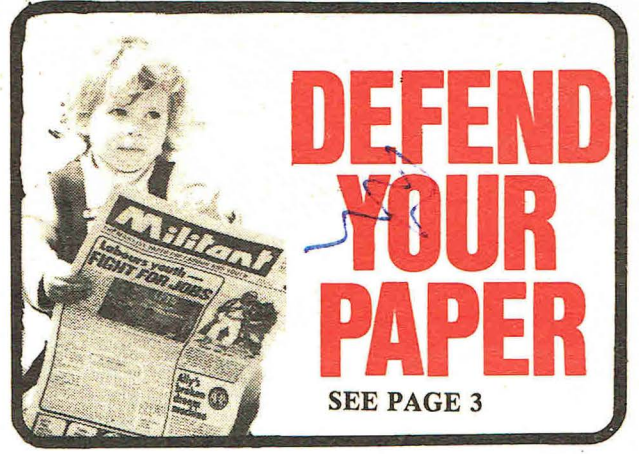


Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

ISSUE 473
5 October 1979

15p



LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE-

A VICTORY FOR LABOUR'S RANKS

In the most left-wing Annual Conference for decades, Labour Party and trade union delegates reaffirmed the need to fight the Tories with bold socialist policies—and voted decisively for a major step forward in Party democracy.

There was jubilation among delegates and visitors, with loud and prolonged applause, when at the end of Tuesday afternoon's debate on mandatory reselection it was found to be carried overwhelmingly on a card vote.

This completely outweighed the defeat on the election of Party Leader, which delegates saw only as a temporary set back.

On Wednesday morning, moreover, Conference also carried the proposal for the NEC to have the final say on the Party's election Manifesto.

Victory on re-selection was felt to be the culmination of a long and vital battle within the Party to establish a far greater measure of democratic control over MPs. The swinging of the big

By
Lynn Walsh

trade union delegations behind mandatory reselection meant that at last the Conference decision on this issue truly reflected the wishes of the overwhelming majority of the rank and file.

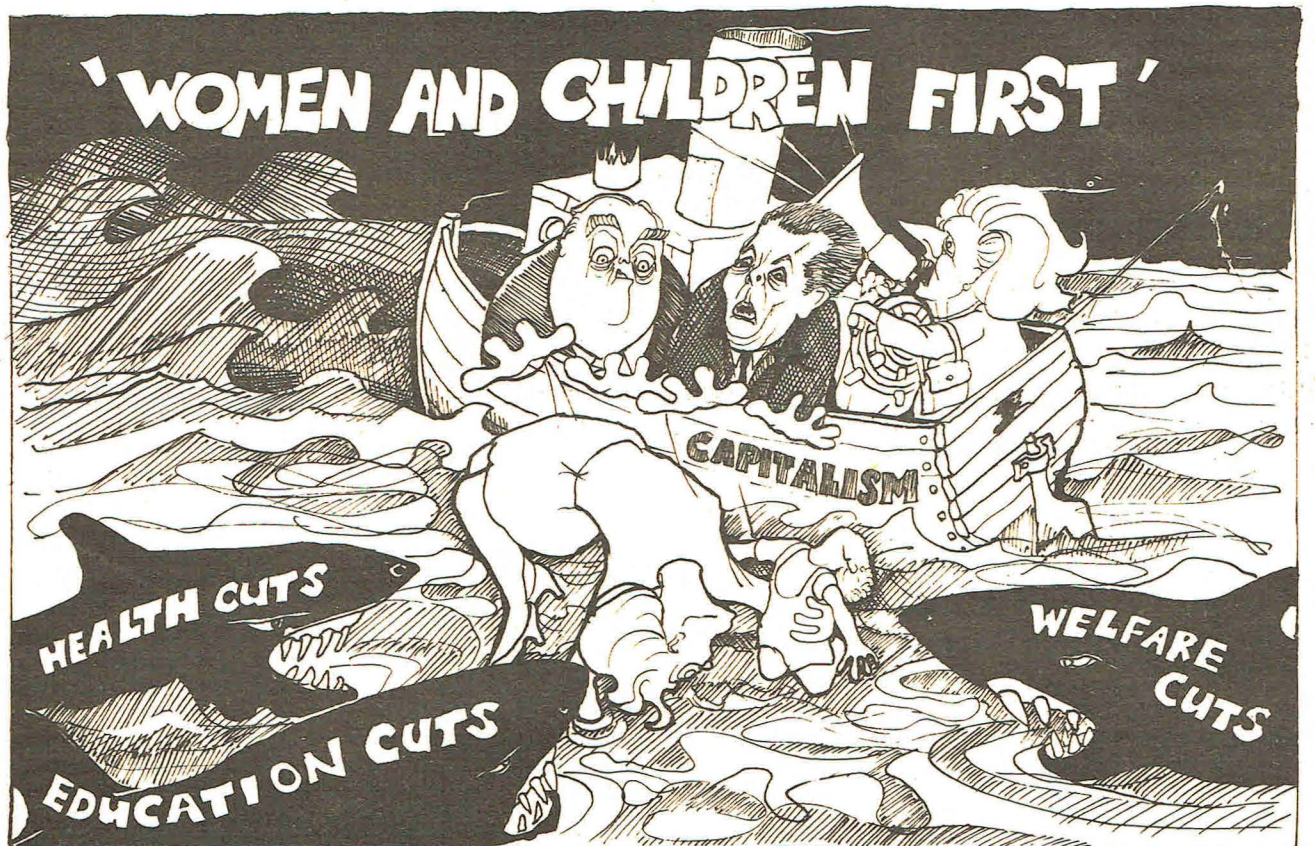
Right from the start of Conference, with Frank Allaun in his chairman's address and then delegate after delegate, Conference clearly laid responsibility for Labour's defeat on the Labour cabinet's refusal to implement Conference policies.

Labour could only
CONTINUED ON
PAGE 2



DELEGATES JUBILANT AS MANDATORY RESELECTION IS DECISIVELY CARRIED

Photo: JMcKittrick/MILITANT
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NOW CAMPAIGN AGAINST TORIES WITH BOLD SOCIALIST POLICIES

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LABOUR CONFERENCE '79

From the word go, this year's Labour Party Conference has reflected a new mood among Labour's ranks.

In the chairman's address, Frank Allaun set the tone for the following debates:

"A year ago the TUC Conference almost unanimously rejected the rigid and inflexible 5% wage ceiling. The Labour Party Conference a month later voted equally solidly. But the Cabinet majority took no notice..."

"And that is why Mrs Thatcher is in 10 Downing Street. This was not the first occasion by any means on which Labour spokesmen have ignored the grass roots. By the time last winter was upon us the Labour government had rejected our pleas and the pleas of the trade union movement for action to restore full employment and to reverse the cuts in public spending. This is the real issue behind all the reforms now before this Conference.

"How do we see that this does not recur? By insisting on greater respect for Conference decisions by the Parliamentary leaders."

From our reporters at Brighton

Photos:
J McKittrick

The same message, moreover, was repeated in essence by Ron Hayward, the general secretary. He was replying to discussion on the general election campaign in which virtually every delegate and defeated parliamentary candidate who spoke put the responsibility for Labour's defeat on the Labour government's record and their failure to fight on conference policies.

While trying to deflect some of the criticisms directed at Jim Callaghan personally, Ron Hayward himself lambasted the right in the PLP.

He also warned the trade union leaders that they would call for as many enquiries as



The mood of conference was reflected in increased votes for Benn and other left-wingers in the NEC elections

they liked, but if it was a purge of left-wingers or Marxists that they had in mind, they should bear in mind that

these were the Party's activists and "they couldn't replace them."

Although the first day's



Pat Wall, moving re-selection composite

debates on housing, spending cuts and unemployment, and the National Health Service were overshadowed by the issue of Party democracy to follow, Conference reflected an overwhelmingly left mood, both in the CLPs and the trade unions.

Conference unanimously endorsed a call for a national campaign against the sale of council houses, and passed resolutions calling for the nationalisation of the land, the banks and finance houses, and the big construction companies.

A clearer composite from Wokingham CLP, however, which called for all Labour controlled councils to refuse to implement any cuts and a refusal to raise rents or rates was defeated.

Nevertheless, Terry Pearce, who moved the resolution, received enthusiastic support from delegates, and got 1,600,000 votes.

There was also unanimous backing for a national campaign for the implementation of the 35-hour week without loss of pay.

One of the motions passed (composite 39) recognised that "the only realistic way to solve the problem of unemployment is within a fully planned socialist economy based around public ownership of the means of production...and urges the adoption of such measures."

Re-selection is a vital step in transforming the Labour Party into a mass socialist party fighting for working class interests

However, it was on the issue of Party democracy that the real attention was focused.

Callaghan's speech on Tuesday morning was expected to be an all-out attack on the left. In the event, it was an ineffective defence of the last government's record.

Callaghan conceded that the votes were "in the bag", knowing that the T&GWU and the AUEW delegations were committed to voting for two of the three proposed constitutional reforms. Nevertheless, he tried to persuade Conference that his cabinet had consulted the unions over the 5% policy last year. He was no more convincing than Michael Foot who had already rehearsed the same argument on Monday.

In the short question time that followed, several delegates took Callaghan up on the leadership's record. In particular, Moss Evans sharply repudiated the idea that there was any agreement at all from the TUC on the enforcement of the 5% last winter.

The left's preponderance on the National Executive Committee was confirmed by this year's elections. The only new member is Jo Richardson, who replaces the retiring Barbara Castle. Votes for the left significantly increased, however, particularly for Dennis Skinner and Neil Kinnock. Ray Apps [Kemp-ton CLP] and Pat Wall [Shipley CLP] standing as rank-and-file candidates received 73,000 and 69,000 votes respectively, more than most of the non-elected MPs standing for the constituency section.

Eddie Loyden, former MP for Garston, was also warmly applauded when he forced Callaghan to withdraw his remark that left MPs had voted against the government and brought it down.

It must be a very long time since a Labour Party leader

was given such a rough ride at Conference.

In the afternoon's debate on the election of Party Leader and re-selection, Callaghan's arguments were torn apart by speaker after speaker.

In an all-too-short and limited debate, an overwhelming case for election of leaders was made. Callaghan's argument that the present system "works pretty well" was treated with derision.

Even David Warburton, from the General and Municipal Workers' Union, agreed that there was a need for change, but argued that it should wait for the enquiry to report.

Frank Chapple of the EETPU got what must have been his worse reception ever at a conference of the labour movement. Booed and heckled from the start, there was uproar when he said the main reason to oppose the election of the leader was the NEC's refusal to take action against the Marxists in the party. As soon as the red light came on, he was forced to step down by overwhelming chants of "off! off!"

While Eric Heffer was summing up on this issue for the NEC, the hysterical cat-calling from among the MPs which had punctuated many of the speeches for the proposal reached a crescendo. As far as most delegates were concerned, nothing more clearly confirmed the need for the democratisation of the party.

On a show of hands, the principle of the election of party leader (composite 19) would have been passed. But a card vote defeated it by 4m votes to just over 3m. Both the T&GWU and the AUEW (on the casting vote of Duffy) voted against.

On re-selection, both the T&GWU and the AUEW voted for, ensuring that the Conference's decision at long last reflected the real feeling of the majority of the Party's rank and file.

By far the clearest and most

VICTORY FOR LABOUR'S RANKS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

fight the Tory assault on working class living standards and ensure the return of a Labour government if the parliamentary leadership were made accountable to Conference and was committed to implement socialist policies. This was the theme of every debate.

Jim Callaghan's at-

tempt on Tuesday morning to assert the "independence of the parliamentary party" was firmly repudiated by Conference. Not since Gaitskell has a party leader's speech been so coolly received by Conference.

His attempted defence of the Labour government, through listing its reforms and glossing over

its economy policies, cut no ice.

Despite attempts by a number of right-wing MPs and trade union leaders to defend the leadership, Conference clearly crystallised the unmistakable feeling of the rank and file workers—that reformist policies are doomed to defeat and that only fundamental measures to tackle the capitalist crisis can take us forward.

In the discussion on re-selection, this was clearly brought out by Pat Wall, delegate from Shipley CLP, who made the outstanding contribution in this debate.

More and more workers, he said, were turning to the Labour Party out of desperation, to find a solution to the problems of insecurity, unemploy-

ment, and bad conditions which are now getting worse and worse, despite seventeen years of post-war Labour governments.

Workers turning to the Labour Party for political action expected to have democratic control over their MPs, just as they have control over their shop stewards in industry. "If we want to build a mass Labour Party, we must allow the mass participation of the working class."

"Any MP who represents the needs of working people has absolutely nothing to fear from his constituency or from the rank and file of the movement.

"But the constituency activists are the Party's crew, and they are no longer prepared to support Labour MPs

without a say to prevent a future Labour government colliding with the ice-bergs."

Last ditch attempts by some right-wing union leaders to block re-selection, were brushed aside by delegates.

These right-wingers stressed that the inquiry agreed on by the NEC would be able to consider all aspects of the Party's constitution, in effect threatening that this would be used to undermine or reverse any decisions by Conference this year.

But, as Ian Mikardo said, they are swimming against the tide of history.

This year, the Transport workers and the Engineers, which control decisive union block votes, swung behind

mandatory re-selection. Only narrowly, these delegations voted not to back proposals for the election of Party Leader. Other delegations were split down the middle.

Any idea that the right in the union delegations will be stronger in the future is a wishful dream.

This conference has already made it clear that the experience of the Labour government and especially the ruthless anti-working class measures of the Thatcher government is pushing the trade unions further and further to the left.

Decisions this year will not be the last word. But changes in the future will not be backwards, but in the direction of greater democracy and clear commitment to bold socialist policies.



forceful case for re-selection was made by Pat Wall (Shibley CLP) and Derek Hatton (Liverpool, Wavertree CLP).

They argued that re-selection was a vital step in the direction of transforming the Labour Party into a mass, socialist party capable of fighting for working class interests. In the first place, said Derek Hatton, it was absolutely necessary to ensure that we never again allowed in carpet-baggers like Taverne, Brown and Prentice.

Bryan Stanley of the POEU was one of the union spokesmen who opposed the proposal for mandatory re-selection on the grounds that it was "undemocratic" (because it "forced" regular re-selection on unwilling CLPs) and

because non-mandatory re-selection had been accepted last year.

But as Sam McCluskie, replying for the Executive, hinted, mandatory re-selection would have been accepted last year but for a "misunderstanding" by which the AUEW's vote was cast against.

This year, the determination of the constituency delegates and the further swing to the left reflected in the big trade union delegations made certain that mandatory re-selection went through.

This, together with the decision that the NEC should in future decide the election Manifesto (decided on Wednesday morning), represents a big step forward for the

Labour Party and the whole labour movement.

This Conference has not, however, had the last word. The inquiry accepted by the NEC at the insistence of the union leaders will re-examine all these issues.

But the battles against the Tory government and big business that will develop in coming months rule out any serious attempts to reverse these steps.

On the contrary, the transformation of the trade unions which will take place in the next period will enormously increase the pressure for greater democracy in the Labour Party—and for socialist policies on which to mobilise millions of workers to defeat the Tories and establish a socialist society.

MILITANT READERS' MEETING CHANGED MOOD OF WORKERS

'A watershed', 'a turning point', 'a bench mark'. That was how speakers at the 'Militant' Readers' Meeting saw the 1979 conference.

As Ted Grant, the main speaker summed it up: "Some conferences express directly the change in mood of the working class. The decision on mandatory re-selection marked such a change—as important in its way as the 1918 conference that adopted Clause 4."

But democratising the party is only a start. The vicious attack and smears on 'Militant' from the right wing MPs and trade union leaders at conference were no accident. They represented the fact that the old reformist ideas of managing the 'mixed economy' were finally buried.

To oppose the policies and programme of 'Militant', their supporters could only resort to abuse. As a GMWU delegate

pointed out: "The searchlight of a Party inquiry should shine both ways, not only into the Labour Party, but also into the way in which union leaders claimed to represent the views of their members!"

The struggle will be a long one, but, as the collection of £1,120 at the meeting showed, it is one in which the ideas of 'Militant' are gaining more and more support in the labour movement.

Support for 'Militant's' defence against John Golding's libel action has continued to pour in from all sections of the labour movement.

Particularly encouraging is the increasing support from branches and individual members of the Post Office Engineering Union, which sponsors John Golding as an MP.

The secretary of a POEU branch in the South East, which he described as "moderate", told us: If you were to say that there is a groundswell of support for your case from the rank and file in POEU branches, you would not be exaggerating."

One letter sent from a traditionally "moderate" branch to the POEU's general secretary, we have been told, expresses the members' feeling of shame that their union should be seen lining up with John Golding to fight and possibly destroy a socialist newspaper.

Concerned for the good name of the union and the promotion of free expression, they say John Golding's action discredits him and casts doubt on the credibility of the union.

At Bradford Trades Council last week, a motion supporting 'Militant' against John Golding's action was moved by its President, Pat Wall. The SOGAT delegate ready to second the motion found himself politely pushed aside by the POEU delegate, a branch chairman, who said he insisted he would second it to demonstrate his members' condemnation of John Golding's high court action. Delegates present contributed £11 to our defence fund.

In London, Metropolitan West branch of the POEU has sent £5; members of Liverpool North £7.45; and POEU Tyneside members £2.10.

From Northern Ireland we have received word of very welcome support:

"The Labour and Trade Union Group have decided to give its full backing to your case. During the POEU dispute for the 35 hours we intervened in Northern Ire-

land giving our support. We recognise and remember the coverage and support given by 'Militant' to the POEU at that time. It is scandalous that a right-wing Labour MP, who is on record as opposing the call for 35 hours in Britain now, should have decided to fight his battle with 'Militant' in the law courts. We give our support because we see this attack as an attack on the left in general and on all who have stood on the side of these trade unionists who were forced to do battle against the policies of the previous government."

The L&TUG says it recognises that the £5 they sent is "a small contribution"—certainly understandable in the light of the cost of their newly-launched 'Youth for Socialism' campaign—but "we are undertaking to take up the issue for the defence of 'Militant' within the labour movement in Northern Ireland. Already, we have issued a special leaflet which our members are distributing to Post Office depots and to all major unions."

This is surely the best possible support!

In the last week, we are pleased to say four more Labour MPs have condemned John Golding's action and supported our defence fund: Ron Brown MP for Leith (£5); John Tilley, Lambeth Central (£5); Stuart Holland, Vauxhall (£3); and Clive Soley, Hammersmith North (£1).

More and more constituency Labour Parties are passing resolutions and sending donations to the Militant Defence Campaign.

Mancroft Branch of Norwich CLP has donated £15; Arundel CLP £10; Manning Branch LP £4.50; Hendon South CLP £10 plus £5.50 collected from members; Chesterfield CLP members sent £2; and Handsworth CLP members £4.25. Liverpool Wavertree CLP sent an excellent £30 plus £9 from Church Ward and £3 from Childwall Ward!

Edinburgh North, Hammersmith North, Deptford and Thornaby CLPs have recently passed resolutions condemning John Golding's action: please let us know if

your organisation has passed a resolution in our defence.

Further outstanding defence contributions have come in from LP Young Socialist branches: Totnes: £15, Brighton £12.38, Brighthouse £10, and Brentford & Isleworth £3.60.

We were also very heartened to see a £20 donation from the Sutton's, Coventry, branch of the Bakers' Union "in appreciation of the good work on our behalf during our fight for better conditions and wages during our fight in the 1978 strike."

It would unfortunately be impossible to mention every donation (the Defence Campaign has sent receipts where requested) but we must mention a number of outstanding individual contributions:

£10 each from: John Lockett, councillor in Newcastle-under-Lyme (John Golding's area); Dave Campbell, formerly on the Executive in Golding's constituency; Kath Falcon, Deptford LP; and Keith Hollinsworth, T&GWU Rover, Solihull and PNP.

Malcolm McNeil, NUPE branch secretary & Thornaby LP (£5), Peter Howard, Thamesmead (£5), Alison McGarry and Anthony Mirams, Handsworth CLP (£5 each), Alun Griffith, Rochdale, presently unemployed (£2); a UCATT 'chippie' (£2), Ted Williams, branch sec. Chesterfield NUT (£5), and Ray Carr, Dorset (£2).

Supporters in Croydon took the initiative in holding a Defence Social which raised £35; and supporters in a number of areas sent in collections in the last week: Doncaster (£11), Edinburgh £16.51; and Ipswich (£1.85).

We would like to thank all the organisations and individuals who have given us support. But the campaign must go on!

Every section of the labour movement not yet reached must be called on to support the Militant. This is urgent and vital to guarantee the continuation of Militant as a socialist newspaper, fighting as always to inform the rank of the movement and campaigning for a bold socialist programme.

John Golding has presented his statement of claim for damages to the high court, and a date for a hearing will be set after 1 October.

Already it has cost considerable money and time in preparing our defence. Our lawyers assure us that we have an excellent case. But the only sure defence is the active support of the labour movement!

STOP PRESS: PICKETS ARRESTED

On Wednesday morning October 3rd, four pickets were arrested in Harwich in industrial action relating to the Vauxhall pay claim. This

brings the total number arrested in Harwich to 14.

Vauxhall Motors throughout the South East of England were at a stand-

still. Not only were Dunstable and Luton shut down but dockers at all registered ports in the area agreed to block all movement of Vauxhall goods.

Determined action by between 50 and 100 flying pickets from the AUEW and T&GWU, working around the clock, achieved this support and solidarity

from other workers in support of our pay claim. The company responded by seeking an injunction to prevent this 'secondary picketing'.

The forces of law and order made their first contribution by arresting ten pickets. It is the usual intimidatory tactics. The picketing was peaceful and the arrests were completely unprovoked

and without foundation.

By Wednesday, Vauxhall's at Luton had threatened mass lay offs if lorries were not loaded, and twelve wagon loads were despatched from the factory. 60 Special Patrol Group members were on hand to 'handle' just 30 pickets.

The pickets were beaten up by the police and the four further arrests

were made. Support from the labour movement is vital.

We appeal to all trade unions and Labour Parties for assistance. Send support and donations to: Vauxhall Motors Fighting Fund, c/o 33 Valley Road, Harwich, Essex.

By Tommy Baugh, AUEW Vauxhall

DEFEND MILITANT

see letters page 12

Manchester Central

TORIES LOSE THEIR DEPOSIT

The Manchester Central Parliamentary bye-election last Thursday was the first since the Tories' national victory in May.

On a greatly reduced turnout, Labour's share remained at over 70%. The Liberals moved into second place, up from 5% to 14% of the votes. The Tories were thrashed, losing their deposit and plummeting from 22% of the vote in May to 12% last week.

Commenting on the result, Lord Thorneycroft, chairman

By Eddie Newman

(Treasurer, Manchester Central CLP)

of the Tory party, attributed it no particular significance, because of the poor turnout and 'the nature of the area'. But the campaign of the Tory company director candidate had been very low key indicating the Tories' fear that the more they were seen in the area, the higher would be the turnout, and the Labour vote. As for "the nature of the

area", the so-called affluent society clearly gave most of the constituency a miss. The decaying capitalist society has brought to the inner city area of Manchester nothing but bad housing conditions.

A large number of people are on pensions and supplementary benefit; low wages, high unemployment, and a history of local sweat shops are the traditions of the area. The low population is mainly the result of a massive slum clearance programme.

Large areas of dereliction are still present, and much of the housing built to replace the slums has been fortress-like 'deck-axis' flats, 'walk-up' flats and high rise blocks. Now that the Labour controlled council have admitted the mistakes of the past, and are putting the emphasis on low rise houses with gardens, the new housing developments in

the derelict areas are threatened by the government cut backs.

It is the working class people in the inner city areas who would suffer the most if Tory cuts were implemented.

That is why Labour's share of the vote was so high.

When the parliamentary vacancy was announced, the Liberals suddenly appeared from nowhere. Commuters from Manchester's wealthier suburbs, they suddenly expressed an interest in the local people with leaflets asking 'Have you got a grouse?'

But the Liberals have no recent traditions here and there was never any danger of an Edgehill result. Most of their increased vote came from disillusioned working class Tories, and Labour polled five times the Liberal vote.

In an area with a large

immigrant population an Independent Labour candidate campaigned that it was about time a black man went to parliament. He received 2 per cent of the poll, but the black and Asian workers, who probably turned out to vote in a higher proportion than the indigenous population, overwhelmingly supported the Labour Party candidate.

The low turnout was based on the belief that the result was a foregone conclusion and that despite the result there would still be a Thatcher government.

In addition though, local workers remembered that the poverty of the area was in existence also under a Labour government. The long term threat from Liberals and Independent candidates will only be defeated if the local Labour Party actively takes up the local and national

problems, continues to fight racism, and put forward socialist policies.

The new Labour MP Bol Litherland is an experienced local councillor, a print worker and a member of SOGAT. He has pledged to join the Tribune group of Labour MPs and to fight in parliament for socialist policies, and for Labour conference decisions to be carried out by the next Labour government.

This would be in striking contrast to the local Labour MP for the previous 34 years, millionaire financier Harold Lever who effectively resigned by accepting a peerage just a month after the general election. The by-election result was a massive Labour majority and undoubtedly a Labour gain.

LIBERALS HAVE NO ANSWER

On Saturday the 'Campaign Against Youth Unemployment' will set off from Liverpool on a march to Blackpool to demonstrate against youth unemployment levels.

One of the sponsors of the campaign is David Alton, Liberal MP for Edge Hill. To most of the working class youth in Liverpool it seems ironic that a representative of the second party of big business is involved in such a campaign.

Just a few months ago representatives of Liverpool Liberal Party wept crocodile tears at the closure of Dunlop Speke, where 2,400 jobs were lost. Yet in the past four years 4,000 jobs have been lost in the local authority alone due to the policies of Liberals and Tories on the city council.

Trevor Jones, the leader of Liverpool Liberal Party, once explained that there is basically no difference between the Liberals and the Tories on major issues. This has been borne out time and again at council meetings where jobs and services are under threat.

Last year it was the beginning of the sale of council houses as part of a "de-municipalisation of council housing" as Trevor Jones put it. In other words—selling off houses to those who can afford them; tough luck to those on the waiting list who can't.

I'm sure Tories like Heseltine would be proud of Liverpool's Liberals. Attempts were also made to close down one of the country's best purpose-built schools in a working class area, in a cost-cutting move.

Money was to be poured into one of the city's oldest

direct great schools, however, as part of a 'reorganisation' programme. These policies have a familiar ring to them. They are the same as those Thatcher and her government are trying to force on us.

With this background to the Liberal Party, it makes you wonder how they can campaign against unemployment.

As far as we are concerned, unemployment is caused by the present economic system and responsibility lies with the bosses and those who speak for them. The only solution to it is a socialist one.

In Liverpool the LPYS are organising a campaign against the Tories on cuts and unemployment. This campaign, unlike CAYU, looks for its support from the mass organisations of the labour movement—the local Labour Parties, Trades Councils, trade unions etc.

We see the Liberals in the same boat as the Tory Party. As representatives and defenders of big business they are the enemy of the labour movement. The only way to organise against unemployment is by the labour movement itself independently acting.

A clear alternative will bring behind it many who, through despair have voted Liberal or even Tory in the past. Attempts to involve Liberal MPs will only cut out the possibility of putting forward the only solution, a socialist solution.

By Josie Aitman

(LPYS National Committee)



"Multi-racial" rugby tour—

BUT APARTHEID REMAINS

The Tory government has refused to impose a ban on the South African rugby tour, a step already taken by even the right wing governments of France and Ireland. The arrival of this showcase team of eight black eight white and eight coloured [mixed race] players cannot hide the vicious realities of apartheid.

The black and coloured players were selected from

two small rugby associations, in no way representing the majority of rugby players in South Africa. The parading of the product of apartheid in a successful tour would be a 'thumbs up' for the policy of virtual enslavement of the majority black population.

Apartheid still exists in South Africa's sport, but this is a minor issue compared with the savage conditions imposed by that system on black workers, who are denied such basic rights as joining a trade union.

Average wages are far lower for black workers than for whites in the same job. Vicious pass laws, meaning

that black workers cannot live in the cities, creates a migrant workforce subject to brutal repression.

While all this goes on and political prisoners like Steve Biko die in police custody the Tories' friends in big business in Britain are reaping huge profits off the backs of the black workers. Their inaction over the tour is understandable. For the working class, though, opposition to this visit is essential.

The first match of the tour is to be played in Exeter on October 3rd. Exeter LPYS has called a public meeting the evening prior to the match, which as well as

dealing with the political questions, will discuss the next day's demonstration.

Coaches will be bringing demonstrators from Bristol, Portsmouth, Southampton, Cardiff, London, Plymouth, Gloucester, Cambridge and Bath. Labour Party and LPYS banners will be in evidence to show that the labour and trade union movement will not tolerate the vicious repression of apartheid and the profit hungry system which breeds it.

By Mick Whale
(Exeter LPYS)

Labour movement must continue to show opposition to apartheid

Photo: MILITANT

The Executive of the East London LPYS Liaison Committee send fraternal greetings to Labour Party conference and calls for:

1. A 35-hour week with no loss of pay
2. Mandatory re-selection of MPs
3. The right for conference to select the party leader
4. The right of the NEC to draft the manifesto

**Workers of the world, unite!
Smash the Tories!**

Fraternal greetings to all conference delegates from

**BIRMINGHAM,
SEELY OAK CLP**

Fraternal greetings to all delegates attending the 1979 Labour Party conference, from all the comrades of Childwall Branch Labour Party

**WOKINGHAM
LPYS**

send fraternal greetings to the labour movement "Workers of the world, unite"

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CORRIE BILL-

PRIVATE CLINICS WILL PROSPER

If John Corrie's proposed Bill, to amend the 1967 Abortion Act comes into effect it will be to the detriment of countless working class women throughout the country.

The labour movement must fight to stop such amendments, which would mean that a woman will only get a NHS termination if she satisfies two requirements: 1. the woman's life is in grave danger and 2. there is a substantial risk of serious injury to the woman's physical or mental health or that of her children.

This will make it impossible for the overwhelming majority of women to get a termination of their pregnancy. The time limit will be reduced from 28 weeks to 20 weeks.

This will not, of course, stop women from the upper classes who will go to the private clinics which flourish in our large cities—just as they have always done. But what of the majority of women—those who cannot afford the fees of these clinics? Their options are that they can go through with the pregnancy, or go to the backstreet abortionists—and risk their lives or permanent injury.

The number of terminations carried out is not as large as the media would have us think. In 1972 the rate of terminations per 1,000 women was 11.3, in 1977 this had fallen to 10.5.

The horror stories of foetuses being left to die when they were viable were dropped when no evidence was produced to support the allegations.

An enquiry followed a



Lobbying Labour renegade Prentice on abortion issue

Photo: Angela Philias (IFL) (II)

By Carol Butcher

(Manchester Central CLP)

report that a priest had spent two hours praying for a foetus left to die at Whiston Hospital. There was no real basis for the allegations that have been made. "The foetus could not have breathed," was the comment of Gerard Vaughan, the Minister for Health.

But, this has led to a debate on the dropping of the time limit for terminations from 28 weeks to 20 weeks. Late terminations are not done by choice.

For some medical reasons terminations cannot be done until late in the pregnancy, for instance in the cases of tests for spina bifida, mongolism etc. which cannot be done until the 16th to 18th week of pregnancy.

What will happen to these pregnancies if this bill comes into effect—not to mention the women who come into contact with German measles before the third month of pregnancy.

Even when these are confirmed there is still the wait for a hospital bed before the operation can be performed.

In Barnsley, a foetus lived for a day after one such operation. This operation was

late because the hospital had lost the woman's test results, causing an eight week delay. This baby could have been born severely handicapped—should she have been denied her termination?

Also in this category come the young girls who cannot face telling their parents they are pregnant until their pregnancy is well advanced.

The argument for reducing the limit of viability is false.

Medical evidence is that a foetus's lungs are solid until the 26th week, and do not start to hollow out until that time—no modern medicines are going to have any effect on this, and no arguments will make a 22 week foetus breathe. An enquiry at Wanstead Hospital after a report that a foetus had cried, showed that its lungs were not developed enough for it to have lived let alone cry.

Late terminations are not pleasant for patients or medical staff, but they are, even now, only carried out when spina bifida or mongolism has been confirmed, women who have mistaken menopause for pregnancy, women who have recently come off the pill, the mentally handicapped and young teenagers.

The DHSS report to the Select Committee on James

White's Bill stated "the fact that less than one per cent of all terminations are at present undertaken at 20 weeks or more gestation appears to show that doctors are prepared to perform them only under exceptional circumstances.

"It is known that some of the women who present late for a termination are those with a most pressing case—some of the mentally subnormal and the under 16s."

Even with the present Bill in operation septic terminations are common in hospitals. In 1960 30 women died from illegal terminations. In 1976 this had dropped to 1.

In 1968 3,100 women were discharged after treatment for septic terminations. In 1977, this had dropped to 610. If with the present Bill 610 women in 1976 suffered from septic terminations, then the argument is for the Bill to be loosened not tightened.

The only people to benefit from the success of the Bill will be the owners of the private clinics—the backstreet abortionists will thrive. Although successive Labour Party Conferences have called on MPs to defend the 1967 Bill and to extend it, 53 MPs found it "necessary" to vote for the second reading of the Corrie Bill.

NHS terminations should be freely available, not cut, as will doubtless happen in the forthcoming health service cuts.

At present only 12 NHS day care termination centres are in operation. These should be extended with every other area of the Health Service, not cut back upon.

Action must be taken to protect women—terminations are never entered into casually, a lot of pain is involved in making that decision, but if the decision is made, it must be respected and carried out with the minimum of delay and 'red tape' which now exists with the present system.

The TUC has made a statement in support of the 1967 Act and has called on all trade unionists to support the demonstration in defence of the present Act, to be held in London on 28th October.

Abortion is a class issue—the labour movement should make its protest at this demonstration.

LEFT & RIGHT

Corgi gourmets

Its a dog's life. Unless of course you are one of the Royal Corgis. Woman's Own magazine [Sept 29] gave an insight into the lifestyles of some of these palace mutts when they interviewed a former domestic to the Queen Mother. "The two corgis—they didn't sleep in baskets but in real beds with blankets and pillows in the corner. They got special treatment [at mealtimes] too. They had cabbage with their food every day, and the meat had to be cut in uniform cubes or it would be sent back down to the kitchen".

The Unemployed Workers Union in Newcastle recently reported that an impoverished unemployed worker and his family became so desperate for food that they had to kill their pet rabbit. No doubt the worker had to cut the rabbit into 'uniform lumps' too, so his children didn't recognise it as their favourite pet.

Outbreak of impertinence

"Pickets under the existing law are too damned effective." This was the view of one Chief Superintendent Leathley at the Police Superintendents' conference last week.

In an attempt to make them "damned ineffective", a resolution was passed saying that pickets should be arrested unless they informed of their intention to picket, agreed to limiting numbers and agreed to officials wearing armbands.

"At no other time are changes more likely to be well received by the masses," he went on. "Normal penalties are quite out of place in

attempting to cope with impertinence of such magnitude."

Some police chiefs opposed this on the grounds that they hadn't the forces to carry it out, but their opposition would be nothing to that of trade unionists.

Already, large sections of the "masses" are impertinently striking; and without doubt, the police ideas will not be so well received as they fondly imagine. The unions will resist any attempt to take away rights won over many decades.

These reactionary representatives of supposedly impartial capitalist justice may, in any case, even find their own rank and file constabulary mysteriously overcome with feelings of "impertinence", as they were in the police strikes of 1919. What would you do then, Superintendent?

Silver axes?

It will be a relief to our readers to know that at a time when ordinary workers are pulling their belts in, and hospitals are being threatened with closure that such penny pinching is not required of members of the Tory government.

Take Arts Minister Norman St John Stevas for example. He used to keep a harp in his bathroom, so he must be a person of exquisite taste and refinement. Not surprisingly, he likes beautiful things at his office in Whitehall. Every time he enters his room, the Daily Express gossip columnist William Hickey tells us admiringly, a member of his staff brings out a 'splendid collection of Queen Anne silver'.

Unfortunately for the rest of us, all we see coming out of government offices are not beautiful silver goblets and spoons but ugly and very sharp Tory axes.

SHIPYARDS- OUR FIGHT TODAY- YOURS TOMMORROW

"Our fight today is yours tomorrow" is the main message from the Robb Caledon workers said Alex Allan [Finishing Trades Convenor, Robb Caledon] to the 50 people at a 'Militant' shipyards meeting in Glasgow.

Alex demonstrated the solidarity of the Dundee workers and told of their determination to fight the threatened redundancies and particularly welcomed the decision of the Yarrow workers to back Robb Caledon.

He called for a national campaign to fight the Con-

federation of Shipbuilding & Engineering Unions' proposals to sell off jobs. Now workers are being made to pay for the lack of investment by the old shipyard owners.

Ewan Duncan, a shop steward from Robb Caledon told of using cranes built in the first world war when Japanese yards were using modern equipment.

Ewan called for the jobs to be saved and British shipbuilders to be run by the workers on the basis of a board of management comprising one-third from the workforce, one-third from the unions and one-third from a future

Labour government. In his

In his speech Greg Oxley [Bothwell CLP] outlined the catastrophic decline in Britain's position as a manufacturing country, such that in just 15 years 90,000 jobs had been lost in Strathclyde alone.

The labour and trade union movement must mobilise to fight all the Tory policies and explain the need for socialist policies, Greg explained, a point enthusiastically taken up by others at the meeting.

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LONG TERM UNEMPLOYMENT GROWS

September's job figures [published on the 25th] showed a welcome fall in unemployment, said Mrs Thatcher in Milton Keynes last week. As if the Tories could claim any credit for this!

In any case, the short-term fall, mostly accounted for by more school leavers finding jobs, will be no consolation for workers on the dole or those who will be looking for a job in coming months.

By Steve Amor

In the month to mid-September, 69,196 school leavers found work, leaving 114,276 unemployed. At the same time, however, the adult unemployment figure rose by 8,224 to 1,280,000.

There was a slight rise in notified vacancies recorded on 7 September, but the seasonally adjusted figures actually showed a fall.

These are scandalous figures, which Tory policies can only make worse.

The slight improvement in the job situation for young people leaving school this year will soon be wiped out by the continued stagnation and decline of British industry.

"Already," commented the 'Financial Times' (26 September), "several business surveys have reported that employers plan to reduce their labour force."

The black future for British workers on offer from the bosses is also underlined by the continuous rise in long-term unemployment.

Since January 1976 the

proportion of the unemployed who have been out of work for more than 52 weeks has increased from 14.6% (i.e. 182,300 people) to 24.5% (i.e. 340,000 people) in July this year. (Department of Employment Gazette, August 1979, Table 111)

It is no wonder, in the light of this, that over half a million unemployed workers (537,000 to be exact) get no unemployment benefit and have to rely solely on supplementary benefits—which inevitably means real poverty for them and their children.

A recent DoE survey of the inner cities (August 'Gazette' p747) also clearly confirms an

alarming rise in long-term unemployment in these key areas.

While for Great Britain as a whole the proportion of unemployed out of work for more than 26 weeks was 41%—bad enough in itself—the proportions in some inner cities was much higher: Newcastle/Gateshead 48%; Liverpool 59%; Birmingham 51%.

A major reason for this is the marked de-industrialisation of the big cities as British capitalism continues its remorseless decline.

Between 1971 and 1976 total employment actually increased by 1.8%. But manufacturing employment

declined by 10%, and it is the inner cities which have suffered the most from this industrial decline:

Newcastle/Gateshead -12.3%
Manchester/Salford -20.7%
Liverpool -21.1%
Birmingham -22.6%
London -30.2%

Before Mrs Thatcher starts boasting about a fractional fall in the appallingly high unemployment figures, she should explain how Tory policies will improve job prospects.

All the signs are that they will make them much worse.

MILTON KEYNES GREETES THATCHER

The city shopping centre, a £65 million monument to free enterprise "will be one of the few things she opens during her period of office. She will spend most of her time closing things down", said Audrey Wise to the small group of demonstrators who assembled.

We had come to greet our substitute queen, to let her know that not all the people of Britain's newest city are quite as happy with their lot as the development corporation's PR men would have you believe.

Bletchley Trades Council organised the demonstration, against the cuts in public spending. The demo was made up mostly of local trade unions and Labour Party branches with a large proportion from NUPE, NALGO, UCATT and other public sector unions.

Ian Mikardo [Labour MP for Tower Hamlets, Bethnal Green & Bow] castigated the craziness of a world which could build this glass palace while ordinary working people in Milton Keynes wait desperately for a hospital. The town has a planned population of 200,000 but it is 27 miles to the nearest hospital. "Acre upon acre" of Italian marble floor tiles [even the men's urinals] at a cost of

By Rob & Jackie Walsh
(Stevenage LPYS)

thousands of pounds, Mikardo pointed out, while he had to fight for a few hundred pounds to repair a staircase in a group of pensioners' flats in his own constituency.

When the demonstration moved off to greet the PM, we kept up a barrage of chanting. We cropped up at every point throughout her tour.

Dear Maggie, with her ruling class upbringing tried to keep a 'stiff upper lip' throughout, and smiled, waving dutifully. But by the end of the official opening speeches she was looking visibly strained, as she was whisked off in her new Daimler to the civic lunch.

Make Anti-Cuts Campaign a reality

The closing speeches to the demonstrators called upon the TUC to make their cuts campaign a reality and to organise a series of mass demos, days of action, etc.

Between us, four 'Militant' supporters succeeded in selling more than 50 'Militants'.

Workers protest at Milton Keynes

Photo: A Wiard (Report)



Many young people were eager to know more about the LPYS and our activities.

At the end of the day we all agreed that if Maggie was met with this sort of reception ev-

ery time she showed her face in public, she would think twice about squandering public funds—which she insists she is so keen to save—on this sort of fiasco.

Tories attack maternity leave

Since the Tory government came to power, it has been waging a vicious campaign against working class women, to force them back into their homes. Once there they intent to make them shoulder the burden of care for the old, sick and very young as the Welfare State is cut back to the bone.

As part of the campaign against trade union rights an attack has been launched on the maternity leave legislation passed by the last Labour government.

The Oldham Family Service Unit has just produced a report which describes the problems created by the isolation of women on large impersonal housing estates away from relatives and with cutbacks in transport services etc. One of the main reasons for baby-battering pointed to by the report is the mother losing her job and the contact with workmates, coupled with the resulting financial hardship.

The implementation of the Tory proposals would put at risk more mothers and babies. Tory proposals speak only of doing away with maternity leave in small firms who they claim are being stifled by having to grant such an elementary right. But in fact this is no more than the thin end of the wedge. It represents the first step towards removing this aspect of job protection completely.

If the Tories are allowed to get away with this, they will continue to whittle away at job protection until maternity leave disappears altogether. Their main motive is to help their friends in industry to throw workers on to the dole. Expectant mothers are a prime target. After all if a woman worker leaves to have a baby, you don't have to pay her any redundancy money.

By Margaret Crear

(Royton & Wardle LP Womens' Section)

Defence Ministry

By Peter Jarvis

TAKE A BOOK, LOAN A BOOK

By posting home a parcel of books from West Germany, one of our readers lost a copy of 'Lenin on Britain' and acquired a book on 'The Arab Secret Service'.

Even more remarkable than the unfairness of this mysterious exchange was the origin of the new book—the Ministry of Defence Library!

It is hardly necessary to be a secret intelligence agent to realise that the parcel, which had clearly been opened en route, was tampered with by someone who frequents the MoD.

The dispatcher explains to us what happened:

"After working in Germany for some years I decided to

return to the satanic mills, and so sent books through the post care of my parents' address.

"On my arrival I noticed that one of my parcels had been opened [with a PO sticky label saying it had been found "open or damaged on arrival"], one book removed, and a copy of 'The Arab Secret Service' by the former deputy chief of Israel's Mossad, Yaacov Caroz, had found its way into the parcel.

"Had the government reversed its policies on public expenditure cuts and started with a goodwill gesture by giving books away?

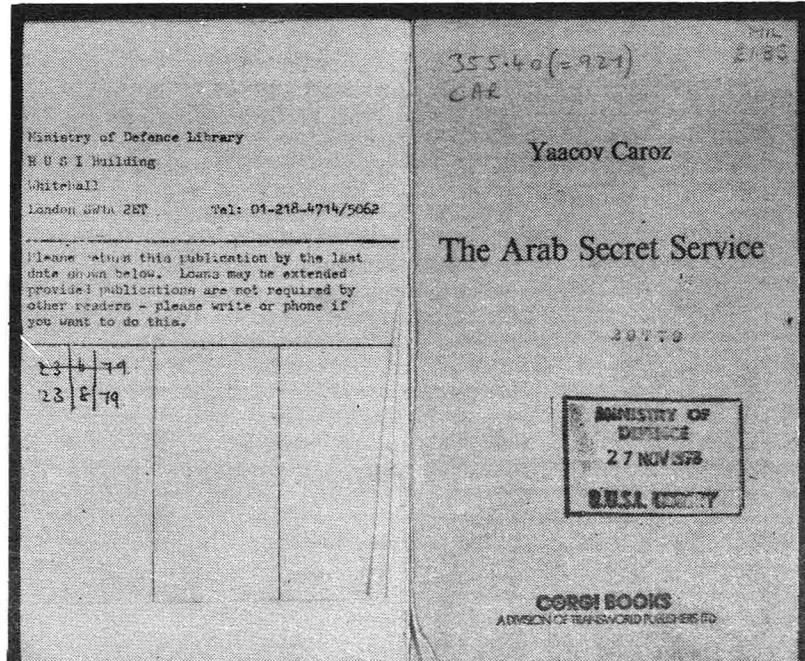
"As the library book was due back on 23 August, perhaps the borrower would like to claim it back?"

The book will be returned to the library in due course, albeit somewhat overdue. In the meanwhile, the incident is being taken up with a Labour MP—and our reader is waiting for her book back.

But this chance mistake is just an indication of how extensive is the surveillance of members of the labour movement by Britain's secret intelligence service.

Just how many letters and parcels do they open?

It is high time, as has been proposed by Tony Benn and others on Labour's National Executive, that there should be a full and thorough enquiry by the labour movement into the activities of the Special Branch and the secret intelligence services.



The inside cover of the book the Ministry of Defence lent to one of our readers (article left)

NEWS OF THE WORLD ATTACK MILITANT

THE MARX BROTHERS

REFUSED THE RIGHT OF REPLY

By GORDON LEAK
POLITICAL EDITOR



BROTHERS AT WAR: Nick Bentley, Andy Brown and Peter Tavie

Two weeks ago (21 September) we published a letter sent by Militant's editor, Peter Taaffe, to the 'News of the World' in answer to their scurrilous attack on us.

Their article, printed under the headline 'The Marx Brothers', purported to be a review of the recently published 'Enemies of Democracy' by Paul McCormick, one of the bed-sitter infiltrators who intervened in Newham NE Labour Party in support of the then Tory in disguise Reg Prentice.

The review, authored by Gordon Leak, was replete with inaccuracies, fabrications, lies and malicious innuendoes about 'Militant'.

Two of the most outrageous insinuations were that 'Militant' receives funds from foreign sources, with Russia and the figure of £1 million being mentioned.

By the Editor of 'Militant'

On 14 September, Bernard Shrimpsley, editor of 'The News of the World' acknowledged our letter, saying:

"What it boils down to is that you are anxious to state that you do not support the IRA and do not receive financial assistance from foreign sources.

"I would certainly be prepared to publish a letter from you making those statements so long as it is not in the offensive and defamatory terms of your letter to me."

'Militant' replied to Shrimpsley, noting that he made no mention of the right of reply which we had requested: "We take this as a refusal of our original request, denying us the right to give a detailed answer to your 'offensive and

defamatory' attack on 'Militant'."

Nevertheless, under protest, we said that we would take up his offer to print a short statement, and enclosed the following statement for publication:

"Dear Sir: Your article 'The Marx Brothers' on September 9th completely misrepresents 'Militant's' policies and methods of work.

"We particularly object to the implication made in your article that 'Militant' supports the IRA and terrorism and receives financial assistance from 'foreign sources'.

"We categorically reject these charges. We implacably oppose the IRA, its programme and terrorist methods. Only three weeks ago we condemned the assassination of Mountbatten in an editorial statement.

"In Northern Ireland we are for the unity of Catholic and Protestant workers on a socialist programme which would involve the building of a mass Labour Party to end sectarian divisions.

"Contrary to the suggestions in your article, we receive no support from Russia or any other 'foreign source'.

Million pound menace to the Labour Party exposed

A SINISTER army of Marxist activists of the deepest red is at work in Britain.

Their mission is to infiltrate, take over and use the Labour Party as a tool for the destruction of democracy as we know it.

And they are getting close. At least 21 million a year is being pumped into the Labour Party through the activities of these sinister agents.

An alarming dossier on the activities of this sinister army, and secret recordings of its inner workings is contained in a book, 'Enemies of Democracy', by Paul McCormick. It will be published this month.

The dossier is based on the work of the Labour Movement who reveal the infiltration of the Labour Party by the Marx Brothers.

AT LEAST 20 million a year is being pumped into the Labour Party through the activities of these sinister agents.

MAKING the Labour Party a tool for the destruction of democracy as we know it.

INfiltration of the Labour Party by the Marx Brothers is being exposed in the new book 'Enemies of Democracy' by Paul McCormick.

THE book reveals the activities of this sinister army, and secret recordings of its inner workings.

IT is a book which should be read by all those who are concerned with the future of the Labour Party.

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intended to walk the power. But a really dangerous threat is posed by the fact that the Labour Party has been infiltrated by a group of Marxist activists who have been working for some time to infiltrate the Party.

These activists are working to infiltrate the Party and to use it as a tool for the destruction of democracy as we know it.

The book 'Enemies of Democracy' by Paul McCormick reveals the activities of these sinister agents and the extent of their infiltration.

The book is a warning to all those who are concerned with the future of the Labour Party and the future of the country.

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RECEIVING RUSSIAN GOLD?

In their review of McCormick's book, 'Enemies of Democracy', they singled out the 'Militant' as "the main threat". In the next breath they talk of "close links with Russia" and "vast sums of money up to £1 million a year."

But is it not ludicrous, not to say malicious, to suggest that the 'Militant', which defends the ideas and methods of Leon Trotsky, should be in league with the Stalinist leadership of Russia?

Can the editors of this Sunday rag really be unaware of the fact that Leon Trotsky, and before him most of his family, were murdered by Stalin's agents because of Trotsky's unrelenting struggle against the emergence of a one-party, totalitarian regime in the land of the October revolution?

Trotsky and the Left Opposition fought for the restoration of workers' democracy in Russia. 'Militant', while defending the gains of the planned economy in Russia is at the same time implacably opposed to the present heirs of Stalin, the bureaucratic caste of privileged officials, and their totalitarian regime.

We stand for workers' democracy in Russia, and in all the Stalinist states. So too does the working class in these states, which is increasingly moving into opposition to the bureaucracy.

The bureaucracy lives in mortal fear of an uprising of the working class along the lines of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution.

And so do the capitalists and their press in Britain and the West! While they never tire of utilising the

Stalinist caricature of socialism to discredit the genuine ideas of socialism in the eyes of workers, they nevertheless understand that the overthrow of the Stalinist bureaucracy and the establishment of workers' democracy would sound the death knell for capitalism as well.

Who wants 'stability' in E Europe

The real feelings of the capitalists towards Eastern Europe and Russia were unwittingly revealed by the 'Evening Standard' in 1978:

"If we are serious about preserving peace it is desirable that some Soviet influence over Czechoslovakia continues. Brezhnev says Lyndon Johnson (American President in 1968) promised him a wholly free hand to invade it (Czechoslovakia in 1968). LBJ was realistic". (21 August 1978).

In other words, the capitalists (secretly) prefer the continued enslavement of the working class by Stalinist regimes—i.e. 'stabilisation'—to the frightening prospect of upheavals which could lead to the overthrow of Stalinism. They realise that such events would in turn mean the beginning of the end of the profit system in the West.

The same applies to the organs of big business, like the 'Evening Standard' or 'The News of the World'.

The interests of the capitalists and the Stalinist bureaucracy co-incide in seeking to prevent a social revolution in the West and a political revolution in the East.

Both alike fear the ideas of the 'Militant'.

'The News of the World' also seeks to repeat the slanders about 'Militant' wanting the "destruction of democracy".

This really takes the biscuit! 'The News of the World' is controlled by the giant,

big-business News International and its Chairman Rupert Murdoch.

This is part of the battery of Tory papers which dominate Fleet Street. A handful of millionaire press tycoons control the national dailies in Britain. It is this cabal of millionaires who use their power in an attempt to make and break governments. It is they who really threaten democratic rights in Britain, not the 'Militant'. The Labour Party and trade unions, with over 2 million members have no national daily paper.

We defend all the democratic rights of the working class: the right to strike, freedom of assembly, the right to vote and publish papers.

We, in fact, campaign for a massive extension of democracy, including the nationalisation of the press, with minimum compensation to those in proven need, under the democratic control and management of the labour movement.

Then it would be possible to allow all parties and shades of opinion, in proportion to their support in the population, the right to publish newspapers.

This would remove the undemocratic monopoly which the press barons now have over the national and local press.

This in turn would lead to the nationalisation of the commanding heights of the economy, which would mark a great extension of democracy.

It is this programme which 'The News of the World' and their scribes like McCormick see as "the greatest threat"—to the tyranny of big business.

We are proud to plead 'guilty' to this charge.

Once the programme of Marxism becomes the programme of the labour movement, it will not only be "the greater threat", it would actually lead to the socialist transformation of Britain.

"We have no rich benefactors: no millionaires or North Sea oil. Our paper was built and is maintained by our predominantly working class supporters and readers—trade unionists, Labour Party members and Labour Party Young Socialists.

"There is no 'mystery', as you suggest, about where our financial support comes from. Details are published each week in the Fighting Fund column of our paper."

Any hopes, however, that 'The News of the World' would actually allow us even the limited right of reply

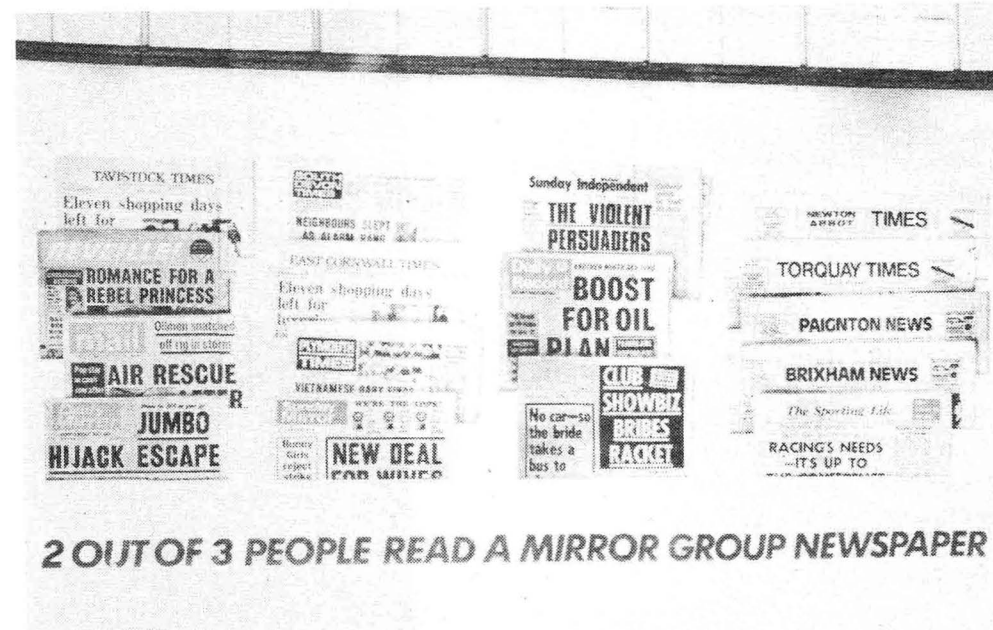
promised by Shrimpsley were soon killed by his next letter (on 20th), in which he said:

"Thank you for your letter of September 17, requesting publication of a letter in terms which I do not find acceptable and which go beyond my invitation to you of September 14.

"Furthermore, I have now obtained a copy of your issue of September 14, referring to the News of the World's article of September 9. Your headline refers to 'The Lies of the World'... I have therefore referred the whole matter to our legal advisers."

So much for our right of reply!

Not only are we denied the opportunity to answer a crude assortment of ludicrous and malicious falsehoods—which certainly undermine any claim by 'The News of the World' to be a paper dedicated to printing the truth, but Shrimpsley throws in a thinly veiled threat of legal action against 'Militant'!



2 OUT OF 3 PEOPLE READ A MIRROR GROUP NEWSPAPER

A few giant monopolies control the Press. None of them unequivocally support the struggles of workers

Strange ideas of urban aid

South Yorkshire County Council are planning to build a brand new police station in Rotherham. The site chosen is known as the Statts Ground, where several times a year a huge funfair is held. If the police station is built, there will be no suitable site left in the centre of Rotherham for a fair of this size. Furthermore the new police station, incidentally now to cost £2.8m [instead of £700,000 as estimated in 1973] will include such facilities as a rifle range—surely one more step on the way to establishing a permanently armed police force.

Other facilities include a thirty-bedroom residential block for young single constables which will surely act to remove them from the influence of the working class. They will become isolated from the working class and be more ready to act as allies of the capitalists.

The £2.8m cost will be made wholly available by the government under monies originally donated to the Urban Aid programme—designed to help the inner city areas. Surely this is the last thing they need.

A member of Sheffield Park LPYS



NEWTON A TOWN L

The Scottish mining town of Newtongrange is being reduced to one great slum by the National Coal Board.

The conditions of these miners' homes bypass some of the worst slums of Glasgow—crowded housing conditions, walls ruined by mould, doorways left without doors, unsafe electrical wiring and crumbling brick work. When a house is vacated it is immediately boarded up by the NCB.

And by letting the houses literally fall apart, the NCB will have an excuse to bulldoze the whole area next year—in 1980 the lease on the area comes up for renewal and it is unknown whether it will be renewed by the NCB.

Chris Herriot, chairman of the Socialist Housing Action Committee, set up by the Newbattle LPYS, explained, "Apparently the Coal Board want to close down the Lady Victoria pit within the next five years—as far as they are concerned this whole mining community is now one big liability so they want to dump us. We are being left to rot."

Newtongrange, which is seven miles south of Edinburgh, is the largest mining town to be established in Scotland—it once had several mines but today the Lady Victoria pithead is the only one remaining.

The miners' homes were built by the pit owners at the turn of the century, and are of the traditional one-storey type and laid out in long rows around the pithead—even the old wall which was built to separate the bosses' homes from the miners' still stands.

Yet despite the age of these houses, the NCB has not carried out one single major repair on the houses for the past 20 years! As part of their

campaign to pressurise the NCB into action, the Socialist Housing Action Committee carried out a survey on over 300 homes in the area, to get a record of the extent of decay. Many houses have not had their electric fittings rewired for the past 40 years. Some kitchens did not have sockets—the tenants have to put extension leads in from their living rooms.

The lofts and floorboards of the long 'gable' terraces are not sectioned off—this means rats and other pests can infect a whole row of terraced houses, and is also a fire hazard.

An excuse for the NCB

In one home a family had been waiting for the NCB to install a proper enamel bath for the past thirteen years!

And in another home where the NCB actually carried out some repairs—they installed a long-awaited fireplace—a 2 foot square hole was left in the middle of the living room floor.

Nearly all the houses visited by SHAC suffered from varying degrees of dampness and rotting woodwork. Damp is so common that a joke is being passed around the village that no one needs to go to the chemist for penicillin—you only have to scrape the green mould off the walls.

Chris Herriot said, "In one home the woman there complained bitterly about the damp coming up through the floorboards. She pulled back the carpet—there was another carpet underneath which was sodden wet and crawling with maggots!"

But the main problem is the structural defects caused by houses being left derelict by the NCB.

"The homes are in long terraces. When one is vacated the coal board come in and board it up—or more recently brick it up, which shows this is no temporary action.

"With the house left empty and uncared for they begin to rot and crumble away which affects the structure of the whole terrace. When the lease comes up for renewal next year the NCB will be able to turn around and say, 'But look these houses are unsafe—they must be pulled down.'

Report compiled by
Bob Wade

Photos: Julian McKittrick

"And of course the immediate problem is that rats and pests get in these derelict houses and then affect the whole terrace despite all the efforts of the miners' families."

It is becoming clearer to the people of Newtongrange that they are to be dumped by the NCB—one example was a family being told, when enquiring about installing central heating in their home, that 'it wouldn't be worth it', which doesn't say much for the future of the town!

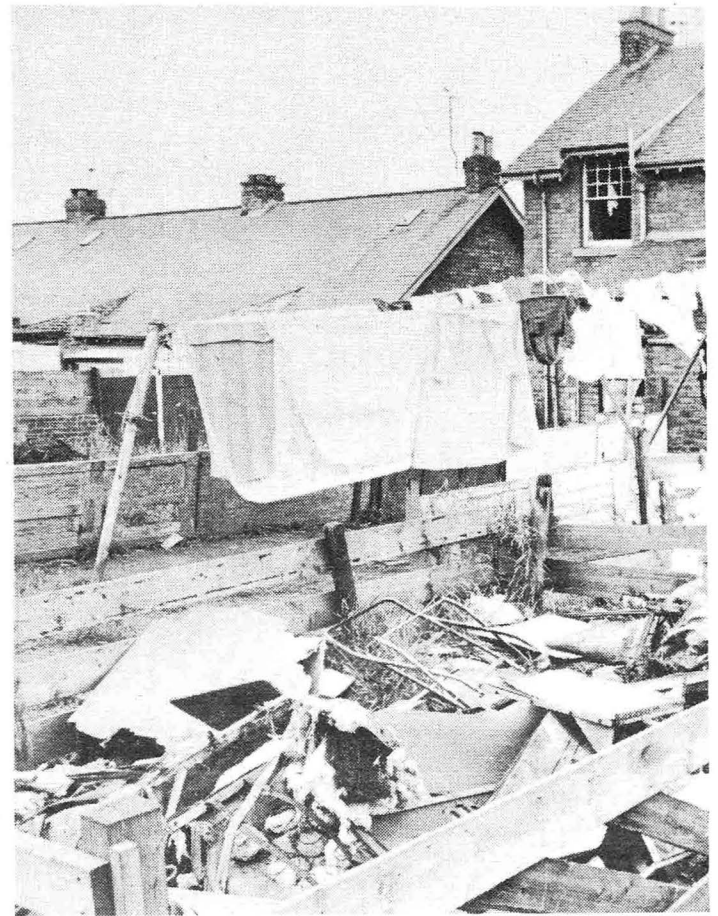
The NCB have tried to sell off the houses to the tenants. This failed dismally—as Chris said, "You'd have to be insane to buy one of these old houses."

After years of hard work in the bowels of the earth, undertaking the dangerous

task of providing an industrial source of power, the only reward the miners are to receive is slum housing and unemployment.

Under capitalism the mining town of Newtongrange has become a liability for the NCB—yet with the coming energy crisis shouldn't every source of fuel be exploited to the full?

It is believed that the NCB want to close down the Lady Victoria pit in the next five years, yet the NUM say if a nearby viaduct was demolished the mine could be worked for another 12 years. But under capitalism industrial plans are not based on needs of industry and needs of society but on profit, regardless of its effect on whole communities.



The miners are bitter about the enforced decay of the way they have been treated throughout his system. The lies propagated the high wages and life now just a joke for families. As one miner said, "As you see, swimming pool in the house, 'As you see, you pass my Rolls on

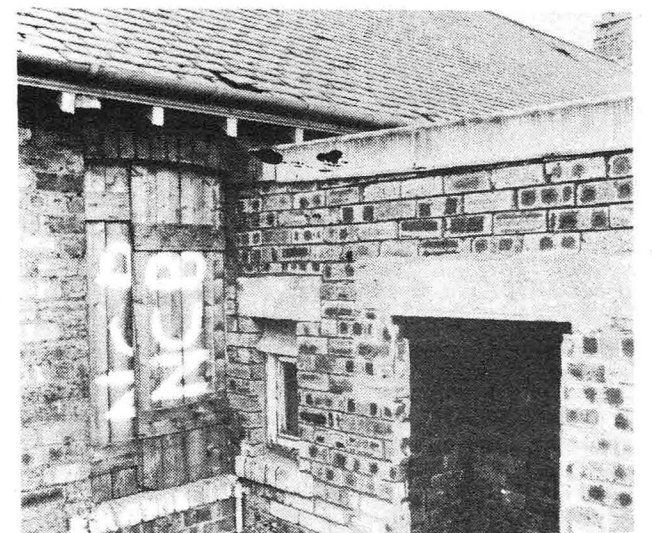
ELVIS COVERS UP THE MOULD

Mr Atkinson is an unemployed miner. He lives with his wife and three children in The Square in Newtongrange, one of the areas in most need of repair by the NCB.

His home is a potential fire hazard—electrical fittings are falling away from the crumbling brick work of the walls, and condensation seeps through dangerously near to electric cables.

He said, "I managed to put a socket in the living room myself—it all came out of my own pocket. The socket itself cost £7. That may not sound a great deal, but when you're on the dole and have a family to keep it's little things like this that eat up the money."

In the living room itself pictures of Elvis cover the walls. It's not that the Atkinsons are fanatical Elvis fans, it's just that the posters help cover up the rotting damp patches.



Boarded up by a nationalised industry—if properly repaired this house could be used by a homeless family

GRANGE: SHAC- LEFT TO ROT A SOCIALIST ANSWER TO CAPITALIST MISERY

Dampness and rotting woodwork make it impossible for miners to carry out permanent repairs



The local Labour Party has been battling for many years to pressurise the Board to change their policies but to no avail. Even Mick McGahey, the Scottish Miners' President, was involved with the Newtongrange Tenants' Action Group set up by the Labour Party and the NUM.

However, believing the situation to be under control, activity dwindled as complacency set in.

The NCB attempted to pacify the tenants by carrying out a few minor repairs here and there. Most of these repairs are now needing to be repeated and in the first place did absolutely nothing to solve the basic problem.

As before, the anger of the tenants of Newtongrange cannot be contained with mere placations and promises. So the Labour Party Young Socialists have responded to this and constituted the Newbattle Socialist Housing Action Committee (SHAC) to carry on the work started by the previous Action group.

Clearly, the manner in which the miners and families of Newtongrange are being treated is completely barbaric. It is hard to believe that it is actually a nationalised industry and not a private landlord which is in control. If the coal industry was under democratic workers' control and not run on the basis of capitalism, this situation would never arise.

No coal— no value

Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the NCB, and his cronies are only concerned with providing cheap fuel for private industry and this means cutting back in any expenditure which is unnecessary in their terms. In other words, when a certain section of the working class have outlived their usefulness they will simply be abandoned.

As Newtongrange ceases to

**S.H.A.C. Public Meeting,
Community Hall, Newtongrange,
Wednesday October 17th,
Meeting begins 7:30p.m.**

be a centre of coal production, the bosses' system dictates that this community is no longer of any value—the needs and aspirations of working people are not considered.

a similar incident in an English mining community. "We were given two weeks' notice of being rehoused when the lease ran out. The whole place was demolished."

However, in Midlothian a

The inside of Mrs Chisholm's house looks as though it is still under construction. But it has been like this for the six years she has lived there.

Boarded up windows have been left unrepaired. A bedroom door which fell away from its rotting woodwork has been left unrepaired since January. In the kitchen the paintwork is flaking off the ceiling. The walls are pock-marked with holes where the brickwork has fallen away. The stairs have come apart and are unsafe.

And in the hall where Mrs Chisholm has just completed

her latest attempt at trying to make the place habitable small rivers of condensation run down a newly painted wall.

She said, "It's heartbreaking—you spend all this money on trying to make the place look decent and it just gets ruined."

"You end up saying to yourself 'What's the point?'—why spend all this money trying to repair and decorate the place when you know it's going to be ruined within a matter of weeks. It makes you sick."

In 1980, the lease of the land on which the NCB houses stand expires. It was originally supposed to be restored to its owners, the Marquess of Lothian, in the state that it was leased (i.e. without any houses on it).

The Board and the Lothian Estates are currently discussing the situation but neither the tenants nor the NUM have been allowed any information as to developments. In short, the working people of Newtongrange have been given no indication as to their future.

The only clue to what can be expected to occur was supplied by one housewife who related her experience of

very different situation exists in that it would be absolutely impossible to rehouse so many people.

In the last decade very few houses have been built in the county and there is an enormous waiting list already in existence. Therefore, it seems likely that the lease will be temporarily renewed—and the housing situation will deteriorate further.

The majority of tenants interviewed by SHAC have come out in favour of the Midlothian District Council taking over the homes. But the council say they cannot afford to buy them. Obviously since it is two public bodies which are involved there

should be no question of money changing hands.

Also, the land on which the houses stand should be nationalised and compensation paid to the Lothian Estates on the basis of proven need—nil!

The importance of the struggle of the Newtongrange tenants and workers should not be underestimated. We fully recognise that a localised situation is no guarantee of a solution at all. If the District Council do eventually take over the homes, they will have to battle with central government and the Scottish Development Department to gain the finance to renovate and modernise the housing stock.

In this capitalist society cash gained for one social priority merely means cash drained from another. Under the Tory government in particular, Newtongrange or any other community can expect little sympathy from the corridors of power. With 20% of all unemployed coming from the building and associated industries while only 6% of building firms are working to full capacity, we have all the arguments we need to back up demands for the nationalisation of the building industry. The bosses will only build and maintain housing if it is profitable to do so. A socialist planned economy would ensure adequate housing for all.

The Tories continually argue that in the present economic crisis the money is not available for housing and such social needs. The workers are to live in misery and squalor for the sake of profit.

Millions of people throughout Britain—in Glasgow, London, Liverpool and Manchester—are living in conditions similar to those faced in this mining community. The crash programme needed in Newtongrange is only a reflection of the overall housing needs throughout the country. But, we must be realistic—only by ending the profit system once and for all will we solve the immense problems confronting us.

By Chris Herriot

(Chairman,
Newbattle SHAC)

er—not only because of their homes, but also at n treated by the bosses' tory.

in the Tory press about e-style of pit workers are the miners and their iner said with mock ved me around his small I've got the sunken back yard—oh yes, did he way in?"



A typical scene in Newtongrange—house after house bricked up by the NCB

SHAC demands:

- ★ The immediate transfer of NCB housing to the District Council
- ★ The nationalisation of the land with compensation on the basis of proven need
- ★ The nationalisation of the building industry under workers' control
- ★ The nationalisation of the banks, building societies and finance houses in order to provide the funds for a crash building and renovation programme.



WHY DID SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS LOSE THE ELECTION?

Three weeks ago the Swedish general election ended in a narrow victory for the Conservative parties. The Social Democratic Party [SAP] was unable to win despite the disastrous record of Conservative and Liberal governments.

In the following article Anders Hjelm, of the Swedish Marxist paper OFFENSIV, analyses the reasons for this defeat.

"We will come back!" That was a general mood among the rank and file when the SAP lost the 1976 election after 44 years in power. And now after the last election the capitalist parties are still in majority in the Parliament! There have been three years of capitalist policies [first a three-party government, which split in 1978, and after that, a liberal minority government, helped to office by the SAP's 'passive support']. After 3 years of higher unemployment a crisis in many sectors of industry, lower real wages, etc-we still have a capitalist majority! Why?

In the opinion polls one year ago the SAP had more than 50%. This was because of the measures of the government rather than the positive lead from the SAP. The SAP leadership did practically nothing. They had no clear program to solve the crisis in the economy.

But last year the SAP

By
Anders Hjelm
of the Swedish Marxist newspaper, 'Offensiv'

leadership offered their help to the Liberals to form a minority government. They declared it to be a necessity in the 'interest of the nation' (i.e. interest of capitalism).

So the working people of course had to ask themselves: "Why is my party helping the Liberals? There must be very little difference between these two parties." The SAP lead in the opinion polls declined.

That is the real explanation: the SAP leadership did not offer a socialist program-the only measures to solve the problems for the working class.

The election campaign of the leadership's was a defensive one, on the capitalist parties conditions. The fantastic work in the election campaign from the ordinary members could not change that fact.

In the 1976 elections the capitalist parties waged a



Swedish workers demonstrate against increasing unemployment

very hard campaign against the social democratic proposal on 'wage funds', (i.e. proposals to channel investment). 'The social democrats are preparing to introduce a system like in Eastern Europe', was the argument from the capitalist parties. 'Socialism or

campaign the funds were hardly ever mentioned! the leadership had no socialist demands. On the contrary. They stressed the need for 'broad solutions' for the sake of the economy and the future of Sweden as an industrial nation.

Only by arming itself

king people.

Nationalisation of the few giant monopolies which control the economy under workers' control and management could have laid the base for social and welfare reforms. It is the right wing policy which is to blame for the defeat. Even if the SAP gained

working class. They gained 0.8% also (now totally 5.63%) and three new seats, mainly as a 'protest vote'.

The election result showed a class polarisation. The 'winner' was the Conservative Party which is now the largest capitalist party with 18 new seats (20.4%). But their increase is at the expense of the other capitalist parties. The result shows a clear class polarisation in Swedish society. And the middle layers (even some of those who have voted conservative) can only be won by socialist policies. That is the lesson from history and that is the conclusions we have to draw today.

Right wing leadership

This is also a lesson for the British working class. The defeat in the British election was not because of 'left wing policy'. It was, as in Sweden, Spain and in other countries a result of a right wing policy from the labour leaders.

The coming years must orientate the labour movement towards a mobilised struggle for socialism. The movement must abandon policies of maintaining capitalism. Workers must transform their organisations to real fighting workers' movements with full democratic rights to control their own representatives and to work out a socialist programme.

That is the task in Sweden as well as in Britain. It is a task for the whole international labour movement.

The Election results:

	1973:		1976		1979	
	%	Seats	%	Seats	%	Seats
Conservatives	14.1	51	15.6	55	20.4	73 [+18]
Centre Party	25.1	90	24.1	86	18.2	64 [-22]
Liberals	9.2	34	11.1	39	10.6	38 [-1]
Social Democrats	46.3	156	42.7	152	43.5	154 [+2]
Communist Party	5.3	19	4.8	17	5.6	20 [+3]
Others	—	—	1.7	—	1.7	—

freedom', was another slogan.

But if some social democratic right wingers thought that the defeat was because of a 'left wing policy', the last election must have proved the opposite. In this election

with a bold and concrete socialist program (as for instance put forward by the Marxists around the paper 'Offensive') could the movement have won a majority and the power to implement reforms and better conditions for wor-

0.8% and two extra seats, it's scandalous they didn't obtain an overall majority in the Parliament. The result must be regarded as a defeat.

And the 'strength' of the Communist Party (VPK) is not much help for the

FRENCH REPLACE BOKASSA AND KEEP URANIUM

No tears will be shed for the overthrow of self-styled Emperor Bokassa of Central Africa. He ran one of the world's worst dictatorships.

When in January and April this year schoolchildren protested at the exorbitant cost of school-uniforms, he had 200 of them killed. "Death to the Emperor" cried a nine-year-old child. "It's you who is going to die" replied Bokassa and shot the child in the head. Turning to the next child he declared "I'll show what we do with children who misbehave" and poked the child's eyes out with his walking stick.

Supported by French imperialism he ransacked the country as his private domain. The French Minister of Co-operation at first described the January and April

massacres as 'pseudo-events'. But the protests and revolting killing of the children brought opposition to the regime to a head.

French imperialism wanted to safeguard its economic interests in the country and the whole region. The French government is counting on uranium from the Central African Republic, Niger and Gabon to cover almost 60% of its needs by 1985.

In January and April the students had singled out the French buildings for attack. Gradual pressure was exerted by French imperialism on the regime, in May, banks refused credit. Subsequently the French-controlled import-export company COFACE refused to guarantee business deals. In August, as a severe financial crisis gripped the country, France suspended aid.

Finally, two weeks ago, they sent in troops, whilst Bokassa was negotiating mili-



The final straw for the French was when Bokassa hit their representative this summer

tary help in Libya. They installed ex-President Dacko, Bokassa's cousin and special advisor, who had previously come to power in a coup of 1960 before being himself overthrown by Bokassa. The musical chairs may continue.

If Dacko proves unable to safeguard French interests,

they will probably replace him with General Silvestre Bangui, former Ambassador in Paris.

The French are concerned to exclude radical groups, such as the Patriotic Front (FPO) from coming to power. The FPO formed in 1972, began real opposition to

Bokassa in 1976. Mainly exiled in Paris and neighbouring Congo-Brazzaville, it has attracted support inside the country.

Under successive French puppets, the life of the people has remained horrific. One in five babies die before they are a year old. There is 80% illiteracy and average per capita income is £50 a year (the cost of the proposed school uniforms to be bought from one of Bokassa's wives shops was £10).

Little will change for the people of Central Africa as long as French imperialism is able to rule and intervene and at will. Full support must be given to those who oppose French military, economic and political control of Central Africa and who wish to build a new society free from all forms of oppression.

By
Jim Chrystie

Militant International Review

Articles on:

- Iran
- Ghana
- Britain

Available from World Books. Price 40p [+ 10p P&P], 1 Mentmore Tce, London E8 3PN

"The Annual Party Conference serves a supreme purpose: it gives the mass movement the semblance, if not the reality, of power. As such it acts as a 'lightning conductor' and 'safety valve' for extremism..."

"It is this parliamentary 'ethos' rather than the theoretical organisational structure of the Party that ensures PLP dominance. The Party constitution may hint at PLP subservience to the Annual Conference but in practice this remains another myth."

"It is the PLP which elects the Leader of the Labour Party, not the Annual Conference, and it is PLP elements which take the lion's share of decisions regarding manifesto policy and programmes."

From 'The Gaitskellites': Stephen Haseler (1969), p13-14. Haseler is now Chairman of the right-wing Social Democratic Alliance.

If a majority of a Constituency Labour Party votes to replace its MP, the press and the right wing invariably begin to howl about "unrepresentative cliques" ousting a great parliamentarian.

There is no enquiry by the Fleet Street hacks into the circumstances in which the MP was adopted in the first place. If they wanted to look into it, they would easily discover that many right-wing MPs were adopted by completely unrepresentative cliques in almost moribund parties.

It is precisely when a Party begins to become more active, gains new members and demands policies in line with the socialist aspirations of the labour movement that moves are made to replace right-wing MPs, often selected in the Gaitskell era.

The case of Dick Taverne, who was sacked by Lincoln Labour Party in 1972, provides a good insight into the Gaitskell-style 'selection procedure' which opened the parliamentary careers of not a few members of the present PLP.

After his by-election victory as the so-called 'Democratic Labour' MP for Lincoln, Taverne was blatantly frank about his position.

By Lynn Walsh

In a lengthy article in the 'Observer' (11 March 1973), Taverne frankly admitted that he had lost the support of his CLP. "I was a Gaitskellite MP with a left-wing management committee". He championed British entry into the EEC, and condemned industrial action against the Tories' Industrial Relations Act—completely contrary to his Party's views.

While claiming what amounted to a divine right to a life-long parliamentary career, he blandly related the completely undemocratic way in which he had first acquired his seat.

"I had become Lincoln MP partly through the good offices of Hugh Gaitskell. At the end of 1961, the popular Labour MP, Geoffrey de Freitas, accepted the post of High Commissioner in Ghana, and the day this was announced I received a call in my chambers from John Harris then Hugh Gaitskell's



WHEN THE RIGHT RULED SELECTING MP'S GAITSKELL STYLE

aide.

"He asked whether I was still interested in standing for Parliament. I said yes and was asked to meet Geoffrey de Freitas at the House. He gave me an introduction to his party agent in Lincoln.

"At this time I was the treasurer of the Campaign for Democratic Socialism formed just before the 1960 Labour Party Conference to rally the forces of moderation behind Hugh Gaitskell against the neutralists. This campaign organised by Bill Rodgers and spurred on by Tony Crosland had by 1961 helped Gaitskell

to reverse the conference decision which had committed the Labour Party to unilateral disarmament...It was because of my work for CDS that Gaitskell pushed my candidacy."

Well, there we have it. What could be clearer? Through the "good offices" of Gaitskell and his own work for CDS, Taverne, an up-and-coming barrister, got a seat.

Incidentally, while Gaitskell and Co. denounced the Bevanites for organising a 'party within a party', the ODS was quite blatantly built up as a right-wing campaign

organisation. So mysterious, and presumably suspicious, were the sources of its ample finance that even right-wing MP Bryan Magee resigned from CDS.

In marked contrast to this easy, old-boy network selection, left wing parliamentary candidates democratically selected by their constituencies were in the Gaitskell period regularly vetoed quite arbitrarily by the right-wing National Executive Committee.

Unfortunately for Taverne, however, he took over the seat just as the local Party was beginning to move to the left. Almost from the start, he admitted, "there was trouble between the left wing and myself."

Typically, Taverne tried to blame the moves against him onto left-wing personalities who, he implied, were out to

get him. But in doing so he touched—perhaps inadvertently—on the fundamental reason for the opposition to his stand as an MP.

Dissatisfaction with the Labour government made the militant left more dominant on the Lincoln GMC than ever before...What became noticeable was a growing feeling of class resentment. They could not understand how it was that the working class did not do better under a Labour Government, and they explained it as being due to the leadership of the party being middle class and corrupted by the middle class environment in which Ministers move."

They were right!

Since then, more constituency parties have come to exactly the same conclusion. And the experience of another disastrous Labour government has given new urgency to the calls for a thorough democratisation of the selection procedure, through automatic, mandatory re-selection.

Taverne resigned his seat and won the ensuing by-election in March 1973 with a big majority. At the time, both the Liberals and the Nationalists were picking up the votes of those disillusioned with both Labour and the Tories.

Taverne's triumph, however, was short-lived. He scraped in again in February 1974, but was defeated in the October election of that year. His 'Campaign for Social Democracy', moreover, was a disaster. The four other 'Tavernite' candidates in the February election averaged a pathetic 1.5% of the vote!

Taverne has vanished. But unfortunately there are still all too many 'Tavernes' left in the PLP, determined to continue the comfortable careers they began in the Gaitskell era—regardless of the views of the Party rank and file.

But the Labour ranks will not accept this situation for much longer, whatever the decisions made on party democracy at this year's conference. The swing to the left in the Party, which reflects more fundamental social and economic changes, makes democratic changes certain.

And the barely disguised threats from many leading Labour right-wingers to split away from the Party if they are subject to democratic selection procedures and accountability will cut no ice with the membership.

Remember Taverne? Remember the 'Campaign for Social Democracy'?

LPYS ORGANISE ANTI TORY ACTION

Young workers are under attack! Never before has it been so important to organise and mobilise to defend our living standards. The Tories, in their efforts to boost the profits of their big business sponsors, have gone on the rampage, destroying vital public services and letting prices and unemployment rise.

Half of all the unemployed are under 26; over 36,000 school-leavers from previous years have never yet had a job.

Schools are closing, teachers are being made redundant despite already overcrowded classes. One Tory council is now charging school students 10p for a glass of water with their meals! Youth clubs are closing, sports and social facilities are inadequate, and prices of cinemas, drinks, concerts and records continue to soar.

Housing and health are also under attack. Everybody is feeling the impact of the cuts—but no-one is hit harder than the youth. Black youth are hit particularly hard—the only government service not cut back has been police harassment, which particularly affects young blacks.

The Labour Party Young Socialists in London have

taken up the fight against the Tories. We are organising a demonstration against the Tories in North West London on October 20th.

By Kevin Miles
(St Pancras N LPYS)

Every YS branch in the region must begin working to ensure the largest possible mobilisation on the day. Days of Action should be held regularly between now and the demonstration; those already planned involve activity in Hillingdon, Lambeth, Camden, Ilford and Shepherd's Bush.

YS branches should be producing local leaflets taking up local issues, and

organising their own public meetings. YS branches in Hillingdon have produced a leaflet as part of their local Youth Campaign for Leisure facilities.

The recently formed East London LPYS Liaison Committee have produced two local leaflets for their Day of Action and public meeting. All local schools, colleges, youth clubs, discos, etc., should be visited with leaflets. Football matches provide a great concentration of young people, all potential YS members.

Every YS branch should be visiting local workplaces to seek support from the local trade unions. Among the visits planned in East London is a trip to Fords in

Dagenham; all branches should arrange similar visits, especially to direct works depots, hospitals, stations and councils buildings, where the workers are most directly threatened by Tory cuts.

No effort must be spared to ensure the maximum mobilisation for this demonstration

which will be a fighting start to a wider struggle to end the vandalism of this Tory government, and to replace it with a Labour government committed to policies to break the power of big business.

Saturday October 20th 12.30 pm
Assemble Shepherds Bush Green
[Opposite Tube Station]
and march to North Kensington for
a Rally outside the Tabernacle

Speakers:
Kevin Ramage [National Chairman LPYS]
Bob Lee [General Secretary, PNP Youth UK]
and local labour and trade union movement speakers

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

Cambodia—a recurring tragedy

Dear Comrades

The review of 'Sideshow—Nixon, Kissinger and the Destruction of Cambodia' in issue 470 showed the lunacy of those policies used by the then American leaders.

Since that review we have all learnt of the policies of the Khmer Rouge and their effect on that nation. When they took power in 1975, they undertook to return Cambodia to pre-feudal times—"Year Zero" as they named it.

They wiped out all signs of modern society; all schools and hospitals were destroyed. Workers and professional people, possibly 2 million human beings, were murdered as part of this fanatical programme.

Civilisation was almost totally destroyed, agriculture devastated and now the entire population is liable to die of disease and starvation within a year unless massive foreign aid materialises soon. The regime of the Khmer Rouge, overthrown by Vietnam earlier this year, was by all accounts more insanely barbaric than those of either Hitler or Stalin.

Yet today no aid is forthcoming as millions of Cambodians continue to starve to death. The Western capitalist countries are unwilling to help in case they offend their newest customer, China, who is at war with Vietnam.

The interests of monopoly capitalism and the Stalinist bureaucracies are clearly seen as more important than the lives of a few million Cambodian peasants. To them the continuance of privilege is more valuable than human life.

Until workers' control is introduced, until the privilege of the few is replaced by the rule of the overwhelming majority, "mistakes" like Cambodia will continue to be recurring tragedies of human society.

Yours fraternally
Eddie Phillips
Glasgow Provan CLP

To Militant Defence Campaign,

Dear Comrade: My Party writes to express our concern at the proposed legal action to be taken by John Golding MP.

We shall be discussing this matter at our next meeting and I have been asked to write and seek confirmation that your paper has invited John Golding to submit an article expressing his version of the

NEC meeting.

The Eton & Slough CLP deplores the use of the courts to resolve differences between comrades in our movement and believes that such action can only harm the Labour Party.

Yours fraternally
Maureen Fowler
Secretary
Eton & Slough CLP

The Editor replies:

The Militant Defence Campaign has passed on this letter.

We would like to thank your Party for taking up this issue, and at the same time assure you that we have made it quite clear in our printed statements that we would be willing to print a statement from John Golding. In our statements, moreover, we made it clear that he and the Party's general secretary disputed our report, while of course citing the evidence we

had to substantiate our original report.

Incidentally, you refer in your letter to John Golding's "proposed legal action" but he has in fact lodged a statement of claim for damages at the high court and his action against us is therefore under way. Already, it has involved considerable time and expense to prepare our defence.

Thank you again for your support: I hope this answers your point.

Dear Militant,

As a POEU and Labour Party member I would like to say, through the pages of Militant, how angry the action being taken by John Golding MP has made me.

For a representative of the labour movement to take court action against the Militant and therefore against a substantial section of the labour movement including members of his own party and

his own union shows complete disregard for the rank and file members of the Labour Party and the unions and the opinions they hold.

Therefore I would like to contribute £20 to the fighting fund and hope that it will be some small help in the future.

Yours fraternally
Brian Kelly
POEU Bristol External Branch (personal capacity)

Appreciation—

Dear Comrades

We hope our small contribution [£20.05 to the Militant Defence Fund—Ed.] will help in your fight against Mr Golding MP. In appreciation of the good work on our behalf done by the Young Socialists of Coventry during our fight for better conditions

and wages during our fight in the 1978 strike.

If we can be any help in the future please let us know.

Yours fraternally
J Scott
Secretary, 323 branch,
Bakers, Food and Allied
Workers Union

Hello Hello Hello...

Dear Editor

Our LPYS branch, as part of the campaign against 'sus' and police harassment, recently held a day of action, leafletted local estates, and organised a public meeting. We received a good response, and had a number of enquiries for information on the campaign.

So wide was the interest shown, in fact, that we received an OHMS envelope containing this form from the leaflet requesting further details. "Name: Police Station. Address: 39 Dalston Lane E.8."

Yours fraternally
Secretary
Hackney North LPYS

Never mind the cost—count the profits

Dear Comrades

In Harlow recently a carelessly loaded lorry spilt its load across a busy roundabout near the town centre. The load—dangerous chemicals.

Firemen had the risky task of clearing up the mess. Some of the chemicals even escaped through surface sewers into a nearby river.

This brought to mind an article I read about a team of

scientists in Tennessee, USA, researching into which forms of transport were best for energy conservation. They found that the most efficient forms of freight transport are railways, pipelines and waterways. Lorries and trucks are only a quarter as efficient as railways.

Their conclusion was that for the last 20 years or more we've been moving away

from the most efficient means of transport.

But they missed the main point. More profit can be made from carrying goods on lorries, even if it is wasteful and a danger to ordinary people. As we know to our cost, one of the unwritten laws of capitalism is 'If you can make more profit from doing something in a daft way—that's the way you do

it!'

Forward to the days of a planned economy when lorry drivers can be more productively employed and profit isn't the only motivating force in society.

Fraternally
Margaret Edwards
Harlow CLP

Thatcher hits mortgage-payers too

Dear Comrades

Readers of 'Militant' might be interested to know how Maggie's tax cuts have affected 'option mortgages'.

These are government-subsidised mortgages at a low rate of interest. Unlike other mortgages, they do not entitle you to tax relief.

I own a small terraced house and have an option mortgage from Brighton Borough Council. I received a

letter from the council last week informing me that as the income tax rate was being reduced from 33% to 30%, the amount of subsidy paid by the government on the loan will be reduced from now on.

The amount of interest payable by borrowers under the option mortgage scheme therefore has to be increased.

From a mortgage of £53.90 per month, the new interest

rate pushes my mortgage up to £57.37 per month. This is yet another sneaky indirect cut by the Tory government.

As a single parent who has recently returned to college as a mature student, I am trying to bring up a child on about £45 per week. This rise, coupled with soaring prices, is bound to cause hardship this winter.

Many other workers in

Britain on low incomes will experience the same problems. Workers should organise now in the labour movement to defeat the policies of this reactionary Tory government.

Yours fraternally
Maureen Boyd
Brighton Labour Party

Clay Cross amendment—defend Labour councillors

Dear Comrade

We urge delegates to this year's national conference to demand that proper consideration is given to the Clay Cross cause.

The labour movement as a whole has made a magnificent contribution to this CLP's continuing campaign in defence of the former Clay Cross councillors.

Readers will recall that a defence fund was built up by the grass roots membership of the movement and this prevented the spread of bankruptcies to a second team of councillors. Following this, delegates to the 1977 conference overwhelmingly adopted a resolution calling for removal of the disqualifications from public office which had been imposed on these

elected representatives.

Far from acting on this instruction, certain highly-placed officials showed open hostility to the Clay Cross case. When faced with the problem of acting on the 1977 conference resolution, the majority of the NEC promptly threw in the sponge after only the briefest consultations with the Labour government.

As can be seen on page 70 of this year's Annual Report to conference, the present NEC has moved back towards the line recommended by the 1977 conference, and is now pressing for the lifting of the disqualifications once the former councillors have been "discharged from bankruptcy."

It is unfortunate that the commitment had to be

watered down in this way, and that it was only extracted from the NEC after the Conservatives' success at the last election.

Although the CLP's campaign has, at last, made some headway within the NEC, the majority of the conference arrangements committee (CAC) remain as hostile as ever to the Clay Cross cause. NE Derbyshire's amendment to resolution 277 has been excluded from this year's conference agenda by the CAC.

Resolution 277 calls for support for Labour councils who stand out against Tory policy involving selling off council housing stock. It was because NE Derbyshire CLP felt that the resolution as it stood could lead to other

Labour councillors being treated like those at Clay Cross that they proposed an amendment to the resolution.

NE Derbyshire's amendment

This reads: "Conference instructs its NEC to organise a campaign around these issues and to give full support to any Labour councillors who stand out against the Tories' housing policy so that on this occasion Labour councillors who courageously refuse to implement Tory measures will come to see that they have the organised strength of the Labour Party to assist them, helping to protect them from surcharges, bankruptcies, debarments and the like. To show the serious nature of our

intentions, we further instruct the NEC to ensure that Labour's next manifesto will include a firm commitment to remove the penalties placed on the former Clay Cross councillors and against any of their possible successors."

The CAC has excluded the amendment because it claims that the three-year rule has been violated. Yet the 1977 resolution on Clay Cross (to which they are presumably referring made no reference to a manifesto commitment and, precisely because it was adopted two years ago, could not, of course, refer to the situation that has arisen following Labour's 1979 election defeat.

The CAC also claim that the amendment is invalid because it introduces new material

into the new resolution. In fact, quite sensibly, the amendment draws on the lessons of the past to guide those involved in the campaign on housing at the present time. The CAC can hardly claim that the Clay Cross issue had nothing to do with council housing.

NE Derbyshire CLP is asking the NEC to use its authority within the Party's rules to lift the embargo on the amendment. If this is not done, our conference delegate, who is a current Clay Cross councillor, will need support from the floor of the conference to overcome the CAC's high-handed ruling.

Yours fraternally
Ted Fearn
Secretary,
NE Derbyshire CLP

CHANGE OUR FORTUNES

"A week's a long time in politics!" Harold Wilson's famous remark is most appropriate for this week in Brighton.

By the time this column is printed, the result of the crucial debates at Labour's conference will be known. At the 'Militant' offices, we're awaiting other news too—how near to the October 7th target of £63,750 will we get?

This week's total of £879-80 brings us over the 49,000 mark. How much can you change 'Militant's' fortunes in just one week? Rush donations to us before the dead-line!

Give us a ring before mid-day on October 7th to tell us what's on the way and, if it hasn't arrived we can still include it towards the target for your area. Study the chart to see what's needed.

Don't forget big tax rebates are on the way and every reader can safely 'promise' something to the Militant now!

The biggest single contribution this week was an excellent £321 collected at a 'Northern and Scottish Militant sellers rally' with nearly £80 to come in IOUs. On a smaller scale, Hampshire supporters contributed £40 from a meeting. Militant readers' meetings in Shipley and Wisbech, and a Marxist discussion group in Garston (Merseyside) all swelled the

By Steve Cawley

coffers.

West Wales had a boost to its total with a £50 gift of union expenses from A Tynan (South Wales NUM). Other sizeable donations included £25 from G Henthorn (Oldham), £10 from M Smidman (Surrey). R Howell (Bristol) sent us £4, and Mr & Mrs Lapping (London) and E McGeachan £3 each. Thanks to J Edwards (Glasgow CPSA) J Gardner (Belfast) G Filer (Stevenage) D Mitchell (Cleethorpes LPYS) and B Payne (Leeds) for various sums between £1 and £3.

The many £1 contributors included M Brown (Feltham LPYS), M Wilson (Liverpool GMWU), A Waterworth (Tyneside), A Cleminson (Sevenoaks), G Smart (S Glouc. LPYS), R Moody (NUM) and A Horne (both Nottinghamshire), F Curtis and R Bates (Ealing North CLP), P Kempster (Swansea AUEW), and 3 supporters in South Humberside: I McEwen (AUEW), R Leggot and J Kinnard (LP Town Councilor).

Even if you can only afford a few pence a week it very quickly mounts up. C Morgando (Birmingham LPYS) and M Lewis and C Brady

Build Militant

Area	Target 52 wks	Target 39 wks	Proportion of target received	Received
Eastern	4,700	3,525		2,280
Hants & IOW	3,100	2,325		2,039
Humberside	2,000	1,500		1,212
London North	9,500	7,125		4,853
London South	3,900	2,925		2,686
Manchester & Dist.	4,500	3,375		1,855
Merseyside	5,000	3,750		2,120
Midlands East	3,300	2,475		1,909
Midlands West	9,000	6,750		5,042
Northern	5,500	4,125		2,690
Scotland East	2,900	2,175		1,138
Scotland West	4,500	3,375		1,792
South East	4,500	3,375		3,142
South West	3,100	2,325		1,814
Wales East	2,600	1,950		1,154
Wales West	3,400	2,550		1,701
Yorkshire	6,800	5,100		3,078
Others	6,700	5,025		8,738
Total	85,000	63,750		49,243

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

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

(both Swansea AUEW) sent us 50p this week. A regular as clockwork donation of that amount every week means £26 a year. Get the idea?

Labour Party Young Socialists who have donated this week include members in Garston, Ealing North and Welwyn & Hatfield (from a sponsored walk). Birmingham PNP Youth Branch held a collection for us, and other 'international benefits' were the Spanish evening (Rochdale) and Italian evening (Cleethorpes).

AUEW members in Leeds sent an excellent £35 from collections and donating expenses. Nearly £5 came in

THIS WEEK

£880

small amounts from CPSA members in Glasgow, and nearly £20 from socials in Cardiff and Croydon. £22

came from Tyneside's Limited Draw and 'sale of photos.'

Comrades, let's see if you, and one or two of your friends

or work-mates, can muster a 'monster' donation for Militant this week. We don't expect hundreds or thousands, but just a 'fiver' from every reader would provide the resources and the confidence for Militant to step up its reporting of the battle of ideas in the labour movement that will continue long after Labour's conference this week.

We want to expand and develop a workers' paper and Labour's Marxist voice. We want to give a better service to the working class than the capitalists' 'serious press' give to our exploiters. Help Militant do just that!

ads

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

MILITANT MEETINGS

LONDON Militant Public Meeting. 'What next after Labour Party conference?' Speaker: Tony Saunois, LPYS representative on Labour Party National Executive. 8.00 pm, Wednesday 10th October, 21 Star Street, London W.2.

BIRMINGHAM Militant Public Meeting 'Socialism and the Labour Party'. Speaker: Chris Newis (Labour Party conference delegate, Perry Barr CLP). Chairman: Pete McNally (delegate, Ladywood CLP). The Foyer, Dr Johnson House, Bull Street, Birmingham. 7.30 pm, Monday 8th October

NEWCASTLE Militant Public Meeting. 'What next after Labour Party conference?' Speaker: Labour Party conference delegate. Durant Hall, Ellison Place, Newcastle. 7.30 pm, Tuesday 18th October

MANCHESTER Militant Public Meeting 'The fight for the engineering claim'. Speaker: John Burn (AUEW shop steward). Star and Garter, Fairfield Street, Manchester. 8.00 pm, Thursday 11 October. Plenty of time for discussion.

LIVERPOOL Militant Public Meeting 'Labour's future'. Speakers: Peter Taaffe (Editor of 'Militant'); Eddie Loydon (LP Conference delegate, Garston), Tony Mulhearn (NGA delegate). Chair: Josie Aitman (LPYS National Committee). AUEW Hall, 48 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. 7.30 pm, Wednesday 10th October

LEEDS Militant Rally after Labour Party conference. Hear: Ted Grant ('Militant's' political editor) plus local speakers: Pete Hopkin (Dewsbury LP conference delegate); Kevin Pattison (Delegate, Leeds NE LP and secretary, POEU Leeds Internal branch). Chair: Steve Appleton (CPSA NEC member) Adelphi pub, Lower Briggate, Leeds. 7.30 pm. Sunday 7 October

HACKNEY Militant Public Meeting. 'What next after Labour Party conference?' Hear: Tony Saunois (LPYS representative on Labour's National Executive Committee) Room 1, Hackney Labour and Trades Hall, 96 Dalston Lane, E.8. 7.30 pm, Tuesday 16th October

SWINDON Militant Public Meeting 'After Conference— which way forward for the Labour Party?' Hear: Jeremy Birch (conference delegate and Militant correspondent) AUEW Hall, Swindon. 7.30 pm, Wednesday 10th October

STOCKTON Militant Public Meeting 'After the Labour Party conference: the fight ahead'. Thursday 11th October, 7.30 pm. YMCA, Stockton, Room 2. Speaker: Bill Burns, conference delegate, Hartlepool CLP

BRIDGEND Trade Union Discussion Group. 'After LP Conference, which way for Labour?' October 11th, 7.30, at the Ship Hotel, Duncervin Place, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan. For further details contact: Alun Morgan, Bridgend 63284

CHESTER - LE - STREET Marxist Discussion Group. 8th October: 'Marxism and trade unionism'—Jeff Price. 22 October: 'The Philosophy of Marxism'—Dave Cotterill. 7.30 pm, Chester-Le-Street Labour Club

SOUTHWARK Young Socialists public meeting. 'How black youth can fight back against repression'. Speaker: Bob Lee, Secretary, PNP youth. 41 Camberwell Grove S.E.5. 8.00 pm, Monday 8 October

SHEFFIELD PARK LPYS disco. Featuring Earhtails and sponsored bop. At the Penthouse—off the Haymarket (5 mins from station), Sheffield. Tuesday 9 October, 9.00 pm till late. Tickets £1 (claimants 50p)

WOKINGHAM Constituency Labour Party 'Socialist Day': Sunday 28th October, 1.00-10.00 pm
1.30: 'Which Way for the Labour Party?'—a debate between Alan Furlay (Wokingham CLP) and Lynn Walsh (Militant Editorial Board).
4.30 pm: 'Youth in the Labour Party'—Andy Bevan (Labour Party National Youth Officer) Crèche, bookstall, social in the evening price £1.50 (including free beer); children free. For tickets contact: T F Pearce, 16 Wagbullock rise, Bracknell, Berks. Tel: Bracknell 21858, or on the door.

BRUNEL UNIVERSITY Lab-our Club public meetings:

'Southall, racialism and the law'—speakers from the Southall Defence Committee and PNP (black socialists) youth movement. 7.30 pm, Thursday 11th October

'After conference—what next for Labour?' Dennis Skinner MP and Kevin Ramage, National Chairman, Labour Party Young Socialists. 7.30 pm, Thursday 18th October

Both meetings in Lecture theatre B, Main Lecture block, Brunel University, Kingston Lane, Uxbridge, Middlesex

Also: 'Drink, dance and defend'—a social to raise legal funds for members arrested at Southall on 23rd April. Tickets £1.25 in advance, £2.25 on the door—including disco and free Ruddle's beer! At Brunel University Chaplaincy, Kingston Lane, Uxbridge. 8.30 pm, Friday 19th October

BADGES made to order: SAE for details from Dept. P. Mapographics, 32 Worple Rd Mews, London Sw 19

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Result of East Newcastle limited draw. 1st: 'Writings of Trotsky 1929-1949'—A Maughan, Wallsend LPYS and CPSA. 2nd: 'The Case of Leon Trotsky'—E Lowerson, Chester-le-Street LPYS. 3rd: 'Trotsky on Britain'—T Cairns, Newcastle East LPYS. 4th: 'My Life'—Kenny McKay, CPSA ONS, Glasgow. Would prize-winners contact Norman Hall (tel. 0632 621333)

Workers' Action public meeting. 'Stop the cuts now'. Speakers: John Bloxam (Harrington NATFHE), Bill Bowring (Lambeth Council, Norwood CLP), Ken Livingstone (Camden Council), 'Metropolitan', 95 Farringdon Road, E.C.1. 8.00 pm, Friday 5 October

'Don't blame me' badge. You've seen the rest—now buy the best. 20p each + postage. A three-colour badge. Write to Bob Faulkes, 375 Cambridge Heath Road, London E.2.

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

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

Peter and Sue Doyle announce another gain for the working class: a baby boy. Peter James

Why Western's pickets are lobbying Labour Party conference

'WE WILL NOT GIVE UP THE FIGHT'

For the second time, pickets from Western Shiprepairers in Birkenhead will be lobbying Labour Party conference. After 15 months on the picket line in the struggle to win back the 625 jobs abolished in July 1978, why should these unemployed men have to go to such lengths?

At last year's Labour Party conference an emergency resolution moved by Liverpool Wavertree CLP was overwhelmingly passed, calling on the government to nationalise Westerns and facilitate alternative work schemes to save these badly-needed jobs.

The Western's men travelled back to their families with a sense of victory, full of hope. But to their eternal shame, the Labour Cabinet never even campaigned on this party decision, let alone implement it! The Laird Group management were allowed to continue with their bloody-minded refusal to reopen the yard themselves or let anyone else open it.

Despite this slap in the teeth Western's men have fought on for the last twelve months, remaining loyal to the Labour Party throughout. Teams of pickets canvassed for Labor in Birkenhead during the General Election.

They deserve the unqualified support of conference in the interest of jobs and of democratic decision-making within the labour movement.

Liverpool Wavertree CLP have tabled an emergency resolution on shipyard jobs at this year's conference, specifically referring to the struggle



Pickets at Westerns Shiprepairers

at Western's and the need for Labour's NEC and the Parliamentary Party to campaign in support of last year's resolution.

It is then the duty of the Party leadership to conduct a campaign of support for Westerns and all shipyard workers, with the same clear programme and fighting spirit

displayed by the pickets.

Financial support is also needed. The Laird Group owners have just announced half-year profits of £5.04 million, compared to £4.83m for the first half of 1978. They forecast final net dividends of 3.4p a share compared to 2.7p last year.

For the pickets it's a

different story, unless the support of conference is used to bring about an early victory.

Enquiries, donations and messages of support to: Western's Action Committee, 29 Gaywood Close, Ford, Birkenhead, or Tel. 051 608 8339

Photo: MILITANT

'Give us your support'

Kevin Scully, Vice-Chairman of Western's Action Committee:

"We would like to thank the Labour Party for their support at the 1978 conference and ask for continuing support. Delegates should put pressure on the MPs to demand action on Westerns and on Merseyside as a whole. They could also put pressure on their trade unions to get the national leadership properly involved—especially the Confed unions. I'm sure a hefty push from them could get results.

One of the things we've learnt is that it doesn't take a lot of men—just strong will—to fight a multinational. You just can't sit back and hope things will happen—you must use every available process within the Labour Party and the trade union Movement.

If we hadn't worked within the Labour Party we wouldn't have got the support of MPs. And without the help of 'Militant' nothing more would have happened anyway.

I've always been Labour—and I'll never change. But I'm seeking a change within the Labour Party. The Young Socialists have convinced me that we can effect a change in the Labour Party"

—I'm banking on this.

Kevin Cross, Press Officer for Action Committee:

"15 months on, and we're still battling, as adamant as ever. The majority of us are over 30, so we face 35 years on the dole. There's no way the picket will be destroyed, until we get comparable jobs and wages.

We're being conditioned to a throwaway society, throwing us out of work. We want to turn power into the hands of those it belongs to and take it out of the hands of the capitalists. Those threatened should rally round us, let us know we're not isolated, and give us the moral and financial support to fight on as we've done. Let us look to Westerns as our flagship."

NUR official strike RAIL JOBS UNDER ATTACK AT PADDINGTON

On Wednesday 26th September NUR history was made. An official one-day strike, backed by the Executive Committee, took place in a single London terminal.

The strike was called by the Executive Committee of the NUR, involving all members at Paddington station in the face of a direct management attack on hard-won union rights and an attempt to get rid of 56 jobs.

On the 24th April management presented the parcels' staff at Paddington with a 64-page document declaring their intention to revise "methods of working". They proposed to: cut 56 out of 200 jobs; implement massive speed ups and 10-hour rosters; alter the turn of duties at short notice; switch workers to clerical and other work; introduce close-monitor TV cameras "for parcel security", and completely close down Sunday work.

These proposals threaten jobs, forcing workers to move to shunting yards or clerical work after 20 or more years as parcel workers. They will disrupt leisure time and private lives and mean huge increases in work-loads.

At the first consultation meeting the area manager refused to answer a series of question put to him by the staff reps. He broke off the meeting and has refused to co-operate with consultation as laid out in the procedural

rule book ever since. He has even refused to present accurate minutes of the meeting.

Despite this total failure to go through consultation procedure, the parcel staff were told on 24th August that the proposals would be implemented on 3rd September. With the backing of the Divisional Officer of the NUR, the parcel staff insisted on working the existing rosters on September 3rd. When they arrived at work they were locked out by the management.

The union's Local Departmental Committees are demanding their complaints on procedure are dealt with, rosters are returned to the status quo and that compensation is paid to all parcel staff to fully make up loss of pay during the four weeks' lock-out. The Executive Committee of the NUR supports industrial action (of one day or more) in support of these demands.

Vital dispute

In response the British Rail Board has offered one or at most two days of negotiation on procedure and methods of work. It insists that they had the right to lock out the parcel staff, but have offered one week's compensation.

Why are they offering compensation if nothing is

wrong? If they are admitting they are wrong then the workers are owed four weeks money, not one!

Paddington has been a traditionally militant terminal. The management have re-routed parcel traffic deliberately to provide an excuse to get rid of jobs.

With a threatened 20,000 redundancies on the railways this has become a vital dispute for all railworkers.

On Tuesday the one-day stoppage was quite correctly extended to include workers at Old Oak Common signal-box, which controls the lines in and out of Paddington, bringing the station to a complete standstill.

The Executive Committee of the NUR should also prepare plans for a strike on the whole Western Region.

If the management still refuse to back down, then given the serious implications of the issue, the way in which the machinery of negotiations have been breached, and jobs threatened, the NUR leadership should prepare the membership for national action.

A victory for the Paddington NUR workers will be a victory for all railway workers.

Dave Reid and Ian Gellman (Paddington LPYS) spoke to Geoff Hensby (Secretary, Paddington NUR No. 1)

'These cuts will affect us all' say Liverpool civil servants

Civil servants in Liverpool came out on strike in hundreds last Friday. More than 1,500 CPSA members walked out in support of six members suspended for applying union sanctions against spending cuts.

Ten social security offices were closed and Customs and Excise and Defence Ministry workers also joined the protest. Unless the suspensions are lifted, the action will be escalated.

Management sent home six workers from the Breckfield DHSS offices for refusing to do extra work caused by unfilled vacancies. A proposal for daily work allocating monitored by the unions has been rejected by management.

Jim Lloyd, DHSS Liverpool CPSA branch organiser, explains the issues at stake:

"Our union along with most other members of the

TUC have been engaged in the fight against the impending cuts forced upon us by the Tories.

"The Tories have wasted no time in taking us on.

"We now have members of our union suspended from duty for taking part in this action—six clerical assistants were suspended last week. In response the whole of the DHSS section of our union walked out in support.

"What gave me hope that we could mount an effective campaign against these cuts, is that there was a spontaneous walk-out by CPSA members in the Ministry of Defence, Customs and Excise, port officers and in the Department of Employment.

"We do not want to hurt the weakest members of our society, as we all live and work in one of the most deprived areas of Europe. Members realised whole fam-

ilies will be hurt by our action, so the decision was not taken lightly.

"It must be brought home, right now, to everyone, that these cuts will affect us all.

"Social security benefits will be even harder to get for people who need them urgently—mostly pensioners. In all public services, the Tories are looking for ways to drastically cut back the welfare aspect in our society.

"Our union will do its utmost to fight one of the most reactionary governments we've had in living memory.

"We appeal to all trade unionists to help us to take our rightful place in the trade union movement. We are weak, but we are willing to take part in the fight. Please support our action so that we can."

GEC Liverpool

The 1,500 production workers at GEC Liverpool are in the third month of their all-out strike over pay.

GEC workers are at the moment involved in nine separate disputes as well as the Confed strike action. Management seem determined to provoke head-on clashes with the unions.

Perhaps that is why Weinstock, the GEC tycoon, is talking about withdrawing from the Engineering Employers' Federation: he thinks he can beat his workers into submission more successfully

'Combine is vital'

without their assistance.

If so, he won't get much joy in Liverpool. Placards on the gate declare: "8% joke—no surrender." Each union involved in the dispute—NSMM, T&GWU, EETPU and AUEW—is taking part in a 24-hour picket rota.

One picket told me that management's latest offer was actually lower than the previous one. By removing the commitment to back-date the increase, it is worth less on a yearly basis.

The Liverpool workers see the development of the GEC

trade union combine committee as an important step. In the past, Liverpool has stood alone, but now these workers see the combine as vital if they are to defeat the attacks on wages, jobs and trade union rights.

The mood is solidly determined. As one picket put it, "After three months, this is becoming a way of life."

Richard Knights spoke to GEC pickets

CONFED CLAIM-

AUEW NATIONAL COMMITTEE MUST DEMAND FULL NATIONAL STRIKE

The national engineering strike has now reached a crucial stage for the two million workers involved in the dispute and for every organised worker.

Up and down the country engineers are fighting with tremendous willingness and determination for the national claim. The strike is solid.

The mass media, which gave the strikes mass coverage in the first few weeks in the hope of finding strike-breakers, is now giving little and sometimes no coverage to the dispute. Their attempts to undermine and demoralise us have failed.

The Engineering Employers' Federation is undoubtedly under tremendous pressure from the strikes. Internal strains are developing. Large companies such as Hatfields of Sheffield are splitting away in order to settle.

The big monopolies such as GEC, Rolls Royce and Plesseys control the EEF, however. They are exerting economic blackmail on smaller firms to prevent them from settling.

These firms are less bothered about leaving the Federation than by the fact that

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

federated firms will refuse to buy their products. The employers are using these threats to maintain a united but shaky front.

The EEF bosses have undoubtedly had their fingers burnt. Their greatest error was to believe that the Boyd-Duffy leadership of the AUEW was representative of the mood in the ranks of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions. They have had a rude awakening.

Now, a determined push by the Confed could break the employers' will to resist and achieve the claim in full.

At every stage, however, we have seen the leadership of the AUEW—the major union in the Confed—quite pre-



Rolls Royce workers have been in the forefront of the Confed claim struggles

pared to compromise and accommodate the employers.

The one-day stoppages were a test of the mood. The solid backing for the strikes, despite the lack of preparation, should have been a green light for all-out indefinite strike action to win the claim.

If the AUEW leadership had half the fighting spirit of the Confed unions' rank and file the claim would have been won by now with such a strategy.

The mood among engineering workers is still over-

whelmingly for an all-out national strike, particularly in response to the employers' lock-outs and lay-offs. The tactics used by Rolls Royce management are a clear demonstration of how the bosses are trying to split and weaken us.

At a local level the employers are being answered. In many areas the workers' answer to lay-offs is "If one doesn't work, no-one does!"

Even this response is attacked by the AUEW leaders, however.

In Bradford they have

refused to give official backing or strike pay to workers involved in all-out strike action called in response to lay-offs.

The Bradford district committee of the AUEW has a policy of district strikes, after a ballot of members, against any lay-offs. 4,000 are now on strike in Bradford in response to lay-offs.

The Executive have replied that they disapprove of membership ballots being held. They also issued a veiled threat to suspend the district committee if such action was

taken without official support.

It is quite apparent that however many resolutions and demands they receive, the Executive Committee have no intention of calling a full national strike. The AUEW's National Committee must be recalled immediately to ensure this decision is reached.

The AUEW leadership plead poverty to justify not calling an all-out strike. But many Confed workers are locked out anyway. They would much prefer short sharp action without strike pay rather than weeks and weeks of slow attrition.

The TUC have said that they back the dispute. Words must be turned into action—they should mobilise their full strength behind the Confed and give financial backing to ensure our success.

This strike is undoubtedly a test case for Britain's bosses. Ranged against the Confed unions are the industrial wing of Toryism and the Tories themselves, watching with hawks' eyes to see how the dispute will end.

Winning the claim would be a victory not only for the engineers but for all those unions now preparing for action. Every worker in the country will be the loser if we are defeated—our victory is your victory!

That victory must be fought for. The Broad Left leadership in the AUEW have the responsibility for ensuring that we are allowed to win.

WHAT WE ARE FIGHTING FOR

Support for the Confed claim is still very strong in West and North West London—as it is nationally. Many manufacturing as well as engineering plants are coming to a standstill for two days every week.

One factory where support is particularly good is the Beldham packing & Rubber Company, in Brentford. This factory, just round the corner from Tricos, was only unionised for the first time in its 80-year history just three years ago, at the time of Trico's equal pay strike.

It had a bad record for low pay and poor safety standards. "You couldn't keep a cat on the wages then", one picket told me. Some workers got up to £10 to bring them in line with the minimum agreed rates in the engineering industry.

Now these workers are fighting side by side with Confed members throughout the country. As pickets said

"the strike is solid and we are 101% in support of the claim."

The workers at Beldams know that despite the limited action, the dispute is costing the company money and contracts.

Management, in a personal letter to each employee, have tried to persuade workers to come in on the strike days. When that didn't work they threatened to lock everyone out for the remaining three days.

The workers are confident, however, in the justice of the claim. Some skilled men are still on only £67 basic pay. This is in London, generally one of the better-paying areas.

Beldams is an example of what all engineers are fighting for—whether they are currently on £80 minimum or not.

Beldham pickets spoke to Martin Elvin, [ASLEF]

NOTTINGHAM

Who's running this strike—the EEF or the Confed?

This was the question asked by a Rolls Royce steward at the Nottingham AUEW shop stewards' quarterly meeting. He was incensed by being locked out, and had been told by a district official that there was no chance of all-out action.

Nottingham district has been 100 per cent solid during the strike, though there has been no mass meeting or factory meetings called for by

the AUEW's district committee.

The mood of the workers at Rolls Royce Hucknall has changed rapidly since the strike call. Before the lock-out certain members thought of themselves as the aristocracy in the engineering field. Now they know they are just workers and will be trodden on by employers if we let them.

Rolls Royce management even closed down all social activities, including the ar-



Left: Frodsham of the EEF

Right: Terry Duffy

Entering the third week of lay-offs with staff locked out on full pay, the workers at Rolls Royce are still waiting for a lead from the Confed unions.

This was summed up when the convenors of the T&GWU at **Rolls Royce Hillington, Glasgow**, said to his members that he could give them no further information; what he knew about the dispute was what he had learned from the newspapers.

chery range. "Are they afraid of an all-out attack by pickets armed with bows and arrows?" asked one worker.

Workers at the Alan Smith group factory (part of the Newman Tonks group) have mounted a picket rota while they are not working, since the first strike call. This has been loyally observed by nearly all lorry drivers.

One who did try to cross the picket line was sent packing by the production manager, who told him not to bother

Although support for the 2-day strikes is solid throughout Scotland, the workers in various factories are unhappy about the lack of direction and information from the leadership.

Going round the picket lines the consensus of opinion is for an all-out strike to wrest the initiative back from the employers, before they lock out more workers. This is the way to bring the dispute to a successful conclusion.

because the workers would only black the materials.

One factory, Metali-Sacture, where some workers have broken the strike, was picketed by some convenors, branch secretaries and 'Militant' supporters. We should give solid support to the 45 workers still out at Metali, and black all supplies and products—they make jacks for the car industry, including British Leyland.

All-out action to win the strike should be called for at

There must be no more concessions. Workers are not prepared to lose two days' money indefinitely for a sabotaged final settlement.

The full claim must be won by rallying all the workers involved in the claim through the demand for a 35-hour week.

Tom Williams
[T&GWU Rolls Royce,
Hillington]

every factory and every branch. We must show the EEF that the unions are running the strike and, with or without the help of certain full-time officials, we're going to win it.

Roy Bennett
[Works Convenor,
Alan Smith Group,
Nottingham,
personal capacity]

Merseyside

On Merseyside even the EEF has had to admit that the strike is "80% solid". As usual, this is an underestimation. The big factories are all still solidly behind the strike.

In Plessey's four Liverpool factories, 4,000 workers have been laid off for two days due to the engineering workers' action. The only major factory defying the strike call is British Leyland's Standard Triumph plant, where workers have been intimidated by BL's redundancy threats.

Many workplaces are silent and deserted during the two-day strikes. At **Manesty Machines**, Speke, and at **Lucas Broadgreen**, pickets were out, however.

They see the main issue as winning the one-hour reduction in the working week demanded in the national claim, they told me, as a basis for securing a 35-hour week.

Although it has been rumoured that the AUEW leaders are prepared to ditch the commitment to a 35-hour week by 1982, these workers are determined that this is the next step.

LEICESTER 'MILITANT' PUBLIC MEETING
"The AUEW struggle for the full claim and the struggle to democratise the Labour Party"

Speakers: Nick Ramsell (AUEW shop steward GEC Whetstone), Steve Marquis (Leicester South Labour Party Conference delegate). The Griffith Inn, Belgrave Gate, Leicester, 7.45 pm. Monday 22 October.

Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR AND YOUTH
 Editor: Peter Taaffe, Business Manager: Dave Galashan
 Published by Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. Tel: 01-986 3828
 Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office
 Printed by Cambridge Heath Press Ltd [TU]

ROBB CALEDON SHIPYARD - SUPPORT GROWS FOR FIGHT AGAINST CLOSURES

Robb-Caledon workers in Dundee are definitely not on their own in rejecting the agreement reached by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions—the fight is gaining momentum.

By Alex Allen

They are no longer the only yard still imposing sanctions against redundancies, closures, sea trials and launches. A mass meeting at Yarrow's in Glasgow voted to maintain sanctions, and refused to accept British Shipbuilders' plan for 6,000 redundancies and the closure of five yards [see last week's 'militant'].

This followed a stormy four-hour meeting, and only a very narrow vote in favour of the shop stewards' recommendation to back the agreement, by workers from the Govan and Scotstoun Marine yards in Glasgow.

Now the AUEW National Committee has voted against any contraction in the industry.

Workers are coming to realise that the "concessions" made by BS are meaningless.

Offering "voluntary" redundancies, putting the closed yards on a "care and maintenance" basis and setting up working parties to

examine the possibilities of alternative employment; these are not concessions, but window-dressing, designed to make the package a bit more palatable.

The callous lack of any understanding of the workers' problems was confirmed by Tory Secretary of State for Scotland, George Younger, when he visited Dundee. To a young joiner who questioned him as he left a meeting, Younger's response was that surely he could get a job elsewhere!

In the meeting, he tried to argue that BS's decision was "not political". Money was not the factor, he said, but ships—there simply were not enough being ordered. To that the workers argued that the government could order the ships through a scrap-and-build scheme, which they were already supposedly committed to.

Meanwhile the Dundee workers have scored an important victory. The New Zealand crew of the Golden Bay, a ship held in the yard, have flown back home from Dundee. They refused to man the ship as long as the shipyard workers were conducting their fight.

This will be a tremendous boost to the struggle to keep the yard open, but the main target in the short term is to win the support of all the yards throughout Britain for total opposition to the BS proposals, and the re-imposition of all the sanctions.

MONSTER DONATIONS NEEDED

The Thatcher government is a monstrous regime; it is devouring all the hard-won gains of the labour movement in trampling into the dust the hopes and aspirations of working people everywhere.

As the General Secretary of the Labour Party pointed out this week in Brighton, the Tory leaders are acting strictly in line with the avowed policies of their party [as representatives of big business] and the Labour leaders must do the same [as representatives of the mighty working class]!

'Militant' tirelessly argues the need for the labour movement to be armed with socialist policies. Only thus could it go into battle confident of felling the Tory monster once and for all.

To supply the ammunition for the fight back against the bosses and their system and increase the paper's fighting

capacity, 'Militant' needs your help—facts, figures, reports, letters, information AND CASH!!

The immediate target for 'Militant's' Fighting Fund is to have raised £63,750 in the first three quarters of this year. That means finding £15,000 this week in cash, cheques and promises!!

And the Tories themselves have provided every reader who pays tax with the chance to give 'Militant' a donation without it even hurting! Substantial tax rebates are due on the first pay day after October 5th. You can safely promise a 'tenner' now and pay up the whole lot later!

Students can make similar promises of 'tenners' from their grants!

Whatever your circumstances, muster a monster donation for 'Militant'! Give one and get one to go with it! Send or phone every contribution and promise to 'Militant' before this historic week is out by noon on Sunday 7th October if you want to get them on to next week's three-quarter year totals. [See chart and latest report, page 13].

AFTER CELEBRATIONS- PROBLEMS REMAIN



otic cries of 'the Pope's giving comfort to the IRA' and so on.

This visit is being used by the media and politicians to divert people's attention from the real social issues. In Britain, at times of social crisis, the ruling class hauls out the monarchy and dispatches them on a tour of the country to achieve such an effect.

By Dennis Tourish

The Irish ruling class, besieged by a dire economic outlook and opposition among workers is now attempting to use the Pope's visit along such lines.

The enormous resources of the Church as well as their control over the education system ensures massive turn-outs whenever the Pope appears. But when all the spectacle, publicity and fuss is over, the social problems of workers will remain. The Vatican, like the monarchy is not in a very strong position to argue the case of the poor in society.

The money spent on this visit is a pittance in relation to

the overall wealth of the Vatican. In Italy, their investments include interests in water supply, gas, electric and cement companies, real estate and insurance with a possible holding in several provincial banks. Information is kept secret, but according to the 'Guardian' the wealth of the Vatican may exceed \$50 billion (£25,000,000,000).

A recently published book ('Vodka Cola' by Charles Levenson) gives some information about the growth of Church finance under the direction of Michele Sindona, an Italian financier now wanted by the police in Italy and America.

He became the Vatican's chief financial adviser in 1969. Levenson suggests that they may have investments in such major banks as Switzerland's Credit Suisse, the Rothchild Bank in France, the Chase Manhattan Bankers Trust and the Morgan Bank.

Gestures are no substitute for a job and a decent pay packet. John Paul II's visit will not have a moderating effect on the developing class struggle.

The visit of the Pope to Ireland has cost around £2 million. Hundreds of thousands of people assembled to see him. It has been given enormous and sustained publicity by the press and TV.

In the North, also, exclusion in order to divide workers on sectarian lines, with idi-

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