

Militant

SUMMIT BRINGS NO SOLUTIONS

The main aim of the top seven capitalist powers meeting in Tokyo last week was to present a united front to the OPEC states in the face of the steep rise in oil prices decided by the oil producers.

Despite the brave show of unanimity, and the announcement of a "common strategy", they failed completely. The crisis in the world economy and the contradiction between the capitalist states makes real agreement impossible.

The seven agreed to aim to limit oil imports to

the 1978 level by 1985. But, needless to say, each national government has its own interpretation of what the agreement really means.

"Unresolved differences of national interest," commented the 'Financial Times' [30 June], "mean that oil import targets vary from country to country..."

"It was clear...that all participants had settled for the formula that they thought would allow them most supplies, and that big differences remained between the European participants and their three non-European partners, the US, Canada and Japan."

The EEC countries will now be fighting out the specific limits, and already

"Italy [which has no oil of its own] has signalled its intention of going for a bigger share than the others might accept."

Mrs Thatcher could afford to adopt a "holier than thou" stance on cutting consumption, because Britain now has North Sea oil—and falling output will in any case reduce home demand for oil.

As far as the US is concerned, Carter has so far miserably failed to achieve anything like a 5% reduction in oil consumption, and the other powers are highly sceptical of America's ability to achieve its Tokyo target.

Japan, which is more dependent on oil than the others, has insisted on a less rigid limit for its consumption over the next five years.

If the leading capitalist economies do manage to cut their oil consumption, it will be more because of the approaching world recession than the "common strategy" agreed in Tokyo.

It is the gloomy prospects for world trade and production, with a recession in Britain already and all the signs of a major recession appearing in the mighty US economy, that is the real background to the Tokyo summit.

The capitalist powers are now trying to portray themselves as innocent martyrs

tortured on the OPEC rack. But the recession was coming anyway. It is rooted in the contradictions of world capitalism. Higher oil prices will certainly make it worse, but they are not the primary cause.

In fact, because of world inflation, the decline of the dollar [the main oil-trading currency], and a slackening of demand, the real price of oil has actually declined since the quadrupling of OPEC prices in 1973/74.

Multinationals control

The advanced industrial countries' export prices have gone up more in real terms, so it is sheer hypocrisy for the big seven to blame OPEC for all their problems.

The press is now hysterically denouncing the vicious OPEC cartel of the oil sheiks. Never mind that for decades the imperialist powers plundered the underdeveloped world for oil and other raw materials!

Never mind that over 70% of world trade is dominated by the advanced countries, and that most of that is in the hands of vast multi-national corporations, more powerful than many smaller states.

And pressure from the millionaire oil companies, the seven ugly sisters which dominate the international oil market, has meant that capitalism has recklessly continued to squander oil resources.

Little or nothing has been spent on alternative sources of energy. The invaluable, but finite, raw material for the vital petro-chemical industry continues to disappear up chimneys and down exhaust pipes.

Now, to protect their real income from oil, the rulers of the oil states have decided not just to raise prices, but to limit supplies to sustain the new price levels.

In the context of world recession, this will inevitably send shock waves through the world capitalist economy.

The big powers will attempt to throw the burden onto their weaker rivals, and onto their own working classes.

The external debts of the under-developed countries have risen astronomically since 1973/74—and even higher oil bills will have devastating consequences. There will undoubtedly be more revolutionary upheavals like Iran—the country which triggered the latest oil crisis.

The oil price rise will also exacerbate the downturn in the advanced economies,

which will provoke new and bigger movements among the working class.

"During the Tokyo summit both Mrs Thatcher and Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the EEC Commission, said the rise in oil prices could not be reflected in higher wages and would mean a loss of real income." [FT 30 June]

In other words, big business will attempt to make the workers pay. But the glaring contrast between pump prices and the fabulous profits being made by the oil giants cannot fail to have a radicalising effect on the workers of the advanced countries.

Faced with the chaotic waste and mismanagement highlighted by the oil crisis, millions of workers will question the whole rotten system. The developments of the next period will prepare the way for mass support for the programme of socialist transformation to inaugurate a social order in which the world's resources and productive potential will be used to create abundant wealth and prosperity for the workers and oppressed people throughout the world.

Far from producing solutions, the capitalist summit in Tokyo has endorsed a recipe for tremendous social and political explosions.

ONE YEAR ON THE PICKET LINE

On Saturday 7th July, the former workers at Western Shiprepairers Birkenhead, will have spent a year on the picket line, fighting for the preservation of their jobs.

This year-long struggle—including an atrocious winter—deserves the full support and acclaim of every class-conscious worker.

The morale of the pickets is as high as it ever was, and their determination as firm. Negotiations between the Laird Group management and the Confed union officials suggest at least the possibility of management conceding the justice of the pickets' struggle.

The fact that management are negotiating at present is a victory in itself. Prior to this they tried to ignore the picket in the hope that it would melt away after a few weeks. In more recent months they've attempted to use the High Court to scare the pickets off. All their tricks have failed.

On 30th March 1978, Mitchell Murray, Western's managing director, proclaimed: "We're in a stronger position than we have been." The next day, 670 redundancy notices were announced!

In mid-June, Westerns spent £30,000 on a new crane jib. On 7th July, the Westerns workforce ceased to exist as far as the management were concerned. What a blunt condemnation of the system of private enterprise!

The Laird Group expected a quiet, orderly closure of Westerns, without any trade union resistance. They felt cocksure because of a background of closures on Merseyside.

But the Westerns workforce drew the necessary

By Richard Venton

(Birkenhead Labour Party)

conclusions. The Laird Group notched up £11.12m profits in 1978, a 22% increase on the previous year.

That was apart from the £700,000 set aside to abolish the jobs at Westerns! Maximum dividends for the rich, £16 a week dole money for many Westerns workers!

The Westerns workers refused to sell their jobs. They decided to fight. The men adopted a resolution calling for nationalisation of Westerns under a system of democratic workers' control. This clear alternative to the redundancies was of vital importance.

This is a clear lesson for all workers facing redundancies—especially when compared to cases such as Dunlop Speke. There, despite the heroic fight by the men, the call for nationalisation of the rubber industry was not clearly presented.

Dunlop management were able to divert negotiations into a discussion on the relative merits of Speke compared with other Dunlop plants; its relative productivity, viability etc.

With Westerns, the other men were able to show to other shipyard workers that they had a common problem and a common solution.

The Westerns' Action Committee sent a letter to shipyard shop stewards at the beginning of the struggle. To quote a section:

"We need the support of every shipyard worker in this struggle to save jobs through nationalisation of Westerns.

"We wish to make it absolutely clear to your men that we do not wish to transfer redundancies... shipbuilding and shiprepair on their own won't be able to guarantee



Westerns pickets have fought through all weathers to save jobs on Merseyside

Photo: MILITANT

jobs indefinitely...

"So every shipyard—as well as Westerns—needs alternative work schemes to utilise machinery and prevent savage job losses..."

"With co-operation by all the various trade unions in all the yards, we could work out ways of saving all the threatened jobs and create useful work within British Shipbuilding instead. It is in our common interest to do this. But if Westerns is not nationalised, we couldn't contribute to such a discussion—we'd be on the dole..."

"We hope you will help us fight the attack on shipyard workers."

The lesson for the labour movement is that mass support can be gained, provided there is a proper leadership and a correct policy to campaign on. The Westerns Action Committee has always looked for its support from the ranks of the trade unions and Labour Parties, demanding concrete action from the leadership of the labour movement.

With every twist and turn by the bosses, the pickets have turned to the organised working class for their support. When management tried to slap High Court injunctions on eight pickets on 16th February, 1979, workers in Cammell Lairds Shipbuilders and Merseyside Docks rallied round morally and financially, helping to defeat this attempt to scare the picket away.

When the Laird Group recently asked workers in their other subsidiaries—Gordon Allison's and CBS—to cross the Westerns picket line, the shop stewards representing these workers refused, despite the threat of redundancies hanging over their heads.

Within the Labour Party, Westerns have received their stoutest support from the LPYS and other 'Militant' supporters.

They have helped get Westerns speakers to their union branches, raising cash and support. It was under the impetus of LPYS members and 'Militant' supporters that

several Labour Parties—including Birkenhead—supported the fight for nationalisation of Westerns.

This resulted in the unanimous acceptance of the emergency resolution from several CLPs to Labour Party Conference, calling on the Labour government to nationalise Westerns.

Partly because they saw the necessity of political solutions to their problems (whoever heard of Tories that believe in nationalisation under workers' control?), and partly because they saw that the ranks of the Labour Party were fighting on their behalf, the Westerns men have remained loyal to the Labour Party, even though many feel understandably bitter about the Labour government's failure to implement conference decisions on Westerns.

Most Westerns workers have taken a positive fighting attitude, for example, in July 1978 the Action Committee urged Westerns' men—through a press release—to join the local Labour Party to

help make MPs fight on behalf of workers.

In the coming fight to combat Tory savagery and guarantee a future for our children, the working class must learn the vital lessons of the Westerns workers' efforts to save jobs.

And to mark the anniversary of a model fight, trade unionists should give renewed moral and financial support to the men at Westerns, in order to aid a victory fight, as a first blow back against the bosses' onslaught.

All messages, donations, enquiries to: Westerns Action Committee, 29 Gaywood Close, Ford, Birkenhead, or 051-608 8339.

New provocation

On Monday morning [2nd July], Western's management brought in two scab security men from an outside firm, who opened up the gates padlocked for the last twelve months. Two firms, whose workers are organised by the GMWU, had already refused this job.

The gates were unlocked to bring out industrial clothing and other equipment. Within minutes the Westerns workers had put the padlock back on again. Once more the scabs opened the gates which were chained open, with security men and dogs standing by. The men re-locked the gate and called the management-scab bluff. This scene was repeated Tuesday morning.

During the current negotiations, the men had decided to call off a demonstration planned for the 7th July anniversary so as not to appear provocative. The restraint of the pickets is not reciprocated by management who seem set on confrontation.

The men are now very angry and have intensified the picket. There will be a mass meeting on Friday 6th July.

LPYS CONFERENCE AND SUMMER CAMP

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO BOOK!

New LPYS branches in Cambridge, St Neots, Huntingdon, Redditch, Wythenshawe, Berwick, Derby, Bedwellty, Shanklin, Swindon... Despite the general election defeat for Labour, the Labour Party Young Socialists have continued to grow.

All over the country, new branches are reported to be in the process of formation. Attendance at meetings has sharply increased as the youth begin to react against the Tory

onslaught on workers' living standards.

Even sections of other youth organisations—the Scouts, Guides, Cycling Clubs—are being drawn towards us.

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, Gloucecs.

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

What better way to show them what the LPYS is about than to get them to attend the National Conference (details below) and Camp on July 28—August 4?

What's the conference like?

Here are some comments from first-time attenders in 1978.

"It will certainly make a difference to me as a shop steward...The standard of debates, the fringe meetings

were far superior to any I've ever experienced." (Young carworker).

"If they heard this kind of discussion, these ideas, blokes wouldn't withdraw their Labour Party subscriptions or let the Tories in." (Miner).

"I'm really enthusiastic about it. I didn't know there were so many involved before I came here". (West Indian worker)

It is the debate of the experience of the working class condensed into hours. The conference decisions will determine the direction that the LPYS takes over the next year. Every member must be given the opportunity to

attend. If they're over 26—they are just as welcome.

Three weeks to go but it's not too late. So book now.

Get your friends in the YS or union branch to come to the biggest socialist youth camp in Britain.

Ask your union or party for financial sponsorship. If they can't help contact the LPYS in the area. No one can afford to miss this conference.

By Phil Frampton

(National Chairman
Labour Party Young
Socialists)



Corby workers on the march in London

Photo: MILITANT

SAVE STEEL— SAVE CORBY

About 500 men, women and children came to London from Corby on Thursday to show their determination to fight any attempt by the British Steel Corporation to make steel workers redundant.

They had no choice. They will not stand by and watch their future and that of their children be destroyed.

When 70 of them boarded the train at Kettering [there is no railway station at Corby!] the train was immediately plastered with 'Save Steel! Save Corby!' stickers.

At Hyde Park they met the marchers who had walked all the way from Corby to London that week. They could be picked out by their suntans and painful expressions as they walked! The marchers received a friendly and generous welcome from trade unionists all along the march just as the Jarrow hunger marchers did on the historic march of the 1930s.

The demonstration passed by Grosvenor House, the home of the BSC. The sight brought forth angry shouts, particularly from the large proportion of youth on the march.

Then to a meeting at the House of Commons with some Labour MPs. The mood of

Report by Heather Rawling

the steelworkers was determined. There could be no talk of losing the struggle like the workers at Bilston and Shelton eventually did.

But many at the meeting were sceptical, even a little cynical, of the role played by some Labour MPs during the last Labour government. "Where was the support when Labour was in power? It's no good walking around in your grey suits all day, what we want is socialist policies."

Political battles

The battle to save Corby steelworks—the battle to save the whole of the British steel industry must be fought on the political as well as the industrial front.

Last year BSC made £13.8 million loss. But £12.4 million was paid in interest charges and compensation to the old owners. It's time these idle scroungers were shown the door by abolishing interest charges and paying no more compensation.

These people have milked the industry dry for far too long. Also, if steelworkers are justifiably unhappy with the role played by some Labour MPs, then they must take their battle into the Labour Party. There is a vital fight taking place in the Labour Party to make MPs accountable to the membership—to make them represent the interests of the labour movement.

Where, though, were the leaders of the steel unions on the demonstrations? Gavin Laird of the AUEW came to the meeting but no other leaders made their presence felt. The leaders of the steel unions could have shown their determination to fight to save jobs by calling a one-day national stoppage to support this demonstration.

The battle cry should have gone out. Enough is enough! Steelworkers unite to save the steel industry! No more closures! No more redundancies!

Then the demonstration would have been a magnificent national show of strength. The workers' battle to save jobs at Corby has only just begun.

The shop stewards can build on the support they have already mobilised, building links with the local labour movement and with shop stewards in the steel industry nationally.

PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS MANAGEMENT TRY COM- PARABILITY SWINDLE

The Clegg Commission was set up after the public sector unions called off last winter's strikes. The Commission was to look at 'comparability' with other workers, and public employees were promised an end to low pay.

But management's evidence to the Clegg Commission shows the way they want to use the findings. NHS management say "the hotel and catering industry, and the laundry industry, spring to mind as two industries which can provide ready comparators" to NHS staff.

Local authority bosses agree with them. But low paid workers will be absolutely furious.

Catering, hotels, cleaning and laundry workers are notoriously low paid, tied to Wages Councils rather than union collective bargaining. Most cleaning staff for example are paid below Wages Council rates.

These groups, like most local authority manual workers and hospital ancillary staff, are female, unhelpt by the Equal Pay Act. The NHS employers boast that "the earnings of women ancillary workers, both full time and part time, are well above

those for women workers elsewhere."

These employers deliberately base their idea of comparability on "job for job", "female to female" comparisons. Of course they do not compare lower paid women workers to better paid men, because that would be too expensive—despite the Equal Pay Act.

If they have their way, Clegg's largest (though still woefully inadequate) awards will go to full-time men workers, and the smallest to part-time women workers. Yet women form 73% of local authority manual workers and 72% of hospital ancillary staff, the two largest groups under review.

Local authority employers suggest a 'minimum earnings' guarantee. But only for full-time workers on a 40-hour week. This would exclude school meals staff, almost all women, who comprise one-third of the local authority manual workers, because their maximum hours are only 37-38 per week.

The trade unions correctly reject management's job-for-job approach and abide by their original claim of a minimum basic rate equivalent to two-thirds of the average wage for all male workers.

They remind Clegg that in other sectors such as the civil

service, where job-for-job comparisons have been made, Wages Council industries have been disqualified on the ground that they are not 'good employers'.

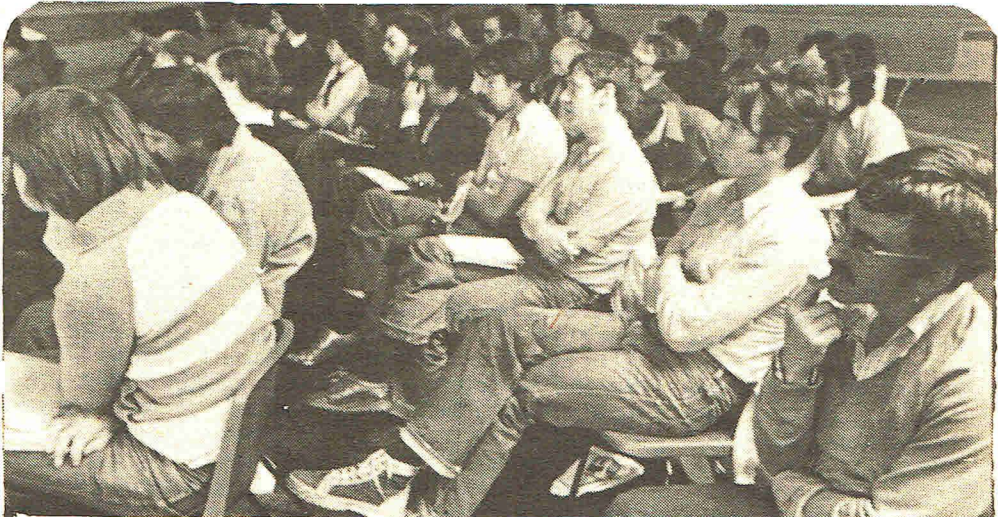
Given the composition of the Clegg Commission, where trade unionists are in a minority, it is most unlikely that the findings will be in accordance with the original, £60 per week minimum claim.

Even this figure is now out of date. Inflation is forecast to reach 20% by the end of the year. Howe's budget alone put another 4% on prices straight away. Nevertheless, £60 minimum would be a big step forward on the present miserly rates.

It remains to be seen though, even if the Commission make a decent recommendation, whether the Tories would honour this commitment.

The only guarantee of a decent wage is by building the effectiveness and unity of the public sector unions, and being ready to use industrial action if necessary. Preparations should begin now to meet such an eventuality.

**By
Wayne Jones**



Over 250 people attended the very successful Marxist Weekend School in London last weekend. A testimony to the growing interest in Marxism in the labour movement.

Photo: MILITANT

NUSS CONFERENCE:

SCHOOL STUDENTS NEED FIGHTING UNION

The National Union of School Students' conference convenes on the 6th July under the shadow of Thatcher's axe, swooping down to chop yet more hundreds of millions off education spending.

Working class youth will once again be most directly affected. A dire shortage of equipment, combined with overcrowded classes and decrepit schools will now be the situation in the vast majority of comprehensives.

The NUSS needs a socialist programme and strategy, and a fighting leadership to counter Thatcher's 'chain saw massacre' of cuts.

Unfortunately the present leadership—dominated by the 'Young Communist League' have proved themselves incapable of launching any kind of campaign around the many problems school students face.

Their only initiative in the last months has been the

launching of the magazine 'BLOT'. This had degenerated into a fold-out sheet which is difficult to follow, and so simplistic it is patronising. It offers no explanation of the problems we face and what we should do to change them.

Of course a school student's magazine should not be written in the language of establishment academics, nor should it be too abstract or complicated.

It should reflect our lives,



Mick McGahay addresses NUSS members on rally. School students must link up with the labour movement Photo: Chris Davies (Report) II

and put forward the programme and ideas that school students can fight on to get a decent educational system.

Demands and campaigns, around the programme put forward in the 'School Students' Charter' produced by the Labour Party Young Socialists, could be used to build NUSS into a mass fighting union that could successfully link up with the twelve million-strong labour

and trade union movement and fight for better schools and a better society in general.

If the NUSS is to change anything, it is vital that we discuss our programme thoroughly. We must not allow the bureaucratic conference procedure to stifle political debate.

The programme of the Labour Party Young Socialists—the largest socialist

youth organisation in Britain—is the only way to take NUSS forward:

★ A living, non means-tested grant for students over school-leaving age!

★ Reverse the cuts—a maximum class size of 20!

★ Abolish all corporal punishment and school uniforms!

★ No racial or sexual discrimination in schools!

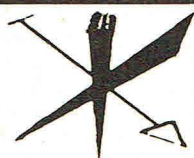
★ Education under the day-to-day control of elected rep-

resentatives of students, teachers and local ancillary workers!

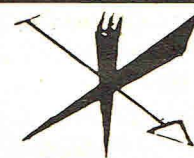
★ A socialist educational system!

By Dale Ackroyd

(Chairman, Bradford NUSS and Bradford LPYS)



LABOUR PARTY ROUND-UP



EASTERN REGION CONFERENCE DEMANDS RE-SELECTION

"We're told that with a bigger cake our share will be greater, but we're still getting the same old stale bun we've always had."

That's how a comrade from ASTMS summed up the need for socialist policies at last week's Eastern Region Labour Party Conference in Ipswich.

In the history of the Labour Party, the Eastern Region, covering the rural districts of East Anglia, with no major industrial city centres, has never been renowned for its militancy.

Yet at the annual conference, delegates clearly decided that the time had come to break away from the disastrous policies of the last government, which failed to restore capitalism to health.

During the morning session resolution after resolution called for an end to wage restraint. The one resolution supporting wage control was decisively defeated.

The 17 constituencies in the region without LPYS branches were called on to form a youth section in the near future. This demand came from Jane James, chairman of the Regional Youth Committee.

But the best debate came in the afternoon when the conference came out in support of mandatory annual re-selection of MPs.

This had exploded during the morning when the movers of the resolution, the Co-op Party, demanded it was put onto the agenda after the Standing Orders committee had ruled it out because of the 'two-year rule'. Delegates were well aware of the unfair manner in which this resolution had been lost at last year's national conference, and insisted that the debate went ahead.

Right wingers put up a fierce opposition to the resolution, saying the party had already 'democratically' decided its position on re-selection. But even after they demanded a card vote, the conference came out in support of re-selection, with a massive 208,000 for and only 85,000 against.

National Agent Reg Underhill, who is about to retire to the House of Lords, said he accepted the criticism he had received for taking the peerage but it was important to get Labour's voice heard in the second chamber 'because it was there'. As one delegate said afterwards, "That's like supporting hanging because there's rope."

The Eastern region conference was not marked by a massive swing to the left, but it was an indication of how the Labour Party nationally is beginning to move towards socialist policies and away from the old and bankrupt illusions of being able to reform the profit system.

HAYES AND HARLINGTON

All CLPs should take the lead of the Charville-Woodend Labour Party branch of Hayes and Harlington Labour Party in condemning the Tories for the events at Southall and the brutal tactics of the SPG. Our branch has passed the following resolution;

"This GMC is horrified by the events of April 23 in Southall caused by the intimidating National Front 'election meeting'. The labour and trade union movement must wholeheartedly condemn the

brutal tactics of the police, notably the Special Patrol Group."

The resolution demanded that the Tory Hillingdon council reverse their policy of allowing the NF to meet on council premises.

It called for the disbanding of the SPG and the acquittal of the 350 protestors arrested at Southall during the anti-NF demonstrations, and gave full support, to include financial backing, to the initiative taken by the Southall com-

munity and the local labour movement through setting up the Southall Action committee and pledged: "We will fully participate in a public inquiry organised by the Southall Action Committee".

"These demands must be urgently taken up by the Labour Party and trade unions at all levels, including the NEC, Parliamentary Labour Party, and by individual MPs and councillors. Tory policies will mean more confrontation and use of force

in the ways shown at Southall."

By Martin Craxton
(Hayes and Harlington Labour Party)

Martin Craxton was one of the 30 protestors arrested at Southall, and will appear in Court at Barnet Magistrates Court on 17 July. All donations towards court costs should be sent to 18 Featherstone Rd, Southall, Middlesex.

STAFFORD AND STONE

Stafford and Stone Constituency Labour Party met last week to consider motions for Party conference.

Two resolutions were presented and unanimously endorsed. The first called for a campaign against Tory denationalisation plans and demanded that any denationalised industry be renationalised without compensation by the next Labour government. One delegate felt that anyone buying these shares should be prosecuted for "receiving

stolen property"!

The second resolution condemned unemployment and called on the labour movement to defend the unemployed. It also proposed a massive scheme of public works and work sharing—such as longer holidays, reduced hours etc—with no loss of pay. It recognised that only under a socialist economy could unemployment be finally eradicated.

It was decided to send the second resolution to confer-

ence as it took up a burning issue and would commit the party to a socialist strategy. We will also try to use the first motion as an amendment if possible.

We also discussed the building of our party. This is a task we will set to with vigour. Let's hope that socialist policies are pursued in a similar way.

By Judy Griffiths
(Stafford and Stone CLP, personal capacity)

HARTLEPOOL

At Hartlepool Labour Party's June GMC although the Party cannot afford to complete payment of the affiliation fee, due to expenses incurred in the election campaigns, the meeting decided to discuss motions which had been submitted for the annual party conference agenda.

Three motions critical of the Labour government's performance were carried in principle. They called on the NEC to explain party conference policies to the working class, and to fight the next election campaign on a socialist programme, based on clause 4 part 4 of the constitution. These motions will be sent to the NEC.

The meeting then decided to find ways and means of raising the £120 required to enable us to send a delegate to this year's conference.

By Bill Burns
(Hartlepool CLP)

LEICESTER

At the June meeting of Leicester West Constituency Labour Party's General Management Committee a resolution calling on the National Executive to "positively support the reconsideration of re-selection at this year's conference", was passed.

An issue which has been well supported by conference but not carried out by a Labour government, was presented by the Young Socialists

as a motion for this year's annual conference. It stated:

"This Branch welcomes the campaign against 'Pay Beds' proposed by NUPE and COHSE at their respective annual conferences this year and calls upon the NEC to approach NUPE and COHSE with the view to organising a joint campaign in the labour movement to abolish 'Pay Beds' as the first step in a campaign to clear private

medicine from the NHS for all time."

Again the resolution was well received and passed overwhelmingly. It will now be forwarded to this year's annual conference.

The mood in the Labour Party is not a demoralised one. We are fighting to regain a socialist commitment—inside and outside parliament.

By John Merell

LEFT & RIGHT

It's work experience

Exploitation is a word of the past—the bosses now call it 'work experience'. A delegate at the recent National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers' conference explained how youngsters on Job Experience schemes work at hosiery factories for the princely sum of £18. For working the shift system they get an extra £14 a week.

The usual rate for the job is £72 a week, but management explain that the youngsters are 'experiencing' a new job. They're certainly getting experience—of being exploited!

Painting it blue

Since Maggie and her cost-conscious, economising crew moved in a month ago, over £26,000 has already been splashed out to spruce up ministers' officers. 10 Downing Street has had £1,736 spent on it, mainly on the second-floor private flat. Sir Geoffrey Howe, who clearly believes the rich should be able to live in the style to which they are accustomed, if not better, has had £2,685 spent on his official accommodation.

The biggest sum, however, has been incurred by Trade Secretary John Nott: new ministerial offices in his Victoria Street empire are costing £16,245.

The Sheriff rules

Printer Roy Senchac was fined £230 after being found guilty of using threatening behaviour and obstructing the highway during a mass picket outside the notorious Nottingham Evening Post.

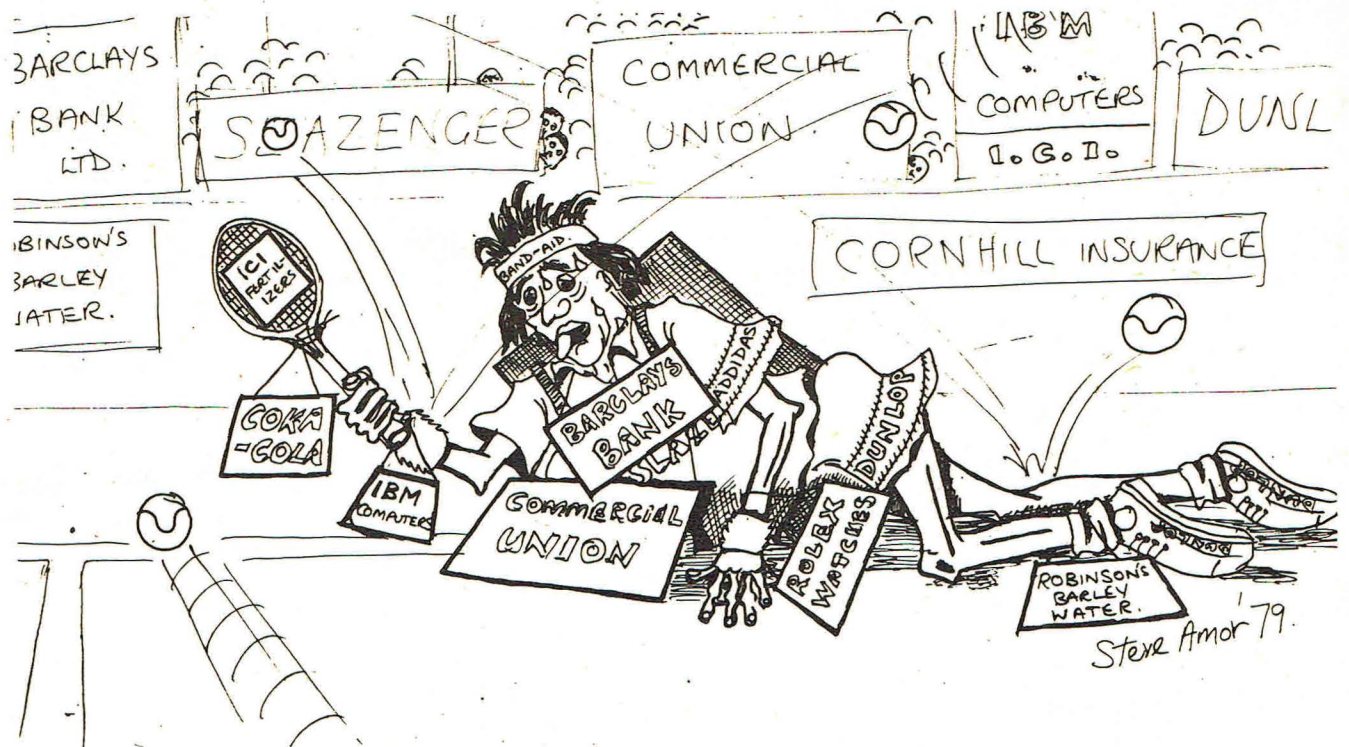
Another man Brindley, was found guilty of assault causing actual bodily harm—during a mass picket at the NEP he punched another man. But Brindley was only given a conditional discharge—after all, the man he attacked was only a picket taking part in the mass demonstration.

Shouldn't someone complain to the head of the Nottingham legal system, the Sheriff of Nottingham legal system, the standards? I wouldn't bother—the bad Sheriff is none other than Mr Pole-Carew himself, the proprietor of the Nottingham Evening Post.

Big Zil and the Rolls

In the recent SALT talks in Vienna, President Brezhnev among his luggage brought a shiny new Rolls Royce. After much hypocritical derision from the Western press about the leader of the Soviet Union owning a Rolls, Soviet officials thought it tactful if the President was seen driving around the city in an outsize Soviet-made Zil limousine. The Rolls was explained as merely a 'back-up'.

Could it be that they wanted to show off the advantage of the planned economy while the fuel crisis rocks the capitalist world? Or is it just another example of how the Soviet bureaucracy use their position to satisfy their own ends, growing fat on the heroic gains of 1917?



ANYONE FOR TENNIS? YES - BIG BUSINESS

At £6 a ticket a day on the Centre Court—£500,000 profit in two weeks!

Yes, Wimbledon is here again and we have been treated to two solid weeks of 10-15 hours a day tennis on BBC TV.

The papers and the radio have been full of it and this weekend the top stars, like Borg, Connors, McEnroe, Navratilova, Evert-Lloyd and Cawley will leave the courts with £260,000 in prize money—ten times the 1968 figure.

Where does the money come from?

The players are treated like royalty—Wimbledon gives them free lunches, cars to ferry them from hotels to the ground, while big companies pay the airfares and hotel bills of the big stars in return for the "discreet"

advertising of their products on court for the TV screens.

British Leyland (a nationalised industry) provides cars for the players; ICI fertilises the courts; Slazenger donates all the 1,200 dozen tennis balls, and Rolex the clocks.

Presumably, "Robinson's Barley Water" and Coca Cola donate all the drinks, and Adidas all the bags?

Ticket sales in 1978 grossed £850,000; they cost £1.50 per day for the cheapest courts, up to £6 on the centre court. Tickets for the centre court are very hard to get; priority goes to shareholders, members, players, the press and County Tennis Associations.

The "general public" must queue up for the 300 tickets on sale each day, or apply for the 2,500 tickets on sale by postal ballot. (57,000 have applied this year!)

Broadcasting fees raised £650,000 from TV and radio last year. Commercial pro-

motions and advertising raised £300,000, mainly from big companies like IBM, BP, Commercial Union and Barclays Bank; a medium-sized advertising marquee costs £12,500 for the fortnight.

Other sources of revenue include car-parking (£20,000 profit in 1978), programmes at £1 each (£20,000 profit) and cushion hire (£10,000).

Where does the money go? There is £500,000 profit and £260,000 in prize money. More of this goes to the men than the women players: e.g. £20,000 to the winner of the men's singles, only £18,000 to the women's champion.

Wimbledon's 'All-England Lawn Tennis Club' are not the only ones to make large profits out of two weeks' top tennis.

The ticket touts can sell finals day tickets for £120—twenty times the original cost. The 375 full members get 30 tickets at £2 each. Commen-

tators suspect that many of these go into circulation on the touts' black market.

The wealth enjoyed by the best players is well illustrated by the latest star, John McEnroe of the USA. Aged 20, this is his third Wimbledon and already he is worth £400,000 and enjoys a two-bedroomed flat on a beach in Florida.

Such a life is far removed from the public tennis courts in Britain where prices range from 50p to £1.20 per hour to book a hard court.

Wimbledon, like most sports and entertainment nowadays, is more than just fun for us tennis fans; it is big business, making huge profits from our enjoyment.

By Mike Levene

(Coventry South-East Labour Party)

DINNER AT THE SAVOY! - BUT AT WHAT COST?

Having read your coverage of the chambermaid's strike at the Grosvenor Hotel, I thought readers might be interested in conditions at one of London's most prestigious hotels.

As a former employee of the Savoy Hotel, where I worked as a porter, my gross weekly wage was £34 for working a 5½-day, 60-hour week—overtime was only paid every other week.

The only benefit as such were the free 'meals' provided while on duty, which, apart from being repetitive, were of a very low standard.

However, I was fortunate in that my wages were supplemented by tips. This system is designed to set worker against worker: the longer-serving porters would inevitably make much more than the others.

Kitchen staff, and the people who do the unskilled manual work behind the scenes aren't so fortunate. Like most of the 1,500 staff they don't come into contact with the benevolent rich, and so make do on their basic pay which is around £45 a week.

Most of these people are immigrant workers, from Asia and Latin European

countries. They willingly accept such employment, as their position is of course precarious.

A peculiar irony then, that the political allies of the management promise tighter controls on immigration!

The wages are made to look more ridiculous when compared to the cost of staying at the Savoy. A night there with dinner costs in the region of £80.

One of the more luxurious 'River suites', frequented by actors and pop stars (more than one tax exile stayed when I was there), costs £250 per night. There are even those who live their permanently, paying between £10,000 and £20,000 per year.

The Savoy of course is just one example. The hotel and catering trade in London (where hotel prices are the second highest in Europe) is kept going by an army of foreign workers. Their plight gets little coverage in the national press.

Perhaps the strike at Grosvenor House will give some much-needed publicity to the conditions of one of the sicker and more hidden areas of British industry.

By a hotel worker

A room with a TV in London's Park Lane — and paid for it too!

Grosvenor House Hotel, London, has 478 rooms, all with private bath, and we are looking for chambermaids, m/f, to service a section of 11 rooms. We will pay you a generous rate and provide you with a smart uniform.

This is a permanent job. We do not need any more students as we have engaged all our holiday relief staff. The persons selected must have a good work record and be able to produce references. Previous experience as a room maid would be an advantage but not essential as we are prepared to train.

Accommodation and all meals will be provided free of charge.

For further details please contact The Personnel Manager at The Albany Hotel, Bothwell Street, Glasgow (Tel. 041-248 2656) and indicate that you are applying for employment at Grosvenor House.

Grosvenor House dispute—see page 14

A Scottish reader noticed this advert in the 'Glasgow Evening Times'. As he says, "they seem to be advertising as far away as possible!"

Once again the working class throughout the world is to suffer because of the greed and incompetence of the multinational oil companies.

As the capitalist world moves into its second energy crisis within five years, big business has turned in on itself in a mad scramble for survival. For the workers this means higher prices and the threat of the dole.

OPEC leaders met in Geneva last week to try and sort out the mess caused by the profit system. The problem is that the Western capitalist economies need more oil than OPEC are prepared to supply at the prices the West are prepared to pay.

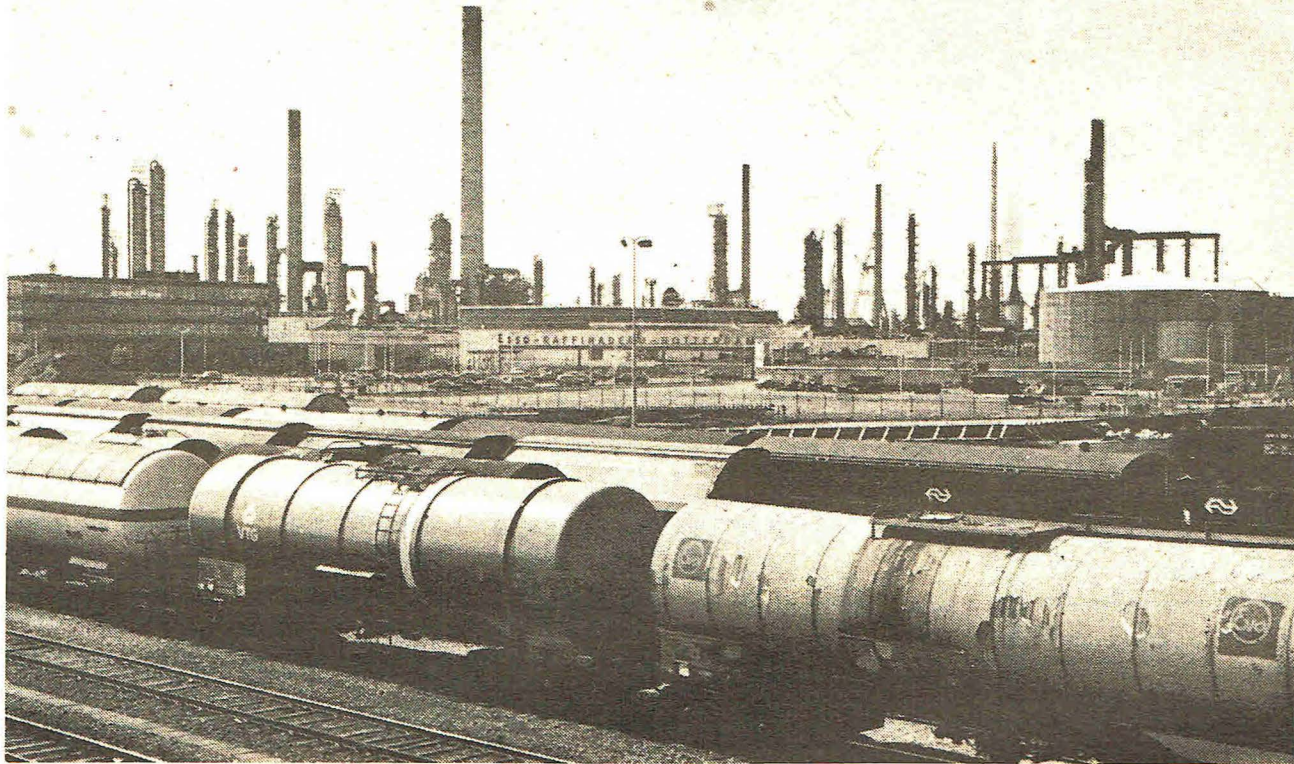
But what does big business do when such a situation arises? Does it make plans to investigate the development of alternatives to oil? Does it even work out an orderly return to normal with essential industries and needs getting priority in supplies while the crisis lasts?

No. Under capitalist control, such planning threatens to go against the only priority capitalism understands; profits. For a start, as the 'Guardian' explained (June 27th) "As soon as demand exceeds supply, OPEC takes on the character of an essential monopoly supplier."

In other words, the OPEC oil producers have taken a leaf from the book of the Western capitalists, who had plundered the oil resources of OPEC countries in the past.

To protect their national capitalism, they dictate prices to a world market—if you can't afford their extortionate prices, then hard luck, there will be plenty more who can.

OIL CRISIS



Rotterdam oil harbour. Supplies for Europe greatly reduced

CAPITALIST ANARCHY THREATENS ENERGY SUPPLIES

In a socialist society industrial growth would be planned alongside available energy sources—if an energy crisis arose, the fuel would be allocated with priority to society's more essential needs.

In the present crisis, the immediate energy problem could be solved with a mere

5% reduction in oil consumption. Yet capitalism has proved itself incapable of achieving even this small demand.

Of course, the capitalists have waved aside the real reason for the crisis—the inherent destructiveness of the profit system itself—and

pointed accusing fingers at American big business and the revolution in Iran.

American big business has in turn blamed its own working class for high consumption rates. Yet big business are the real culprits. American capitalists, in their own interests, have kept the

price of oil down through artificial means.

For an American worker it is cheaper to burn more fuel to heat his home than have double glazing and insulation devices installed. So now through the short sightedness of the American capitalists, the US working class will feel

the effects of the crisis more sharply.

Certainly, Iran's oil production has dropped, by 15% to 5% of OPEC's total output, while it recovers from the bloody episode of toppling its former tyrannical regime.

But as the 'Guardian' pointed out, this decline in supplies only brought forward the crisis the oil moguls were expecting in 1985.

In other words, the oil bosses were expecting an energy crisis in six years anyway, yet they had not even begun to contemplate its effect on industry or how to avoid it.

And judging from the outburst by the Tory press last week, it seems the capitalists have only just realised that one day oil reserves would run out.

The oil companies have announced with pride that they are spending billions of dollars on researching new forms of energy. Most of this, however, is spent on looking for new oil deposits as opposed to developing new forms of alternative energy.

And where a company does develop alternative fuel, society will only be allowed to use it if it is as profitable as oil. As Mobil, who have produced a crude petrol from coal, told the 'Daily Mirror' last week, "It is not economic at the moment, but the moment oil prices reach a certain level we will go straight into production."

Only a socialist plan of production on a world-wide scale can provide a way out of this latest crisis; the anarchy of 'free enterprise' has no answers and can only lead to more crises in the future, even with new forms of energy.

By Bob Wade
(Brentwood and
Ongar LPYS)

MPs PAY A SPECIAL CASE?

First it's 'top people's' pay. Then top rates of tax are axed. Now the Tories are making up lost time in bumping up their own wages.

Welcoming the advice of Lord Boyle—the former Tory minister who knows all about poverty at the top—our industrious parliamentary employees are upping their pay all round.

Mrs Thatcher has announced from Tokyo that we have all got to accept a cut in living standards (it's a tune no Tory ever seems to tire of). She herself is setting the pace by postponing her 25% rise, which would have taken her to about £800 a week, until 1981.

She's obviously managed to stock the store cupboard well enough to carry her through the next two years—not so hard on £25,000 a year. That's what economy and thrift does for you!

It's all in the interests of parity with her cabinet work-

By Eileen Short

mates, who will get £10,000 plus—a 60% rise.

But there were angry noises from the House of Commons. Those MPs who were most vicious in their attacks on trade unionists last winter adamantly declared that they would not tolerate wage restraint—for themselves.

They're upset because the £5,103 increase for rank and file MPs is to be paid in instalments over three years.

A £34 a week rise isn't enough; they want the full £240 a week, £12,000 a year, and the sooner the better.

Jim Callaghan has obviously picked up a few things from his negotiations with public sector workers—he was in there leading the fight for a two-stage agreement, to Tory cheers. But then he's got a lot to lose: his pay is to be nearly doubled to £29,000 a year.

We could try convincing ourselves that it was a trial run, and that our parliamentary representatives are about to rally round in support of 100% increases for the rest of us. But it seems more likely that it's another case of those selfish 'I'm all right Jack' workers—and they aren't even organised in a trade union.

It's about what you'd expect from the Tories. On the opposition benches, however, only a handful of Labour left-wingers—mainly the ones who opposed wage restraint policies—stood out against these hypocritical double standards. All the rest joined in the Tory wails about how hard-pressed they are after the last three years of pay policy.

Joan Maynard, a Labour

MP sponsored by the Agricultural workers' union, pointed out that, as it was, she could already afford things that she never could before. Wage restraints may have felt tough on over £6,000 a year, but how many Labour MPs would have supported it if they had been trying to make do on the wages most workers earn?

Will Labour representatives on £12,000 a year have any idea of what it's like to live in fear of the electricity bill, or in hope that the milkman doesn't call till after pay day?

This performance will convince a lot more workers that when Labour candidates are elected to parliament, they should be paid no more than the average wage of a skilled worker—after all, it's the working class they're supposed to be representing.

With the extra money put into Labour Party funds and expenses vetted and paid by the Party, they wouldn't be paupers, but they'd be more likely to appreciate the problems working people face.

When the pay debate ended there was a quick exodus from the packed chamber. Less than 30 of the 635 MPs could find the time to attend the next debate—on unemployment.



Photo: Julian McKittrick (Militant)

MPs who are company directors like Joseph top up their gifts from the budget with greatly increased wages. No restriction in his money supply, evidently.

EEC-FIDDLING IN THE MADHOUSE

Butter mountain: 272,694 tonnes; surplus cereals: 1,953,824 tonnes; UK surplus butter: 31,588 million tonnes; olive oil lake: 94,498 tonnes; beef and veal: 154,053 tonnes; UK surplus beef: 15,004 tonnes.

"During the year up to 28 February 1979, 69 tonnes of apples; 5,592 tonnes of cauliflowers, were ploughed into fields. Quantities of apples, cauliflowers and fish held as surplus were also fed to animals or made into animal feed." [*Financial Times*, 23 March 1979]

This is the madhouse of the EEC Agricultural policy. In the drive for greater and greater profits, the capitalist class is prepared to stack, store, dump, plough back their so-called "surpluses" in order to extort the highest prices from the working class, to benefit the giant food monopolies and big farmers.

Many of these statistics are well known to activists in the labour and trade union movement. But probably not many knew of the depth of fiddles that go on with the CAP and the £ millions in rake-offs that take place.

On 14 June ITV's *TV Eye* exposed the depths that monopoly capitalism has sunk to—though not from the point of exposing the system, but more of a moan at Britain paying the

By Bob Faulkes

(Hackney Central CLP)

biggest contribution into the EEC's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Nevertheless the revelations were startling.

RICE: The first fiddle—rice coming straight into West Germany would lose its subsidy, so the grain carrier conveniently stops at a British port for a day, unloads onto lorries which after eight hours or so unloaded back onto the ship without leaving the quay.

It is then shipped over to West Germany as a British export. An estimated £2m per year is made here.

BUTTER: West German butter is taken out to sea for a while to touch an East German port. It then sells at half price, on board, as well as in West Germany as a subsidised import. The butter bosses also make a killing by transporting from East to West Germany—in fact, it was hard to keep track of it!

The local Euro-joke is that some of the EEC bureaucrats were enraged when some of the butter was actually eaten!

An estimated £1m a year is made in the sale of cut-price butter and £6½m a year in other butter frauds.

COWS' MILK: One of the craziest examples is the big subsidies given to farmers to produce milk.

All the milk which is "unconsumed" is turned into milk powder at £530 per lb subsidy—most of which is either stacked up in giant warehouses or mixed with other food surpluses—and fed back to the cows.

The two funniest cases (if they weren't so serious) involved:

PIGS: Pigs reared in the South of Ireland get a £7 per pig subsidy if taken to the North, plus another £7 per pig if coming from North to South.

We saw the crazy antics of pigs on trucks going (legally) over the border—South to North—getting the necessary papers, driving around for a little while and coming back as Northern pigs.

The farmer then (illegally) shooed his pigs over a stream (the border) and then back again, sometimes twice a day. He called them his "homing pigs".

When asked by the interviewer if he was afraid of being caught after being on TV he replied: "Everyone knows I do it, it's catching me..."—and it used to be better when it was £15 per pig.

Estimated gain: £2m a year.

OLIVE TREES: Italy is claiming a subsidy for 20 million olive trees. Everyone knows this is not true, but how can it be proved? It was estimated it would take an army about five years to count them all.

Aerial photographs were tried using about six



Cauliflowers for sale—thousands of tonnes are destroyed under Common Agricultural Policy

Photo: Chris Davies (Report) II one that is plugged, two more emerge."

The whole programme was a devastating indictment of the EEC, CAP and capitalism (though of course the latter was not actually mentioned outright).

Of course, no solutions were put, but the conclusions are obvious—the EEC cannot be reformed, only scrapped, and the United Socialist States of Europe put in its place, where food, as with all other commodities, would be produced for need not profit.

different methods. The scientific arguments involved were very complicated but still to no avail—they still couldn't prove Italy hasn't got 20m olive trees.

The question was asked: what's going to happen when Greece and Portugal, both substantial olive tree growers, join?

Cost: £20m subsidy.

And so it went on, fiddle after fiddle; some "legal" others "illegal". But fear not, there is a "Euro-Fraud Squad"—consisting of ten people—to see justice is done.

Throughout the documentary, incidentally, Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" was played, which apparently has been adopted as the EEC anthem.

The Joy, as it was put sarcastically, presumably being for those making the £ms.

Could the fiddles be stopped? Can the loopholes be plugged? Throughout the programme John Silkin was asked for comments—"Impossible," he said, "the lawyers of all the EEC countries were working flat out looking for more fiddles. For every

The old myths of benefits being higher than wages, and 'holidays in the sunshine' have been started again by the press, preparing for further attacks on "scroungers".

"Public opinion expects a gap between the incomes of those in and out of work," complains the DHSS. Patrick Jenkin is committed to increasing that gap. In fact, only 4% of claimants (those with very large families) are better off than in jobs. Meanwhile the number of DHSS "snoopers" (special investigators) has increased from 22 in 1959, to 317 in 1974 and reached 428 in 1978.

In 1977, the total cost of SB reached £1,950 million. The CPAG suggested that this could be partly offset by unpaid tax, like the £1,000m written off as 'unrecoverable' by the Inland Revenue in 1978.

A further £662m was given away in higher rate tax cuts in the recent budget alone. Patrick Jenkin will never need to claim SB, he was earning £14,300 a year before his recent pay rise. That's why he'd like to scrap SB altogether.

"Strikers will continue to be starved into submission by the trades disputes disqualification. And adult people living with someone of the opposite sex will still be excluded from the SB scheme under the cohabitation rule."

Even David Donnison and the Supplementary Benefits Commission criticise this DHSS Review: "the 'no cost' assumptions must be rejected...the overriding priority in reforming the supplementary benefits scheme is to increase the level of benefit for families with children and for all claimants who have to live on the lower ordinary scale rates. Our top priority is for better child benefits."

The SB Commission's Report is bad enough. It agrees with the DHSS that benefit should be denied to school leavers! But its Report is not as grim as the plans of the DHSS and the Tories.

mended cost cutting including:

—withdrawing school leavers' rights to claim benefits for the first three months after leaving school

—introduction of a short-term flat rate benefit for new claimants including a standard fixed rent allowance (instead of personal assessment based on actual rent: this would cut benefits for thousands by £7 or more per week).

—abolishing special diet and laundry expenses.

The DHSS reviewers were horrified at the success of many claimants in gaining "exceptional needs payments", either through the discretion of SB officers, or more usually through appeal tribunals. Over a million such payments were made in 1976, averaging only £22 each; from 1968 till 1976, the numbers of claimants successfully gaining

exceptional needs payments, mainly for heating, rose from 20% to 49%.

'Social Assistance' therefore proposes replacing Discretion and Appeal tribunals with a 'code of practice' for exceptional needs payments. With a Conservative government, demanding this would undoubtedly reduce the number and size of payments.

This explains Patrick Jenkin's enthusiasm for these proposals. He is "attracted to many of the ideas" and the Queen's Speech pledged that "ways will be sought to simplify the social security system."

Of course, some discretionary powers will remain—if they cut costs. As the Claimants' Union points out: "People who leave their jobs will continue to be punished by the Industrial Misconduct Rule, which reduces their benefit by 49% for six weeks.

SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFITS

Tories on the attack

In July 1978, the DHSS produced a review of the Supplementary Benefits scheme entitled "Social Assistance".

Commissioned by the last Labour government, it proposed widespread cuts in Social Security and has been praised since by leading Tories, especially the new Social Services secretary, Patrick Jenkin (the genius who told us to clean our teeth in the dark during the 1974 miners' strike).

On the other side, the Child Poverty Action Group and Claimants' Union have strongly condemned the recommendations and recently even the Supplementary Benefits Commission have added their criticisms of this DHSS review.

'Social Assistance' recom-

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A MOUTHFUL AWAY

A year ago Robert MacNamara, President of the World Bank, made the grim prediction that still "600 million individual human beings will be living in absolute poverty at the end of this century."

'Absolute poverty' is the official euphemism for being just one mouthful from starvation.

Yet the World Bank frankly admits that its own projections are, "if anything, somewhat optimistic." There could be up to 1,300 million, perhaps even 1,700 million, doomed to a living hell by the year 2000.

So three post-war decades of reports, the best-laid plans, the 'Green Revolution' and aid graciously proffered by the industrialised world, has not dented the misery and degradation that is everyday life for two-thirds of humanity.

The Asian Development Bank reports that "in most of the Bank's developing member countries most people are eating at a nutritional level below that required for normal health." In India, which with Pakistan and Bangladesh accounts for a horrendous two-thirds of the 'absolute poor', 66% live below the poverty line, and of the 21 million children born each year, 3.2 million die before they are 5.

As the centuries' old battle against scourges like small pox are being won, so the diseases of malnutrition take their place to torment millions. 450 million suffer from tortures like hookworm and blindness directly caused by lack of sustenance.

For these the cure does not await discovery in the laboratory. It lies within the grasp of mankind—the application of the most modern productive techniques to agriculture, the smashing of the medieval rules of landownership and the abolition of the constraints of the profit motive on the distribution of food.

In the third world 70% of the rural population of the planet toil and sweat to produce only 40% of the world's food.

No food reserves

1978 was a year of bumper cereal harvests, but hunger still stands at the door of the poorest nations. The Western nations have failed to meet their commitments to build up reserve stocks to meet shortages, and their inadequate offers of food aid—only 8 million tons of cereals a year fall far short. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisations calculates that double that figure should be the minimum target.

In the West, charities extract the pennies and pounds to maintain a handful of the world's poor afloat, while the growing tide of starvation sweeps millions under. But under the engrained callousness of capit-

alism, for the cost of one USZ mobile intercontinental missile 50 million undernourished children could be fed, and 65,000 health centres and 340,000 primary schools built for them.

Yet even in the underdeveloped countries five times as much foreign exchange is wasted on arms imports than is spent on agricultural machinery.

In much of the rural areas of Asia and Africa, civilisation—man's ability to tame his environment—can hardly have advanced since Biblical times. The poverty, the pitifully inadequate agricultural implements, the reliance on the ox and the wooden plough leaves millions at the mercy of the elements.

Plagues of locusts are threatening the harvests in fifty countries. While last year more deaths were anticipated in the Sahel drought than from the local wars waged in Chad and in the Sahara. The Ethiopian drought in 1973 claimed anything up to a million people, thousands of tons of grain—and indirectly the regime of Emperor Haile Selassie.

But changes have been forced into the Third World. Foreign capital has transformed the cities bringing prosperity to the few, while population growth has transformed traditional values and life-styles. The feudal land distribution—where in India, for instance, the poorest 10% of rural households own just 0.1% of the land while the richest 10% have half the countryside in their hands—means the small plots reserved for the rural poor cannot sustain the increasing weight of numbers.

A World Bank report on Thailand where 9 million live in "absolute poverty" illustrates the

For the cost of one intercontinental missile, 50 million undernourished children could be fed and 65,000 health centres and 340,000 primary schools built. In the underdeveloped countries 5 times as much foreign exchange is wasted on arms imports than is spent on agricultural machinery.

deteriorating existence for the masses throughout the underdeveloped world. The seven million subsistence farmers in the North tied to their one product—rice—on holdings too small to produce a surplus have "hardly benefited at all from the economic change over the past decades."

But the increasing population and the exhausted sources of uncultivated land have created a new section of society, the landless labourer, unknown even 30 years ago. In Thailand they comprise 30% of the rural population and are increasing by 8% annually.

In the countryside agricultural labour has far outstripped demand so real wages have been stagnant since 1960.

Every year thousands of Thai rural unemployed, and literally millions throughout the Third World, are drawn by the magnetic attraction of the cities. Yet here they face the final indignity. Penniless, they are condemned to the corrugated iron squalor of the densely packed shanty towns in the very midst of the affluence, high living and imported vices of the elite.

One Thai writer commented that Bangkok "was transformed from a pleasant canal-lined capital into a sprawling 'primate' city (a metropolis amid underdevelopment)...a third of Bangkok's 4½ million

people and up to a half in other towns were made up of these migrants. "Now that city can boast 400,000 drug addicts and 300,000 prostitutes.

With the unceasing flood of excess labour, urban poverty too becomes entrenched. In Thailand the incidence of urban poverty has not improved for a decade. A Thai academic summed up his country's plight: "the numbers of those living below the officially defined poverty line has increased; the rural-urban income differential has increased; and rural incomes are becoming more unequal."

But as a country Thailand is by no means one of the very poorest. For the 'developing' world can be split into a 'Third' and 'Fourth' world, between the partly industrialised middle-income nations and the utterly impoverished.

The World Bank has fixed the demarcation line at an annual per capita income of \$250. It is amongst the low income Fourth World nations of South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa that the majority of the world's poor are distributed. In Ethiopia before the revolution 90% of the population were peasants outside the cash economy.

So while in the developing world the rate of growth of per capita income increased from 2% in the fifties to 3.4% in the sixties most of this was concentrated in the semi-industrialised countries like Brazil, Iran, South Korea, Nigeria and the oil states, and even there was not enjoyed by everyone. In the Fourth World there is no escape.

But the growing problem of economic differentiation is the responsibility of the industrialised world. The underdeveloped Third



On the Indian sub-continent, one child in every seven dies before reaching the age of 5

already have debts worth up to 59% of all they can produce.

But where do these debts come from? Half the developing world's accumulated debts emanate not from the conscience money of Western governments but from private Western bank loans, extended where a rich rate of return can be realised.

Banking institutions lend exclusively to the semi-developed more prosperous nations. Of the 120 developing nations the 'economic miracles' of Brazil and Mexico are responsible for 50% of all the debts to Western banks.

A top ten composing these and also Argentina, Peru, Chile, Colombia, Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand account for almost 75%. It was this foreign gold that enabled seven of this ten to attain economic growth rates above 6% a year, and three of them above 10% in the early '70s.

But despite their impressive growth rates, within ten years servicing their debts will account for 22% of their export earnings. Brazil now owes the rest of the world \$42 billion, and two-thirds of its export income this year will be taken by debt servicing.

The bankers are growing more and more fearful now lest their customers' overdrafts cannot be redeemed, and are clutching the purse strings closer to their chests. A new economic recession or a further slide into protectionism, or

both, will slice the export growth of the developing countries, preventing them from repaying their creditors on time. Private lending will only grow by 5% a year during 1975-85 compared with 23% in the previous five years.

As for the very poorest countries they meet with a very stony response from the international bank managers. Of the \$50 million dollars lent by the Chase Manhattan Bank to the developing world only 10% goes to the poorest countries. They have to rely on government grants and loans from the West and foreign investment from the multi-nationals. The loans they depend on because of their poverty are provided with more generous terms and over longer periods. So their indebtedness will not rise so dramatically.

But for the low income Asian nations' debt servicing already covers 12.6% of exports. Again the prospects of economic recession could be more devastating than the floods, droughts and epidemics that afflict them now. The poorest nations are tied securely to the rack, stretched almost to breaking point.

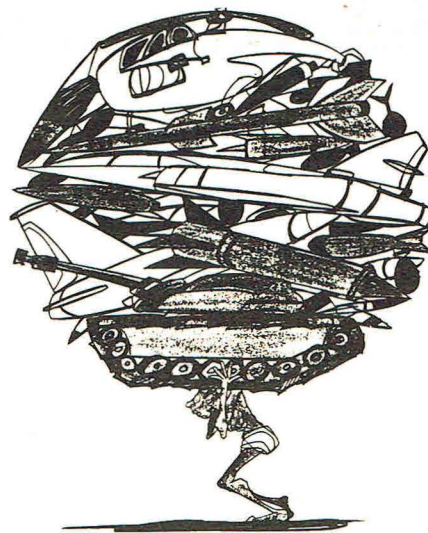
Eastern aid in the forms of both straight grants and highly concessional loans rose by 50% between 1973 and '76 but the trade deficits of the non-oil exporting underdeveloped countries will find even more difficulty in repaying past debts.

For aid, too, is declining. As a proportion of the collective income of the richest donors aid fell to its second lowest level for twenty years in 1978. Continuing economic uncertainty in the West has taken its toll on the finance available for the developing world.

Aid accounts for a mere 0.31% of collective GNP compared with 0.5% in the more stable days of the early sixties. As for the UN's aim of 0.7%, that seems never to be attained. Indeed Saudi Arabia is now the second largest donor.

Both middle income and low income nations stand in grave danger of defaulting on their loans as the strings of the world economic straight jacket are pulled taut. A year ago Britain wrote off £1,000 million of the £1,352 million debt it is owed, relieving some of the very poorest nations like Nepal, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Gambia and Botswana of part of their burden.

Other industrialised countries have taken the same step. But it was not generosity that motivated



FROM STARVATION



them, but reluctant acceptance of financial reality. The danger of major defaults is that a chain reaction could be set up rocking the private institutions in the West and causing panic throughout the financial system of the world.

Yet this true-life horror story of the under-developed world was written in the years when world capitalism reached its greatest heights. More was produced in the post-war boom decades than in the whole of previous human history. If that was the best that imperialism could offer, then the downtrodden masses of the world can only look with dread towards the future of continuing deeper recession.

For while the Western powers have been forced to give up direct political domination of the developing countries they still hold them fast in an economic vice. Not least through the unfavourable terms of trade which through their control over the world economy the West is able to impose on its less fortunate customers.

The post-war years have seen the cost of the manufacturing imports so necessary to the developing economies steadily rise in relation to their raw material exports. Last year according to the OECD, the price of manufactured goods which are imported by Latin America rose 14.5% while the price of Latin American exports only went up by 5%.

But it is in Latin America that some of the developing world's most successful economies are located. But even middle income nations cannot break completely from their humble origins. Despite their achievements they will never fully match the economic might or balanced industrial development of the West.

While for the millions of exploited in these countries life is as harsh as in the poorest areas of the world. Brazil, beneficiary of 9,100,000 of the 76,000,000 dollars of direct private investment expended last year in developing countries by the OECD's leading members, is now the tenth industrial power in the world. But its social statistics are as horrific as the worst figures for Bangladesh or the Central African Republic.

In São Paulo, the world's fastest growing city, half the population spend their lives 50% below the State's own (very) minimal subsistence level. The poverty of the

masses has increased in inverse proportion to the 90% growth of the economy in the fifteen years since the Generals took an iron grip on Brazilian society.

São Paulo's infant mortality rate has increased from 30 to 80 per thousand under the Junta. Every



Not all suffer in the '3rd World'. Above a Saudi millionaire

year more children than adults are buried in this city of death.

For the workers the struggle to stay alive is becoming still harder. When the Generals stepped in, 40 minutes work earned the wages to buy a kilo of beans. Now it takes 4 hours. A kilo of meat could be bought for three hours of labour. But now eight hours of sweat and tears are needed. No-one in Brazil or in any of the developing countries could challenge Karl Marx's assertion that capitalism means the pauperisation of the working class.

Yet now the locomotive of the Brazilian economy has been slowed down. In many of the more developed non-metropolitan countries the engine has become dangerously over-heated, and the

break-neck speeds of past years will probably never be repeated. These countries will be the main sufferers under the expected decline in world trade, from 5.5%—6% this year to 3%—3.5% next.

For without a large home market, because of the repression and impoverishment of the masses, but with the most modern methods of mass production (in motor manufacture for example) they are completely at the mercy of the world market. When they started out on the road of rapid industrialisation world trade was growing by 14% per year.

But even in the good years, the glaring inadequacies of these economies were exposed. With investment concentrated in the areas of quick profit, they have not been able to develop the infrastructure that Western societies could carefully construct over centuries. They lack their own skilled workers and officials, and cannot even create modern transport systems at the necessary pace.

Commenting on Iran before the revolution, Robert Mabro of Oxford University posed the question "how could a poor third world country finance comprehensive large scale investment programmes? Would an underdeveloped country really be underdeveloped if it could supply the organisational and technological talent, the skilled manpower and the institutional framework necessary for the big push."

However, the crippling heritage of underdevelopment still does not prevent the arrogant rulers of these semi-developed nations from trying

over-rapid industrialisation had to be presented. The South Korea's and the Brazil's are now desperately trying to rein in their economies and face up to the problems caused by their profligate spending and borrowing.

The new Algerian head of state President Chaldi is attempting to slow down the economy and to alleviate its worst distortions. With a large number of the 300 manufacturing plants hurriedly thrown up under the industrialisation programme operating at only 15%—25% of capacity, investment is being switched to refurbish the

growth rate and that energy costs remained constant. These pious hopes have already been shattered within a year of their publication.

The abject failure of the recent United Nations conference on Trade and Development to patch up any agreement between the developed and under-developed worlds, is a sign that with the prospect of hard times the West is in no mood for concessions.

The 'Financial Times' could only bemoan the fact that "for action to follow the world's economy must revive—and without this revival the prospect for UNCTAD VI when it is

Underdeveloped countries are now in debt to Western bankers to the tune of £247,000 million this year. External debt averages 25% of a country's GDP. But the poorest are well past the limits of complete bankruptcy. Pakistan and Morocco already have debts worth up to 59% of GDP.

economy's infra-structure.

Brazil's equally new ruler General Figueredo has called for a policy of 'Austerity'. Nigeria, according to the 'Times' (2 October 1978), "having over-extended itself and pushed ahead too quickly", has been compelled to introduce a harsh budget which "suggests that the government had learnt its lesson and that the country will be more realistic in its future development plans".

Since the Shah's ignominious flight from Iran, it is not just the economic but the frightening social consequences that has made these richer developing countries alter course.

Recession

But just as they are trying to stabilise their industrial machines, the world is being plunged back into instability. The coming recession in the USA, the increase in commodity prices and now another oil crisis is a frightening prospect for them.

The increase in oil costs for rich and poor developing countries will be a devastating blow. Brazil imports four-fifths of its oil consumption at a cost of \$4,500,000 a year.

Yet the figures of 600 million absolute poor was calculated for the World Bank's Development 'Report '78' on the basis that the industrialised world maintains a 4.2% annual

eventually held in 3 or 4 years time, must be as poor as that of UCTAD V."

End nightmare

But how can the world's poor just wait for a dim and distant capitalist revival? Within fifteen years there will be a 70% increase in the global demand for food. By the turn of the century the teaming millions of the Fourth World countries will have swelled by 60%. The continuation of a world economic order based on the profit motive is a sentence of death for millions of men, women and children.

The establishment of socialism internationally, the marrying of the untapped resources of the under-developed world to the high level of technique of the West in the interests of people not profit; the increase in investment in agriculture which could literally transform the most barren deserts into fertile plains; modernisation and industrialisation under the direction of the working population and geared to meet their needs—is the only way to end the nightmare of the underdeveloped world.

By Jeremy Birch

The post-war boom decades was the best that imperialism could offer. The prospects of economic recession could be devastating. The continuation of a world economic order based on the profit motive is a sentence of death for millions of men, women and children.



The scene of a 200-strong protest in December for the release of the Leningrad opposition

USSR

BIRTH OF A NEW OPPOSITION

Opposition to the ruling caste in the Soviet Union is not confined to human rights activists, national movements and religious currents. One of the left-wing troupes has been the Leningrad "left opposition", which had links with workers and student groups throughout the USSR [cf 'Militant', 13th May].

The Leningrad 'left opposition' traces its history back to the opening day of the 25th Congress of the CPSU in February 1976. Anti-government leaflets were circulated in Nevsky Prospekt, the underground stations and various institutions, declaring that the Soviet Communist Party had compromised itself in the eyes of the people, its policies were Stalinist and its Congress a complete fraud.

The leaflets called for democratic socialism.

Despite the tremendous risks involved, none of the leafleters was caught for over a fortnight, and only one, Raznikov, was eventually arrested.

By the time he was released in June 1978, Skobov, one of his colleagues, had set up his commune in Primorski Prospekt, on the outskirts of Leningrad.

He brought his extensive library there, including Marx's early writings, Trotsky, Kropotkin, and the 'Chronicle of Current Events', a dissident journal regularly appearing underground since 1968. The Leningrad Commune's own journal, 'Perspektiv', published both Marxist, anarchist and general dissident articles in its three issues of June-August 1978.

It included a report of 15,000 strong spontaneous students' demonstration of July 4th, when the 'Blue Division' of the army [trained to crush street disorders] was sent in.

'Perspektiv' was intended as a basis for discussion at an all-union conference. It was discovered that left opposition groups were widespread, existing in Moscow, Gorky, the Baltic Republics, Belorussia, the Ukraine and even the Caucasus. They were all invited to the first conference in Leningrad on September

12th [later postponed until October 16th, only to be crushed by the KGB].

The KGB were especially interested in the internal documents of the left opposition, especially the articles 'Theses in the Present Situation in the USSR' and 'Critique of the Theses'.

As described in both the 'Theses' and their 'Critique', the left opposition regard the Soviet bureaucracy as "bandits and robbers masquerading as Communists." The Soviet education system produces cynicism and indifference, whereby "95% of the pupils savagely hate their teachers and 95% of the teachers hate their pupils." The working class, frustrated by their lack of control and surrounded by inefficiency, often become cynical and resort to alcoholism.

The Leningrad opposition advocated propaganda work amongst students, workers and the armed forces, to consolidate left-wing forces. Some of them believed that pressure by the working class from below would force gradual reform by the party bureaucracy; others believed that only a civil war against the bureaucracy could bring fundamental change.

The oppositionists were united on a "Positive Programme", including:

- ★ Full individual and democratic freedom of the press, speech, assembly, strike etc.

- ★ Freedom and autonomy of associations and organisations.

- ★ Liquidation of KGB and other bureaucratic state organisations.

- ★ Liquidation of conscript army and its replacement by a voluntary army.

- ★ The right of self-determination for nations [e.g. Crimean Tatars, Ukraine].

These demands are close to those consistently put forward by Lenin and Trotsky, before, during and since the 1917 revolution. They show that despite the use of violent police terror, the ideas of Marxism and workers' democracy will eventually be victorious again in Eastern Europe at the expense of the present ruling bureaucracy.

[Information from 'Labour Focus on Eastern Europe', May-June 1979.]

By Mick Levene
(Coventry SE CLP)

Indian army kill police strikers

Twenty-eight people were killed and over 100 seriously injured when the Indian Army was sent in last week to attack striking policemen.

Prime Minister Desai declared a policy of toughness: "The police have no justification for revolting or taking to agitation. If the police are allowed to do that, no democracy can survive."

The battles with the Army took place in the outskirts of New Delhi and in the steel city of Bokaro. The dissatisfaction of the police is a reflection of the rising unrest amongst

whole sections of Indian workers and is one of the most graphic illustrations of the crisis gripping capitalist rule in India. If the State cannot wholly rely on its forces of law and order, who can it turn to?

The police who were on strike last week were from the Central Reserve police battalions. They had seen how recent strikes by ordinary police had won quick concessions on pay and conditions, e.g. in some states a police constable's pay rose by 50% to £30 per month.

Desai decided to nip this

latest revolt by the reservists in the bud. But the vicious army attack has had the opposite effect. In Madras hundreds of policemen who were not on strike wore black badges. From Triandrum in the south to Assam in the north-east, police undertook protest action.

The Janata government has thrown down the gauntlet to all workers. It is now trying to re-introduce detention without trial which will be used against workers.

It is not just the police that the Indian ruling class fear.

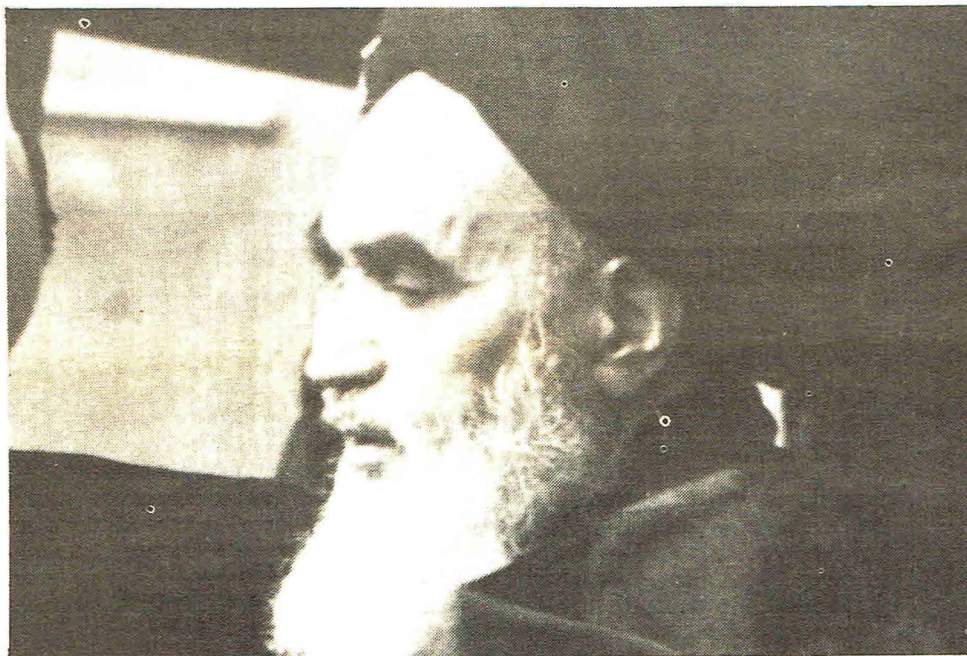
Desai has publicly threatened railway workers: "If railwaymen go on strike, it cannot be excused. It is holding the whole country to ransom."

But as even the events of last week showed draconian laws and vicious repression and murder will not be able to stem the unrest which has now grown to explosive proportions in India today.

By Jim
Chrystie

IRAN insurance companies nationalised

By Bob Labi



Khomeini trying to balance on the revolution

The announcement last week of the nationalisation of all insurance companies, following on the takeover of the banks, marks a new state in the unfolding Iranian revolution.

It is only three months since the new 'revolutionary' governor of the Central Bank, Ali Mowlavi, was assuring foreign firms that there would be no bank nationalisation and that "free competition would be encouraged as a means of strengthening the private sector."

But now the 'Islamic Republic' daily, widely believed to be the mouthpiece for Ayatollah Khomeini's Central Revolutionary Islamic Council, has indicated that large commercial companies are next on the list for nationalisation. It commented that the insurance takeover was "necessary but not sufficient" and that it was "only natural for the Mostaz'af [the barefooted ones] to ask for more since Iran's dawn of freedom."

It has been the enormous pressure of the Mostaz'af and the Bekaran [the jobless ones]

and the severe crisis gripping the Iranian economy which has forced Khomeini to backtrack on the regime's previous statements and take these nationalisation measures.

Unemployment in Iran is currently estimated to be around 3,500,000—over a third of Iran's workforce. Many factories have been closed since the February insurrection as their owners have fled the country. During April large demonstrations were held in most of the major Iranian cities by the Bekaran demanding work, showing the determination of workers to press home their demands.

Under this pressure Khomeini has been forced to grant concessions to the workers, such as promising free medicine and transport, and to take measures to attempt to get the economy moving again. Already in March Khomeini had declared that Iran's "economic system is bankrupt" and in the middle of June it was reported that the government was planning to take over "inefficient" industries, along with those abandoned by their owners.

For the moment the Iranian and world capitalists have no means of resisting these measures. The Iranian armed forces only barely exist as a cohesive force and while they have been used against some of the national minorities, they would fall to pieces if the

officers attempted to use them to halt these anti-capitalist measures.

In fact the Iranian bourgeoisie under Bazargan are trying to play for time. They want to create a bourgeois democratic regime in Iran which would give them a breathing space to regroup their forces. But, unfortunately for them, the situation is moving too quickly for this schema to work out.

Khomeini, while being forced by the enormous pressure of the masses to grant concessions, is attempting to maintain his position by balancing between the different classes.

Whilst being prepared to hit at capitalism, at the same time blows are being directed against the working class and the left. Simultaneously with the insurance nationalisation, Khomeini's Committee published a new draft criminal code which specifically states that anyone found guilty of disruptive tactics in factories or of worker agitation faces a jail term of two to ten years.

Khomeini is attempting to lean upon the enormous following which he still has to prevent the development of a working class movement, which would in the long run undermine his support. This is the reason why Khomeini has dropped his demand for a Constituent Assembly, which would have encouraged the development of political parties, brought the class strug-

gle more out in the open and weakened Khomeini's grip.

The situation in Iran is still fluid. In the crisis situation facing Iran and given the flight of the Iranian capitalist class and the weakness of imperialism to intervene, it is entirely possible that Khomeini's Committee could, under pressure, carry out the expropriation of capitalism.

The overthrow of capitalism in Iran would, of course, be an enormous step forward in Iran. Along with a state monopoly of foreign trade and the introduction of an economy plan it could lead to an enormous growth in the economy, a raising of living standards and a strengthening of the working class. But politically such a regime would not be a workers' democracy laying the basis for a socialist society.

Rather it would be in the image of the regimes in Russia, Eastern Europe, China etc. with the difference that in the place of the Stalinist ideology of those regimes Khomeini would impose the ideas of Islam. Such a regime, a deformed workers' state, would require a political revolution to overthrow the clerical-bureaucratic elite before there could be a movement towards workers' democracy and socialism.

But if capitalism is not completely overthrown and there is a continuing development of class and national struggles, Khomeini's movement could develop into the fountainhead of reaction and prepare the way for a new authoritarian capitalist regime. The possible developments of the Iranian revolution will not be determined by the fact that Khomeini himself is a religious obscurantist who wishes to turn the clock back to feudalism, but rather by the social forces struggling in Iran.

The Iranian revolution has already shown both the enormous power of the working class and its desire to change society. But at the same time the distorted development of the revolution shows the urgent necessity of the creation of an independent workers' party, armed with a Marxist programme. Only on the basis of the Iranian working class consciously taking power and beginning the re-organisation and rebuilding of society will it be possible to prevent either the establishment of a new capitalist dictatorship or of a deformed workers' state.

DANGER OF A NEW 'CHILE'

The political and economic crisis which has gripped Turkey in the recent period is moving to a head.

Three weeks ago the social democratic government of Ecevit was forced to devalue by 43% as part of a Western aid package. In May Istanbul businessmen declared 'war' on the government.

The Army generals [who have overthrown two civilian governments in the last 20 years] have expressed their opposition to Ecevit's "too-soft" imposition of martial law. And Ecevit's party, the Republican People's Party is now close to losing its Parliamentary majority.

Unless there is a radical change of course it would seem that the fall or overthrow of the government is just a matter of time. It is vital that the Turkish labour movement faces this new dangerous challenge with a socialist approach.

Under capitalism the Turkish economy faces what seems to be unsurmountable problems. Inflation is running at 70%, unemployment is over 20% and both are increasing.

The 'Financial Times' commented on Turkey's economy with these words: "...if Turkey is not to grind into economic collapse and political chaos it will need between \$5bn and 15\$bn of fresh aid in the next five years...in addition to debt restructuring now taking place."

There are shortages of many basic commodities often leading to long queues; in the major cities there are frequent power cuts simply because the demand outstrips the supply capability of the Turkish grid. Other public utilities are at best creaking and at worst in a state of collapse.

The standard of housing for workers is especially deplorable...most of those living in the cities were born elsewhere and at least half of them live in what are little more than shacks. The workers have suffered blow after blow against their living standards.

Two months ago the Ecevit

government finally gave in to IMF pressure and increased petrol prices by 90%, sugar by 30%, margarine by 33%, iron and steel by 40% and coal by 33%. More recent price rises, including petrol again, will inevitably push the rate of inflation towards 100%.

Ecevit's government has rained blow upon blow against the workers but the Turkish capitalists are still not contented. On the contrary, their appetite has only grown with each concession given them by Ecevit.

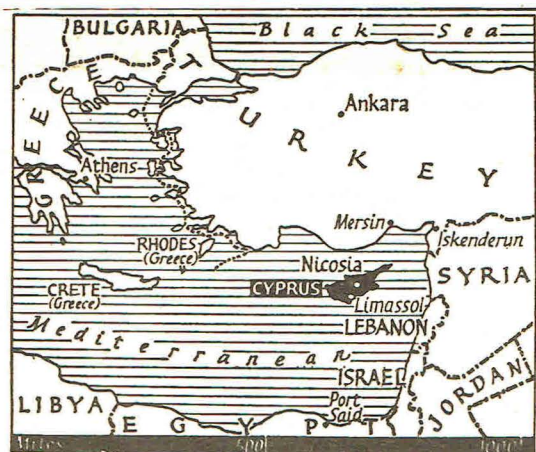
Turkish industry is at present running at about 50% capacity and many more workers are being laid off. Thus two of the biggest capitalist concerns has recently laid off 12,000 workers between them, hoping to further discredit the government.

the right-wing in the government majority.

Giving in to further pressure from the right, from six 'independent' deputies threatening to leave the government majority, Ecevit further extended martial law last month to cover the 6 Kurdish provinces.

The "Allende" jibe isn't far from the truth where Ecevit's policies and programmes are concerned. Like Allende, Ecevit's party, the Republican Party came to power with great popularity and there is no doubt that the popular support would have grown in proportion as the RPP set itself the goal of changing society.

An uncompromising struggle against Turkish and international capitalism would inevitably bring the government into collision with these and their supporters in



The powerful Association of Turkish Industrialists and Businessmen have launched a massive press and publicity campaign against the government with the intention of bringing it down. They declared 'war' and began putting full page adverts in all the newspapers and backed up their efforts with an investment strike.

The long and protracted crisis in Turkey has generated political violence on a scale greater than anywhere else in Europe, with the exception of Northern Ireland. **1,000 people were killed in 1978 in political assassinations and over 300 have been killed so far this year—the majority being killed by the militias of the extreme right-wing parties, the National Salvation Party and the National Action Party.**

The latter's 'grey wolves' militia has been officially condemned by the authorities but in reality this blackshirt organisation has been encouraged and assisted by reactionary supporters in the police and in the army. After the reactionary groups provoked communal riots in Southern Turkey last December, in which over 100 were killed, the government was forced to declare martial law in 13 provinces in order to appease demands for 'law and order' from the military and

the state, especially the army. But the RPP would gain strength from the workers if it mobilised support for socialist policies.

The revolutionary trade union federation, DISK, still retains great strength in the industrial areas. Many Turkish workers are fresh to industry and city life. Thirty years ago only 18% of Turks lived in towns with over 10,000 inhabitants: today it is 44%.

Hundreds of thousands of Turks have been to Western Europe, especially Germany, as 'guest workers' and have seen the strength of trade unions. Now the escape route to the west is closing fast as western Europe itself faces prolonged recession and mass unemployment. The uprooting and urbanisation of millions of Turkish workers in the period of a generation and the ever-increasing instability of the Turkish economy and society today are factors that point inevitably to revolutionary upheavals in the future.

The anger and frustration of the mass of Turkish workers and peasants would be won to the RPP if the party clearly and boldly fought on socialist lines. The 7 million Kurds living in Turkey would also be drawn to the same banner, along with other national minorities, if the RPP included in its socialist



Right-wing leader Demirel moves against the government

programme the demands for national autonomy and the right of self-determination.

But unfortunately, Ecevit, like Allende, has so far based his whole outlook on a 'mixed economy' and the hope of being able to introduce gradual reforms. Inevitably capitalist interests have come to dominate.

The radical measures of Ecevit's programme—the nationalisation of mining and mineral rights—have been watered down. Ecevit's attempts to control and regulate the economy have evaporated and where he has affected policies distasteful to capitalist interests, the latter have simply replied with an investment strikes and closures.

At no time has the RPP government seriously challenged Turkish capitalism, but the government is enough of a 'nuisance' to the capitalists for the economy to become disrupted. As the economy has deteriorated the burden has inevitably fallen on the shoulders of the workers. Ecevit's only perspective for clinging onto power has been to make more and more concessions.

Concessions have been made to right-wing deputies for their support in Parliament, concessions were made to the IMF for foreign loans, concessions were made again in the declaration of martial law and its extension to the Kurdish areas. None of these concessions do anything to preserve a 'progressive' government—on the contrary, they guarantee the fall of the government in the near future.

The economic dislocation and the massive campaign being waged against the government have reached a point where it seems unlikely that Ecevit can last more than a few months.

The martial law regulations have been a cover for the authorities to clamp down on the workers' organisations and whenever the workers have tried to set up defence organisations against the right wing militias, they have been subject to raids and arrests. Hundreds of DISK members as well as the leadership were arrested last month to prevent the annual Mayday march from going ahead in Istanbul.

The martial law authorities even declared a total curfew extending over more than 24 hours to prevent workers turning out on the day in defiance of the ban. On the other hand the martial law authorities allowed the press campaign of big business to

go ahead unhindered.

The government's own supporters in the trade unions and in the RPP are becoming more and more disorientated and dispirited. Meanwhile, the right is carefully preparing the ground for the replacement of the Ecevit government with a new Justice Party coalition, perhaps, as in the past, including the extreme right neo-fascist parties.



Prime Minister Ecevit

One of the main reasons why the Ecevit government has lasted so long is the strength that still resides in the workers' movement and the shock-waves of the Iranian revolution. Among Turkey's capitalist creditors abroad—especially the West German government—there is a dreadful fear of social revolution spilling over the Iranian-Turkish borders.

But for the fear of the workers' response, there would probably have been

a military coup months ago. Whatever the policy carried out by Turkish and international capitalism, they face enormous political risks. An attempted coup could provoke a revolutionary upsurge by the workers, but on the other hand, a prolonged economic crisis will sooner or later produce the same result.

The IMF seems to be standing by for a change of government—obviously expecting a Justice Party government to be more amenable to a programme of austerity. But a 'democratic' change of government (in contrast to a coup) will not solve the problems either. The objective conditions are moving the system towards a head-on clash between the interests of the workers and the interests of the capitalists.

The strategy of the RPP leadership—supported by the Turkish Communist Party—will only lead to a disaster. By leaving intact the great economic and political power of capitalists, it is not possible thereby to expect them to gratefully accept being gradually reformed out of existence. The workers in Turkey will avoid the fate of their brothers and sisters in Chile only in so far as their leaders and parties fight under a revolutionary programme and perspective of Marxism. For publish ownership of industry and finance. Workers' control in industry. Expropriation of the big landowners. Cheap credit to peasants and small farmers. For a workers self-defence militia. For a workers' government.

By John Pickard

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LETTERS

Poland—progressing towards socialism?

Dear Editor
The article entitled 'Poland forward into the past' was little more than vicious and slanderous attack on a nation progressing toward the goal of socialism under the most difficult of circumstances. As such the article differed only marginally from the criticisms made by the many and varied agencies of Western bourgeois propaganda.

Although differ it did. There were the 'revolutionary' overtones one has become accustomed to reading, when one of the various Trotskyist sects refers to a 'Socialist State'.

"We need a return to Communism" was the apparent comment of a Polish car worker (I trust he didn't mean pre-1956?). It is indeed ironic that the car worker should have chosen to make this statement to a member of a political organisation that has just spent 50 years ingratiating itself into the mire of the capitalist system.

Moreover one is astounded by the 'barefaced audacity' of the 'Militant'. With one voice it pipes up about the need for a 'revolutionary Marxist' state, while with another voice they cajole the working classes to elect to power Callaghan, Healey, Roy Mason, etc, in order that these Labour lieutenant's of the capitalist system, can draw them even harder, albeit under the banner of 'democratic socialism'.

In conclusion can I suggest to the itinerant wanderer of the LPYS who made this report, that in event of seeking further evidence of working class betrayal, then he should go no further than the House of Commons, where the glories of his/her Labour Party, and role of social democracy are basking for one and all to see.

Gavin Reed
Rawmarsh
South Yorks

Slums still here

Dear Militant

On taking part in a mass demo in Liverpool giving support to Terry Harrison, my friend and I, like many others, went canvassing door to door.

We had never seen such appalling conditions. Being from a mining area, we thought we had it rough. But our places are palaces at the side of the conditions those people live in.

We found it impossible to believe. The street looked derelict: no windows, graffiti, etc.

We asked one old lady if she was voting and she replied she'd had enough of everything. We found it difficult to campaign on EEC matters to such people.

She was not interested in the price of butter; all she wanted was a decent place to live.

There were holes in paths, strong smells of sewage. Never have we seen such poverty.

It was really depressing to think that people in this day and age had to be subject to these conditions.

We were astounded to hear that there were other areas worse than this one. We have heard of 1930s poverty and conditions but did not realise they still existed.

Yours fraternally
Sue Alberry
Sharron Bowskill

DRAW WINNER SAYS THANKS

Dear Comrades

I would like to say that we thoroughly enjoyed our twelve day holiday in Times Square, New York.

It is said that whatever is happening in America occurs in Britain a few years later, if this is the case I hope Britain is able to avoid adopting some of the worst features of New York society.

Having said this, New York is an interesting city with lots to see and do. I wish 'Militant' every success in the future.

Yours fraternally
Linda M Parrott
Barking LPYS

On our side?

Dear Comrades

We always point out that the media is biased against socialist ideas. But have you ever noticed the unconscious propaganda often made for socialism?

I happened to see 'McLeod' last night. The plot hinged on the fact that a decent police detective had a wife who was dying of cancer. In order to pay hospital bills to give her minimum care (a figure of \$500 was mentioned) he was forced to give information to a drug syndicate.

Perhaps we should recommend to the 'law and order' brigade the slogan 'Expand the NHS and keep our cops straight!'

Geoff Jones
Brighton Labour Party

FIGHTING TORY CUTS - SINCE 1920

Dear Comrades

As the Tory government brings in its £300 million cuts in the public housing programme, Sheffield District Council is trying to deal with the problems caused by the Tories of the 1920s who—you've guessed it—brought in big spending cuts.

Up to 800 council houses on two estates are threatened with extensive [and expensive!] repairs or even demolition because they were built with "black mortar". This was ash from local power stations, mixed in with the cement instead of sand because it was so much cheaper.

The black, gritty mortar has a high sulphur content which dissolves in rain water to produce dilute acid—the result is that the ungalvanised strips of metal holding the walls together rust, forcing the bricks apart.

When you consider that Sheffield council has not yet paid off the loans raised to build these houses fifty years ago and pays out £1.20 in loan repayments for each pound of rent it raises, you can see how expensive Tory policies really are for working class families and local authorities who try to improve their living conditions. Unto the tenth generation?

Fraternally
Ruth Aylett
Sheffield Heeley CLP

CAPITALISM KILLS

Comrades

The suicide of 16 year-old school-leaver Stephen Dayus last year, because he couldn't stand being unemployed, is one too many.

I'm a student at a university and have just finished my first year exams. Over the past few weeks more and more stories of students committing suicide have reached my ears.

It's difficult to evaluate how many of these are true, how many have been exaggerated, and how many others have been successfully hushed up by the university authorities. Talking to tutors and older students however, leaves me in no doubt that at this university there's an average of at least six suicides every year!

This is the case all over the country, and the rates at other universities are reputed to be far higher!

It is a sick society indeed that places so much emphasis on passing exams and getting academic qualifications to gain the right to a job and a higher standard of living.

Clearly students and workers alike face the same enemy—capitalism. The

National Organisation of Labour Students must take up the fight for socialism, both within the NUS and outside; in the industrial field where the most important fights are taking place.

Only by the implementation of socialist policies can workers and students ever be realised from the stresses and strains imposed upon them by capitalism.

Comradely
Andy Zapple
Treasurer, Nottingham
University Labour Club

Ambulance wreckers

Dear Comrades

Petrol at £1.80 a gallon is likely to take more ambulances of the road than any NUPE action in defence of a living wage.

Can we confidently sit back now and wait for a mass attack on the oil companies by the media, or shouldn't we hold our breath?

Myrna Shaw
NUPE Bethnal Green
Hospital

Dear Comrades

'Militant' supporters will be aware, from the regular articles in the paper, of the dispute we are involved in with the Post Office.

The following poem was sent by the Canterbury branch to PO Chairman, Sir William Barlow, following his mammoth £13,000 pay rise.

Forward to our pay rise!

Yours fraternally
Steve Higham
CPSA P&T Group,
Liverpool branch
(personal capacity)

POETIC JUSTICE

'Dear Sir William'

We've read about your super rise
And tho' we hate to criticise
We do not think the rise is fair
When we can't even get our share
In fact the news makes us quite sick
It ought to make your conscience prick
How can you make such paltry offers
Whilst you are filling up your coffers?
We all feel bitter, hurt and wild
You rich, complacent, fatherless child!



Photo: Lawrence Sparham (IFL) II

FRESH AIR—10p

Dear Comrades

As prices went up in the hospital canteen, someone was moved to write 'Fresh air: 10p' on the menu card. It underlined the bitterness workers have expressed toward the budget which will produce such hardship and suffering. (A catering assistant said she almost cried when presented with her most recent shopping bill).

That this government will be a 'hard teacher' there is no doubt: those few workers who voted Tory (swayed by the demagoguery of tax cuts) have had bitter regrets if only because of the wrath of fellow-workers! More to the point was the comment of a

cook: "I am glad I didn't vote, because if I had I would have voted Tory but having read this ('Militant's' analysis of the Budget) I would have regretted it."

This says much of the last Labour government. Had it pursued working class policies and fought an election on bold labour and trade union principles it would have been guaranteed this worker's vote. Every muscle must be strained to ensure that this is the platform Labour fights in the future!

Fraternally yours
Leon Kaplan
COHSE shop steward
(personal capacity)

LEICESTER'S TORY AXEMEN

Dear comrades

Leicestershire's Tory County Council, never known for its enthusiasm about spending money, has moved swiftly into action at the Chancellor's request to cut back on expenditure.

Before the budget it was in the process of cutting £2m from the current year's spending (because they said, they had underestimated inflation!). It has now upped this to a £6m cut.

Cutbacks on major items are still under discussion but already smaller though valu-

able services have been chopped, including the provision of newspapers and magazines to Old People's homes and the creche run at a Leicester College of Further Education.

This creche is part of a training unit for nursery nurses and is also a godsend to the local mothers who use it, some of whom may be forced to give up their part-time jobs as a result.

On the jobs side, new appointments have been frozen and the council is now to include in the freeze replacement of existing staffs. It seems now only one step to actual redundancies.

Discussion on how to fight back has already started in local Labour Parties and I am sure it won't be long before the labour movement locally organises against this onslaught.

I hope other readers will write into the paper to say what is happening in their areas for this situation will inevitably be repeated up and down the country.

Yours fraternally
Anne Dobbins
Leicester South Labour
Party

KEEP ON FIGHTING KEEP ON GIVING

Whether you have missed the July 7th deadline for Militant's Fighting Fund or not, there's still an awful lot of money to raise before the end of the year to reach £85,000.

But don't let that deter you! Think of Bjorn Borg! He didn't give up without a fight when all the odds were against him. By the time you read this, the 'world' will know whether this Wimbledon star has 'pulled through' and achieved his aim [and his prize!]. At the time of writing this column, however, [Saturday 30th] bookmakers have stopped taking any stakes on him because of his injury.

The odds against the 'Militant' Fighting Fund reaching £42,000 in half a year also look very long. But a fight to the very last minute could win us even this prize!

The most important difference between backing Militant and backing a tennis star, of course, is that with Militant you never lose! Every extra penny helps us run and expand the paper.

That's why when a supporter in Newcastle found one penny he sent it in (with other slightly larger contributions)! That's why readers on the 'Brighton Paper Round' donate extra pence on top of the price of the Militant (contri-

buting £2.50 last week).




















The great use a workers' paper can make of their money is the reason NGA members in Liverpool collect every week for Militant (sending a total of £18 last week). FBU members in the same city are following suit (£3 for Militant last week).

When they see how much Militant needs to build a powerful weapon for socialism our supporters really rally round! Look at the things they do! They make impassioned appeals at Labour Women's Conference—£50, one in Dagenham—£30, Newcastle 'Tories in Power' meeting—£14.25) and to trade union conference delegations (latest example—ISTC £14).

Enthusiastic supporters raise money in their Labour Party Young Socialist branches (Uxbridge YS 'pints' £1, Newcastle YS raffle £2.70, Birkenhead collection £2.12 and YS donation—J Woods, Consett, 85p). People also donate cash to a Marxist paper when they discuss the fundamental ideas of Marxism at small discussion groups (Woolwich £2.70, Leeds £2.60).

Energetic Militant supporters hold jumble sales (Brighton £43.30), White Elephant stalls (Clapham Village Fair £19.45); sponsored walks (Huddersfield £29.50) and socials (Chester-le-Street £9.

Build

Area	Target 52 wks	Target 26 wks	Proportion of target received	Received
Eastern	4,700	2,350		1,363
Hants & IOW	3,100	1,550		1,125
Humberside	2,000	1,000		739
London North	9,500	4,750		2,689
London South	3,900	1,950		1,532
Manchester & Dist.	4,500	2,250		1,249
Merseyside	5,000	2,500		1,385
Midlands East	3,300	1,650		1,470
Midlands West	9,000	4,500		3,056
Northern	5,500	2,750		1,770
Scotland East	2,900	1,450		721
Scotland West	4,500	2,250		999
South East	4,500	2,250		1,743
South West	3,100	1,550		1,235
Wales East	2,600	1,300		772
Wales West	3,400	1,700		794
Yorkshire	6,800	3,500		2,087
Others	6,700	3,250		5,473
Total	85,000	42,500		30,199

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

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

62, Swansea £4.50). They charge for car lifts (one Hillingdon readers' grand total £16.15 sent in last week!).

Some readers hold competitions ('Guess the baby's weight', R&L Morton, Brighton £8.80) and raffles (Chester-le-Street Labour Club

Irish pound note was no use to a reader in Gwent but worth 100 pence to the Militant Fighting Fund!

Other supporters have been 'selling chewing gum' (£1), Russian stamps (80p), baths (£3.20 each!). Someone in Slough even sent £3 from

readers' 'normal' income. They range this week from amounts like £35p from a Labour Party member in Nottingham to the £20 and two 'tenners' given by London readers. R Davidson of Huddersfield gave £7.06 and 'fivers' came from C Friend of Tower Hamlets LPYS, K Williams T&GWU (Fords Langley) and R Wade of Huddersfield with the message to "keep up the good work"!

£2 contributors included: D Hunt (Ruislip, POEU), E Castle (Hayes LP), S Black (Washington YS), Mr & Mrs Wobey and G Byron of Hackney and... 'A small businessman' Rotherham! £1s came from A Saunders of Portsmouth, J Considine (Tower Hamlets YS), C Simmons (EETPU, BSC) and I Stentall (Rotherham LPYS).

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed, including Terry and Marie Harrison of Merseyside who raised £52 between them.

Most of this week's £1,121.18 has strangely arrived without much details of who has contributed. A special

mention must be given to supporters in Wales and East Scotland, however. Berated in last week's column for falling down on their responsibilities, they account for a total of £343 of this week's total in their three areas alone!

It is not too late locally or nationally for the half year targets to be achieved. A similar effort to theirs in every part of every area could get us the cash we need. Don't give up. If you've missed the chance of helping for the first 6 months total, send us your money anyway. Unlike Borg's chances of winning Wimbledon your chances and the Militant's are not all over in one fortnight of the year!

By Clare Doyle

THIS WEEK:

£1,121.

£9.90). We even get 'Derby wins'—£4 and £3 from supporters in Woolwich and Exeter and 50p from Liverpool—'winnings on the outcome of a famous court case'!

In Shanklin, 'discounts on ice cream' of £1.50 were put aside for the Militant. In Derbyshire a copy of Nuevo Claridad raised us £1. An

'stock-taking (?) at WH Smiths'!

Regular donations

Most important of all for the building of a really effective socialist paper are the straight donations from

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.

MILITANT MEETINGS

MANSFIELD Militant Public Meeting
'Which Way Forward for the NUM'

Speakers: Henry Richardson (Notts NUM area committee); Ian Isaac (Lodge Secretary, St John's NUM, South Wales), Chairman; Bob Moody (Welbeck NUM), personal capacities Sunday 15 July 7.30 pm. William IV pub, Sutton Road, Mansfield.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE Militant Public Meeting. 'Trade unions and management in nationalised industries'. Speaker: Bill Mullins (Senior steward BL Rover Solihull). Friday 6th July, 7.30 pm, Fullerton Arms, Sheffield Road, Rotherham.

LEWISHAM Marxist Discussion Group. Thursday July 5th—Marxism and History. Thursday July 19th—Marxism and Economics. All meetings start at 8pm. Venue—Deptford Town Hall, New Cross Road, SE14

HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING Marxist Discussion Group 'Internationalism and nationalism'—what do they mean? Thursday 7.30 pm, 13 Finchale Court, West Rainton, near Houghton-le-Spring. July 12th.

SEAHAM Marxist Discussion Group. 'Internationalism and nationalism'—what do they mean? Thursday July 19th, 7.30 pm, 6 William Johnson Street, Murton.

MILITANT Euro-Disco and 'Do' for the Militant Euro-draw. Continental buffet, real ale and wine. Upstairs at the Geoffrey Chaucer (formerly the Pill Box) pub, south end of Westminster Bridge, London. £1 at the door. Half-price for school students and unemployed.

BRISTOL Spartacist League Day School. Saturday 7 July. Baptist Mills Community Centre, Horley Road, St Werburghs 10 am. 'What is the Soviet Union?'. 2 pm. 'The Leninist Vanguard Party'. Registration 50p.

THE 35-HOUR WEEK

The fight against unemployment'—A 'Militant' pamphlet. 25p including postage. From World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

NEED—NOT PROFIT

Over forty of the best and hardest-hitting cartoons by Alan Hardman for 'Militant' between 1971 and 1978. Still available from Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN Price £1 [plus 15p postage and packing]

ADVERTISE IN 'MILITANT'

DURHAM MINERS' GALA

Saturday 21st July
Northern 'Militant' supporters will provide accommodation on Saturday night for those who want to attend the gala, help sell papers etc.

Social events will be organised around the area on Saturday evening.

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ALL PROCEEDS FOR FIGHTING FUND

CPSA PO WORKERS: 'MAKE THE ACTION BITE'

As the industrial action by CPSA P&T group members enters its tenth week, there is still no sign that Post Office management are willing to enter into meaningful negotiations.

Management's response to the £500 million losses caused by our action has been vindictive.

Frustrated by the solidarity of our members and their effectiveness, the Post Office hired thugs to smash the picket lines at London City Telephone Office. Even this failed to break the members' determination to win through (see last week's 'Militant').

On Wednesday June 27th the union met with Mr Young, the Post Office Board member responsible for industrial relations. His attitude seemed to be 'we've made you a good offer, accept it and get back to work.'

The latest offer is in fact not much different from the previous one: 9% on the basic rate from April 1st plus 3½% if management's proposals on regrading (in actual fact downgrading) are accepted from July 1st plus 2¼% if the operative settlement date is changed from April to July; with 3½% from April 1st 1980 if 'progress' is achieved on regrading. In other words 18¼% now plus worsened career structures and possible redundancies.

Although the action has

been effective, clearly it is not effective enough. It has to be escalated immediately.

At the Group Executive Committee (GEC) meeting on 25th June, 'Militant' supporter Dave Bell moved a resolution which spelt out an effective addition to the current action.

This should include pulling out members in the banda rooms (who duplicate the advice notes which the engineers work from and from which the Post Office collects revenue). Special service sales divisions in any area which deal with telex and private wire facilities, used almost exclusively by big business, should be brought out, plus entire sales divisions in some areas.

If these measures were put into operation the Post Office would be forced to take our claim seriously.

This week the Post Office Engineering Union start industrial action over their pay claim. Now is the time for the CPSA P&T Group and the POEU's Executive to meet and thrash out a fighting strategy for action, presenting a united front to Post Office management.

The members have shown their determination. The GEC should match this with the measures required to produce a successful conclusion to our battle for a justified pay claim.

By Clive Walder

(CPSA P&T Brighton)

Firmin's, Birmingham

Thursday 28th June: a mass picket at Firmin's, Birmingham, resulted in staff and foremen refusing to cross the picket line.

Negotiations took place between foremen and production workers at the Metal Mechanics' headquarters, and it was agreed that providing foremen and staff were not involved in any way in production work, they would be allowed to return to the factory.

A return to the status quo is still being emphatically refused by the intransigent management. What this means in practice is that Tom Beet, who has worked there all his

life, is expected at the age of 60 to be again as a trainee polisher on a month's trial, subject to dismissal if 'unsuitable' for the job.

For a man who is already affected by industrial deafness through working in Firmin's stamping shop, to be transferred to a job that is likely to tax the health and capabilities of a young man, is nothing short of sacking him.

This dispute (see 'Militant' 462) is crucial not only to those workers whose jobs are threatened but to the strength and survival of trade unionism at Firmin's.

By Flo Wardle

(NSMM strike committee, Firmin's)

Initial Towels: A slap in the face

Six workers at the Nottingham Initial Towels factory were, without a word of warning, handed redundancy notices today (29th June).

At 11.30 am the brown envelopes came round for everyone on the section. My mother-in-law, who has worked there for nine years, was given £492 and her marching orders. A supervisor with 12 years' service got exactly the same treatment.

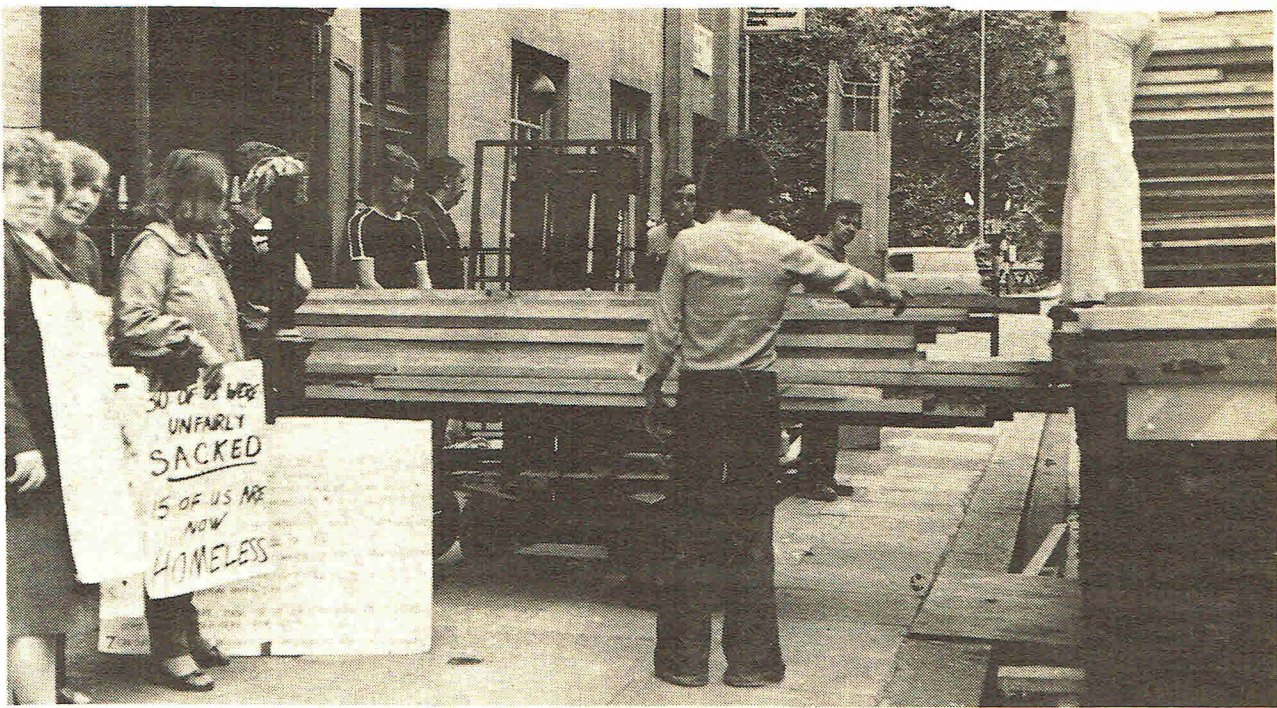
No explanation given; no details of how the payments have been worked out.

Although there has been no definite information, workers think that the section's work is being transferred to the Chorley factory. This international company's Nottingham workforce are not organised in trade unions, and the firm obviously thinks it can trample all over them.

The time has come to stand up to their bully-boy tactics.

By Roy Bentley

(AUEW Nottingham)



Grosvenor House: Scabs move in to do work that UCATT members refused to do

GROSVENOR HOUSE HOTEL-FORTE BRING IN SCABS

At 8 am on Saturday 30th June, when the chambermaids sacked by the Grosvenor House Hotel arrived to begin their picket duty, they were horrified to discover a large group of men clearing the antiques and exhibition materials from the 'Great Room'.

They tried to explain their case, but the scabs shoved them roughly aside. Shop steward Ellen Gallagher was struck on the face; the women were subjected to crude remarks and other abuse.

The police told the pickets

that they could not guarantee their safety. The women were forced to watch, some in tears, as the scabs completed the job which UCATT members had refused to touch.

The £40 million antiques fair had to be cancelled because of UCATT's blacking. Now that the ballroom has been cleared, management hope to use it for other money-spinning events such as the planned Wimbledon victory celebration, concerts by Shirley Bassey and Count Basie and banquets for top nob.

But effective union blacking can put a spanner in the works. Truste House Forte must be taught that they cannot confront the union movement without paying a heavy price!

The chambermaids are carrying on their four-week fight. They are demanding reinstatement for several women with long service at the hotel, and financial compensation for the others who have been dismissed and evicted.

They are convinced that if they lose, management will be

given a free hand to threaten sackings whenever the workers attempt to improve their pay and conditions. If they win it will be a victory for all Trust House Forte workers.

They are calling for support from the entire trade union movement. All goods and services to the hotel must be blacked. Support is needed on the picket line, to relieve them and to keep their spirits up.

By Helen Mumford

(Westminster South LPYS)

IPCS: WALES & MANCHESTER MINERS AND POSTMEN BACK CIVIL SERVANTS

The South Wales miners' area executive committee showed their solidarity with the Institute of Professional Civil Servants (IPCS) by refusing to cross their picket line.

The IPCS were picketing the AUEW building in Pontypridd where they work as cartographers in offices leased to the government. The NUM executive were supposed to meet in the building, but unanimously decided that they could not cross the picket line.

The Area executive meet-

ing, which lasted for more than three hours, took place around the miniature gardens outside.

Emlyn Williams, the South Wales miners' president, said "We are showing our solidarity with them and support them 100%. MPs can award themselves a 70% pay increase, while these people can't even get 15%".

One of the strikers, Mike Pearson said "if the government doesn't come up with a better offer after this day of action, there will be more disruption. Our pay has already fallen by 40% com-

pared with similar workers in private industry."

Effects of the one-day stoppage in his department would, he said, delay work already behind due to a staff shortage.

The Pontypridd branch of the postmen's union, the UPW, also showed solidarity with the IPCS, by refusing to deliver mail to the AUEW building.

By Anthony Tynan

(South Wales NUM)

Despite the Air Traffic Controllers refusal to abide by a directive from their union to take strike action in support of their Scientific and Technical colleagues, the action at Manchester Airport was a tremendous success.

Traditionally moderate members in the Met Office,

40-50 in all, came out on Friday and caused disruption to flights for over 24 hours. The effects were increased by CPSA teleprinter members who refused to cross the picket lines, leaving the communications system virtually unmanned from morning until midnight.

This show of solidarity will hold both groups of workers in good stead for the many struggles which are inevitably ahead.

By Alistair Nicholson

(CPSA branch secretary, personal capacity)

Library staff at Preston Polytechnic have been asked to work on Saturdays, but after a full meeting they have decided that the compensation offered is totally inadequate.

The extra pay offered would amount, in many cases, to less than the extra travel costs incurred through having to come in a sixth day! Alternative overtime payments were offered but NALGO, the staff's union, is opposed to consistent overtime in any form.

In any case, members consider Saturday opening as antisocial and damaging to domestic and social life. They were heartened to hear that the special delegate conference of the bank workers' union had refused Saturday opening under any circumstances, with any compensation!

A meeting of the Joint Union Committee at the Polytechnic has voted to support the library workers. They recognise that the added convenience to a tiny minority who would use the library during the additional hours is outweighed by the inconvenience to library workers. (The library is open for 59 hours a week already.)

By Rod Campbell

(NALGO, personal capacity)

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T & GWU CONFERENCE

TAKE UP THE TORY GAUNTLET

The biennial delegate conference of the Transport and General Workers' Union which takes place from 9th-14th July is the union's first conference under the new Tory government.

Many members will no doubt be hoping that the full strength of the trade union movement is applied to opposing the Tories' reactionary policies, so that it is also the last.

Although the resolutions to this conference were framed a long time before the election was even contemplated, the agenda contains the basis of a fighting programme to deal with the threat of Thatcher and Joseph.

As the biggest union in the country, the T&GWU has a responsibility to lead the way in the fight back against the Tories. When the weight of the T&G was unfortunately lent to Labour's misguided social contract it played a big part in keeping wage restraint intact.

But after a 1977 conference decision opposing incomes policy, the justified discontent of the membership broke through. It was the T&G's involvement in the Ford, lorry drivers' and public sector strikes which helped to finish the 5 per cent wages' policy once and for all.

February's T&GWU 'Record' published in the midst of the industrial disputes laid it on the line.

"This is a caring union. A union whose fight is for the pensioners, for the sick, and for the underprivileged compares very favourably with any in the land and when it fights for the low paid, for the weak, as it has done and will always do, it may cause panic in some quarters but for the majority of working people it is a cause for reassurance."

Those who point the finger of guilt for Labour's defeat at our members are distorting the facts. Last winter's industrial action was forced on workers by the right-wing policies of the Labour leaders, who abandoned the manifesto on which they were elected.

Having fought as trade unionists for the interests of those they represent, the majority of our active members then worked as socialists to return a Labour government.

But all our efforts were insufficient to avert the disillusion of ordinary people with the doubling of both prices and unemployment under Labour.

According to Professor Alan Day of the London School of Economics, prices rose by 108% from December 1973 to December 1978. But after tax the earnings of male manual workers rose only 96%.

Now the Conservatives have thrown down the gauntlet to organised labour. The budget, VAT, the scrapping of the Price Commission and

By Bob Ashworth

(Senior Steward, Rover Solihull; Delegate, T&GWU 5/909 branch)

official acceptance of 17½% inflation by the end of the year, is a recipe for confrontation.

Ma Thatcher, just like Heath before her, could drop her attachment to free collective bargaining and even attempt a wage freeze. So it is still necessary for the union to restate its hostility to wage controls.

A number of resolutions including one from the General Executive Council, do so.

As motion 6 from the 1/1649 branch puts it "the union is opposed to any incomes policy until we achieve a socialist Britain in which the means of production, distribution and exchange would be socially owned."

The 5/909 branch, in motion 15, outlines a wages policy for the union based on "opposition to all forms of wage restraint, a national wage of £75 per week tied to the cost of living, clauses to be written into all wage agreements for automatic increases in wages adequate to compensate for all rises in the cost of living."

Minimum wage for low paid

For the many low paid T&GWU members, a minimum wage is essential.

A national campaign by the union to win the £75 minimum would certainly undercut those in the union, like

Trade unions protecting their members against the attacks of a Tory government are protecting the majority of the population—the working class

the 8/128 branch, who believe that free collective bargaining has done nothing for the low paid. The union has already submitted evidence to the comparability commission that for a hospital worker with two children the £3.50 plus £1 first stage increase has meant just 43p-55p a week, after tax increases and loss of benefits.



Ford workers led the fight against wage restraint, with Labour Party conference behind them

Photo: MILITANT

Pay is not the only issue on which the union should anticipate and prepare for industrial battles. The Tory's anti-working class strategy is also designed to cut subsidies and increase unemployment. 2 million jobless within a few months is a real possibility.

The T&G leaders must be ready to mount an effective

pressure of opinion in the Tory press, that the justified and effective secondary picketing conducted by the commercial services group 'brought the union into disrepute.'

Conference should also reject the artificial divisions some Labour leaders, including Jim Callaghan, would like to erect between industrial and political activity.

Trade unions protecting their members against an 'elected' Tory government are in fact protecting the interests of the majority of the population—the working class. The Heath administration was stopped in its tracks by industrial action by T&G members on the docks who were threatened by the industrial relations court.

Conference should affirm that if the Tories try those tactics again they must take the consequences.

But what emerges most strongly from this year's agenda is the type of programme a Labour government should take up. The fact that Labour is now out of office adds an extra edge to this debate—how to avoid another debacle like the 1979 election.

Branches call for the nationalisation of the banks, land, the drug companies, North Sea Oil and other

major industries. Branch 1/1649 wants conference to reaffirm "the aim of the union to endeavour by all means in its power to achieve a socialist Britain."

Any discussion about the programme for a future Labour government must address itself to the country's desperate economic plight. £100,000 million of new investment is needed to make British industry competitive. But with the fall in the rate of return on capital from 14% to 4%, that investment cannot be generated on the basis of capitalism.

With that in mind, motions submitted by some branches calling for the 'alternative' economic strategy of import controls, reflation and planning agreements, aimed at restoring the profit system to good health, would be totally inadequate.

A real alternative is included in the 5/909 motion on employment—"a socialist plan of production based upon the nationalisation under democratic workers' control and management of the top 200 or so monopolies together with the banks and finance house, with compensation based upon the criteria of proven need."

But what guarantee does the conference have that socialist policies would be followed even when they are carried, here or at the conference of the Labour Party? It is for that reason that the issue of democracy in the labour movement is so prominent on the agenda.

Strengthen democracy

Motions calling for election of the Labour leader, conference decisions to be binding and mandatory re-selection of MPs, all need to be carried. Conference delegates must play their part in the fight for democracy in the labour movement. After all, Prentice was a T&G sponsored MP.

Within our own union, democratic control over those in official positions should be strengthened.

Since its formation in 1921, union members can feel little pride that there have only been six election of full-time officials, all of them for the position of general secretary. If the T&G is supporting re-selection in the Labour Party, no union official should oppose election and regular re-selection for their own positions.

No doubt this issue will be taken up at the next rules' revision conference.

On all the major issues which faced the trade union movement in the past decade, T&GWU members have been to the fore. Against 'In Place of Strife', and the Industrial Relations Act, arguing for a minimum wage, and for the 35-hour week. Conducting lengthy battles against the most anti-union employers, as at Garners and Sandersons.

This conference must arm the union with policies that can also lead the way in the struggles against the Tories and the ailing system they defend.

NUM DEMANDS £80 MINIMUM WAGE

In a tremendous demonstration of solidarity, the miners' conference voted unanimously for a composite resolution calling for "a surface basic wage of £80 per week and £140 per week for U.1. grades [faceworkers] with appropriate differentials for all other grades."

If this is rejected by the NCB, union members are to be consulted on the form of industrial action to be taken.

Not one delegate spoke or voted against these demands. They clearly reflected the anger and determination of the ranks of the membership.

This bitter mood has emerged in response to the

of disastrous incomes' policy, culminating in the recent vicious Tory budget.

He pointed out that average earnings for miners in mid-1979 were supposed to be £122 per week, including the incentive scheme bonus plus overtime working. When he told this to a recent miners' reception, one member later commented "I wish I was an average miner".

Incentive payments were no substitute for a decent basic wage. They can provide very high payments for some, and next to nothing for others.

The head of the industry, Sir Derek Ezra, has just been awarded an £80-a-week rise. If that is so, said Scargill, to loud applause, then the people who work in the pits deserve an £80 basic wage. The speech got a loud and enthusiastic response from delegates.

George Boulton, vice-president of the Scottish NUM, seconded the motion saying "In class society, wages are a class question."

He replied to Sid Weighell of the NUR who had told the NUR conference that railmen wanted the same as the miners. Miners didn't object at all to that, Bro. Boulton said, but the NUR should be fighting side by side with them in the struggle for decent wages.

The South Wales area decided that the £71 minimum originally demanded in their motion was 'out of date', with the recent rise in the cost of living. They dropped this in favour of the composite.

The miners are prepared to challenge the Tory government head on, to defend living standards.

Maximum unity and resolution is needed as in 1972 and '74, to turn these just demands into reality.

**Report by
Rob Sewell
in Jersey**

Tories' reactionary attacks. In moving the composite on wages, Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire president, said that it was based upon developments since 1975: four years

Militant

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TORY SHARKS

Continued from page one.

by the Tories selling off council houses, the maintenance of which takes up most of the DLPs' work.

Already, construction branches of DLOs in Birmingham, Swansea, Colchester, Bradford, Widnes and Darlington have been chopped and now DLO workers in the London boroughs, Kyle in Ayrshire, and Manchester face the same threat.

DLO workers' unions, mainly UCATT, have been battling against the closures, and now with the apostles of private enterprise in power the fight must become more determined.

Last month all 26 DLO sites in the London boroughs held a one-day protest strike against plans to hand over the construction branch to big business. Helped by the capitalist press and the private builders' organisations, the Tories mounted a hysterical campaign on how the DLOs were losing so much money.

But in an internal audit report for the GLC, it was shown that the £250,000-a-month losses were the fault of bad planning and administration by the management of the construction branches. As UCATT official Len Eaton stated: "On the facts given, if all our members worked for nothing the construction branch would still be losing money."

In Wandsworth a long running battle has taken place and the DLO workers

have so far successfully stopped the Tory council handing over their sites to private companies, one of which is Bovis Contractors, Sir Keith Joseph's family business.

The Tories, having failed to break the determination of the Wandsworth DLO workers have now turned to the law courts, seeking a High Court injunction against a union official.

The DLO workers know only too well of the chaos in the private construction industry—the inefficiency, and the highest industrial fatality rate.

By Bob Wade

Nearly 300,000 building workers are already unemployed. If the Tories have their way in closing down 500 sites in the country, another 200,000 builders will be condemned to the living death of unemployment.

What a condemnation of the Tories and their capitalist system! Over a million people are languishing on council waiting lists! Over 700,000 homes are unfit for habitation! Over a million homes need more than £1,000-worth of basic repairs!

Yet the Tories are cynically attempting to cast aside another section of workers whose skills are vitally needed.

NALGO MUST FIGHT DERISORY 9% OFFER

"Reject this offer!"

That must be the response of NALGO's National Executive to an offer of wage increases amounting to no more than a total of 9% on the wages bill.

This is an insult. Administrative and residential workers and clerical assistants, among others, would receive a wage increase of about £300 a year—before tax.

In real terms, with inflation well into double figures, it will not even keep up with rising prices.

David Churchley
(Glasgow Division,
Strathclyde NALGO)

Our low-paid members would still be struggling to keep their heads above water.

As if that were not enough, we have been told by the employers that any increase will be offset against previous supplements.

To add to the insult, this 'increase' will be further offset against the previous

claim by social service workers.

Not only is this divisive, it is absolutely unjustifiable. The Social Services dispute was over grading and not an annual pay rise.

According to the employers, the distribution of this 9% is also up for negotiation. That means 9% for those at the top of the wages scale, and less for those at the bottom.

Yet again, the employers have shown their contempt

for workers in the local government sector. This must be answered by firm rejection of this offer and a campaign to meet the aspirations and needs of the members.

The claim is for a £65 minimum wage at 18, a 35-hour week and a 15% increase with no consolidation or offsetting of previous settlements.

We will need bold leadership and a national strategy to achieve these aims.

As Scottish District Secretary, John McFadden stated: "Industrial action is inevitable. Members must be organised urgently

[David Churchley writes in a personal capacity.]

LP STAFF DISPUTE

In an unprecedented move, 90 Labour Party headquarters staff at Transport House, London, walked out on a one-day strike on Wednesday, 27 June, in support of their 28% wage claim, designed to restore real living standards to 1973 levels.

The National Executive of the Labour Party, which handles staff wages and conditions through its Staff Negotiations Sub-Committee, has already offered Transport House Heads of Department, including Reg Underhill and Ron Hayward, a phased 44% rise, and Party Organisers and Agents have been offered 25% now and a further 15% in November.

In this context, the original offer of 14% now and 7% in November to the clerical, research and other grades at Transport House, was treated with derision by the staff, who are members of the T&G

WU, APEX, NUJ and SOGAT.

The one-day strike last Wednesday coincided with a lobby of the NEC. The NEC on 27 June had before it a motion from Dennis Skinner and Tony Saunois—which received 11 votes—to meet the full claim. This was headed off, however, by an amendment from Barbara Castle which received 13 votes and which referred the claim back to the Staff Negotiations Committee for an 'urgent' settlement.

When the Staff Negotiations Committee then stated they could not meet the staff until 4½ days after the NEC and refused to bring forward this meeting, the Joint Trade Union Committee representing the four unions concerned called APEX and SOGAT members out on Friday June 29 in sympathy with the T&GWU and NUJ who had already voted for strike action.

On Monday 2 July, Staff Negotiations Committee made a new offer: 21% plus a further 7% if the Staff reach agreement on reduced manning levels. This has been rejected by the JTUC, and the



Photo: MILITANT

Labour Party staff forced to picket Party HQ strike continues.

Many of the strikers are conscious of the political importance of the postponed NEC meeting due to be held on Wednesday 4 July, where re-selection and election of the Party leader will be on the agenda. Some of the staff feel that some members of the Staff Negotiations Committee are adopting an intransigent stance to 'crowd out' such

politically sensitive issues from the NEC agenda.

It is imperative now for the functioning of the Party machine is restored by the NEC agreeing to meet the staff's claim in full without pre-conditions and for the NEC to alter its approach to staff relations rather than allowing the situation created by Staff Negotiations Committee to continue.