

HEALTH WORKERS GIVE ULTIMATUM ON PRIVATE TREATMENT

"The private sector is the hand around the neck of the National Health Service. It is our duty to cut it off."

By Eileen Short

Delegates at this week's Conference of the National Union of Public Employees overwhelmingly supported this outright opposition to the "rapidly expanding

private sector...taking place at the expense of the NHS."

Against the Executive's recommendation, delegates car-

ried a resolution, instructing all NUPE members to provide no further services to private patients" from 1 January if the Tory government has

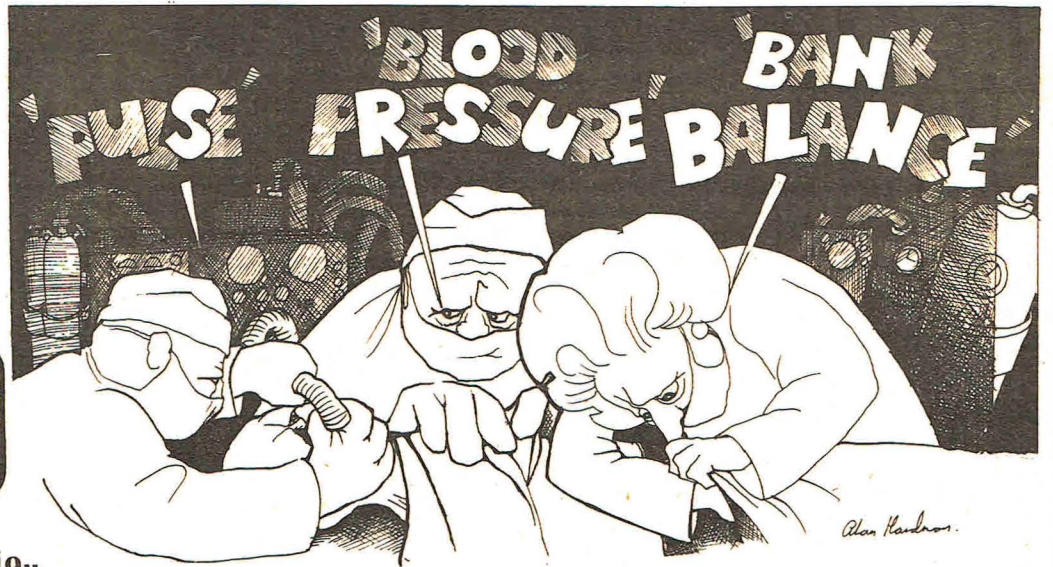
not by then given a firm date for the removal of all private beds.

Moving the resolution,

the delegate from North Hammersmith Hospital, London, expressed the bitter anger of health service workers at privileged treatment and

queue-jumping facilities for a few rich patients: "Every rich bastard who comes in our hospit-

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prices up...

TORIES PAY OFF BIG BUSINESS BACKERS

Every day is freedom day under the Tories: Freedom for the monopolies to make higher profits. Freedom for the rest of us to pay higher prices.

Amongst those who benefitted last week was United Biscuits. The Tories overrode objections from the soon-to-be-abolished Price Commission and granted United Biscuits their second price rise this year.

"This must be the quickest return of capital investment any financial backer of the Tory Party has yet received", commented one Labour Party MP.

The Prices Commission, who merely wanted the latest increase postponed until September, objected to United Biscuits' virtual monopoly of the market. Amongst the firms they own are Crawfords, McVities and Macdonalds.

But that's the kind of 'freedom' the Tories want. A free hand of the monopolies to raise prices and fight against unions.

United Biscuits' chairman, Sir Hector Laing, even took out a private injunction in January against the lorry-drivers who

were fighting for a decent wage.

He's trained his servants well, too. His company's Parliamentary consultant was none other than Jim Prior.

Prior has now left the company to become a Cabinet Minister with responsibility for big business' fight against the trade unions.

United Biscuits, however, aren't the only backers to benefit recently.

Rank Hovis McDougall, one of the two giant bread monopolies will gain enor-

mously from the announced increase of 2p a loaf.

They gave £36,000 to the Tory Party and associated organisations in 1977, and £46,000 in 1978.

The price rises are just an indication of what is in store for working people. Last week the Tories said they would put:

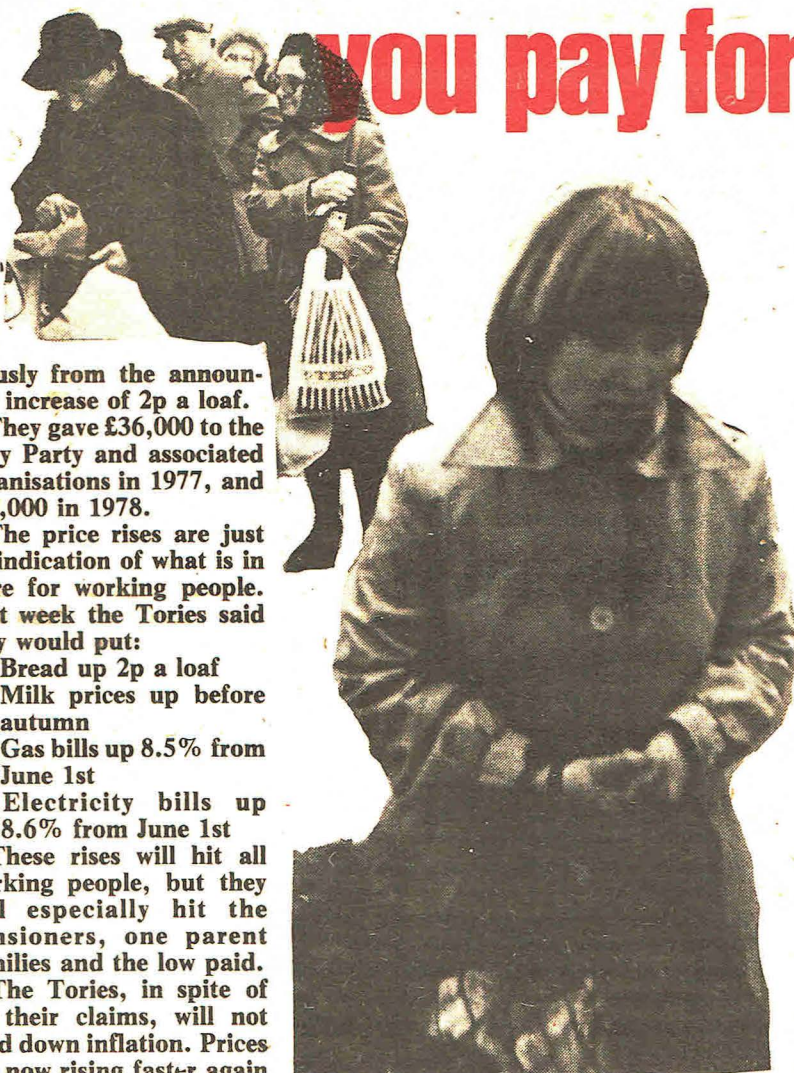
- ★ Bread up 2p a loaf
- ★ Milk prices up before autumn
- ★ Gas bills up 8.5% from June 1st
- ★ Electricity bills up 8.6% from June 1st

These rises will hit all working people, but they will especially hit the pensioners, one parent families and the low paid.

The Tories, in spite of all their claims, will not hold down inflation. Prices are now rising faster again throughout the world economy. And the Tories' 'free-market' policies will

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you pay for it



in the shops!

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Militant

SPANISH SOCIALISTS MOVE TO THE LEFT

The resignation of Felipe Gonzalez from the leadership of the Spanish Socialist Party [PSOE] is an event of great significance for the Spanish working class.

At the Party Congress last weekend, PSOE decisively rejected the attempts of Gonzalez and his supporters to eliminate Marxism from the Party's constitution. Like the right-wing leaders of the British Labour Party, Gonzalez believed that the way to win the middle class, the "middle ground", is to abandon the programme for the socialist transformation of society. This is the meaning of his attack on Marxism.

Yet in the March election, PSOE, on a milk-and-water programme [high-tension cables was the only industry which it was suggested should be nationalised], the Party failed to advance on its 29% share of the vote recorded in the 1977 general election.

Supported by the German Social Democratic leaders in particular and their considerable financial resources, however, Gonzalez launched a campaign against Marxism in the weeks prior to the Congress.

This provoked an enormous backlash from the rank and file of the Party. The PSOE headquarters were inundated with resolutions of protest. Prominent party officials in Madrid and elsewhere were removed as delegates because of their support for Gonzalez, and delegates more to the left were elected in their place.

In Jaen, in the province of Andalusia, for instance, a prominent PSOE MP resigned as delegate to the Congress because he refused to accept a binding mandate to uphold the continued inclusion of Marxism in the constitution!

It is highly significant that the bitterest opposition to Gonzalez's proposals came from the working class areas of Spain. The Asturian miners led the attack and were supported by Navarre, Madrid and a big

section of delegates from Andalusia.

The workers' hostility to this attempt to shift the Party to the right was shown right at the beginning of the Congress. When Peces Barba, a prominent supporter of the leadership, was proposed as chairman he was defeated. He was then proposed as a vice-chairman and was again defeated!

When the outgoing Executive Committee presented the report on its activity over the last year, moreover, a total of 41 speakers opposed the report, acceptance of which is usually a formality.

Every aspect of the Executive's activity was criticised, with the PSOE leadership's Pact of Moncloa [Spain's equivalent of Britain's social contract] coming in for withering criticism.

The Executive's report was eventually accepted with only 58% of the delegates voting in favour while 30% abstained and 12% voted against.

Condemnation

The sharp condemnation of the Leadership's record set the tone for the debate on the Party constitution and Marxism.

The issues were initially argued out in a commission attended by Felipe Gonzalez himself. The capitalist press will no doubt picture the clash which took place on this issue as merely a "quibble", a quarrel over "one word", etc.

But an exchange between Gonzalez and a miner from Asturias demonstrated that, in opposing the deletion of Marxism, the workers of the PSOE rank and file were defending the programme of the socialist revolution. At one point Gonzalez attacked his opponents as "frustrated middle-class types", and sneered contemptuously that none was capable of defining just what Marxism is.

The Asturian miner answered: "I am a miner, my father was a miner. I know what Marxism is. It is the abolition of exploitation of man by man. I know what it is. I have worked in the mines—which you have not!"

Gonzales and his right hand man Alfonso Guerra had displayed a completely contemptuous attitude towards the PSOE rank and file in the past few months:

"Sr Guerra, used as the hatchet man, has

acquired a reputation for sending brutal notes of dismissal and earned no one's love last autumn when he was quoted as saying that ten minutes of television was worth 20,000 militants" ["Financial Times", 17 May].

When it came to the vote Gonzalez's position was defeated, and this was repeated in the full Congress with an overwhelming vote against deleting Marxism.

After threatening to resign, Gonzalez actually did so—which threw the Congress into confusion and chaos.

The "Left" opponents of Gonzalez such as Gomez Llorente, the MP from Asturias, and Tierno Galvan, refused to organise an alternative leadership. The party is to be run by a steering committee for six months until a new Congress. In a panic, Galvan declared that the removal of Gonzalez "could lead to a return of the tanks to the streets; the party will fall to bits; and the Second International will cut off the funds."

The last point is perhaps uppermost in the minds of the PSOE leadership! The German Social Democrats have been the most energetic supporters of Gonzalez, and have used their financial leverage in an attempt to establish a "safe" socialist party in Spain.

But their plans are now in ruins. The Congress was a reflection of the sharp shift towards the left within the ranks of the PSOE.

Capitalist crisis

The ranks of the party have drawn a balance sheet of the period since the death of Franco. They have seen an enormous worsening of their conditions arising from the deepening crisis of Spanish capitalism.

At the same time, the Socialist Party leaders have failed to show a way out of this crisis. On the contrary, the deeper the crisis, the further to the right has the PSOE leadership shifted. They have persecuted the Marxist Left, and sought to hound from the Party the supporters of 'Nuevo Claridad'—who are the only ones able to supply the Spanish workers with a programme capable of guaranteeing victory in their struggle.

This Congress represents a big shift of the advanced Spanish workers towards such a programme.



An AUEW delegate speaks at 1978 Conference. Make sure all young trade union activists are approached for this conference.

Photo: MILITANT

LPYS CONFERENCE AND CAMP - Don't delay, book today!

A week's holiday under canvas, Labour Party Young Socialists National Conference, a week of political debates or seminars on all kinds of topics, three meals a day, plenty of time for sports [or just lazing around], and excellent socials in the evenings.

Yours for only £24, if you come to the LPYS National Summer Camp and conference on 28th July-4th August, at Bracefields campsite, Coleford, near Gloucester.

The LPYS National Committee had hoped that the conference which was postponed from Easter could be held on June 23/24. Unfortunately, the Labour Party Women's conference is on the weekend before.

Labour Party officials at Transport House decided that it would not be possible to hold two conferences in two weeks. In view of the alternative dates being in July, the LPYS Officers have decided that it would be best to hold the conference on the first weekend of the camp (July 28/29).

The discussions taking place at the conference and camp will be more important than ever now we have a Tory government. It will be an

ideal opportunity to draw together election experiences of every YS member from the newest to the oldest, and to discuss the reasons for defeat, and the kind of socialist programme Labour will need to win the next election.

Also we can discuss the campaigns for the YS to organise against Tory attacks on living standards and trade unions. In this light the discussions around the new Charter For Young Workers will be especially important.

Having the conference, as well as all the other activities of the camp, means that it will be even easier to commit people to the £5 deposit for the week. With all the difficulties and delays, it is vital that this year's conference is the most representative yet, with every branch sending a delegate and visitors.

The closing date for delegates is now June 29 which will be strictly adhered to. This means that there is time for new branches set up during the election campaign or in the process of being

established, to elect delegates.

In every area the trade union sponsored visitors should be visited to see if they will attend. (A special facility for delegates and trade union-sponsored visitors only is a weekend booking of £7) although it is hoped that they will book for the whole week.

There are only nine weeks to go! Every area should be organising transport NOW! The conference will start at 1pm on Saturday 28 July, so branches should aim to arrive before 12.00 noon to have time to pitch tents etc. The conference will last until 9 pm on Saturday, and from 10 am to 4 pm on the Sunday.

After that the camp programme of political and social activities begins. A brochure with full details of the camp and conference are being sent out to LPYS branches new. These should be circulated around LPYS and Labour Party members, and sent to local trade union branches and shop stewards committees.

Deposits of £5 (£2 for children) should be sent as soon as possible. Cheques and PO's should be made out to LPYS Summer Camp Fund', Labour Party, Smith Square, London SW1P 5JA. Book now for YS Summer Camp '79.

By Jon Ingham

(Vice Chairman LPYS)

'MILITANT' CAMP — THIS WEEKEND

Spend the Spring Bank Holiday, Friday May 25th-Monday 28th at the 'Militant' Camp in the Lake District near Keswick

A political programme of:

- ★ MARXIST ECONOMICS
- ★ HISTORICAL MATERIALISM
- ★ MARXISM AND THE TRADE UNIONS
- ★ PERSPECTIVES FOR BRITAIN
- ★ AND AN INTERNATIONAL TOPIC

Speakers include John Pickard, Pat Craven and Mick Brooks

Cost (including camp fees, light breakfast, lunch and entertainment) £7. Children 6-15 £2.50. Under 6, free. For further details contact Malcolm Lindsey, 20 Sandiways Avenue, Bootle, Merseyside L30 1SD. Tel: 051-521 5398.

Only workers unity can stop....

BOSSSES PLANS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

A secret report, drawn up by army intelligence chiefs for the top echelons of the British Army offers a valuable insight into the thinking of the British ruling class on Ireland.

The document, in brutal language, lays bare the complete incapacity of British imperialism to solve any of the problems of Northern Ireland.

The report 'N Ireland: Future terrorist trends', a copy of which was obtained and released by the Provisionals, sets out the alternatives open to the military strategists of big business in attempting to bring "stability" to N Ireland.

Despite the claims of Roy Mason the former Labour Secretary of State that the British Army was 'winning the war against the Provisionals', the document calmly admits that the British Army is incapable of bringing to an end the Provisionals' campaign.

For Northern Irish workers—faced with the problems of repression, slum housing, unemployment etc., the report's conclusion sounds a sombre warning—direct rule (as the least of all evils for the ruling class) will continue, as will repression by the British Army, aimed at cowering any opposition to imperialism.

"Government policy would be principally one of containment and the underlying problems would remain unsolved"

The army chiefs are, it seems, in the words of William Whitelaw, (the former Tory Secretary of State for N Ireland) resigned to being able to do no more than 'reduce violence to an accep-

table level'.

But what is their acceptable level of violence? It means the horrors of the H blocks, the fake trials of the Diplock Courts, the tortures of Castle-reagh, the many deaths of civilians and soldiers this year.

From being the country with the lowest prison population in Europe, in ten years N Ireland now has the highest percentage prison population in Western Europe.

So confident are the ruling class of their judicial ability to return stability, that yet more H blocks are being built in remote Magilligan strand—to accommodate the only growth industry in N Ireland: the size of the prison population!

For the labour movement, however, there can be no acceptable level of violence.

For the Provisionals as well, the report offers cold comfort. Despite their 10 year campaign, British imperialism is no nearer any withdrawal from the North of Ireland and the report does not even consider the possibility.

The report concedes the possibility of the Provisionals being able to maintain indefinitely the present limited campaign of bombing and assassination.

It is clear that a continuation of the Provisional campaign offers no way forward at all to the working class of N Ireland.

One of the most interesting and significant points of the



The capitalist 'solution' is no solution against repression, sectarianism

reports is that the ruling class themselves raise the possibility of a non-sectarian party that would unite Catholic and Protestant workers emerging in the coming period.

Marxists have always argued that the strategists of big business and the marxists often come to the same conclusion, but by different routes. The report concludes however that such an outcome is improbable, on the grounds that "nationalistic and sectarian sentiment has always been stronger in Ireland".

This optimistic view of developments in the labour movement (from the view of the ruling class) is mirrored by the pessimism of the ultra-left on the fringe of the movement who discount the working class taking a dom-

inant role in Ireland in the future on the same grounds. They believe that as the labour movement has failed in the past, we can't expect it to succeed in the future.

The Marxists in Ireland and Britain, on the contrary, believe that the situation has never been riper or more favourable for the emergence of a trade union-based, mass party of labour that would really sound the death-knell of sectarianism.

A fresh new young generation of workers has emerged, as yet unscathed by the defeats and demoralisation experienced by older workers in the past decade; the working class in the south of Ireland have demonstrated their fighting capacity to resist the attacks of the

southern capitalists on their living standards, and in Britain the return of the reactionary Thatcher government means that a massive confrontation between the classes is inevitable.

The tempo of the class struggle in Ireland and Britain will be heightened and will have an enormous impact on workers in N Ireland looking for a solution to the problems they face.

The job of socialists in Ireland is to turn into reality the contingency that the ruling class reject—the creation of a mass working class Labour Party, fighting on a socialist programme to end the rule of capital, North and South.

A hopeful pointer for the future was the campaign of

Bill Webster of the Derry Labour and Trade Union Party in the recent general election, which with slender resources in an enormous constituency won over 630 votes for an uncompromising socialist programme.

When such a programme is welded to the enormous strength of the labour movement in N Ireland, a real end to repression and sectarianism will be achieved.

By
Eddie McParland
(Vice-President,
Greenwich CLP, Secretary,
Campaign for Socialist
Solution in Ireland)

A fuller account of the N Ireland general election campaign and the Derry result is given on page 6 this week.

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS:

LPYS FIGHT FOR SOCIALIST CANDIDATE

The LPYS NC are calling on all members to give their support to the mass canvass, demonstration and rally in Liverpool on the weekend of June 2nd/3rd.

The action is in support of former LPYS member Terry Harrison. Terry, who played a major role in building the Merseyside Young Socialists, is standing on the programme of a socialist alternative to the EEC. He is the Labour candidate for Liverpool in the election for the European Assembly.

Saturday June 2nd: 9.00 am-12 noon. Assemble for leafletting at Pierhead, Liverpool. 12 noon. Demo leaves Pierhead. Bring your banners. 12.30-1.30 pm: Rally St Georges Hall.

Speakers: Eddie Loyden [ex-MP for Liverpool Garston]; Terry Harrison [Euro-candidate for Liverpool]; Josie Aitman [LPYS National Committee]

1.45 pm: Coach from St John's Lane [back of hall] to canvass in the areas. Various socials on Saturday night. Canvassers will be put up overnight in Party members' houses. Please bring sleeping bags.

Coachloads of Young Socialists are travelling down from as far afield as Glasgow and Swansea. If you haven't yet got a place on a coach you should contact your National Committee member or Josie Aitman (051-220-4602) in Liverpool.

The National Committee see this election as offering a major step forward in the battle to get a socialist voice in Europe. The EEC has solved none of the workers problems in Britain, Italy or elsewhere.

There are five million

unemployed in the nine EEC countries. Almost two million young people are on the dole.

The common problems of the working people and youth in the nine, lead to a call for a common fight for a socialist united states of Europe.

Enthusiasm

In the International Union of Socialist Youth we fought for a campaign on a European wide basis to demand a 35-hour week, a minimum wage and a guaranteed job for every school-leaver and trainee. These are the demand we will be marching for in Liverpool on June 2nd.

Already Liverpool LPYS have begun the work, staging a day of action, carrying out canvassing and holding meet-

ings. Is there any other part of the country with such an enthusiastic response to the campaign?

In the Eastern Region, a second coach is being booked to go up to Liverpool because of the influx into the LPYS in that area. Five coaches should be travelling up from London and, despite it being exam time for many school students we expect 1,000 people to travel up for the weekend.

So if you are new to the LPYS you will have a chance to see Labour's Youth in action on a national scale.

By Steve Glennon

(LPYS National Committee)

BIRMINGHAM - A SHOCK IN STORE FOR THATCHER

"The whole fabric of our 'civilised' society is breaking up—because of cuts in public expenditure the welfare state has been reduced to a skeleton."

Ted Grant was speaking at a lively 'Militant' Public meeting held a week after the Tory election victory. His detailed contribution at the meeting outlined graphically the reasons for Labour's defeat.

It wasn't, as the press and right in the Labour Party claimed, "wild" lorry drivers, "overpaid" bakery workers or "heartless" hospital workers who had brought the government down but the counter reforms carried out by the right-wing leadership of the Labour Party.

The Marxists had long explained that the policies of Callaghan would lead to demoralisation amongst sections of the working class and pave the way for the most reactionary Tory government

this century. Nevertheless, despite witnessing the highest fall in their living standards for a hundred years under Healey's 'one year for Britain' policies working people were determined not to let Thatcher in.

Despite her crew masquerading as 'friends' of the 'ordinary' British people, Labour's vote increased by 100,000 votes over the 1974 October elections.

This year's election, said Ted, marked a watershed in British politics and was the most class polarised election since 1945. The Tories, dangling the tax-cut 'carrot' have wooed the middle class 'floaters'.

The real benefit, however, of this policy will not be accrued by working people (who will probably get a couple of quid more) but by directors and industrial bosses earning more than £15,000 to £20,000.

Workers will pay for this

'bonanza' by not only having to pay more for durable goods but also on their daily food bill.

In essence Thatcher's policies are no different from those of Heath's government of 1970-74. It would appear that the Tories have learned nothing from the lessons they were taught in 1972-74.

Obviously, with the impending economic crisis on an international scale the capitalists must be hoping that the new 'Tory 22' will not only be able to subdue the unions but actually smash them.

But serious and sober thinkers of capital have advised her not to be too hasty in taking on the unions. Unfortunately for the 'Iron Maiden' the minute she tries to interfere with the democratic rights of the labour movement she will become a 'Dead dummy' under the feet of 12 million trade unionists, unionists.

The excellent contributions from the floor and the £177 collection showed the enthusiasm for Marxist ideas in Birmingham.

**By Sardul
Singh Dhesi**

(Secretary,
Ladywood LPYS)

SCOTTISH NATIONALISTS TORIES IN TARTAN

One of the reasons for the collapse of the Scottish National Party vote in the General Election was the experience many workers in Scotland had of SNP policies in local authorities where they had control.

Last November the SNP-controlled Cunninghame District Council made public their intention to 'equalise' i.e. raise council rents, in an area of Scotland with some of the worst unemployment black spots [around 18% are out of work].

The five-strong Labour Group opposed these increases, in most cases 30%, when the government enforced the 5% wage norm, and proposed that any increase should be no more than 5%. This was defeated by the Tory/SNP alliance who applied to the Secretary of State to approve these rises.

The Labour Group, the two constituency Labour Parties in the District, the District Labour Party, the local MP David Lambie and most local Labour Party branches sent appeals to the Labour Secretary of State to refuse the application.

The Secretary of State however replied that the Council would be allowed to raise the rents either on or before the 1st April. A better reason for accountability of ministers to the Labour Party has rarely been seen.

On April 24th at a meeting of the Council, Labour Group



The 'good old days' for the SNP, before experience of their policies lessened their appeal

leader, Mrs Teresa Beattie, moved suspension of Standing Orders to let the Council discuss the anomaly of wageless tenants on Needs Allowances who suffered an increase in rents in April but will receive no financial aid until allowances are increased in November, and are now out of pocket by, in some cases, £2 per week for 6 months.

The move to suspend standing orders, was defeated by 17 votes to Labour's 4.

The Tories and SNP whose claim to be a working man's party must now be seen as a blatant lie, had no intention of letting the plight of the wageless being brought to the public notice.

The Labour Group took the decision that if the Council were to take such a dictatorial view they would have no part in the further business of the Council which compared to the welfare of the disabled, OAPs, and unemployed were secondary. To applause from members of the public they left the Council chamber in protest.

The Tory and SNP candidates in the General Election had a lot to answer for to working people.

Tom Dewar

(Irvine LP and Central
Ayrshire LPYS)

Labour movement bans fascist's conference

The National Front's plans to hold their conference in Great Yarmouth this October were finally buried on 14th May.

After a successful election campaign the strengthened Labour Group immediately called a special council meeting to carry out its main election promise—ban the National Front—they should not be allowed to use the Corporation's conference facilities.

This was the culmination of

a fight by the labour movement to keep the fascists out of Yarmouth, ever since the NF first mooted the idea of holding their conference here.

Firstly the Trades Council took up the battle, organising industrial action to prevent services to the Wellington Pier during the conference. A call went out to the TUC for a boycott of conference facilities at Yarmouth, leading to the NUAAW cancelling their booking.

A counter rally was planned and immediately gained support from the Norfolk Federation of Trades Councils.

While the Tory Council

and the Tory MP had been staunchly defending the NF. Referring to the Trades Council as 'bully boys' they called on the people of Yarmouth to support them in their stand against 'black-mail.' The Tory Council decided to allow the NF a platform in Yarmouth.

The Labour Party then entered the fray. In the local elections this question was prominent, with Labour pledged to ban the NF should they win the election.

Subsequently Labour gained four seats from the Tories. One Labour candidate topped the poll in a ward which has been a traditional Tory strong-

hold. This was no doubt due to the large population of foreign small businessmen (hoteliers and restaurateurs). Another gain in a housing estate area gave Labour all six seats in that ward.

Although still in a minority—Tory 22 seats, Labour 17 seats, Independent 3 and Liberal 2—the special meeting was called by Labour. Four seats were still undecided due to the death of a candidate.

But the opposition saw the way things were going. Instead of the previous talk of a stand against 'bully boys' the Tories were a little meeker.

Their leader was quoted as saying that 'councillors would vote according to their consciences' and he hoped that whatever the outcome this would be the end of it.

The final vote was 24 against the conference and 13 for.

This is a real victory for the labour movement and another blow against the fascists as they stagger from their recent abysmal showing in the election. The NF parliamentary candidate in Yarmouth had the gall to say that his vote of 640 indicated that people in Yarmouth wanted the conference to go ahead.

The most important point

is that with very little effort the labour movement has stopped the National Front. There will be no battles on Yarmouth seafront, with the media trying to label the left as thugs.

Most importantly there will be no opportunity for the capitalist class to further develop the savage 'riot control' methods that were used at Leicester and South-

Mark Mason

(Lowestoft LP)

Use the strength of the working class

"How can we take over the banks?" asked a young worker attending his first 'Militant' Readers' Meeting in Mansfield.

The speaker, Ted Grant, summed up the optimism of the meeting by pointing out the enormous potential strength of the labour movement.

If a Labour government were to introduce an enabling act through Parliament and then mobilise this strength then a rapid and peaceful

transformation of society could take place.

As speakers showed, though, the approach of the Labour leaders at the election was very different. After the election, Callaghan blamed last winter's strikes for his defeat while never asking why these workers went on strike. Striking is not undertaken lightly but had been forced by the 5% policy.

John Dale, the candidate for Oak Tree Ward in the District Council elections was one of those to point to the effect of the LPYS in the election.

"Apart from the candidates for the District Council and their families, there had been almost no rank-and-file Labour Party members apart from the LPYS on the streets of Mansfield during the election."

However, for his campaign there had been a total of nineteen party workers, mostly young.

A candidate standing for a clear socialist programme had got the enthusiasm lacking in most parts of the constituency. The result vindicated a socialist campaign—the Tories won a supposedly 'safe'

Tory seat by a mere 83 votes.

Another LPYS member reported that many students in the Tech college had been talking about voting for the National Front early in the campaign. They felt nobody else was interested in their problems.

After the YS leafletted the Tech with their youth leaflets, all the students were reading and discussing it [including during the lessons] and support for the NF plummeted.

John Dale
(Mansfield LPYS)

Militant Weekend School

Friday June 29th to Sunday July 1st
At: Goldsmith's College Students' Union,
Lewisham Way, London S.E.14.

Courses on:

- ★ Marxist Economics
- ★ Marxist Philosophy
- ★ Marxism and the Trade Unions
- ★ Ireland: History and Perspectives
- ★ Russian Revolution
- ★ The Labour Party

Friday evening: film 'Harlan County'

Plus: Debate: 'A Socialist Programme for Labour'
Speakers from 'Militant' and Tribune'

Registration: £2.50—whole weekend, £1.50 Saturday or Sunday only, 75p—Friday evening only.

To register, or for further information, write to: Militant Marxist Weekend School, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

LEFT & RIGHT

Rich man forced to eat muck!

It must be terrible to be forced to go to a tax-haven to spend all your money. Readers will feel heart-torn at the plight of Robert Spencer-Churchill, who inherited so many of the Vanderbilt financiers' millions that he is being driven out to Brazil.

"Their food out there is muck," he complains. He's going to put his wealth to sound use, opening restaurants and wine-bars [for the other well-heeled exiles presumably—the Brazilian workers will have to put up with the "muck".] "I don't know how long we'll stay. The tax position in Britain is no help." No doubt he's hoping the Tories will sort that out.

But don't get the wrong idea; he's only an ordinary jet-setter. "Of course, I get a regular income, but I have to make my own way." Now perhaps we greedy workers will understand why the rich so badly need Thatcher's tax reform.

School days

According to Lord Thorneycroft, Tory elder-statesman and Party chairman, the House of Commons is educational to Tory recruits.

"It's very much like going back to school," he advised new MPs. "You bag yourself a locker, find yourself a pair and when the bell goes you follow the men with the white ties."

Just one problem—the Labour chappies did so dashed badly in the election that several Tories can't find a pair [an opponent who agrees to take time off to coincide with you, so as not to upset voting figures]. The poor lads are going to have to do some work for their money.

It will be an education.

Unacceptable faces

We are regularly being told—by Tories—who are the 'acceptable' Labour Party members. The 'unacceptable' list is rapidly growing to include anyone left of Winston Churchill, all those who agree with the Labour Party's socialist aims and constitution and any trade unionist who has the cheek to go on strike.

Their list doesn't include Douglas Eden, secretary of the right-wing Social Democratic Alliance. His campaign for 'moderation' included plenty of hard work at election time, calling on voters to "withhold their support" from the Labour Party candidate in Hornsey, his own constituency. Now he's off to speak at a rally of the 'Freedom Association' [the new name for the notorious strike-breakers NAFF] along with several other declared Tories.

The bosses no doubt rejoice at having reliable allies like Eden at work inside the Labour Party, even if he is a bit 'undiplomatic'. But Labour Party members will have their own ideas about the 'acceptability' of Eden and his ilk.

WOOLWORTH'S FIRE - Safety - or profit

Ten people killed: nine customers and one worker, when fire racked the large Woolworth's store in Piccadilly, Manchester, on Tuesday 8th May.

With hundreds of shoppers in the store, firemen had to cut through iron bars fitted into the windows, presumably for security reasons, in an attempt to free people trapped in the building.

The fire, is believed to have started in the furniture department and because of the combustible nature of the furniture materials, rapidly spread to other parts of the store.

USDAW, the sales staff union, has commissioned Professor Gibb, a fire expert of Strathclyde University to carry out an inquiry into the cause of the fire.

The store did not have a sprinkler system; this is reported to be the position in Woolworth's stores throughout the country.

Had a sprinkler system been in operation, it is possible that the fire could have been stopped and the level of damage been severely reduced.

If that is the case then ten lives could have been saved for the cost of a sprinkler system.

Professor Gibb's inquiry will, hopefully, clarify the facts. When USDAW receive the results of the inquiry, they will have to insist that any recommendations for fire safety improvements are implemented immediately, and in all stores throughout the UK.

The union has safety representatives in many of the Woolworth's stores and it will now be up to them to demand information and disclosure of fire brigade report, to ensure



The blaze which killed ten people at Woolworth's, Manchester

the safety of workers and shoppers in all stores.

Many employers are opposed to the introduction of sprinkler systems because of the cost of installation and maintenance and the likely damage to stock should a sprinkler system be wrongly activated. They believe it is more 'cost effective' not to instal such systems and take a

chance on what, in their view, is the improbable event of a fire occurring.

We don't yet know whether a sprinkler system would have saved the lives of 10 people in Manchester, but there is little doubt that only the workers can ensure their own safety. For the employers, the choice is between greater safety or greater profit through lower

costs.

Can there be any better proof that the large retailers must be nationalised under workers' control and management? Only then can workers' safety be given a higher priority on the balance sheet than the bosses' profits and losses.

By an USDAW member

TEACHERS: WHAT OUR GOOD - WILL MEANS

'Money for old rope' is a phrase you often hear from people expounding their views on the teaching profession, particularly when as at the moment, we put in a pay claim.

I am writing to tell 'Militant' readers exactly what the 'goodwill' of teachers involves.

At the middle school (age group 8-12) where I work, lessons begin at 8.55 a.m. but of course, the majority of the staff arrive at the school by 8.30 am. I am usually in my classroom by 8.40 getting things ready for the day.

I rarely have more than a half-hour break during the day (if that). My break-times and lunch hours are usually taken up with marking children's work, preparation for the afternoon, or setting up audio-visual equipment.

If there has been an art lesson in the morning, I have to supervise children clearing up in the lunch hour.

I don't supervise the children for school lunch because I can't stand the dinners! But many schools, particularly in 'social priority' areas, are unable to function at lunch times solely with auxiliary helpers, because the 'dinner ladies' often cannot control the children.

This is why the 'withdrawal of goodwill' by the teachers' unions is forcing schools to close early.

Overtime

Contrary to popular belief, teaching staff do not make a mass exodus at 3.30. Many teachers stay behind to run games and clubs.

My own school closes at 3.30 but I rarely leave before 3.50; some of the staff stay until quite late in the evening. I spend at least an hour each evening marking work, preparing for lessons or reading books on education.

About four times during the academic year, we are expected to stay behind (unpaid), to meet the parents. It amounts to a twelve-hour day.

Our 'long' holidays are a chance for most teachers to spend time preparing for the following term, attending refresher courses, or going to their local teachers' centres to borrow resources and get ideas.

As for the 'old rope' of looking after a class of 30 pupils—it is an exhausting and often stressful job to keep all those children active and

interested and to meet their individual needs. Many of us are also working in increasingly inadequate conditions due to the cuts in education and other public spending—that is, those lucky enough to have jobs!

Of course teachers don't work all the time (who does?) but it would be well nigh impossible for any competent, caring teacher to work a strictly five-hour day and do their job properly.

All the duties I have described are over and above those laid down in our contract. We are taking our present action to demonstrate that schools would not be able to function properly without our 'goodwill'.

By Maureen Boyd

(Brighton NUT and I.P.)

NORTHERN IRELAND ELECTIONS

TRADE UNIONS MUST BUILD MASS LABOUR PARTY

The press have interpreted the general election results in Northern Ireland as showing a huge swing to sectarianism.

Dennis Tourish of the South Belfast branch of the Labour and Trade Union Group shows the difference there could have been, if the labour movement had provided an alternative.

The elections in Northern Ireland indicate clearly the frustration felt by many voters at the depressing 'alternatives' offered by the major parties. These parties put forward only sectarianism, or Toryism, or a mixture of both.

The turnout reflected the disillusionment with only 67.9% voting, compared with 75.9% in Britain. The antics of the main contenders deservedly aroused little interest.

It is true that Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party increased from one seat to three. However, in two of these areas it was the party's first time to stand—its victory does not show a sudden lurch towards sectarian confrontation.

Nor is it true to say that the DUP vote is a solid sectarian bloc. In East Belfast a DUP man ousted Bill Craig of the Official Unionist Party, more as a vote against the 'fur-coated' Unionist establishment than anything else.

Prior to the election an 'Irish Times' reporter chronicled an electioneering attempt by Bill Craig at the

By Dennis
Tourish

shipyard. He got an extremely lukewarm response, with some workers rushing past him remarking that he only ever appeared at election time.

This mood was widespread. It was turned in the direction of other sectarian parties only because the labour movement failed to provide an alternative.

On both sides of the sectarian divide the main blocks continue to fragment. Unionism is in disarray. The SDLP is being challenged by the Irish Independence Party for the Catholic vote. This all reflects the pressure from below for a new outlook, and the mood of frustration at the present situation.

Nationally the Alliance Party vote substantially increased, most dramatically in Paisley's own constituency, where their vote jumped from 689 to 7,997. In East Belfast they were only a few hundred short of the DUP victor.

Alliance is a conservative party, incapable of offering the socialist policies which alone are able to unite the mass of working people in struggle. Nevertheless, its good showing, in spite of its



Bill Webster [Labour and Trade Party candidate in Derry] handing in his nomination papers, signed by members of the ATGWU, AUEW, GMWU, and PSA.

lack of policies, indicates a broad desire for something politically above sectarianism.

All these parties succeeded in securing votes only because there was no alternative from the labour movement. The SDLP's chief asset, for example, was the various Unionist factions rather than the SDLP's record.

Sectarianism

Paisley, in particular, was used as a bogeyman in order to scare the Catholic voters out to the polling booths. An SDLP poster in Derry contained a caricatured drawing of Paisley, and quoted a DUP statement standing down in the constituency so that the Unionist vote would not be split and the seat handed to the SDLP. Their main message was that only the SDLP worried the DUP. Such was the basic nature of the election campaign.

The result of all this was that, for example, people voted for the official Unionists as the party most likely to keep the SDLP out. The 67.9% poll was mostly a vote against various parties rather than a vote for any of them.

A genuine choice was only offered in Derry, where the Labour and Trade Union Party candidate, Bill Webster, polled 639 votes.

The campaign there has been covered in recent issues of 'Militant'. It discovered a wealth of potential support for socialist ideas, but no

mood of enthusiasm for the major parties.

The basic class issues were uppermost in most workers' minds. But, in the absence of a province-wide mass Labour Party based on the unions and fighting on a socialist programme, people voted for candidates most likely to keep out the sectarians of the other side.

Derry Labour and Trade Union Party was also handicapped without resources, TV time and finance to compete with the major advertising campaign by its opponents. Fighting on a pittance and without the boost of socialist candidates in other areas, it still managed to show what would be possible given a major intervention by the trade unions.

Working class

In the aftermath of the election such an intervention is more essential than ever. The trade unions will be at the receiving end of a major Tory offensive.

All the MPs from Northern Ireland will be either blatantly pro-Tory or else ineffective, and they will certainly attempt to stir up sectarianism to split the working class. It is time that the organised working class possessed a political voice of its own.

Before the election, the conference of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions' Northern Committee passed a resolution advocating support for candidates who upheld

trade union policies. Yet only Bill Webster fitted this description, leaving eleven constituencies where workers were left to choose from a rainbow assortment of Tories and sectarians.

The resolution mentioned above is a major step forward. It marks a recognition that the unions cannot be 'above' politics. Never again should we allow the political arena to be left entirely to anti-working class parties.

A conference of the trade union rank and file should now be called to discuss the formation of a mass Labour Party uniting workers in the

struggle for socialism.

Strengthened by the experience of the election, Labour and Trade Union Group members will continue working for this. Even now such a party would grow rapidly and completely transform the Northern Ireland situation.

The expectations of workers will rise even higher, as their brothers and sisters in Britain and the South of Ireland move into action against Thatcher and Lynch.

The trade union movement must seize these immense opportunities before they pass us by.

Labour gains in local elections

By Eileen Short

finance, the sale of council houses, etc.

A Tory government would undoubtedly prefer a tame local authority prepared, like the Tory administration in Leicester—to underspend its budget, or—like Nottingham—to sell off the council house stock very quickly.

Instead, they now face the possibility of councils refusing to fall in with government plans. Already, Leeds, which under the Tories sold off its municipal housing with such alacrity that its leader was given a peerage and brought into the government to supervise council house sales nationally, has now lost its Tory majority and may depend on deals with the Liberals to maintain power.

Councils like North East Derbyshire have already said that they will not sell off any council houses, and others may resist the packing up of council house rents.

Even if the Tories manage to wheel and deal with the disguised Tories of the Liberal Party to keep control of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities—the body responsible for negotiating with central government—the stage is set for confrontation between the Tory government and Labour local authorities

The Tories' general election victory has so far almost completely overshadowed the local election results. But the big Labour gains spell massive opposition to the implementation of the Tories' reactionary plans for local government.

Labour gained a large number of seats, taking control in Coventry, Sandwell in the West Midlands, and Tameside, and gaining an overall majority in South Tyneside and Wolverhampton.

These big gains are partially due to the very bad Labour performances in previous years, and also to a very high turnout ensured by the general election. But without doubt, they have also shown opposition to the reactionary policies of local Tory councils which have become apparent over the last few years, like Tameside's resistance to comprehensive schools.

Tory policies have drastic implications for local authorities, in terms of the threatened cut of the rate support grant which makes up a huge chunk of local authorities'

TYING US IN NOTTS

By Lorna
Oliver

Barring the most spectacular conversion since the road to Damascus, Trade Secretary John Nott is going to be even more unpopular with the working class in the next period than the rest of his Tory cronies.

His 'mission' is to renovate British industry by helping Sir Keith Joseph sell off the profitable parts of nationalised industries and removing all visible means of support from the so-called 'lame ducks' maimed by years of capitalist neglect and lack of investment.

Mr Nott, like the true

yeoman that he is, doesn't shrink from a fight. He was after all a lieutenant in the Second Gurkha Rifles during the 'Emergency' in Malaya. Now, to quote the 'Sunday Telegraph', he wants to "sink his kukri [knife] into the bloated belly of the British bureaucracy." He believes that very, very large savings will be possible over an 18-month period, especially in cutting aid to industry.

If the workers dare to

oppose these acts, using the strength of the trade unions [and experience suggests that they well might], he is prepared to take a very tough line with the opposition, and talks excitedly of "sorting the blighters out."

Having "sorted out" the British emergency like he did the Malayan, [or so he hopes] he can sit back and watch the money roll in. He is a barrister, and a business consultant. He used to 'moonlight' as the general manager of top City merchant bank S G Warburg and of Imperial Eastman [UK] a large firm with American connections; Clarkson International Tools,

a subsidiary of Thorn Electrical Industries, and others. He's floating well above the poverty line.

But of course there is always the chance that the working class might not 'play the game' and allow their jobs to be destroyed by the Tory government. After all the best laid plans of mice and Cabinet Ministers can go astray.

But even there his expertise will come in handy. Most of his business interests were in hydraulic equipment. Some of his friends' pumps may again be of use in bailing out a leaky and rapidly sinking government.

TRADES COUNCILS: A PARLIAMENT OF LABOUR

The second part
of an article by
Dudley Edwards

Written during the office of
1970-74 Tory government.

The idea of broadening Trades Councils to include representatives from shop stewards' committees and councils is gathering growing support among the rank and file of the trade unions and from the leadership of some unions.

Such changes would immensely increase the co-ordinating powers of Trades Councils. They would then become the real parliaments of Labour in each locality, drawing into their meetings representatives from the factories, offices, transport depots and hosts of other establishments.

This would infuse new life and strength into the entire labour movement.

The areas where the trades councils have been playing a major part in the local and national strikes and struggles are, significantly, precisely those in which Labour has the most solid basis of electoral support—Liverpool, Manchester, Tyneside. This fact destroys forever the false argument of those right wingers who are forever suggesting that militant industrial action on the wage front or political strikes against anti-union legislation such as the Industrial Relations Act harm the Labour Party in elections.

It is the determination to use both political and industrial means against the Tories and big business who are attempting to solve the capitalist crisis at the expense of the working class, which welds the whole class together as a united force. It is this struggle which increases support for the return of a Labour government—if Labour fights on a genuine class policy.



Trades councils protest at hospital closure Photo: Mark Rusher (IFL)

No exact formulas can be laid down, but history suggests that such initiatives to expand the scope of Trades Councils could prepare the way for future genuine 'councils of action' uniting and co-ordinating the struggles of all the working people in a local area.

Trades Councils can become the lynch pins of that working class unity which is the pre-condition for the overthrow of capitalism, laying the corner-stone of the socialist society.

It was the National Conference of Trades Councils which first took up a position of uncomplicated opposition to the big businessmen's club, the Common Market. At that National Conference (held at the time of writing, under the Heath government) the resolutions included a straightforward socialist motion on the economy and opposition to any further consultations with the Tory government:

"This Conference believes that no good will come to the working people of Britain from the pursuance of tripartite consultations between the government, the TUC and the

CBI conference and therefore calls on the TUC to waste no further effort in such consultations but instead redouble its efforts to establish a truly socialist state and to work for the return of a Labour government firmly pledged to the introduction of legislation designed to achieve this end."

It is true that such forthright resolutions are not binding on the trade union movement, but the rank and file sentiment expressed here is an indication of the direction which the whole trade union movement is likely to take in the stormy years ahead.

There are few, if any, other countries where such a great mass movement exists, entirely controlled by ordinary men and women from their places of work.

Trades Councils can be built up into organisations capable of not only changing society but of acting as a channel for the full and democratic participation of the whole working class in the building and control of the new democratic socialist society of the future.

NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS -

New alliance more 'broad' than 'left'

By Peter
Lush

This weekend, while most students are immersed in exams, a conference is being held to set up a new 'left' alliance in the National Union of Students.

This is undoubtedly a response to the failures of the 'Broad Left' coalition which has led the NUS since the early '70s. In spite of their label, the Broad Left leadership have in recent years consistently shied away from fighting socialist policies or campaigns.

Trevor Phillips, NUS president and 'Broad Left' member and Dave Aaronovitch, the Union's secretary and a Communist Party member are among the organisers of this new group. Their leaflet claims that they will fight for a "strong, united and democratic student movement."

Their remedy for the weakness of the left in the NUS, however, is to include Liberal Party members and "independent progressives" in their new alliance, based on 'individuals' rather than policies and political ideas. They are proposing the same basic recipe as before, but with even more emphasis on the 'Broad', effectively submerging the 'Left'.

Such alliances can only act as a brake on students genuinely moving towards socialist policies.

Lack of programme

These are the same people who, within the NUS have opposed the "No platform for fascists" policy and refused to use their position to call on students to vote Labour in the recent election. When Student Unions have organised action in opposition to the fees increases, or on teacher

unemployment, they have failed to mobilise support.

The 'Broad Left' leadership lack any clear programme, any perspective for winning students to socialism, and refuse to take on a clear orientation towards the labour movement. In the past, Broad Left members have even supported Tories for places on the NUS Executive!

Labour Students must be questioning the involvement of leading members of NOLS in this alliance. NOLS Conference rejected support for the 'Broad Left'.

Look to labour movement

The NOLS NC should be rejecting a new version of the 'Lib-Lab' pact in the student field, and fight in NUS as Labour Students on socialist policies.

Student supporters of the Communist Party should also question this new alliance. As a letter to the 'Morning Star' (3.4.79) from a leading CP member commented:

"A 'new left alliance',...no hint as to what the politics of this will be, save that it will be a step rightwards to accommodate Liberal students...he is welcoming the fact that there are fewer political militants around...How has a

member of the Communist Party's National Student Committee come to write such nonsense?...this reflects a potentially disastrous swing to the right amongst Communist Students..."

Students now face enormous economic difficulties. The election of a Tory government threatens even more attacks on education.

We should reject these 'pact' tactics, counter-posing a clear programme to rally students around a fighting union. 'Militant' supporters in NOLS and NUS will continue to fight for:

★ A grant of £1,800 per annum, tied to the cost of living.

★ A massive increase in expenditure on education.

★ No increases in rents or canteen prices.

★ A grant of £20 a week now for all 16-18 year olds in full-time education.

★ Day-to-day running of colleges by students, staff and the local labour movement. Democratic planning and management of education by and in the interests of the whole working class.

★ Nationalisation of the banks, finance houses and major monopolies to guarantee the necessary resources.

But this cannot be achieved by students fighting in isolation. To become an effective force in the struggle to change education and society, the NUS must take its place in the ranks of the labour movement by campaigning for affiliation to the TUC and the Labour Party.

MILITANT STUDENT SPRING 1979 ISSUE

- ★ The Future of NOLS
- ★ Students and the labour movement.

Obtainable from 'Militant',
1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

— KEYSER ULLMAN - A Great mistake? —

Edward Du Cann is a remarkable example of the Tory economics and thrift we have heard so much about recently.

The Tory MP for Taunton, ex-chairman of the Tory party and chairman of the parliamentary '1922' committee for the last 7 years, he was, up until the last election, head of the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee, which oversees public spending.

He is renowned for attacking "waste"—such

as the £39m "overspent" on a Liverpool hospital.

'Incompetent'

Department of Trade inspectors investigating the Keyser Ullman merchant bank—which lost over £22m of shareholders' money to a property shark—were not unduly impressed, however. They called Du Cann, at the time chairman of the bank, "incompetent".

The loan—still not repaid—was made at the height of the property boom in 1973

and was not even discussed by the bank's Board of Directors. The Managing Director explained:

"We lived in a tremendous, a most optimistic world at that time. What you bought for a million pounds one day you sold for two the next day and that person for three the day after."

Reflecting on the loss due to the ensuing property crash Du Cann said, "It was a very great mistake."

Here we have the truth! While £39m is begrudged those in ill-health, loans are made on the nod in the world

of spivs and speculators. Such is the mad rush for the quick buck.

The loan that turned into such a catastrophic loss was made to a Mr Selmes, now resident in California and New York.

As the 'Guardian' [15.5.79] put it, he bought his release from guarantee to the loan with "a Henry Moore sculpture valued at £20,000, a bundle of shares worth £16,000, and a debt of £114,000 'binding in honour only'."

All concerned appear to be alive and prospering, and no

doubt relish the present Tory government's promises of restoring 'incentives'—the freedom to pillage, cheat and squander recklessly, as in 1970-73.

Bankrupt capitalism

Bribes in the form of grants, tax concessions and public expenditure cuts did not satisfy the appetite of this monstrous profit system under Labour. Those workers thrown on the dole were not extended the comfort com-

monplace for bankrupt directors who can afford to look back woefully but still well-heeled, at their "greatest mistakes".

There can only be one answer. Socialist policies must be the reply of the labour and trade union movement—with democratically elected and accountable representatives to ensure that those policies are pursued.

Paul Walter
(Coventry SE LPYS)



Terry Harrison is the Labour candidate for Liverpool in the Euro-elections. Here he sets out the current chaos in the capitalist EEC and puts forward a socialist alternative.

AN ALTERNATIVE

Although the European parliament is a toothless adornment to the governments of the EEC—whose council of ministers retain all the real powers of decision—it can be a public platform for the labour movement. It could also provide a useful field of contact between the trade union and labour movements of Europe, who will all be represented there.

We must organise a common fight for the interests of all the workers, regardless of country through the labour and trade union movements in Europe and the world. It is an intolerable

crime that in all those countries there is unemployment, poverty and misery for millions.

There are a million and a half unemployed in Britain. They are prevented from contributing to the wealth of society through no fault of their own. Yet a capitalist economist has calculated that 1 million extra employed in productive industry could create at least £20,000,000 000 of new wealth in Britain every year. This would mean more than £20 a week extra for every family.

The unemployed are rotting in idleness, eating their hearts out

in frustration. On Merseyside, 10% are out of work.

Yet Mrs Thatcher, harking back to the 1930s and even Victorian times, denounces the unemployed as 'wasters' and 'scroungers'. She wants to reintroduce the infamous 'not genuinely seeking work' clause and penalty to terrorise the unemployed to accept work for low wages and terrible conditions. In this way she wants to undermine the employed workers' conditions.

That is the situation to which the Tories want to return.

Now, when capitalism cannot

THE ANARCHY OF C

The lies of the millionaire press and the Tories pushed Britain into the Common Market. But their EEC referendum slogan, 'Jobs for the boys', has been proved worthless.

The degenerate British capitalists had the delusion that with an enormous market they would have the stimulus of competition. The Tories believed that this would regenerate British industry.

But the short-sighted refusal to invest in industry has meant that British capitalism has fallen further and further behind its European rivals. Instead of capturing European markets, the British capitalists have lost in their home market. The deficit of trade with the EEC is now almost £2,000 million a year.

All the Common Market countries are in crisis, however. Italy, France and Germany each

have over 1 million unemployed. Britain has 1½ million unemployed. The sickness of capitalism affects them all. There is no solution to the problems of the working class of any country in the EEC.

industrial deserts

The big multi-nationals act against the interests of the workers. Dunlop and other firms have invested abroad and closed down their factories in Britain. Merseyside has been reduced to a partial industrial desert through the cold and callous action of British big business.

The Common Agricultural Policy is an indication of the conflicting interests of the different capitalist states. The big French farmers gain enormously at the expense particularly of British capitalism. British capitalism will pay a net

cost of £765 million in 1979 and £1,500 million in 1980.

The British workers and housewives will pay for this in higher food prices for the common agricultural policy.

The insanity of the EEC and capitalism is shown by the enormous surpluses of food piled up by the market while food prices are steadily increasing. That is the consequence of market policies—wine and milk lakes, butter and beef mountains, sugar and cereal seas.

The Cambridge group of economists estimates that the retail price of food was about 12% higher than if Britain were not in the EEC in 1978. Even on these figures it would mean that for every £8 spent on food about £1 is a 'premium' added on by EEC membership.

The support price in March 1979 was £118 for a tonne of wheat, as against the price on the world markets of £67; the skimmed milk powder price is £769 as against £185.

High food prices

Almost 75% of the EEC budget of £8,750 is spent on the Common Agricultural Policy. The cost has risen 60 times in 12 years. Membership of the community costs every man, woman and child in Britain £20 a year. Where farmers are guaranteed the highest prices in the world, the cost is passed on to the consumers.

Because of the high prices, consumption is falling while stocks are rising. There are 436,000 tonnes of butter and 700,000 tonnes of skimmed milk in store at the end of 1978.

The lunacy of capitalism and the Common Market is shown by the deliberate destruction of food that the people of the EEC cannot afford to buy because the prices are artificially kept high, and the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America are too poor to buy.

500,000 tons of apples—including British apples—of this year's crop have been ploughed

into the ground. It cost well over £100 million in subsidies to farmers to destroy this important source of vitamin C.

Last year 6,000 tons of top-grade cauliflowers were ploughed back into the ground in Britain! British farmers

received £35 a ton to destroy this food.

This is a glaring example of 'over production' under capitalism, production of goods that cannot be sold. The EEC agricultural policy encourages this.

FIGHT THE



WITH U

SOCIAL

ACT



International class solidarity: Turkish and German workers preventing the 'scab' printing of 'The Times' in Germany

THE SOCIALIST PROGRAMME

employ them usefully, the workers of Dunlops, of English Electric and other firms are thrown out. These factories were closed down by big business who are only interested in bigger profits, and have been hit by the crisis in their own system. They have closed them with no more compunction than they would close a match-box.

These redundant workers are consigned to the scrap-heap. And the Tories and Liberals want to sue them to undermine even the meagre standards of today.

The Liverpool District Labour

Party stands for a 35-hour week and a minimum wage for all workers.

We demand decent standards for all, including the sick, the unemployed, the old and the widows.

35-hour week

The trade union and labour movements in the countries of the EEC have adopted the demand for a 35-hour week without loss of pay. It would slash unemployment by half, providing jobs in Britain, for example, for 750,000 people and

reducing unemployment on Merseyside.

Liverpool's Labour member would fight in the British Labour delegation in the EEC to introduce the demand in the EEC Parliament for the introduction of this measure throughout Europe.

I would push to co-ordinate the campaigns of the socialist and trade union movement in Europe with the fight of the TUC for this measure in Britain.

I would demand an end to the infamous destruction of food and insist on its distribution to needy people and institutions

like hospitals, old people's homes and the low paid.

I would fight against the common agricultural policy.

At the same time I would fight for the next Labour government in Britain to implement decisions of Party conference and nationalise banks and insurance companies, giving an example to Europe and the world of democratic socialism.

If this nationalisation took place under workers' control and management and with compensation only on the basis of proven need, it would be a concrete approach to realising

the goal of the Labour Party as stated in Clause 4 of the Party's constitution.

This would provide the finance for urgent needs like housing on Merseyside, as in other areas. It would provide the finance for cheap mortgages at a 1% or 2% rate of interest.

It would give the necessary control, coupled with taking over the commanding heights of industry, to plan the economy in the interests of the working class and middle classes.

It would provide an example of democratic socialism to Europe and the world.

CAPITALIST EUROPE

On the other hand, it demonstrates the enormous potential of production in agriculture and industry. It shows the plenty that could be created for the benefit of all within a sane social system.

But the Tories want to devalue

the 'green £', the system of calculating the value of the £ for EEC agricultural purposes. This would raise the price of food in Britain much higher than it is now.

The lowering of tariffs in industry generally increases

trade, but antiquated British capitalist industry cannot compete. They are even beaten on the home market. A quarter of manufactured—and a bigger percentage of semi-manufactured goods—sold in Britain are imported! 57% of cars in April 1979, half the fridges and vacuum cleaners are imported, mainly from the EEC.

International business cartel

Labour is against the market because it represents an infamous cartel of big business. When in history did the big business millionaires act in the interests of the workers, professional people and small businessmen? Their policies are dictated by the needs and interests of the ruling class, not those of the working class.

Against the capitalists of Britain and the other countries we must put the class solidarity of the workers. The printers in West Germany supported locked-out British printers on 'The Times' in Fleet Street, and refused to scab on them.

Seamen, dockers and others have supported one another in different countries when struggling to defend their living standards and conditions.

The interests of the working class are the same everywhere. They have the same enemy: capitalism.

Housewives, small businessmen, shopkeepers and professional people have more in common with the working class than with big business in Britain and Europe.

Workers unity

But the problems of Britain would not be solved by leaving the Common Market. In or out—the crisis of capitalism still continue.

Unemployment, inflation, bad conditions, and low wages can only be abolished by abolishing their cause—the ownership of 85% of industry by the banks and insurance companies and the big monopolies.

At the same time, the British workers cannot stand alone. We must extend the hand of friendship to the workers of Europe and struggle for a socialist Europe.

A democratic socialist Europe pooling all its resources together for the common good and democratically planning production could lead to an enormous increase in the production of goods. This is shown in a grotesquely distorted way by the increase in agricultural produc-

tion when resources have been put in that industry.

It could lead to fabulous increases in production of all goods for the benefit of all the peoples of Europe.

It would mean the lowering of hours and days worked, and bring an explosion of cultural, scientific and sporting activities for all the peoples.

It would lead to a real brotherhood of man on a world scale.

TORIES REJECT CALL FOR SHORTER WORKING WEEK

The first act of the new Tory government in Europe has been to block EEC plans to introduce a shorter working week and restrict overtime working throughout the Common Market.

In Brussels, James Prior, the new Tory Employment Secretary, tried to claim at a meeting [15 May] of EEC ministers responsible for Labour and Social Affairs that a shorter working week would actually increase unemployment, not reduce it, in Britain.

"As a result of Britain's objections," reported 'The Guardian' [16 May], "the Commission has agreed that further study should be given to a series of measures it had proposed, including a reduction in the number of hours worked each year, earlier retirement, better training facilities and a restriction of overtime."

"Further study" means put on ice—at the Tories' insistence.

What Prior said after the meeting made it clear why he had demanded the shelving of proposals which would create thousands of new jobs. Backward British industry cannot afford to implement them without sacrificing their profits—the last thing the bosses are prepared to do.

"Mr Prior said that investment and productivity were too low and production costs were too high in Britain at present to make it possible to reduce overtime.

He also said that in some industries overtime was unavoidable, as with weekend maintenance of the pits in coal mining, and elsewhere it was more economic than hiring extra labour."

Prior blatantly contradicted himself. Reducing overtime would obviously create new jobs. But it would be less profitable for the bosses!

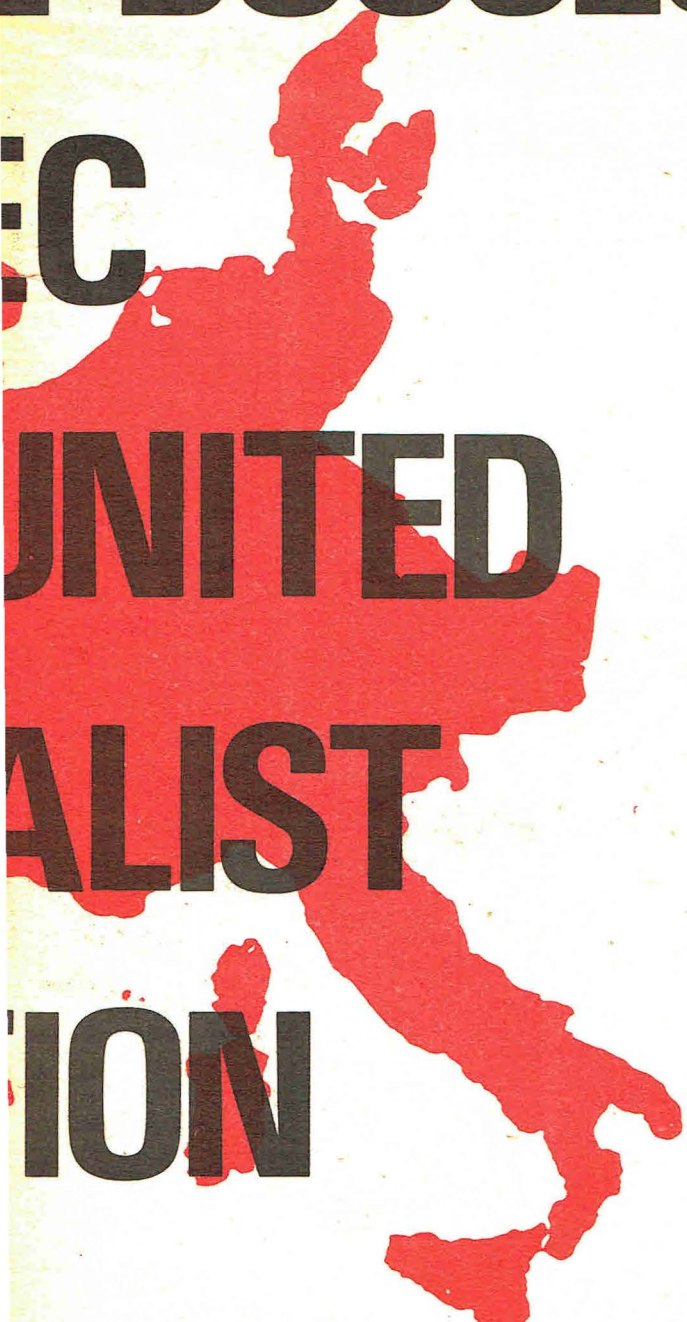
THE BOSSES

EC

UNITED

ALIST

ION



MIDDLE EAST PEACE TREATY STIRS UP HORNETS NEST

The overthrow of the Shah of Iran and the Egypt-Israel treaty have sent shock waves throughout the Middle East.

The Sadat-Begin treaty has so far had the opposite effect to what was intended by Western imperialism.

Instead of bringing 'peace and security' to the region it has resulted in the growth of opposition to Western [especially American] capitalism.

This has been reflected by a number of pro-Western governments, notably Morocco and Saudi Arabia.

This month Morocco even refused to allow Egypt to attend the annual Islamic Conference of nations.

More serious has been the position adopted by the Saudi rulers.

The Carter government had been hoping that one of its main allies in the area, Saudi Arabia, would (if reluctantly) support the Begin-Sadat agreement. In the end, after much hesitation, the Saudi dictatorship decided that supporting America in this would have more dangers than advantages.

The weakness of American imperialism is now apparent to all.

The Saudi rulers had seen how little help America had been able to give to their former protégé, the Shah of Iran.

If they had backed American imperialism too closely,

By Colin Barber

neighbouring Arab states could try and stir up discontent. So they decided to distance themselves slightly from American policy.

In February this year, Saudi Arabia signed an agreement with the Iraqi Ba'athist dictatorship to co-operate on internal security and the suppression of "subversion" in their respective countries.

The Iraqi regime is one of the worst regimes in the area for its repression of trade unions, socialists and workers rights. In this it has much in common with Saudi Arabia's suppression of any democratic movement.

After Egypt signed the treaty with Israel, Saudi Arabia withdrew all financial backing for the Sadat regime.

In addition, last week they and the Gulf states left the multi-million dollar arms industry (the Arab Organisation for Industrialisation) based in Egypt. All this has been a considerable blow to imperialism's plans.

Not that Saudi Arabia withdrew support from Egypt because of any principled support for the Palestinians. Like all the other 'rejectionist' states, Saudi Arabia operated on the basis of "national interests".

The Saudi rulers took the view that the argument would

intensify opposition among the Palestinians and that it was important that this opposition should be channelled among moderate lines.

The Saudi dictators have given considerable financial support to the bourgeois nationalists of Yasser Arafat and his Fatah organisation,

Islamic revivalism of the eighteenth and nineteenth century, which swept through much of the Muslim world. In Arabia, the militant ideology of Wahhabism was adopted by the leaders of the Saudi tribe.

By 1925 they had conquered present-day Saudi Arabia but this dictatorship

degree of independence from American imperialism.

Oil and its by-products provides 90% of Saudi Arabia's revenue and virtually 100% of its exports.

But Saudi Arabia's ties with American capitalism are basic and its disagreements with imperialism tactical not fundamental.

the stakes are serious.

In the past, Saudi Arabia has provided the financial support for reactionary or pro-Western regimes in the area.

It gave money to the royalists in North Yemen in their fight against the Republican government in the 1960s, to the Sultan of Oman to fight the liberation movement in the 1970s, and to Haile Selassie, Jordan and Egypt amongst others.

Now, despite American overtures, the Saudi rulers have decided to withdraw from Egypt economically, which could lead to considerable financial and political difficulty for the Sadat regime.

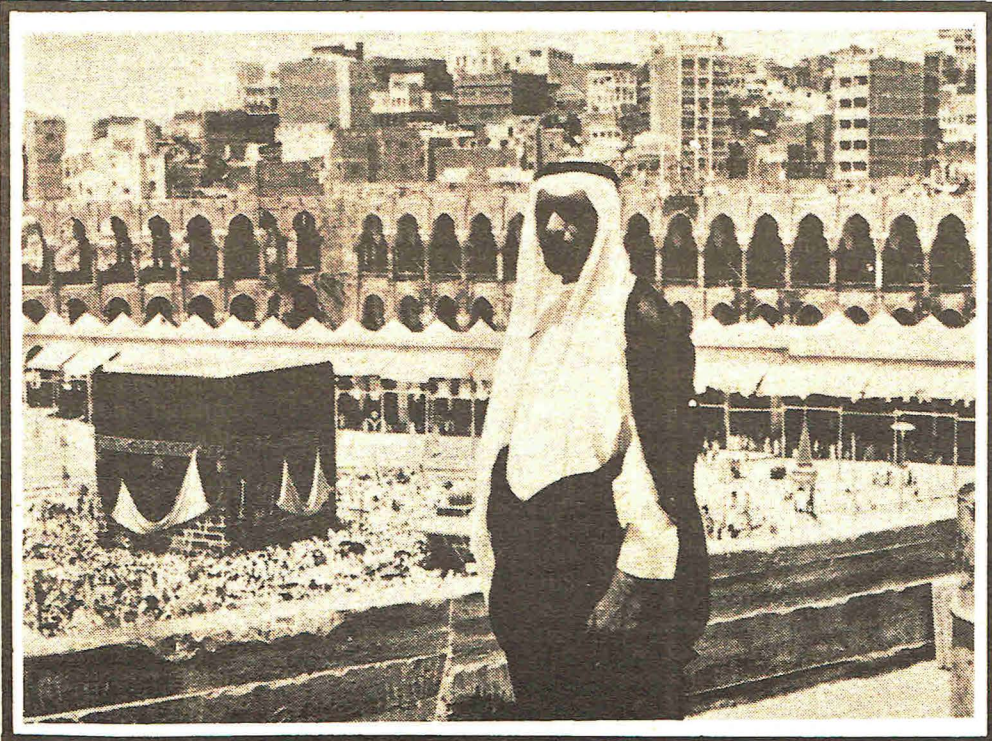
A new era is opening up in the Middle East as opposition grows to the ruling elites and their ties to international capitalism.

The Sadat-Begin treaty was in part an attempt to come to terms with this. The overthrow of the Shah speeded up the manoeuvres of Western imperialism who were trying to find a stable base to withstand the coming storm, and build a new capitalist order.

The dilemma for Western imperialism was clear. If there were another Middle Eastern war all the pro-Western regimes, especially Egypt, would be threatened with upheaval.

But the treaty has resolved nothing.

Instead, it has intensified divisions and created further instability. This gamble by American imperialism to stem the growing social revolt in the Middle East is beginning to blow up in its face.



Saudi Arabia's rulers have talked of "pan-Arab Islamic solidarity" against Egypt to further their own class interests

and none to any left-wing Palestinian group.

In fact, the Saudi rulers are more concerned with the return of Jerusalem to Islamic hands than in the rights of the Palestinians.

In this they illustrate the extremely backward ideological nature of the regime.

The ideology of its rulers comes from the messianic

of the Saudi royal family was an unstable anachronism.

It has only been sustained and buttressed since the 1920s by Western imperialism and the use of oil revenues.

Western oil companies have worked closely with the Saudi princes.

The wealth from the oil has meant that the Saudi rulers had a certain secondary

Eighty per cent of Saudi Arabia's foreign assets are in dollars. When American capitalism suffers, so does the Saudi elite.

In 1977 the depreciation of the dollar cost Saudi Arabia more than the \$4.5 billion it earned in interest from its foreign holdings.

So when Saudi Arabia and American capitalism quarrel,

MILITARY INTENSIFY 'RULE' IN TURKEY

"Martial law with a human face."

This was the bizarre claim of Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit when the first orders imposing military law in 13 provinces were made.

The 'humanity' is hard to find. The martial law is not.

Last month the rule of the military was extended to six more provinces, all in the Kurdish areas in the South East, where the regime feared the spread of national sentiment shown in the Kurdish districts of Iran and Iraq.

Now 19 provinces, with half Turkey's population are under Army rule.

The imposition of the military was justified to Ecevit's former followers of the working class as being for the protection of democratic rights against the gangs of fascists who have terrorised Turkey. But its real nature was shown in the period around May Day, when demonstrations by the labour movement were outlawed by the regime.

A few days prior to May Day, seven trade unionists arrested for preparing to



Reactionaries have a history of suppressing Turkish workers. On May Day 1977, 34 workers were killed.

defy the ban. On April 30th a further 500 people in Ankara, mostly school students, were accused of plotting 'terrorist activities'. On May 1st, a large number of workers defied the ban, and 1,600 were arrested.

These included leaders of the Maoist Turkish Workers' Party and of the biggest trade union body, the Revolutionary Trade Union Confederation (DISK). The government feared the unions who had fought against the pro-

posed extension of repression in 1976 through a general strike.

DISK had ironically supported Ecevit's Republican People's Party in the 1977 election.

Economic crisis

Turkey's political crisis, with Ecevit's party only just in majority in parliament over the even more right wing opposition, mirrors the country's economic crisis.

Inflation is running at 50%, unemployment officially exceeds 20%, and huge national debts have piled up. The IMF are bailing out the Turkish capitalist economy with the usual demands that Turkey (i.e. the working class and peasant masses) 'bite the bullet' and stabilise the economy, making it a land fit for Western bankers to grow fat on.

A sure fire blueprint for conflict. And as the previous military rulers from 1971 to 1973 found, such class conflicts will not just be bayoneted out of existence.

Roger Shrivess

INTERNATIONAL NOTES INDIA

An indication of the social revolt which is sweeping through India today is that even the forces of the state have been affected.

In the Punjab last week the police mutinied, demanding an increase in pay. The government responded with vicious repression.

Two thousand police were detained, troops took over three police armouries, and the para-military Border

Security Force sealed off many towns using almost any means to suppress dissent.

The Punjab state government is threatening instant dismissal for policemen with less than three years' service, and disciplinary action for the others. But repression will be unable in the long run to keep under control the explosive situation now existing in India.

NAMIBIA

Last week the South African puppet regime in Namibia was allowed to proclaim its own UDI. The South African Administrator-General in Namibia, Judge Steyn, announced that a National Assembly with legislative powers would be set up on May 22nd.

This was a major blow to Western imperialism's plans to do a deal with South Africa [see 'Militant', 4th May]. The West had hoped to trap the

liberation movement, SWAPO, into a United Nations plan.

But South Africa's decision, coupled with the arrest of all internal SWAPO leaders, has driven the liberation movement away from the West's clutches. On hearing of South Africa's UDI in Namibia, Sam Nujoma [SWAPO's leader] declared that negotiations were finished and that SWAPO would intensify the armed struggle.

The first annual conference of the Irish Labour Party's Youth Section took place on May 13th in Dublin. Two hundred young people, 160 of them delegates from constituency Youth Sections and affiliated organisations, were in attendance.

Tom Healy, a member of the National Committee of Labour Youth reports [in his personal capacity].



Part of the massive 200,000 march by Dublin workers in March

Photo: Derek Spiers (IFL)

SOUTHERN IRELAND

A BIG STEP FORWARD FOR LABOUR'S YOUTH

It was only fitting that the Irish Labour Party's first youth section conference was held in Liberty Hall, the headquarters of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union.

The Labour Party itself was founded by the Irish TUC. The motion to take this step was put to the 1912 conference by James Connolly and Jim Larkin, who were also the founders of the ITGWU.

The discussions and debates at this historic conference were carried on in the shade of two large portraits of Connolly and Larkin.

These two socialist leaders would have been proud of the level of debate and the obvious seriousness of the young delegates present.

The conference was addressed by the Party Chairman Michael D Higgins and Party leader Frank Cluskey. Both speakers pointed to the need for Labour Youth to go out and win the youth of the country to socialism.

It was pointed out that 50% of the population of Ireland were at present 25 years of age or under! The road to a majority for Labour led not only towards winning the working class but also the youth to socialism.

Action programme

An action programme and policy statement were presented to the conference on behalf of the Labour Party Administrative Council. The lively debate on these statements showed that the majority of speakers present believed that Labour Youth must come out unequivocally against capitalism and for the socialist transformation of society.

It was also clear that most of the speakers saw the need for Labour Youth to turn towards the trade union youth in order to build a strong movement of young workers.

Locally, this is already well under way. Workers in the building industry, transport, postal services, local authorities as well as unemployed youth all came to the rostrum to detail their own, often harsh, experiences and call

for an end to capitalism.

The resolutions from the sections of the affiliated unions were taken in the afternoon session. At the end when the 17 resolutions had been moved and voted on, a clear rounded out, socialist programme had been adopted by Labour Youth.

Resolution 3 from Dublin South East pointed to the rich heritage of the ideas of "Marxism, and of Connolly, Larkin and Davitt" which "must be a guide to socialist action today."

This resolution went on to explain the developing crisis in capitalism and the attacks being made on the labour and trade union movement.

Very importantly, it also called for the Labour Party to come "out clearly against any coalition with capitalist parties or support for capitalist government", but to fight instead for a majority Labour government. This resolution was passed overwhelmingly. Labour's Youth have given the lead to the Party as a whole in its opposition to coalition.

Resolution 4 from Dublin North Central was carried unanimously. The mover of the motion, Ray McLaughlin, a young electrician in the building industry spoke of his experiences as an apprentice.

The resolution pledged Labour Youth to fight for the full rate for all young workers at 18, and for a national minimum wage of £70 per week. It outlined other demands for young apprentices and called for all "industrial training to be under trade union control".

On agriculture, the successful resolution called on the labour movement to explain to the small farmers the programme of nationalisation of the commanding heights of the economy would provide the basis for cheap credit, and also cheaper machinery and materials. It also showed the need for the taking over of large estates and ranches.

Perhaps the most important resolution at the conference, in that it mapped out a plan of action for the months ahead, was resolution 12, which was passed unanimously. This called for a campaign



Labour Youth on the March demonstration

to be launched aimed especially at young workers, around the demand for a 35 hour week and a £70 minimum wage. This campaign is to be conducted as part of the campaign of the International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY).

A resolution was passed calling for an end to the unequal treatment of women in society. It demanded equal pay, maternity and paternity leave, free crèche, laundry and nursery facilities, togeth-

The ideas of Marxism, and of Connolly, Larkin and Davitt must be a guide to socialist action today

er with free family planning facilities.

Resolution 16 was on Northern Ireland. The speakers clearly showed the need for a class campaign against sectarianism, low pay, unemployment and bad housing in the North. It also called for

the building of a mass Labour Party in Northern Ireland and towards this end the Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions should convene a conference.



Labour Party in Conference last month

This resolution, which also demanded the withdrawal of all aspects of British Imperialism, North and South, and called for a socialist united Ireland, was passed.

The conference also reflected the growing class conflicts in resolution 17, an emergency resolution from the Post

Office Workers Union. This called for support for the 12 week strike of the Post Office workers and condemned the vicious Gardai (police) attacks and assaults on the strikers.

This motion provided the highlight of the conference as post office strikers Mick Carbin and Rory Delaney described their low pay and long hours and the attacks made on them in the picket line.

This motion was passed to great applause and a collection of £110 was taken up for the POWU strike fund.

What a great step forward this conference was for the labour movement! For the first time since its foundations in 1912 the Irish Labour Party has a Youth Section.

50% of Ireland's population are under 25 years old. The road to a majority for Labour leads not only towards winning the working class but also the youth to socialism.

While this step is long overdue its formation this year coincides with rising militancy amongst the working class. This was brilliantly shown in the area general strikes and demonstrations of March 20th when up to a

towards the trade unions and shop stewards movement in the factories than it can win new young workers in their hundreds and thousands to labour and to socialism in the months and years ahead.

It can also provide a pole of attraction to young workers in the North and lay the foundations for a united, socialist movement of young workers, North and South, Protestant and Catholic.

The entire conference was a vindication of the ideas fought for by the supporters of the Marxist paper, 'Militant Irish Monthly', who have led the campaign for a Labour Youth Section for the last 7 years.

The policies adopted by the Labour Youth conference on

unemployment, agriculture, apprentices, inequality, Labour's electoral strategy and on the North are also those fought for by the Marxists in the Irish Labour Party.

Supporters of the ideas of Marxism also won five of the eleven positions on the National Committee and one of the two elected members onto the Administrative Council of the Labour Party.

Mass Socialist Youth Movement

The conference is now over; the Labour Youth section is established and policies and campaigns are decided upon. It is now up to the elected leadership, the four officers, the eleven members of the National Committee and the two members elected to the Labour Party Administrative Council to co-ordinate the Youth Section's activities.

The way is now open to build a mass socialist youth section and for Labour Youth to play a big role in winning support for a majority Labour government pledged to implement socialist policies.

Send your views and comments on the issues that affect you
to 'Militant', 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

LETTERS

Thanks from Croydon Labour Party

Dear Comrades

On behalf of Croydon Central Labour Party I should like to thank all the Labour Party Young Socialists and supporters of 'Militant' who came to help us during the General Election campaign.

The impact was tremendous. It enabled us to canvass the constituency several times, to arrange meetings in local factories, to hold a highly-successful Youth Rally and to send speakers to several local schools.

Our public meetings were attended by over 1000 people, and well over 500 people were working in the constituency on polling day.

We achieved a reasonably satisfactory result in terms of votes. The swing against us was contained to the average

for the South-East, despite the fact that a lot of new expensive private house building in the last five years has moved the constituency in the Tories' direction.

We have made contact with a large number of people who would like to join the Labour Party or the LPYS. We are now working to recruit these people to the Party and to set up at least one, possibly two, YS groups in the area.

This should give us a strong base from which to campaign against the reactionary policies of the Thatcher government, and for the return of a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

Yours fraternally
David White
Labour Parliamentary candidate, Croydon Central.

Night-work for women [1] a step backwards

Dear Comrades

As a 'Militant' supporter attempting to negotiate crèche facilities at my workplace (EMGAS Regional HQ). I trust Cde Castle will allow me to answer the points raised in her letter on the question of 'women doing night work'.

I begin from a basic premise (which Cde. Castle appears to have over-looked); that socialists are opposed to all forms of capitalist exploitation.

Night work by men is commonplace and appears to have become 'accepted' by the labour movement; nevertheless 'Militant' supporters have clearly explained their opposition to night-work (see Issue No. 442).

We campaign against the

introduction of shift work—when the Rover Solihull workers fought against the introduction of the continental shift pattern.

It therefore follows that we are opposed to its introduction amongst women workers.

Most family men who do night work rely upon their wives to maintain the family unit. Cde. Castle could have argued that the wife should be allowed to do night work whilst the husband stays at home (hardly a step forward for the labour movement).

Instead she argues that single parent families, where the parent is a mother, should be subjected to further distress by allowing women to do night-work!

Cde. Castle's final paragraph indicates her complete

misunderstanding of Jen Pickard's article (Issue No. 452). Staying at home was not proposed as an alternative to night work, because it is at home that many women workers are ruthlessly exploited through home-working. The article clearly opposed both forms of exploitation.

The liberation of women workers is inextricably linked with the liberation of all workers from the tyranny of capitalism. Cde. Castle seeks to 'break' this link at a time when women workers are increasingly turning to the labour movement for socialist solutions to their problems.

Yours fraternally
John Merrell
NALGO, Leicester Gas Board

The National Front— and press freedom

Dear Comrade

During the election campaign late one night the National Front were delivering some of their leaflets. When I saw the leaflets I wanted to call them by the worst names I could think of. This is what I came up with:

The National Front are absolutely racist, lunatic, ignorant, stupid, daft, aggressive, abusive, fascist, mad, idiotic, mental, irresponsible, apathetic, Hitlerite, hypocrites, hate-mongers, insane, timid, unintelligent, savages, obtuse, lethargic, crazy, wild, foolish, inhumane, provocative, undemocratic.

They are like worms crawling in the mud, showing their ugly faces only when there is nobody else around.

Yours fraternally
Amarpreet Dhesi
[Age 12]

constraints of the home. Militant supporters demand the provision of communal restaurants, laundries, etc, to relieve the drudgery of housework. We do press for the provision of free nurseries and crèches at work places.

But we also point out that only a united struggle by the whole trade union movement, men and women, will secure these demands.

A ban on women doing night work is not a 'misguided and sexist measure'. It would be a concession wrung from the capitalist class by the labour and trade union movement, and should be defended as such.

Yours fraternally
Kath Hardisty
North West Durham LPYS

To release women from the

"increase their income and employability".

Night work is one of the worst examples of capitalist exploitation. To argue that we should support women working nights for "equality between the sexes" is to argue for a step backwards.

I may think that men and women are equal, but I've no particular desire to work night shifts, dig for coal or clean sewers! In fact, as Jon Aylett's article last week about new technology shows, it is not even necessary for men to do these things.

The labour movement should be fighting for trade union control of the introduction of new technology, to relieve the working class from such tasks and from the burden of shift and night work.

The Hatchet-men move in

Comrades

The London 'Evening Standard' informed its readers [9/5/79] that Wandsworth Tories had given the go-ahead for "savings" in public expenditure totalling £450,000 for this year's budget.

The cuts, some of which have already been implemented, will "end supply of cut-price groceries for sale to pensioners at Luncheon clubs, hit transport for the handicapped, toddlers' playbus schemes, old people's workshops, home telephones for the elderly and housebound and services for council tenants."

Thatcher, no doubt, would see this as part of her "crusade against waste". Those affected would term it differently.

Fraternally
Marcus Hosgood
Ealing North CLP

[2] End all night-work

Dear Comrade

I disagree with Linda Castle's letter (Militant 455) about women working nights.

As she points out "we should be highlighting the stresses that result from night-work—for male workers as well". That is totally irreconcilable with urging women to work nights. Rather, since night work is mentally and physically damaging, anti-social, etc, we should (as Militant does) oppose it for both men and women.

The comrade argues that opposing it for women puts us in the same camp as big business.

This is ridiculous.

The only reason for night work is to increase productivity—for the bosses and big business! Night work was not instituted to allow women to

Wasting pounds to chase pennies

Dear Comrades

Just before the election I was talking to an unemployed worker whose story about the bureaucracy in local government would have been sickening if it wasn't so amusing.

He was about to get off the bus taking him home when the bus conductor pointed out that he had gone past his stop and owed the 'corporation' 1p (one penny). Being unemployed he literally had no money left and jokingly said "I'll owe you it," making to leave the bus.

"I'm sorry" he was told, "If you can't pay now, then I shall have to take your name and address so we can send you the bill".

At this stage, another passenger offered our friend 1p to pay his fare, but he declined, to see if the conductor was really serious. Sure enough, he refused to allow the bus to move off until name and address were written out in full in the corporation's fine book.

Imagine the humiliation of having to stand at the front of a bus trying to explain you couldn't afford an extra 1p.

But this wasn't the end.

The 'corporation' sent not one but three letters demanding their money (all of which ended up in the bin). In desperation, the debt collectors sent out one of their bus inspectors, who actually threatened court action if the money wasn't paid forthwith. (Our friend did actually contemplate a court appearance in order to fully expose 'the corporation', but couldn't afford the consequent fine.)

To cap this comedy, then, he turned up at the City Court with his 1p. They gratefully received his money and bade him farewell.

"Hold on mate" he said, "let's have my receipt". The man behind the counter tried to laugh this one off but our friend insisted and in fact, refused to leave the building without a receipt. Reluctantly, yet another official filled out recognition that our friend had paid the corporation the sum of one pence.

And for those sufficiently interested, you can still see the receipt framed over our friend's mantlepiece.

Yours fraternally
Mike Foster
Louth CLP

Labour in the South-East

Dear Comrades

At the AGM of the South East Regional Council of the TUC which I attended last Saturday as a delegate of my union, Equity, the Annual Report contained interesting information under the section 'The Disappearing Jobs'.

It reads—"in just five years the region lost no less than 354,000 jobs. In the same period there was a fall, nationally, of 10% in manufacturing jobs.

"The South East is therefore losing jobs far faster than the country as a whole.

During the General Election the swing to the Tories was averaging 7% in the South East—the highest anywhere in the country—whereas elsewhere it was 4½%.

Lessons can be drawn from these facts. The South East economy is dominated by service industries. Hospitals, schools, insurance/banking, government, hotels, garages and miscellaneous services provide 4,215,000 jobs.

These jobs are vulnerable either to new technology (e.g. offices) or to public spending cuts (e.g. hospitals).

Bold socialist policies would have met the needs of this area. This didn't happen and the disillusioned working and middle class certainly spelt out to the Labour government what they thought about Callaghan's election promise of 'more of the same'.

Marxism makes common-sense and the interests of all working people will only be met with a planned growth of production.

Yours fraternally
Mick Strobel
Ipswich Labour Party

PULL OUT ALL STOPS

As you would expect, working men and women are now seeing something of the real nature of the Tory government.

Press speculations on the June budget have centred on extras on beer, cigarettes and petrol, on top of the price rises due to the disappearance of the Price Commission.

Prices of gas and electricity, and other nationalised industry products and council house rents are also considered. All extras to be met by us, the working class. If you are connected with a firm like Keyser Ullman or have the strength of the building societies around you (by owning one that is) you might not notice it.

Otherwise you will want the labour movement to defend us all from the upper crust hatchet men in Thatcher's government. A fortnight of Tory misrule should be enough to convince any worker that 'Militant', which supplies the movement with the facts and arguments in the fight for socialism deserves, and needs, financial backing to improve its service to you.

But with just 7 weeks to go to the end of the second quarter we still have over £20,000 to raise, an average of £3,000 per week. This week's total of £2,335.33 is an excellent amount and has been raised solely by the efforts of all our supporters.

We rely completely on the donations of our readers not only for financial reasons but because it shows the support for the ideas of the 'Militant' from the labour and trade union movement.

The CPSA conference is an excellent example of this where at the 'Militant' Readers' Meeting held there over £1,062 was raised for the fighting fund. With union conferences being held up and down the country now, and support for the paper increasing within these conferences, the fighting fund should be given a real boost in the next few weeks.

On a more local level, though, how can the money be raised? Firstly and most important are individual donations given by readers. Second are fund-raising

schemes such as discos and the sale of raffle tickets. By now every seller should have a supply of the 'Militant Eurodraw' tickets where, for only 10p a ticket you could win a weekend in Rome for two or a weekend in Amsterdam.

If you haven't already bought a ticket or want to sell them in work or at school, contact your local seller or the 'Militant' offices. There are only seven weeks left to sell these tickets and get the money in before the closing date—7th July.

This week's total was made up as follows:

From Eastern Region a total of £42,03. From a Basildon Readers' Meeting £15.50, Peterborough 'home brew' £1.10, Stevenage election social £3.50, Carol Butcher £4 and K Widdows £1 (both from Cambridge CLP). P Wills (student in Cambridge) £3, and union expenses (Peterborough) £6. This still leaves £1,286 to raise in seven weeks.

From Hants a magnificent £116.61 was raised (leaving £703.51 to raise). This amount came from D Atkins (Portsmouth) £1, union expenses (Southampton) £5.24, a 'Militant' after-election social also in Southampton £15.50, profit on result of election (Southampton) £19, C Harding (IOW) £1, A Dinkenor (Bournemouth LPYS) £20 LPYS conference expenses, and two Dorchester NGA members £6. From Humberside this week only £1, leaving £404.31 to raise.

From London North a total of £75.15 was received this week leaving £2,899.24 to raise. It includes £30 from S Leyden (Brent), the Wobeys (Hackney) £2, 'Anon' (Hackney) £10 and extras (Dagenham) £1. From South London only £2.52 came in which means £832.25 to raise in seven weeks.

Manchester and District raised £96 this week: J Eastop (Lancaster YS) £5, W Amy (Lancaster) £30, half-pennies and pennies (Salford) £4, R and A Campbell's housewarming £19, and a May Day social (Rochdale) £35. This leaves £1,119.30 to raise.

From Merseyside we received an excellent £153.80, leaving £1,520.62 to get

Build the Militant

Area	Target 52 wks	Target 26 wks	Proportion of target received	Received
Eastern	4,700	2,350		1,063
Hants & IOW	3,100	1,550		840
Humberside	2,000	1,000		596
London North	9,500	4,750		1,851
London South	3,900	1,950		1,118
Manchester & Dist.	4,500	2,250		1,131
Merseyside	5,000	2,500		979
Midlands East	3,300	1,650		1,311
Midlands West	9,000	4,500		2,386
Northern	5,500	2,750		1,311
Scotland East	2,900	1,450		435
Scotland West	4,500	2,250		826
South East	4,500	2,250		1,346
South West	3,100	1,550		990
Wales East	2,600	1,300		583
Wales West	3,400	1,700		559
Yorkshire	6,800	3,500		1,644
Others	6,700	3,250		2,807
Total	85,000	42,500		21,775

Progress towards year's target Progress towards July 7th target

TARGET FOR THE YEAR £85,000 - TARGET FOR JULY 7th £42,500

From a Merseyside 'Militant' Readers' Meeting £76.40 sent in so far, sale of two rocking chairs (Sefton) £2, P Doherty (Chester) £1, L Evans (Wavertree CLP) £5, J Wilson (Merseyside SOGAT) £5, B Currey (Garston CLP) £5, Knowsley NALGO supporters £5.15, Merseyside NGA supporters £7, Wavertree CLP collection £1.66 and Old Swan collection £1.76.

Midlands East sent in a total of £40.51 this week including 'tin at Evening Post picket' £2.74, tin at May Day march £1.06, a Derby LP member £1, a 'Militant' Readers' Meeting in Nottingham £31.11 (so far) and extras on paper sales (Nottingham) £2.09. Only £338.90 to raise, comrades.

From Midlands West we received a magnificent £241.55. This includes a collection at a Birmingham 'Militant' Readers' Meeting of £183.15, £34.60 from the East of Birmingham and £28.30 from Handsworth (no details with these amounts). This leaves £2,114.11 to raise.

Northern Region sent in a total of £113.67 including £10 from Sunderland, £50 from the Tyneside area, a students'

election night party £5, rattling tins in Newcastle £2.19, an election readers' meeting in North Tyne £7.03 and winnings from a dominos match £3.75. (£1,439.09 to raise).

Scotland East only raised £3.75 this week leaving £1,015.43 to raise while Scotland West raised £77.67. This came from various donations, Pollokshields Asian Community £7.89, a CPSA member (Glasgow) £1 and sales of Pontoon tickets (Paisley) £10 and Glasgow £10.

From Southern Region we received £105.00 this week (leaving £903.66 to raise). This came from Littlehampton LPYS £25, other regular donations (also Littlehampton) £25, 'anon' student in

Canterbury £5, 'Bill's Bash Party' (Bracknell) £25, election draw (Bracknell) £6, Fluidrive Eng. Co., Bracknell readers donation £3.40 and Bracknell 'Militant' Readers' Meeting £6.

South West Region sent in a total of £81.73 including £43.58 collected at a Gloucester Readers' Meeting of 15 people, R Hartill (Bristol South LPYS) £4, M Starr (also Bristol South LPYS) £1.05, election 'Moneyspinners' £12.60, A Hayes (Exeter LPYS) £7, and coffee and extras on paper sales (Taunton) £2.80. This leaves you with £560.21 to raise.

Wales East sent in £17.13 leaving £716.94 to raise. This money came from Cardiff North LPYS (£5), Cllr D Hill (Caerphilly) £1 and a drink

for the 'Militant' (Caerphilly) £6.29. Wales West only sent in £18 this week leaving £1,141.48 to raise.

Yorkshire Region sent in a very good £108.96 this week (leaving £1,855.77). This includes money from two members of Leeds South LPYS £5 each, £35 from the West of Bradford (including £5 from D Wood), a 'fiddler in Bradford' (presumably the violin kind!) £12, Bradford University Labour Club 'New Wave' social £20 and collecting tins £8.82.

In the 'Others' came £1,040.25 being the money from the CPSA conference (after expenses), a 'Militant' Readers' meeting at NUS conference £27 (after expenses), and a collection at the NUT conference £22.60.

Many thanks to every comrade who sent in money this week. Keep up and step up the effort in raising the money we need, and 'Militant' can go from strength to strength in its fight for a decent, socialist future.

By Alison Rudd

ads

EAST LONDON Militant Readers' Meeting 'After the Election: which way for Labour?' Wednesday May 30th, 8.00 pm, Dagenham Labour Rooms, Green Lane, Dagenham. Speaker: Jim Brookshaw ('Times' AUEW, Greenwich LP)

BLACKPOOL Militant Readers' Meeting 'Common Market or Socialist Europe'. Speaker: Margaret Creear (Heywood and Royton CLP). Wednesday 30th May, 8.00 pm, Kings Arms, Talbot Road, Blackpool (opposite railway station)

BRISTOL Militant Readers' Meeting Sunday 10th June, 7.30 pm. 'Trade Unions under the Tories'. Speaker: Andy Price (Cardiff SE Labour Party and Cardiff Trades Council), Crown Tavern, Lamb Street, near Old Market, Bristol.

KIDDERMINSTER Militant Readers' Meeting 'After the Election: which way for Labour?' Speaker: Jeremy Birch (Selly Oak Labour Party). Friday May 25th, 7.30 pm, Corn Exchange, New Road, Kidderminster

LEWISHAM Militant Public Meeting. 'Fight back against the Tories—Socialist policies for Labour'. Speakers: Jim Brookshaw (AUEW, Fleet Street), David White (Croydon Central Labour Party). Tuesday May 29th 7.45 pm, Deptford Town Hall, New Cross Road, London SE 14.

MERSEYSIDE limited draw. Results: first prize (£50): ticket 169, T Ferguson, Kirkby. Second prize (£25): ticket 134, J Shepherd, Anfield. Third prize (£25): ticket 43, R Currey, Childwall. Thank you to all those who bought tickets

EAST KILBRIDE Marxist Discussion Group. Subject: Uganda. Monday May 28th, 7.30 pm Westwood Community Hall, E Kilbride

MILITANT party. Proceeds to Fighting Fund. 9 pm onwards, 26th May 1979. Admission 25p, includes food, bring your own beer. Basement flat, 133 Victoria Way, S.E.7. Buses 54, 53, 75. Train: Charlton BR.

RATES
CLASSIFIED: 5p per word; minimum ten words.
SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per 2 column centimetres.
All advertisement copy should reach this office by SATURDAY.

NEWHAM Militant Readers' Meeting 'The way forward after the Election'. 8.00 pm, Wednesday May 30th, at Newham North East Labour Hall, 241e High Street North, London E.6. (50 yards from East Ham Underground Station). Speaker: Wayne Jones ('Militant' Industrial Correspondent)

CROYDON Militant Public Meeting. 'Fight back against the Tories—Socialist policies for Labour'. Speakers: Peter Taaffe (Editor, Militant), David White (Croydon Central Labour Party candidate 1979). Friday May 25th 7.45 pm, Cedar Hall, Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon.

COVENTRY Militant Readers' Meeting 'No to the Bosses' F.E.C! Fight for a Socialist Europe! Speaker: Jim Hensman (Coventry South East Labour Party). Tuesday May 29th, 7.30 pm, Labour Party HQ, 30 Coundon Road

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natfhe

NATIONAL ACTION

NEEDED ON PAY CLAIM



NATFHE Conference 1978

This year's conference takes place after a year of important developments within the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education.

Members throughout the country took practical measures to demonstrate their support for the public sector workers in their strike action, giving financial help and solidly refusing to engage in any work normally done by NUPE and G&MWU members.

The union leadership, however, failed to give a

determined lead by, for example, involving NATFHE members on the Day of Action organised by the other public sector unions.

On the two key issues which face the union, the leadership has similarly failed to give any lead at all over the year.

Members have consistently voted in favour of breaking down differentials by the amalgamation of the L1 and L11 grades. No effective action has been proposed on this key question.

Equally, the handling of this year's pay claim has been disastrous. Since 1975, when

pay was boosted by the Houghton settlement, there has been a substantial reduction in the living standards of FE Teachers. Even the 28% across the board claim (which would massively increase differentials) is officially acknowledged by the union leadership as insufficient to catch up.

The Executive recently balloted the membership on sanctions to secure the claims. Some of these measures, such as a half-day strike, were regarded as insufficient by many members.

However in the middle of balloting members were informed by Head Office that should over 50% of the total membership (as opposed to a majority of those who vote) be in favour of sanctions, then they would not be operated nationally, but on a branch-by-branch basis.

In my own branch, the anger this provoked led to a demand for a new ballot and a reversal of the initial decision to take sanctions. Despite this it appears that, to their credit, a majority of NATFHE members expressed their determination to fight

by voting for sanctions.

The fragmenting of industrial action, isolating those involved, is divisive and potentially disastrous.

Tory government

The election of a Tory government pledged to cutting out wasteful public expenditure almost certainly means attempts to cut back on courses for unemployed school leavers and re-training courses, which would also

mean cutting the work available for FE Teachers. This conference should galvanize the membership against such attacks.

Drawing on the valuable lessons of the last year, conference should extend the links between NATFHE and more powerful unions and take a step towards the formation of one big teachers' union determined to protect the living standards of all its members.

By Andrew Price

(Welsh Region NATFHE)



P & T Group conference in Brighton last week

CPSA POST OFFICE WORKERS STEP UP PAY ACTION

The "offer" from the Post Office in response to the CPSA Post and Telecommunications Group pay claim has been rejected and the strike action is to be escalated.

If initial indications are anything to go by, it will be a bitter struggle.

We are claiming increases averaging approximately 21%. This claim was submitted three months before the Post Office responded with their derisory offer.

When we finally received an offer, it could only be laughed at. It consists of a 9% increase on present pay and a further increase from 1st July in return for delaying the pay implementation scale by three months.

The scandalous downgrading proposals were a miserable attempt to buy us off for 3½%. They failed.

No wonder our members are angry. Through our efforts, Post Office profits have once again been pushed up—over the £4 million mark this year. Yet they expect us to take their offer seriously.

Action began four weeks ago with a mass walkout and rallies involving all the Group's 38,000 members. These were followed by selective strike action.

The Post Office have already "lost" £250 million through unpaid telephone bills. If they continue their stubborn ignorance, they are likely to lose a lot more.

At the P&T Group conference in Brighton last week, delegates rapped the knuckles of the Executive (GEC) and demanded an escalation of strike action to prompt the Post Office into making an offer that meets our demands.

This will mean paralysing

the main computer terminals at Bristol, Derby, Edinburgh, Bootle and St Albans, bringing Giro to a halt and pulling out the remaining cash groups. Anything less will be insufficient.

We will accept nothing less than the full implementation of our claim.

By Steve Higham

(CPSA P&T Group, Liverpool, personal capacity)

BOOTHS WORKERS BEAT VICTIMISATION

The workers at the Booths Gin Distillery in Brentford, Middlesex have just scored a swift and crushing blow over management.

This follows on the heels of the successful nine-week strike last autumn ('Militant' 431, 434, 439), which ended in management conceding a closed shop for the T&GWU production workers.

Production workers who blacklegged during the strike are no longer allowed into the plant except to collect their wages, as they are still on the pay-roll.

Trade union members are also annoyed that the closed-shop agreement does not yet apply to charge hands, and some of these are not union members.

It was this, together with management's provocative actions which sparked off the dispute last week. Paul Hayes (Chairman of shop stewards' committee) and Steve Fisher (senior steward) explained:

The dispute started when black-leg labour was seen fraternising with non-union labour in the factory, after

management had assured us that would not be allowed. Quite naturally our members were insulted by this, particularly after everybody had just achieved a 20% pay rise thanks to the union.

"On Monday 14th May all T&GWU members refused to co-operate with non-union charge hands. At 1pm on Monday management broadcast over the tannoy that any members refusing to work "normally", would be sent home.

"The shop stewards therefore occupied the premises overnight to ensure that the factory gates were open for our members in the morning.

"On Tuesday afternoon a meeting with the management resulted in a return to normal working on the basis of management agreeing to consider extending the closed shop agreement to non-union labour.

"Then next morning senior steward Steve Fisher reported for work and was informed by management that he would be suspended indefinitely, pending an inquiry.

"The membership immediately reacted by walking out of the plant in support, whereupon Steve Fisher was arrested for "obstructing the Queen's Highway"! The membership remained solid in support until 11 am Thursday morning when Bro. Fisher was allowed back to work and normal working and production resumed.

As Paul Hayes made it clear:

"If management can get away with sacking shop stewards then that is the beginning of the break-up of the union. There is nothing worse than a shop steward who is scared to call out the membership; he must face them and tell them the truth. "If we had not acted Steve Fisher would be up the Great West Road now, out of a job."

Paul Hayes (TGWU) Chairman of Steward Committee and Steve Fisher (TGWU) Senior Steward, spoke to Martin Elvin (Ruislip-Northwood LPYS) and Neil Hargreaves (Brentford & Isleworth LP)

Rowntree, York—

Sweet profits - but not wages

Thousands of workers at Rowntree-Mackintosh in York are reflecting the anger and frustration of millions at the way wages continually fall behind the cost of living.

On Tuesday 15th, the key departments of Melange and Wafer walked out in pursuance of a wage claim.

The factory employs over 5,000 men and women and its wages policy dominates earnings throughout the city. As we go to press, only two departments are still in work. The rest of the workforce is either on strike or laid off by

the company.

The workers on strike are determined to hold out for a 16% wage rise, a demand the company can well afford. It made £10s of millions profit last year.

The management have already been forced to give skilled fitters and office workers a 16% rise and we can see no reason why we should not get the same.

When the initial walk-out took place, confusion was quickly replaced by determination to achieve the demand. When my own

department turned up for the afternoon shift, we were told that we would be laid off in a day or so because of the action. My shift voted overwhelmingly to walk out there and then.

This mood was reflected all over the factory. The action represents a tremendous show of strength by the workforce.

Workers are also angered by the way that official G&MWU wage negotiations have been conducted. Without consulting the rank and file, the negotiators have gone back on their mandate and

accepted an offer in the region of 12%. Workers only found out about this by chance.

No mass meeting of the workforce has yet been called, despite the seriousness of the situation.

The struggle must go ahead to make the strike official and get the full backing of the union behind us. We have a closed shop, and the full workforce, organised with a positive lead from the union, could quickly pressurise the company into giving us our just demands.

Let us have the full support of our union officials and a united struggle by all sections of the factory.

The pickets here are determined to see the struggle through to the end. Already York Labour Party has passed a motion of support for the strike and hopefully more support will be forthcoming from the local labour movement in the next week.

United in action, there is nothing we cannot achieve.

By Bill Robertson

(York GMWU, Rowntree branch)

CPSA CONFERENCE RESTORES LEFT LEADERSHIP



Delegates voting on the motion of censure over the leadership of the pay campaign

The Civil and Public Services Association, Britain's largest civil service union, is now headed by an executive on which the Broad Left has an overwhelming 20:6 majority.

The union has ousted the right-wing NEC which was elected in November with the help of a scurrilous press campaign and which proved incapable of giving decisive leadership in the recent prolonged civil service pay campaign.

Four 'Militant' supporters have been elected as part of the new left NEC.

In the elections for the two vice-presidential posts Len Lever, the retiring union president, and Peter Coltman, a Broad Left candidate, were elected.

In the presidential elections, 'Militant' supporters argued in favour of the Broad Left giving support to the retiring senior vice-president, Reg Williams, largely on the grounds that at this stage he stood the greatest chance of defeating the right-wing candidate.

At the Broad Left conference, however, this recommendation was turned down by two votes, and so 'Militant' supporters backed Peter Coltman, the Broad Left candidate, in order to ensure that there would be maximum unity in the campaign for a left NEC.

Unfortunately, Reg Williams decided to remain as a candidate for the presidency. This split the left vote and right-winger Kate Losinska became union president.

Kate will find, however, that she has to contend with both a left NEC and an aroused membership.

In the very first conference debate, Pat Byrne, a 'Militant' supporter now re-elected to the NEC, moved a successful resolution which highlighted the criticisms of the membership over the running of the recent pay campaign.

Pat explained that his branch had not submitted the motion to make personal attacks but in order that the union could fully learn the lessons of the most extensive industrial action in its history.

He praised the members of the union for the unprecedented enthusiasm and unity they had shown during the campaign. He gave special attention to those members who had taken part in the selective strikes.

Pat argued that the NEC's strategy had been limited and hesitant, as was shown by the decision not to build the strike fund through a levy and not to involve members from the Department of Health and Social Security and of Employment. Emergency services in these areas, he said, could have been maintained by union member during the industrial action.

Fight for jobs

'Militant' supporters played an important role in several other key debates. On redundancies, a motion was rejected which called upon the NEC "...to negotiate a redundancy agreement not less favourable than those applicable in the nationalised industries."

Conference supported the argument that the union had no right to sell jobs and that a fight for increased redundancy payments would divert attention from the struggle to defend existing job levels.

In the debate on the controversial Department of Employment plans to introduce fortnightly attendance and payment, 'Militant' supporters played a part in helping switch the emphasis of the union's campaign to defending jobs whilst providing claimants with the opportunity to sign on less regularly.

As a result of a motion at the post-conference NEC, a joint meeting between the NEC and the DE Section executive will be held to consider the future conduct of this campaign.

The growing militancy of the union was shown in the debate on pay comparability. An emergency motion announcing six months' notice of withdrawal from the Civil Service Pay Research Comparability Unit was only narrowly defeated.

Discontent with this system of pay bargaining is growing, and it is highly unlikely that it will be accepted for very much longer.

Photos: J McKittrick/MILITANT



Kate Losinska, elected union president, will have to trim her sails to a left moving union

Proposals for a merger with the Society of Civil and Public Servants were also rejected, but the debate and voting showed a massive shift in favour of a merger following the two unions' action over pay. A merger with the SCPS now seems a real possibility within the next few years.

A long list of resolutions reflected the growing concern over proposals to introduce new labour-saving technology. The government was warned that the CPSA would fight any attempt to displace

jobs by machinery.

The national unity needed to defend jobs and living standards is threatened, however, following a decision to support claims for departmental allowances. Pressure has only mounted for special allowances because of the incomes policies of the last few years, which hit civil servants harder than most other workers.

CPSA members will now have to be watchful to thwart any attempt to drive a wedge between different sections of the union. National unity remains the only viable way forward.

With the re-election of a left NEC the possibilities for binding the union together in

organised by Mosley who tried to emulate Hitler and Mussolini by physically destroying workers' organisations. In trying to equate 'Militant' supporters with these avowed enemies of the labour movement, Ken Thomas discredits no-one but himself.

'Militant' has always defended the democracy of the labour movement and we have a long and proud record of struggle against fascism.

It is precisely because 'Militant' supporters are increasingly winning in democratic debate that right wingers resort to such vitriolic abuse in a vain attempt to undermine our growing support.

The debate on balloting procedure showed clearly that it is the right wing who fear democratic discussion.

Balloting procedures heavily weighted in favour of the right were steam-rollered through the conference with no opposition allowed. Demands for a card vote were trampled upon.

The right wing knew that "Militant's" position on the balloting procedures would attract support if it was heard. They were determined that it would not be.

Unfortunately, the right wing were helped in this manoeuvre by sections of the left.

The proposals forced through were actually those of a so-called 'Campaign for Union Democracy', an amalgam of the Socialist Workers' Party, Communist Party and International Marxist Group.

These groups have campaigned for an end to the traditional system of voting in national union elections, where the united vote of the branch is cast at conference, following branch debate and mandating meetings. They called for a system where individual members would cast ballot papers at their place of work with all votes being counted nationally.

This system is necessarily weighted in favour of the smaller branches which tend to be less militant. Branch officers will have to organise meetings and balloting often around a huge number of small scattered offices.

The collective branch discussions and decision-making has been broken and, as a result, the task of combatting the propaganda which the media churns out on behalf of the right is now considerably more difficult. This will particularly be the case in those sections of the union where there is as yet no agreement to hold union meetings in working hours.

In opposing united branch voting these left groups have lined up with Geoffrey Howe, the new Tory Chancellor, who recently attacked the united branch voting of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, by which David Basnett was elected as the G&MWU General Secretary.

Woodrow Wyatt also added a belated swipe at the CPSA's traditional voting procedures in this week's 'Sunday Mirror'.

The utterly abstract middle class idea of "individual democracy" which these groups advance is totally alien to the labour movement, which depends on unity and collective action.

They are not giving in to pressure from the enemies of the labour movement, they claim. In their defence they quote the method of elections in two other unions. But other unions have different traditions over balloting, depending on their structure and history. For instance, unlike CPSA, the AUEW which they cite has no full national conference.

The crucial question is in what direction do their proposals take the union? They have helped produce a division between discussion on policy and the election of those mandated to carry that policy out. They are directing us away from unity and genuine democracy.

Not surprisingly, the right wing were absolutely jubilant when these proposals were passed. Their own separate proposals were dropped by an orchestrated cry of "next business". Alistair Graham, union Deputy General Secretary, moved an "opposition" which amounted to ecstatic support!

A fighting lead

'Militant' supporters can be proud that they stood out on the left as the only tendency prepared to defend the CPSA's traditional balloting method.

Nevertheless, in spite of this set-back, the leftward march of the CPSA can continue. New and younger members are coming into the union and, as the pay campaign and the conference showed, they are demanding a strong fighting lead. The left NEC has a year in which to prove that it is capable of providing that leadership.

In the next year, the Broad Left itself must be placed on a far more firm foundation, drawing in the new activists and campaigning throughout the union on a bold programme which can offer a viable way forward for CPSA members.

By Kevin Roddy

(CPSA NEC personal capacity)

TUC delegates

The Broad Left have taken all 15 places on the CPSA delegation to this year's Trades Union Congress. Seven 'Militant' supporters have been elected. These results were announced after the close of conference.

Up to 200 attended the 'Militant' readers meeting



action on decisive questions have been enhanced considerably.

As the union has moved left in recent years, support for the ideas of 'Militant' has grown. At this conference, over 700 copies of 'Militant' were sold, up to 200 delegates and visitors attended a 'Militant' public meeting, and £1,062 was donated during the week to the 'Militant' Fighting Fund.

'Militant' supporters now occupy important positions in the union at national, section and local levels.

As is well known throughout the labour movement, 'Militant' fights for its ideas honestly and openly. We were against the personal attacks on union leaders by some delegates on the left at this year's conference, and antics such as perpetually calling points of order.

'Militant' supporters put forward their ideas in a constructive manner.

Thomas discredited

The well-publicised comment of Ken Thomas, right-wing General Secretary of the CPSA, in which he labelled 'Militant' supporters as "blackshirts" is nothing more than a disgusting slander. The blackshirts were thugs

MONSANTO SCOTLAND - JOBS MUST BE SAVED

A hammer blow has been dealt to the people of Irvine Newtown.

Monsanto Ltd, subsidiary of the giant Monsanto International, have recently announced the closure of their entire European nylon fibre operations, with two plants in Scotland, two in England, and one in Luxembourg and West Germany.

The decision, like all capitalist decisions, has been taken on purely economic grounds. But it will affect the lives of 832 workers and their families at the Newtown plant alone, who must suffer the consequences of capitalist greed.

These redundancies are part of a series of similar blows in recent months: Massey Ferguson Combine Harvesters declared 1,000 redundancies; SCS Ballbearings 600. The Monsanto closure would bring the unemployment rate in the

"In ten years when my son asks why he can't get a job, will I have to tell him that I sold it in 1979 for a few thousand pounds?"

area to 20-25%.

Over the 15 years since the factory was built, with substantial government subsidies, there has been a remarkable record of good industrial relations, high productivity and high-quality products. This contradicts the justification given by Tory politicians for Britain's economic decline.

The redundancies are seen as a watershed in the area. A Works' Action Committee has been formed to fight the closure and local councillors, MPs and trade unionists are

supporting the Action Committee's fight to save jobs.

A fine example of solidarity came from the local journalists' NUJ chapel. After a blatant anti-union leadership article attacking the Monsanto workforce, written by the editor in a local newspaper, they backed a resolution condemning the editor's remarks and pledged total support for the workers. They then sent a letter, condemning the resolution, to all local papers.

The fight, however, has concentrated on finding al-

ternative capitalist solutions—like more subsidies—or alternative capitalist companies to take over the factory and the workforce. No socialist solution, short or long term, has been offered by the labour leadership in the area.

The workforce themselves are adamant that their jobs must be saved. As Alex Smith, Transport and General Workers' convenor said in relation to redundancy payments, "In ten years when my son asks why he can't get a job, will I have to tell him that I sold it in 1979 for a few thousand pounds?"

That is the crux of the matter. Jobs lost now due to capitalist greed will affect generations of workers. It is only by organising production on a socialist basis, through the working class and the labour movement, that we can prevent the jobs-holocaust and its attendant miseries.

By Alex Grant
(Central Ayrshire Labour Party)

WESTERNS MEN REJECT INSULTING OFFER

By Richard Venton
(Birkenhead Labour Party)

After eleven months' picketing at Westerns, the Laird Group owners have made an offer of 50 jobs.

This is an insultingly low offer—but it shows Lairds desperation.

All their attempts to break the men's solidarity have failed: Lairds have orders waiting in their other Merseyside subsidiaries, CBS & Gordon Alisons, but they need the dry docks in Westerns.

Laird's, as previously reported, want to establish a mobile Merseyside workforce using the men at CBS and Gordon Alisons to work inside Westerns.

They tried to get those men into Westerns but the workers refused to cross the picket line. Trade union solidarity defeated the millionaires.

Early this week management tried to bring in security men, but the GMWU stopped their members in two security firms, and others refused to



cross the picket line when they arrived at the gates.

Next, Lairds offered to employ 12 maintenance men, provided they could choose them. They have generously increased this to 50 in their meetings with Merseyside Confed [Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions] officials—clearly a move which they hope will

allow them to use the docks and get stuff out of the yard.

"After this long we've got nothing to lose: the bosses have everything to lose," is a typical reaction from the pickets.

The Confed have rejected this offer. They must ensure long term guarantees of employment for numbers acceptable to the Westerns

Action Committee—without mobility of labour—and ensure that the men who have picketed get first priority.

Provided CBS, Gordon & Alisons, and Westerns men remain solid, the Laird Group can still be forced to concede the justice of this fight for jobs.

in direct taxation which will mainly benefit the wealthy minority of tax payers.

To pay for these tax cuts, the Tories are planning to increase indirect taxation in their budget on 12 June.

They have proposals to raise prescription charges to 50p, put up the price of school meals, increase VAT to 12½% on all goods [which would mean a further 2% rise on prices].

The Tories are losing no time in launching their programme of savage attacks on the working class. Apart from steep price increases, measures announced in the last week will mean thousands more thrown out of work.

These brutal measures are not just the whim of the hard-nosed reactionaries of Thatcher's cabinet, but are dictated by the crisis of British capitalism.

Big business wants bigger profits, and it can get

them only at our expense.

The labour movement must respond now by mobilising against the Tories' measures on every front, and by taking up socialist policies which go to the root of the crisis:

The nationalisation of the banks and big monopolies [with minimum compensation on the basis of need] to be run under workers' control and management—the only way to plan the economy for the benefit of working people.

TORY PAY-OFF

Continued from page 1

themselves give an added twist to the inflationary spiral.

Even before the recent announcements, prices were rising by 12.9% and, according to the Price Commission, inflation will grow in the coming months.

Not content with specific help to monopolies, the Tories are preparing cuts

Militant

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NHS Continued from page 1

al will only be treated on the basis of being admitted under the NHS, not because he has a bit of extra money to pay for consultants".

Already, Tory ministers have clearly confirmed that they intend to do all they can for wealthy patients, probably with tax relief on private medical contributions and the possibility of private scheme National Insurance NHS contributions.

Prescription charges, on the other hand, are likely to be increased to 50p very soon.

Coming from the Tories, the spokesmen of big business, this approach is hardly surprising of course.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, who as Chancellor will keep a tight grip on the NHS's purse strings, was formerly on the management council of Britain's second largest private medical insurance set-up, Private Patient's Plan.

Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, previously had a number of jobs with Distillers-the whisky and pharmaceutical giant responsible for promoting Thalidomide in this country.

These champions of

the rich and powerful don't for a moment believe that the "wider use of private medical care"—which the Queen's Speech promised a Bill to facilitate—will improve the health care of the majority.

"Ten million Americans lack any private insurance to pay for health care and many more have inadequate cover," Jenkin told the US Pharmaceutical Association in 1977.

"Market forces," he confessed, "are pretty ineffective in balancing the need for health care and the supply of services."

Yet what Jenkin intends to do is to widen the scope of market forces in health care.

Open up more private health facilities for the rich, poaching NHS-trained staff from the public sector and providing lucrative pickings for the private medical firms and top doctors—and let the rest take their chance with what's left of the NHS.

That's the brutal Tory approach.

NUPE members in the health service are absolutely right to oppose all Tory attempts to undermine the NHS. They deserve the support of the whole labour movement in fighting to defend and improve the provision of excellent, free medical care for all.



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