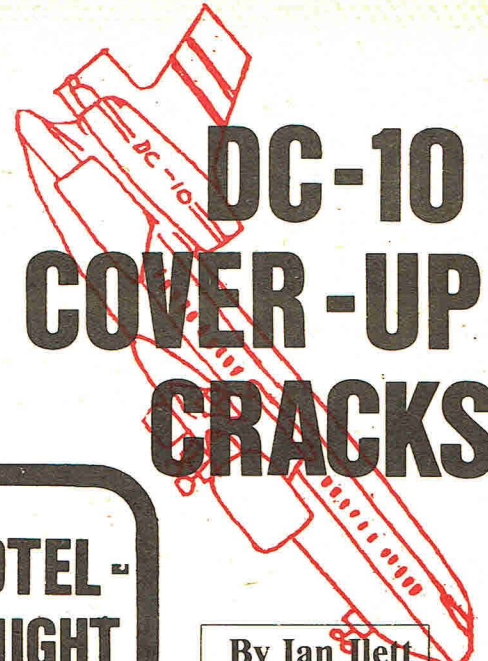


# Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

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8 June 1979

## DC-10 COVER-UP CRACKS



By Ian Hiett

The DC10 Jumbo Jets have again been grounded in the US following a new court ruling.

New inspections have revealed serious—potentially catastrophic—cracks in the engine pylons of DC10s previously cleared after the initial grounding following the May 25 Chicago crash in which 273 people died.

This development confirms the worst fears, and completely undermines the attempts of McDonnell-Douglas—aided and abetted by civil aviation officials and the media—to blame everything on a few defective nuts and bolts.

At long last, the whole design, construction, and flying record of the DC10 is being publicly examined.

The DC10 has a terrible safety record. Almost twice as many people have died in DC10 accidents than in all its 'Jumbo Jet' competitors put together.

The story of the DC10 is a graphic illustration of how capitalist dog eats dog in the civil aviation industry.

By the 1960s the Douglas aircraft company had fallen into near bankruptcy and was taken over by the military aircraft builders, McDonnell, who decided to compete for the new wide-bodied "Jumbo Jet" market.

Boeing had already cornered a lion's share of the market with its 747, the first wide-bodied jet to go into airline service.

The problem for Douglas was to beat their rival Lockheed, who already had a year's start with work on their

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BACK PAGE

# THRASH THESE ARROGANT BOSSSES

## GROSVENOR HOUSE HOTEL - SINGLE ROOMS £50 ANIGHT WAGES £28 A WEEK

The Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, makes a good symbol of the unequal society this Tory government wants to promote.

The bosses are powerful big businessmen [Trust Houses Forte]. The clientèle are stinking rich. The management is medieval in its attitude.

By Julian  
McKittrick

And the workers are among the most exploited and oppressed in Britain today.

When chambermaids recently asked for better pay, the management sacked their shop steward, Ellen Gallagher.

Twenty-eight chambermaids walked out in solidarity and were immediately dismissed.

"When we sack people, they're sacked for good," bragged management when they terminated 'negotiations' with officials of FTAT, the women's union, on Monday [4 June].

Some of the sacked women had found their belongings dumped in the street by management. Without jobs, they had nowhere to live either.

"I've been working here for over 15 years", Trudi, from Regensburg, Germany, told me. "It's just a question of money for this manager, that's all that matters to him."

"Until 1 May this year, I took home £28 for a week's work. Now I don't even have that. Three of us were lucky to find bed and breakfast for only

CONTINUED  
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## CIVIL SERVICE UNION STARTS FIGHT BACK

From the word go, the Tory government has set out to provoke a clash with the Civil Service and other Public Sector unions.

The further draconic cuts in public expenditure which will undoubtedly be included in next week's budget, rigid cash limits designed to exact job losses as the price of

By Kevin Roddy  
(CPSA National Executive,  
in a personal capacity)

pay rises, and the imposing of 'profit targets' on the public sector cannot

fail to have a seriously detrimental effect both on the public and civil service workers.

To rub salt in the wounds, this same 'cost conscious' Tory government sees fit to award the very top civil servants, bosses of nationalised industries, judges, and the like, huge pay rises

Following a 12% rise in April, the three most senior civil servants now get another 13%, increasing their pay from £25,211 to £28,211. It is recommended that this should go up yet further to £31,000 next April!

While we feel the icy  
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# Militant

## BRITISH CAPITALISM CONDEMNED

A devastating admission of the catastrophic decline of British capitalism by a top Foreign Office official has found its way into the press.

'The Economist' [2 June] last week leaked a "confidential" letter written by Sir Nicholas Henderson as "a last dispatch" to the then Foreign Secretary, David Owen.

On leaving his post as Ambassador to France, Henderson intended to retire—but is now being sent as Ambassador to the United States by Thatcher, who reportedly concurs with his sombre analysis.

Henderson's letter shows that the serious representatives of capital and Marxists come to the same conclusions — except from diametrically opposed class standpoints.

Henderson reiterates the ignominious collapse of British capitalism, and also exposes the stupidity of capitalist leaders' policies, both foreign and domestic over the last thirty years.

Linked to his diagnosis, moreover, are hints at the ruthless measures now considered necessary by the ruling class to restore their lost power and position.

The first Thatcher/Howe budget next week will only be a first instalment of the harsh sacrifice for profit the Tories will be out to exact from the working class.

Henderson compares Britain to its main European rivals, France and West Germany.

In the production of wealth, taking 1954 as 100, gross domestic product had risen only to 175 by 1977—compared to 297 for France and 310 for West Germany.

This was inevitably reflected in lower living standards. In 1954, the average rate per hour in manufacturing industry [expressed in £] was actually lower [£0.15] in Germany and France [£0.18] than in Britain [£0.22]. But in 1977 the figure was £2.95 for German workers, £1.92 in France, and only £1.61 for workers in Britain.

"Today," writes Henderson, "we are not only no longer a world power, but we are not in the first rank even as a European one. Income per head in Britain is now, for the first time for over 300 years, below that in France."

"We are scarcely in the same economic league as the Germans or French...if present trends continue we

shall be overtaken in GDP per head by Italy and Spain well before the end of the century."

Like other spokesmen of big business, Henderson predictably makes a contemptible attempt to unload the blame for this relegation on the shoulders of the working class.

Like Thatcher, Henderson denounces the closed shop, advocates legally binding wage agreements, and bemoans the enormous power of the British trade unions.

In Britain, he complains, over half the workforce are organised, which means that "nearly always in Britain in recent years a strike has led to a very favourable settlement for the employees." He clearly prefers the situation in France where the British Embassy "cannot think of a single strike...in the past two years that has achieved its objective."

These are the views of a man who served as Britain's ambassador in Paris under the Labour government!

While writing that "this is not the place to discuss comprehensively the causes of our poor productivity," Henderson nevertheless provides the material for a damning indictment against the rulers who have presided over Britain's degeneration.

He attacks those "who seek to justify our present state of affairs by a pastoral apologia," and who are now irresponsibly prepared to write off manufacturing industry as a source of wealth and turn to more lucrative pastures in the hope of reaping easy profits.

He condemns those who "seem less prepared to make a career in industry than to join a merchant bank...or one of the public services."

Decline, however, does not stem just from the light-minded career choices of the City's gilded youth. Their choices reflect a general refusal of the British capitalists to invest in manufacturing industry. The acute, long-term starvation of investment in industry—as 'Militant' has repeatedly pointed out—means that British bosses can compete with their rivals only on the basis of cheap labour.

Investment in service industries, investment overseas, and land and financial speculation now outstrips investment in manufacturing industry. In 1978, £3,860 million [at 1975 prices] was invested in British manufacturing industry, compared to £4,196 million in 1970. Yet investment in the service sector was £4,690 million.

British big business will not invest in industry be-

cause of their complete lack of confidence in the future of their own system. Capitalists invest for profit, but with the steadily diminishing levels of profitability in industry, they naturally prefer to put their loot into more rewarding overseas ventures or to speculate in property and finance for quick returns at home.

As far as big business is concerned, the only way to restore profitability in British industry is not through higher investment but by ruthlessly cutting the share of the wealth taken by the working class.

Henderson's despatch confirms the background of catastrophe facing British society, clearly admitting that continuing economic decline will undermine the living standards, absolutely and relatively, which the working class has been able to secure by its past struggles.

The only way out for the ruling class is to attack the living standards and organisations of the working class, as the Thatcher government is attempting to do.

But these attacks will provoke a mighty resistance from the working class. The ruling class can have no confidence that they will emerge as the final victor.

Henderson points to the power of the labour movement and hopes that a few changes in the law will weaken the movement and produce docile trade unions like those he sees in France and West Germany.

This is a vain hope! The breaking of the Heath government's Industrial Relations Act proved that a law on the statute books will not be able to hold back the working class once it moves into action.

The crisis developing throughout the capitalist world will lead to a further radicalisation within the working class. Already we have seen the growth of class struggles in both France and West Germany, the two countries Henderson holds up as models!

In Britain the activists inside the working class are already starting to draw socialist conclusions from their experiences under the last Labour government and the deepening problems of British capitalism. The attacks of the Tories will help deepen this radicalisation and draw the mass of workers into activity.

With these coming events, Marxism will gain support as the only programme capable of achieving the re-organisation and reconstruction of British society in the interests of working people.



LPYS members march through Liverpool

Photo: MILITANT

## EEC ELECTION

**"The efforts of the Labour Party Young Socialists over the weekend were tremendous. They brought the campaign to life."**

**By Richard Knights**

These were the comments of Wally Edwards, full-time secretary of Liverpool Borough Labour Party, on the Young Socialists' energetic and highly successful intervention in the EEC Campaign.

With Marxist Terry Harrison as Labour candidate, the Liverpool campaign is undoubtedly about the most active in the country.

Last weekend, over 400 LPYS members from many areas came to join about 200 local workers for a burst of mass election work.

Before the canvassing and leafletting there was a march through the City centre, and then a rally addressed by Eddie Loyden (ex Labour MP for Garston), Eric Heffer (Labour MP for Walton), Jon Ingham (LPYS National Committee), and Terry Harrison.

Later, LPYS teams were set to work in all nine of the constituencies making Liverpool's Euro-seat.

This activity undoubtedly had a major impact.

The main difficulty encountered by Labour in this

area, as in many others, is the downright hatred of workers for the Common Market. Thousands inevitably feel inclined to vote only with their feet and stay away from the polls.

But the Labour campaign in Liverpool has already convinced many sceptical workers of the need to come and register a vote against the Tories and support a socialist alternative to the bosses' Euro-club.

### Distortions

The candidate himself has received much more publicity than the run of Labour Euro-candidates—but only because the press, nationally and locally, have been falling over themselves to distort and attack the socialist ideas on which Terry is fighting.

Answering the attacks this week, a number of local Labour MPs, including Eric Heffer (Walton), Alan Roberts (Bootle), Jim Dunn (Kirkdale), and Bob Parry (Scotland/Exchange) have so far pledged their personal

support for Terry Harrison. Eric Heffer, a member of Labour's NEC, has also sharply condemned the call by the ultra-right-wing Social Democratic Alliance for people not to vote Labour because of Terry's candidacy.

Eric Heffer said that people who appeal to Labour supporters to boycott a candidate with a lifetime's record of LP membership and democratically selected by the Party themselves have no place in the Labour ranks.

On Monday, Terry Harrison got a warm response from 300 dockers at a docks gate meeting. Formerly a shipyard worker himself, he was also well received at Cammell Lairds in a joint dock-gate meeting with Adrian Baily, Euro-candidate for West Cheshire.

Over the weekend, £400 was raised for the campaign expenses.

LPYS members reported that, although there is considerable indifference or hostility to anything to do with the whole idea of the EEC, there is already burning anger at the Tory government, especially over the price rises which have hit us in the last four weeks.

In one instance, a number of women angrily admitted that, because they were fed up with the Labour government, they had voted Tory: "Well, we made a mistake. Never again!"

Asked her attitude to the press attacks on the Labour candidate, another woman said: "I've never voted for a 'Red' before. But this time I am!"

## GROSVENOR HOUSE HOTEL

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

£4.50 a night, sharing a room.

In the Grosvenor House the cheapest [single] room costs £50 a night and that's without any breakfast! A suite costs up to £200 a night."

But the women are determined. They intend to get their jobs back at the Hotel, and Ellen Gallagher reinstated.

Now managers are cleaning the rooms, or trying to. In gratitude, Trust House Forte are giving them all a bottle of champagne every day.

But THF management reckoned without the solidarity of the trade union movement. An injury to one

is an injury to all.

Eighty-five men working to set up an Antiques Exhibition at the Hotel downed tools and declared they would not work until the women are re-instated.

The men are mainly in UCATT, but there are also about 20 EETPU and 15 T&GWU members. Many came from Birmingham and Coventry especially to get this exhibition work.

Some taxi drivers will not pick up passengers from the hotel. POEU members are refusing to install telephones for the exhibition.

Hotel maintenance staff and even the chefs are yet to meet [as we go to press] and may well come out too.

No lifts! No service! No food! Poor, pampered jet-setters! They will have to

climb the stairs, and search Belgravia for a chippy.

And the Duke of Edinburgh will not likely be opening the exhibition after all. The fur-coated bargain-hunters and speculators in antiques will have to look elsewhere.

Trust House Forte have got more than they bargained for. They should be taught a lesson. The Tories should be shown that workers will not be walked over.

The labour movement must give every possible support to these workers. And victory at the Grosvenor House Hotel should be the start of a new drive to organise hotel and catering workers and fight for decent pay and conditions.

**For a Marxist analysis of the British economy, read Andrew Glyn's 'Capitalist Crisis: Tribune's "alternative strategy" or socialist plan.**

Price 60p [+ 10p post and packing]

Order from: Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

# LPYS CONFERENCE AND CAMP

## Make it the best ever

The Labour Party Young Socialists' conference and Camp will be preparing the fight of Labour's youth against the Tories' savage attacks. In only its first month, the Tory government has let petrol go up 20p a gallon, 3p on a pint of beer, 2p on a loaf of bread.

They have "promised" to cut the school leaving age "to cut truancy"—by throwing thousands of youth on to the dole. One of the most miserable cuts planned is to increase the "waiting-time" before sickness and unemployment benefits are paid from three to five days.

The conference and Camp will be an ideal chance to discuss the lessons of the Labour

By Phil Frampton  
(LPYS National Chairman)

government, and the reasons why the reactionary Tories were able to win the election. It will be vital in hammering out a fighting programme against the Tories' attacks and in preparing the way for a future Labour government to be elected on a clear socialist programme.

Along with the debates, the main conference sessions will be on the **Charter for Young Workers**, which will be a powerful weapon in the

### DETAILS:

LPYS Conference and Camp 1979: Conference Saturday July 28th, 1 pm, until Sunday 29th at 4 pm, followed immediately by the camp until Saturday August 4th. At Bracelands Campsite, Coleford, Gloucs. Cost approx. £25, meals included [children half price, crèche organised]. Send deposits of £5 [£2 for children] to Andy Bevan, Transport House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3JA

recruitment of thousands of young workers and school students, and on the document on Southern Africa, which is of particular relevance now as the Tories prepare to recognise the crooked 'internal settlement' in Zimbabwe.

Tony Benn MP will be speaking during the conference, along with several other guest speakers.

The Camp (which will follow the conference) will be highlighted by a debate between the three main tendencies in the Labour Party, with a speaker from the 'Militant'. Jo Richardson for Tribune, and Ian Wigglesworth for the Manifesto group of right wing MPs.

Other speakers during the camp will include: Dennis Skinner MP and Steve Glennon (LPYS National Com-

mittee) on Labour Party Democracy, Stan Newens MP on Socialism, War and Disarmament, Alex Kitson (TGWU), and Andy Bevan on Chile: the lessons of the coup, and Terry Harrison (Euro-candidate for Liverpool) and Tony Saunols (LPYS representative on the LP NEC) speaking on Europe in Ferment.

The programme of the main rallies, along with seminars will give an opportunity to discuss the crucial issues facing the labour movement, and some of the fundamental theoretical aspects of socialism, so that we can strengthen ourselves for the battles ahead under the Tories.

Everyone should be approached to go now! Every YS branch should send not only its delegate to ensure that the conference is the most repre-



Everybody enjoyed the 'Militant' camp in May. Book now for LPYS Conference, and the Marxist Weekend School

sentative yet, but also as many branch members as possible should attend.

Some branches are already organising fund-raising events to ensure that everyone can afford to go, and they are re-visiting trade union branches and shop stewards' committees that had agreed to

send visitors to the Easter conference to see if they will send people to the conference and camp.

If the work is planned now, the conference and camp will be the most successful event that the LPYS has ever organised, and politically the most important.

## Unemployment benefit

### ROBBING THE POOREST

Even though the Tories are apparently holding back on their original savage plans the sick and unemployed could still suffer in what would be one of the meanest cuts possible.

A DHSS memo to the Treasury, leaked to the Child Poverty Action Group, detailed plans to extend the "waiting days" for unemployment and sickness benefit from the present three to five days.

These are the days at the beginning of a claim when no benefit is received.

Originally, this period was just for administrative convenience and money was later refunded to claimants. Since the time of the Heath government, however, this money cannot be recovered, scandalously, a situation not rectified by the Labour government.

Increasing the waiting days would mean that, not only would an unemployed worker of someone off sick have to live on the subsistence handed out, but will lose a further two days' entitlement. For a couple with two children, this would increase the sum lost from £13.50 to £22.50, and for single claimants from £7.90 to £13.15.

For the low-paid, this



More savage attacks on the working class

would be disastrous. Debts among low-paid workers can easily accumulate if they are off sick, as they can for those out of work when first laid off.

As it is, the unemployed have become increasingly reliant on social security payments, including the long-term unemployed, who are still forced to cope on the lowest level of payment.

The Tories promised to simplify social security and restore the "incentive to work". Well, it's certainly a simple enough way to rob the poor. But the latest figures

show that it is certainly not a question of high benefits acting as a disincentive to work.

For an unemployed man with two children earnings-related benefit used to amount to 78% of the average male manual worker's income in 1971. By 1977 this had dropped to 68%.

If the Tories are allowed to get away with their plans, then the unemployed and the sick will be even more impoverished in future.

Roger Shrivess

## MARXIST WEEKEND SCHOOL

### A CHANCE TO LEARN A CHANCE TO DISCUSS

Whether you've been reading 'Militant' for years or only a few weeks, this year's Marxist Weekend School organised by 'Militant' will be an ideal opportunity to study and discuss the ideas of Marxism.

The courses on Marxist Economics and Marxist Philosophy are both useful for an introduction to the fundamentals of Marxism.

The 'Marxism and the Trade Unions' course will consider perspectives for the trade unions, the role of a Marxist as a shop steward, and 'Workers' control and management',—on which there has been a great deal of debate in recent years.

Brian Ingham (Militant Industrial Correspondent) and Bill Mullins (Senior Shop Steward, Rover Solihull) are speaking.

A leading contributor to 'Militant Irish Monthly' is speaking on Ireland covering the history of the labour movement in Ireland, with separate sessions on perspectives for the North and South.

With the important developments of the past couple

of years, and the importance of Ireland for the labour movement in Britain, this will be a very good opportunity for a thorough discussion.

Roger Silverman and Peter Taaffe are speaking on 'The Russian Revolution', which includes: 'The 1905 Revolution and the history of the Bolsheviks', '1917', and 'The Rise of Stalinism'.

The course on 'The Labour Party' will be a good chance to discuss both the history of the Party, and the perspec-

tives for its development now the Tories are in power. Rob Jones (Sheffield Heeley CLP) and Ray Apps (Brighton Kemptown CLP) are the speakers.

The first session of the School is a showing of the film 'Harlan County' on the struggle of the American miners for union recognition. The final session will be a debate on 'A Socialist Programme for Labour' between Peter Taaffe and a 'Tribune' MP.

### 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 for Saturday or Sunday only, 75p for Friday evening only.  
To register, or for further information, write to: Militant Marxist Weekend School, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

# FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM

More than 50 people gave an enthusiastic reception to Phil Frampton, National Chairman of the LPYS, when he spoke at Thanet West Labour Party's youth recruitment meeting.

Phil pointed out that the new government, representing the rich, is the most reactionary since the '30s. The working class through the unions and Labour Party must fight the vicious attacks that are in the offing.

He went on to explain the crisis facing the British capitalists and how the LPYS has become involved in the struggle within the labour movement to implement a fighting socialist programme.

In one of the many questions from the floor, Phil was asked, in his opinion, why the Labour government was defeated?

Because of Callaghan's failure to produce a true fighting socialist programme to counter the Tories' policy of greed, was the reply which was echoed by the vast majority of people in the room.

Phil continued by saying that many people were worried by the political and economic situation in this country, and this was the reason why we had such a multifarious amount of groups standing in the election.

The Silly Party, for example, standing in Dover, polled more votes than the racist National Front. Phil pointed out that the NF was more silly than the Silly Party, which raised a roar of approval.

As a supporter of 'Militant's' policies Phil pointed out that 'Militant' was the only paper that was truly in support of working class struggles to gain workers' control of industry and the means of production based on need not greed.

In connection with this he also pointed out that the ravings of the Tory press against the Labour Party and the red scares used by the capitalist press to frighten off the electorate. In a Tory pamphlet issued in a Liver-

pool constituency it was stated that the Marxist-controlled LPYS was the backbone of the Labour Party workers.

Even the Tories admit (for all the wrong reasons) that the LPYS was actively involved in the struggle of the working class against the Tory reactionaries.

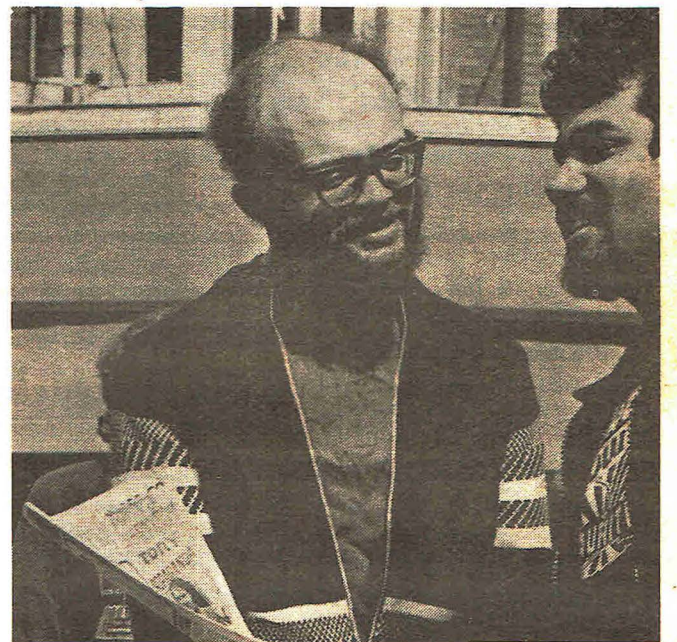
In summing up the evening's meeting Phil showed the need for the nationalisation of the commanding heights of industry allied to production based on need not greed. The Labour Party would need to implement such a fighting socialist programme to counter the Tories: not the right-wing policies of Callaghan and the Party leadership.

The meeting finished with morale boosted and a determination to fight for the victory of a socialist Labour government in the next election.

By J Nicholson  
(Thanet West CLP  
Youth Officer)

pool constituency it was stated that the Marxist-controlled LPYS was the backbone of the Labour Party workers.

Even the Tories admit (for all the wrong reasons) that the



Phil Frampton, LPYS chairman

Photo: MILITANT

## TORY ONSLAUGHT

Almost 40 people, mostly newcomers, attended the first 'Militant' discussion group held in Crosby since the General Election.

In an excellent lead-off, Tony Mulhearn, a Marxist and Labour candidate for Crosby during the election echoed the call of Labour's youth movement.

"On the streets, at rallies and demonstrations, at our meetings and through our

paper and propaganda, we must follow the lead from the Labour Party Young Socialists in fighting the Tory onslaught."

And as Tony emphatically remarked, the only way forward was to build, build and build, the ideas and influence of Marxism in the Party and the trade union movement as a first step towards achieving a society based on a plan of production.

By Steve Higham  
(LPYS North West  
Regional Committee)



David White's campaign in Croydon generated enthusiasm. Labour's national campaign did not. Photo: MILITANT

# Tory Government on Collision Course

All the predictions Labour made in Croydon Central in the election about the consequences of a Tory victory are borne out after only a few weeks of office, David White pointed out.

Forty people, mostly new readers, attended the 'Militant' Readers' Meeting in Croydon. David White, who was Labour candidate for Croydon Central, showed the effect Tory council house sales would have in the borough, with 6,000 on the waiting list, and all the best property being sold off.

David showed the successes of the Croydon campaign, with over 1,000 people at public meetings, and 500 workers on polling day. This enthusiasm though could not fully counter the effect of the pro-capitalist policies of the last Labour government. The fight within the Party for socialist policies and Party democracy must go on.

Peter Taaffe believed the 1979 general election had been the most important since 1945. This Tory government would be the most reactionary this century.

Already they were attacking all the gains won by the labour movement over generations. Untold misery would be caused by the Tories'

By John Bulaitis

policies.

But why did this catastrophe happen? The programme of Thatcher should have been enough to guarantee Labour victory. Tony Benn was correct when he said at the TASS Conference that the three Labour governments since the war had all bailed out capitalism.

Even Callaghan admitted that Labour's programme hadn't been radical enough. If Labour nationally had run the type of campaign run in Croydon Central, they would have got an enormous response.

Instead, the right-wing Labour leaders had tail-ended the Tories. Jim Callaghan talked about tax cuts, and Shirley Williams attacked the trade unions.

The programme of the Tories—very different from Macmillan's ideas of 'one nation' in the '50s—was a response to the desperate crisis of British capitalism. Capitalism couldn't take

society forward, preferring to invest in service industries, rather than manufacturing industry.

But the Tory government are on a collision course with the labour movement. The next few years would see local strikes and demonstrations and battles against the Tories outside Parliament.

These battles will have an enormous effect on the Labour Party, and provide an opportunity to win thousands of workers to the ideas of Marxism.

The right wing have the leadership of our movement and are responsible for the defeat. The questions of re-selection of MPs and election of the Leader by Labour Party Conference will come increasingly to the fore in the future.

The logic of class struggle foresaw huge battles on the horizon, and the opportunity for the transformation of the Labour Party to be re-armed with the policies and programme of Marxism.

A good discussion followed on democracy within the Labour Party, the effect of the cuts the Tories were proposing, and the need to fight against any 'de-nationalisation' of the profitable parts of nationalised industries.

The collection raised over £60, an indication of the support that 'Militant' has built in the Croydon area during the election campaign.

## UNION CONFERENCE ROUND-UP

# MOOD STARTS TO HARDEN

This year's round of trade union conferences has come just after the Tory election victory.

As reports this week and in previous issues show, the threat of mass redundancies and cuts is causing union members to take stock of their policies for the fight back.

The EETPU Conference, just before the election, was a low-key affair, with the EC congratulating the Labour government on their record—with little enthusiasm from the delegates.

The 'Broad Left' allowed resolutions calling for a 35-hour week to be withdrawn, even though the EC reply pointed out that skilled

workers could be taken off the dole queues if this was implemented.

In the debate on the economy, Frank Chapple supported the 'Concordat'. The 'Broad Left' resolution called for free collective bargaining, but failed to spell out a full socialist programme. Although Ford Dagenham worker George Faulkes explained that under capitalism, wage restraint could not guarantee workers a living wage, the EC resolution carried by 60-40, showing the more critical mood of Conference.

Chris Hill (London NE) got an excellent response to the main composite on racialism. He called for the mass mobilisation of the labour

movement.

In the coming months, the policies of the right-wing leadership will be more sharply tested by the Thatcher regime. A process of change will grow in the ranks of the EETPU.

"All possible action" for the 35-hour week was overwhelmingly passed by the National Society of Metal Mechanics conference, as was a national minimum wage, to be reviewed annually.

Conference supported a number of measures to benefit working people, such as free telephones for OAPs, and sabbatical leave from work. But unless these measures are tied to a socialist economic programme, there is no way they can be guaranteed. The

trade unions must fight for every possible gain for the working class, but even the simplest of reforms cannot be guaranteed under the present system.

But conference showed that the Metal Mechanics' union will have an important part to play in the future as part of the labour movement's offensive against the Tory government.

ASTMS conference also saw a clear rejection of Tory policies. Union president Doug Hoyle stressed that the union must be prepared to protect the interests of its members from attacks by the Tory government.

However, the NEC failed to give a clear lead. Clive Jenkins blamed the 5% policy

for Labour's downfall, but the main call of the NEC was to "regenerate" British industry, without outlining socialist policies that could make this possible.

Conference called for increased building programmes for houses, hospitals and schools, creation of new industries and a shorter working week. An amendment from Sheffield Health Service 221 branch called for the deletion of import controls, showing that they deflected from real problems, and calling for an internationalist trade union approach.

Geoff Jones, seconding, said that the union must take the offensive and fight for the implementation of Clause IV—workers' control of the

economy under a socialist plan.

On New Technology, a big issue in most of the recent conferences, Paul Schofield and Ian Burge called for trade union control, work-sharing and the introduction of a 35-hour week with no loss of pay. Without doubt such demands will come ever more to the fore under an axe-happy Tory government.

Reports from  
Glyn James  
(NSMM),  
Ian Burge  
(ASTMS)  
and EETPU  
members

# LEFT & RIGHT

## Minority Right

Nicholas Bennett, Tory candidate in Hackney Central, and a councillor in Lewisham, has been upset by the decision of the Labour Council to set up a Sex Equality Working Party:

"Haven't we got enough working parties already?" he moaned. "There will soon be a working party for every type of minority. And Labour would still keep an eye out for any more—perhaps a black lesbian crippled 89-year-old dwarf with a one-parent family who is unfortunate enough to be a Millwall supporter."

It's nice to know the Tories care. One day, Millwall supporters and others will combine to make Tory councillors into a very, very small minority. And, we promise, no working parties to look after their interests.

## Insecure Shoguns

As economic difficulties mount, so the insecurity of the capitalist leaders becomes ever more acute. When they meet in Tokyo at the end of this month for the seven-state economic Summit, they will be surrounded by unprecedented security precautions. Thirty thousand police will be mobilised, and Britain's "iron maiden" will [inappropriately] be cocooned by a score of policewomen with black belts in the martial arts, to create what officials call a "soft mood". All this prompted one Japanese newspaper to compare the security arrangements, which will ensure that no-one overlooks the conference site, to the regulations enforced in feudal days, when Emperors and Shoguns travelled. "Spectators on the streets were compelled to kneel with their heads touching the ground," it says. "People were also forbidden to look down on the Imperial person and the Shoguns, so nobody was allowed on the second and upper floors during a procession of the exalted persons."

## Du Cann's deal

"The country needs people who are prepared to be adventurous," said Tory MP Edward du Cann recently. This was shortly after the report on the Keyser Ullman affair had embarrassingly associated du Cann with some dubious over-adventurousness which resulted in big losses for shareholders. But du Cann, despite past set-backs, is still busy making money. The 'Financial Times' [9 March] reported that he will be making a cool £1.4 million profit from a deal involving Cannon Assurance, in which he's a major shareholder, being sold to a Canadian group.

## Profits of doom

Marxists are not the only people to have a perspective of increased class struggle in the major capitalist countries. A book has just been published in the USA, entitled 'How to prosper during the coming bad years'. It is about the future in the USA, a country "about to enter its greatest test period since the Civil War—an inflationary spiral leading to a depression that will be remembered with a shudder for generations." The book is already third on the 'New York Times' best sellers list!

# ITV DOCUMENTARY REVEALS HORRORS OF THE MINES

Jonathan Dimbleby's documentary film recently shown on ITV, 'Bolivian Tin Miners', was a horrific reminder to all those of us who are fighting exploitation under the present capitalist system.

As a former construction worker and with experiences of some of the worst kind of jobs for bad conditions, I was still shocked and angered by the humiliation and despair suffered by these men and their families.

The setting was a small mining town, 15,000 feet up in the Andes. There 30,000 people lived, and too frequently died, utterly dependent upon "the company".

It is like a story from the industrial revolution period. A 'token' system of wages; the only place to get food was the 'company' store; but the meat was often rotten and the bread stale.

By Steve Amor

(Stevenage LPYS)

The 'company' provided a corrugated 'shed' as a home. But the wife and children were thrown out if the husband died.

One man said he worked seven days a week, all year round, just to earn enough to feed his family. The average wage is £1 a day.

It is here too that the highest death rate is to be found anywhere in the world amongst miners (1 in 4), and the average life span of a tin miner is only 37 years.

Another man said that 38 miners had been buried over the last few months. These atrocious living conditions are coupled with ten-hour work-shifts, and with nothing to eat (cannot afford 'lunch-boxes' etc.).

The men are reduced to chewing raw cocaine all day, to numb their stomachs and dispel the pangs of hunger.

In return for this 'slave' labour, the 'company' provides a hospital when they are sick—but it has no facilities, and the miners have to pay for a bed.

One man told about his family life. It was non-existent, he said. He came home so tired that he just went to bed. But for a brief glimpse in the mornings, he rarely saw his children.

Silicosis and TB are rife among the miners. Two brothers, one in his late twenties, another a little older, were interviewed in hospital. They both had TB and silicosis, and were told they had two years to live, if they stopped work.

The doctor advised several months' rest, a specialised diet, and the necessary drugs—all of which was impossible! One brother said if they stopped work, they starved—it was as simple as that.

Both had to leave the hospital next day because they could not afford any more time off sick. Both held each other up and literally hobbled home. The next day they were on the truck that takes the men to the mine entrance.

The mines were privately owned but have been 'nationalised' (although their seams are now almost exhausted).

The ex-owner was a multi-millionaire. However, nothing has changed in spite of state ownership.

The miners, however, are organised, and their union is a militant one. In recent years there have been many strikes. On one occasion, strike action only ended with troops shooting the miners down and brutally dispersing them.

The conditions of other workers outside the mines is often worse. No food, no shelter and very little work is a common plight. Surface tin is dug from waterlogged trenches on the mountainsides, and the diggers work 12 hours a day sieving it out.

But they are not officially employed by anyone, and only get paid if they can sell 1 kilo of tin to a suitable buyer. Twelve hours digging and no tin meant no money and no food. Yet there is a waiting list of months to become a digger.

This is the truth about capitalism. The television showed the horrifying realities. But no answers were given by Jonathan Dimbleby: no analysis or programme to give hope to these men in the mines of Bolivia.

But as we know, there are answers—a socialist plan, and workers' democracy.

It is through internationalism and the end of the rule of capital throughout the world that workers' lives can be saved for a better future.

# KEYSER WHEELING AND DEALING ULLMAN GOES AHEAD UNDISTURBED



Du Cann: just made £1.4m

Paul Walter [issue 457] drew attention to the so-called "Dowgate" scandal, in which the Keyser Ullman merchant-banking company lost £22 million in the hey-day of the 1973 property boom.

The inspectors who conducted the enquiry into the affair have only just had their findings reported, four years after they started, and, it is widely believed, two years after they completed their investigation.

In the same week that

By John Pickard

this report alleged bribery, withholding of information, the use of shareholders' funds for personal gains, breaches of the Companies Act, and other "deplorable acts", it has also been disclosed that the chairman of Grey's Building Society stole systematically from the society over a period of 40 years without detection—hiving off a grand total of £2 million.

But what reveals the true nature of the City—the finance oligarchy—is not the regular scandals which come to light, but the lack of any kind of 'rules'. The City, in fact, operates largely on the basis of so-called "voluntary codes of practice". But is it really surprising when one considers that the City exists on the basis of legalised profiteering, legalised corruption, legalised tax evasion and so on?

Even the inspectors of the Dowgate inquiry found that they had no powers to compel people to give evidence—even the officers and agents of the companies in question!

As Paul Walter's article pointed out, the key figures in the scandal was a Mr Selmes, who declined to give evidence to the inspectors, "save to a very limited degree through a solicitor."

After the dust has settled, the report will have done nothing to alter the system of wheeling and dealing on which the City thrives.

## GREEK PRINTERS SUPPORT TIMES WORKERS

Following their defeat in attempting to get the proposed new International Edition of 'The Times' printed in West Germany, 'The Times' management have been seeking possible printing plans all over Europe. But 'The Times' owners are finding that wherever they go, they are running into the international solidarity of printworkers which is ruining their plans to force through redundancies.

The latest example of this has been in Greece where six print unions issued the following statement as soon as they heard that 'The Times' management were thinking of

having the International Edition printed in Greece:

This international movement of workers in solidarity with the locked out 'Times' workers is just one small indication of how it is possible to link together workers' struggles in different countries against their common enemy.

Statement by Greek printers on attempt to print 'Times' in Greece:

The Executive Committee of our unions of workers in the newspaper and printing industries were recently informed, to our astonishment, that negotiations were taking place in order to print 'The Times' of London newspaper in Greece.

We feel obliged to state categorically that in solidarity with our British brothers we will not tolerate any scab plans to print 'The Times' in our country, we will fight against it with all the means at our disposal."

Signed:

Union of Athens Journalists  
Union of Athens Newspaper sellers  
Union of Athens Daily Newspaper Office Workers  
Union of Athens Daily Newspapers Distribution Agency Workers  
National Association of Greek Lithographers  
Union of Athens Daily Newspaper Technical Workers

# NEWHAM NORTH-EAST: PART OF THE FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM

It was with great interest that I read the article by Alan Howarth in issue 456.

Although I moved from Newham some 9 months ago, I still keep in touch with party members there. Since I was involved in the struggles in Newham NE CLP from April 1975 to August 1978, I feel that I am entitled to reply to some of the statements of Comrade Howarth.

The fundamental point is that the struggle in Newham was not only about the removal of Reg Prentice, but part of the wider struggle for socialism within the Labour Party. Some members in Newham NE, vaguely described as 'Tribunites', failed to understand this crucial point.

They certainly gave the impression that the battle to remove Prentice was the culmination of the fight.

## Highly confused

We as 'Militant' supporters, were "united" with the "left" in defeating Prentice. We always gave support to a "joint left" slate against the right; we always gave support to the Tribune majority; but it was critical support.

We never once watered down our policies and principles, in fact on many occasions we clashed vehemently with them. Examples of this are, conference resolutions, conference delegate, nationalisation of the major monopolies under workers' control, the fight against fascism and racialism, and re-selection of MPs.

On this latter point, before the 1978 conference, there was discussion in Newham NE over which resolution to support, either that of the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy (CLPD) or the resolution put forward by 'Militant' supporter Ray Apps from Brighton Kemp-town. Comrade Howarth and many others on the party's EC supported at first the CLPD position. We advocated the resolution of Ray Apps and at the GC Comrade Howarth was won over to our position on re-selection.

Comrade Howarth saw the 'Militant' reporters' claim of the need to stand firm against the "highly confused lefts" as cheap and offensive. If we look at this, then we will see that at crucial times, the 'Tribunites' were indeed "highly confused".

At one stage, just before the 1978 AGM, Comrade Howarth and other 'Tribunites' wanted to include certain right-wing party members, such as Councillors Jack Hart and Ray Massey, in the slate for new officers.

These people had been prominent in the pro-Prentice camp, and Ray Massey had been an active supporter of Lewis and McCormack. In other words certain "left" elements in the party wanted to reunite with the right.

Other 'Tribunites', but by no means all, supported the idea of having Jack Hart as the slate for officers. One of them in particular, himself a local councillor, claimed that it was necessary:

(1) to defeat Freemasons in the Labour Party;

(2) so that the imminent rate demand on our premises wouldn't be so imminent.

'Militant' supporters pointed out that if there was a 'Tribunite'/right slate, then we would oppose it since this would set Newham NE back three years.

Surely, just this point adds weight to the claim that some Tribunites were "highly confused". For them, the battle was over once Prentice was gone. For us, the battle was just starting.

This was the difference between the "reformist left" and the "Marxist left". The whole point is that a number of Tribunites wanted to take the party to the right.

Another example of the "Highly confused" nature of some of the "lefts" was the attitude of them to the injunctions at the 23 February, 1977, meeting.

The officers (so-called "lefts") advised us to go home and fight Lewis and McCormack in the courts. One "left", who had an interest in law and the courts, claimed that the courts were "impartial"!

Surely, as we pointed out then, the whole history of the labour movement contradicts this

## Dickens' resignation one month before an election vindicates the Marxists in the Labour Party

As was pointed out by the editor's reply, the decline in membership and TU affiliation in 1978-9 reflects the exit of pro-Prentice and pro-Lewis members.

An important question we must ask is: "Why hasn't Newham NE grown over the past period", when the Tribunites have been in control?

The answer is the inability of the present leadership to win industrial militants to the local party. There has been very little socialism to attract them...

The election of Jim Dickens as Parliamentary candidate, for instance, took the party backwards and not forward.

We, as 'Militant' supporters, pointed out at the time to Comrade Howarth and others that Jim Dickens would be a disaster for Newham NE Labour Party, and that their support for him would backfire on them.

The real reason why they supported Dickens, if they would only admit it, was to keep out at all costs a Marxist candidate. Dickens was their compromise candidate to keep the Marxists out.

Dickens' job as a manager in a nationalised industry, earning over twice the average industrial wage, was no advert for industrial workers of Newham to join.

Within a short time of

being selected (with combined Tribune votes and right-wing votes) he became a supporter of wage restraint. Dickens didn't want to go to the electors on a socialist programme, but on the right-wing programme of the Labour government.

In other words, after years of struggle to remove Prentice, Newham NE ended up with a candidate who was defending the Labour government's record, and attacking Labour Party Conference decisions on a shorter working week, wage restraint and a guaranteed minimum wage.

Surely Dickens' resignation (due to left-wing pressure) less than a month before a

crucial general election vindicates the Marxists in the Labour Party and has embarrassed and exposed the "highly confused lefts" who supported him in the first place!

## Trade union fighters

A final point is the role (ignored by Comrade Howarth) played by five or six rank and file trade unionists in Newham NE CLP. These comrades from affiliated trade unions were consistent fighters on the GC and the EC: Jim Franklin UCATT, Tim O'Connor EETPU,

Hilary Jenkins UPW, John Rouse EETPU, John Greenhalgh AUEW (constructional), and George Blackmore POEU.

Why, may we ask, did Comrade Howarth dismiss the important role of these trade union delegates to the EC? Probably because they are workers and obviously because all six identified themselves quite clearly with the ideas of 'Militant'.

I hope that I have contributed to the debate on Newham NE, and that the Party will go forward in the struggle for socialism.

Tom Jenkins  
(Neath CLP)



All of the demands made by students have political implications

Photo: John Smith (IFL)

## Political struggle vital

The recent conference called by the 'Broad Left' leaders in the National Union of Students showed the complete disarray of the NUS left.

The whole tone of the conference was pessimistic. Tony Burch, leading off in the first session, blamed students' lack of interest for the present situation in NUS. He said that trade unions had been depoliticised!

He concluded that while it was possible to campaign in 1970-74, it was now out of the question because of the inactivity of the NUS members.

The document presented by the Broad Left leadership showed their political degeneration. It spoke of "Student unions...operating in the interests of their members... Neither are they agents of some abstract revolution... Student unionism...means getting to grips with the real problems of student life."

The document talked of a need for "an approach that is flexible enough to adapt to different levels of experience and differing local circumstances."

'Militant' supporters would agree that students' unions must organise to defend members' interests. But doesn't any NUS issue in a time of crisis take on political implications? Why do refectory prices go up? Why isn't the grant enough to live on? Why are courses cut back?

To try to avoid political debate, hiding behind a veil of "student unionism first" will not protect students from the crisis in capitalist society.

These 'leaders' cynically talk of not being agents of some "abstract revolution". But the programme put forward to this conference, with nothing stronger than an abstract commitment to democracy, cannot take the student movement forward.

Better conditions in the colleges can only be won by fighting on a socialist political programme: a programme to transform society.

The Broad Left declined because it was an electoral alliance cobbling together different groups with different political programmes. Yet, this new alliance has split before it has even got off the ground.

The leaders of the Broad Left and National Organisation of Labour Students (NOLS) grovelled before the Liberal Students, deleting any socialist content from their programme, to draw them into this alliance. A NOLS member of NUS Executive, Alan Christie, said he had more in common with Gavin Grant (Liberal Students) than with a member of the Communist Party who had spoken against the new alliance. Yet, the Liberals showed they were wary about committing themselves to the alliance.

The political confusion was mirrored in the description they gave to the group, compromising on a "Socialist and Left Radical" Alliance—all things to all men.

It was stressed time and again that the Broad Left had

lost their local base, and that they organised virtually no political activity in the colleges. Their solution is to "broaden" the alliance—but they still lack a political programme to solve students' problems.

This conference shows the enormous potential for NOLS were it break from the "Broad Left", and fight for socialist policies within NUS.

'Militant' supporters within Labour Clubs have shown it is possible to build large active Labour Clubs; to run campaigns on socialist policies within colleges, and link up effectively with the labour movement.

The leaders of the Broad Left have learnt nothing from the past eight years. 'Militant' supporters will keep up the fight in NOLS and NUS to win students to socialist policies. Linked with the labour movement, the student movement can not only make gains for students, but play a useful role in the socialist transformation of society.

Peter Lush

# ROVER WORKERS PUTTING THE BLOCK ON NIGHTS

"The media have a lot to say on jet-lag for a few hundred businessmen, but have absolutely nothing to say for millions of workers who have had the same effect on their health for decades."

So Bill Mullins, convenor at Rover [SD1] Solihull said in 1977 after Rover workers' successful action against night shift work. Bill here gives the background to this struggle.

The recent articles and letters in the 'Militant' about night-shift working have prompted me to relate my experiences over this very important matter for all workers.

In 1977, the 4,000 workers in the car side (SD1) of Rover Solihull, of which I am the senior steward, prepared themselves for battle with management who wanted to introduce night-shift

working. Our campaign against nights had wide publicity, and involved not only the SD1 workers but also their wives.

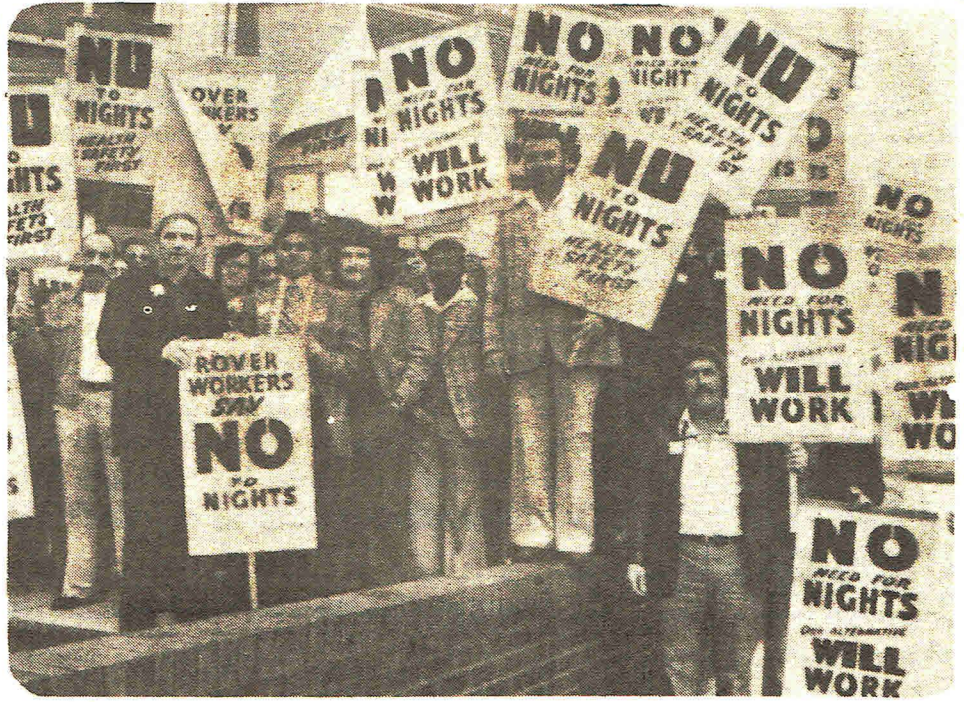
The campaign included lobbies of Leyland House in Coventry and Leyland House in London, press conferences, television and radio interviews.

The reason that we were successful, however, was the absolute determination of the workforce to resist management's plans. At two mass meetings the workers voted overwhelm-

ingly for an all-out strike from the moment management tried to put anybody on nights.

Many of the 4,000 workers had personal experience over many years of working a "fortnight about" on the old Rover saloon production lines, and they didn't need anybody to tell them what an absolute nightmare this system was. Nevertheless, many others had no experience of night-shift working, and had illusions because of its "novelty".

To counteract this, the strike committee, in conjunction with the Birmingham Hazards group, produced thousands of leaflets outlining the case against nights. We gave evidence of the effects of shift-working on a worker's health and how industrial accidents increase sharply on nights. We also outlined the experience of workers inter-



Rover workers in action, September 1977

nationally, and how the labour movement should resist it.

The company tried to say that we would deprive unemployed workers of a job because they wanted to increase production, thereby creating extra jobs, and the only way to do this was by introducing an extra shift.

This was sheer hypocrisy: Leyland were at that time closing their factory in Speke. We said: if you want extra production, then build them at the Speke factory. They have never replied to us.

In the end, the company backed off and two years later we are still working days only. We realise that we have not heard the end of nights, but only won a temporary respite. Nevertheless, the campaign was a success.

It was one of the few times in the trade union movement that the question of nights has been fought seriously.

It was an answer to all those sceptics who said we didn't stand a chance, that "nights" were inevitable, that the workers would be bought off by the night-shift allowance of £20 a week, etc., etc., ad infinitum.

We also saw the possibility of women being forced to work nights as being doubly oppressive.

The women workers attended our mass meetings, and fully participated in the campaign. This was in spite of demands by some workers that, since the "law" protected women against working nights, they therefore had no right to decide whether the men worked nights or other-

wise.

We pointed out that many of the women workers had their husbands working on the tracks, and that if they ended up working nights and their wives worked days, this would completely disrupt any family life.

The crisis of capitalism means that the bosses, in their perpetual chase for greater profits, will always attempt to get more out of their existing plants—and to hell with the workers' health!

Only under a system of production for need, and not profit, will we see an end to the bulk of shift working. Only socialism can guarantee that enough investment is put into plant and machinery to produce society's needs without forcing workers onto "nights".

## PREPARING FOR THE BIG WIDE WORLD

Just going to take my exams at my school. And all the teachers at the top are telling us how school is there to prepare us for when we leave, and go into the big wide world.

I am beginning to see what they mean, when I look at a normal day. 9.10 am: full school assembly, we all stand up before the Headmaster comes in. This, I am told, is a sign of respect.

We all sit down to listen to his favourite music for ten minutes. I suspect it was also his great, great grandfather's favourite music as well.

Surely we should choose; in a so-called democratic society. I mean if school is to prepare us for the big wide world, then surely the majority should decide.

This should go in all cases, for at my school the majority likes soul music and not Beethoven. Beethoven is his music, which is fair enough if he wants to listen to it, but why should we have to?

Two years ago, when I was 14, not yet a YS member, I tried to arrange something with the Head Housemaster: that we should have a ballot at the beginning of each month with all pupils given a vote of their favourite music, the most votes getting more listening, but still the minor-

ity would get some time, depending on the size of their vote.

This was brushed off as being too difficult to be organised, and me being 14, it went no further.

Anyway, 9.30 am: English. I don't mind this lesson. The teacher treats us as people with a brain, and we discuss things, and he lays it on us, the reality of getting work done. He would not punish us for not doing it, for as he says, it's for us, not for him.

10.45: break, go to the hall, where us fifth years can stay in the warm and buy a cup of tea, while the lower in age have to stay outside unless it is raining (the start of privilege).

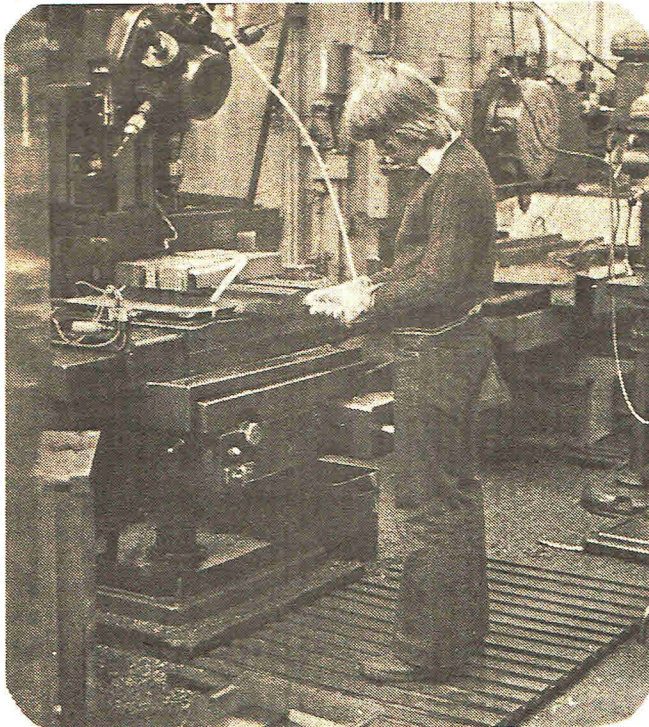
11 am: I go to Business Skills, which is quite useful. We've learned how the Stock Exchange works!

It has also taught me how to type this letter, and how the wholesaler made a profit from selling his goods to the retailers and how the retailer made a profit from selling to you and me.

This seems good preparation for you provided you are not going to make silly demands, like a decent living wage, £70 minimum.

Next is lunch hour, and then registration, and then Humanities (sociology). This lesson got me interested in people and people's needs.

This is a good lesson, looking very deeply at peo-



Preparing for work—or the dole?

ple's problems, e.g. overcrowding, stress, vandalism, unemployment, but it does not go to destroy the root of the problems facing the working class, the problem being capitalism.

The next lesson is Maths. This is one of my luckiest lessons, in that I have a very good teacher, who teaches for you to learn and not just pass the day. It matters to him if someone doesn't understand, and he helps as much as he can, this is a very positive

element of a comprehensive school.

Most of my school life is do as you are told, some teachers believing the cane can solve the problems, such as hopping off school.

You can only solve the problem by giving a person incentive to stay at school, by giving majority rule while they're there and giving them a chance after they leave.

Dave Partington  
(Deptford LPYS)

## THE VICTIMS OF THE CUTS

Health care for the mentally handicapped is the victim of declining standards in the NHS. This has been highlighted by recent reports at four major hospitals.

The shortage of nurses at St Lawrence's Hospital, at Caterham in Surrey, for example, is so serious that COHSE warned that the safety of the patients could no longer be guaranteed. The Croydon Area Health Authority acknowledge that there was a serious shortage, but disagree that patients' lives are being endangered.

Rehabilitation is impossible for these patients as the nurses can carry out only the minimum nursing care which involves feeding, dressing, washing and toileting. There is no time to train these patients to achieve these basic tasks for themselves.

There are about 1,400 patients at St Lawrence, and an average of 410 nurses—about 200 more nurses are needed to enable the patient to receive the basic nursing care.

Staff shortage means that at night very often a nursing assistant is left alone to take charge of a ward. Some of the patients suffer from epileptic

fits—how can one unqualified nurse attend to this type of patient alone?

If there is a fire—how can one nurse evacuate the ward effectively? During the day, two nurses are very often left to cope with 20 patients, many of whom have physical handicaps and are doubly incontinent.

At three Northumberland long-stay hospitals, it has been reported that the shortage of nurses resulted in patient-care being nothing more than "crowd control and tolerance". The wards are overcrowded and toilet facilities inadequate, including ward toilets without doors.

The nurses are so demoralised—sickness leave is high, the rate of trainees who leave is increasing, and recruitment in such conditions is impossible.

Where is the justice? Why should our patients have to suffer the consequences of an evil profit-making society? Why should they have to tolerate such ill-treatment?

We must fight to defend and extend the NHS to enable the mentally-handicapped and mentally-ill to have their human needs and rights acknowledged and provided for.

Sue Hinchliffe  
(COHSE)

## IRELAND



This year Southern Ireland has witnessed the largest workers' demonstrations in its history. In the following article John Throne analyses the reasons for this, and what the future holds for the Irish labour movement. John Throne was re-elected to the Irish Labour Party's Administrative Council [Executive] this year with an increased vote, and is a prominent contributor to 'Militant Irish Monthly'.

When Michael Smurfit, the Managing Director of Ireland's largest privately-owned company spoke recently at the Irish Management Institute conference in Killarney, Co. Kerry, his boast on behalf of his big business associates was: "We've never had it so good."

While he personally undoubtedly has grounds for this claim—he was paid £11½ thousand per week in 1978—the outlook for Irish capitalism North and South is far from healthy.

The party in government in the 26 Counties at the present time is Fianna Fail. Headed by Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Jack Lynch, Fianna Fail is the main party of big business.

They have been in office since June 1977, when they unseated the previous coalition government of Fine Gael and the Labour Party. Fine Gael is the second party of big business and held 54 seats to Labour's 19 in the coalition.

This Fine Gael-dominated coalition presided over rising prices, rising unemployment and falling living standards. So Fianna Fail, in order to tap the rising mood of rejection of the conservative policies of the coalition, fought the 1977 election on a programme of lavish promises to solve practically all problems.

With no other alternative—Labour being imprisoned in the coalition—Fianna Fail swept to victory with 84 seats. This gave them a 20-seat majority, the biggest in the state's history. Winning the election, however, was to be only the beginning of their troubles.

To finance their election promises, or rather those of them they could carry out, Fianna Fail has increased government borrowing from the already high 10% of GNP in 1977 to 13% of GNP in 1978. Along with this, they removed the Wealth Tax and set in motion a process of reducing the rate of Corporation Profits Tax. They were set on a course of 'priming the pump' in an attempt to get the economy going again. The 'Irish Times' called in an "out-of-date and largely discredited interpretation of Keynesian economics."

For a while, however, it appeared to be working, with economic growth in 1978 reaching between 6% and 7%. But beneath the surface, the contradictions were piling up. The increased government borrowing and pump priming had contributed to the slack or the spare capacity, being taken up in the economy.

This was mainly the basis for the increase in the growth rate. But it also led to increased inflation and imports. Inflation is now running at an annual rate of 15% and rising, while the balance of payments deficit is forecast to increase to at least £210m in 1979 compared to £159m in 1978.

Growth in 1979 is expected to even out at around 3%—this is half last year's figure.

In the course of their euphoria in returning to office, Fianna Fail began

**Inflation is now running at an annual rate of 15% and rising. The balance of payments deficit is forecast to increase to at least £210m in 1979 and growth this year is expected to be only at 3%—half last year's figure**

Fianna Fail's thinking was to increase spending power in the economy, remove the taxation of wealth, and increase profits hoping this would result in an increase in productive investment, and lead to further jobs and sustained economic growth.

In the words of one of their previous leaders, the "rising tide would lift all boats." Unfortunately, for Fianna Fail they were to find out that while the tide can only flow out and flow in, increased profits can go in many directions other than creating jobs. Fianna Fail's "gamble" as O'Donohue, Minister for Economic Planning and Development called their policy, is now coming apart at the seams.

to believe their own propaganda. Convinced of the strength of the economy they separated the Irish £—or Punt as it is now called—from sterling and joined the European Monetary System. They believed the Punt would rise against sterling and stabilise with the Deutsch Mark, and that this would help to cut back on inflation, contributing to the attraction of investment.

The result has been the opposite. The Punt has lost up to 6% against sterling and now seems likely to be forced to break its present link with the EMS in the months ahead and devalue and rejoin at a different and lower parity. This will add further fuel to the rising rate of inflation.

On top of these problems now



forcing the 26 County economy to the brink is posed the coming world recession.

With the economic indicators in decline for the past three months in the USA, and with a fall in industrial production in the USA in April, it now seems certain that the capitalist world will enter into recession in late 1979 or early 1980. With over 40% of the 26 Counties' production going in exports this will add a further dimension to the economic crisis that is approaching.

In fact, taking all these factors together, the 26 Counties' economy is facing a catastrophe. Fianna Fail's policies have only compounded the problems. The prospects are for inflation of up to 20%, government borrowing to continue in double figures, the National Debt to remain at least at a figure equivalent to 80% of GNP, and the economy to dip into recession in the next 12 months.

**The government are responding to the coming crisis by the usual method of conservative politicians—make the working class pay!**

Unemployment is once again on the increase. Even during the growth of 1978 unemployment remained at around 9% according to official figures. This meant over 90,000 officially out of work. This official figure is now over 100,000 and, according to statistics published recently, unemployment is between 90,000 and 140,000.

Jack Lynch himself in the run-up to the last election claimed that 160,000 people were out of work. This figure was dropped as soon as he gained office and the official statistics regained favour.

The numbers employed in manufacturing industry at the end of 1978 stood at 203,000. This was 4,400 lower than those employed in manufacturing at the end of 1973. The jobs lost in the recession of 1974/75 were not regained in the upswing.

The coming recession will add further to the dole queues and given the state of world capitalism at present, and the quickly growing population of the 26 Counties, then the 'Financial Times' estimate of 25% unemployed in the 26 Counties by 1985 does not seem to be too much of an exaggeration.

As the economic crisis becomes more and more evident to Fianna Fail, they are giving increased voice

# ECON CRI PROV MAS OPPOS

to echoing the calls of big business to move against the trade unions. A Fianna Fail-nominated Senator and ex-Governor of the Central Bank has called for the Gardai (police) and army to be properly trained and used against strikers. Spokesmen for the employers are continually calling for the outlawing of unofficial strikes.

These elements have also been heard more and more recently to condemn the "British influence" in the Irish trade union movement. This is partly an attempt to sow nationalist division, but it also represents the opposition of the bosses to the growing strength of the shop stewards' movement.

Waving their threats of legislation in one hand, Fianna Fail offered a "national understanding" to the trade unions with the other. This was to give a 15% increase in pay over 15 months and some tax concessions if the industrial climate was right and the economy going well. It also included restrictions on the right to strike for increases over and above the terms of the "Understanding".

If accepted, the terms on pay increases would have meant a fall of up to 10% in real living standards. But in spite of the support given to the "Understanding" by the Irish



This year's Party Conference rejected pre-election pacts with capitalist parties



# LAND



Every shop and factory closed in Waterford last September as workers demanded jobs

# ECONOMIC CRISIS PROVOKE MASSIVE OPPOSITION

Congress of Trade Unions, the anger against a decade of wage restraint under the previous National Wage Agreements burst to the surface, and the ICTU delegate conference of 23 May threw out the "Understanding" by a vote of almost 2-1.

It seems unlikely that the government can rescue the "Understanding", and it now appears that the unions will return to free collective bargaining and an escape from the clutches of wage restraint for the first time since 1970. The grounds for compromise between the ICTU and the bosses have disappeared as living standards fell and the workers' anger reached new heights in the past year.

Fianna Fail's policies increased the anger of the labour and trade union movement. Under their rule, food subsidies are being phased out, while wealth taxes have been removed. As the working class fought to make ends meet under this bosses' government, the 81 public companies, excluding the banks, which reported accounts in the first 9 months of 1978, showed an increase of 49% in profits.

Fianna Fail now seem set to confront the entire trade union movement. With the rejection of the "Understanding", claims are being

made for increases of 25% and more. 55,000 building workers are demanding 25% increase and improvement of conditions. 30,000 craftsmen are also pursuing a claim of 25%. Many other claims are in the pipeline for increases of at least these levels.

It would appear that Fianna Fail have decided on behalf of their big-business backers to fight these claims. They do not rule out legislation on wages in their statements. Their attitude to the Post Office workers' strike is an indication of the events that are now opening up.

After four months, the POWU strike is still continuing. The POWU are claiming rises of between 31% and 37% to make up for years of low pay and unsocial hours. The government's reaction has been to leave the workers on the streets in the hope that without strike pay they will be starved back to work.

While this is an indication of the stoney-faced approach of this bosses' government, the POWU strike gives an indication of the mood of anger and determination of the organised labour and trade union movement.

**This four-month old strike of the 13,000 Post Office workers is the biggest in the history of the state. More man-days have been lost in this strike alone than in any year since 1970.**

In spite of no strike pay for the bulk of the strike and in spite of the opposition of the leaders of the ICTU and in spite of vicious attacks and arrests of pickets by the Gardai the strike continues.

Events of the past months have shown that this mood of determination and anger is not confined to the postal workers. In September 1978 in Waterford, Fianna Fail brought in the army to attempt to intimidate 500 workers on an unemployed protest. The response of the local Trades Council was to call another demonstration and strike.

This time, in a town with a population of 35,000, 20,000 took part in the demonstration and every shop and factory in the town closed down. The army has not been used since by Fianna Fail to attempt to intimidate workers' demonstrations.

On 20 March of this year the biggest demonstrations in the history of the state took place on the question of PAYE. With no lead being given on the wages front, and the Labour Party still suffering from its participation in the coalition, the anger of the working class crystallised around this issue.

This anger was focused against the existing taxation system, which means that while PAYE contributors make up 60% of income earners in the state they contribute 90% of personal taxation.

When the Dublin Trades Council against the wishes of the ICTU leaders called for a general strike and demonstration on 20th March the response was unprecedented. Throughout the entire country, other trades councils followed suit and up to 300,000 workers struck and marched.

**Up to a third of the workforce took part in the demonstrations. In Dublin 200,000 marched. This was the biggest demonstration the city had ever seen. Between 1 in 4 and 1 in 5 of the entire population of the city—men, women and children—took part in the march. This was followed by the May Day demonstration of 40,000.**

On every front, this government is besieged: 20,000 young people protested in Wexford against the building of a nuclear power station there; 17,000 marched in Dublin against the destruction of an archeological site in Dublin.

the total workforce are organised in trade unions. The population is extremely young—50% of the population are 25 years of age or less.

The attacks on workers' living standards by Fianna Fail and big business as their system enters crisis will be opposed by the full power of the working class and the youth. The responsibilities on the shoulders of the trade union movement and the Labour Party have never been greater.

Nor have the responsibilities. If the middle layers of society as well, are not to be driven into outright poverty, then the opposition which is now developing must be channelled into a movement to put in power a majority Labour government pledged to implement socialist policies.

The prospects for this Fianna Fail government are now clear. It is—and will continue to be—a government of crisis as it seeks to solve the problems of capitalism at the expense of the working class.

While it need not go to the country for re-election until June 1982 and while its 20-seat majority gives it a working parliamentary majority, it cannot be ruled out that its policies would provoke such opposition from the trade union movement that it could face a general strike.

Such a development could result in the government being brought down and an early election taking place. Whether this happens or whether they stagger on until their time is up,

right-wing, anti-working class parties.

Similarly, as more and more trade union activists move into political activity and as the youth also move into the struggle, the ranks of the Labour Party will be filled out. Most of these new members will be anti-coalition.

On top of this, the next election will be a class election, with the question of the rights of trade unions and the conditions and living standards of working people as the central issues.

The gap between Fianna Fail and Fine Gael on the one side and the Labour Party on the other will be widened. With Labour having the direct affiliation of all the major trade unions the Party will become the direct political voice of the trade union movement as was intended by its founders James Connolly and Jim Larkin.

An important factor in this process will be the recently established Labour Youth Section. At its first annual conference on May 13th 1979, it overwhelmingly passed a resolution opposing coalition. As the Youth Section grows it will further strengthen the movement in the Party against coalition.

A mass Labour Party Young Section fighting on socialist policies side by side with Labour rejecting coalition and fighting clearly for power on its own could see the next election producing sufficient support to form a majority Labour government. It is up to the Labour Party leaders to give this lead if the full potential for Labour is to be realised.

With Labour fighting on these policies in the 26 Counties a real impetus would be given to the struggle for workers' unity and the formation of a mass Labour Party in Northern Ireland. Workers in Northern Ireland would see a powerful and socialist labour movement to transform the poverty-ridden and Church-dominated state in the South. They would be inspired to move in the same direction in the North, and a real united working class movement would develop.

And, as the trade unions are united on a 32-county basis through the ICTU, then an All-Ireland mass Labour Party could be built on which would open up the way to the establishment of a Socialist United Ireland.

**It cannot be ruled out that the government's policies will provoke such opposition from the trade union movement that it could face a general strike**

The speed of events in this period of history is well demonstrated by the life of this Fianna Fail government. They came to power with their biggest ever majority less than two years ago. The boastful champions of that election have been transformed by the movement of the working class into a gaggle of punch-drunk fighters trying to stay off the canvas.

This is a fate that also lies ahead for the new Thatcher government in Britain. Such a development will also affect the situation in the 26 Counties, as it will evoke a further movement of the trade unions in the North of Ireland, and the struggles North and South will tend to dovetail in the years ahead.

The Postal workers in the North have already blacked the scab courier services posting large amounts of mail in the border areas.

Twenty-six County society has entered the most explosive period in its history. Traditionally, when the economy of the 26 Counties was in crisis the steam was taken out of the situation by mass emigration.

A million people live in Britain today who were born in the 26 Counties. This is not an option for capitalism any longer. There is now mass structural unemployment in Britain, the USA, Canada and Australia, all the traditional outlets for Irish emigration.

Over the past 20 years the 26 Counties have become increasingly industrialised. Only 20% of the population are now involved in agriculture. The working-class movement has never been stronger. 62% of

the next election whenever it is held will see a tremendous movement of opposition to Fianna Fail. It is up to the Labour Party to provide a socialist alternative.

**This can only be done if the idea of coalition is finally and decisively rejected.**

Fine Gael, the partners with Labour in the last coalition, are a party of big business just like Fianna Fail. Their policies to solve the economic crisis are those of Fianna Fail. Their spokesman on labour has called for legislation against unofficial strikes.

If Labour are to seize the opportunities now opening up they must rule out entirely any coalition and fight on their socialist policies and for a majority Labour government.

Labour's last conference in April 1979 saw the Party take a step in this direction when it ruled out any pre-election pacts with other parties and decided to fight on its own independent socialist policies in the June elections and the coming general election.

If no overall majority existed for any party after the election then a special conference would have to be held to decide on a parliamentary alliance or to go into opposition. Labour has still to take the step of ruling out entirely any coalition. But events are on the side of those in the Party who wish to see this decision taken.

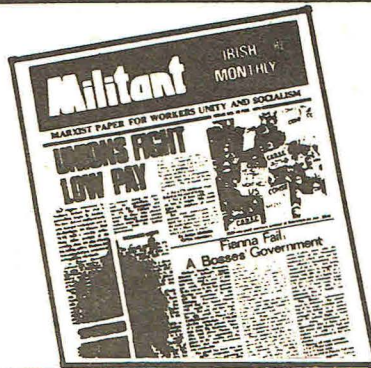
The economic crisis now opening will see Fianna Fail and Fine Gael expose themselves more clearly as

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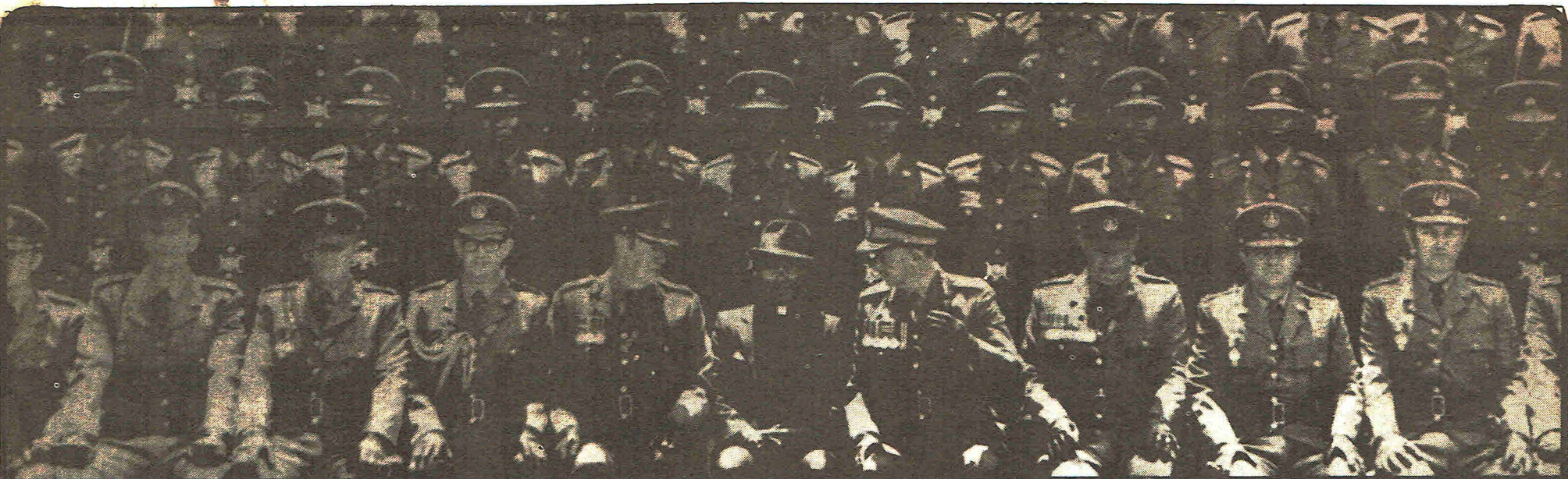
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Muzorewa as Prime Minister and Defence Minister cannot sack his Army Commander. The army will remain under white control for the next ten years

## TORIES TO RECOGNISE RHODESIA ?

It looks as if the Tory government is going to back the Muzorewa-Smith regime.

"Creeping recognition" is the policy.

Firstly set up a government office in Salisbury to liaise with the Muzorewa puppet regime. Then gradually increase the links until recognition emerges.

The American government seem to have accepted this approach although they are advising caution.

Firstly it would cut out the liberation movement of the Patriotic Front and drive them further to the left.

The war would not end. Instead it could escalate with South Africa intervening on a massive scale.

This could lead to Cuban involvement. Both, South

Africa's Prime Minister, said last week that South Africa would intervene if there was "foreign involvement" in Rhodesia.

The Tories seem to have calculated that this danger of a left-ward drift can be faced, by an alliance with the apartheid regime.

The second concern amongst big business circles has been economic retaliation by Black African states. The key country here is Nigeria.

Nigeria is the UK's most important trading market outside Europe and the USA. Last year £1,133 million worth of British goods were exported to Nigeria [only £667 million went to South Africa].

There is over £5,000 million of British business investment in Nigeria [£5,000 million in South Africa]. British capitalism's stake in Nigeria is thus large.

Shell and BP have a 45% share in the company which produces a third of Nigeria's oil, and own 40% of the Port Harcourt oil refinery.

It is not small firms who have interests in Nigeria. Aside from the oil companies, other British monopolies with investments in the country include Lonrho, Unilever, Taylor Woodrow, British Leyland, Tate and Lyle, International Computers.

If that is the stake, what is the likelihood of the Nigerian military regime taking economic action against British capitalists if the Tory regime recognised Rhodesia?

The military regime and the emerging political parties in Nigeria [who will contest elections in October] are

committed to maintaining capitalism in the country.

Despite much anti-racist rhetoric, the military government did not take any action against Shell and Mobil interests in Nigeria, despite their sanction-busting in Rhodesia.

Nigeria is tied to the strings of international capital.

It would probably be especially difficult for it to take action against the oil companies, as it needs technical expertise and foreign investment for further oil exploration.

Unless it took the companies over, it would find itself totally dependent on them.

Yet if Britain and the USA recognised the Muzorewa regime, it is likely that Nigeria would take selective action against other American and British monopolies.

The regime would need to take some action to head off

criticism from within Nigeria, especially the youth.

Without doing anything to disturb the whole framework of capitalism in Nigeria, the regime would probably take over some companies, transfer contracts to other capitalist firms and hit British monopolies quite hard.

Nigeria could exploit differences between the different imperialist powers, and turn to other European countries or Japan. This is why British and American capitalism are trying to involve other capitalist governments in their policy over Rhodesia.

Last week when Muzorewa

took the oath as 'Prime Minister', he promised "I can assure you I'm determined to solve the problems determinedly and ruthlessly".

The Tories and international big business are not just taking him at his word. They know that behind the vacillating Bishop are the armed forces of Rhodesia and South Africa, determined to defeat any threat to capitalism.

Whatever the losses in Black Africa [and the Tories are concerned to minimise these], the Thatcher government, it seems, has decided to back the forces of outright reaction.

Saturday June 30th Demonstration in London  
'No Tory Sell-out in Zimbabwe'  
Organised by Anti-Apartheid Movement  
'Militant' supporters and LPYS to bring banners

Assemble 2.30 pm, Smithfield Market  
to march to Rally at Trafalgar Square, 4.00 pm

## Nationalist conflict in Eastern Europe

After the recent visit of President Tito to Brezhnev in Moscow, the two leaders apparently politely agreed to differ.

The distinctions between the two countries, said Tito, were an historical reality, which would not disappear. But the final communiqué hid a bitter fight between the leadership of both states.

The differences between the two bureaucracies which govern the USSR and Yugoslavia go back to the 1940s. Both have tried to pursue a 'national road to socialism'.

This has been reflected in the foreign policies both countries pursue. Tito has laid great stress upon the so-called non-aligned movement.

This group of 86 countries is meant to be somehow taking a middle road, separate from Western imperialism and the states of Eastern Europe.

But Yugoslavia's position in this group is threatened by two nations close to the USSR, Cuba and Vietnam.

To fight off this threat, Yugoslavia has been manoeuvring amongst Arab states such as Kuwait, Iraq and Jordan to build up opposition to Cuba and its proposal to divide the



President Tito of Yugoslavia

'non-aligned' movement into 'progressive' and 'non-progressive' nations.

The other battle between the two bureaucracies has been over the leadership succession to Tito.

The Soviet bureaucracy has been conspiring to build up support within the Yugoslav party, playing off the different regions against each other and even holding military manoeuvres in neighbouring Bulgaria.

Neither issue was resolved at the recent Moscow talks. The two bureaucracies will each continue to manoeuvre to try to protect their own privileges.

Neither of them has ever shown the slightest inter-

est in genuine workers' democracy.

One of their main concerns has been to crush any manifestation of it, e.g. Tito and Khrushchev flew to Yugoslavia to obtain Tito's agreement before the invasion of Hungary in 1956.

On the basis of the undemocratic states of Yugoslavia and USSR, there will be no possibility of the two countries ever coming together.

Only when there is political revolution to establish workers' democracy in their countries and throughout Eastern Europe, will the bitter farce of events such as the recent meeting in Moscow be ended and fraternal co-operation be built.

## ANGLO-FRENCH DIVIDE WIDENS AFTER CANADIAN ELECTIONS

The recent election in Canada highlighted many of the problems the new minority Conservative government will face.

The western world's longest-serving Prime Minister (Liberal Pierre Trudeau) has been replaced by "Progressive Conservative" Joe Clarke, who leads a minority government.

A noticeable point of the elections was the New Democratic Party—set up by the Canadian Trade Unions in 1961—who increased their number of seats from 17 to 26.

They made gains in the Niagara Falls and working class areas of Hamilton as well as in Atlantic Canada, including Newfoundland, where unemployment is up to 17%.

The Liberals had totally

failed to solve Canada's economic problems. Whilst Trudeau was Prime Minister inflation had risen to 9%, unemployment had grown from 375,000 to more than one million.

On these questions, Trudeau had no answers. Indeed, he told one heckler to "...get off your ass and get a job". This did not exactly get a good response from Canada's unemployed!

Joe Clarke's programme was described as "carefully vague...to the extent that its policies could be discerned at all" (Financial Times 24th May).

But some of the measures he is considering include selling off to the private section parts of Petrocan (the state oil company) tightening up on "abuse" in the National Health Service, and abolishing capital gains tax on the sale of Canadian shares.

But the question that hangs over Canada at present is the national question—the split along French-English lines.

With the Conservatives being overwhelmingly based in the English-speaking population, the possibility of a split has deepened. But a split into two nations—on the basis of the present economic system—could not solve any problems.

The rise of the national question—as in the crisis-torn west generally—is a sign of the economic crisis. Despite Canada's enormous natural resources, there is no way out of the crisis for workers and small farmers on the basis of the present system.

By Peter Lush

## ISRAEL'S ECONOMY

Even despite the signing of the peace treaty, there is no end in sight for the economic problems of the Israeli government. Inflation this year is expected to reach 60% and without drastic changes in policy could easily reach 100% next year. The Israeli

Finance Minister has put forward a policy to reduce inflation...but only to 30%, and over the next five years!

As would be expected from the Likud government, basing its policies on Israeli capitalism, the burden of the new policy will be born by workers

in the form of increased taxes, public expenditure cuts and swingeing cuts in subsidies. Whatever the policy followed by the Israeli ruling class in relation to the Arab world it will take miracles to avoid big class battles over the coming years.

# INSIDE BROADMOOR

**Very rarely a month goes by without there being some mention in the national newspapers about Broadmoor, the oldest of Britain's five top-security mental hospitals.**

Indeed, since it was built in 1863, Broadmoor has housed some of the most notorious mental patients in Britain. Yet very few people know what Broadmoor is or what goes on behind its walls.

Up until the 1959 Mental Health Act Broadmoor was known simply as a "criminal lunatic asylum". The Act demanded that it should become a "Special Hospital" under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Health instead of the Home Office.

Since then it has been staffed by psychiatric nurses, and is said to provide treatment for patients with "violent or criminal propensities". However, neither the staff nor the patients regard Broadmoor as a hospital, and it is so prison-like that an outsider could probably detect no difference whatsoever.

When I first started working at Broadmoor as a nurse, I was amazed to learn that the only trade union I could join was the Prison Officers' Association—management won't recognise a health service union. I also found I had to wear a Prison Officer's uniform.

But those shocks proved trivial compared to what was to follow.

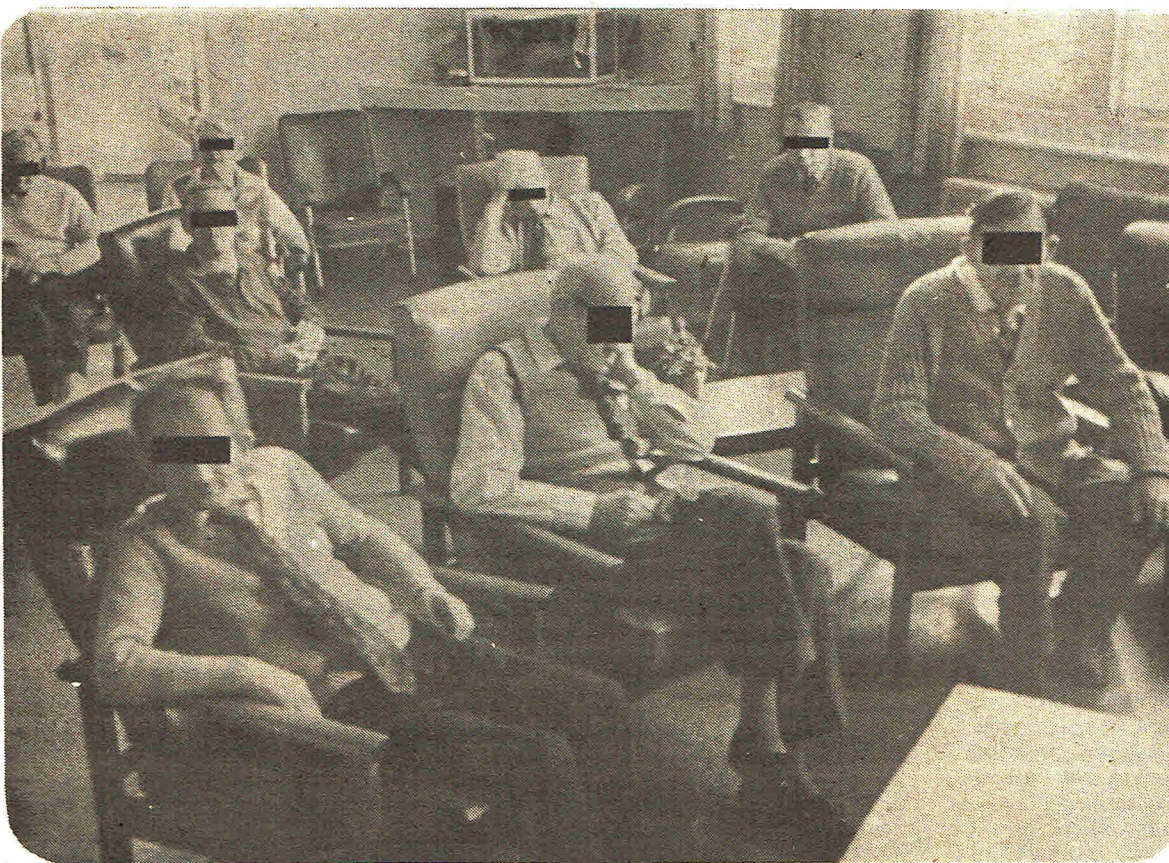
Like the rest of the health service, due to cutbacks in public spending, Broadmoor suffers from a massive shortage of beds, and the low wages of the staff has brought about a crucial problem of understaffing. At present the hospital is 180 qualified nurses short of requirements.

To add to the problems Broadmoor, which was built in 1863 to house 500 patients in Victorian conditions, now houses over 750 patients. Grossly overcrowded wards leading to conflict and violence is one of the inevitable side-effects.

I was to see violence within my first few months in Broadmoor. This took the form of attacks on staff by patients and, as a direct result, assaults on patients by staff. Most of these, however, were considered to be minor incidents at least in Broadmoor terms.

Obviously, trying to help psychiatric patients is not easy, and physical restraint is often necessary for the patient's own benefit. I have taken part in such restraint myself, probably to the extent which might possibly be termed 'assault'.

I can only rely on my own conscience for the assurance that I acted in good faith. I have worked in



**TREATMENT—OR REPRESSION?**

a conventional psychiatric hospital and I know that this is a dilemma nurses are often faced with.

However, after I had been at Broadmoor about six months I was involved in a violent scuffle with a disturbed schizophrenic patient who punched the nurse in charge of the ward.

An alarm bell was sounded, and about fifteen other staff arrived to

electro-convulsive therapy.

Although many people have expressed distaste at the use of ECT, and there are differences amongst psychiatrists themselves, it is generally accepted that this treatment is beneficial in some cases of depression and schizophrenia.

But in Broadmoor—as with drugs—ECT is grossly abused. It is prescribed in courses of 20, whereas

Health Act are designed to protect patients who are detained against their will, but in Broadmoor these are either avoided or totally ignored.

All patients, for instance, according to Section 3 of the Act are entitled to appeal to a Mental Health Review Tribunal, but whether or not they are allowed access to one may depend on their psychiatrist. Needless to say, some

**"When I started working at Broadmoor as a nurse, I was amazed to learn that the only trade union I could join was the Prison Officers' Association. I also found I had to wear a prison officer's uniform. But these shocks proved trivial..."**

remove the patient to a side-room. I thought that this was the end of the incident, but it was obviously only the beginning.

About ten of the so-called 'nurses' started tearing the patient's clothing off, punching and kicking him in the stomach, back and legs as they did so. When they left the room the patient, a man who is not considered to be responsible for his actions, was unconscious.

## Drugs—the "liquid cosh"

As if physical abuse of the mentally ill is not enough, drug abuse is even worse. Most of Broadmoor's patients are on massive doses of phenothiazines—major tranquilisers such as Largactil, Melleril, Serenace and Stelazine.

One ward which has only fourteen disturbed patients uses 5 litres of Stelazine, 5 litres of Melleril and 17,500 milligrams of Taractan tablets in a week!

In many cases, these drugs are not given for therapeutic purposes, but simply to keep the patients 'quiet', and it is quite common to find patients whose medication has not been reviewed for months.

Another form of treatment which may be used in psychiatric hospitals and which is frequently used in Broadmoor is a controversial one:

most hospitals pursue only a course of 6. I have even known one patient to undergo a course of 40.

ECT has been given to Broadmoor patients suffering from 'personality disorders' for whom this treatment can have no beneficial effect whatsoever; in fact in the long run it can be nothing but detrimental.

Because of the traumatic psychological and physical effect that it can have on any patient, ECT is always given with a general anaesthetic and

**Yorkshire Television's recent programme on Rampton dramatised allegations of brutality made over many years. Exclusively for 'Militant', a psychiatric nurse describes institutionalised brutality at Broadmoor.**

muscle relaxant. But in Broadmoor one psychiatrist regularly administers it without any anaesthetic as a form of punishment.

I myself have been witness to one such "treatment".

Once a patient is committed to Broadmoor he has virtually no legal protection whatsoever. It is true that various sections of the Mental

of patients' rights is the 1959 Mental Health Act, which is totally inadequate for the protection of the compulsorily detained psychiatric patient.

Pressure groups such as 'MIND' have been fighting hard for a complete structural change in the Act, claiming that it makes little or no provision for patients' rights, that those they do have are not applied, and that because of its vague and open-ended nature the Act allows misinterpretation and deliberate abuse.

The demand to change the Act is one that must be backed by the labour and trade union movement in Britain because its suppressive nature is one that the ruling class may find useful in victimising individuals in the movement, as well as interfering with the human rights of every member of the public.

The BBC programme 'Man Alive' on Tuesday, 27 March, revealed that a shop steward who faced a policeman across a picket line in Epsom was arrested a year later by the same policeman and detained in hospital under the Mental Health Act for three days.

This was under Section 136 of the Act, which allows any constable to remove a person who is "mentally disordered" from a public place to a "place of safety" for 72 hours.

As a result, a totally sane and innocent trade unionist lost three days of his liberty on the word of a policeman who has no psychiatric training whatsoever. This section of the Act is as vague and ludicrous as the notorious 'sus' laws being used particularly against black youths in London.

All three repressive Acts are threats to the freedom of workers and their families.

## Who is protecting whom?

I believe that the definition of mental illness is in many cases a matter of opinion. When individuals do not conform to an accepted way of thinking or behaviour the authorities and a section of the medical profession are guilty of labelling them "insane" and depriving them of their freedom on the grounds that they need to be "cared for".

The excuse used to justify their confinement, as in Broadmoor, is that they "need to be protected". But their confinement is designed far more to protect the status quo in society than to help these individuals.

There can be no doubt that Broadmoor is as much a part of the penal system as any prison. Although it is claimed that it provides treatment for mentally disordered offenders, it undoubtedly denies them basic rights and institutionalises the same brutality characteristic of the Prison Service.

It is yet another example of how disadvantaged groups, this time the mentally ill, are blatantly legislated against, and cruelly cast aside by a ruling class concerned only to uphold its own rule and quench its insatiable thirst for profit.

## Dangers of the Mental Health Act

After revealing the sort of injustices and brutalities of which Broadmoor is guilty, it is hardly surprising that it is covered by the Official Secrets Act which, according to management, is to protect the patients!

Under Section 36 of the Mental Health Act this "protection" includes censorship of patients' mail.

Obviously, the culprit for the lack

**PHOTO [Andrew Wiard, Report] shows an ordinary hospital for the mentally sick in the South of England. For obvious reasons, we have no pictures inside Broadmoor.**

## Euro right winger

Dear Comrades

Lord St Oswald, Tory Euro-candidate for Yorkshire West had some embarrassing facts revealed about him last week by David Blackman, deputy general secretary for Socialist groups in the European Parliament. He said:

"We have heard Lord St Oswald supports South Africa and he certainly supports Smith. He has never denied the fact that he was a war reporter on Franco's side and supported him until the day he died."

He added that during the Spanish Civil War (1936-39) Lord St Oswald had been captured by the popular front and sentenced to death as a fascist spy by a workers' council.

Our Tory lord rebuked: "I am not extremely right wing, I am a right of centre politician."

"Secondly the only claim that I was a supporter of Franco was that I met him twice; but I did not know him personally (!)"

On the end of Franco's 40-year dictatorship he commented: "I was extremely pleased at the change from the personal rule of General Franco (!) to democratic rule."

What kind of warped mind describes the barbaric murder and torture of thousands upon thousands of trade unionists, socialists and anarchists as "personal rule"?

How many other fascist fellow travellers will creep into the European parliament from the Tories in Britain, and parties like the German Christian Democrats?

Yours fraternally  
Dale Ackroyd  
Bradford LPYS

## Support political strikes

Dear Comrades

Coventry South East Labour Party passed a resolution condemning the recent statement of James Callaghan, that the Labour Party will not support "political strikes". This was sent to the NEC.

Few members of our movement will look back at the '74-'79 government with pride. Cuddling up to Liberals and nationalists, £8bn was cut off social spending while firemen, bakers, hospital workers and many others were left cap in hand.

Statements such as "I would support the right of anyone to cross a picket line" only compound a miserable record of piling the burden of failure of the profit system onto the backs of working people.

Now we have been delivered into the arms of a Tory government by such policies, our leader asks us to hand over the weapons we have to defend ourselves with. The statement about 'political strikes' is just that.

This type of behaviour would be more in place in MacDonal's Coalition government of the 1930s. Perhaps this is following the thoughts of Ian Gilmour, the Tory Minister, from his book 'Inside Right':

"In the British system the duties of the opposition are almost as important as those of the governing party. Their prime responsibility is to preserve the allegiance of their followers...to parliamentary democracy and to the freedoms that go with it."

"This in a sense is a governing function, and that is why the leader of the Opposition is paid by the state."

Those representatives we have in parliament may earn their keep as they will but our party will not consent. Roll on re-selection.

We will fight for the return of a Labour government on a socialist programme to consign this Tory one to the history books as fast as possible.

Fraternally  
Paul Walter  
Coventry SE LPYS



## Shoppers against Thatcher

Dear Comrades

Last week my mum went into the supermarket to buy her week's groceries with her sister Betty [bet they didn't have £20 between them].

At the checkout Mum noticed that Betty had a bottle of sherry and she remarked that it was a good idea to get it in before Thatcher's budget.

Overhearing her, the cashier said, "Yes. They clobber the working class on budget day every time." This was echoed up and down the queue with shouts of "I'll drink to that." "I'm with you all the way." "Hear, hear," and so on.

On the way home Betty confided that she hoped that anti-Tory feelings would be whipped into the biggest strike wave ever, shutting everywhere down and piling up rubbish sky-high to show Thatcher what we thought of her.

For someone who is generally reluctant to show her political feelings this is a great step, but it only typifies the upsurge of resentment felt by hundreds of thousands of working class women in the country today.

Conclusion?

If we had a paper-seller outside every supermarket we'd double our paper sales.

Yours fraternally  
Vic Dale  
IOW CLP

## WHY LABOUR LOST

Dear Comrades

A resolution was put by the LPYS to a recent meeting of Hackney Central Labour Party General Committee on the reasons why the Labour Party was defeated in the general election.

The resolution stated that the Party lost the election because of the record of the last Labour government, and called for Labour policy to be determined by conference decisions, for a return to the principles of Clause IV, part 4 of the constitution. It asked the NEC to hold a campaign

along these lines in the Labour Party and labour movement to ensure the return of a Labour government committed to socialist policies at the next election.

The resolution was passed unanimously and sent to the NEC, showing that whatever the press and the leader of the Party might say, the rank and file do not blame the election defeat on trade union action or "reds" in the Labour Party.

Yours fraternally  
Lorna Oliver  
Hackney Central LPYS

## NO CONTROL OVER POLICE

Dear Comrades

Out of a total 13,079 cases of complaints against the police, only 15 of these did the recently set up Independent Police Complaints Board recommend any kind of disciplinary action against the officers involved.

Of the 13,079 cases, 2,483 were concerned with assault and 2,523 with what the Board described as "irregularity in procedure" meaning that the police often go their own way instead of

keeping to the law. Over 1,000 police officers were advised or warned by the Board about unreasonable behaviour, but no further disciplinary action was taken by the "independent" board.

The Chairman of the Board, Lord Plowden, said that "police officers are particularly vulnerable to such allegations from people they arrest or charge, and though there was a basis to some of the allegations, the Board believes that many

were simply an attempt to discredit the police." A real independent!

In 1976 on his retirement, the former police commissioner, Sir Robert Mark (the new TV tyre salesman) said there was an increase of complaints against the police in 1972, after the formation of the A 10 of Scotland Yard, the police force's internal investigation squad.

What these men really mean is that as soon as the public had somewhere to

complain about the police, then they complained and this is what is really bugging them.

The Board receives a grant of £269,463 per annum from the Home Office, and was set up in 1977 to provide an 'independent' opinion in the disciplining of police officers up to and including the rank of Chief Superintendent in England and Wales.

Yours fraternally  
Anthony Tynan  
Rhondda LPYS and NUM

## TORIES BLAME IMMIGRANTS

Dear Comrades

The leaflet below was issued by Ladywood Tories during the general election.

It says: "We can't have six hundred million people coming into a small island with sixty million."

"All of us who are here are short of jobs, schools, hospitals. All of us who are here must have a breathing space to settle down."

"We can't if there is no stopping the numbers coming here from larger countries. For a higher standard of living vote Conservative."

Stooping to new depths, even for Tories, this is a disgusting attempt to blame immigrants for the economic crisis.

Not just any immigrants,

though. The figure of 600 million is not included accidentally. This is the approximate population of India.

Due to enormous hatred of Thatcher and her cronies the Labour candidate in Ladywood more than doubled the previous majority. Assistance in the campaign, and especially on polling day, was amazing.

Some Asian workers spent the whole time the polls were open helping to ensure a Labour victory in Ladywood. Then, as many comrades headed for the nearest pub, these Asian workers went...to work!

Yours fraternally  
Pete McNally  
Ladywood LPYS

## Defend Leicester demonstrators

Dear Brothers and Sisters

On April 21st, 74 anti-racists were arrested in Leicester on a counter-mobilisation to the National Front. The police appeared to lose control on that day, they drove vehicles high-speed through crowds, set alight dogs loose on anti-racists who were seeking refuge at the university and used plain clothes policemen to provoke arrests. A lot of people were injured.

Arrests appear to have been made on a completely arbitrary basis. Many young people, black and white, and trade unionists were among the innocent arrested.

The first person to plead guilty was fined £250 + £10 costs + VAT. This was his first offence: "threatening

words". Many of the defendants pleading not guilty may not get legal aid.

We have started a defence fund and call on you for support. POs and cheques payable to 'ANL, Leicester [April 21st] Defence Fund', Co-op Bank, Hotel Street, Leicester. Account number: 50010176.

We are also appealing to people who witnessed arrests or incidents on the demonstration to come forward.

As cases will be heard from the beginning of June onwards please send us any information you have as soon as possible to: Peter Pike, 20 Main Street, Kibworth, Leics.

We hope to hear from you.  
Yours in friendship  
Peter Pike

## Two years unemployed

Dear Comrades

I've been unemployed for the past two years since I left school. There is little hope for a job for me, at the rate things are going in our capitalist system.

The other day I went for a job at a petrol station. I didn't

get it—like 15 others who applied!

But listen to this! My dad's just been made redundant from Vickers Scotswood and that's the second time that good old socialist Lord Robens has thrown him on the slag heap. For when Robens was head of the NCB he closed the pit my dad worked at.

I joined the LPYS at Newcastle North a month ago and to me the comrades there seem to be the only people who know how to get me a job—by putting Labour to power on a socialist programme!

My dad's been a Labour supporter all his life. He's beginning to agree that the only true way forward to socialism is by nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies under democratic workers' control!

Yours fraternally  
Mark Jenkins  
Newcastle North LPYS

# GIVE US A PRIZE!

The bosses have rewarded one of Britain's outstanding exploiters, not just with a juicy Tory tax cut, but with a nice prize.

Sir Maurice Laing, chairman of the building empire of John Laing, and generous donator to Tory funds, has got the National Free Enterprise Award this year for his role in fighting building nationalisation.

For his pursuit of profits regardless of concern for homelessness, slum dwelling, mass unemployment amongst building workers and house prices quadrupled in five years, he gets a lush reward.

The rest of us, at the sharp end of the exploits of our 'freedom-loving' capitalists get no prizes, only rising rents, mortgages and so on. We need socialist planning and workers' democracy to get our prize, full employment and decent homes for all.

This is 'Militant's' fighting policy. But we don't get anything like the millions Laing and his cronies can use in their campaigns against socialism.

What we have got are our readers. We rely on donations like the £5 from Glasgow SOGAT members and the 'tenner' from J Dobbins who sent it "hoping we find enough money to pay for the new camera/plate-maker."

Another five weeks like last week and an all-out effort on the Euro-affle and we will! This week's donations totalled £2,065 with few major personal donations or any really big collections! Here are the examples to follow:

Two comrades gave £100 from expenses paid to them—one for TV appearances and another from attending a union conference.

'Militant' public meetings raised nearly £350 including £114 at the GMWU Congress (with at least another £150 collected later), £41 at ASTMS Conference, £30 at USDAW Conference meeting, £43 in Croydon, £24 in Hull, £21 in Deptford and £16.30 (net) in Blackpool.

Collections at meetings of the Labour Party Young

By Clare Doyle

Socialists raised £10 in Margate last week, £15 in Blackpool, £8 in Chester-le-Street and £5 in Llanelli. Newcastle YS ran a raffle to send £2.20 and a Tower Hamlets LPYS member donated £30 'unused for YS Conference'.

A delegate to the TSSA Conference (that did take place) donated £15 expenses plus his £6 'honorarium'. A MATSA shop steward in Caerphilly donated her £2.35 'commission'. Like so many readers with a position in the trade union because they're fighters, they look to the 'Militant' to back them up in their work. Any money they get goes straight over to back 'Militant'—be it £100 or 10p.

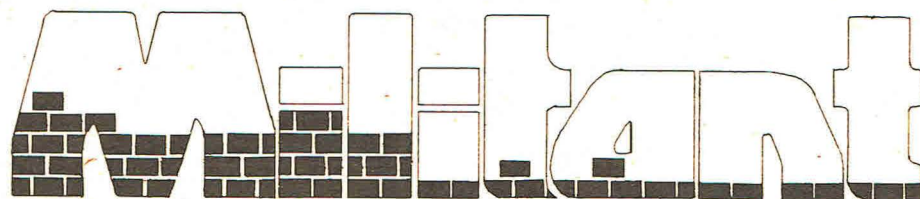
Other 'collective' donations last week included £2.50 from Rotherham NALGO members, £2.50 from SCPS members, £2 from Liverpool FBU members, £1.26 from 'Havering young students and workers' and £5 from Coventry student. Just six readers in Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, donated £44 between them and £76 came in from supporters in Southampton.

Individual donations this week included £20 from a Spennymoor student, £15s from K Birch (Yardley CLP), A Dilworth (Solihull YS) and G Hill (Exhall, Coventry), and £6 from A Fraser of Glasgow. 'Fivers' came from J Aitken (Ford's EETPU), G Stevenson (Provan YS) and P Samuels (Harlow CPSA).

V and J Frost of Hayes Labour Party gave £4. £2 came from a Liverpool NGA member and an NUM member—K McGrogan (Clay Cross YS), D McKay (Brunel NOLS) donated £1.55, S Marchini (Hackney EETPU) and R Dawson of Brighouse—£1.50 and R Trueblood (Prestwich) £1.30.

£1 contributors included:

## Build



Area	Target 52 wks	Target 26 wks	Proportion of target received	Received
Eastern	4,700	2,350		1,240
Hants & IOW	3,100	1,550		987
Humberside	2,000	1,000		691
London North	9,500	4,750		2,203
London South	3,900	1,950		1,342
Manchester & Dist.	4,500	2,250		1,182
Merseyside	5,000	2,500		1,080
Midlands East	3,300	1,650		1,380
Midlands West	9,000	4,500		2,613
Northern	5,500	2,750		1,584
Scotland East	2,900	1,450		418
Scotland West	4,500	2,250		909
South East	4,500	2,250		1,465
South West	3,100	1,550		1,097
Wales East	2,600	1,300		586
Wales West	3,400	1,700		562
Yorkshire	6,800	3,500		1,814
Others	6,700	3,250		3,694
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,000</b>	<b>42,500</b>		<b>24,848</b>

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

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

R Bright of Peckham YS, P Lavill (BFAWU, Rotherham), D O'Flynn (Ford's AUEW), Mrs Gannon (Chester-le-Street), S Jacobs (N London) and J Duffy (Wallasey CPSA). Smaller amounts than £1—like the 40p of a Rushcliffe school student and the 70p of H Cox (Ware)—are just as welcome. So are donations 'in kind'.

A box of Embassy tipped was donated by T Lloyd of Sheffield, and we were wondering if he was embarking on a "sponsored non-smoke". One in Chester-le-Street has already raised £15 and another in East Yorkshire £27.50 with 'more to come!' Sponsored dieting raised £4 in Hillingdon last week and a sponsored swim brought £14.57 from Greenwich.

Slightly less gruelling (and less healthy?) fund-raising took place at socials and

## THIS WEEK £2,065

discos up and down the country. A May Day social in Harlow raised £27, one in Glasgow meant another £19, Cambridge £18.37, and some in Newcastle, Woolwich, Tower Hamlets and Ladywood raised around £10 each.

A jumble sale organised in Hackney ('home of the Militant') raised £35.05 to help build the paper. Peterbor-

ough supporters' "jobs" brought in £11 and a 'tote win, Birkenhead CLP' £9.57 came straight to us. Someone selling their car in the IOW sent £5 but waste paper and rags on the same island seems to be just as profitable.

In Woolwich a reader actually found a £5 note for the 'Militant' in the street! £2 was collected in the more conven-

tional manner in the centre of Llanelli on a paper sale. £1.14 came from a Ware 'swear box'. Stafford supporters have sent £4.17 collected while canvassing and a few pounds have reached us from election 'gambling' and sweepstakes, but we feel there must still be more to come! A bet on the 1st Division championship has only just reached us, too.

Without seeming to be ungrateful, many contributions are taking a long time to get here. With the £42,500 target date getting very near, make sure you get every penny to the 'Militant' with the utmost urgency! Many thanks to all contributors this week.

## ads

### RATES

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

**BIRMINGHAM Militant Public Meeting.** 'Socialism and the EEC'. Speaker: Albert Bore (Labour's EEC candidate, South Birmingham); Jeremy Birch (Selly Oak Labour Party) Friday 8th June, 7.30 pm, Dr Johnson's House, Colmore Circus, City Centre

**SEAHAM Marxist Discussion Group** 'The Communist Manifesto Part II' Thursday June 21st, 7.30 pm, 6 William Johnson Street, Murton. Plenty of time for discussion.

**BRACKNELL Militant Readers' Meeting** 'Which way forward for Labour?' Speaker: Lynn Walsh ('Militant' Editorial Board), 8 pm, Thursday June 14th, at Griffin House (Opposite Red Lion pub), Bracknell. Admission free.

**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.

**HOUGHTON - LE - SPRING Marxist Discussion Group** 'The Communist Manifesto Part II', Thursday June 14th, 7.30 pm, 13 Finchale Court, West Rainton, near Houghton-le-Spring

**NEWCASTLE Militant Meeting** 'The Tories in power 1970-74'. Speaker: Dave Cotterill, Sunday June 10th, 7.00 pm, Newcastle Trades Council Centre for the Unemployed, 9 Queen Street, off the Quayside at the bottom of Dean Street, Newcastle

### CLASSIFIED

**MIKE LEVENE'S Farewell Party** Coventry, Saturday June 9th, 8.00 pm to 11.30 pm, 'Hand & Heart' pub, Fargosford Street, 30p. All welcome

**MILITANT'S programme.** Four-page broadsheet from issue 453. Under 40 copies: 2p each, 40 or more 1p each. Postage: under 40 copies, add 20p; 40 or more, add 50p. Cheques to 'Militant'. Order from 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

**Comradely greetings** to Tom Morton, born Sunday 27th May. From Liz and Rob, astounded parents.

## MILITANT RAFFLE

£500 WORTH OF PRIZES TO BE WON IN 'MILITANT'S' FORTHCOMING "EURODRAW"!!!

Date of Draw—July 7th 1979.  
Tickets 10p each in books of 10  
Order, if you can, from your local 'Militant' distributor otherwise order from 'Militant Eurodraw' 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## 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 for Saturday or Sunday only, 75p for Friday evening only.  
To register, or for further information, write to: Militant Marxist Weekend School, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

# UNION CONFERENCES; NUHKW, EIS

## A UNITED FIGHT TO SAVE SCHOOLS AND JOBS

The 1979 AGM of the Educational Institute of Scotland meets this week, and a post-mortem on the recent pay award and the campaign that preceded it will be one of the main debates.

Following closely on the English teachers' pay settlement, the EIS and the smaller unions in Scotland agreed to the phased offer: 9% plus an extra 0.2% on the salaries bill for the lower-paid teachers, and £6 per month "on account", in anticipation of a comparability pay study award.

The leadership will feel entitled to claim at least a partial success—the original offer was improved and the comparability study will take the Houghton principle into account.

Membership of the EIS has reached a record level this year, and now stands at 48,548; 80% of all organised teachers in Scotland.

This is an increase of nearly one-third since 1974.

EIS members' militant strike action in March and April over this year's claim attracted teachers throughout Scotland. However, criticism of the conduct of the salaries' campaign is widespread.

The strike call in March won massive support at unprecedentedly large school and branch meetings throughout the country. There could be no doubt that the majority of EIS members enthusiastically supported the one-day strike on 22nd March.

The union then changed its tactics, however, and held a secret ballot on the employers' second offer. This was overwhelmingly rejected in an 87% poll, but partly because of the vagueness of the Executive's recommendations there was a narrow majority for arbitration rather than continued strike action.

As teachers in England began their industrial action, Scottish teachers were left in limbo.

The most important lesson of the campaign is that we have no hope of strengthening our position unless we fight a united campaign with the other unions in Scotland and also with the English teaching unions. This year the English and Scottish teachers' claims were virtually identical, but no attempts were made to run a nation-wide campaign.

**We must demand that a national struggle is waged for next year's claim. Such a fight will bring home to every organised teacher the urgent need for a British union of teachers to end the present fragmentation.**

In the epoch of Mrs Thatcher this becomes more essential. The most urgent question facing teachers, and all other workers, is how to increase our strength not only to improve living standards but to defend state education.

Education is the biggest single item in local government budgets and the Tories' furious passion to cut public spending is bound to wreak havoc on school building, equipment, recruitment and salaries.

The motions to this year's AGM reflect the slow but radical transformation of the EIS since the strikes of 1974. On salaries, motions from Edinburgh and Aberdeen call for a minimum of £5,000 per annum, with no teacher receiving less than a £20 per week increase.

Equally important are the motions which seek to democratise the EIS and fashion it into a genuine trade union. West Lothian's resolution, as amended by Lothian, calls for the Executive's advice on picketing to be reversed so that EIS members are called on not to cross picket lines in official or unofficial disputes.

The EIS have been affiliated to the Scottish TUC since 1975, but delegates are not elected by the AGM and the AGM has never yet debated any general economic resolutions. Delegates will be expected to debate and vote on these issues at STUC conferences.

This year one motion calls for the election of STUC delegates by the AGM and another calls for support for the TUC's alternative economic strategy—without mentioning education. This motion has been allowed by the Standing Orders Committee and this, rather than the actual substance of the resolution, represents a big step forward.

**Davy Williams**

(Glasgow Association)

Photo: John Sturrock (Report) II



Textile workers in Lancashire demonstrate against mill closures in 1975 Import controls are no solution

## NATIONALISATION THE ONLY ANSWER

In the four years to October 1978, 11,000 jobs were lost in the enfeebled British hosiery and knitwear industry—4,000 in 1978 alone.

Areas like Nottingham, where the industry originated, have been hard hit. Membership of the National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers declined by 6½% in Nottingham last year (excluding finishers), despite the fact that the overall loss of jobs was nearly four times that figure.

Import controls, advocated by some in the labour movement, have not helped. The NUHKW National Executive reports to this year's conference that although there will be "significant" import controls until 1982, "the industry cannot expect to survive, let alone flourish, on the basis of import controls and government handouts."

On the contrary, in the long term such a "solution" can only encourage British manufacturers to keep their prices high, hitting every worker's family budget. Why should

they invest in the machinery necessary to adapt and expand, when they are sheltered from more efficient competition?

Union visitors to Italian hosiery factories, for example, compared the machinery to that in Britain and concluded "...the whole philosophy of our manufacturers must be considered. We cannot be right and everyone else wrong."

For textile workers, the question of planning and investment in the industry is urgent. Some branches have submitted resolutions to the conference urging the NEC to persuade buyers to be "more patriotic and 'buy British'." and to "give our manufacturers more confidence to invest capital..."

For the bosses, however, profit comes before "patriotism"! The hosiery bosses don't hesitate to seek out "low wage-cost countries" in their search for the maximum possible returns. To give them "confidence", wages and conditions here would have to be pushed down to the level of the impoverished workers in the countries they are now investing in. And as the

Scottish district points out, even if they did reinvest, "new technology" would enable them to shed more labour in the interest of profits.

**Hosiery and knitwear workers, like other workers, cannot protect their own interests and their bosses' at the same time.**

The small and medium-sized factories in the areas where the industry is concentrated were once "family firms" where workers might be misled into this way of thinking. Now they nearly all display the green and yellow signs of the giant Courtauld company or one of the other big monopolies.

The NUHKW has only one option: to join the fight for the nationalisation of these big firms under workers' control and management as part of the socialist planned economy 'Militant' advocates.

Then the working class could ensure the investment and planning necessary to halt the loss of jobs and reverse the decline in their living standards.

**Tony Cross**

(East Nottingham Labour Party)

## CPSA POST OFFICE STRIKE:

# Members demand action

**"Approaching the seventh week of strike action over pay, the mood of members is enthusiastic and hopeful, the morale high, the anger and determination strong."**

This was how Dave Bell, a 'Militant' supporter newly elected to the unions' Group Executive Committee, described the optimism of our members in face of management provocation and insults, in the fight for our long-awaited pay increase averaging approximately 21%.

In spite of intimidatory circulars, suspensions, executive action and the general 'nit-picking' antics of management, members organised in the 38,000-strong Posts and Telecommunications Group of CPSA remain solid.

Thousands of workers in London, Wales, and the North West have staged regional walkouts in sympathy with members suspended for refusing to scab on strikers. What a tremendous

display of solidarity.

The co-operation of other unions, notably the UPW and the POEU has been fantastic—particularly where we have picket lines. The POEU NEC are apparently recommending to their conference that delegates reject the derisory Post Office 'offer', start industrial action and line up with the SCPS and CPSA.

The scandalous 'offer' from Post Office management, 3 months after our claim was submitted, is of a 9% increase on present rates plus striagings which involve our acceptance of management's downgrading proposals!

The 'offer' was directed to Post Office unions who constitute the Council of Post Office Unions (COPOU). With an escalation of CPSA and SCPS action and POEU members also playing their part, this can only strengthen the links with the other unions and improve our chances of a decent settle-

ment.

This is the most fierce dispute in our history. If we win it will tremendously strengthen our ranks. If we lose, it could open the gates to mass redundancies in face of advanced technology and computerisation.

**That is why the Post Office have been so adamant about our claim. They are out to wreck our union.**

However, with a determined leadership there is no reason why we can't win the full implementation of the claim.

But our Group Executive Committee, rather than giving direction to the determined membership, have revealed their incompetence and unwillingness to lead a fight.

For nearly three months they refused to act. When they did, it was pitiful, and despite conference instructions they have not escalated the strike action—except in

face of increased management intimidation where action was taking place anyway.

Only two computer centres are affected and 15% of telephone areas involved in the action. Commercial cash groups in telephone areas bank the revenue received for payment of phone bills and is a major source of Post Office profits. But only four cash groups out of a total of 61 in Britain are involved in selective action.

This strike is not just over pay or regrading. Its outcome could very well determine the future of the CPSA P&T Group.

The membership are right behind the GEC and prepared to see it through. Their message to the leadership is: **act now!**

**Steve Higham**

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



Delegates at the CPSA P&T conference last month

Photo: MILITANT



Social workers' demonstration passes NALGO headquarters, London, September 1978

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report) II

# nalgo must fight Tory cuts

The public service trade unions will without doubt be singled out for attack by Thatcher's axe-men.

The Tory government have already slapped a ban on recruitment in local government, and made it quite clear that they aim to run down the Health Service still further in favour of private medicine.

Delegates to the National and Local Government Officers' Association conference must recognise the threat this poses to our jobs and standards of living. The Tories can only be effectively stopped by the trade union movement adopting and fighting on policies of resistance.

On unemployment, motions such as no 71 and 81 which call for a reversal of public expenditure cuts, a 35-hour week and a £65 minimum wage, if combined with the existing policy of not doing work for unfilled posts, would arm our union with policies to stop any redundancies and expand the public services.

A joint pay claim from 1980 onwards, as proposed by Knowsley branch, would add enormously to NALGO's bargaining power and prevent any repeat of the isolation of the social workers on the picket line.

The social workers' recent dispute has provoked a number of resolutions calling for the scrapping of the union's cumbersome procedures for industrial action. NALGO must have a quick, efficient process for making disputes official if we are to defend services and jobs. Officials and negotiators too must be under the firm control of the membership, to ensure that they carry out our wishes.

The Health Service pay claim, which was due on the 1st April, has still not been negotiated and members are becoming irate at the delay. Pay policy must be decided at group meetings to enable the membership to participate.

More information on claims and similar issues must be made available to members, and most importantly all officials must be subject to recall by the members. If they are not prepared to fight on our behalf, there are plenty who are.

This would strengthen NALGO and enable us to stand up to the attacks on our union.

The Tories aim to take on the unions, in their battle to curb workers' resistance to wage cuts, unemployment and slashing of the social services. As the political representatives of the company bosses who finance them, they are pledged to carry out the programme big business demands.

Thatcher and her cronies have left no room for doubt:

to effectively defend our members' interests, trade unionists must enter the political arena. Motion 233, from Strathclyde, calling for a debate and ballot on the setting up of a political fund and affiliation to the Labour Party, must be supported.

The Campaign for NALGO Affiliation to the Labour Party (CNALP) has already raised the need for NALGO to take up the political fight against cuts in the social services, against wage restraint and for policies and a leadership that reflect our needs. Just as in the mid-sixties our union realised that it could not stand aloof from the TUC, so now we must make our voice heard in the Labour Party.

By Peter Lee

(Delegate, Cambridge Health Service branch, personal capacity)

## SAFETY FIRST?

# Not at Robb Caledon

A recent dispute in Dundee reveals how management, even in nationalised industries, callously put workers' lives at risk.

The men at Robb Caledon shipyard unanimously voted for strike action after the management refused to provide a rescue boat for workers working on the side of a ship.

The problem arose after the early launching of a ship, to accommodate a launching party which was flying over from New Zealand. Work which is normally done in the berth therefore had to be done over the water.

Naturally the shop stewards

were concerned to make sure that adequate safety precautions were taken. They discovered that some of the scaffolding was unstable, but what provoked the dispute was their request for a boat to be provided in the area where the men were working, as has been the case in the past.

Management simply refused. They ordered men to work on the ship's side and told the shop stewards that if they refused, their time would be stopped.

A mass meeting was convened and the workers voted unanimously to withdraw their labour. Even after this

the stewards twice offered to call off the action if management would transfer the men to other work while the Factory Inspector was called in to settle the dispute with union full-time officials.

But management were adamant, claiming that safety is non-negotiable—that they have the right to say whether a job is safe or not.

Their only concession was to phone the Factory Inspector in Glasgow, who decided, from 80 miles away, that there was adequate safety cover. The workers insisted that he would have to see the yard for himself before he

could be in a position to judge.

After one day's strike, management climbed down and agreed to transfer the workers to other work, while the Factory Inspector was called in. Exactly what the shop stewards had asked for!

It was only the stubbornness of the management which made this strike necessary. But without the firm response of the trade unions, workers' lives could have been lost.

Bob Barty  
(Yard Convenor)  
spoke to Pat Craven

# LONDON TUBES Railworkers prepare for all-out strike

London Transport Underground workers are preparing to go into battle with the Tories on pay.

At mass meetings held on Tuesday 5th June, NUR members voted overwhelmingly to support the NUR Executive Committee's decision to call all-out indefinite strike action from Monday 18th June. They instructed the EC not to call off the action until the full pay claim is met.

After four years of wage restraint, these workers are some of the lowest paid in industry. LT management, under the wing of the Tory Greater London Council, have nevertheless made a derisory offer with vicious strings attached.

Most workers on London Transport, with the exception of motormen [drivers] have been offered a paltry 8% or so—on condition that the unions give an 'early response' to a productivity deal.

The motormen have been offered 13.2%, but only on condition that they agree to one-man operation of trains: in other words, selling the guards' jobs. Management are demanding that this is enforced on the Circle line and Hammersmith and City services immediately, with commitment to extend the cuts to other lines in future.

The NUR leadership, with the membership fully behind them, have made it clear to LT management throughout that this offer is unacceptable.

The minimum that the NUR are prepared to accept is full consolidation of the £2 still outside basic pay, and an 11% pay rise on that basis, plus the restoration of the pay structure and differentials of 1974. At maximum, this would only mean a rise of a modest 19% for the top grades.

Workers at London Transport, as at British Rail, have had enough of poverty wages. A railman at present is on a mere £45.25, station foremen and guards on approximately £50 and the supposedly better-paid motormen on £66.70.

Their determination was summed up by the mass meetings. As one NUR leader Geoff Revel explained, the EC had been inundated with telegrams and letters from branches instructing them to take action.

Another NUR official, Bob Kettle, was well received when he pointed out that while the police and army have been given astronomical pay rises by the Tory government, and an executive of the Playboy Club 'earned' £277,000 last year, transport workers were offered a miserly 8%.

The Executive Committee of the NUR dismissed the idea of a work to rule; as they point out, the Tories would probably be quite happy to let the service run into the ground anyway. They have rejected one-day strikes as not effective enough.

The only answer, they have decided, is all-out indefinite strike action until the claim is met.

So far the other major rail unions, ASLEF and TSSA, have not spelt out what form of action they will be taking. It is crucial that both unions give full support to the initiative.

They must back up the strike with similar action, presenting a united face to LT management and the Tories at local and national level.

By Martin Elvin  
(ASLEF)

and Vince Gillespie  
(London Transport NUR)

## GEC STAFFORD STRIKE

After months of frustration, shop floor workers at GEC Dormans Diesels Ltd came out on strike on Friday 1st June over a pay claim. The events leading to this dispute are explained by convenor Eric Jones:

"The Joint Shop Stewards' Committee submitted a claim for a £5 across the board cost of living increase for the annual pay review on 1st December 1978. The management offered a £4.80 pro rata rise with strings attached.

"The negotiating committee went back to consult with the JSSC. Then the management withdrew the offer and replaced it with a productivity deal!

"The management have repeatedly insisted on flexibility of labour, introduction of new machine tools, new working methods and working within cycle. This has been completely rejected by the shop-floor members of the G&MWU, AUEW and EETPU."

Report by Dave Mole  
(GEC Stafford and LPYS)

# POEU CONFERENCE FULL CLAIM WITHOUT STRINGS

Delegates at the POEU conference in Blackpool, representing over 120,000 Post Office engineers, warned the Post Office and the government in no uncertain terms of their intention to secure a 25% increase in pay for their members.

This was backed up by a threat of industrial action if the claim was not met.

Conference agreed a two-stage deal. Unless the first 15% was in the wage packets

by 1 July, then action would begin with an overtime ban and selective strikes.

Delegates threw out—against the advice of the right-wing National Executive

## - OR STRIKE ACTION

By Kevin Pattison

(Leeds Internal Branch Secretary, in a personal capacity)

Committee—a resolution calling for the 25% to be inclusive of productivity deals and payments for structural

changes, regrading, and modernisation.

'A decent rise with no strings' was the overwhelming feeling of the conference.

As one delegate put it, the right wing would like a wage increase on a 'nil-cost' basis. The threat of a Tory government to the telecommunications industry and the repercussions to Post Office Engineering Union members was raised by the delegate from Manchester Central External.

This was developed by Phil Lloyd from Swansea, who pointed to the crisis in the economy caused by the failure of capitalism. He also pointed to the changing mood within the working class to resist attacks on living standards and to take back the losses of the last two years.

The question of modernis-

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ation and the threat to job security were summed up by one delegate who appealed to conference not to be lobbied off with 'agreements between the Post Office and the union.' The only way to guarantee job security was to strengthen the union and to secure a shorter working week.

trial action, against any hiving off of the Telecommunications section.

The right wing maintained their majority on the NEC, but they face growing opposition from the rank and file.

The old days of unchallenged rule by the right wing bloc are gone.

The next few years will undoubtedly see the POEU's transformation into a fighting democratic union to defend members against the menacing threat which, under capitalism, the 'new technology' poses for POEU members' jobs.

### Change

Very importantly, the conference agreed unanimously to fight by whatever means necessary, including indus-

# THE MILITANT AND JOHN GOLDING

In our edition of 2 February, 1979, we carried an article on the January meeting of the Labour Party's National Executive Committee.

One of the issues mentioned in the article was the NEC's discussion of Labour's EEC Manifesto.

We reported that an amendment to the final draft, moved by Tony Saunois (LPYS representative), that a declaration in favour of the 35-hour week be included in the Manifesto, was agreed by 10 votes to 4.

We also reported that one of the four votes against this included John Golding, from the Post Office Engineering Union, who argued that it was not possible to get a 35-hour week in Britain until all the EEC countries had agreed to it.

Subsequently, John Golding, through his solicitors,

informed us that he considered our reference to his vote mistaken, saying that far from opposing the resolution he had actually seconded it.

Having checked our story, we replied to John Golding's solicitors saying that we still considered our report to be accurate.

Since then, we have been sent a statement from Ron Hayward, General Secretary of the Labour Party, who was present at the meeting concerned, saying that John Golding not only seconded the resolution to include a reference to the 35-hour week in the European Manifesto but also voted for it.

We accept that both John Golding and Ron Hayward make these statements in good faith; but the recollections of others present at the meeting is different.

Dennis Skinner MP, Neil Kinnock MP, Tony Saunois, and other NEC members recall the following:

In the general discussion which followed Tony Benn's

### Editorial Statement

introduction of the draft EEC Manifesto, Tony Saunois came in to make a number of general points, and also verbally moved the inclusion of the introduction of a 35-hour week.

John Golding did second Tony's proposal, but qualified it by saying that the 35-hour week must be accompanied by a reduction of overtime working and would have to be implemented on an all-European basis. He argued that there should be no unilateral introduction of a 35-hour week which would damage Britain's competitiveness in relation to European rivals.

In the light of John Golding's qualification, Tony was asked by the chairman if he accepted John Golding's seconding of the motion. Tony said he accepted the point about reducing overtime.

Tony Benn, referring to John Golding's second qualification about an all-European basis, said that he did not support the proposal because he did not see why a 35-hour week should be delayed in Britain until it was established throughout Europe.

To clarify any confusion, Tony Saunois then exactly formulated the motion:

"To assist in the reduction of unemployment the Party stands in favour of a 35-hour week with a corresponding reduction in overtime working."

When the chairman asked for a vote, it was 10 for to 4 against, with John Golding as one of those voting against.

'Militant' has always opened its columns to factual corrections and the right of reply from those in the labour movement who disagree with us, and we consider it regrettable that a dispute on this incident should lead to a threat of legal action against us. We are concerned with policies not personalities.

This dispute also underlines the urgent need for the NEC to begin to keep and publish full minutes and voting records, as has long been demanded by rank-and-file members of the Party.

# CIVIL SERVICE UNION FIGHT BACK

wind of cutbacks, our bosses are doing very nicely.

In response to the Tories' declaration of war, a special meeting of the National Committee of the Civil and Public Services Association [29-30 May] adopted a resolute strategy for protecting its members.

Already, the government has implemented a ban on all recruitment and promotion for an initial three months as a method of clawing back the recent pay settlement through reductions in staffing levels.

Not only will the Tories' measures mean worse conditions for Civil

Service workers, they will soon result in a much lower level of service to the public.

The first blow in this respect is the announced cut in sickness and unemployment benefits through the extension of the 'waiting period'—during which no benefit is paid—to five days.

The motion to begin the campaign [moved by Kevin Roddy—Ed] proposes an immediate and complete overtime ban, to be coupled with the firm establishment of a policy of 'one person, one job'.

For a start, to every part of the union's mem-

bership, the motion calls for co-ordinated involvement of every branch through their area committees, and section and general committees.

It also commits the union to liaison and joint action with other Civil Service and Public Sector unions at every level.

The NEC's main sub-committee will now be meeting every fortnight to guide the campaign.

Special bulletins will be issued regularly to all members, and material will be regularly produced for education, information, and campaign guidance inside the unions and for the gen-

CONTINUED FROM  
FRONT PAGE

eral public.

The CPSA Executive also recognises the longer term nature of the battle against the Tories' measures to axe jobs and conditions in the Civil Service. There can be no doubts or equivocation about the seriousness of the threat.

Each and every member can be confident in the Executive's strategy.

'Militant' supporters throughout the union will certainly be working with re-doubled energy to ensure the success of the union's policy, and to defeat the Tories' attacks on CPSA and the working class in general.

## DC-10

CONTINUED FROM  
FRONT PAGE

Tristar, into second place.

So McDonnell-Douglas cut corners to overtake Lockheed. They succeeded, and cleaned up the market.

To date, 274 DC10s are in service, compared to 163 Tristars. McDonnell-Douglas have made their profit.

But the cost in lives has also been large.

In 1974, 346 people died due to a plane defect in an accident over Paris. In 1973 and 1975, engines in DC10s blew up, and in an accident last year two people died when the plane crashed after three of its tyres burst [the tyres were designed to old specifications laid down 16 years ago].

In the last five years there

have been 62 reported cases of cracks in the structures of DC10s. In the aftermath of the most recent disaster 25 of the 135 American planes in service have needed repairs.

But many experts now believe that the trouble with the DC10 is not this or that worn bolt, but structural defects brought about by its rushed production.

Yet the British media have been fobbing us off with tales of Sir Freddie Laker staying up all night checking the nuts and bolts in his DC10s.

Safety features on the DC10 have in many cases been no better than on much smaller aircraft, and mostly inferior to those of the first Jumbo, the Boeing 747 [which has four hydraulic systems to the DC10's three, for instance].

Profits before lives is the slogan of the big monopolies fighting to carve up the aircraft market.



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