (only) and then 9%. This comes to £4. The men want phase one consolidated; they are furious at

the miserly offer.

There was therefore a walk-out of the 8,000 workers at Portsmouth and 3,000 from outlying bases, in a one day protest strike.

This has become a national issue. Meetings are being held at Chatham, Davenport and Rothside dockyards to decide on action.

# Militant

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## STOP PRESS Birmingham picket

A J Lees, Witton: Mass picket, 7.30 pm, Friday 30th June. All trade union and Labour Party members welcome.

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