

# WHAT LABOUR MUST DO —

## IMPLEMENT PARTY DEMOCRACY

## ADOPT SOCIALIST POLICIES

## SMASH THE TORIES

In a desperate attempt to halt the helter-skelter slide of British capitalism, the Tories have unleashed a torrent of ruthless anti-working class measures.

For big business, a crisis situation demands crisis measures—and to hell with the consequences for working people.

In Thatcher and Co. the bankers and boardroom millionaires have found a representative more than willing to carry out their brutal demands.

Since they came to power in May, one sec-

tion of working people after another have been hit or threatened with the sharp cutting axe of the Tories in the hospitals, schools and other public services, or by hard-faced employers whose deter-

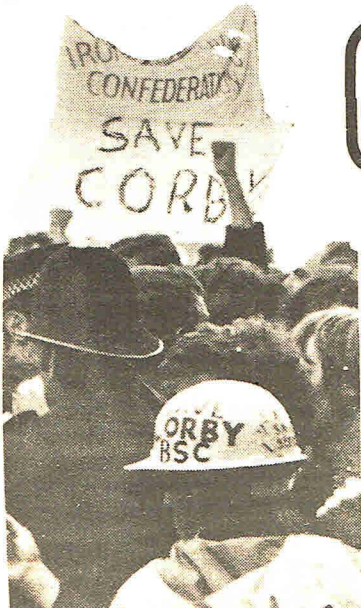
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By Ray Apps  
(Brighton Kempton  
delegate)



# CORBY WORKERS FLEX THEIR MUSCLES!

Postmen, steelworkers, factory and shopworkers, teachers, councilworkers and children all united together in Corby on Thursday 20th September in a magnificent show of strength. Factories were closed and seven of the largest stores shut, giving an indication of what Corby will be like if the steelworks close.



The challenge of Bill Sirs, leader of the ISTC has been met. "Prove that you are willing to fight; prove that you won't accept

By Heather  
Rawling

the sweet sugar of redundancy money and we'll back you", he said at a Corby and Shotton meeting at the TUC.

12,000 Corby people proved it, by taking part in the strike and demonstration organised in honour of the visit of the BSC management and TUC Steel Committee to Corby.

The talks between management and unions were to take place in a building at the end of a driveway 100 yards away

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## VITAL CONFERENCE FOR LABOUR

This year's Labour Party Conference will be one of the most important in the history of the Party. It would be necessary to go back decades—probably as far back as 1918 when the original constitution was adopted—to find a conference of equal significance.

The Tories want to wreck all that the labour and trade union movement has built up painfully in 79 years of struggle. Thatcher has set about the destruction of the "welfare state" in a merciless series of attacks on living standards and jobs.

But the labour movement is already mobilising to fight back.

It is up to the Labour Party Conference to spell out the bold socialist policies needed to spearhead the struggle against the Tories.

Members of the labour movement are looking to the conference for a clear political programme. They are also demanding a constitutional change to ensure that such a programme will be implemented.

Pre-conference publicity has centred on three proposals aimed at furthering the democratic

control by the membership over the affairs of the party: mandatory reselection of MPs; election of the party leader by the whole party; and control by the National Executive Committee of the manifesto on which the party fights a general election.

These proposals have been met with a barrage of hysteria from big business and the millionaire press. Not content with deciding the policies and the leaders of the Tory party, they are also demanding the right to draw up the constitution, select the MPs, choose the leader and draw up the policies of the Labour Party.

The representatives of big business are out to ensure that a future Labour government poses no danger to profit and privilege.

The right-wing Labour MPs, for their part, want the party to continue with the same pro-capitalist poli-

cies which brought about the election disaster. They claim that the left wing are diverting attention from the fight against the Tories by insisting on a debate to increase party democracy.

This is nonsense. The fight for party democracy is a fight to ensure that Labour opposes the Tories with policies agreed by the party, and with MPs and a leader in tune with the aspirations of the rank and file.

The right-wing MPs are conducting a desperate rear-guard defence. The only party body in which they have a majority is the Parliamentary Labour Party. That is why they are frantically concerned to maintain the hold of the PLP over the election of the leader and the writing of the manifesto.

They are demanding that the struggle for democracy be renounced in favour of party unity! As always with the right wing, they are only interested in unity so long as it is in on their terms. Already, they have threatened to split from the party if they fail to get their own way!

The rank and file of the party are determined never again to repeat the mistakes of the last Labour government.

Labour voters suffered through incomes policy, unemployment and cuts in government spending and inflation as the government sought to rescue the wreck

of British capitalism. These constitutional steps forward are therefore vital if the wishes of the party membership are to become the policy on which the next election is fought.

It was at the 1918 conference that the party became committed to the struggle for socialism by adopting Clause 4. The 1979 conference can advance the cause of socialism considerably by sweeping aside those undemocratic rules which give Labour MPs a monopoly over the policies of Labour governments and the choice of leader.

Victory on these organisational questions will mark a giant stride forward for the party. Nevertheless, important as they are, democratic reforms alone cannot insure a future Labour government from the errors of the last government.

Some on the left of the party have concluded that democratic controls on the leadership are vital—but have failed to draw the necessary conclusions as far as policies are concerned. Instead, they are clinging on to the promises contained in the 1974 election manifesto.

They still believe that it is possible to adjust and manipulate capitalism in the interests of working people. They fail to see that the last Labour government abandoned the manifesto not because of the personalities in the leadership but because such policies are

fundamentally utopian within the framework of a diseased capitalism which demands counter-reforms, and more counter-reforms, not reforms!

It was because they were not prepared to break with capitalism that the right-wing labour leaders adopted the anti-working class policies, which the Tories have since continued in a more brutal fashion.

It is not enough merely to repeat the need for the nationalisation of commanding heights of the economy as a ritual incantation. Nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies and socialist planning must become the bedrock of Labour Party policy.

This conference must commit the Labour Party to turning out actively in the fight against the Tories.

A mass Labour Party membership can be built in the course of the struggle against the onslaught of the Tories! To achieve this, the party must demonstrate that it has made a decision to break with pro-capitalist policies.

The only viable way forward for Labour is with a bold socialist programme and with leaders who are clearly answerable to the ordinary members of the party.

## DEFEND A FREE SOCIALIST PRESS



Picket in support of Nottingham journalists

Photo: J Woulfe (Militant)

The labour movement has always been proud of its traditions of democracy. This week's Labour Party conference will see many differences of opinion on the policies needed to fight the Tories. But all will agree that the organisations of the labour movement are the proper place to thrash out these differences.

By Roger Shriver

(Deptford Labour Party)

Despite all the attacks of the capitalist press on the labour movement, they can never give any instances where the capitalist class decide on their policies so openly. They, after all, have too much to hide. For workers' organisations, democracy and openness are vital.

Up and down the country, active workers in the labour movement have shown their surprise and anger at the actions of POEU-sponsored MP John Golding who is taking 'Militant' to court to settle an issue within the labour movement.

Many POEU branches have come to the defence of 'Militant'. Kendal in Cumbria correctly point out that the only victors in a court case would be the enemies of the trade union and labour movement. Birkenhead branch say that their union should not support an action which could give "courts and judges precedent to investigate and interfere with basic democratic procedures within the Labour Party."

Chelmsford branch also sent £10 and the conference of the POEU Broad Left unanimously passed a resolution condemning the POEU Executive's support for John Golding.

Two Labour MPs have sent in financial help to the Defence Fund. Bill Wilson MP for Coventry South East gave £10, and Bill Homewood MP for Kettering and Corby gave £1. This, and the £1 donated by Mick Skelton, the

chairman of the joint Corby ISTC branches, undoubtedly reflect the appreciation of the role 'Militant' has played in support of the struggles of steel workers and the whole population of that town.

Many other letters and donations, such as the collection at the Fords Dagenham EETPU branch and their letter condemning John Golding's action, also show the respect earned by our paper in struggles of recent years. 'Militant' has always fought for the interests of workers in dispute. The press without fail will attack and misrepresent the case of the workers. Trade unionists appreciate the truthful and accurate reports contained in 'Militant'.

Your help can ensure that we continue to fulfil this vital role in the labour movement. The law courts are not the place for the poor. We need financial help to fight this attack. We also need messages of support and resolutions to flood in from all section of the labour and trade union movement.

**Support the fighting voice of Labour. Send further resolutions and donations urgently to Militant Defence Fund, 5 Cremer House, Deptford Church Street, London S.E.8.**

"The POEU Broad Left representing many hundreds of active branch officials and members condemns the use of union funds in the current libel case brought by John Golding against the socialist newspaper 'Militant'.

We also condemn the use of the law courts to settle disputes within the labour and trade union movement."

The above resolution was passed unanimously at the recent POEU Broad Left meeting.

LONDON MILITANT

¾-YEAR 'DO'

Saturday 6th October 7.30 pm  
'Jubilee Tavern', Waterloo [opposite County hall gates]



# DESPAIR ON THE DOLE

Two-thirds of all school-leavers in Liverpool will not find jobs before Christmas, and that's being optimistic. This chilling fact indicates the desperate situation faced by youth in Merseyside. So bad is the situation that someone who introduces themselves as 'one of the many' is instantly recognised as unemployed.

The future of Merseyside youth has been cold-bloodedly sacrificed to the cause of saving profits. Speke, an estate of just 22,000 people, has lost 6,500 jobs in the last 18 months directly as a result of companies such as Dunlops wanting to rationalise production so as to maximise profit. All this at the workers expense.

So bad is the situation that now the local press regards stories of redundancies involving under 500 workers as 'good news'.

Not so long ago, Liverpool proudly opened its 20th Job Centre and claimed, "it shows hope for Liverpool's unemployed youth".

Any young person who has ever been inside one of these plush employment offices would disagree. For them each journey is one of despair. The reason? In August, there were 3,700 vacancies for jobs with 41,500 unemployed.

But even these miserable facts gloss over the true picture.

Most vacancies fall into two categories. Either the jobs have inhumanly low wages—one girl was sent after a full-time job in a cafe where she would earn £14 a week. (Most Liverpool bosses are more generous and offer up to £25!)

The other jobs are highly skilled, requiring years of experience, but at the same time the bosses have cut down on apprenticeships in the factories—why have apprentices when you are thinking of closing down your factory? So where is today's school leaver going to get the required experience when he can't get a job? It's no wonder youth on the dole despair.

## More vicious

A few are beginning to despair of life altogether and commit suicide. Not content, the Tories now prepare more hardships for the youth. For the same reason, to boost her big business backers' profits, Thatcher wants to cut back on the public sector. In Kirkby alone this will mean a loss of 7,000 jobs for youth in the area; and this when the area's unemployment stands at over 20%.

The bosses are now becoming even more vicious. At a store in Kirkby, young workers turned up for work on Monday only to find the doors locked. They were then told to come back the following day. When they arrived at 9 am, they were told they had been made redundant. The management expected no response at all but instead the workers decided to picket the shop and stop any goods or equipment from getting out.

This is an excellent example for young workers. If we want decent jobs, decent wages and conditions then they have to be fought for.

By Mick Hogan

(Garston LPYS)

However any fight will have to be a socialist fight—every other policy has failed. Take the subsidy for new factories in areas of high unemployment. In some cases in Liverpool it has actually meant a cut in jobs. One firm just moved its factory into the area, took the subsidy, but cut its workforce at the new factory from 26 to 20. Import controls, job creation, tax concessions, all have failed to change the situation.

But secondly and most importantly we must recognise that the real enemy of the right to work is the boss class and the capitalist system.

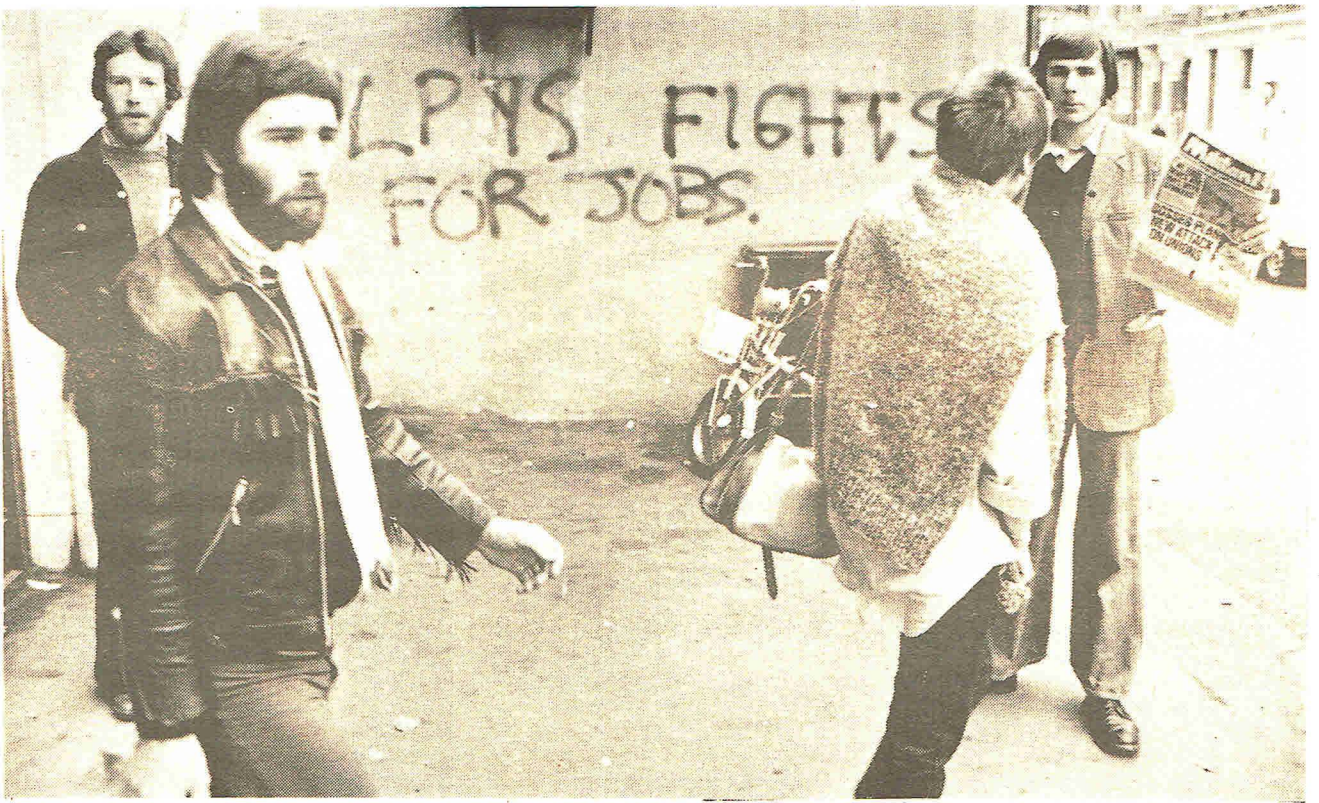
## Labour

When the employers can't make enough profit, investment, labour force and machines become useless to them. Just as in the thirties, the factories begin to go silent. They become ghostly monuments to the chaos of capitalism. They stand empty while 90,000 people cram into the dole offices.

The labour movement must demand an end to the situation where people are short of housing, food, clothes and all the daily necessities while the workers and machinery able to meet these needs stand idle. The claim for sharing out the work by introducing a maximum 35-hour working week without loss of pay and for a £70 minimum wage must be made into a reality. No more redundancies must be accepted. Every school-leaver must have a guaranteed job.

However, such a plan of production and distribution is completely hostile to the employers and their profits.

The delegates at the Labour Party Conference who wish to save Merseyside from destruction should vote for a policy to bring Labour back to power on a socialist programme, to take over the commanding heights of the economy with the workers in control of the means of production.



'Fighting for jobs'—the LPYS has carried out extensive campaign work among unemployed youth

## INVEST IN LABOUR'S FUTURE WITH THE LPYS

One fringe meeting at the Labour Party Conference which is a must for all delegates and visitors will be that of the Labour Party Young Socialists.

The meeting on Thursday evening will be addressed by Dennis Skinner and Tony Saunois of the Labour Party National Executive and Andy Bevan, the LPYS National Secretary.

It is often said that he who holds the youth has the future. The Tories themselves have not failed to notice the enormous potential in the thousands of young people looking for a serious political alternative to their party of financiers, industrialists and landowners. Leading Tories have recently commented that they have few active young people in their party.

So now they are busy dressing their youth up as radicals. But the only really radical thing about the Tories is that no hardly a day goes by without the announcement of yet another draconian measure directed against the workers.

As anger at the government's policies spreads, the Labour Party Young Socialists can grow enormously

By Kevin Ramage

(LPYS National Chairman)

once its policies are known. Working class youth looking for an alternative to the rotten system the Tories are trying to defend can be drawn in their thousands to the LPYS.

In turn the LPYS National Committee recognises that the LPYS must lead the youth in the fight back against the Tories and in the struggle to get rid of capitalism.

In the major cities, demonstrations and rallies are being planned. These will lead up to a national march of 'Youth Against the Tories' on February 2nd of next year.

We fully support the trade union and Labour Party leaders who are calling for the building of a mass active membership of the party. The LPYS are already doing all they can to build a mass membership by campaigning out on the streets in the

factories and in the youth clubs. Young workers in particular must be drawn into the party and the trade unions can play their part.

We want to see LPYS recruitment meetings in the factories, a mass circulation of the LPYS paper LEFT to the trade union youth, LPYS posters on every union notice board and the right of trade union youth sections to affiliate to the LPYS.

We want to make the LPYS and our policies known to youth, but the Tory media will not come to our aid. At the same time we have an annual budget of £1,500 for campaigns and recruitment which is derisory. We hope every delegate and LPYS branch will take up our call to the party for the financing of two more full-time field-workers responsible to the LPYS, for mass rallies, press adverts and youth TV broadcasts and a massive increase in the budget.

The cost would be repaid and justified by the enormous increase in membership and by giving working class youth a political weapon with which to fight against the employers' offensive.

## East London Liaison Committee set up

On September 11, the sixth anniversary of Pinochet's coup in Chile, 60 Young Socialists from the nine LPYS branches in the East London boroughs of Newham, Barking, Havering and Redbridge held their first joint meeting on 'The Lessons of Chile'.

This marked a further step in combining the efforts of these branches into an effective joint campaigning force and helped to mobilise LPYS members for the Chile Solidarity march on September 16.

During the general election campaign, a major influx of new LPYS members throughout this area provided both the need and the possibility for such liaison between branches to promote joint recruiting drives, fund-raising and social and sports activities.

A liaison meeting, held on the basis of two delegates per branch has mapped out a programme of activity through a Liaison committee.

By Fiona Winders

(Wanstead & Woodford LPYS)

Tory supporters—a rare species since the reactionary policies of Thatcher have begun to take effect. This Barking LPYS float at their Town Carnival brought a lot of cheers from workers along the procession route.





# LABOUR AGAINST THE CUTS

## London Special Meeting: INCREASE RATES TO PROTECT SERVICES?

"Labour councils should not shirk from increasing rates to protect services," was the phrase in the Regional Executive's statement to the Special Meeting of the Greater London Labour Party on the cuts which caused most controversy.

The statement was introduced by the chairman, Arthur Latham, who argued that the cuts in services demanded by the Tory government should not be implemented, and that the rates should be increased in order to gain a breathing space.

This way, he said, services could be built up again when a Labour government was once more in power.

However, there was consistent opposition to this from many parts of the meeting.

Eddie McParland [Greenwich CLP] argued that the statement was "characterised by confusion," and gave no lead to the labour movement. This was backed by Bob Lee [Hammersmith N CLP], who said that although he could understand the Labour councillors' difficulties when faced with the choice of making cuts or rates increases, it was ridiculous to increase the rates year after year. The Tories would not stop cutting this year, but will continue to make cuts to the end of their term of office.

Nick Bradley [Deptford CLP] agreed that by increasing the rates Labour councils would be carrying the can for

### MANCHESTER CENTRAL

A by-election will be taking place today (Thursday 20th September) in the Manchester Central constituency. It is a 'safe Labour' seat but to show your disgust at Thatcher and her mad axemen, return Labour with an even greater majority, and join the Labour Party and fight for socialist policies.

the Tory government.

Bob Labi of Hampstead CLP and the Regional Executive Committee pointed out that the whole strategy of the Tories was to cut workers' living standards, which was achieved as much by increasing rates as by cutting services.

"The way to fight this is not to implement the cuts, and to mobilise the working class to confront the Tories and force them to retreat, as Heath was forced to back down."

The willingness of workers to fight cuts was endorsed by Eileen Short [Tower Hamlets CLP] who gave the examples of the two-hour general strike against redundancies in Corby last week and the fight to save Bethnal Green Hospital, where local workers came out on strike at very short notice to fight the closure of the hospital.

Cuts must be opposed immediately, she said. It was no use conceding ground now, then trying to make a stand in a few years' time.

Despite many delegates' disquiet with the Executive statement, it was overwhelmingly endorsed as there was no alternative policy delegates could vote on. The real test will be whether the London Labour local authorities really are prepared to lead the fight against the Tories.

By Lorna Oliver  
(Hackney Central CLP)

### HARINGEY

The Haringey Campaign Against the Cuts are sponsoring a Borough-wide petition calling on the council's ruling Labour group not to cut any of the borough's services.

The campaign will hold a delegate meeting on Saturday October 6 to draw up a campaign of action against the Tory plans.



Demonstration against closure of hospitals in East London

Photo: I McIntosh (IFL)

### BRIGHTON

The Labour Party and LPYS in Brighton have joined together with several trade unions to form a 'Committee Against the Cuts'. At the inaugural meeting the viciousness of the Tory cuts were outlined—nine pensioners and children's homes were being cut, and council jobs had been lost.

### WOKINGHAM

The Wokingham CLP has just launched 'Labour Party Against the Tory Cuts', in conjunction with local trade unionists. Already the Wokingham and Bracknell Trades Council and the AUEW branch have pledged support and have given financial donations.

The main target of attack will be the Tory's appalling record of council housing in the area, and the committee is organising pickets of council meetings rallies in the town centre and regional activities. Secretary of the committee Terry Pearcee said, "The labour movement won improved public services for the working class after years of struggle, we now have a responsibility to defend these services from the vicious attacks of the Tory government."

## LAMBETH: FIGHTING THE HEALTH COMMISSIONERS

Since the ill-named Minister of 'Health' Patrick Jenkin introduced commissioners to run the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Health Authority, these people have not been slow to introduce cuts.

The first hospital to face the threat of closure is St Johns in Lewisham. Mr Cox, COHSE steward at St Johns spoke to Peter Redfarn, East Lewisham Labour Party.

"The Commissioners have told us they intend to close the

hospital on or about 1st October. Our decision to occupy, taken on 3rd September, still stands.

All the staff were offered redeployment at Lewisham and Hither Green Hospital but nobody, apart from nursing staff has signed reemployment forms. We are still accepting patients, and have patients booked for admission some way ahead.

Mr Bennet COHSE Chairman of Hither Green, another local hospital, was told by one of the Commissioners that if Hither Green took any strike action in support of St Johns they would close that hospital as well.

The hospital has been allowed to run down since 1975 when the boiler house blew up, and we were left without heating. Since then they have closed wards; reopened them and then closed them again. Now we are on a short stay only basis, and already closed at weekends.

A protest march has been organised for September 29th from Ladywell Fields in Lewisham to St Johns Hospital.

Information and messages of support: Mr Cox & Mr Bloom, Shop Stewards, COHSE, St Johns Hospital, Morden Hill, London SE 13.

## Oxford: cutting down on education

Oxfordshire County Council intends to shut down all nursery education in the County! That means 12 nursery schools and 16 nursery classes.

This news has been greeted with shock and indignation by people throughout the County. In addition, two secondary schools, ten primary schools and three middle schools are to close. Also condemned is

an old people's home and children's home.

But these cuts don't go far enough for the Tories! Savings on School meals through doing away with puddings and substituting fruit will mean 98 canteen workers will have to go.

The cuts amount to £2.8 million over three years but even this falls far short of what the Government has

demanded, 5% next year alone. These massive cuts represent only 3% over 3 years!

Education Committee Chairman Brigadier Streetfeild has intimated that further cuts are likely to follow any changes in the law that the Government might make in relation to school transport and school meals.



Fraternal greetings  
to all delegates from  
the Liverpool Branch  
of the NGA

We hope you will use your votes to support the NEC's proposals on Party democracy:

- ★ The leader to be elected by the rank & file
- ★ End his right to veto the NEC's manifesto proposals

Would you settle for less within your own trade union?

### Merseyside Labour Party Young Socialists Liaison Committee greets conference

- ★ For a 35-hour week!
- ★ End the dole queues!
- ★ Kick out the Tories—and their system!

Brighton Kempton Labour Party  
Greetings to all delegates and visitors  
Labour to power; implement Clause 4  
For the nationalisation of the 200  
major monopolies under democratic  
workers' control and management

Brighton Labour  
Party  
Moulscombe Branch

"For a democratic Party  
and a socialist  
programme



# LEFT & RIGHT

## SOUNDS FISHY

The management of British Leyland have come up with a new idea to help flog their cars. Prospective buyers of expensive Rover cars are being offered £20's worth of smoked salmon free with every test drive.

Now all you 25,000 BL workers who are going to be dumped if the bosses have their way, are probably thinking this will be an easy way to get a free meal when you're trying to survive on the dole. Don't bother—the offer is only going to regular customers who are due for a replacement of their plush Rover cars!

## SENSIBLE CAPITALIST

Multi-millionaire peer Lord Bristol, who lives in Monte Carlo for 'tax reasons' [he doesn't have to pay any there] agrees, with the incisive insight of his breed, that something is amiss for British capitalism.

But he doesn't put it down to the waste and squander of the crazy profit system. "This great monarchy of ours has been debased in government to a fifth-rate third world talent republic without the brain-power of many of my intelligent coloured friends, whose wisdom could teach our parliamentarians of all parties a lot of sensible points."

Lord Bristol is a very sensible capitalist, —after all, in the Spanish Civil War he sold arms to both sides. Any boss with talent will tell you that you can't let little things like principle or politics come in the way of profit.

## UNSKILLFUL TORY

Public sector workers still recovering from their struggle to try and boost their appallingly low wages earlier this year, will receive no sympathy from one of the new batch of Tory MPs, Bill van Straubenzee.

In a recent debate in Parliament this knowledgeable chap told the world, "Quite a lot of people are low paid because they are worth nothing more. They have no skills nor have they tried to acquire any."

His remarks sparked off howls of protest in the local newspapers. As one person pointed out, if that was the way Straubenzee felt then he could empty his own dustbin, sweep his own road, clean up his own sewage, look after and maintain himself when in hospital and, hopefully, dig his own grave.

# 1921 THOMAS LIBEL USING THE COURTS AGAINST

"This libel action," declared the Tory 'Daily Telegraph' "will teach them [the Marxists in the labour movement] that there are limits to the toleration of public men...and that a British jury is a most unlikely body to convict of treachery to Labour a leader who realises that the welfare of the whole community is higher even than that of organised Labour, and can never be served by civil strike or the violent overthrow of constitutional society."

Mr Justice Darling and his jury had ruled that it was libellous for the journal 'Communist' to describe Jimmy Thomas, the railwaymen's leader and right-wing Labour MP, as a "traitor to the working class" in relation to the infamous 'Black Friday' sell-out of the Triple Alliance, in 1921.

With this judgement, and the £2,000 damages against the 'Communist', the 'Telegraph' enthusiastically concurred.

"His sanity", they said of Thomas, "his moderation, his readiness to compromise and to settle, his constitutionalism, have given him his commanding position in the Labour world, and have won for him the widespread respect which he enjoys..."

The "Telegraph's" fulsome praise could only confirm the opinion of Thomas's rank and file critics, and the paper's delight at the verdict made clear the "impartial" position of British justice.

The background to this legal battle was one of the bitterest periods of class struggle in Britain. A wave of militancy swept Europe at the end of the First World War. This produced mutinies in all the capitalist armies, general strikes in most countries, and in Britain the winning of higher wages by the miners and other sections of workers.

However, whilst in the stimulated boom of 1920 the bosses were anxious to postpone confrontation and make whatever profits they could, this was not the case in the following year.

In response to the employers' counter-offensive, the key unions formed the Triple Alliance. Unions representing miners, railway and transport (particularly dock) workers would come to each others' assistance if one of them was forced into a dispute.

In April 1921 the mine-owners attempted to go back on their existing agreement—but the necessary support was not forthcoming from the

By  
Steve Cawley

(Leyton CLP)

other Triple Alliance unions. As a result of back-tracking wrangles between the union leaders, in which Jimmy Thomas played a decisive part, the Alliance fell apart.

The day this happened—15 April 1921—became 'Black Friday'. After this defeat, wages were reduced in industry after industry because workers had seen the 'shock troops' of the movement defeated.

The parliamentary general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen and Labour MP for Derby, J.H. Thomas, sued the editors and printers of the 'Communist', forerunner of the 'Daily Worker', because they had referred to him as a "traitor to the working-class" because of his part in the fatal manoeuvres at the time.

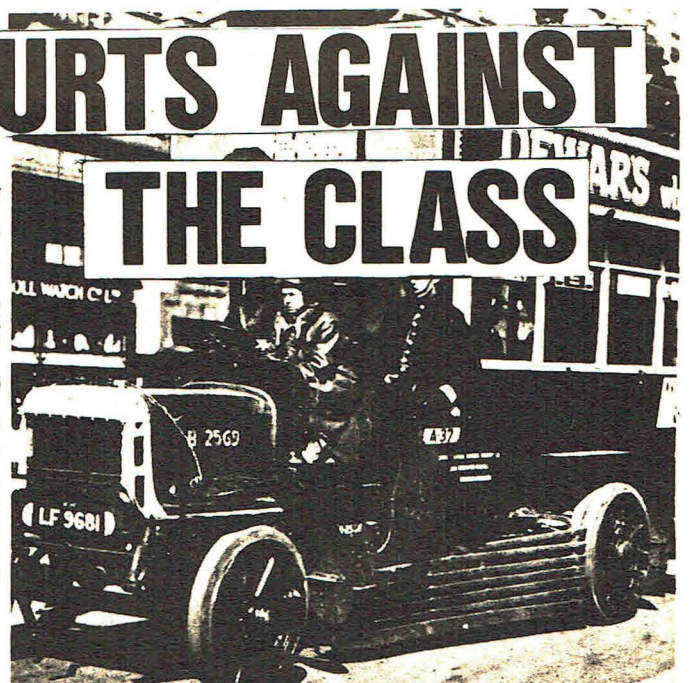
The libel action coincided with police raids and confiscation of documents at the Communist Party's offices. The case was heard some 8 months later, and Mr Thomas gave evidence on his political views and his actions.

On his tenure of the leadership of the railwaymen, J.H. Thomas replied to questions on the implications of the union's strike action:

"Don't you see that you were leading a movement in which the revolutionaries might succeed in attaining their ends?" — "Yes I see that".

"If necessary, to defeat these men, were you not prepared to defeat the strike?" — "Had I seen revolution as a result I should have felt bound to defeat the strike."

The Law Report in the 'Times' (1 December 1922) continues: "Counsel also referred to another passage in which he (J.H. Thomas) said they were challenging the whole constitutional system and would see that the dispute should be brought to a successful issue. Mr Thom-



1926 General Strike—Thomas' anti-rank and file attitude confirmed

as said that in that passage he was representing his views of the effect of the railwaymen".

Questioned on the oath he took as a Privy Councillor, he admitted "there might have arrived a moment when I should have had to consider my position."

The publisher of the 'Communist', Arthur MacManus, was able to cross-examine: "Do you actually believe that capitalism has to go?" — "I cannot give you anything for propaganda purposes; the working classes of this country can obtain everything they desire by means of industrial combination and by saying what they want at the ballot box."

"Are you a socialist?" — "No".

There was much argument about the 'pump men' in the mines. Before 'Black Friday', they had been called out because of the lock-out of the other miners. J.H. Thomas had taken the line in the House of Commons that the pump men (who prevented the mines from being flooded and therefore completely unworkable at any time in the future) should immediately go back to work as a gesture of good faith by the Miners' Federation, following such a settlement could be reached on the miners' case. There would be favourable publicity for such a move. The fact was that the pump and safety men were crucial to the pressure on the mine-owners for a quick settlement.

The manifesto of the Triple Alliance had been put out over Thomas' signature, amongst others. But in his evidence Thomas denied he had seen it or agreed to it before-hand. Of course, no-one knew, at the time, so it was naturally generally assumed that Thomas was in favour of backing the miners. There was general astonishment when, the pump and safety men having been sent back to work, the other

members of the Triple Alliance did not back the miners.

The miners' leader, Hodges, himself made a conciliatory speech, and the prime minister immediately seized on this to make a 'compromise' offer to the miners. Hodges' moves and the government's offer were both firmly rejected by the miners' executive. But Thomas used Hodges' acceptance and the 'intransigence' of the miners as an excuse for renegeing on the Triple Alliance obligations.

The 'Communist' denounced Thomas as "a traitor to the working class". The court ruled this libellous, and Thomas was awarded his £2,000 damages.

But the views of labour movement rank and file could only be confirmed by Thomas's subsequent actions.

In the days before the 1926 general strike, Thomas did everything he could to avoid a conflict with Baldwin's Tory government—regardless of the cost to the workers in unemployment and wage cuts. When the strike started, Thomas did his utmost to end it as soon as possible—whatever the consequences for the workers.

The courts ruled for Thomas. But let us give him the final say.

Reporting on his negotiations with Baldwin to the Conference of TU Executives on 30th April 1926, Thomas candidly told them: "My friends, when the verbatim reports are written, I suppose my usual critics will say that Thomas was almost grovelling, and it is true. In all my experience—and I have conducted many negotiations—I have never begged and pleaded like I begged and pleaded all day today, and I pleaded not only because I believed in the case of the miners, but because I believed in my bones that my duty to the country involved it..."

# MONEY DOWN THE DRAIN

Is it any wonder that the Coal Board have lost millions of pounds this year? Where I work at Wolstanton colliery in North Staffs, eight years ago they started a major development in a new area of the ten feet seam.

Last year, the first face was ready to start production, and the branch committee of which I am a member were then informed by management that a face in a different seam (the Banbury seam) would have to close on

economic grounds as the cost of getting coal out of that district would not possibly justify it staying open.

We as a union reluctantly accepted this and the other management demand, that the ten feet face work three shifts. The area director informed the branch officials that unless output was at least trebled the pit would close.

The new face began production straight after the annual holidays in July 1978. After two weeks on the face a major fault showed up in the

main heading—panic set in with the management. Geologists were called in but the coal had gone; they found it thirty five feet below the level we were working.

The face was abandoned and the men were made to re-open the face in the Banbury seam despite all that management had said about it.

Meanwhile the ten feet seam was now looking like a rabbit warren with tunnels leading everywhere. But the ground was so badly faulted it

was completely unworkable.

So seven years development, the cost of installing a face, went down the drain because of senior NCB management incompetence.

The Coal Board have been very quiet about the cost of this, but it must run into millions of pounds. If this is to be repeated in other areas I think the Coal Board have done well to lose only £20 million!

By John Lockett  
(Staffordshire NUM,  
personal capacity)



# EARLY MORNING NIGHTMARE

I struggle out of bed. It's 4.45 am, and I'm on the morning shift.

Bleary-eyed and bad-tempered, I drag myself to the bus-stop.

After I've clocked in and filled in my work sheets, I put my overalls on. The air is thick with machine oil and the smell of granulated plastic.

And the noise—if you have never been in a machine shop it is hard to describe. The machines' hum, the hiss of compressed air and the grumble of the water pump; individually, the noise is not too bad, but together it fills the air with a deafening porridge.

We are reduced to using sign language. After a while, you think that you're getting used to the noise, but as an old hand told me, it just means that you're going slowly deaf.

As far as safety regulations go, gloves, masks, ear-muffs etc are provided and the younger workers use them. But men who have worked in the factory for nigh on 30 years don't: "it's a bit late, the damage has already been done."

8.15 and it's time for breakfast: the canteen has still got the remains of the night shift: coffee stains on the floor. A faded pin-up adds to the general sleaziness of the place. I bet the directors' dining room isn't like this!

After food, somebody suggests a game of cards; this is midweek and conversation is sparse. One of the men told the story of the chargehand who tried to convince everyone in the plant to vote Tory in the last election. When they got in, he was the most worried man in the whole place.

Break over, we make our way back to our jobs. The factory across the road isn't pumping out as much smoke as it was at 6.00 am. Who ever heard of a factory inspector who gets up at that time in the morning?

Later that morning, the boss brings a group of visitors round the shop. They were Germans I think—they must have thought it was a museum of industrial artefacts, not a place where things are actually supposed to be produced.

They leave without acknowledging our existence. You

realise after a while that you're just part of the machinery to them.

One of the most annoying things that can happen to you on a shift is when you've worked hard to produce a component, had it inspected and packed and then find out it will have to be scrapped—it is the wrong colour. When the setter arrives, he is not in a very good mood, having to change the colour of the plastic granules in the machines.

## Who asks us?

Once you get to 12.00 noon, you begin to think of going to sleep when you get home and how you might promise yourself an early night. You perk up a bit and things don't seem so bad.

But this doesn't last long. The setter is back again and yells to me, above the din, that the warehouse is full of unsaleable goods, the despatch bay is full of returns from the customers and the factory is piled high with components we've just made, which can't be used as they're the wrong ones.

At times like this, the men get angry at a system that never plans, never asks the workforce and when it does, is met with a stony and suspicious silence.

This factory learnt its lesson two years ago, when the work was plentiful and everybody worked overtime, weekends as well. All the graft was rewarded with 150 people being made redundant because of an "incorrect forecast in the market".

Nowadays, everything works at half capacity and nobody has seen the place so quiet for years and years. You still try to look busy as the foreman is on the prowl to make sure you're still working. I am.

At last it's time to head down to the clocking hall. The factory is noisy now; there are people milling around the exit. Some stragglers rush through for the afternoon shift.

We insert our cards in the machine and swear, head for the car-park, or, like me, the bus-stop. Waiting in the shelter, I've a feeling it's going to be late again....

By an  
AUEW member

# CHEAPEST LABOUR IN EUROPE

The only coherent part of the Tory government's economic strategy is that part that seeks to turn British workers into the cheapest labour in Europe. Unable to make profits from the international market, or for that matter now, even on the home market, profits have to be supported by making British workers the 'coolies' of Europe.

However, a recently published survey by the West German Dresdner Bank shows that British workers are already well behind. The bank has drawn up a list of the average hourly wage costs, including the social costs, in the top ten industrial countries. Their list reads:

1. West Germany, DM 20.9 (£5.36)
2. Belgium, DM 20.8
3. Netherlands DM 20.6
4. Sweden DM 20.5
5. USA DM 16.8 [£4.31]
6. France DM 14.5
7. Italy DM 14.2
8. Japan DM 11.3
9. Spain DM 11.0
10. Britain DM 10 [£2.56]

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### WAVERTREE CONSTITUENCY LABOUR PARTY

extends fraternal socialist greetings to all delegates to Labour Party conference

We call on conference to:

- ★ Support workers in struggle for better living standards
  - ★ Support the call for automatic re-selection of MPs
  - ★ Support demands for Party democracy at all levels, including the election of the leader.
- Onward to the defeat of the Tories and a socialist victory.

### Eton and Slough LPYS

Fraternal greetings.  
Greater party democracy and accountability of representatives

**BRIGHTON  
LABOUR  
PARTY**  
greet all delegates and visitors to conference  
A warm welcome to Brighton

More conference greetings on pages 4, 8 and 9

Members of Southern Region LPYS regional committee send fraternal greetings to Labour Party conference

**NO TO TORY CUTS  
FORWARD TO A MASS LABOUR PARTY  
AND SOCIALIST POLICIES**

I Walker, A Huyton, I Wessels, H Lewis, M Preen, S Hatherley, J Cantwell and C Walder

### NUPE Brighton Branch

welcomes the Labour Party to Brighton.  
Regrets conference is in building subsidised by loss of services and manual jobs

**BRADFORD  
TRADES COUNCIL**  
sends greetings to Labour Party Conference  
For Party democracy and socialist policies!

### National Union of Mineworkers Lady Victoria branch

Fraternal greetings to all constituency and trade union delegates.

Support national conference decisions!  
Election of leader, re-selection of MPs, drafting manifesto, socialist programme

### BRIGHTON TRADE UNION COUNCIL

welcomes conference to Brighton and urges the Parliamentary Party to implement the policy of conference so that it can be returned to office

### FAREHAM CLP

sends fraternal greetings to delegates and calls for: automatic re-selection of MPs  
Election of party leader by conference

### GREETINGS TO CONFERENCE FROM

**Brighton Hove Worthing**      **Littlehampton Eastbourne Hastings**  
LPYS branches  
Socialist policies for Labour!  
For the right of re-selection!

### Brighton Labour Party Whitehawk Branch

welcomes all delegates to Brighton.  
"Our thanks to those members of the NEC who have stood firm in the struggle to extend Party democracy

**BRIGHTON T&GWU  
lorry drivers' shop**  
stewards extend fraternal greetings to all comrades in the labour movement, in particular  
**Brighton Labour Party & Brighton District Trade Union Council**

The following CPSA P&T Group members extend their fraternal greetings to the 1979 Labour Party conference through the pages of 'Militant' in appreciation of the excellent coverage during our recent pay dispute

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Diane Topping Liverpool GMO            | Ann Jones, Brighton GMO     |
| Steve Higham, Liverpool GMO            | Clive Walder, Brighton GMO  |
| Alan Harper, Liverpool GMO             | John Barrett, LTR City GMO  |
| Kevin Howens, Liverpool GMO            | Clive Jones, Shrewsbury GMO |
| Ralph Davies, Liverpool GMO            | Ray Gaston, Gloucester GMO  |
| Dave Bell, Group Executive Committee   | Alan Binnion, York GMO      |
| Brian Kenny, Group Executive Committee |                             |

FORWARD TO ONE POST OFFICE UNION



## NUS must lead fight back

# TORIES VANDALISE HIGHER EDUCATION

**"Some Departments of universities and colleges have no right to continue." That was the staggering comment of Tory Education Minister Dr Rhodes Boyson.**

He expected the "weakest departments" to disappear, but added generously that he did not want to close "world-renowned" colleges like Oxford and Cambridge. They, of course, serve the rich and privileged.

Only 42% of students going to Cambridge are from state schools, for Oxford, the figure is 40%. 70% of 'Oxbridge' students are from "professional" backgrounds—compared to 54% of all university students. These are the people whose education

he wants to preserve.

The cuts envisaged by the Tories will have a serious effect on the universities. Lord Annan, London University Vice Chancellor, has spoken of "equal misery for all" because of government policies; and a "grim decade" ahead for the universities.

With the attacks that have been waged against public expenditure since 1976, higher education, even the universities, has already begun to be affected. Expansion plans have been shelved, and courses closed. Overseas students have been particularly badly hit.

Working class education has been hit hard; the percentage of university students from manual working class backgrounds is now 23% (compared to the already abysmally low 26% in

1974/75).

The Tories are also threatening to dismantle the grants system. They have made plans to replace the present grants system with a "loans" system—i.e. that students would have to repay money "lent" to them while they were at college. This is the "no-nonsense" approach of right-winger Rhodes Boyson—and it would result in the decimation of working class involvement in higher education.

The other government proposal to attack university education is to cut student intake. Dr Edward Parkes (Chairman of the University Grants Committee) has sent a letter to all universities advising them to reduce by 6% student intake in 1980.

In reality, this would be an even greater cut. Laurie

Sapper (General Secretary, AUT) commented: "This in fact is a cut of at least 10% because owing to the rise in the 18 year old population, demand for places will be up by between 5% and 7% in 1980.

"Many thousands will be turned away disappointed. Women will be particularly affected, since the largest increase in student numbers has come from them."

The implication is clear, university students, once completely isolated from the damaging effects of capitalist reality, have now been placed in the firing line—as an easy killing for Boyson and the rest of the axemen.

If such plans are carried out, students will be forced to stop studying through lack of money. In addition, many courses will close, and it is

quite possible that some individual universities (Stirling and Essex have been mentioned) will fold.

The cuts will also affect graduate unemployment. Already, 5% of graduates languish on the dole queues for months after leaving college. Government economic policy means that for social science and arts students, the threat is particularly acute, due to civil service cuts. The threat of unemployment now hangs over the head of every university student.

The outlook for higher education under the Tories is grim. It is vital that NUS launch a campaign to defend higher education against the Tory wreckers. This must be done through a joint campaign with the trade unions in education, and other public

sector unions to fight all cuts in public expenditure.

But it isn't enough just to fight the cuts. NUS must fight for a socialist education programme to open higher education to all, and make it serve the interests of working people as a whole. NUS must fight for:

- ★ Open higher education to all!
- ★ A living grant of £2,000 per annum for all full-time students over 18!
- ★ End the binary system—for a fully comprehensive higher education system!
- ★ Stop the cuts in education!
- ★ Socialist economic policies to ensure the resources are available to build a decent education system!

By Bob Sulatycki  
(Bristol ULC)

## Tory students

# LIBERAL MASK DROPS OFF

In recent years, the Tories have poured in thousands of pounds in an attempt to build the 'Federation of Conservative Students'.

But all efforts to present themselves as having a 'progressive' programme for NUS will be exposed as nonsense by the actions of the Tory government, and the FCS will again be reduced to a tiny handful, based in a few universities.

Students will learn through bitter experience what Tory policies really mean, and campaigns against education cuts will force the Tory students onto the defensive.

The Tories have built their base on the 'apathy' and 'anti-political' mood that existed for a time under the Labour government. Disappointment with the policies of that government, with the lack of a lead from the 'left' leaders of NUS resulted in the FCS building support, mainly in the universities.

One of their opportunist slogans was "Save Education—Cut Nationalisation". They argued against reducing education spending, but not against other public expenditure cuts.

By this, they pitted the interests of students against those of workers on waiting lists for housing or NHS facilities. The savage cuts in education, affecting every section of students, will decimate the Tories' support.

On grants, the Tories have claimed a 'progressive' position, in calling for the abolition of discretionary awards, and an equal grant for all students. But they have demanded that NUS makes this the main priority; thus effectively dropping the demand for an increase in grants.

This would have divided the student movement, as well as increasing the poverty rampant in higher education. But again, the policies of the 'left' leaders of NUS opened the door to this, as they have abandoned the fight for decent further education grants in countless grants campaigns.

Of course, FE students are quite aware that it is local authorities under Tory control where fewest discretionary awards are given. The Tory way of 'abolishing discretionary awards' is to refuse to pay any!

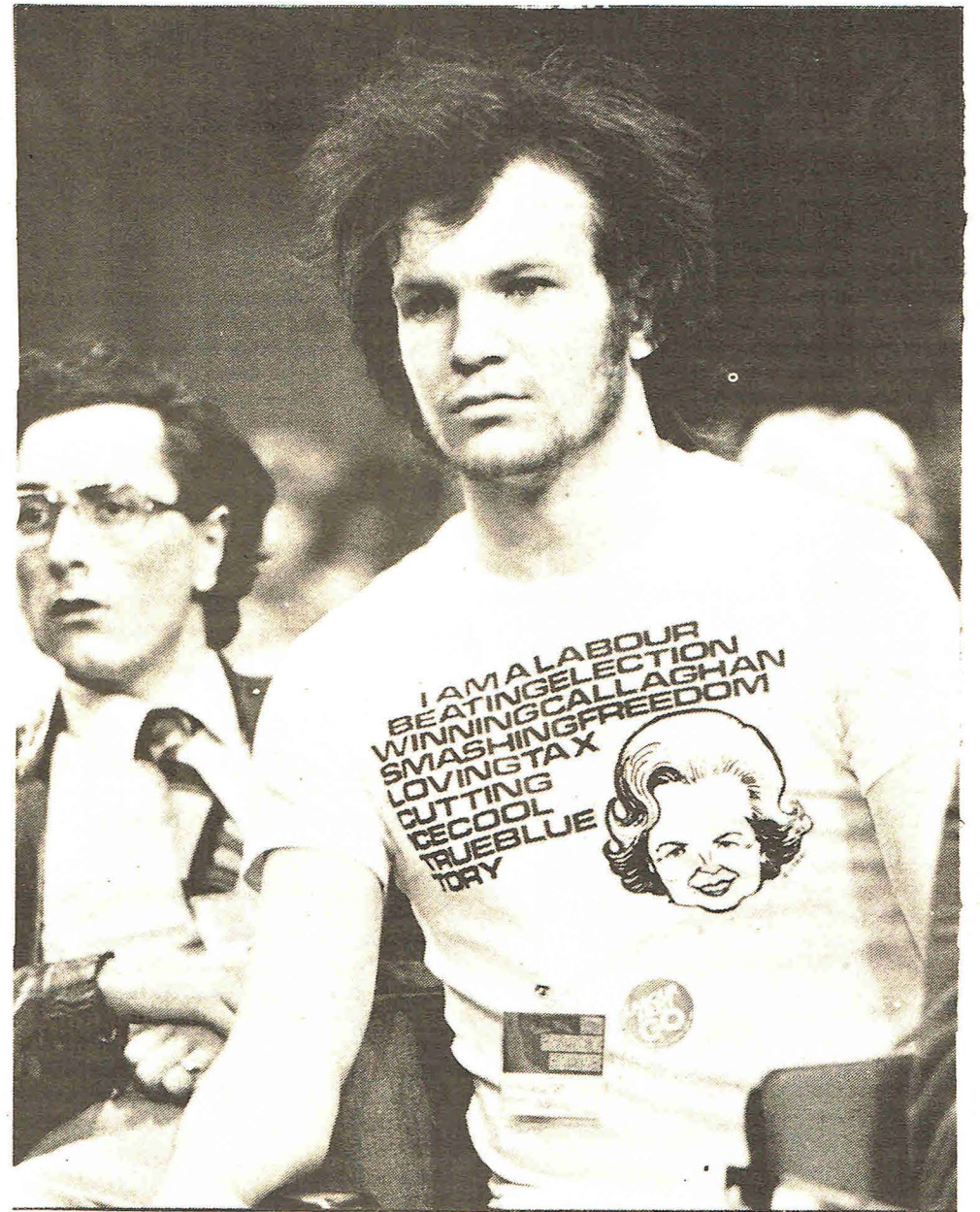
Attempts to cut school meals and transport; close down departments and even whole colleges; reduce staff-student ratios and all the other measures of the government will show the Tories to be the real enemy of the student movement.

The 'liberal' image of FCS will soon lie in tatters. Already, sections of FCS openly support the 'Freedom Association' policies—including voluntary membership of student unions.

In the future, under the pressure of class politics, they could gain a majority in FCS. How many Monday Clubbers and backwoodsmen are waiting in the wings to try to build a 'real' conservative students' organisation, as fondly talked of in the pages of 'Free Nation'.

Labour Clubs must go on the offensive against the Tories, both the government and their student supporters. A mass anti-Tory campaign could both crush the FCS, and win wide sections of students to support for Labour and socialist policies.

By Mike Levene  
(Trent Poly Labour Club)



A unionbashing jobdestroying grantslashing Young Tory—the enemy of workers and the student movement.

## University clerical workers

# NOT JUST PIN MONEY - GIVE US A LIVING WAGE

The beginning of term marks the start of industrial action to be taken by 20,000 NALGO members [clerical and admin-related staff] in the universities.

This industrial action, taken for the first time by this section of public sector workers begins with a one-day strike on October 1st., and will be followed by other measures, such as 'lightning strikes', a ban on overtime and 'working to rule'.

The strike is for a 24% wage claim. So far the

employers have made a derisory offer of 9%, which if accepted, would have meant a serious decline in living standards, with a current inflation rate of at least 17%. A Clegg Commission comparability study was also offered, but it was likely that this would not be implemented until 1981!

The majority of clerical staff in the universities are low paid. If 9% were accepted our take-home pay week would be as follows—Grade 1, £36.62; Grade 2, 43.58; Grade 3, £51.12; Grade 4, £60.08; Grade 5, £71.92. The vast majority of staff are in grades 1-3.

One of the negotiators for the employers is reported to have said 'We may offer you 2% more so you can buy some frocks and records'.

Do they really think that women workers only require 'pin money' and are not entitled to a living wage? The employers also claim that the money is not available to make an improved offer, but they have already settled with the academic staff for 20%.

This industrial action marks the determination of yet another group of workers in the public sector to defend their living standards and their service.

The strike on October 1st

must be supported by all Labour Club members in the universities. This Tory government, with its policies of cuts in public expenditure poses a threat to jobs and working conditions in the public services, plus the threat of devastation to the services themselves. Trade unionists in the public sector must stand together to fight these attacks.

By Simon Cole  
(LSE Labour Club)  
and a NALGO member

**Make sure your Labour Club or Students' Union gets 'Militant' every week**

**MILITANT STUDENT**  
Autumn 1979 issue includes articles on:

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- ★ Federation of Conservative Students
- ★ Socialists and Left Unity

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# UNEMPLOYMENT IS A CLASS ISSUE

**The Campaign Against Youth Unemployment [CAYU], sponsored by NOLS, the Young Communist League and AU-EW-TASS National Youth Committee, has recently been the subject of heated exchanges involving leading Labour Party NEC members, including former CAYU sponsors Eric Heffer and Dennis Skinner.**

They are angry about the Young Liberals using CAYU as a means of establishing 'radical' credentials for the Liberals, especially in the Liverpool area.

It has even been suggested that Liberal MPs may speak

on the CAYU platform in Liverpool. Dennis Skinner has protested that he had not been informed when Young Liberals were included in the list of CAYU sponsors.

An emergency resolution at LPYS conference, calling on the LPYS (not a sponsor of CAYU), to support the CAYU march from Liverpool to Blackpool, October 6-10, was defeated, but an undertaking was given that the LPYS National Committee would have discussions with CAYU.

One of the items of particular concern to the LPYS to be covered in these discussions is the CAYU's involvement of non-labour movement bodies such as the Young Liberals. This meeting has yet to take place, despite two letters from the LPYS to CAYU calling for such a meeting.

Despite an earlier decision to inform LPYS branches of the march, in the light of the 'Liberal controversy' the LPYS officers have agreed not to notify branches and are withholding support from the CAYU march.

Kevin Ramage, LPYS chairman, added "We are still looking for an opportunity to clarify our stand on this issue with the CAYU and await a reply to our correspondence calling for an early meeting."

The CAYU is not to be confused with the Youth Campaign Against Unemployment (YCAU), established on LPYS initiative in 1976. This campaign is solely composed of labour and trade union officers and organisations.

## 35 HOUR WEEK

"There are a number of resolutions and amendments this year on the 35-hour week and I think our union should be supporting them. The avalanche of new technology should provide a massive boost to living standards in any sane society but under our system it usually appears as a threat to the jobs and the living standards of workers.

Our union has already begun a fight for a shortened working week as an answer to the new technology being introduced into the Post Office and I hope conference takes up the campaign in a vigorous way.

We are also worried about the threat to reduce the Post Office monopoly in telecommunications and that there is a possibility that the alternative jobs created by new technology may not materialise in the public sector.

### Re-nationalise

For example, if Keith Joseph allows private companies to fit appliances at the subscriber's end this will leave the nationalised industry only looking after the network, the grid that needs the most investment. The cowboys will

then cash in on the lucrative parts.

Our union is calling for the Labour Party to declare its intention to re-nationalise those sectors that are hived off when they are returned to office.

In my branch when this was last discussed it was well supported from the floor but in addition, members thought that the demand should be made for re-nationalisation without compensation."

**Donald McDonald**  
(Post Office Engineering Union delegate)

## DENNIS SKINNER SPEAKS

"It's been reported that Shirley Williams and one or two others are disturbed about the possibility of getting more democracy into the Labour Party and say that if that takes place then they will consider leaving.

I think this kind of blackmail is reprehensible, because it's almost like saying 'yes we'll be members of the Labour Party provided it sticks to our point of view.' We've had a lot of examples like this in the past—the Tory press is littered with them every week: Lord George Brown, Reg Prentice [who is now with the Tories], Lord Chalfont, Richard Marsh, all these people acting in a manner which has now been alluded to by many of these prominent right wingers. It's time that, for people of this ilk their bluff was called.

There are some people inside the Labour Party that have always wanted to have a kind of social democratic Labour Party that's got no industrial connection, that has just very mildly reformist policies, that abandons Clause IV, that never any more talks about taking over the economy. Naturally there are scores of people at the very top of the Labour Party who would dearly love to see that happen.

Those of us on the left have got to ensure that by democratising the Party we are going to make these people more accountable, to conference, to the grass roots, the party activists, and in that way stick more closely to a position of integrity, to the manifesto upon the mandate which we get from the people.

One of the things that also worries me is the way that some people in the TUC leadership believe that they can do one thing when the Tory government is in power and act in a contrary manner when the Labour government

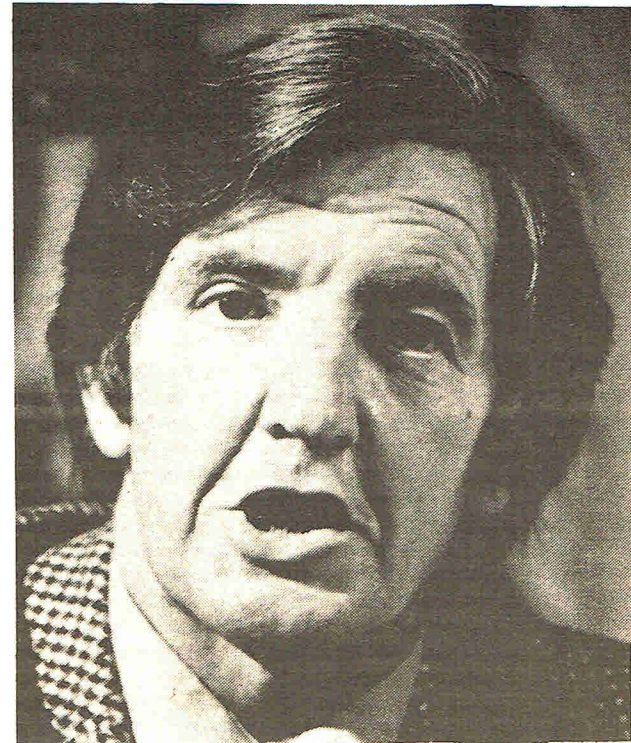


Photo: MILITANT

is in power—they should be consistent.

This is one of the reasons why due to the lack of leadership from the TU leaders so many people opt out of the political levy—they're not getting the proper leadership.

It should be stressed over and over again that the Labour Party is the political wing of the movement. You cannot divorce politics from trade union activities, it is impossible.

Now a group of these TU leaders are pushing for an inquiry into the Labour Party. When this came up at the NEC my view was they have no right to demand this—the people to decide this is the Labour Party Conference when all its constituent parts decide by a vote of conference!

It is even more disturbing

to find out that some of the right wing trade union leaders are demanding an enquiry without having had a resolution to that effect passed at their own trade union conference!

I get very angry when I hear trade union leaders, some of whom have said this, say 'if they don't listen to us and if they don't do as we say then we're going to stop the money.'

That is a most nauseating example of trade union leaders who imagine that they are the actual paymasters for their trade union when in fact they are merely spokesmen who should be acting in accordance with their own organisation."

**Dennis Skinner MP**  
spoke to 'Militant' reporters

## Militant

**WOKINGHAM AND BRACKNELL**  
Militant supporters greet conference delegates  
**Fight all Tory cuts**  
**Fight Tory attacks on trade unions**  
**Forward to a democratic Labour Party armed with socialist policies!**

**Fraternal Greetings to '79 Conference.**

**Support moves to ensure:**

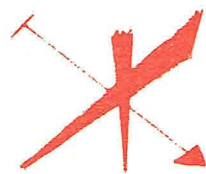
★ **Leader & Deputy Leader elected by rank and file!**

★ **Kick out the Tories, return Labour with a socialist Programme!**

**Dave Nellist,**  
delegate, Coventry S.E. CLP.

Greetings to all socialists in the fight for a democratic Labour Party  
Support the NEC proposals  
**Liverpool Old Swan Labour Party**

**LIVERPOOL CHURCH WARD**  
**LABOUR PARTY GREETS**  
**FELLOW INTERNATIONALISTS**  
**AT PARTY CONFERENCE**  
**ONWARD COMRADES, TO SOCIALISM!**



**Fraternal greetings to all delegates and visitors to the Labour Party Conference 1979, from LIVERPOOL DISTRICT LABOUR PARTY**

University of Sussex  
Militant Society sends revolutionary greetings to party conference  
**Kick the Tories out!**

**Forward to socialism**  
**For a democratic Labour Party!**  
**Out with the Tories!**  
**Leicester South LPYS**

Greetings to conference  
**NO CUTS!**  
**FORWARD TO SOCIALISM!**  
**Bromsgrove and Redditch LPYS**

**Havant and Waterloo CLP**  
greet conference delegates  
**Fight the Tories with a full socialist programme**

**Ruislip-Northwood Labour Party**  
**Young Socialists**  
Greetings to Labour Party Conference  
**Bring down the Tories**  
**Labour to power on a socialist programme**

**Royton & Wardle LP**  
**Women's Section**  
greet conference delegates  
**FIGHT THE CUTS!**

**Greetings to all trade unionists and Labour Party members from Birmingham delegates:**

**Jeremy Birch** (Selly Oak CLP)  
**Jim Hooker** (Handsworth CLP)  
**Pete McNally** (Ladywood CLP)  
**Chris Newis** (Perry Barr CLP)



**Militant****1979 LABOUR PARTY  
CONFERENCE SUPPLEMENT**

# WHAT LABOUR NEEDS...

**MASS  
MEMBERSHIP****SOCIALIST  
POLICIES****DEMOCRATIC  
CHANGE**

**A mass membership, socialist policies and greater party democracy. These are the main issues before every delegate and visitor to the Labour Party conference.**

The eyes of thousands in factories, offices and housing estates will be turned to this conference, looking for a lead from the political wing of the labour movement, to fight the brutal policies of this Tory government.

In the aftermath of the election defeat and the failure of the manifesto to include party policy on the major issues, trade unions and CLPs are correctly demanding major changes.

Mandatory re-selection of Labour MPs, that the NEC should draft the election manifesto, and that the party leader should be elected by the rank and file; these are the main demands being fought for at this conference. If implemented they would assist in transforming the Labour Party into a fighting organisation of working people.

Its leadership would reflect more accurately the desires and aspirations of the party membership. A check would be kept over the parliamentary representatives of the party. Party policy as decided by the membership could form the basis of election campaigns.

A leader reflecting the attitude of the entire labour movement could be elected. If carried these proposals will help democratise the Labour Party from top to bottom.

Yet it is on these questions that the so-called "moderates" have unleashed a wave of anger. Rather than support more democracy in the Labour Party their spokesmen such as Bill Rodgers MP, Shirley Williams and the

Campaign for Labour Victory have declared total opposition.

They have brought forward other proposals which if implemented would reduce the Labour Party to a mere mirror reflection of the capitalist Democratic Party in the USA. In addition, they have launched a campaign of vilification against the left-dominated NEC.

Siding with the Tory press, accusing the left of wanting to establish an Eastern European style of government in Britain, they have denounced the NEC as wanting to change the rules of the party simply to maintain a "left" majority.

The "moderates" choose to ignore reality. The pro-capitalist ideas they defend have been reduced to a majority only in the PLP. They are now desperately fighting to maintain their Parliamentary positions. Far from the left being responsible for the decline in party membership it is they

[Continued on  
supplement page four]

photo: J McKittrick/Militant



## MILITANT READERS MEETING

**'A Socialist Programme For Labour'****HEAR: TERRY FIELDS [Fire Brigades Union EC, personal capacity]****RAY APPS [Brighton Kempton CLP and NEC candidate]****TED GRANT [Militant Editorial Board]****CHAIRMAN: TONY SAUNOIS [Labour Party NEC, personal capacity]****Tuesday October 2nd, 6.30 pm, Christchurch Hall, Bedford Place, Brighton**



As the Tory government defends profits by attacks on the working class

# LABOUR MUST TURN TO SOCIALIST ANSWERS

No-one can accuse the Tories of being slow off the mark.

In the interests of their class, and of the economic system they uphold, this government has tried to re-shape the existing order more quickly than any of its recent predecessors.

Every section of society—apart from the rich and powerful, that is; after all, they are the only people the Tories represent—has felt the bite of their savagery.

In four short months ordinary families have suffered in terms of living standards, job security and the social services they use, at the hands of Thatcher and Joseph.

The Tory budget, one of their very first measures, oozed naked class rule. The heads of private enterprise must have felt personally well satisfied with the return on their company's pre-election investment in Tory funds.

GKN placed £33,150 at the disposal of the Conservative organisations last year. As a reward Chairman Sir Bernie Heath received a budget boost of £40 per week as a result of the cut in the top rate of tax from 83p to 60p in the pound.

This was the budget supposed to relieve the man in the street of the heavy tax burden! The street they had in mind must have been Park Lane!

On the official 'average' wage of £100 a week, a worker received £2.23 in income tax cuts. But we were penalised to the tune of £2.75 through increased VAT and petrol duty.

VAT at 15%, combined with a general bumping up of prices—exempted from any controls—under the pretence of tax changes, and now rent and fare increases, have eaten away anything that was left of last year's wage increases. 17½% inflation is now on the horizon, even according to Tory ministers.

Any union submitting a wage claim to compensate, can expect no sympathy from them, however, especially if it is within the public sector. That is already clear from the whole-hearted support the government is giving to the hard-faced Engineering Employers' Federation in its resolve not to concede a pound on wages, or even one hour off the working week.

The call for a 35-hour week to fight unemployment has already been rejected out of hand by employment secretary Prior. His Party's policies will leave 2 million out of work by next year, according to the Treasury estimates.

Among those unemployed will be teachers (75,000, local government leaders say, if Tory education cuts go through) health workers, local authority employees and civil servants (a freeze on recruitment has already been instituted for them).

The steel, shipbuilding, and car industries will be decimated. Who knows what they plan next?

The Tories aim to turn back the wheel of social progress two generations or more. They are determined to tear down the welfare state, built

By Jeremy Birch

(Birmingham Selly Oak CLP)

in a century of struggle by the labour movement.

This government of Old Etonians and Oxbridge graduates is prepared to absolve education authorities from their legal obligation to provide those 'little luxuries', like school meals, free transport over three miles, and even any education at all before six or after fifteen years of age.

The Child Poverty Action Group has already threatened the Leicestershire County Council with legal action for replacing proper school dinners with snack lunches. For there can be disputing the effect this would have: more child poverty and undernourishment.

But Conservatives know by harsh experience that the path of unbridled laissez-faire capitalism is barred by a mighty obstacle—over 12 million organised trade unionists. That, after all, was the meaning of the Industrial Relations Act.

With bitter memories of the ignominious collapse of that attempt to shackle the unions, they are now approaching the issue with a little more caution. Rather than empowering the state to initiate legal proceedings, they intend to grant the employers greater opportunity to bash the unions in the courts.

## Mood of opposition

Behind their attack on 'secondary picketing' (a term unrecognised by the labour and trade union movement) there lurks, however, a challenge to union rights of immunity from liability for losses incurred by the bosses. If introduced, this would put the rights of organised labour back 80 years, to the days of the Taff Vale dispute.

In record time, this Tory strategy of destruction and devastation—a blitzkrieg against working people—has provoked a feeling of enraged opposition. After winning three million extra votes in May the Tories are already trailing in the opinion polls. They can anticipate a series of by-election batterings.

Women workers, some of whom undoubtedly voted Tory, are preparing for battle over 'reforms' such as half-day schooling. Thousands of them would be forced to give up full-time work if this plan was enacted.

Amongst middle class parents too, anger is beginning to ferment. In Staffordshire, at the start of the new term, parents kept their children away from 2 schools, in protest at the decision to open them for a shortened 9.45-3.15 day.

A clash is brewing between the trade unions and the government. The employers fear the coming winter. The CBI is already trying to draft a strike insurance policy.

At the TUC, the mood of



Corby workers on the march to save their jobs and their town. Labour's programme must fight for them against the chaos caused by capitalist decay.

Photo: MILITANT

shop-floor hostility broke through, in the overwhelming approval of a campaign against the Tories. Despite the unfortunate defeat of FTAT's call for mass demonstrations, the General Council spoke of a 'day of action' against the cuts.

This mounting anti-Tory tide provides enormous opportunities for the Labour Party. At this conference, we must hammer out an alternative to the savagery of Conservatism.

tack? At the TUC conference it was argued that the Tories will 'listen to reason'. Despite their fiery speeches, some union leaders were adamant that behind-the-scenes talks with the enemy should continue.

"The government is in danger of going too far", was Len Murray's plaintive cry. Too far for who?

The point is that, seen in terms of capitalism's urgent and essential needs, the Tories may not be going

government to buckle as it strayed from the guidelines of the Manifesto? Under the impact of the world economic downturn of 1974-75, unemployment doubled and real wages fell—under Labour. Between December 1973 and December 1978, wages for male manual workers rose by 96%, while prices shot up by 108%.

Failure to follow socialist policies, to implement its promises by challenging the basis of capitalism, compelled a Labour government to open the way for expenditure cuts and attacks on living standards. The new Tory government is now driving a bull-dozer down that path.

The world has not stood still, however. The economic problems are more intractable and the pressures on governments more intense. Not that a cabinet of bank and business representatives is likely to offer much resistance.

## Recession threatens

As the Tories take office, the world—starting with America—is moving into a new recession, before Britain has recovered from the last.

The Central Statistical Office's most recent index of longer term economic indicators is at its lowest point since 1974, the eve of the last serious decline. A generalised recession will hit hard at world production and world trade, making competition on world markets even stiffer. The least efficient and productive economies face disaster.

That is what looms for backward British industry—irreversible decline.

In the top ten's productivity league, Britain finishes 9th. Only Italian capitalism fares worse. If top of the league America's productivity level is 120, and West Germany's 100, Britain scores a pitifully low 52.

To bring British technique and productivity up to the level of its



Thatcher: Her policies dictated by needs of big business Photo: MILITANT

The Labour Party must play its full part in the struggles against Thatcher, preparing for the swiftest possible return of a Labour administration committed to a socialist programme. For unless we understand the reasons for the Tory onslaught, we will again court disaster.

Why, only 5 years after being booted out on the steel-toe cap of the miners, are the Tories apparently embarking on a similar confrontation course? Is it just blind stupidity or sheer class hatred? Can they not be convinced to change

far enough! That was CBI leader Sir John Methven's immediate response to the government's industrial relations proposals.

The Tories' policies are not based on sheer vindictiveness—this onslaught is forced on them by the plight of their own system. They can never act in the interests of the workers—the vast majority of the population. They act only in the interests of capitalism; for them there is no other course.

Was it not that same economic pressure, applied by the IMF and the City, which forced the Labour



# WHY WE ARE STANDING

▼ We are seeking election to the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party in order to fight for socialist policies and greater party democracy.

Working people are now faced with a Tory government determined to take our standard of living back to that of the Victorian era. Mass unemployment the destruction of a viable health service, the slashing of social services and living standards, hang like a thundercloud over the heads of millions of working class families.

## Socialist alternative

Now more than at any time since the 1920s, the labour movement must adopt and fight for a bold socialist alternative. Only this will defeat the Tories and capitalism. We are asking for the support of CLP delegates to aid the struggle to ensure the Labour Party adopts such a course. It is vital that we build a mass membership for the Labour Party firmly rooted in the workplaces, which has democratic control over the Party leader-

ship.

If elected, we are pledged to fight for the right of Constituency Labour Parties to have mandatory re-selection and the right to remove at any time parliamentary representatives as candidates, the election of the Party leader to take place annually at Party conference, for the NEC to decide the contents of all election manifestoes

based on conference policy, and the establishment of workplace branches of the Party.

These measures to democratise the Labour Party are essential if the leadership is to reflect the desires and aspirations of the rank-and-file membership.

But if they are to advance the cause of labour they must be linked with a socialist pro-

gramme.

We stand for a 35-hour week with no loss of pay and a £70 minimum wage. We oppose all cuts in public expenditure and call for the restoration of all cuts and a massive programme of useful public works to create new jobs and provide much-needed facilities.

We stand for the implementation of Clause IV part 4 of the Party constitution, which concretely means the nationalisation, with minimum compen-

sation on the basis of need, of the 200 or so major monopolies which dominate the economy, to be run under workers' control and management.

Only in this way, with the introduction of a democratic, socialist plan of production, could the productive resources be used in the interests of working people.

These measures are, in

our opinion, the only alternative to the prospect of economic crisis and ever worsening conditions of life for working people offered by capitalism.

We ask all CLP delegates to advance the struggle for a mass, socialist, and democratically run Labour Party by supporting our election to the National Executive Committee.



Ray Apps

RAY APPS is a member of Brighton Kempton CLP, and was on the NEC working party on re-selection and a signatory to the minority report providing for mandatory re-selection together with the right of CLPs to remove their MP as a candidate at any time. PAT WALL is a member of Shipley CLP and President of Bradford Trades Council

Photos: MILITANT



Pat Wall

rivals, would take nearly £100,000 million of new investment. How can capitalism generate such colossal sums, when the Bank of England reports that the real pre-tax rate of return on investment has slumped from the 10%-12% of the '60s to a derisory 4%-7%?

Under the Tory monetarists, 14% interest can be accrued by leaving money in the bank. Who is going to risk investing? GEC for example have piled up £800 million in profits—by leaving cash in the bank!

It is this desperate need to boost profitability and thence hopefully investment that determines Thatcher's policies. She has to cut the share of the cake going to the working class, in the wage packet and in the social wage, in the interests of corporate profit.

This is in the face of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research forecast, which has diagnosed that such a heavy dose of austerity, cutting the market so harshly, will only aggravate and prolong the illness of recession.

## Protectionism no solution

For the bosses, there is no other course. Within the confines of capitalism, using state spending to artificially maintain the market and hence employment will only spread further the cancer of inflation. The recent experience of the USA is an object lesson.

By 1976-77 it was the only economy reaching pre-'73 growth rates of 8%. But the cost was unprecedented 15% inflation. Stagflation—industrial slump and rising prices—is the penalty that the USA and Britain must pay for their profligacy.

This, however, is the 'alternative' being pushed by leading MPs of the 'Tribune' left and by the Communist Party. It is, nominally, the programme of the TUC. Indeed, they compound the error with a further demand for import controls. While international co-operation,

always fragile under capitalism, is in danger of breaking completely, some on the left are blithely prepared to see the world engulfed in a vicious trade war.

Protectionism is contagious. Even in the USA and AFL-CIO unions have called for import controls on commodities ranging from steel to textiles. This pressure from the labour movement will only encourage the capitalists of each state in a cut-throat war to defend their home industry. It was such a development that contributed to the slump of the inter-war years.

It cannot be excluded that even a Tory government might in desperation try import controls.

**In their battles with the government, workers will be demanding a programme to defend jobs, wages and the 'welfare state'**

In the battles with the government, already opening up, workers will be demanding a real 'alternative', a programme to defend jobs, wages and the welfare state.

At the TUC the most moderate leaders accepted the need to campaign for the immediate introduction of a 35-hour week. At this year's NUPE conference a motion demanding a £70 minimum wage

was accepted without dissent. Throughout the movement the demand is going up for the restoration of all spending cuts; for more public expenditure to improve necessary services and employ the jobless.

This conference must also, as well as re-echoing these demands, reaffirm the commitment to re-nationalise any state concerns handed back to private enterprise. The carving-up of the Post Office and of British Leyland make this all too relevant.

But we have to face the unavoidable conclusions. With the protracted wasting away of British industry, capitalism has passed over to the era of counter-reforms. Today it is forced to try to take back all we won yesterday—either reluctantly under Labour, or willingly under a Conservative government.

## For a planned economy

To guarantee jobs, social services and living standards requires a socialist plan. Only the public ownership of the banks, insurance companies and 200 largest firms, under the control of the organisations of labour, can allow the majority to dictate where investment will be directed and what will be produced, gearing the economy to serve the needs of working people, rather than the dictates of profit.

Only a socialist plan of production could provide the wherewithall to regenerate industry, and provide sufficient wealth to raise the standards of all. It is this programme, embodied in Clause 4, part 4, of the Labour Party's constitution, that this conference must adopt if we are to face the future armed with an effective programme.

The debates on re-selection and the Party constitution will make this conference an historic one. These very necessary constitutional changes are a lever which must not be wasted: the Party must set itself firmly on the road of socialist policies—by taking Clause 4 out of the display cabinet and putting it into the Manifesto!

## WEALTH GAP GROWS

Distribution of personal wealth in UK owned by the most wealthy sections of the population (Inland Revenue Sources):

Most wealthy %	Percentage of personal wealth in UK		
	1971	1974	1977
1	30.5	22.5	24.0
2	38.7	29.6	32.2
5	51.8	43.1	46.4
10	65.1	57.5	61.1
25	86.5	83.6	83.9
50	97.2	92.9	95.0

The inland revenue statistics published last week showed unmistakably that the rich were getting richer under the Labour government and that the poor were getting poorer.

As 'Militant' argued all along, the incomes policies, far from 'putting the country on its feet' only increased the profits and dividends of the tiny proportion of the population who own the bulk of the economy.

The table shows the increasing concentration of wealth from 1974 to 1977, when the top 10%, for example, increased their share from 57.7% to 61.1%. The bottom 50%—in other words the majority of workers—found their meagre share falling from 7.1% to only 5%.

Interestingly, even the middle class [excluding both the top 10% and the bottom 50%]—i.e. the skilled and professional workers—also lost ground as their share fell from 35.4% to 33.9%.

## Conference Arrangements Committee 1980 WHY I AM STANDING

"As conference is the governing body of the Labour Party, it is crucial that the rank and file of the party membership should have the say in how it is to be run.

Conference must be allowed to debate the key issues demanded by the party membership of socialist policies and party democracy. To safeguard the interests of CLPs, TUs and party members it is vital that the Conference Arrangements Committee has a representative from the CLPs.

If elected I am pledged to fight for the rights of rank and file party members and so I ask for your support."

Gerry McManus Vauxhall CLP





**By Tony Saunois**

(LPYS Representative on Labour Party NEC)

[Continued from supplement page one]

who must be held to account.

The cuts in public expenditure, adherence to a 5% pay policy and the refusal to implement policies demanded year after year by the party conference, not only demoralised and reduced the membership, but made it difficult to recruit large numbers of trade unionists.

The question must be asked, what have those who suddenly announce their concern about party membership done to build it, even in their own constituencies? Bill Rodgers, for example, who assisted in the formation of the CLV was elected MP for Stockton in 1962. He had a membership of only 176 in his CLP in June 1977.

Brian Walden, ex-"moderate" MP for Ladywood, retired to a job with ITV to leave a CLP membership of 70 and an agent who was discovered as being a member of the National Front. They now express concern at the level of party membership, but their past record and policies did nothing to build it.

How Shirley Williams, for example, helped to recruit to the Newham NE party when speaking in support of now Tory MP Reg Prentice, she has yet to explain.

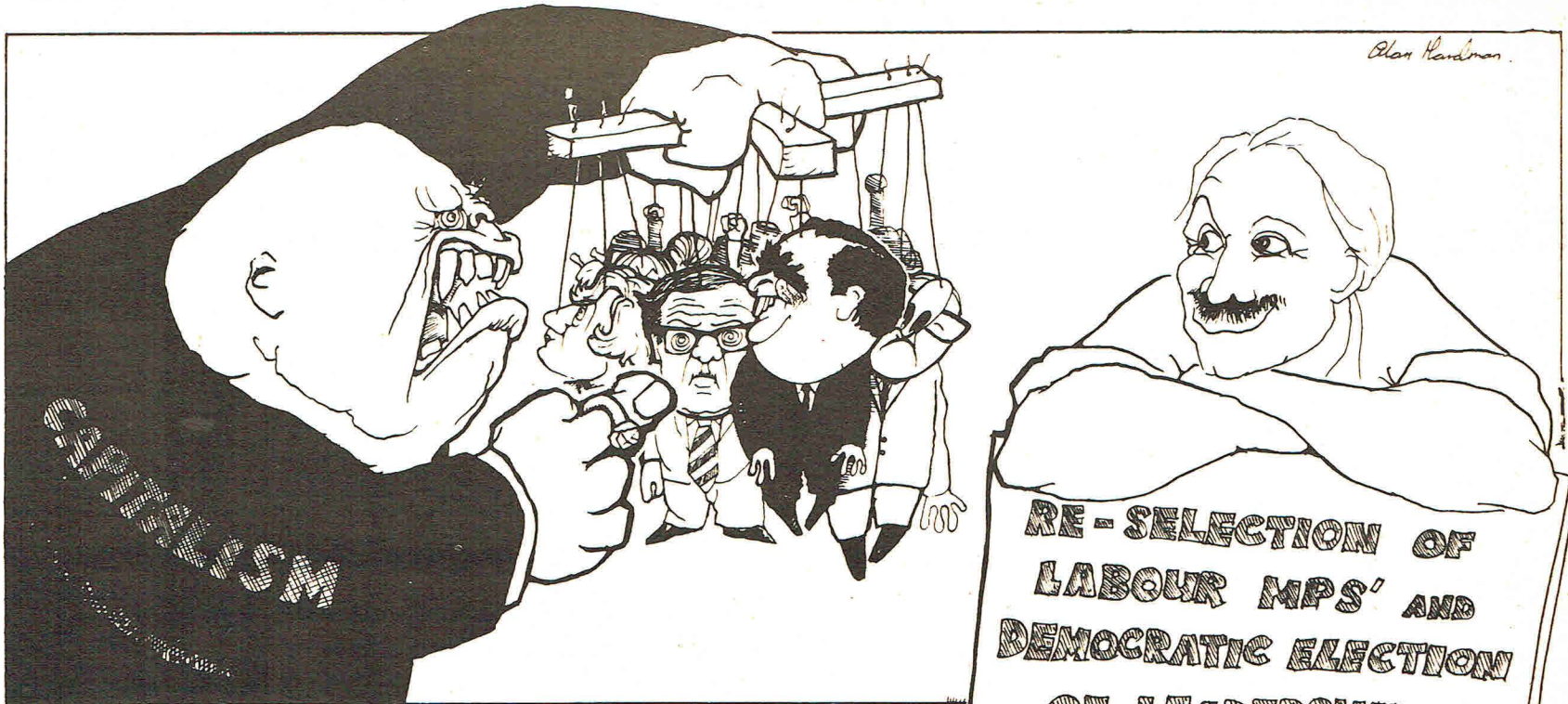
To blame the decline in party membership on the left is clearly a futile attempt by the right wing to mask the disastrous effects of their programme and policies.

The proposals to democratise the party are far from being a manoeuvre to maintain a left majority, as claimed by the right wing: on the contrary, they would actually assist in getting a genuine representative leadership. It is in fact the right wing who are now manoeuvring to get an artificial majority.

The blatant disregard for democracy shown by the right wing at the AUEW conference shows the lengths these "moderates" are prepared to go simply to defend their positions. Similarly, when they were a majority they were happy to have the NEC elected in its present form, but now that they are in a minority they demand changes.

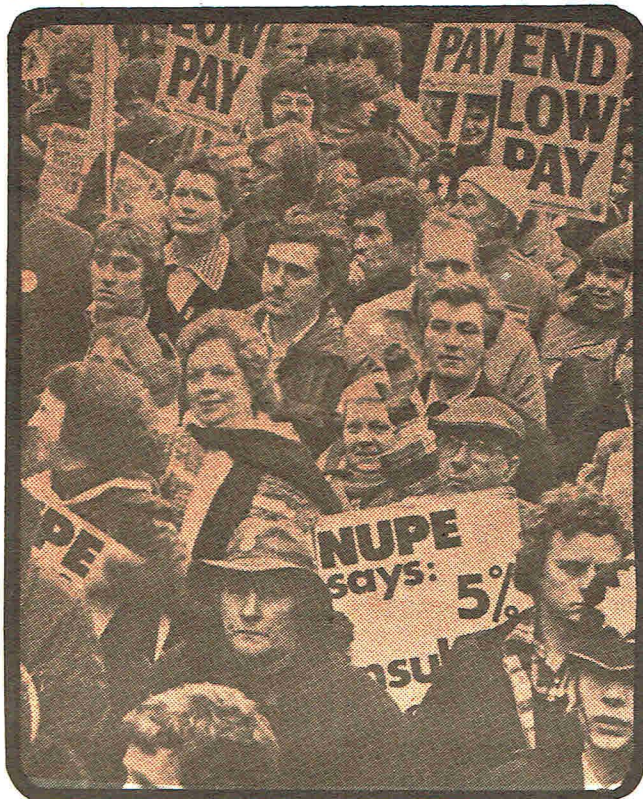
They are calling for local councillors and the PLP to have direct representation; for the women's sections to be abolished and even for the introduction of postal balloting.

These proposals are designed to give the right wing a built-in majority and allow the Tory press, which spent the entire election campaign denouncing Labour, have a say in who should make up the leadership of the party! **Demands to change the NEC along these lines must be overwhelmingly rejected.**



**WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE LOT YOU'VE GOT?**

Photo: MILITANT



**LABOUR MP'S MUST SUPPORT WORKERS IN THEIR STRUGGLES - NOT OPPOSE THEM...**

Losing support among the CLPs, the right wing have turned towards using the block votes of the trade unions to defeat proposals for more party democracy. In doing so they have tried to portray the left as being against the trade unions and even of wanting to keep a small Labour Party membership in order to keep a majority.

But it has been those they brand as the "left" who have been pushing for the establishment of factory branches as a way of recruiting and involving more trade unionists in the party. Coupled with a bold campaign on socialist policies thousands of trades unionists could be recruited to the party through factory branches. The break up of the joint Labour Party and Trades Councils was argued for by the right wing, making a mockery of their claims to want stronger ties with trade unions. In effect all they want is the block votes of the unions to support them.

Masking themselves as the democrats, the right are proposing changes in the election procedure of Labour candidates. Shirley Williams has called for a "primary" system of elections as operated in America or postal balloting of the party members.

If accepted, these changes would represent a disaster for the labour movement. The media would be in a position to campaign for the candidate they thought best—i.e. the candidate most likely to serve their interests rather than those of the labour movement.

This would take the choice away from the party members who discuss the political issues in the wards, union branches and GMCs and who then select a candidate most able to represent their ideas, and instead hand it over to the employers through the media. This would mean the destruction of the labour movement as it has been built up.

The main point at issue is not as Williams raises, how candidates are selected, but how they are to be accountable if elected to Parliament. They are content to be selected by CLPs' General Committees but the right wing hysterically rants at the suggestion of also being made accountable to them, showing the attitude they adopt to the party membership.

The comments of Williams demonstrate the way many Labour MPs see their job.

"Nor will General Committee members have the same personal interest in holding the seat as the MP has, for his future career depends upon it and theirs do not" ('Guardian' 9.7.79). As if the attitude and wishes of the party members are irrelevant if the MP's career is at stake!

Of course party members want to win as many seats as possible for Labour. They wouldn't be out working day and night during the election campaign if they didn't. They want them to advance the struggle for socialism and the interests of working people. **Not to provide careers.**

Shirley Williams' attitude is clear proof of the need for CLPs to have the right to remove an MP as candidate and for them to account for their actions to the party membership. Mandatory re-selection would ensure that a compulsory check is held over an MP by the local party which got them elected in the first place.

If it were coupled with the right of CLPs to be able to remove an MP as candidate at any time, it would help ensure that Labour had parliamentary representatives prepared to fight for party policy as demanded by the membership.

But this should be linked with the insistence that all MPs only take for their personal consumption the average wage of a skilled worker with all expenses to be vetted by the labour movement, and any surplus being donated to the labour movement.

**Party members demand control over MPs**

Large numbers (over 30) of the PLP don't even pay the £25 per year asked for by Transport House to cover costs. This surely indicates the contempt in which many MPs hold the ranks of the Labour Party. With this control being exercised over them then the careerism and personal gain which has riddled the history of the PLP would be ended.

Faced with overwhelming demands for such control a scream of terror has been raised from the PLP membership. Their "autonomy" is being encroached upon. By opposing mandatory re-selection they effectively declare themselves afraid to account to the membership for actions and policies.

Party members have to face

the consequences of the right wing's policies in the election of this brutal Tory government. They have every right to demand more control over them.

Similarly, with the demand to change the method of electing the party leader. Why should the MPs be in a position to elect the leader of the whole party?

Only three Socialist Parties in the Socialist International elect their leader from among the MPs. In nine it is done directly at the conference and in six, the congress elects a council or committee to do it.

The "moderates" claiming to stand for democracy are in fact opposing it within the Labour Party. The need for a party leader to represent the attitude and aspirations of the members is obvious. Accountability of the leader is essential. The membership can no longer tolerate the blatant disregard for party policy which has been the case over past years. The appointment of peers for example (flying in the face of conference and NEC decisions, and damaging the credibility of the party) is a clear indication of the need for the membership to have control over this powerful position.

Some party members are

rights of veto. The same case exists to ensure that the cabinet should be elected at conference. Delegates to conference, from factories, offices, housing estates, are as equipped as any party leader to decide who should form the cabinet/shadow cabinet in the interests of the labour movement.

The blatant hypocrisy of the right wing is shown in their opposition to allowing the NEC to draft the election manifesto. How can the present farce be defended as democratic? A meeting between the NEC and the Parliamentary Committee/Cabinet takes place, but no vote is taken.

The Parliamentary representatives have an effective veto of its contents. As a result, in the last manifesto not a single major policy item agreed by conference over the last five years was included.

If party policy is to mean anything then it must form the basis of an election campaign. The NEC, elected by and accountable to conference should be given responsibility for drafting election manifestos. If policy, decided by the unions, CLPs, etc. is to be campaigned for, then the NEC proposals on this issue must be supported by the conference.

The debates on party democracy are about building a party whose leadership is fully accountable to the rank and file. The policy implemented by the last Labour government clearly shows the need for this control.

A mass membership, socialist policies and more democracy in the party are vital if the Tories and their system are to be defeated. Delegates must not be fooled by the claims of the "moderates" to stand for democracy.

Already many right wingers have threatened to split from the party or not to stand for election if there are changes to make the party more democratic. This shows the shallowness of their loyalty to the Labour Party.

To build an effective fighting socialist party of working people, delegates must support mandatory re-selection and the right of CLPs to remove an MP as candidate at any time.

**Support the election of the party leader by conference. If that is defeated, then by an electoral college.**

**Support the NEC proposals to allow it to draft election manifestos.**



# LABOUR'S RIGHT WING

**Labour's right-wing are the Bourbons of to-day. They have learnt nothing and forgotten nothing.**

Grouped together in the Campaign for Labour Victory, [CLV] they proclaim the old out-dated ideas which lost Labour the election.

Before polling-day they gave Labour Party members their views on how to assure victory. Their priorities and approach to Party democracy were clear. "What the Manifesto has first and foremost to be is a platform which Jim Callaghan can vigorously defend" [CLV Newsletter, February 1979].

In the same issue of the newsletter, Roy Hattersley stressed the key need for a permanent incomes policy. "The people of this country have to accept an incomes policy as something in their permanent interests."

That policy was rejected by both the last Labour Party and TUC conferences. When low-paid workers were fighting for a decent wage last winter, the government tried to resist them by maintaining wage restraint. The failure to implement Party policy paved the way for the electoral defeat.

Yet all this is lost on the right-wing. In the post-election issue of their newsletter they re-state "We have to become the party of pay policy" (June 1979). They go on to explain that the Labour government's commitment to maintaining capitalism must be continued.

By Jim  
Chrystie

In the 1950s and early 1960s the Labour right-wing used to speak of expanding social services and introducing social welfare reforms. This was on the basis of an expanding capitalist system, which could then allow some crumbs to the working class.

Now as world recession and crisis infect the scene, capitalism cannot offer reforms. Counter-reforms are on the order of the day.

## Tory arguments

The Campaign for Labour Victory described the Labour government's attacks on the social wage as "so-called public expenditure cuts" (February 1979). They were by no means 'imaginary' for workers—who saw hospitals closed and educational provisions attacked!

After all that we have been through, including the election defeat they are still calling for more of the same.

"We should defend public spending where it can be paid for without inflation, where it can provide jobs that would not otherwise exist and

## POLICIES TO MAINTAIN CAPITALISM

services that would not otherwise be available...But our case must be practical not ideological.

"We will not convince those who have drifted away from us to the Tories that their well-being, their standards of living, their opportunities will be enhanced by a Labour government, if our argument is an ideological one about nationalisation, an irresponsible one about public spending or an unrealistic one about pay."

If the words 'Tory' and 'Labour' were exchanged there is absolutely nothing in that which could not have been said by many Tory MPs. As with the Tories "No encroachment on the power of big business" would seem to be the theme of Labour's right-wing.

## Economic utopians

But their trust in capitalism is totally hopeless. They are vainly expecting that the halcyon days of the 1950s will return.

"Never have our economic prospects looked brighter" was the proud claim of the CLV in October 1977. Never-

theless, by June 1979 the CLV was explaining that one of the reasons for losing the election was that "the economic going was very rough".

They want to maintain the same economic programme that led Labour to defeat and at the same time defeat moves to strengthen Party democracy. They want more power to MPs.

The CLV in their last newsletter (September) supported the right-wing MPs who stated that they could not accept the proposals that the National Executive Committee were making on Party democracy.

"There is a real danger" they claim "that men and women of principle would no longer be prepared to serve the Party in Parliament if Labour MPs are to be mere cyphers given no effective say in policy-making and constantly torn in a vain attempt to satisfy a multiplicity of masters".

Otheis on the extreme right-wing proclaim their beliefs more openly. Writing in the 'Daily Mail' on July 27th, Stephen Haseler (Chairman of the Social Democratic Alliance) has called for a split:

"If Jim Callaghan should

say to the Labour executive that he is not prepared to accept their proposed changes to the Party's constitution: and that if the Party conference forces them through, he, his supporters and successors, will go to the country next time on a separate platform and with a separate organisation.

## Social Democratic Alliance

Haseler and the SDA want a split in the Party, rather than let it adopt a fighting socialist programme. The CLV is hoping to defeat the Left in other ways at present.

In Bristol Roy Morris, (National Steering Committee CLV), has reportedly called for the re-introduction of the proscribed list. On being removed as Chairman of the Arts and Leisure Committee of Bristol City Council, he claimed it was because the far left disagreed with his refusal to meet a Russian trade delegation.

He reportedly continued "I am on the National Committee for a Labour Victory organisation. This is an

organisation set up by Jim Callaghan—belonging to it has made me a prime target" ('Bristol Evening Post 12 May 1979).

## Democratic movement

When asked about this last week, Roy Morris at first could not say if this was accurate or not. Three-quarters of an hour later, he recalled that what he had actually said was that the CLV "was set up by grass roots members sympathetic to the Party leader Jim Callaghan."

Last March the CLV stated that their accounts would be published "shortly". They have still to appear. Although much then remains unclear about the CLV, their policies are known.

They wish to return to the past of right-wing Labour governments and a repression of the left in the Party. But the days of the 50s will not return. In the period ahead the Party will be transformed again and again on the path of becoming a fighting democratic socialist movement.

## LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS MEETING

### Speakers:

Andy Bevan (Labour Party National Youth Officer)

Dennis Skinner MP

Tony Saunois (LPYS representative on LP NEC)

### Chairman:

Kevin Ramage (National Chairman, LPYS)

Thursday October 4th 7.45 pm

William IV Room, Royal Pavillion, Brighton

Admission free

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Save our health service!  
Stop the cuts!

**STRATHCLYDE NALGO MILITANT SUPPORTERS** send fraternal greetings to all delegates at conference. The fight goes on for socialist policies and NALGO affiliation to the Labour Party.

HAYES & HARLINGTON LPYS send their fraternal greetings to the national conference  
**Support Labour Party democracy!**  
**Bring down the Tory government!**  
**Labour to power on a socialist programme!**

## LPYS National Committee

**Youth is the future. We must inherit a Labour Party with socialist policies, a mass membership, and democratic control of the Party leadership**

Kevin Ramage (National Chairman)

Jon Ingham (Vice Chairman)

Jim Newlands (Scotland)

Josie Aitman (North West)

Margaret Reavey (Northern)

Yasmin Barry (West Midlands)

Laurence Coates (East Midlands)

Linda Reid (Editor, Left)

Nick Toms (Eastern)

John Bulaitis (London)

John Cantwell (Southern)

Rob Cadwgan (South West)

Tony Saunois (LP NEC Rep.)

Greetings from Salford LPYS For a democratic fighting Labour Party and a mass LPYS

Greetings to Labour conference delegates Join the fight for socialist change!  
TOWER HAMLETS LPYS

Handsworth LPYS greetings to annual conference  
**SCRAP 'SUS'**  
**DISBAND THE SPG**  
**WORKERS' UNITY FOR SOCIALISM**

## CPSA Newcastle Central Office Broad Left

send fraternal greetings to all delegates attending Labour Party conference  
**Fight the cuts!**  
**Fight the Tories!**  
**Fight for socialism!**

Fraternal greetings to Labour delegates attending Labour Party conference from  
**Isle of Wight LPYS**

Fraternal greetings to all trade unionists and Labour Party members from  
**ROCHDALE CLP**

Hanover Branch of Brighton Labour Party welcomes all conference delegates, and urges a united campaign against the Tories  
**Re-nationalisation without compensation**





# ZIMBABWE CONFERENCE

## 'WHO WILL HAVE REAL POWER?'

Photo: Militant

The agreement last week between Carrington and Muzorewa on the constitution settles nothing. It still leaves unresolved the question of who has real power in Rhodesia.

Power rests in the white-controlled Army, not in scraps of paper.

The constitutional changes proposed are merely cosmetic. The white veto would go, but the same political, economic and military structure would remain. Big business would continue to run the show behind black masks.

The Patriotic Front dismissed last weeks Carrington-Muzorewa deal as 'Alice in Wonderland'. Certainly it has much in common with Alice's adventures.

In Lewis Carroll's book, Alice is told 'It takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast'.

Western capitalism wants to stay in the same place. Last week though the trouble was that Smith was not prepared to run at all.

But he was told by Walls, the Commander of the Rhodesian Army, that it was no use trying to cling to total white veto in Parliament, as long as there were adequate controls on the Army and Civil Service.

The aim of the Tories is clear. To install a stable black neo-colonial regime in Rhodesia. They want to draw leaders of the Patriotic Front into a deal.

They are unlikely to succeed.

Like the last Labour Government's, the Tories' plan is not to disturb who controls or owns the economy. Under the Labour Government's Anglo-

**By Jim Chrystie**

American proposals, the right to property was safeguarded. (Their White Paper had more lines on this than all the other rights put together). They included Kissinger's suggestion to tie a future Zimbabwe Government to international capital by means of a Zimbabwe Development Fund.

But the Labour Government's plan failed just as the Tory's plan is likely to fail, because they are not confronting a constitutional problem! It is a social and national revolution.

Carrington could only sigh when told at this Conference by the Patriotic Front that they were not fighting individuals, but a social system.

For as the war has progressed, so has the radicalisation within the liberation movements. Whilst at the beginning many of those opposed to the Smith regime, only wanted the fruits of office, as the struggle has intensified and sharpened the question of social liberation has also come to the fore.

Old leaders such as Chikema (ex leader ZAPU's army) and Sithole (first president ZANU) now lead parties in the Salisbury Parliament. Western imperialism wants to halt this process of radicalisation within the liberation forces.

They know that there are people within the Patriotic

Front who would like to fix a deal with imperialism.

But however much individuals may want to make such a deal, they have to reckon with the social forces involved.

It is highly unlikely that imperialism will get a settlement at this conference. Even if a constitution is agreed, the major stumbling block is likely to be the question of who has real power.

Pieces of paper are one thing. Who controls the army is quite another. The April elections in Rhodesia, ostensibly under 'one man, one vote' were held under widespread intimidation and repression. Since then the army has even killed over 200 Sithole supporters.

If the Patriotic Front gave up their arms they would meet a similar fate. But if Muzorewa disbands his white controlled army he would have no support.

It is highly improbable then that any settlement can be arranged on this the crucial question: who will have real power in the state?

If the conference does break-up, the Tories might give backing to Muzorewa on the grounds that he has agreed to a constitution.

But this would settle nothing for Western Imperialism. The class polarisation would continue.

Action against British economic interests in Africa would probably follow. Within Zimbabwe the liberation forces would move further to the left.

Whichever way imperialism looks its future is gloomy, its room for manoeuvre limited. Recognition of Muzorewa is dangerous. But not to help it would only lead to its downfall. A compromise constitutional deal is unlikely.

The Southern African revolution which has already seen the downfall of colonialism in Angola and Mozambique is now threatening Western business interests throughout the region.



Muzorewa looks for Tory support.

**"China" A 'Militant' Pamphlet by Peter Taaffe**

An analysis of current developments. Price 10p (+5p P&P). Bulk orders, 10 or more post free, from World Books 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## LPYS CAMPAIGN ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

The tour of the South African rugby team, and the London conference on Zimbabwe highlight the need for the labour movement to mount an effective campaign in solidarity with the liberation struggle in Southern Africa.

At its August meeting, the Labour Party Young Socialists National Committee decided to launch a class campaign on Southern Africa. The campaign will shortly produce a broadsheet based around the document on Southern Africa, which was overwhelmingly adopted by the 1979 LPYS conference.

The campaign has two main aims: on the one hand, to expose the oppression of the black majority, under apartheid in South Africa and by the Smith-Muzorewa capitalist regime in Zimbabwe. Tied in with this are the links which British big business and the Tory Party have with these regimes.

The second objective of the campaign is to raise within the labour and trade union movement the need to organise concrete solidarity to aid and assist the struggle of the black workers and peasants in these countries.

Many local LPYS branches are planning meetings on Zimbabwe, and where possible joint meetings with Zimbabwean exiles. In addition we will be giving our full support to the Demonstration on Zimbabwe being organised for November 11th in London.

To help counter the October South African rugby tour, the LPYS branches in the towns concerned are organising public meetings on South Africa. In addition we believe that every section of the labour movement should actively support and help organise demonstrations and pickets.

The whole of the labour movement has a duty to support our black brothers and sisters in South Africa and Zimbabwe in their magnificent struggle to overthrow the bestial regimes of capitalism and landlordism in these countries.

**By Kevin Ramage**

(National Chairman, Labour Party Young Socialists)

## AMERICA

# WELCOMING THE RECESSION

Most of our establishment economists accept the obvious; the much predicted recession is here. And for the most part they agree on what to do to end it—nothing.

Their allies, big business and the two political parties, Republican and Democrats, all welcome the recession because they hope that it will:

- sharply increase unemployment and competition for jobs; slow down wage increases and make it easier to enforce speed-ups; save on costs by curtailing safety and health protection
- after some delay moderately reduce the 13% inflation rate
- establish a higher rate of profit from which the next recovery will take off

High interest rates are

maintained as powerful monopolies try to pick up the pieces of smaller firms forced out of business during a recession.

### Workers Fight Back

But American workers are beginning to fight back against the establishment's permanent slow-growth, high-inflation economy, i.e. 'stagflation'.

The Machinists Union, the Auto-Workers Union and other labour and consumer groups sent 5 million post-cards to the President and Congress against an energy policy which puts billions of extra profits into the hands of the leading oil companies, whilst, to date, 77,000 car workers have lost their jobs.

The protest campaign culminates in a 'Big Oil' protest

day on October 17th. At its recent meeting the AFL-CIO executive council was compelled to pose the nationalisation of the oil industry.

The current session of Congress faces a host of demands for legislation to create jobs, curb inflation, provide national health care and cut military spending. Congressman John Conyers of Michigan, leader of the Black Congressional Caucus, has submitted a bill calling for a 35-hour week, outlawing forced overtime and demanding double pay for all extra hours worked.

### Military Spending

The Cactus Alliance called a 50-state conference on September 22nd-24th in Las Vegas to plan mass action against the \$30 billion MX missile programme.

The labour movement is supporting a number of bills this session. One would require the federal government and employers to pay up to 85% of a workers' pay if his job is lost due to plant closure.

There is a new spirit among American workers. It is reflected in strikes, militancy, mounting self-confidence, self-reliance of the rank and file, and a loss of confidence in their class-collaborating labour leaders. There are hurricane gales surging on the political horizon.

**By Betty Traun in New York**



# FIGHTING URANIUM MINING IN AUSTRALIA

**15,000 people marched in protest about nuclear weapons and nuclear power in Australia last month, on the anniversary of the atomic destruction of Hiroshima.**

In Australia, the Nuclear energy question centres around the mining of uranium. Australia has around 20% of the world's known uranium deposits or more importantly it has 60% of the known reserves that have not yet been committed in supply contracts. Australian uranium deposits are good quality, and cheap to mine. For example American uranium is 2½ times more expensive to mine.

In the last month mining activities have started. The agreement to mine on Aborigine land was achieved through threats, trickery and intimidation. One of the many threats was the abolition of the Northern Land Council through cessation of funds. (The Northern Land Council is designed for Aborigines to decide their own affairs and self determination.)

After the agreement (known as the Ranger Mining Agreement) was signed, mining companies have started mining the area. The companies, to name a few are: Pan Continental—held by private interests with Getty Oil of America having rights to some 35%. Noranda Mining—mainly Canadian owned. Ranger—held half by the government and one quarter by Electrolytic Zinc and one quarter by Piko Wallsend. The government pays 73% of capital development but only gets 50% of profits.

## Who loses?

## Who gains?

**The consequences of uranium mining are:**

### 1. Increased unemployment

Due to the fact that the industry is capital intensive it provides few jobs. It needs approximately 2,500 highly skilled workers and this compares badly with manufacturing industry. \$1 million provides 2 mining jobs and 25 jobs in the manufacturing industry.

The re-channelling of investment capital out of manufacturing industries and housing into the mining sector has left 200,000 workers out of a job.

### 2. Profits for multinationals only

In 1978 the Federal government dropped the resource tax on uranium ventures—which tax would have been the only means by which uranium mining might benefit the people of Australia. The uranium companies claim billions of dollars will pour into Australia if we export uranium.

The fact is that after a government enquiry (the Fox Enquiry) the return from the export of uranium would lead to an increase of only 0.34% on our national income. Another point about the mining companies is that they pay little or no tax at all.

Then you must take into account the concessions and government handouts in the form of services, roads, water and electricity on the sites. According to a government report. In the four years 1967-70 when mining companies declared profits of \$1.132 millions, government assistance to the mining industry exceeded the amount they paid in tax by \$48 million. Utah in the 1976 budget received tax concessions of \$24 million.

### 3. The erosion of democratic and trade union rights

The Atomic Energy Act of 1953 was originally designed for defence purposes only. It now includes the protection of commercial uranium mining projects. In this law the government now has the power to:—

- deny information to workers and the public about health hazards they are exposed to.
- prohibit free speech.
- give the police the right to search and arrest people without a warrant and convict people without proving an offence has been committed.
- ban people including health inspectors or union organisers from the uranium mining sites.
- allow the army to be brought in to make sure nothing stops the flow of uranium.

### 4. Increased political control of Australia by foreign companies

Already about 60% of all mining and 80% of oil is in the hands of overseas corporations.

### 5. Continued destruction of the land and culture of the Aborigine people.

The government's clear intention is to force the aborigines to 'voluntarily' sign an agreement and then claim that aborigines do not oppose the mining of their religious land. The government completely ignores the wishes of the Aborigines and ignores the welfare of an already underprivileged section of the Australian population—for the sake of some quick profits.

Under the Federal government land rights legislation aborigines are denied the right to veto uranium mining on their land.

These attacks on trade unionists' and Aborigines' rights must be vigorously resisted by the Australian labour movement.

By Tim Ede

(Australian Labour Party)



Picket line outside the Pitos Factory

## Siemens-Bosch: GREEK WORKERS STILL FIGHTING AFTER 5 MONTHS

**The struggle for workers is the same the capitalist world over. Big business, national and multi-national, resist trade unions if they cannot win them over.**

**In Greece, workers at the Siemens-Bosch Pitos factory have been taking industrial action for five months. On September 11th this became an all-out strike.**

**This strike marks the culmination of a policy, of the government and the bosses, to tame the factory union, and to prevent the development of a real Pan-Hellenic trade union movement, which could pose as a real alternative to the government-controlled TUC. The government and the courts have turned a blind eye to the illegal methods used by the bosses.**

**The effects of the world economic crisis on a weak country like Greece will be catastrophic. The government must now push through cuts in living standards, but this is only possible if they can break the spirit of the Greek workers, a working class who, in the last five years, has rid itself of a vicious military dictatorship and established, for the first time in its history, a mass**

**socialist movement [PASOK].**

**This strike, under the leadership of PASOK, will also be a test, in the eyes of many workers, of the ability of PASOK to take them forward.**

**The Secretary of the factory unions explains what has been happening.**

"The issue which sparked the strike was when some workers, who had done their military service, wanted to return to the factory. By law the company has to either take them back or pay them a sizable amount of compensation.

The company wanted to pay them off. The union said that those who wanted should be allowed to return. But this issue was merely a symptom and not the real reason for the dispute.

The main issue at hand was management questioning the elements of workers' control which had been established in the factory, i.e. the right to hire and fire, change production, transfer workers within the factory. Management wanted to re-establish their power by breaking the union.

The strike started on 17th April and for two weeks there were 2-hour daily stoppages and then until 15th May 3-hour stoppages. So the company decided instead to lock out the workers, for 45

days. Then 6 workers were fired (including one of the union leadership).

Subsequently all the leadership was fired, and in stages the most militant elements have been fired; this has now reached about 270 workers.

All the charges were trumped up, but the company could not even do this properly. They accused one man of having done something when he was in hospital at the time in question. One set of accusations and dismissal were sent to the wrong man, so the company sent out a new set of accusations, which were completely different to the first ones.

On September 11th we decided by 400 votes to 30 to call an all-out strike. After 5 months of hard struggle we need help, nationally and internationally.

Messages of support are welcome, but more concrete help in terms of cash, sympathy action and publicity are crucial to the success of this strike."

Contact messages of support, money, to: George Kyriacidis, Union of Workers in Pitos Factory, Workers Unity, Meandrou 5-Nikaia, Piraeus, Greece. ...

Interview by Jo Hoffman

(Dutch socialist paper, Vorwaarts)

By Peter McCaghey

(Labour and Trade Union Group, W Belfast)

## LOST IN SPACE

It's clear that political education is not very high on the list of priorities of the Hungarian Young Communist League. A survey of a representative sample of 800 YCL members was carried out in 1976 and 1977 and the results were published last week in their 'theoretical' magazine.

What did these budding fighters for the working class think of Lenin, Stalin and Khrushchev? Joseph Stalin? Some thought he was the commander-in-chief of the German army. Others thought he was the governor of Hungary during the 1950s! 31% had never heard of him!

And what about Nikita Khrushchev? He was remembered by some for his personal features only—he was "a fat little man" or for banging his shoe at the UN. What most people don't realise is that he was also, apparently, the "first man in space", "President of the US" and the "Manager of a collective farm."

But even these wild guesses were restricted to a minority—only 42% had even heard of him. While it could be argued that Stalin and Khrushchev are

best forgotten, the YCL members knew hardly more about Lenin, the great leader of the October revolution.

17% knew nothing about Lenin, while of those who had heard of him, a further 13% knew only that he was a "revolutionary and a famous statesman." Several thought Lenin had been a good friend of Karl Marx who died in 1883. From a statistical point of view, the results of a sample of 800 people could not have been hard to process.

We can only hope that it was sheer embarrassment that held back the publication of the results for most of two years. But there was not even a hint of embarrassment in the 'Morning Star' when the report of the survey was published. Perhaps this paper of the British Communist Party has come to expect so little in the way of Marxist ideas within the Eastern European bureaucracies that they can find nothing to say on the matter! If that is the political level of the so-called 'Communist' Parties in Eastern Europe, their future may be rather bleak.

## SRI LANKA — STRIKES DECLARED ILLEGAL

Oswin Fernando of the Sri Lankan United Federation of Labour was reported in last week's 'Militant' speaking about "savage attacks on workers in Sri Lanka". It has just been confirmed that a bill was introduced in the Sri Lankan Parliament on the 20th September to make strikes illegal.

The Joint Committee of the trade union organisations organised a mass picket on the 12th September and a public meeting on the 20th Sep-

tember to protest against the bill.

Oswin, the General Secretary of the United Federation of Labour, who is in Britain on a visit, made representations to the international department of the Transport and General Workers Union with a request that the T&GWU lodge a protest with the Sri Lankan government against the provisions of this bill.

Trade union branches are similarly urged to send

protests to the Sri Lankan High Commission, 13 Hyde Park Gardens, London W2, and to send messages of support to the General Secretary, United Federation of Labour, No. 17 Barrack Lane, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Further details of the situation in Sri Lanka will be published as soon as we have a first-hand account available.



## LETTERS

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

## Record profits

Dear Comrades

I read with disgust that British record companies are complaining that home taping of LPs is costing them an "estimated" £150 million a year.

They obviously suppose that the public whom they exploit daily would spend £5 or so for an LP were they not able to tape it for a 'mere' £1.50. Who are they kidding?

The average person buys a record for relaxation and entertainment and on today's low wages, how often are they going to be able to afford to do that?

Obviously, it is possible to tape more music for your money than if you buy the record. But a major factor in the decline of record sales over the past few years has been their increasing cost coupled with poor quality.

For a government to allow the cost of tapes to be bumped up in order to maintain the companies' profits is a scandal.

Yours fraternally  
John Creswick  
Chester LPYS

## Just giving us the facts?

Dear Comrades

Does the Press lie?

Whenever the labour movement raises the question of press lies and/or distortions, derision greets the accuser. The reply is always that the press reports the 'facts'.

Consider the Londong 'Evening Standard's' report on the TUC conference (4/9/79). In an article headed 'Duffy faces split over Left attack', I quote:

"Because of the way TUC delegates are appointed the moderates are outnumbered (western movies?) 18-14 by members of the broad left". Three paragraphs later "But these people have not been elected in a similar way, simply appointed by branches where turnout at meetings is traditionally low, said Mr Duffy" (my emphasis).

Strange? Of 186 full time AUEW (Engineering Section) officials (not including branch secretaries, treasurers, etc, who have to stand for re-election annually), all have been elected. TUC delegates are nominated by either their own or other branches, and nominations are voted upon by the whole district for which they are standing, often needing a second ballot.

The August 1979 AUEW (Eng. Sec.) journal lists the results of 17 district elections, and those named are delegates at TUC Conference at time of writing. Are we to believe the 'Evening Standard' does not know about this procedure?

The fact that these delegates are elected by a small percentage of the members is beyond doubt. But if the implication is that this is because left-wing candidates are unpopular and only right-wing 'moderate' trade union and labour leaders can get mass support, perhaps the 'Standard' editor can explain why Labour's 'moderates' led us to defeat in the last election?

Yours fraternally  
Tim Higgins  
Shepherds Bush AUEW

## Low pay fight is still on

Dear Comrades

The recommendations of the Clegg Commission have been portrayed as a great boost to workers' earnings. However, a close examination of the Clegg Commission Report reveals an entirely different picture.

For many thousands of low-paid workers, any hopes they had for a substantial pay rise have been dashed. Many may even end up unemployed. The problem of low pay has

not been solved.

The Clegg Commission was set up to restore differentials between low and higher-paid workers. It was never given the task of dealing with low pay.

The Labour government proposed to use the Rate Support Grant to cover the cost of the increases. The present Tory government intends to pay for the Clegg awards by making further cuts in public spending, thus leading to the loss of many jobs.

The largest rise in pay given most attention in the media, was the 25-8% increase for leading ambulance-men. But this affects relatively few workers. 1.4 million workers were awarded an increase of only 12.4%, whilst

more than 800,000 of those covered by the Inquiry will get increases of only 2.7%-6.5%. Many thousands of workers are left with a take-home pay of less than the average family could get through social security.

When these increases are compared to those given earlier this year to judges, generals, top civil servants and heads of nationalised industries, it appears that one set of rules applies for the wealthy and another for the working class. The Clegg Commission offers very little to reduce the erosion of working class living standards—the fight against low pay goes on!

Yours fraternally  
James Gardner  
Aberystwyth LPYS

## End private enterprise

Dear Militant

I have lived through two world wars. I have seen the press and government attach all war guilt to the enemy, publish atrocities true and untrue about the enemy, invoke the aid of the Almighty with the help of the church, for our success against the enemy and I have known that the enemy nation use precisely the same measures against us.

So the patriots bayoneted each other for their respective nations and the gods laughed at the rank and file credulity of both sides. The losers and the victors received war medals for services to their respective nations, but when the poverty stricken, unemployed heroes paraded in hunger marches and demonstrated in their own bread and butter struggle for survival, the authorities called them the 'rabble'.

When a quarter of the world was 'The British Empire' and England was the workshop of the world with the Empire's resources to hand, Tories and Liberals with their private enterprise, could not feed, clothe and house the people of Britain adequately, nor the natives within the Empire. Let us give strength to a strong leadership to make a socialist Britain.

Yours  
An old timer  
Newcastle-on-Tyne

## Heads they win

Dear Readers

I arrived in Nottingham 3 weeks before starting college, to find somewhere to live. Eventually I fought my way through the crowds of homeless people to the top of the queue for a large bedsit in the Forest Road [rumoured to be the centre of vice and violent crime in Nottingham].

Admittedly the rent [£10 a week excluding heating and lighting] was ridiculously high, but at least social security would pay it until college starts, giving me time to look for somewhere cheaper. Or so I thought.

Social Security decided to only pay me £9 for rent, instead of £10. I wrote off for an explanation, and got the

following reply...

"Dear Mr Levene, In reply to your request re: amount of rent allowed in your benefit.

"Certain properties in this area are not felt to be worth the amount of rent charged. In these cases, we have to restrict the rent to £9 per week, pending a visit by one of our officers to see what he considers to be a fair rent. You will be notified when this visit is to take place."

Heads they win, tails I lose. Even if they decide that a 'fair rent' is £9 or less, I will still have to pay £10. What a fraud!

Off I go to the housing department to claim a rent rebate. Wish me luck—I'll need it!

Yours fraternally  
Mike Levene  
North Nottingham LPYS

## Even the mice are hunchbacked

Dear Comrades

I am one of the millions of people living in substandard accommodation. While there are over 200,000 people rich enough to own two homes, I have one room!

There is no hot running water in it, and no electric socket, so you can't even iron a shirt or keep milk fresh. The room is so small that even the mice are hunchbacked!

At least I don't have the problem of employing cleaners to tidy the dozens of unused rooms which some of our rich "worthies" have.

Another person in the same building had to buy and put in his own gas fire last winter when he found that the existing one couldn't beat the cold.

He kept three jobs going to get the money to move out. When he left his anger was shown in spray-painted graffiti like "the place needed a coat of paint anyway" and "paint costs money, you know."

Surely every person has the right to decent housing. Let's continue the fight for the nationalisation of private rented accommodation, the building industry and finance, as part of a full socialist programme to guarantee this right.

Yours fraternally  
Dave Cartwright  
Islington LPYS

## Undesirable Tories

Dear Comrade

The Tory-controlled Worcester District Council has clearly shown its anti-working class, anti-youth nature.

A letter was received by the Town Clerk from Littlewoods Stores (obviously concerned about their profits) complaining that 'gangs of undesirables' were using a pedestrianised area outside the store as a meeting place.

When the letter was discussed, Councillor Dorothy Gething, Chairman of the Amenities Committee, (who, needless to say has done nothing to improve facilities for youth in the area: in her capacity as a county councillor she has been in the front line supporting cuts in all

sorts of facilities) said: "At times the place looks disgusting; there are louts lying all over the place."

Of course it is the rotten system of production for profit which condemns young people to this sort of life and denies them the right to a socially useful job and a decent standard of living. The Tories have the effrontery to use young people like these as scapegoats when really they are the victims of the callous cuts in public expenditure and the failure by Tory-controlled local authorities such as Worcester to provide adequate leisure facilities at a reasonable charge.

Jackie Hankins  
Worcester Labour Party

## The issues at Labour's Conference

"This conference is one of the most important in years because it could decide which road the Labour Party will take in the future—the road of attempts at gradual change and reform, or the road to transforming society in the interests of working people.

Obviously the past government has shown that reformism does not meet with the needs of workers. The defeat of the Labour government in May has shown that workers will only identify with the party they can clearly see that they will benefit by supporting it.

It is not only the question of democracy within the Party alone that is of great import-

ance for this conference, but the central question must be the discussion on the political programme capable of meeting the needs of the working class and linking that programme to the wider struggles for socialism and the eradication of the profit system under which workers suffer."

Ann San [Crosby LP delegate]

"I would like to see the party be made more democratic along the lines proposed. As far as my own industry is concerned, the Labour Party should be committed to creating jobs and not destroying jobs which was the record

of the last Labour government."

Tony Carty [delegate, Boiler-makers]

Sixty-two resolutions call for the next Labour government to immediately nationalise those publicly owned industries which the Tories are handing to their rich financial backers. The overwhelming majority of them also demand that nationalisation takes place without compensation.

There are more than 20 resolutions and amendments on Party democracy. During the pre-conference discussion the right wing and the press

have projected the incredible argument that the election of a party leader is somehow undemocratic! Or that to remove from the Party leader the power to determine on his own the content of the election manifesto is the first step on the road to dictatorship!

As always when the interests of the right wingers within the party and big business are threatened logic is stood on its head. In fact one pillar of the so-called moderate wing of the Party has already stated that if the proposals which seek to broaden rank and file involvement in the decision-making process are carried by the

conference, particularly on mandatory re-selection, then she will withdraw from activity in the Labour Party.

One can only imagine the uproar which would ensue in the media if a left-wing member of the NEC had made such a statement."

Tony Mulhearn [Vice-president, Liverpool District LP and NGA delegate]

"The most important issues for me at this year's conference will be party organisation and unemployment. Party organisation is very important as far as our CLP is concerned and we will be supporting the moves by the NEC to bring more democracy into the life of the party, including the automatic re-

selection of MPs.

At the same time I will be looking to the conference to give a clear lead in fighting the cuts in public expenditure. Sunderland suffers badly from unemployment—it's already at the level of about 12 per cent—and the cuts will be biting deep into the little security that workers have.

But it will be essential that trade union branches and local Labour councillors are not left to fight alone—they must have the whole authority of the Party conference and the NEC behind them. Conference must instruct the NEC to organise and co-ordinate the fight-back against the cuts from a national level."

Diane English [Sunderland North CLP delegate]



# MATCH QUALITY WITH QUANTITY

Just as 'Militant's' Fighting Fund needs a real boost to reach £63,750 by October 6th, the weekly total has dropped to the lowest for eight weeks—£925! The quality of the donations we receive has not in any way declined. Nor can we discount the efforts being made to raise the large sums of money needed for 'Militant's' legal defence [see report, page 2].

Far from the impression given in the 'News of the World's' infamous review of P McCormick's book on "Marxism", 'Militant' cannot call on an endless source of finance. It relies almost entirely on workers' £s and ps, which are always under pressure.

Campaign now for promises as well as cash! A second lot of tax rebates will be in the wage packets on the first pay day after 5th October. Find out what's due to you (and anyone else you can approach).

Make no plans for spending them but get them into 'Militant' as soon as they are in your hands. An Islington reader gave us £14.90 this week from the last round of tax rebates!

If you haven't paid up yet, double what you were going to give and get us back on target by 6th October!

Amongst this week's donations was £40 from a Glasgow Labour Party member, E Eyton. Many thanks indeed! £15s were donated by I Stowell (Chloride Technical, Manchester), a Canterbury reader and a West London supporter who gave up "a day's wages" to help 'Militant' get back on target!

Bracknell supporters raised £70 between them, three Reading supporters £23, Oldham £10, Southampton £7.29, Colchester £2.35 and so on.

P McDonough of Bradford Constituency Labour Party gave a "tenner".

"Dear Comrade

"The enclosed £20 donation to the fighting fund was collected from well-wishers in the Arundel constituency.

"Our answer to the McCormicks of this world is to build up support for 'Militant' and the fighting fund on a bigger scale than ever."

"Stan Natrass."

I Nicol (Peterborough), as always donates his £6 'honorary' for trade union duties and urges others to do likewise; two 'instalments' of donations from 'guarantors' Mr and Mrs Wobey of Hackney, came to over £4. They point the way for everyone else who sincerely wants to see the 'Militant' grow.

Give us a regular donation even if it's too small to be mentioned; in a year 50p a week is £26 for example!

Coppers in a jar mount up too. In Basildon they added up to £4.32 last week and in Ryde, IOW, S Smith's jar made £9 in just two months! -6.25 from Birmingham was one of the many "proceeds"

# Build

Area	Target 52 wks	Target 39 wks	Proportion of target received	Received
Eastern	4,700	3,525		2,183
Hants & IOW	3,100	2,325		1,993
Humberside	2,000	1,500		1,187
London North	9,500	7,125		4,819
London South	3,900	2,925		2,662
Manchester & Dist.	4,500	3,375		1,813
Merseyside	5,000	3,750		2,106
Midlands East	3,300	2,475		1,895
Midlands West	9,000	6,750		5,029
Northern	5,500	4,125		2,530
Scotland East	2,900	2,175		2,530
Scotland West	4,500	3,375		1,655
South East	4,500	3,375		3,141
South West	3,100	2,325		1,787
Wales East	2,600	1,950		1,136
Wales West	3,400	2,550		1,643
Yorkshire	6,800	5,100		3,026
Others	6,700	5,025		8,735
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,000</b>	<b>63,750</b>		<b>48,363</b>

Progress towards year's target Progress towards October 6th target

## TARGET FOR THE YEAR - £85,000 TARGET FOR OCT. 6th - £63,750

from the "fare box" that 'Militant' supporters carry in their cars.

Some workers at Firmin's, Birmingham donated their pennies to make up over £1 for 'Militant'. Even "insult fees" of 10p mount up in places like Lambeth!

But the most crucial source of finance for a socialist paper is the donations from Labour Party, LPYS and trade union members. A collection at Provan CLP raised £3 for 'Militant', Islington LPYS the same. Bootle YS members put in £1.20 at their last meeting and two Notts YS members, £1.10. A raffle after Spennymoor YS raised £2.60 in no time and LPYS members are amongst the many contributors of individual donations this week.

These include: S Stone (Birmingham), S Riley (Leeds) and "anon, Pin Green" (Stevenage) who gave 'fivers'; O Tudor (Kingston YS) who gave £4.50; A Kirkup and G Riley of Brighton £4 each; S Wheeler

of Leeds £3 and D Reid (Liverpool NGA) £2.40.

£2s came from K Bevan (Barking YS), L Hughes (Handsworth YS/NUPE), M Prenderville (Stretford CLP) and F Cox (also Manchester). S Nygate of Ryde gave £1.20, E Spence (Birmingham PNP) £1.13, and S Marchini (London), A Stevens (Islington YS), P Scanlon (Liverpool

"Dear Militant

"£1 is all I can afford this week, they don't pay chefs in the catering trade too much as yet. Here's to the day when catering workers and all workers will be treated like human beings. We can only do this with the help of 'Militant'."

"Yours truly, B Williams, Newport CLP."

NGA), a Leeds engineer and L Pawinski (from the same city) all gave £1s. Many thanks to these and the many contributors left unmentioned.

£112 was collected at a 'Militant' meeting in Caerphilly and £30.55 at a 'Fight the Cuts' meeting in Lambeth. The following amounts were sent from discussion groups in Hayes (£6.12), Chester-le-Street (£5), Rotherham (£4.35) and the Rhondda (£2.50).

Let's see more and more of contributions like these and more outright fund-raising. It's almost enjoyable!

Two 'Militant' enthusiasts cycled from Leicester to London last weekend to raise £90 from sponsors when they get back. (A Singh and A John, the 'contestants', left 60p when they called at 'Militant's' offices to show good faith!) £31.02 has already reached us from a sponsored walk in Caerphilly (up the mountains?).

Just four socials—in Bradford, Birmingham, Sheffield and Hillingdon—provided nearly £75. A well-organised jumble sale in Brighton added £51 to our funds and "Bed

and Breakfast" in that seaside resort cost someone £12 for the Fighting Fund (a bargain compared with what LP Conference delegates will be paying this week!).

"Beer" on the IOW brought us £9.71, sale of the 'Russian Revolution' in Bradford £5, and schemes like "six-shot bandit" in Birmingham and "lucky ace" tickets in Reading keep the money rolling in.

But please, in the coming week before October 6th, make enormous efforts to help reach the 'Militant's' three-quarter year target. We need every penny we are aiming for. [Promises as well as cash will be accepted for the third quarter up to 12 noon on Sunday 7th]. All cheques and POs to Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

By  
Clare Doyle

## ads

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New badge—black and white, £13 per 100 plus £1.50 P&P. Cash with order to: Val Pearce, 16 Wagbullock Rise, Bracknell Berks. All profits to 'Militant' fighting fund.

LONDON Militant Public Meeting. "What next after labour Party conference?" Speaker: Tony Saunders, LPYS rep on Labour Party National Executive. 8 pm, Wednesday 10th October, 21 Star Street, London W2.



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50: £6 = 40p P&P, 100: £10 = 80p P&P. Order from: Flat 1, 133 Victoria Way, Charlton, London SE7

BRIDGEND Trade Union Discussion Group, October 11th. "After LP conference. Which way for Labour?" All 7.30 Thursdays at The Ship Hotel, Dunreeven Place, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan. For further details contact: Alun Morgan, Bridgend 63284.

BADGES made to order: SAE for details from Dept P, Maprographics, 32 Worpole Rd Mews, London SW 19.

Special offer, the famous 'Workers' Unity' badge. Now at only 10p a badge = 10% P&P. Make 10p a badge for your fighting fund. Cheques payable to Simon Heather, 30 Mayfield Road, Mosely, Birmingham 13.

EAST KILBRIDE LPYS Public Meetings

A debate between Tory and Labour council by-election candidates. 7.30 pm Tuesday 2nd October, Alison Lea Hall.

'John McLean, Workers' Leader'. Speakers: Harry McShane and Bob Wylie. 7.30 pm, Monday 15th October, Murray Hall.

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- WLMS—History of the Labour Party [reprints from Militant] ..... 30p
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# GEC SHEFFIELD WORKERS SIT-IN COMBINE COMMITTEE PREPARES TO FIGHT WEINSTOCK'S OFFENSIVE

Arnold Weinstock's GEC management is fully living up to its past reputation by taking on the shop floor over basic issues of wages and conditions in different parts of the country. Stafford, Liverpool, Manchester, Lincoln and Bradford plants are already hit by disputes and at the GEC Traction plant in Sheffield, the workers are in the third week of a sit-in.

Keith Ford, chairman of the shop stewards' committee at Sheffield, explained the issues:

"Management have been using domestic issues to attempt to undermine support for the national engineers' wage claim.

"At the end of July, we put a domestic wage claim through procedure, but due to the priority of the national action, the shop stewards' committee decided that we would leave it on the table.

"However three weeks ago management provocatively stated that unless we called off the action on the national claim there would be lay-offs in all departments. They also withdrew the company sick pay scheme.

"It was obviously geared to raise a rebellion against the national claim. This was made clear in a personal letter sent to all members, attempting to undermine support for the national claim.

"It did not work. A week last Wednesday, at a mass

Keith Ford, Chairman of the Sheffield GEC Shop Stewards Committee, spoke to Rob Jones

meeting, the members voted unanimously to reject lay-offs. In fact the whole manoeuvre has only served to harden our position on the national claim.

"So we decided to take action on the domestic claim as well—this has led to the sit-in.

"Management want a time-based system and the effective abolition of money piece-work. They have offered us £4 a week for this, but investigations on our part have shown that we would still be worse off—probably on average to the tune of £2.50 a week.

"Under the guise of calling the piece work system 'inflationary' management are attempting a wage cut. This



GEC workers lobbying the company's London Headquarters on 17th September—now it is crucial that all plants attend the combine meeting on October 6th to plan further action

follows a common pattern throughout the GEC combine. They are trying this on everywhere, so our fight in Sheffield automatically assumes national importance for GEC workers.

"We decided on a sit-in because, on the experience of other GEC plants, notably Liverpool, it is better to be in a position to picket with the

gates locked. It boosts morale and does not give management the luxury of taking products out of the plant.

"To challenge this national offensive against GEC workers, our combine committee have a key role. On Monday 17 September we mounted a successful demonstration at Stanhope Gate, London (GEC HQ) as the first stage in

supporting factories in dispute.

The next GEC combine shop stewards' meeting, on October 6th, at Whortley Hall, near Sheffield, will have to consider the position now affecting GEC plants throughout the country."

GEC workers in Sheffield are preparing for a long struggle. As well as sitting in,

they are mounting 24-hour pickets. Support is urgently needed from the labour movement nationally.

Donations and messages of support to: Mick Axe, 34 Lathkill Road, Sheffield 13.

## STAFFORD PICKETS DETERMINED

In Stafford where the strike is 8 weeks old, GEC are insisting on breaking up the factory into 11 'divisions' and have attached 60 conditions to their offer [see 'Militant 467].

They no longer recognise the Joint Shop Stewards'

Committee and have now announced that they intend to close one of the more isolated divisions, Castle Works, ending 250 jobs in order to break the strike and morale of the men.

While the mood at Castle Works is nervous, elsewhere in GEC (Stafford) the other 1,600 workers are more determined.

Already six pickets have

been charged for obstructing a police officer. They were locked up for five hours without shoes and were treated like criminals. But police must have been happy to see them bailed out after continual singing of the Red Flag and Please Release Me.

### LINCOLN

Workers at the Dorman Diesels foundry in Lincoln are

also involved in an all-out strike.

GEC are demanding compulsory overtime to work the factory. This is after they have made 50 workers redundant.

The all out strike is now entering its fifth week.

By Dave Griffiths  
(Stafford & Stone Labour Party)

### Fight for shipyard jobs

## Yarrow workers throw out redundancy plan

Sir Eric Yarrow and his board received a massive shock last week when the workforce at the Glasgow yard voted to support their brothers at Robb Caledon's in Dundee. The workforce of more than 4,500 attended a mass meeting where they rejected their own shop stewards' recommendation to lift the overtime ban.

Yarrows yard is itself unlikely to be hit by the Tories' plans in the foreseeable future. For many years it has specialised in the lucrative naval work that the bosses don't want to see run down, and the yard has received considerable investment.

What decided the mood of the workers at the meeting? It had been taken for granted that Yarrows, of all the yards on the Clyde, would back the Confed agreement reached with British Shipbuilders (BS) management earlier this month.

The major factor influencing the decision was probably the direct appeal from Alex Allen (Finishing Trades Convener, Robb Caledon) to save the Dundee yard. This was

contained in leaflets handed out by members of the LPYS before the meeting.

Yarrows management, and BS nationally, are apparently somewhat unhappy with the decision of the mass meeting. The Robb Caledon workers, however, have received a shot in the arm from their brothers at the big Glasgow yard.

The only way forward must be to support the Robb Caledon men in their demands:

- ★ No closures and no redundancies!
- ★ Keep the overtime ban!
- ★ No launches and no sea trials!
- ★ 35-hour week!

By John Gallagher  
(AUEW-TASS Yarrow Shipbuilders)



Pickets outside Bow Street magistrates court in London Photo: MILITANT

## London court workers stand firm

For a month, staff working in the Inner London Magistrates' Courts have been out on strike. The two unions, SCPS and CPSA, have 100% backing from the members involved.

The dispute centres on this year's pay rise but behind it is the refusal of our paymasters to concede the principle of a binding link with civil service grades. Management are now actually in agreement with our case but still the Home Office refuses to sign!

As a result of the strike virtually all the administrative work done in London's courts is grinding to a halt. Minor fine cases are being conditionally discharged, the collection of past fines and debts has ceased and, due to effective picketing, many reports to the courts are not being heard.

One unfortunate result of all this is the 800 people being held in prison on remand who are pleading not guilty. Normally they would have been brought up before the magistrates by now, but most of them are just being held for a longer period. They are being ruthlessly subjected to Home Office callousness.

These clerks and supervisors are not a traditionally militant group but they have decided to make a stand. They deserve support.

Before the strike union membership was 50%-60%. It has risen to 95%. A principle is at stake—a guarantee of their future bargaining position.

By Pat Byrne (CPSA NEC personal capacity)



# ROLLS ROYCE WORKERS DEMAND ALL- OUT ACTION

When Rolls Royce workers in Bristol and Coventry turned up for work last Wednesday, in defiance of management's lay-off threat, they were met by barred gates and dead machines. Management had managed to turn off all the power, thwarting union plans to stage a work-in.

The Engineering Employers' Federation have selected Rolls Royce as the storm-troopers in their assault on the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions. As a state-owned firm, they weren't risking anything—all the money involved comes from the tax-paying workers' pockets.

Rolls Royce management are pumping out sob stories about how much money the Confed strike is costing them. But in order to prevent a work-in they have laid off staff on full pay.

The Bristol shop stewards calculate that this is costing £500,000 a week in Bristol alone. After three weeks they will have paid out enough to meet the cost of the Confed claim!

The stewards say that the only conclusion they can draw is that the EEF is out to smash the Confed nationally. There is a lot more at stake than just the claim.

At a mass meeting, the locked-out workers unanimously called for an all-out national strike. If the collective strength of the Confed unions is not used now, the employers will go on to attempt to dismantle all the

various agreements on procedure and conditions won by the Confed.

The Bristol shop stewards are encouraging all members to attend union branch meetings to keep in touch with their workmates and with the latest developments. The stewards will be issuing a weekly bulletin to combat the bosses' lies and keep everyone informed; they are concerned that members will be exposed to all the propaganda of the Tory media.

Although they are clearly locked out, manual workers are having problems getting the Social Security benefits they are entitled to. The DHSS authorities are claiming that they "brought the lock-out on themselves".

Never a word of stopping hand-outs to the Rolls Royce bosses, who are the real cause of the dispute.

In Coventry, the annual shut-down means that the major engineering firms are closed this week. Last week, Rolls Royce workers put a token picket on the gates to ensure that nothing moved in or out of the plants. A mass meeting will be held when the holiday ends next week to decide on the next step.

Already the Coventry East AUEW district committee has joined the call for an all-out strike. A resolution is to be moved at the district committee protesting at the closure of the Eastbourne AUEW conference last week due to the manoeuvring of the union's right-wing leaders.

**By John Sharp (AUEW-TASS Rolls Royce) in Bristol and Phil Luker in Coventry**

# TOTAL NATIONAL STRIKE NOW VITAL



Pickets at Birmingham GEC

Photo: MILITANT

## BRIGHTON

There has been a 90% response to the AUEW call for one and two day strikes in the Brighton area, which contrary to what many people think has over 20,000 industrial workers.

Despite the view of many workers that the one and two day strikes are not the best tactics to win the claim, the

loyalty of the members in the main factories has been outstanding.

**By Dudley Edwards**  
(Branch Committee member, AUEW No 3 branch, personal capacity)

# DERBY- BOSSES TACTICS REBOUND

Derby Rolls Royce management thought they were on to a winner to break the engineering strike. Just to make sure they were going to count the votes! But in many shops, the ballot was ignored after stewards collected in the forms.

Despite the bosses' efforts only 250 out of 5,000 workers turned up for work. Their reward was to be locked out along with loyal union members on Wednesday. The workers I spoke to then felt that they would stand by the union whatever they thought of the claim. "If management want to play silly beggars that's up to them" was their

attitude.

So many workers are affected that the DHSS have moved special staff to one emergency centre in Derby to deal with them.

Unfortunately nothing was organised to rally the support of other workers who obeyed the unions' call and presented themselves for work on Wednesday.

All that workers at the gate I went to got was a three-minute talk at 7 o'clock and a request to go home. But the bosses' tactics have so far failed to undermine the action.

**By Tony Cross**

## BOURNEMOUTH

After one week lock-out at De Vilbiss, Bournemouth, 200 members of AUEW and MSMM voted overwhelmingly to continue support for the Confed action and refused to give undertakings to the management to work normally.

Management deny any attempt to confront the unions, but in a full page advert for vacancies at the factory, De Vilbiss have stated that they are resolutely opposed to the concept of the closed shop, and that they attach no special significance to anybody who takes up union

membership.

Workers on the picket line cited numerous examples of management behaviour, such as following workers to the toilet or to the nurse, picking out odd examples of absenteeism as reasons for not giving references, and the refusal to grant basic facilities for the union convenor. Many workers are prepared to fight to the bitter end. Others, mostly skilled labour have handed in their notice.

**By Julie Harris**

## MANCHESTER

A meeting of approximately 300 Confed shop stewards held at AUEW House, Manchester, on 11th September, heard reports on the strike in District 11, which covers most of Greater Manchester.

The strike was reported to be solid with all the major factories participating. The only firm to break the first of the two-day strikes was ICL, but they were out the second week.

Ninety-eight firms including one GEC factory, were reported to have settled on all the points: hours, holidays and wages, and 12 more are negotiating with the Confed.

A call for a demonstration and rally in Manchester was heavily defeated. The plat-

form urged the meeting to keep its 'power dry' should there be a need for mass picketing etc. Similarly calls to extend the strike to an all-out one received very little support.

The mood of the meeting was that we were solid and the employers in disarray. This was reinforced by a report of the national meeting between the Confed and the Engineering Employers' Federation the previous Friday, which broke down on the question of the shorter working week. This is now seen as a major issue.

**By John Byrne**  
(Shop Steward, GEC Higher Openshaw)

## STEWARDS SHOULD SPELL OUT ISSUES

Bob Faulkes spoke to Frank Lapping [former convenor AUEW Hawker Siddeley Transformer, Walthamstow

Originally it was unanimous to take strike action on consecutive Mondays. But there has been a lack of involvement in the strike. We've had only instructions from our EC—no information.

The resolution of the members was weakened when they couldn't see any real progress towards a settlement. And when it became known that other firms weren't taking action, an air of indecision crept in.

This culminated in the managing director being allowed to address the total factory membership. He offered to negotiate with the shop stewards what he described as an 'incentive' to return to normal working.

We should demand that a meeting be convened of all shop stewards in the Enfield

district, and others.

At this meeting the stewards should produce a collective statement, fully explaining the effects of obtaining agreement on all points of the claim: the effect on employment etc of a 35-hour week; the real necessity for national support for the £80 minimum, explaining that there are still thousands of skilled brothers and sisters who do not receive as a maximum what is a justified minimum; the proposed new wage implementation date to bring a common national date of settlement.

This statement should be read at all mass meetings in conjunction with all future directives. This would go a long way to mobilise and enlighten all engineering workers for an all-out strike to win the claim.

## VAUXHALL BOSSES PROVOKE ANGRY STRIKE

Vauxhall [Ellesmere Port] has been closed down by strike action of its angry workers. There have been layoffs in Vauxhall's southern plants and port workers have been asked to black all Vauxhall Motors goods.

The Ellesmere Port strike began in early September when we saw how management had responded to our pay claim. Our claim was for a shorter working week, an across the board percentage rise, extra holiday at Christmas and a cost of living clause; a reasonable claim you may think.

The company's offer was to spread money over all seven grades in an unequal percentage rise (again giving the higher paid a bigger slice of the cake), no change on the

shorter working week (in line with the Employers' Federation policy) and imposing conditions that will return us to the days of an 'anti-union' sweat shop.

The meeting of 4,000 AUEW members on 4th September angrily rejected this offer.

After the meeting the plant was picketed, to stop all traffic from entering and leaving. The next day the picket line was re-inforced by T&GWU members, 5,000 of whom had already rejected the company's offer. 9,000 workers in all were on strike.

However some 800 AUEW fitters, who stand to do well out of the offer, shamefully broke the picket line by clambering over walls and fences, in an effort to remain in work, against the majority vote of the mass meeting. Their efforts were short-lived, as management closed the plant to all hourly-paid employees, at our request.

This is the first time skilled men have been laid off in the plant's history. The plant is now in the hands of the pickets.

At both southern plants, lay-offs have followed our action. Dunstable is almost closed completely. Although they rejected this offer their shop stewards decided to wait until the 17th September, the last day of the current wage deal, before involving their members.

We decided to picket Dunstable on 10th September. 300 AUEW and TGWU members went down before the start of work, in the small hours of Monday morning. The shop floor members were shocked to see so many determined fellow workers, most of them were in ignorance of our strike action or the reasons for it. Certain groups were in full support however, and only remained in because the shop stewards' committee said they would call a

mass meeting the next day.

At a joint negotiation committee on 17th September the company refused to move on their offer, and a long strike now looks odds on. As the last day of the current deal is now up, the southern plants must now put the offer to a mass meeting.

We are now in contact with all ports that deal with Vauxhall Motors' goods from the continent, and asking them to black such goods. We have had a good response on this issue. If we can close all ports and plants in the UK, Vauxhalls will be deprived of all revenue, pressure that will hopefully tell.

**By T Baugh**  
(AUEW Ellesmere Port)



# Militant

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## CONFED CLAIM- BEAT THE UNION BASHERS

By Steve Davison,  
 (AUEW Convenor,  
 Anderton International,  
 Bradford)

As the Engineering Employers' Federation [EEF] bare their teeth, and threaten all-out war on workers fighting for the Confed claim, the mood is hardening amongst workers for all-out national action from their union.

All the press ballyhoo has been unable to break the loyalty of union members to the union's call to support the present two-day strike action.

At Rolls Royce in Derby, the scene of one of the most publicised attempts at 'back to work rebellion', only 250 out of 5,000 workers turned up for work.

Trade unionists, even those who themselves earn over the £80 minimum wage demanded, can see clearly the implications of the employers' refusal to budge. Despite the effects on the short term profits of engineering companies, the employers are holding out in an attempt to do long term damage to the Confed.

The action by Rolls Royce management is an example.

Rolls management at Derby prompted the remark that their lockout had achieved what Hitler failed to do, close the factory.

RR management at Bristol turned off the power supply to the factory and laid off staff at two hours' notice, not even sufficient time to call a meeting. The lay-off at this plant will cost around £½ million per week, according to the shop stewards. They calculate that three weeks' lay-off pay could pay the entire settlement.

The aim of such provocation is obviously not just to resist this claim, but to smash the confederation. The management at BAC plant next to Rolls Royce are making similar menacing noises about lockout.

This desperation reflects the concern of employers faced with the consequences of years of their neglect of the



industry, years of lack of investment and retooling.

Even the 'Financial Times' admits that employers have benefitted from the low wages in British engineering industry. Yet productivity has declined despite a reduction in the number of employees.

To add to this tale of unemployment and low pay, the bosses expect workers not only to give up this claim [which would entail the first reduction in working hours for 16 years].

They also expect us to give up permanently our means of fighting for improvements, the unions. And of course the Tory government with their rationalisation [i.e. redundancy] plans and proposed attacks on the unions will be right behind them.

Workers in the engineering industry will not let this happen. Manual workers at RR Bristol voted overwhelmingly to call on the AUEW leadership to call an all-out national strike, a demand echoed by, amongst others, the Coventry East District

Committee of AUEW.

The AUEW and its leaders are involved in a struggle fiercer than any they have faced for many years. The call for all-out action is not just a case of putting more pressure on the employers. It is essential to ensure victory, and to ensure that the EEF and government's plans are crushed.

Weakness now in the guise of moderation would allow the employers' offensive to gain ground. Pressure must go on from local and district level, and particularly from the National Engineering Shop Stewards' Committee meeting on October 13th for all-out national action.

The Broad Left must also take up the demand for the recalling of the National Committee to thrash out the best way forward.

Such moves are essential. Isolated, workers can become prey to the media. A national lead could make all the difference between defeat and victory.

## WHAT LABOUR MUST DO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

mination to keep wages down has been doubly resolved by the Thatcher government at Westminster.

Now whole steel towns are to be closed down. Nationalised industries, such as British Rail, are faced with massive redundancies as part of the Tory's de-nationalisation threat. Public and civil services, and the jobs that go with them, are to be cut.

Remember that Tory election poster which above a long line of actors posing as a dole queue, cried out: 'Labour isn't working'?

Rising unemployment has put paid to any hypocritical Tory promise of reducing the number of unemployed.

Unfortunately, however, there was a ring of truth about Labour 'not working'. Despite all the well-meant promises of reform by the 1974 Labour government, the catastrophic decline of diseased British capitalism shattered any illusions about them being implemented.

That is why this year's Labour Party conference must give a bold and firm socialist alternative to answer the anarchy of the profit system.

In the coming battles workers will more and more be looking to Labour for a lead. Already, in many local elections—only five months after the Tory

victory—Labour councillors are being returned with decisive majorities.

In one area of Luton, for example, in a bye-election in a safe Tory seat, a Labour councillor was returned and the Tories were reduced to third place!

But if Labour campaigns on the record of the last government, it will not succeed! Wage restraint, public expenditure cuts, and anti-working class policies will never be rallying calls for the workers.

Only bold socialist policies, with a clear commitment to a minimum wage, a 35-hour week, an end to unemployment, and a comprehensive education and welfare system must be the mainstay of any Labour campaign.

Then Labour would win mass support for an energetic fight against the Tory government and for the sweeping return of a Labour government.

To ensure that socialist policies are carried out by the next Labour government it is essential that the calls for party democracy are carried through. For the labour movement to put their trust in the Labour Party, it must be sure there is rank and file control over their representatives.

The Labour Party must use all its resources to expose the waste and anarchy of capitalism, and to map out a socialist alternative.

## IF YOU WANT THE TRUTH BUILD MILITANT

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When a paper like 'News Of The World' launches its scurrilous attacks on the labour movement—singling out the 'Militant' for special treatment—two conclusions must be drawn.

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line.

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determined move the inadequate police cordon was easily broken and the marchers surged forwards.

Having achieved this small victory, the mood hardened. People gathered around the front of the building shouting "The right to work! The right

to work!" One man shouted out at the front of the crowd, "Stop drinking your tea and come out and speak to us."

But it seems these union leaders were happier inside with the management than talking to the workers outside.

No-one can now doubt the

massive resistance of Corby workers to the closure of the steelworks. Nevertheless, the mood for a fight will subside unless immediate action is taken. Far more could have been achieved on this historic day, had the union leadership been more determined to back these workers.

A national steel strike would have done far more than a day of talks with the management. A national one-day steel strike must be called now, in preparation for an all-out national steel strike to stop closures and redundancies.

## CORBY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

from the road. The officials of ROSAC [Retention of Steel-making at Corby] had agreed with the police that the demonstration would keep to the road and not go near the building.

But the marchers thought different. They were incensed at the idea of the demonstration taking place without it being seen by union leaders and management. In one

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