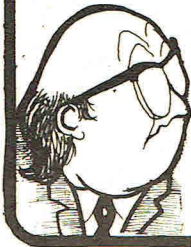


Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH ISSUE 481
30 November 1979

15p

INSIDE ...



'RADICAL CENTRE'
See page 2

BRITISH LEYLAND- DEFEND UNION RIGHTS



Photo: Andrew Ward (Report)

7,000 MARCH THROUGH BIRMINGHAM

T & G SHOW THE WAY

Workers throughout British Leyland are facing their biggest crisis yet.

The refusal of the AUEW leadership to call an official strike has angered the Leyland workers and the whole movement.

Within hours of the T&GWU making official the strike in support of the sacked convenor at Longbridge, Derek Robinson, the workforce were thrown into utter confusion by Duffy's plan to hold a union enquiry to decide whether the dismissal was justified.

Sacking union militants for opposing management's plan for decimating the workforce and trampling all over workers' rights to organise can never be justified! No enquiry is needed to tell us that.

Worst of all, Leyland boss Edwardes has not even given any assurance that he will accept the findings of the union's enquiry. All they have

By Jeremy Birch

conceded is to pay Robinson's wages for the duration, a very small price to pay for getting the men back to work, just when they seemed certain to have to back down completely in the face of an official strike.

Edwardes, aided and abetted by Thatcher and Joseph has thrown down the gauntlet. The sacking of Robinson is just the start. If they can dismiss a convenor elected by 18,000 workers then no steward is safe. The future of trade unionism at Leyland is at stake.

Seven thousand trade unionists marched through the streets of Birmingham on Monday November 26th to demonstrate that they will not allow any interference with their rights to organise.

It was not just Leyland workers. Firemen, seamen, NUPE members, Ford and Lucas workers and even a delegation from the French CGT

"Last year 2,500 families became homeless because they could not afford their mortgage payments. With mortgage rates at this appalling level, thousands more families will default on their mortgages, lose their homes and find themselves homeless."

This was the angry reaction of Neil McIntosh, director of the housing charity Shelter, at the news of the huge 2½% increase in interest rates on home loans to reach the incredible level of 15%. His anger will be echoed up and down the country.

Housing will be the most spectacular sufferer from the raising of the minimum lending rate to unparalleled heights of 17%. Now for working class families and even for many in the middle class there is no chance of escape from the misery of finding accommodation.

add to housing misery

As the feature in last week's 'Militant' clearly shows, housing in a capitalist society is a nightmare. Fewer council houses are now being built than for years. The building of houses for workers is unprofitable, and takes second place to office blocks. The raising of interest rates will add even further to local authorities' housing costs, and to rents.

Any worker who thought it was possible to escape from the problems of high rents by buying his "own" house will by now be sadly disillusioned. There are few cheap houses on the market today, particularly in areas like London. A £10,000 mortgage is a rarity. Before the increase even

such a low mortgage required monthly repayments of £104.50. The new rates will increase this by £25 per month! How many workers can afford £130 a month for their accommodation?

And who will benefit? Rates have gone up to attract funds for the building societies at a time of high interest rates. It's not the worker who keeps his holiday money 'with the Woolwich' who will gain but the parasites in the City of London.

When the minimum lending rate went up in February, after pressure from the City who threatened a strike of finance, speculators made a fortune overnight through the purchase of gilt edged securities. £45 million profits were made in one day, with the prospects of billions of pounds being paid out to these speculators until the end of the century.

Last week Treasury stocks were again sold out rapidly, attracted by potential profit on one day of 13½%. The

increases in interest rates will force up the cost of overdrafts and increase risk of bankruptcies.

It will also offer a yet more lucrative reason for big business investors to keep their money in the banks, and act as one more reason [if they needed one] why they will not invest in productive industry.

All this misery, in housing, employment, etc. will have been caused by the stranglehold capitalism and in particular the leeches in the City have on society. The Tory government got much of its support from "owner-occupiers" with mortgages. A clear socialist policy from the Labour Party, including nationalisation of the banks and finance houses to give the chance of solving the housing problem untrammelled by profiteering would gain enormous support from this section of society and sweep the Tories out for good.

By Roger Shrivies

SUPPORT YOUR PAPER... SUPPORT YOUR PAPER...

MILITANT NEW YEAR DRAW

Grand Top Prize — A VIDEO RECORDER

Runners - up: Micro Cassette Recorder, Mini Camera, Pocket Radio, "Thermo" /Calendar, Bottle of Whisky and A Note-pad and Pencil.

TO BE DRAWN SATURDAY, 5th JANUARY, 1980
This ticket is a receipt for TWENTY PENCE to the funds of the above.
IN AID OF MILITANT FIGHTING FUND
Promoter: D. SMITH, 73 Armond Road, Witham, Essex

to conform to Part 11 of the Lotteries and Amusements Act, 1976 and regulations made thereunder and registered by the Promoter

McKay's Printing Service (T.U.)
72-74 Camberwell Road, London, SE5 0EQ
Telephone: 703 5825/6

No. 3030

Make sure you get your raffle ticket! See your local 'Militant' seller, or write to 'Militant'

There are now only five weeks to go until the deadline for the year's Fighting fund, January 5th 1980!

Readers and supporters in every area have given tremendous support to 'Militant'. You have helped to build up our resources to fight the problems caused by Toryism and capitalism in 1979.

But we need the extra cash to tackle the even greater problems workers will face in 1980. You can help!

For a start make sure that every reader and every supporter of 'Militant' gives a donation to our fighting fund. Also, cards, calendars and cartoon books are available from Militant.

And don't forget the raffle! This not only gives you the chance to win some magnificent prizes, but is also an opportunity to boost our finances.

Put your money in the only worthwhile long term investment! Invest in Militant!

CONTINUED ON
BACK PAGE

Militant

Jenkins, Thorpe and Heath together in the EEC campaign.
A vision of the future?



What future for Jenkins' 'Radical Centre'?

Roy Jenkins' recent lecture, 'Home thoughts from Abroad', is a timely warning to members of the labour and trade union movement of what some of their leaders are planning—an attempt to split the Labour Party and form a new 'radical' centre.

It followed an article by former Labour MP David Marquand in 'The Scotsman' in which he stated that the Labour right should fight "openly and explicitly for what it really believes. And it cannot do that so long as it clings to the doomed hope of regaining control of the existing Labour Party structure."

What is it that they 'really believe'? Marquand wants 'a mixed economy, without either the unacceptable brutality of the untrammelled distribution of rewards or its indifference to unemployment.'

"The Right is not socialist" says Marquand and "it cannot honestly talk the language of the activists who control the constituency parties, or of the great bulk of the trade unionists. The constituency activists are socialists."

While it is unexpected to see them blurted out so frankly, there is nothing new about the ideas of Jenkins and Marquand. For years they have been common currency within the Labour leadership, and have formed the basis for the policies of every Labour government since 1945.

It was the massive post-war boom which gave them some credibility. With the increase in industrial production which took place in the post-war years, it was possible for the Attlee government to implement a whole series of major reforms, without changing the basic economic structure of capitalist society.

The Labour Right deduced from this that the old idea of a society divided into classes with irreconcilable economic interests no longer

applied. It was now possible they argued, to remove the ills of society, poverty and unemployment, simply by managing the existing economy more efficiently and more humanely. Such a policy was not very different from that of the liberal Tories, and indeed was sometimes called 'Butskellism', after Butler, a Tory 'moderate' and Gaitskell, then leader of the Labour Party.

However, the attempt to implement these policies by later Labour governments, from 1964 onwards, revealed how wrong they were. As soon as the economic boom began to slow down, there was no basis for the policies of reform and indeed reforms gave way to counter-reforms, as Labour governments were forced by the pressure of big business to introduce wage restraint and public spending cuts. They were left helpless as unemployment, which was supposed to be a thing of the past, rose to over 1½ million.

Jenkins himself reveals the extent of Britain's economic decline—"From being the richest and most powerful country in the world, Britain is now twentieth in the table of national wealth per head...France, for the first time since the industrial revolution surpassed us in economic strength. The German economy achieved nearly twice our weight."

Yet Jenkins fails to draw the obvious conclusion, as the majority of the ranks of the labour movement have done, that throughout the period of this economic decline, governments, both Labour and Tory, have adopted precisely the policies which he stands for.

Now the Tories under Thatcher, on behalf of big business, have concluded that the desperate crisis of

the British capitalist economy can no longer be solved through a consensus of capital and labour. For them, the answer lies in an all-out assault on the living standards and organisations of the working class, in order to transfer wealth into the hands of big business in the form of bigger profits.

At first sight therefore it would seem odd that Jenkins' old and discredited ideas should be afforded such prominence on TV and the press, especially as editorial comment in the serious capitalist newspapers has been distinctly cool. "Butskellism" writes 'The Observer' "has not produced success. It is now widely accepted that Britain began to run into trouble during the Macmillan years. Mr Jenkins demonstrates this himself: during the first 13 years of the EEC, income per head in the Six rose by 72%, and by 35% in Britain."

More bluntly, from an extreme right-wing Tory standpoint, George Gale in the 'Daily Express' asks "What is the use of a coalition which prescribes the same mixture as before? What does the electorate want with a new version of the old gang...We have seen his vision of the future and it doesn't work."

Much more significantly, Jenkins has provoked a furious response from some of those with exactly the same ideas, Labour right-wingers. They have reacted sharply to his attempt to raise the question of a new centre party while they are still desperately striving to regain control of the Labour Party. This is not because of any fundamental disagreement with him, but because he has raised the question too early.

"The most foolish course now for those who are determined to swing the Labour Party back to sensible socialism" declared David Owen, "would be to abandon the struggle within the Labour Party, to talk of founding new parties." From the point of view of the ruling class, and their allies in the leadership of the Labour Right, he has jumped the gun by posing a split prematurely.

Owen and Co. still cling to the hope that the Party Inquiry can give them back control. Much nearer the

truth is Marquand's assessment.

They know that whatever short-term victories the right wing achieve the Labour Party will never be, as Owen puts it "a broad-based party with appeal across the classes," in other words a party which can be relied upon not to interfere with the bosses' right to their profits.

Although lacking a clear Marxist programme, the policy of the Labour Party today would be totally intolerable to big business, with its plans for the nationalisation of the banks and insurance companies, public ownership of profitable sections of industry and the abolition of the House of Lords.

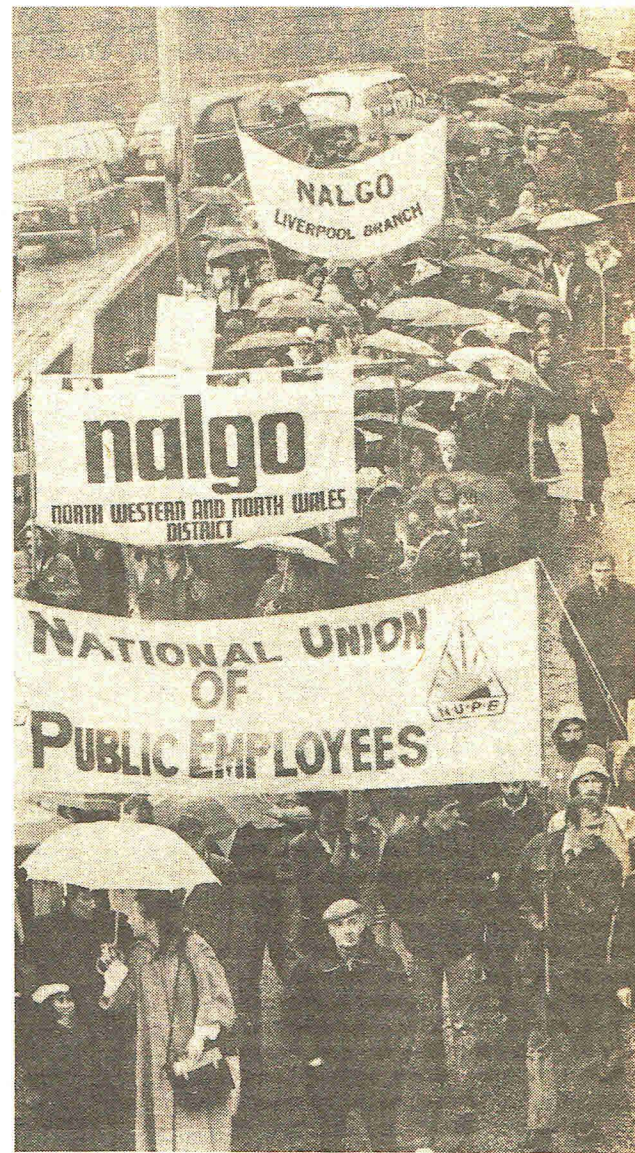
The real fear of the ruling class arises from the fact that the Thatcher government, much as they support it, will inevitably become intensely unpopular with the mass of both workers and the middle class. "There is a real risk!" says 'The Times' "that the failure of Mrs Thatcher's government would be followed by the election of a Labour government commanding no real public confidence [i.e. the confidence of big business—Ed.] but committed to an extremist manifesto which could then be carried out."

The only chance 'The Times' sees of averting this calamity for those they represent is to build up an alternative party to which those especially middle class, people could move to, and at least prevent Labour from getting an overall majority. To succeed in this they need the kind of party which Jenkins is proposing, a coalition of Liberals, Labour right-wingers and a few 'moderate' Tories.

For this party to have any chance however, the electoral system will have to be changed to one of proportional representation, which has the drawback for them that the Tory Party could not win outright, but at least it could keep Labour out.

That is why the Labour Party needs to mount a vigorous campaign to fight both proportional representation and those who would try and split the Party and play the bosses' game. At the same time, we should fight to make 'The Times' nightmare become reality, a Labour government committed to a clear Marxist programme for the abolition of the capitalist economic system which Thatcher's policies are revealing in its most horrific character.

MOBILISING AGAINST THE CUTS



Liverpool workers show the way

Photo: Militant

COVENTRY

On November 21st, a meeting of 200 Labour Party members and public service trade unionists was adamant at the need for Coventry's Labour Council to refuse to implement Tory government plans for cuts in local spending. The meeting was called by the District Labour Party as part of its campaign of opposition to cuts of over £3 million from Coventry's budget next year.

A campaign committee has been formed of 2 representatives from each of the 4 Coventry CLPs, 3 from the District Labour Party, and 2 from the Labour Group. That committee should now be expanded to draw in representatives of the local public service unions, the Trades Councils and Tenants' organisations.

Most of the original steps in the anti-cuts campaign were drawn from a resolution proposed earlier in the year by Coventry SE CLP—as was the need for a conference of all Labour council groups. This will take place in Coventry on Saturday December 8th. In order to demonstrate support for united opposition by all Labour groups to public expenditure cuts, Coventry

DLP has organised a march and lobby of the conference.

This will be followed by a rally to be addressed by Alan Fisher (General Secretary, NUPE), Bob Wright (Assistant General Secretary, AUEW) and Tony Saunio (Labour Party NEC).

The campaign and rally has the support of several district and regional trade union bodies—and plans are being made to make it a major demonstration of Coventry's opposition to the Tory government's cuts.

Assembly point: Pool Meadow Coach Park, Coventry. Saturday December 8th. March moves off 9.30am. Bring Banners!

For further details contact: Councillor John Hughes, Chairman Coventry District Labour Party, 0203 618633.

MERSEYSIDE

The Merseyside Anti Cuts Committee, organised by Liverpool Trades Council and District Labour Party, are organising a national conference against the cuts for next March. Delegates will be invited from all trade unions, Labour Parties and labour movement organisations.

The date fixed is Saturday March 22nd at St Georges Hall, Liverpool. Credentials from Joint Secretaries, T Harrison and A Dodswell, 70 Victoria St, Liverpool 1 [telephone 051-236 2015 or 051-236 1778]. The delegation fee will be 50p. More information in future issues.

20,000 MARCH AGAINST RACIST LAWS

More than 20,000 people turned out to last Sunday's demonstration against the Thatcher government's latest proposals to amend the rules of the Immigration Act, 1971.

If enacted, this would completely strip away the right of blacks to have their dependants join them in this country. The demonstration was called by the Campaign Against Racist Laws, a body set up by among others the Indian Workers' Associations and various organisations of the labour movement.

The high turn-out of Asians and their families on the march was a clear reflection of the tremendous anger that now exists within the black community.

These proposals coincide with savage cutbacks on the living standards of the working class and are

By Bob Lee
(Secretary PNP Youth, UK)

seen by the overwhelming majority of blacks as clear evidence of this government's intention to employ racism as a weapon against the workers' movement, by reducing blacks to the status of second class citizens.

The march ended with a rally at Trafalgar Square that was addressed by leaders of black organisations and speakers representing the labour movement.

It was emphasised that this demonstration was only the beginning of the struggle to stop the proposals, and that further action, linking the campaign to get rid of the bosses' government, was planned for the future.



Part of the LPYS and PNP contingent on last Sunday's anti-racist march

Photo: J Woulfe, Militant.

LABOUR NEEDS ACTIVE HOUSING CAMPAIGN

More than a million families in Britain are registered on the housing waiting lists of local councils. And now, with the recent leap in mortgage rates to 15%, thousands more are threatened with the loss of their homes, if they cannot meet repayments.

By Dave Nellist

(Coventry SE Labour Party)

According to 'Shelter': "The only hope for many young couples is now a council house. Yet council house building has slumped from over 150,000 in 1967 to a predicted 45,000 this year, the lowest peace-time figure since the 1930s. Many young couples have no hope of either buying or renting home." ['Observer', 25.11.79]

The 200 plus delegates at Labour's Housing Conference last Saturday reflected the anger building up in the movement over the effects of the Tory government's proposals to cut housing spending by over £300 million, and

maintained, tower blocks.

But for at least half the speakers from the floor of the Conference, a defensive campaign by the Labour Party on council house sales would be insufficient.

Councillor Pete Hammond of Bristol Council graphically highlighted the real nature of the housing crisis, where "700,000 homes are officially unfit for human habitation, and a further 950,000 houses lack at least one basic amenity—such as a bath, inside toilet or hot water supply."

Speakers from most of the major cities repeated the call for the NEC to organise a fighting campaign to mobilise building workers and tenants alongside the Labour Party and the TUC against the Tory attacks, and for an expansion of public housing. Such a campaign would need to point out the real vandals of housing—the banks and loan sharks, who profiteer out of loans to local councils.

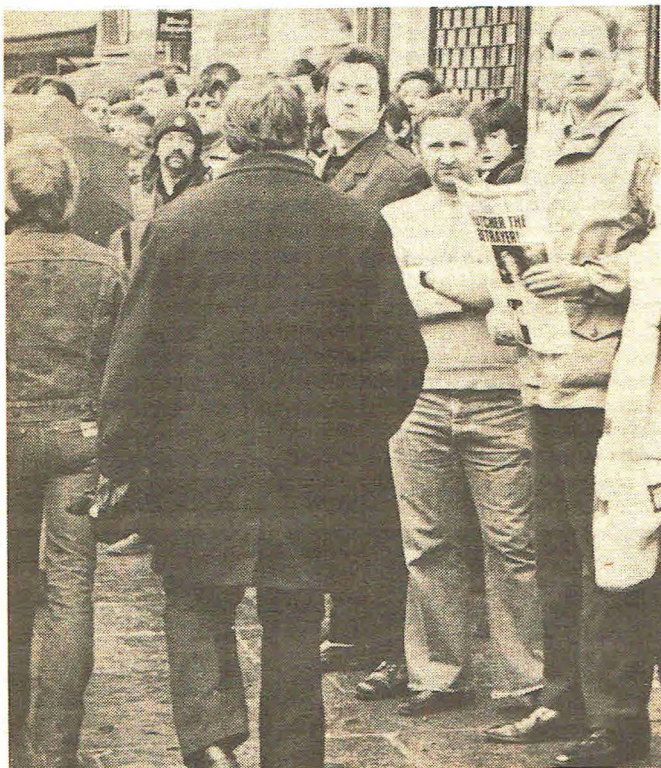
Interest payments on loans (often over 60 years) cripple local authorities. Nationally, the £4,200 million made in interest payments is equivalent to 290,000 council houses.

That money should be used to expand and improve housing, and thus provide work for thousands of unemployed bricklayers, carpenters and electricians. In 1978, the big four banks made a total profit of £1,084 million from their various activities.

This could build and run for five years: 25 small hospitals, 25 community health centres, 25 community centres and 40,000 council houses. Just one year's profit from these parasites, used in such a scheme of public works, would create 40,000 jobs.

Labour's NEC must now draw up a campaign of local rallies and demonstrations, and call for TUC backing for any Labour council, or group of workers taking industrial action, who resist the Tory attacks. Through the Housing campaign it should be explained that only by ending the private ownership of the building industry and the banks, with the control and management of all aspects of housing firmly in the hands of working people, can a national plan be drawn up to eliminate slum housing and homelessness forever.

CONFRONTING THE FASCISTS IN S. LONDON



Fascists unsuccessfully tried to stop LPYS march Photo: Militant

Last Sunday, LPYS branches in Southwark organised a demonstration against the activities of the fascist National Front, who have been harassing and intimidating trade unionists and black workers at the popular East Street market every Sunday.

A turn-out of over 120 showed the opposition of members of the LPYS, Labour Party and trade unions in Southwark to the activities of the fascists.

But an all-London mobilisation by the fascists showed the danger they still pose despite their electoral and membership set-backs. About 80 fascist thugs were in attendance at the demonstration, shouting insults and

trying to intimidate the marchers.

A large number of NF thugs followed the demonstration to the end with the clear intention of attacking small groups leaving the area after the concluding rally.

The declining support for the fascists has led their hard core to desperately seize on opportunities to attack the labour movement and immigrant population. The fight must now be taken again into the trade unions and Labour Parties to ensure that the entire labour movement is involved in the fight, not only to prevent the peddling of racist filth on the streets, but the attempted intimidation of blacks, Asians and labour movement activists.

MILITANT DEFENCE CAMPAIGN REDOUBLE EFFORTS TO FIGHT LEGAL ACTION

'Disgrace', 'deplorable' were just some of the comments accompanying donations to Militant's Defence campaign this week.

Wokingham CLP sent £5 and passed the following resolution.

"This party notes with concern John Golding's High Court action for charges against 'Militant'. We consider it deplorable that a Labour MP and member of the National Executive Committee should take legal action against a socialist newspaper. Political battles should be fought according to the democratic traditions of the labour movement, not through the courts."

Other readers also see the need to sustain 'Militant' and keep it alive for the future

struggles facing the movement. 'Forward to the only system that makes sense' was the message accompanying a £5 donation from R Wade in Huddersfield.

Bill Hickin donated £5 and saw the importance of Militant's role this way:

"As a Labour councillor I think it is essential that a Marxist newspaper exists within the mainstream labour movement so as to represent an important element in British socialist thought and development and to counter the Tory propaganda in their so-called 'popular press'."

But if 'Militant' is to remain, it is vital that the

paper has the funds to face the legal action taken by John Golding. Fund-raising efforts, especially donations from parts of the labour movement must be increased.

Don't be deterred by opponents. At Rhondda the party's GMC voted 21-16 not to discuss the matter. That did not stop our supporters. They promptly held a collection after the next meeting of a local ward party.

In Cardiff a social raised £46 and a further £20 came from Cardiff North LPYS.

Amongst the donations this week was £2 from Sheffield No 9 branch of the AUEW. £25 came in from Brighton

Labour Party and, also in the south, Canterbury supporters raised £33. North Nottingham LPYS raised £15, and J Cubitt (Newbury) donated £25.

From Jim Marshall MP (Leicester South) came £5 and from University Labour Clubs at Leeds and Sheffield came £5 and £2.26 respectively.

All these donations are welcome. Especially important of course are payments and messages of support from sections of the labour movement.

In the coming period it is vital that all Militant's readers who do not want to see the paper crippled, re-double their efforts so that the libel action can be vigorously defended.

Send resolutions and messages of support to: 'Militant' Defence Fund, 5 Cremer House, Deptford Church St, London S.E. 8.

NURSERY EDUCATION TO END IN OXFORDSHIRE

Tory Oxfordshire County Council have the doubtful honour of being the first council in the country to cut all nursery education [see 'Militant' 478].

They have imposed cuts of £2.8 million. These include the loss of 100 teaching jobs, cutting discretionary grants, a closure of an old people's home and a children's home, increased charges for home helps and cuts in all other departments.

The council has abandoned the previous position of no compulsory redundancies. The Save our Nursery Campaign (SONC) lobbied the last council meeting. On hearing the decision SONC pledged itself to fight the cuts.

The campaign is just part of the growing resistance to the Tory axemen. Last week Oxford Polytechnic students occupied the administration block in a protest against the cuts and their effects now! Already over a 1,000 students have marched against the increases in racist overseas student fees.

The Trades Council has held a meeting and march against cuts in the NHS.

The LPYS has been active in all these campaigns. Our task has been to try and explain the need to fight the cuts by mobilising the whole labour movement and arming the movement with real socialist policies.

The involvement of various trade union and Labour Party branches in these activities augurs well for the future.

By Ian Sugarman
[NUT]

7,000 MARCH IN BRISTOL

Avon's Tory council have been swinging the axe viciously and now they plan to cut another £5 million from next year's spending. In response Avon NUT called a half day strike on November 15, which affected half the schools in the county, and held a mass rally and demonstration through Bristol streets.

Their numbers were swelled by members of NUPE, NALGO and the Labour Party Young Socialists until the police estimated the crowd to be over 7,000.

A Tory spokesman, Councillor Reece, said that he was not impressed by the turnout, but if that is so, he was probably the only one. About a thousand students from Bristol University and a similar number from Bristol Poly joined the march. Both colleges are at present being occupied by the students.

Noticeably there was a large and very vocal contingent of school students, many of them behind the LPYS banner, largely as a result of Bristol's recently formed School Students' Committee which had leafleted the schools beforehand pointing out that 'the teachers' fight is our fight'.



Protesting against nursery cuts in Nottingham.

NOTTINGHAM-BACK TO THE VICTORIAN AGE

"Most of these people have never been involved in anything more radical than a Student Union dance," said John McGuigan, NUPE regional organiser at an anti-cuts rally organised by LPYS branches in Nottingham.

"Most of the 248 nursery nurses who will lose their jobs as a result of Notts County Council cuts have never been politically involved before. But now the policies of this Tory government were caus-

ing a political transformation in certain layers of the working class.

Tony Saunois, LPYS representative on the NEC, gave us examples of how the cuts were biting nationally. He said, "If everything the Tories plan goes through, then workers will be driven back to the Victorian era." He then pointed out that no Labour-controlled authority should carry out the policies which the Tories propose.

"We are now confronted

with the most class biased government since the formation of the labour and trade union movement," Tony stated. "We must mobilise to a greater extent than ever to bring down this present government."

By Leo McDaid

(West Nottingham LPYS)

BRIGHTON-TROTSKY CENTENARY MEETING

Over 45 people crammed into a small room to hear Ted Grant speak on the centenary of the birth of Leon Trotsky.

Ted showed that although Trotsky's ideas were vilified by the Stalinists, although he and his family were hounded, persecuted and eventually murdered by Stalin's agents, his ideas were those of Marx and Lenin, the ideas on which the Russian revolution and the workers' democracy of 1917 to 1923 were founded.

Trotsky led the insurrection of 1917 and organised out of the peasants and workers an army capable of defeating 21 armies of intervention.

But perhaps his greatest achievement came after his exile when he correctly analysed the degeneration of the workers' state and the rise of Stalinism.

And today nearly 40 years after his death his ideas are being vindicated as the bur-

caucracy of the East and the ruling class of the West thrash around for a solution to their crisis, growing ever more fearful of the power of the working class.

In the discussion a Polish comrade described the anger of the workers in the Stalinist states at both the repression and the bungling and mismanagement of the bureaucrats.

Another speaker described the horror of the purges where lifelong Bolsheviks who had risked their lives time and time again for the revolution were tortured and shot as fascist agents or German spies.

In summing up Ted reiterated that the ideas of Trotskyism and of socialist revolution would become of increasing importance to the working class and that the best and most fitting monu-



ment to the working class's greatest martyr would be the creation of a socialist society and the abolition of poverty and misery.

By Helena Wray

SCOTTISH YOUTH ARE FIGHTING BACK

By Willie Griffin
[Bothwell LPYS]

Scotland has been ravaged by the Tory attacks. Every day the papers carry reports of lay-offs, redundancies and closures.

The night shift at Talbot, Linwood—sacked, 2,600 printers at Collins, Bishopbriggs—sacked. Singers [sewing machines], Clydebank—closed, 4,000 shipyard jobs lost. Tractor production at Maseys, Kilmarnock—ended.

The youth are prepared to fight back. In a recent poll in a Scottish Sunday Newspaper 52% of youth between 14 and 20 said they would vote Labour if there was an election tomorrow.

The youth will fight and the LPYS in Scotland are preparing to fight with them.

The build up to the

national demo in London has started. Meetings and rallies are organised in Castlemilk, Clydebank and Craigton, all building up to an all-Glasgow rally on 12th December.

Rallies are organised in Falkirk [12th] and Edinburgh [15th]. A rally and rock concert against Thatcher is planned in Provan on the 9th December. Support has been gained from CLPs and the Trades Council.

The meetings will be addressed by leading local and national labour movement speakers including Jimmy Reid and Ron Brown MP.

For these events to be successful, branches should already be distributing their local letters and leaflets.

A local list should be drawn up now, and a monthly rota of visits can be arranged. Delegates from local stewards committees, youth clubs and schools should be signed up, both for the local events and the demo in London on February 2nd.

YS MEMBER ATTACKED BY THUG

The Newham South Young Socialists branch which was only set up a couple of weeks ago was out leafletting for two forthcoming meetings on the fight against the Tory Cuts, and on the new racist immigration laws and how we can fight them.

Suddenly a member of the YS was attacked by a man who rushed from his house and struck him a vicious blow to the head with a hammer, causing a nasty cut which needed six stitches.

The other two young socialists who were out leafletting were also threatened and chased.

As a result of this attack

which was in all probability by someone with fascist sympathies, we have contacted the local students union of North East London Poly [where we hold our meetings] asking them to provide protection for our meetings. We will also be calling on young socialists in the area to give us help to guard our meetings against possible attack.

Also the Plaistow ward have passed an emergency resolution to the Newham South GMC condemning the attack and asking that the party provides protection to any ward, YS or labour movement meeting threatened by fascist attack.

PROVAN LPYS DEMONSTRATION AGAINST CUTS

Hear
Hugh Brown MP
Jim Newlands LPYS
John Jackson

On Saturday 8th December
Assemble at 12.00

At Easterhouse Shopping Centre
Rally & concert at Easterhouse Proj.

Mid Scotland Labour Party Young Socialists YOUTH AGAINST THE TORIES RALLY

Speakers:
Ron Brown, MP for Leith
Bill Snedden, Central Fed of Trades Councils
Jim Newlands, LPYS National Committee
Tuesday 11th December 1979
Comrie School, Falkirk
For more information contact
Frank White, c/o 18 Wilson Ave, Falkirk

LEFT and RIGHT

Standards dive

The Education Secretary, Mark Carlisle, is a great stickler for 'standards' in education. When his daughter went to her exclusive boarding school, you might imagine him earnestly comparing examination results in the different schools on offer.

But no. 'The Teacher' reveals that Mr Carlisle has a simpler test of worth. He says the deciding factor was not the quality of the teachers, or the size of the library, but the length of the swimming pool.

Very important, swimming, for the ruling class. Not for the working class, though. Mr Carlisle complained recently, "People say to me that you reduce education standards by stopping free swimming in schools, but I do not accept that."

Honouring a genius

The days of wild acclaim for the 'heroic exploits' of the leaders of the USSR did not end with the death of Stalin. President Brezhnev has been found to have 'great ability' as a writer. His three autobiographical sketches of his experiences in the Second World War and after are bestsellers and required reading for Communist Party members.

The memoirs have won Mr Brezhnev the USSR's top literary prize, and have been turned into films, plays, mimes and a song which is repeatedly played on Moscow Radio. Now, accolade of accolades, his third sketch, of life as Party organiser in Kazakhstan has been made into a full-scale oratorio. At its premiere, critics were impressed by its "sincere pathos" and expressiveness.

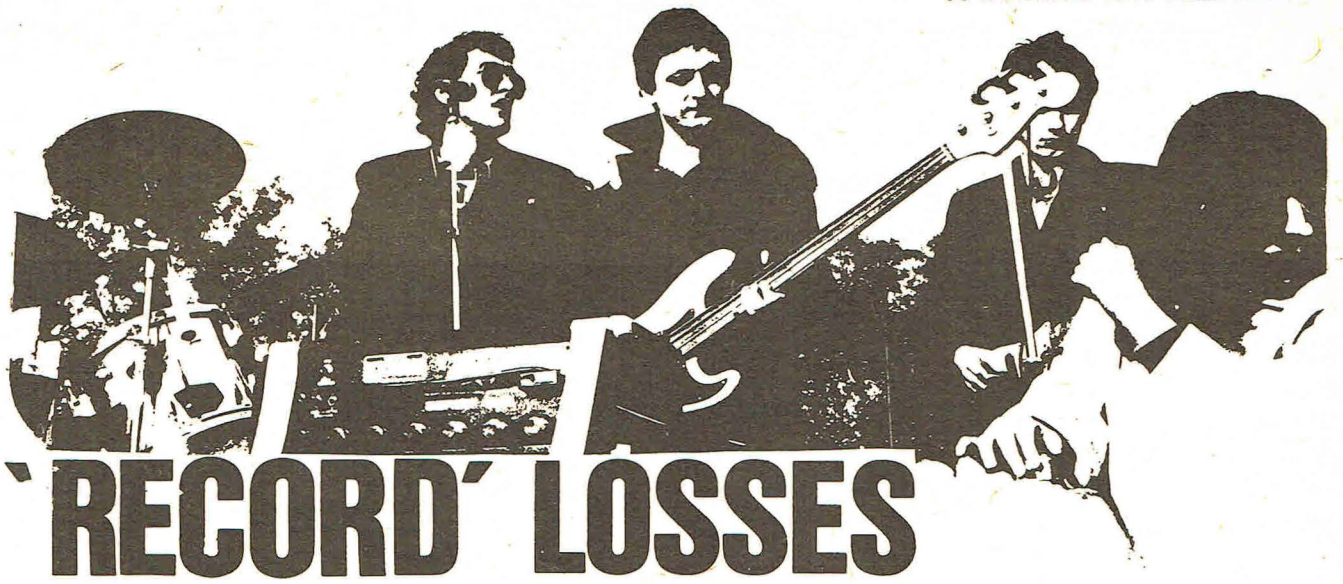
The Soviet news agency does not report, however, whether any ordinary workers, from Kazakhstan or any other area of the USSR were in attendance at the great occasion.

Dirty linen

The Cardinals of Rome, assembled for the first time in centuries to discuss church finances, the effects of inflation, the weakness of the dollar and other man-made vagaries of the world economy, are keeping their meeting a closed secret.

For all the millions spent on Vatican diplomacy and propaganda—Vatican Radio is broadcast in 26 different languages—when there's dirty linen to be washed, even those who don't read the good book are inclined to do it in private. Some of the Cardinals want to know a good deal more about the links between the Vatican Bank and a Sicilian financier, Mr Michele Sindona. When this gentleman's Milan bank crashed, the Vatican was caught in alleged losses of £48 million.

The Pope has declared his aim of channelling more money to the poorer churches. The dissenting Cardinals are not convinced that the impoverished churchgoers of Latin America, Portugal, or, for that matter, Italy, are doing very well out of deals like this. Ah well—"man does not live by bread alone..."



'RECORD' LOSSES

The £5 LP and the £1 single; even with discounts, the price of records is exorbitant. A booming, bumper profit industry up to 1975 with a peak of 91m LPs sold in Britain has now become a loss maker as costs rise. In fact British records are the most expensive in the world.

EMI, Britain's biggest company with over 60 subsidiaries in 32 countries, had interests in records, films, theatres, bingo, gambling, cinema, musical instruments plus 'defence' security equipment and electronics.

EMI have recently decided to sell half of its record business in a £60m deal with the US firm Paramount (part of the giant Gulf & Western Conglomerate). EMI made millions in the days of the Beatles as sales expanded by 15% per year, but now with LP sales down to 88m last year the record industry has had its first slump since the war. As a result EMI have just sacked 100 sales and promotional staff.

EMI, Decca and Pye dominate the British market. Billions of pounds were pumped into promoting punk and new wave. But for every Costello, Parker, Dury there were a hundred artists backed up by expensive publicity campaigns which flopped. Anyone remember the Sex Pistols fiasco?

The UK accounts for only 6% of the world market in record sales. It is in the North American market making up 40% of the world market where the bubble of upward sales and profits has really burst. On the rising tide of the profit wave, 4m copies of the soundtrack of the recent version of 'Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club

Band' were pressed in the USA. Only 2m of these were ever sold.

CBS, the giant US Corporation, recently got the knives out in what became known as 'the Friday Afternoon Massacre'. They sacked more than 50 employees, axed a subsidiary label 'Portrait' (Ringo Starr, Joan Baez and Paul Williams) and cancelled their annual record sale convention (pleading poverty). Warner Bros also went into the firing business, and even Casablanca Records (with disco artists like Donna Summer and Village People) have reported a sales slump.

The big companies increasingly back only winners, the superstars. The business becomes increasingly dominated by a few artists and a few massive companies. EMI recently paid a fantastic £4m to Paul McCartney and his group Wings for the rights to sell his records.

Here lies the dilemma for the big companies, a few years ago artists received royalties on average of 2-6% of sales, only chart toppers would get 10%. But now to get the superstars, record

companies have to pay royalties of 20% or more on the retail price less tax. Top artists like Elton John, Rod Stewart and the Stones have their own labels, and the big companies buy the licence to sell them.

The current recession is the reason behind the record slump. Young people who buy 90% of pop records, have been hit hard by low wages, unemployment and rising prices making it increasingly difficult to afford to buy. The average cost of producing an album is about £20,000, allowing for cut-price records the average cost of an LP is £2 of which 3p goes in profit. So where does the rest go? EMI break down their average £5.29 LP like this:



The owner of a tiny independent record company, Initial Records, operating in Birmingham said, "Our albums sell at £4.24 and they are better quality recordings than those of large companies. People like EMI should be retailing records cheaper than that, not more expensive. They have the distributors, their own pressing plants and they can make much better deals than we can over sleeves, which should give them an advantage. We need to sell 900 records to break even but the big companies because of their enormous operating costs

need to sell 50-100,000."

So what is the justification for the existence of these massive record monopolies? They don't provide cheap records. They can't provide good quality (how often do you have to take records back?). They only bet on winners so if you want a recording contract, tough luck! They waste millions on advertising, promotion and rubbish like coloured vinyl. It seems that they don't even make a decent profit (only 1.5%).

As a socialist I don't think the answer to this waste lies in going back to small scale industry, but in public ownership and control over the record industry. The benefits of large scale production and new technology should be shared between workers in good wages and consumers in low prices as a result of high productivity.

However, in the present lunatic world of the record industry it is unlikely to be the music or record quality that sells a record, rather it is the amount of money spent on promotion. Profits come first, not providing as wide a range of music to the public as possible, nor allowing everyone access and opportunity to develop their talents and record music.

A planned socialist society would provide the economic plenty to make these things possible. We could all be a Rod Stewart, Tom Jones or Ella Fitzgerald [if we had the talent]. Control over the means of production of culture, art and music would be in the hands of the majority, the record industry would be run democratically by the workers to ensure everyone the opportunity to develop and display their talents. [PS Look out for my next LP!]

The super exploited

I work in a job training centre for educationally sub-normal school leavers, the idea being to train young people to write their name and address and give them the ability to do the simplest of jobs which they are not capable of when they begin their period in our unit.

I work in a job training centre for educationally sub-normal school leavers, the idea being to train young people to write their name and address and give them the ability to do the simplest of jobs which they are not capable of when they begin their period in our unit.

One part of our work is doing jobs on contracts from

By A McAskill
(Islington S CLP)

local industry, (usually at a lower price than they could do it for). We got a phone call from a rep for a firm making plastic laundry bags for

dispensors in laundrettes (on sale for about 40p a bag).

He came down to see us to demonstrate how to make the bags, which while not difficult, involves 6 or 7 actions. One of these actions includes using a vicious little foot press with a 2 inch spike for punching holes and then pressing closed the metal reinforcing studs through which you fit the handles.

This rep boasted that his 'girls' [home workers] did about 10 gross bags a week, and for their efforts they receive the grand sum of £2 a gross 1.4 pence a bag. The retail return on that same box would be £57.60 which is a pretty good mark up.

But being short of work we

decided to take 1,000 bags to see how our students got on with them. 4 people working for over a week took about 60 working hours to do just over 5 gross and to earn the unit about £10.

So you can begin to see how many hours this firm's home workers must do for their £20 a week.

This to me is just one more example of the super-exploitation which takes place in capitalist society, especially amongst non-unionised workers.

And it acts as a crying example of the necessity for the working class to be fully organised to take on the bosses in the fight for a decent wage and working conditions.

NHS - NHS - NHS - NHS - NHS - NHS - NHS

HITTING WHERE IT HURTS

“To those members of the electorate who fell for the biggest media advertising campaign ever and voted Tory, the honeymoon was brief and is now over.

To repay their sponsors this government has declared war on the people of this country. Geoffrey Drain [General Secretary of NALGO] declared their proposed £4 billion cut on planned expenditure ‘dangerous lunacy’, but ‘lunacy’ implies an absence of logical thought and so far as the spending cuts are designed they are a very well-planned attack on every facet of the way we live—all the hallmarks of a civilised society countless trade unionists have spilled blood to achieve.

“Hit ‘em where it hurts” is the trade mark of this government. “Hit them in every direction but especially hit the old and the young and the sick.” And in this Area especially, we have seen the sickening sight of patients shunted from hospital to hospital as this one closes, or that one loses beds, or another curtails Out-patient and Therapeutic Services. And can anyone really believe that these are ‘temporary’ measures?

The labour and trade union movement is mobilising itself to fight the cuts on a national basis and each trade union branch has the responsibility of organising local action. In its attitudes to health, in the midst of its attacks on patients, staff, and services, the government does stay true to its stated objectives—private profit—because the criteria for medical treatment is rapidly becoming that of the thirties, if you can afford it you can have it—if you can’t, go without.

In the health service they see growth in one direction only—private medicine and private pay beds and by their choice, these private pay beds would only be in NHS hospitals because how else

could the Insurance Companies make such large profits, other than by the lavish use of doctors, nurses technicians, trained at the expense of public money, with access to diagnostic and therapeutic equipment installed at the cost of millions of pounds of public money. For anyone who says that the pay beds provide an income for the NHS I would say rubbish—not against the true cost of the staff and equipment—and I would also refer them to the parliamentary written answer which confirmed pay beds were subsidised by the NHS.

There were two General Practitioners serving on the Royal Commission on the health service and one of them, Dr Cyril Taylor, writing in ‘General Practitioner’ [16.11.79] “...slammed the idea that a flourishing private sector could help the NHS. ‘The idea that for every pound spent in the private sector a pound can be spent in the NHS is a load of cobblers,’ he said.”

No, the Tories are treating the NHS in exactly the same way as they are treating the profitable parts of British nationalised or partly nationalised industry—Aerospace, North Sea oil, steel and post office communications—trying to hive it off, and here again they are historically consistent. Fellow colonials we are living in the last outpost of the British Empire and our assets are being stripped and our birthrights stolen in the sacred name of profit.

We have a special responsibility to fight for the NHS, to fight for the beds that have been closed to be reopened and to fight for beds in the private sector to be put to NHS use. We had to fight before to establish the NHS and we have to fight again to save it, fight for adequate funding, adequate buildings and adequate staff to run it. This is in our interests and we have to fight for our interests against anyone who tries to take them away.”

From a speech by Myrna Shaw [Bethnal Green Hospital] to AGM of City & East London Health Branch of NALGO



Hospital wards are being closed all over the country

Photo: MILITANT

STAFFING LEVELS REACH CRISIS POINT

The new Tory government is already well known for its attacks on the public services, demanding huge money savings across the board. Cutbacks in NHS budgets have already been much publicised, and eager implementation of cuts by bureaucrats on the local Area Health Authorities have resulted in a massive spate of bed, ward and hospital closures, attempts to reduce staffing and even in some areas, redundancies.

However, administrators eager to follow Tory directives, have run up against a problem, the organised working class. In the City &

Hackney Health District alone, £2m must be saved by April. St Leonards, a local acute hospital, has had its services decimated.

Partly as a response to uproar in the local unions and amongst the local community, management shifted some of the cuts onto the local Teaching Hospital, St Bartholomew's. 80 beds were immediately closed, making 130, including 50 beds closed under the last Labour government.

Administrators, however, found themselves without staff to physically remove the beds from the wards, and had to dismantle and transport the 80 beds themselves to a basement store. The major ancillary union in the hospital, NUPE, blacked any work associated with closures.

Staff reductions have to be implemented if money is to be saved. Here ancillary workers top the ‘hit-list’ as staff turnover is rapid, resulting in a constant number of vacant posts. Generally the jobs are unpopular, including a lot of shift-work, and, as was highlighted last winter in the ‘low-pay’ campaign very badly paid.

Staff, where possible, usually do some overtime to boost wages. Also, staff here don’t have the same contracts as more highly qualified staff, and often have not been working long, and so could be more easily made redundant.

Jobs have been cut by the principal of natural wastage, and at Barts, staffing levels have now reached crisis point. Porter staff have been cut by at least 25% and a similar situation exists in catering. Cooks are in short supply and management have routinely been using the lower-graded and mainly Filipino kitchen domestics to do the cooking,

20 porters, and also have to pay out large amounts of overtime to existing staff! In fact administrators would almost welcome a strike, considering the amount of money they would save; a simple 40-hour week hits them almost as hard, and they still have to pay wage bills!

The ancillaries, however, are strongly unionised and are prepared to defend the quality of their work and their jobs. Action throughout the hospital during the last week has been totally unanimous.

Management at Barts circulated a letter to the shop stewards stating that if staff would resume ‘normal’ working i.e. accepting large amounts of over-time, and being shifted from job to job to cover vacancies where convenient to management—they would be considered to be in breach of contract and would be suspended without pay. Needless to say shock tactics of this nature failed and management were forced to concede to NUPE’s demands to un-freeze all vacancies and fill urgently certain key posts.

As a hospital administrator said, when confronted with routine portering work which he would have to do due to the overtime ban: “as NUPE seems to be in charge here, I suppose there’s not much I can say”!

NUPE has won some important gains in defence of its members, against the cuts, but there can be no ‘sitting back’ complacently. The struggle is going to continue for a long time yet, as cuts bite more deeply. Administrators will be forced to go back to Area Health Authorities and say in desperation “We can’t do it—give us more money”!

The ancillaries, however, also have limited resources, with their low wages, lacking as they do the support of other layers of hospital workers who are not unionised, particularly the nurses. And the welfare of the patients, ordinary working-class people is never far from anyone’s mind.

Therefore it is essential that the struggle is taken out of the narrow confines of the hospital to the broader labour movement where the support of the trade unions can be obtained through the Trades Councils, and where the essentially political nature of the struggle can be taken up in the Labour Party and labour movement in general.

Capitalism can never guarantee jobs and services. The struggle must be clearly linked to an understanding of the need for a socialist society, the only way in which jobs and services can ever be truly ‘guaranteed’.

By a Bart's worker

on lower pay of course.

After months of minor show-downs and aggravation, administrators eventually admitted that vacancies had been officially frozen, casting aside previous excuses about ‘inability to obtain suitable staff’. With present levels of unemployment, this is unlikely anyway.

NUPE, who had previously blacked covering of some vacancies, immediately instituted a ‘work to rule’ and 40-hour week in portering and catering. This resulted in immediate chaos, with huge gaps in services, clearly showing up the massive understaffing, for instance, hot breakfasts and canteen lunches ceased, and routine portering services were decimated, as gaps were no longer covered by overtime.

The fact is that savings cannot be made in this way. The ‘over-staffing’ so much talked about amongst ancillaries does not exist. Small reductions in staff rapidly reduce hospital functioning to breaking point and only increase inefficiency and wastage. Only the patient suffers poor meals, and the delay in routine tests and operations.

The value of expensive staff and machinery are merely wasted when patients simply cannot get to and from departments because of lack of porters!

In any case, it is doubtful whether administrators can save much money by implementing such cuts. 30 portering jobs may be vacant, but in employing 10 agency staff they are effectively paying for

BABIES DIE BUT MONEY SQUANDERED ON ROYALTY

“Tiny babies are dying needlessly in Northern hospitals. Hundreds more are handicapped for life because of cash cutbacks” [‘Sunday Sun’ 28th October]. This in the starkest manner is what the Tory policies mean for working people and their families.

In the interests of profit our families are murdered and maimed. Every week 20 babies die because there are not enough intensive care cots. Forty two babies manage to survive but end up severely handicapped.

Enormous publicity is given to abortions where it is alleged that foetuses are born alive but this situation is hardly revealed. At this sort of level 5,000 babies will die, over 10,000 will be born severely handicapped if the Tories are allowed to remain in office for their full term. Though, if you consider that the real cutbacks have not yet

By Dave Cotterill

(Gateshead Labour Party)

taken place this is obviously an underestimate.

What makes it even worse is the economic lunacy. Intensive care costs about £500 a week. But to look after a severely handicapped person right through their lives costs £250,000. Though this need not worry the Tories or the rich. They know that charities will look after the handicapped—with mainly money from the workers. So the economics look OK from their point of view.

Contrast this human suffering with the life-style of the royal family and its hangers on. Princess Anne recently visited Middlesbrough for a walk about. For the occasion

they painted a street which was due for demolition, they spent £12,000 repairing the police headquarters that she was to visit, and they organised dress rehearsal lunches for local dignitaries—so they could find out how much time would be taken up with eating the lunch.

While they guzzled fresh melon, beef sirloin, lemon mousse and “extras”, a baby was probably struggling for its last breath and the nurses were probably desperately wondering why the hospital had no intensive care cots.

After the lunch Princess Anne spent most of her time at the races. So in total probably £20,000 was spent on a royal dignitary so she could enjoy a day at the races. If we could cut back on this obscene waste and extravagance we could supply all the medical needs to prevent these horrors.

**‘MILITANT’
Health
Pamphlet
Stop the Cuts
Save the NHS**

Price 40p
(plus 10p p&p)
from World Books
1 Mentmore Terrace
London E8 3PN

The ROADSHOW

By Richard Venton
(Birkenhead Labour Party)

Mobile display at Birkenhead Roadshow

"Youth Information Week"—that was the name awarded to a four-day jamboree early in November, when the BBC Roadshow set up camp in Birkenhead town centre.

Loud disco music attracted hundreds to the Roadshow caravans. Local 'personality' disc-jockeys gave us the benefit of their wit, there was a demonstration on a pottery wheel, and the singer, Linda Lewis, made frequent appearances. In a town that lacks colour—except for a squalid grey—the whole occasion caused quite a stir.

But what was its purpose?

One caravan had displays, photos and leaflets on youth club activities in the area. This managed to disguise the squalor of many of our youth club buildings, starved of cash by the Tory Wirral Council.

Young people spoke proudly of the work they did on various Youth Opportunity, Job Creation and Temporary Employment schemes. But all these kids' efforts at helping pensioners, gardening, improving the landscape etc, are rewarded with an insulting pittance of £20.55.

With 16,560 unemployed in the Wirral, and 7,182 (more than one in ten) in Birkenhead itself, it's no surprise that most of them thought they were lucky to have even a temporary job.

The enthusiasm of many of these young people, involved in working a full week for about £7 more than they'd get on the dole, shows up the hypocrisy of the rubbish the Tories and the TV put about lazy youth not wanting work.

The TV programme linked to this Roadshow display was a terrible comment on the future prospects for working class youth. In most previous editions it dwelt on how to get a job; in dealing with Birkenhead, it spent most of the time on how to get unemployment benefits!

The main Roadshow activity was organised by the

moves on - but the dole queues stay

Manpower Services Commission—"giving young people advice on job opportunities in the area", as the leaflets put it. What they didn't publicise was that the Tory government have already cut millions off such schemes.

Nor did they explain the 'job opportunities' for apprentices at Cammell Lairds, where 1,000 jobs are being abolished, or prospects for schoolleavers who were thinking of looking for a job at Shotton steelworks.

The impression they put across was that there are jobs available, if only youth made the effort.

Jobless centres

Cheap publicity may entertain for a few hours; it may turn our gaze from the daily problems. But it won't fool young people into thinking that we live in a town where all things are for the best, in the best of all possible worlds.

Any unemployed youth only had to walk 150 yards away from the music and dancing in the car-park, to reach Birkenhead's shiny new Job Centre. There I saw, as they do every day, some 'Youth Information' giving the ugly truth about 'job opportunities in the area':

"Wallasey Timber. £22 for 8am—4.30pm. Can be very heavy work".
"Labourer. £21 at 16.

8am—4.30pm. Timber yard. Very heavy lifting. Must be fit and strong."

Engineering Labourer. £30. 8am—5pm. General labouring duties, sweeping up, opening the works, making tea, attending to fork-lift truck. Right person could learn to drive truck. Must have an interest in engineering" (it's not clear why!)

It's time the trade unions established their own 'Roadshow' to publicise the truth about what the bosses are offering to youth—as the only present alternative to dole-misery.

The BBC can trivialise problems and turn their backs on the real causes of unemployment. Their interviews may suggest that it's a problem of individuals and their attitudes—not of the system which rules us.

Disco music may be very entertaining, but it can't gloss over the horrendous prospects facing youth in areas like Birkenhead.

It's the duty of the trade unions and the labour movement, including the Labour Party Young Socialists, to go out on to the streets in a massive campaign to explain who and what causes unemployment and bad wages.

We must mobilise youth in a campaign for real alternatives such as a shorter working week, £75 minimum wage, work or full maintenance, and the full rate at 18. Let's see if the BBC will splash those ideas around the country!



Photo: MILITANT

A Breeding Ground for Crime

Damning evidence—as though any more was needed—that the crime rate is linked with unemployment levels was provided last month by a report from the Northumbria Probationary and After-Care Service.

The report states that 63% of the cases dealt with at Durham Crown Court over the last year involved Sunderland people and makes no mention of Sunderland people appearing at nearby Newcastle and Teesside courts.

Sunderland is the unemployment blackspot of Britain with 13% male unemployment in a town of 300,000 inhabitants. Many believe that the real unemployment figures to be nearer 20% since the official figures relate only to people registered as unemployed.

If simple deduction from the above figures is still not enough to convince civic leaders, police chiefs and other representatives of the boss class that the policies of capitalism actually create its own problems then the report makes it even clearer:

"In common with other parts of the country Northumbria has a high rate of unemployment and statistics for this area indicate that 38% of all indictable offences were committed by people who were without work."

Sadly, but predictably, the report has been scoffed at by some high placed local Labour Party individuals who have forgotten, it would seem, the class they should be defending in favour of the boss class and its pernicious system.

Others will be calling for a "Whitelaw centre" for the infamous "short, sharp shock" treatment for the victims of capitalism finding themselves before the courts.

They will do, say and support anything rather than face reality and admit the link between unemployment levels and crime. They will not agree that the capitalist

system which has placed thousands on the scrapheap in Sunderland over the last five years bears the sole blame for the appalling statistics brought out in the report.

They cannot see that the only way to alleviate and eventually remove crime and "social disorder" forever is to provide a decent standard of living for everyone. They would be unable to give us that standard of living even if they saw it.

That will be up to the working class when we transform society on socialist lines.

By Bob Stothard
(Durham CLP & TGWU)

EDUCATION JUST A DREAM?

"Some universities and colleges have no right to continue. I expect the weakest departments to disappear." This was the clear message spelled out by Dr Rhodes Boyson, Tory spokesman on Education.

If the Tories cut a massive £3,500m from public expenditure, some universities and colleges won't be able to afford to continue, and certainly large numbers of working class students won't be able to afford to continue their education beyond the 16.

The proposed fee increases for next year for overseas students, up to around £3,000, would ensure that further education for young workers in the colonial world become only a dream.

These fees, compared with the £633 payable by home

By Peter Mumford

(Queen Mary College Labour Club)

students, would make British universities by far the most expensive in the industrialised world, Denmark and France charge a zero or nominal fee, while even crisis-ridden Italy charges only £45 a year.

In fact even the exclusive American universities will be cheaper than any in Britain.

The obvious drop in numbers of overseas students in Britain will also have a serious effect on our education system.

The loss in income to universities, which will occur if students cannot afford to buy an education, will mean that less money is available, and will directly result in a cutting of academic staff, technicians and equipment, and ultimately in the closures

of courses or whole colleges.

At Queen Mary College, 83 technical staff are facing the sack in the near future, and two temporary lecturers in the Russian department have already been made redundant.

The gymnasium has been closed indefinitely as it is in a dangerous condition, but cannot be repaired due to lack of maintenance money.

Students, like many public sector workers, already have been brought into conflict with the Tory government, as shown by recent occupations and demonstrations.

An enormous responsibility rests on the shoulders of the leaders of the NUS, to ensure that in our campaign against the Tory plans links are forged with the labour movement.

The problems of students must not be separated from the problems of the working class in general, as the cause is the same—the domination of society by the rich.

DORIS HOLT

All 'Militant' supporters will mourn the loss of Doris Holt who recently died in Australia at the age of 55.

Doris was a great fighter for socialism. She was also an intrepid supporter of 'Militant'. Many readers will recall the vivid articles written by Doris in our paper describing the appalling conditions of workers on the Netherly Estate in Liverpool.

She was an energetic worker in the tenants' movement on the estate. Her husband Dougie was deputy convenor at the Standard Triumph car factory.

Doris was won to the ideas of Marxism by the work and example of her own children in the Labour Party Young Socialists. In fact it was after attending an LPYS conference that she decided to become a supporter of 'Militant'.

We send our condolences to her family, Dougie, Phil, Audrey, Mark, and Lesley. We salute the passing of an old fighter, but pledge ourselves to continue the fight she waged for a better world through the establishment of socialism.

Editorial Board

Communist

36

Congress

MEMBERSHIP FALLING-

Despite all the brave words about going out and winning support, the recent 36th National Congress of the Communist Party did not seriously discuss the real reasons for the Party's continuing decline.

Delegates were told that it was just a question of having "sheer bloody-minded determination" to build the Party. But in spite of the isolated success stories related to the delegates, the past two years since the last Congress has seen a further weakening of the CP's support.

Since 1977 Party membership has fallen by 20%, from 25,130 to 20,599. But of these only 51% have paid any membership dues! In reality, the CP has only 10,000 paying members, only a minority of whom are very active.

During the same period the Young Communist League membership has slumped from 1,638 to 951. Yet twelve years ago the YCL claimed 5,642 members!

The 'Morning Star's' circulation is also continuing to fall. The Congress's private session was reportedly told that, because of this situation, the number of full-time staff would have to be cut.

The Congress itself reflected this decline with only 319 delegates present compared to 425 in 1975 and 375 in 1977. The weakening of the CP's industrial base was reflected in the fact that 47 of the delegates were teachers or lecturers, while only 37 were AUEW members (compared to 78 AUEW members in 1975).

At the same time, the CP is an ageing party, only 28 of the delegates were under 25, compared with 46 in 1975.

The Party leadership attempted to explain this collapse by linking it to the fall in Labour Party membership. An amendment accepted by the leadership to the main Congress resolution spoke of a "significant shift to the right in the consciousness of many members of the working class. Many working class people supported Tory policies on such questions as restricting the rights of unions, on immigration, and on public expenditure cuts."

In other words, the CP leaders, in common with

By Bob Labi

Labour's right wing, blame the working class for their problems.

The major reasons for the decline in Labour Party membership and Labour's election defeat lies with the widespread disillusionment with the record of the Labour government and the conservative policies of Labour's Parliamentary leadership.

However, while there was a falling away of support for Labour, at the same time a radicalisation was taking place inside the labour movement. Although this process was uneven, for example, the shift to the right in the AUEW, the Labour Party Conferences of 1976, 1978 and 1979 all reflected this development.

In this situation, where the advanced active layers of the working class were being radicalised and there were massive strike waves, it should have been utterly possible for the CP, if it had been a genuine Marxist party, to increase its support.

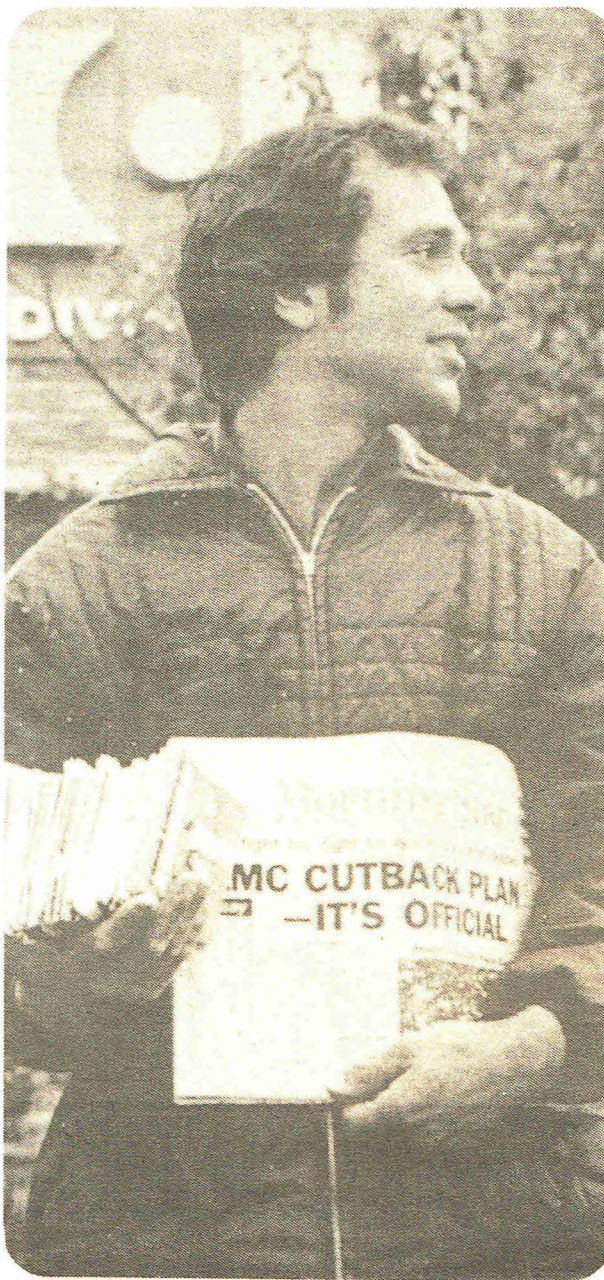
But in fact the Communist Party continued its downward spiral.

The main explanation of this lies in the fact that the Communist Party does not put forward a real Marxist alternative to the policies of reformism.

General Secretary Gordon McLennan, in opening the Congress, set as the immediate aim the winning of a "Labour government—one that will carry out the agreed policies of the Labour movement...The longer term aim is for a Labour government of the Left" which still would not—according to the CP's programme 'The British Road to Socialism'—be a socialist government.

An amendment incorporated in the main resolution explained that the CP's contribution to the labour movement is the theory of how to "encroach on" the ruling class's power.

McLennan's speech emphasised the need to build a 'Broad Democratic Alliance' which would fight on progressive, but non-Socialist, demands. This alliance would be formed by labour movement and what McLennan



Down go 'Morning Star's' sales

WORKERS BLAMED



CP General Secretary, Gordon McLennan, addressing the Congress. Mick McGahey is the chairman

called the "democratic movement". What exactly this "democratic movement" is was never explained, although Tony Chater, speaking for the Executive, stated that "the labour movement is not a substitute for the Broad Democratic Alliance".

McLennan said that "in

addition to the organised labour movement there are millions more people and their organisations... (but) there is still all too little recognition in the working class movement of the need to build alliances with other organisations."

Basing themselves on the

idea that socialist policies will frighten the middle class, and on what they see as a rightward swing in the working class, the CP leaders argue that it will only be possible to mobilise the majority of the population on vague, 'progressive' policies. This is the reasoning behind the CP's reformist policies of pushing the implementation of socialist policies into the far distant future.

Fundamentally, the CP leaders lack any faith in the working class to respond to socialist ideas and do not understand that it will only be possible for the labour movement to rally round sections of the middle class if it offers a clear socialist alternative to the chaos of capitalism.

While these ideas are sometimes dressed up in Marxist rhetoric, the CP's day-to-day policies are not fundamentally different from those put forward by the 'Tribune' inside the Labour Party. In this situation, where the CP's approach is similar to those of most of the Labour Party left leaders, there is little attraction for workers to join the small CP instead of the mass Labour Party.

Often, in fact, the CP is to the right of Labour Party membership, let alone the Marxist current in the Labour Party. For example, at the Congress one delegate, who is also a NUPE official, attacked the "opportunist and leftist" idea of Labour councils refusing to increase rates,

what claims to be a revolutionary Marxist party to spend so much time at its Congress discussing these basic ideas.

The whole Congress was affected both by the effects of the Party's decline and the increasing factionalism inside the Party.

At the last Congress, the Party leaders leaned on the neo-reformist Euro-Communism wing, the so-called "revolutionary-democratic trend", to defeat those party members opposing an openly reformist policy. These members, mainly older workers, looked for lack of an alternative, to the old-style pro-Moscow Stalinists for leadership.

This year, however, the Party leadership leaned on the workers in the Party to defeat the attempts of the mainly middle class Euro-Communists to change the Party structure. While some of the Euro-Communists' proposals would have democratised the CP, the majority would have paved the way for re-modelling it on social-democratic lines and undermining the leadership's position.

The Party leaders were forced to resist the Euro-Communists' attempts to change the Party rules and thereby prepare the way to take control of the Party, although at the same time the Party leaders accepted most of the political ideas of the neo-reformists, because they had none of their own.

The Congress reflected the three-way split in the Communist Party. About 20% of the delegates solidly supported the Euro-Communists. The openly pro-Moscow elements were able to muster 114 votes (about 35%) for a motion seeking to delete a clause in the Executive's motion attributing the Party's decline to the "armed conflicts between socialist states, and the limitations on democracy in socialist countries."

But none of the three groupings inside the Party can offer any way forward for Communist Party members. The Euro-Communists look increasingly towards 'new social forces', not the working class to win support for their reformist policies. While the pro-Moscow elements will never be able to win mass support with their position that "we're so bloody lucky to have such examples of socialism" as in the USSR!

Although it is possible that the CP will be able to temporarily grow in a period of mass struggles, as it did for nine months in 1973, its policies and its links with the Stalinist regimes around the world will make it impossible to grow significantly.

In particular, the coming developments inside the Labour Party, the emergence of a mass left wing, and the continuing growth of support for the 'Militant', will provide a pole of attraction for workers moving into political activity, undercutting the CP's room for growth.

It was this central problem which the Communist Party Congress absolutely failed to face up to and which makes it extremely unlikely that the CP will be able to fundamentally reverse its decline.

while at the same time explaining that it would be necessary to "support small cuts in spending to help keep rates down!"

The Congress saw no real discussion of the CP's prospects. One delegate openly expressed the fear in the minds of many others that the development of a mass left wing inside the Labour Party, which is beginning now, will further weaken the CP.

Dave Green, from the Rectory branch in London, spoke of CP members "feeling the tug of the Labour left"; building the CP is "not just a question of applying our programme and hard work, we must give perspectives to the struggles taking place."

But despite many speeches saying that the CP was a revolutionary party and therefore fundamentally different from the reformist Labour Party, the Congress did not put forward any perspectives for the CP in the next period.

Indeed, much of the Congress's time was taken up with resolutions putting forward basic anti-capitalist and anti-Tory propaganda. Such motions play a necessary role in, say, trade union conferences, but there is no need for

TURKEY

One in five in Turkey unemployed; inflation rocketing from 60% in June to over 100% now; lack of foreign currency blocking the lifeline of power and raw materials to a half-dead industrial sector; and interest charges on a colossal foreign debt crippling the state.



Turkey's new prime minister Demirel (left) and the man he replace, Ecevit (right)

These are the symptoms of the "sick man of Europe's" latest economic illness—the worst in its post-war history.

All this despite two years of rule by Bulent Ecevit's social democratic Republican People's Party. Two weeks ago the government changed hands, but Turkey's grave economic crisis remained unaltered.

The deterioration of the economy and the living standards of the workers and peasants, the domination of the country by foreign high finance through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the disappointment of the masses which resulted in Ecevit's defeat are testament to the utter impossibility of social democracy gradually improving the workers' lot through reforms within the capitalist system.

This is especially true in a 'backward' country during a period of economic crisis. Once Ecevit chose to attempt to cure the ills of Turkey's feeble capitalism rather than replace it with a socialist society, his government became a captive of imperialism, Turkish big business and corrupt, carpet-bagging politicians.

But what faces the workers now under a government of Demirel's right-wing Justice Party? A worsening of the country's economic position, attacks against the workers and an increase of right-wing terrorism against trade unionists and socialists.

Although Ecevit managed to negotiate the largest-ever international debt rescheduling, accounting for half of the country's now £13bn overdraft, the trade balance shows no signs of coming out of the

red, and meanwhile the interest charges and repayments mount up.

During the years of economic boom in the West, imperialism was prepared to rush aid to faltering capitalist countries in order to stave off social upheavals which could have a dangerous effect internationally. But with mounting difficulties in the capitalist world market the major imperialist powers will less and less be able to afford such aid.

On the contrary, they will have to exploit their weaker "allies" even more ruthlessly, as is shown by the obstinacy of the IMF in the loan negotiations with the Turkish government which have lasted a whole year. What forced the IMF to grant loans—with strings—was the shock of the revolution in next-door Iran and the fear that after Afghanistan and Iran, Turkey could be the next domino to fall.

Turkey has been in debt since 1973 when the cost of imported oil rose.

In 1976 the trade deficit rose to \$3,168m and was followed annually by \$4,043m, \$2,311m and the estimate for this year is \$2,350m. In the past, wages sent home by Turkish workers in Europe at least made up the deficit, but now this is swamped by interest charges which have risen from \$217m in 1976 to \$389m last year and \$795m this year.

Already the shortage of foreign currency caused by the trade deficit means that industry simply cannot get the raw materials and fuel that it needs to reach full production and export goods. Thus Turkish capitalism is caught in a vicious circle.

This has actually been worsened by the 43% devaluation forced on Ecevit by the IMF earlier this year, which fuelled the fires of inflation by increasing the price of imported goods, whilst industry

Brent Kennedy analyses recent developments in 'the sick man of Europe'

has not been capable of sufficiently increasing its now cheaper exports on the world market due to its inefficiency, gross mismanagement and persistent shortages.

Arising from the frustration caused by the daily disruption of life, the mass unemployment and the economic and political deadlock is a growing social tension which has reached civil war proportions in some areas. 2,000 people have lost their lives in the last two years in political assassinations, reprisals and riots. Not even the courts can now ignore the brutally obvious fact that the fascist gangs of the Nationalist Action Party—the "Grey Wolves"—are responsible for the majority of the killings.

Any increase in violence must therefore be the responsibility of the fascists and their "respectable" right wing protectors. But the labour movement will also place a share of the responsibility on Ecevit's shoulders. The RPP government could have rooted out the murderers by mobilising the workers in the factories and in the towns and villages, relying on the strength of their own democratic organisations, the trade unions, to defend lives from fascist attacks. The fascists could have been crushed.

Instead, the social democrats relied on the "impartiality" of the bosses' state to restore stability. Predictably, the declaration of martial law over half the country's population has been used against the labour movement in the main. Troops were ordered to shoot to kill during the 29



hour curfew imposed on Istanbul to prevent this year's May Day march. 2,500 trade unionists, including the leaders of DISK, the left-wing union federation, were arrested by the army for defying the ban on the march.

Ecevit's introduction of "martial law with a human face" over half the country has greatly facilitated further attacks on workers' democratic rights by the state. Demirel's first act was to remove the pretence of "civil control" over the martial law authorities, giving the uniformed forces of reaction a free rein over the left.

That the army hasn't taken complete control through a coup is an indication of the strength of the working class and also a recognition that military rule, which has taken place twice in the last 20 years, is no solution to Turkey's deep-rooted recurrent problems.

Turkey's fundamental problems are those of a relatively backward country faced with the tasks of modern development in competition with imperialism in the advanced industrialised nations. During the post-war world boom Turkey was able to build up an industrial sector, mechanise agriculture and improve its infrastructure of roads and public services, but only at a price and on an unstable foundation. She is now having to pick up the bill for the foreign credits upon which that growth depended.

But her dependence on the world market and the imbalance in her economy is now

manifesting itself in economic dislocation. 80% of farms now have tractors, but what use is that when you have no petrol? Peasants are now being driven backwards in time, having to return to the sickle while their modern farm machinery stands idle.

Farm mechanisation has meant a huge exodus of peasants to the cities, searching for jobs and lured by the luxuries of modern life they see on TV—which they now expect to enjoy. But the hopes of millions have been dashed on reaching the cities. Half the population of Turkey's cities—itsself nearly half the total population now—live in miserable conditions in shanty towns which have sprung up around the major centres.

Istanbul has grown by 15 times in the last two decades, but its slum dwellers account for half the country's 2½m unemployed. As the safety valve of emigration to Western Europe is being turned off by recession the pressure in Turkish society is building up to explosion point.

The RPP and DISK must now launch a campaign to win the support of the workers, the peasants and the unemployed. Armed workers' defence groups must be set up under the control of the trade unions and extended to provide protection for all working class areas. Contact should be made with the workers and peasants in uniform to secure better conditions and win them away from the influence of the reactionary officer caste.

Committees of trade unionists, housewives and small shopkeepers should be set up to keep a check on price rises and to expose the hoarding and profiteering of the big traders and middlemen. Corruption must be exposed and the black marketeers driven out! Links between factory, transport and retail workers and the small peasants should

be forged and channels of distribution of food to the workers' districts and fuel to the villages be built.

Fixed prices for farm products must be demanded to protect consumers and provide a guaranteed market for the peasants. A promise of cheap credit to the peasants to buy fertilisers, machinery and fuel must be made by the RPP for a future socialist government.

The right of self-determination for Turkey's 7 million Kurds should be proclaimed and the withdrawal of the army of occupation over the Turkish Cypriots be demanded.

Above all the demand must be raised for the nationalisation of the banks, with debts written off, the nationalisation of the capitalist enterprises and a state monopoly of foreign trade. The foreign debt of the capitalist state should be cancelled by a workers' government! The anarchic inefficiency of the existing state sector shows the burning need for workers' control and management of the economy and a socialist plan of production as the only way forward for Turkey.

A campaign on such a socialist programme would raise tremendous enthusiasm from the workers, peasants, unemployed and the religious and national minorities which could halt Demirel's reaction in its tracks and sweep the RPP back to office.

But to launch such a campaign, and to give its demands any meaning for the disappointed masses the social democratic leadership of the RPP must be replaced with a Marxist leadership determined to struggle for power and build a socialist Turkey along with the workers of Europe and the Middle East. It is in the ranks of the RPP and DISK that such a leadership will emerge if bloody reaction is to be prevented.



JAPAN

JAPANESE WORKERS STRUGGLE TO TRANSFORM SOCIETY

PART TWO

Trade unions re-established themselves in Japan after 1945 in the course of a long struggle.

It stretched from the Red purges of the 1940s to the 1960 defeat of the Miike coalminers, who had the strongest grassroots organisation in Japan.

After World War Two, with a chaotic situation and the total discrediting of the Japanese ruling class, trade unionism swept across Japan.

Many factories were taken over by the workers in what were termed 'production control' struggles—one, for example, dislodged the editor of an arch-reactionary Tokyo newspaper. In some areas embryonic soviets took over the distribution of food.

Unfortunately, the Communist Party, which was leading the trade unions, welcomed the American Occupation as guaranteeing the 'democratic revolution' against the war-time militaristic regime.

The capitalists, supported by the Americans, gradually consolidated their position and gathered strength for an all-out assault on the labour movement. This took the form of a vicious deflationary policy, with hundreds of thousands of workers sacked and trade union militants dismissed wherever possible.

The plants where a militant organisation survived were picked off over the course of the next ten years. In Datsun a high degree of workers' control over questions like promotion was smashed after a long strike in 1953, and the second, scab union, based initially on the white collar workers, was installed.

Ironically, the necessity for Datsun to act at that time flowed from the fact that they were about to re-organise their production process based on technology imported from Austin!

Now Thatcher is attempting to provide suitable con-

ANDREW GLYN, recently in Japan, analyses the workers' movements.

ditions for Edwardes to do the same thing at the BL plant in Cowley—so they can produce Honda cars more cheaply!

This grinding down of the trade union movement in the large-scale private sector was an indispensable pre-condition for the superboom in the Japanese economy in the late fifties and sixties. In the public sector, notably the railways and post office, a militant tradition and effective shop-floor organisation survived. Not that the management did not do its best.

It should be quite clear that this situation in the trade union movement is an exceptionally unfavourable one for the workers' parties. The CP now has a very weak base in the trade union movement, with the exception of the teachers' union and a few others.

Its position was destroyed partly by the 'Red purges' of the early fifties, but also by their zig-zagging tactics, including a call to their members not to join a general strike in 1964. Nor is its 'Eurocommunist' and, indeed, nationalistic line likely to reverse this weakness.

The CP frequently argues against militant action on the grounds that it will damage the interests of the general public (in the case of public employees), or the employers (in the case of employees of small businesses).

The Communist Party's electoral strength is based on



Japanese workers demonstrate against corruption on Lockheed orders

an effective local organisation. It has around 400,000 members, and a higher (declared) party income even than the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. It builds up a loyalty throughout its network of welfare-type organisations for the unemployed, sick, small businessmen and working mothers. The 'Guardian' reported that one CP crèche in Tokyo stays open until midnight to cater for the thousands of bar hostesses living in the area.

The Communists gain in number of seats in this election was entirely due to their concentrating their forces more effectively, rather than an increased share of the poll.

A CP rally I attended in Tokyo this summer was impressively organised, with more than 100,000 people there—though many more were taking advantage of the different CP districts' stalls selling local goods than took the opportunity to hear Secretary General Myamoto!

One CP organiser told 'The Economist' that in his rural area the majority of CP voters "either cannot understand or are not interested in the party's slogans" (October 5th). The CP stresses the 'national democratic' nature of the struggle in Japan, and pictures US imperialism as the major enemy, rather than the Japanese bosses. They have recently conceded that Japan is only 'semi-occupied' rather than an occupied colony of the USA.

Their reformism makes them incapable of leading the workers' movement forward.

The Socialist Party is much weaker organisationally than the CP, with only 50,000 members, but it is firmly based in the trade union movement and many of the militants support it actively. Its organisation relies very heavily on that of the Sohyo Trade Union Confederation which is mainly organised in public sector unions.

In theory at least it is a Marxist party. Attempts by the right-wing to explicitly deny the need for workers' democracy (i.e. dictatorship of the proletariat) have been defeated, while the CP has removed the concept from its programme. But the SP has failed to propose a credible set of policies to meet the problems posed by the economic crisis.

Their Action Programme for 1979 called for a huge range of reforms—government spending to provide 700,000 more jobs (unemployment is 1.2 million at present), improvements in medical care, pensions, housing, transport, aid to recession-hit industries, urban redevelopment, help for farmers and small businessmen.

While such a programme of reforms was quite practicable in the boom years of the sixties, it provides no answer to the propaganda that the "economy" (in reality capitalism of course) cannot afford it. The left of the party, organised around the Socialist Association, whilst stressing the role of class struggle has a strategy of building up an anti-monopoly alliance, similar to that of the British CP.

Internationally, though, it supports the Soviet Union line through and through, in contrast to the CP which is just re-establishing links with Moscow after a 15-year break. The election results will definitely reinforce the sense of crisis in the SP, which has lost one third of its share of the vote since 1963.

Its failure to capitalise in any way on the problems faced by Japanese capitalism in the past decade, in fact its share of the vote has continued to decline, shows quite clearly the needs to break with the slogans of the past and develop a socialist programme adequate to the needs of the Japanese workers. The pressure from the moves in Sohyo, unfortun-

ately, is towards the opposite tack of moderating the line into a straight social democratic one. The coming period is obviously one of crisis for the SP.

It should be clear that the Japanese workers have a tremendous struggle ahead. They face an aggressive and confident ruling class, which will be quite prepared to use the repressive forces of the state at the slightest sign of trouble, as the struggles in Narity Airport near Tokyo have shown. Many people in Japan saw the enormous police mobilisation at the time of the Tokyo Summit as a convenient testing out of emergency procedures (similar to the Heathrow manoeuvres here a few years ago), 'justified' by the antics of the ultra-left groups.

The mechanisms of control the capitalists have built up in the factories, based on the foreman system, will require a tremendous battle to overcome. The right-wing trade union bureaucracy had its power enormously consolidated by the 'success' of its policy of co-operation with the management which did yield real wage increases of up to 10% a year, in the years of massive accumulation and huge productivity increases.

The zealously inculcated ideology of loyalty to the firm and 'life-time employment' will not crumble overnight, despite the fact that 'lifetime' increasingly means 45-50 years old as more workers are thrown on the scrap heap. It will take time for the militants, isolated for years and harassed physically and mentally by the vile alliance of bosses and trade union officials, to convince the mass of the workers of the need for the policies of class struggle.

One very slight sign that some pressure is beginning is that the bureaucrats are now frequently forced to put in for bigger wage increases than are finally conceded—an admission that there is a

difference between what the workers are pressing for and what would allow a restoration of profitability.

The argument you hear, even amongst some 'left-wingers', that the Japanese workers are middle class, have become bourgeoisified (just as some academics described the British workers in the early sixties), is in reality a total capitulation to the propaganda of the ruling class.

It shows no understanding of the fighting traditions of the Japanese workers, demonstrated in the widespread struggles of the late forties and early fifties, and carried on subsequently by the public sector workers and most recently by the workers in the small scale firms where the trade union bureaucrats do not have such a stranglehold (see 'Militant' 16 March about the Tanaka machinery workers who are still the focal point of the struggles in the engineering industry of South Osaka).

The 'economic miracle' in Japan did have the 'miraculous' consequence for the capitalists of pushing workers' struggles into the background. But there can be no question that in the course of the next few years the pressure will build up inside the trade union movement. The capitalists, without any doubt, have the upper hand at present, but the bureaucracy will inevitably find it harder to hold back the workers.

In turn industrial struggles will have an electrifying effect on the political plane, causing explosions in the workers' parties, especially the SP. The essential task is the development in the course of this turmoil in the labour movement of a Marxist leadership which will be able to take the struggle forward.

The essential task is to develop a Marxist leadership to take the workers struggle forward.

KOREA BRAZIL POLAND

S.KOREAN BOSSES GIVE CONCESSIONS

It is not easy to speak directly to Korean workers, open trade unions do not exist, until recently even the tame opposition parties have suffered considerable harassment. If therefore I relate just three examples of life in South Korean factories culled from visiting businessmen, I can hardly be accused of bias or exaggeration.

Firstly the importer being shown around a garment factory who remarked that while the job of the machinist was much the same as at home the atmosphere was different. After a while it struck him "There's no radio, no music" he said, to be informed that music was not allowed.

A little later he pressed the point, it was not just the lack of music, no one was talking, to which the manager replied "If that girl spoke to her neighbour we would sack her for talking and the other for listening".

Then there was the merchandising director showing interest in workers carrying out an oxidising process on cutlery handles and being told rather sharply to move along. In the next department it was explained that it was not advisable to stay in the oxidation section too long because of the noxious fumes.

"How long do they work", he asked, "Oh ten hours a day, six days a week".

A buyer viewing a small

press section of a factory during the lunch break, as he entered with the manager, two young lads eating their lunch put down their plates and stood to attention.

You hear the stories of the women's side of the 'economic miracle', of the young girls from the rural areas, living in dormitories, working 28 days with 2 days off and all for a few pounds a month.

Of workers not being paid at all, the owners knowing that the worst they face is a paltry fine. You learn of the heroic struggles of women textile workers, of strikes and demonstrations against dismissals and working conditions, of the underground struggle of the unions.

You know that living conditions have improved, you can see the vast new housing estates. It is also apparent that in many factories discipline has been relaxed since the workers demonstration in Pusan and the assassination of the dictator Park. (see 'Militant' 9th November).

At the end of the terrible civil war it was estimated that nearly a million had died, two million were homeless, 300,000 were missing and there were 100,000 war orphans. Seoul was destroyed three times over. Today it is a bustling modern city of 8 million people.

South Korean workers are justly proud of their achievements, of the 240 mile express way from Seoul to Pusan—6 major tunnels, 29 major bridges and 208 lesser bridges—built in two years and four months. Until 1967 South Korea had built nothing bigger than an ocean going junk. By 1973 it had met

By our correspondent in South Korea

overseas shipping orders amounting to \$87 million.

The workers can see all around them the miracles their labour has wrought. They can see also how it has been wasted in prestige projects such as the fabulous Hotel Lotte with its luxury shops, its six or more restaurants, opulent furnishings, waterfalls and fountains.

The events of the past few weeks are neither accidental nor coincidental. The protesting students and workers in Pusan and other southern towns may have reacted spontaneously to the dismissal of capitalist opposition leader Kim Young-Sam from the Congress, but their actions demonstrated the pent-up fury of the workers.

The assassination of Park, reflected the divisions within the ruling class on how to deal with the pressure from below.

At the moment the ruling class are moving cautiously to make concessions to the masses. However they face major problems. The restoration of the workers' confidence, the demands for better living standards and the restoration of parliamentary democracy come at a time of world recession and a dramatic slow-down in the South Korean economy.

Wage rises of up to 30% have been conceded this year. While the official rise in the



Funeral of dictator Park, assassinated earlier this month by his security chief

consumer price index for the first nine months of this year was 26% most experts consider the real rate of inflation as around 35%-40%.

Some two decades ago a much smaller working class overthrew the corrupt dictatorship of Syngman Rhee only to see all the democratic gains filched away under the rule of Park. This time more and more workers will realise that parliamentary democ-

racy will offer no permanent guarantee for the future and will see the need to build a socialist movement.

Those socialists and trade unionists in Britain seriously concerned with the working conditions and struggles of the South Korean workers should drop their reactionary demands for import controls. All they can achieve is higher prices for children's clothes and shoes in Britain and less

jobs for Korean workers.

Trade embargoes can be a legitimate weapon, but let them be aimed at using the present crisis to exert pressure for the right to open, independent trade unions in South Korea. That way Korean and British workers can jointly take a step towards a permanent end to their exploiters both in Asia and Europe.

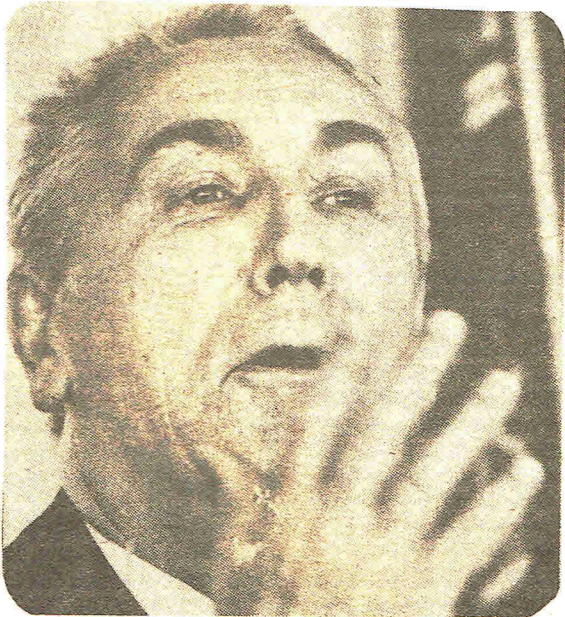
"Who's losing sleep in Poland?"

"Believe me, the housing problems, poor choice in the shops, queue of people for some goods, energy shortage—all these things concern the whole party leadership and rob me of sleep."

Not the words of a dissident Polish Marxist, but part of a speech made by Prime Minister Gierek on November 9th.

In fact the Polish bureaucracy is so concerned about what their dictatorial mismanagement has done to Polish workers that they will do virtually anything—except get off their backs. The leading bureaucrats recognise their remoteness from the people and how the lack of workers' democracy prevents them from planning society properly, yet they cannot reform for that would end their parasitic role.

Gierek explained the problem in his speech: "I am beginning to have doubts as



Prime Minister Gierek, head of the 'Communist' Party

to whether the leadership of our party, whether myself personally, are being informed over the economic situation and the day to day problems and worries of working people."

Condemned from his own mouth! And a report drawn up by a section of the party leadership is even more explicit. The 150 page Mem-

orandum ("Report over the situation of the Republic and the way to its recovery") was reported in 'Militant' 16th November.

But recent extracts from it are even more devastating. It describes the mismanagement and corruption, incompetence of the government and repression of the people.

"Public announcements

aren't taken seriously any more—between the government and the people an enormous gulf has opened up."

The report cautiously calls for reforms, but then admits the hopelessness of the situation.

It expresses its "complete certainty that a radical transformation is absolutely necessary and at the same time, totally impossible." But without reforms the report continues there would be "sooner or later an explosion far greater than anything we have experienced since the war."

Poland today is like a powder keg. Its desperate economic position allows the ruling clique little room for manoeuvre. But it dare not directly attack the working class for fear of the consequent explosions. The 1970's Polish workers exerted their political muscle in strikes and demonstrations.

What scares the bureaucracy is that the revolt of the 1970's may move over into revolution in the 1980's as the workers struggle to democratically control society.

BRAZIL-THE MIRACLE ENDS

Last week in an attempt to defuse the mounting protest against the military regime Brazil's rulers banned the main opposition party and announced that in future four political parties would be allowed.

The past month has seen a rising wave of angry action by Brazilian workers against the regime and its economic policies. The ruling class is mixing concessions with repression in an attempt to counter the protests.

The Brazilian economic miracle has certainly gone sour. Food prices have officially risen by 80% in the last year, and the overall annual inflation rate is 65%.

Brazil's reliance on international capitalism to provide the motor for

development has run into the same sands that have affected the other so-called post-war successes for capitalism in the 'third' world—S Korea and Iran.

In the next month Brazil will need to borrow \$2 billion before the end of the year (its finance minister came to London this week to sign a loan for \$1 billion). In 1979 Brazil will pay over \$10 billion to service its \$45 billion foreign debt—\$5 billion in interest, and the rest in repayment of the principal.

Oil imports this year will cost \$7 billion, half of Brazil's total export earnings. Bad harvests have cut its agricultural exports and are forcing it to import \$2 billion of rice and maize. By the end of the year it is expected that the trade gap will be more than \$2 billion.

Economists are now advising devaluation and cuts in workers' living standards as a way out. It seems that all the signs are that Brazil is heading the same way as Iran—massive explosions and crisis in the next period.

LETTERS

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

500 Jobs Lost

Dear Comrades
At the last meeting of our AUEW branch it was disclosed that there have been 500 redundancies locally in the last 6 months. Our district has the biggest membership in division 23 and everyone's wondering what's in store for the future?

One thing that came out of the meeting was that redundancy payments, which most of the branch had been in favour of, had been a god-send for the employer, with rarely any trouble. In fact, as members pointed out, as soon as redundancies were announced, stewards were button-holed by members saying "me first" in the queue.

But as was said in the meeting, what's £4,000, even if you're lucky enough to get it. It's barely a year's wages.

There's been no real attempt to explain the issues to the membership, let alone any leadership to organise opposition to redundancies.

That's what's needed.

Every branch should be sending resolutions to district and divisional level opposing redundancies and demanding a lead on national action be given now.

Yours fraternally
Mike Singleton
AUEW Brighton

Colliery Sales

Dear Comrades,

A few weeks ago the local LPYS branch began selling 'Militant' at the gates of the Polmaise Colliery in Fallin. We did this every Friday and averaged about nine papers every sale—on our first sale one miner gave us £1 for a paper.

Last Friday we sold 30 copies—and we didn't even stand there as long as usual; we ran out of papers to sell.

A couple of pounds was also collected for the fighting fund.

We distributed the 'Militant and Defence Campaign' bulletin and spoke at an NUM branch meeting on the issue. We are expecting a donation to the defence fund very soon.

Fraternally,
Jan McTaggart
& Hazel Sutherland
W. Stirlingshire LPYS

Closed Doors

Dear Editor,

Pope John Paul is setting a very poor example to the Christian world by examining the finance of the Catholic Church behind closed doors. I know no worse example to the democratically elected leaders of the world today, who can very well adopt the attitude that "if the Pope can do it, so can I".

The Pope is Christ's vicar on earth and one does not have to study deep philosophy in the College of Cardinals in Rome to know Christ made views clear with regard to finance. I would suggest the 120 Cardinals could well read the Sermon on the Mount.

As a Roman Catholic, I shall refuse to contribute to Peter's Pence, a worldwide collection made for the Pope, until this rather delicate subject of the Catholic Church's finance is aired out in the open for Catholics and non-Catholics. After all there are millions of pounds involved.

Sincerely
John Barry
Acton, London

(See Left and right page 5)

Politics in school

Dear Editor

Several weeks ago the reactionary 'Birmingham Evening Mail' attacked Handsworth LPYS for advertising a meeting on education in several schools around the Birmingham area. 'Keep politics out of our schools', they screamed.

However in a special 8 page CBI conference supplement the 'Mail' saw fit to publish, Sir John Methven had other ideas.

He said, "In particular we need to improve the image of industry with young people, schools and colleges, and that means businessmen have to go more into schools and connect up with them, so that there is much greater understanding of what industry is all about."

Does this mean that politics in schools is OK providing pupils hear only what big business want them to hear?

Yours comradely
Les Kuriata
Selly Oak LPYS

Barbarity of the Pol Pot regime

Dear Friends

I found Lynn Walsh's article on Kampuchea (9 November) rather surprising. I couldn't see the logic of explaining the Khmer Rouge's genocidal policies in terms of "the situation that faced them", then saying that there is "nothing to choose" between the Pol Pot and Heng Samrin regimes.

The former deliberately destroyed cities, schools, hospitals, and any vaguely 'mod-

ern' technical, medical, industrial and agricultural equipment as symbols of corruption, as well as systematically butchering the entire body of officials, specialists, doctors, students and soldiers who had worked in and with them.

Indirectly, it caused the deaths of thousands more through forced labour, migration, and starvation rationing. The latter is desperately trying to save what remains of

Even budgies aren't safe!

Dear Sir

Please can you tell me why Mrs Thatcher has put up the price of budgie seed? It was 21p and now it is 26p a pound.

My mummy can not give me any more spending money because our rent has gone up again and now it will be £11.33. Before, it was £10.13.

My mummy's gas is going up 40% and the electric is going up as well.

My daddy lets me read the 'Militant' paper and I saw not long ago a letter about chocolate having

gone up. How awful.

Will have to let my budgie go, or let him go hungry? I have had my Joey 2 years and my brother who is 3 years old loves him same as I do.

I hope you will put this letter in your paper. I am 6 years old.

P.S. By the way can you tell me where my brother can buy a black action man? All the ones have seen are white.

All my love
Michelle Clegg



Anti-Corrie demo

Dear Comrades

If we are to attempt to reach working class women, the 'Militant' should highlight and draw the lessons from the problems facing them.

A number of lessons could be drawn from the anti-Corrie bill. Many men supported the

demo, and workers rightly came out as a class. The women's groups were wrong to make the stand they did.

The TUC took the problem up as a class issue and that was why it had so much support. The government must be appalled at the willingness of workers to show their strength on a 'minor' issue. What will be the reaction of workers when the government really starts attacking trade union rights?

It must be remembered that in the public services' dispute last winter, on the day of the massive national dem-

onstration the workers had a day off on strike and the transport was organised free. In some cases (G&MWU) workers were paid strike pay.

Workers going on the Corrie demo had to organise and pay for their transport in most cases. In Dorset we had to pay £3 per head.

The Corrie demo should have been a gift for reaching working class women. If we ignore the problems they face, it will be at the expense of achieving socialism.

Comradely
Julie Harris
Poole

Communist Party Defended

Dear Comrade

As a Communist Party member I felt I must reply to some of the points made by Roger Silverman in his article on the 36th Congress of the CPGB in your columns on 9th November.

Firstly, contrary to what Silverman says the Communist Party does not attempt to "blame the workers" for the decline of the Party or the left, or for the recent election defeat. Instead it points to the failure of successive Labour governments to carry out bold socialist policies, and to the last government in particular, for setting the trade union

movement against it through rigid pay policy.

However, the analysis does not end there. The CP—and this is clearly shown in the programme 'The British Road to Socialism'—seeks to understand the complex process whereby bourgeois ideas, values and practices are accepted by large numbers of working people in Britain. It is necessary to understand how bourgeois hegemony is maintained if it is to be broken down.

Secondly, I was very saddened to see Silverman lapsing into language which I thought was reserved for the columns of the 'Daily Telegraph' when he says that "the CP has become dominated by all kinds of do-gooders and trendies with their pet fashionable social causes."

I would be very interested to know who these "do-gooders and trendies" are,

and how the analysis of such groups accords with the Marxist conception of class. I was always taught that there were only two classes in society.

Finally, I don't think that an exposé in the 'News of the World' necessarily leads one to the conclusion that "the threat of Marxism is giving nightmares both to the Labour right wing and the capitalist class" and that the 'Militant' tendency constitute the principle threat.

For all its weaknesses, surely the 'Morning Star' (which is only mentioned in passing by Silverman) plays an important role in helping to unify and give a daily voice to the working class movement in Britain. This is something that 'Militant' should try to imitate.

Yours fraternally
Stephen Williams
London SE13
(See article page 8)

Dear Comrades

On 20th October local LPYS members were doing their usual paper sale and leafletting in the Folkestone town centre. Paper sales were unusually high and standing there we felt an air of uneasiness as 70 National Front members paraded down the road with banners, wearing the usual iron boots and bullet-proof looks.

We were soon in the centre of organising an 'on the spot' anti-NF rally. Local support willingly came and within the space of half an hour most 'Militants' had been sold and anti-NF slogans could be heard from the demonstrators willing to take part as the NF marched down the street.

Police were in full force, swamping the NF supporters and threatening comrades with arrest if they caused any trouble.

One comrade was arrested. Prompt action was taken by six police to handcuff him and place him in the black maria so he could see the march much better, but not before removing the last few 'Militants', tearing them up and stamping them into the ground with vicious remarks.

Even during the rally, police would not tell of the route the NF were taking. They seemed furious that a counter demonstration was even taking place.

We found it absolutely disgusting that the local police, press and even local Labour councillors conspired to keep the NF march a complete and utter secret from local people whose town the NF were openly allowed the privilege to march upon.

Yours,
Vivian Segal
LPYS

the Khmer nation by using what little specialist knowledge and facilities that still survive, while its Vietnamese sponsors, despite both their traditional anti-Khmer ethnic hostility and being on the verge of famine themselves, have organised a massive province-to-province relief operation.

Both these policies have been enacted against a background of extreme economic backwardness, hardship and poverty and in the wake of recent liberation from tyrannical political dictatorship (i.e. "the situation that faced them" was similar); despite this, however, there seem to me worlds of difference between them.

Nor is there any evidence, despite official propaganda, that Pol Pot ever succeeded in achieving self-sufficiency in

rice, as Lynn says he did. This can be deduced from both refugee accounts of Chinese ships unloading rice in Kompong Som from October 1975, and the decline in Kampuchea's rice export levels from around 500,000 tons per year under Sihanouk and Lon Nol to the mere 100,000 tons (30% of which was broken and unusable) as late as April 1977. Brutality led to economic disruption, not greater efficiency.

It may well be true that the ideal solution to Kampuchea's problems would be a Socialist Federation of SE Asia; but the real alternatives at the moment are a return either to the barbarity of Pol Pot or the feudality and corruption of Sihanouk's court, or an advance to consolidation and reconstruction of the country's remains

under Heng Samrin.

I think Lynn, in his concern to demonstrate the evil nature of Stalinism (which few would deny) is applying the term far too widely, and thus losing sight of the crucial differences between the terror, repression and retardation on Pol Pot's side, and what seems to be a genuine bid for reconciliation and 'salvation' on the other.

It is precisely this refusal to acknowledge any moral distinction between the two regimes that is preventing western governments (including our own) from mounting an effective relief operation via the de facto administration, thus assisting Pol Pot, prolonging mass misery and continuing to cause hundreds and thousands of unnecessary deaths.

With best wishes
Andy Elliot

SIX WEEKS TO GO £20,000 TO RAISE

Over three-quarters of the way to the target, with nearly £65,000 'in the bag'! All our readers and supporters should now be geared up for the final push to get over the £20,000 in the next six weeks.

The kind of enthusiasm that will ensure success was demonstrated by the fact that £2,869 in cash and nearly £1,200 in IOUs was donated at the recent Sellers' Rally with less than 600 people in attendance! As soon as the IOUs are redeemed they will be added to the total. But, excluding them, the £3,990 raised in two weeks shows the quality of Militant's income is as good as the quality!

Shop Stewards at Dungeness Power Station Site gave £32.60 after hearing Militant's Industrial Correspondent, Brian Ingham, address their meeting. Newly elected Labour member of Hillingdon Council Peter Fagan 'celebrated' his victory with a donation of £5 to the Militant. Torbay Labour Party's Brixham Ward, decided to donate £5 after a meeting with 'Militant' supporter Nick Bradley speaking. A number of NGA members on Merseyside give regularly to the paper they

By
Steve Cawley

believe has the best fighting approach to every issue they face. This time they gave an excellent £23 to help build the Militant.

Because participation in the sellers' rally itself meant no fighting fund column last week, there are even more credits than usual. All we can do is list them.

But just look at some of the excellent examples and resolve to help us reach the full target and more! £85,000 by January 5th 1980!

Among the larger donations were a £50 tax rebate from a Kirkby supporter, £50 from T Warby (Derby) and another £50 from a Sheffield student. Many Thanks!

Swansea readers sent £35 in "rebates". £20's came from G Henthorne (Oldham), C Walder (Hove CPSA), Anon. (Liverpool), and I Burge (Harlow). £25 came from G Lewis (Notts.), £15 from a Canterbury reader's overtime and £12 from a Bristol University student.

£10.60 was donated by M Whale (Exeter) and 'tenners' included those from R&A Stein (Cardiff), R Harthill, W Coombes (Bristol), G Knell (Huddersfield), M Wedderburn and P Wellsthorpe (London), G Morris and S Cohen (Newcastle) and P Luke, an Edinburgh student.

£8.20 'extras' was given on a subscription to the paper from G. Bowsher. £7.50 from a Birmingham reader. £7

Build **MILITANT**

Area		Received
Eastern	4,700	3,197
Hants & IOW	3,100	2,561
Humber-side	2,000	1,494
London North	9,500	6,658
London South	3,900	3,460
Manchester & Dist	4,500	2,574
Merseyside	5,000	3,276
Midlands East	3,300	2,571
Midlands West	9,000	6,645
Northern	5,500	3,860
Scotland East	2,900	1,518
Scotland West	4,500	2,357
South East	4,500	4,087
South West	3,100	2,216
Wales East	2,600	1,393
Wales West	3,400	2,230
Yorkshire	6,800	3,909
Others	6,700	9,958
Total	85,000	63,964

THIS WEEK £3,990

from E Thorpe (Oldham), and £6 from B Costello (Mersey NGA) were the other contributions of over £5.

A good selection of 'fivers' came in this week from all parts—thanks amongst others to: P Sammels, G Samuels and M Edwards (Harlow), T Simon and C Boscott (London), T Hughes (Bootle), R Wade, (Huddersfield), J Mitchell (Edinburgh), a Hatfield reader and J Bell (Notts.).

£4 collected in ps and ½ps by C Clegg (Nottingham) shows how the smallest am-

ounts can add up.

Thanks to the following for amounts between £1 and £4: R Hargreaves (Birmingham), J Beeson (Plymouth), M Thomas (London), D White (Bristol TASS), M Singleton (Hove LP), L Smith (Plymouth), E Carlile (Harlow), N Prowse (Totnes), T Swinbank (Huddersfield), B Fareen (E London), H Cowdry (Harlow), Y Mundy (Birmingham) A Simpson (Cambridge), S Avinger (Dagenham), J Kinard (Immingham NUPE), and O Craxton (W London).

£1 contributors included A

McFadyen (Oldham), D Horne and M Perkins (Brighton LP), M Nicholson and 'Doc' (Hull), J McGee and J Higman (Uxbridge), T Howard (London), D Willet (Grimsby), J Senior (Sheffield), D Malcolm (Edinburgh), H Minnit (Nottingham—a weekly donation), A Auld and K Smith (Newcastle) and G Jardine (Barrhead LPYS).

A Militant Sellers' Rally in West Wales and other Militant meetings in Nottingham, Brighton and Bracknell totalled over £140. Thanks also to supporters in Knowsley NALGO, AUEW members at the Alan Smith Group, and to workers at Landers Bakery in Nottingham for their collections and the 'extras' on the sale price of the paper.

Funds this week were boosted by enterprising sales of various items from food to fridges, song-books, badges, posters and pontoon tickets—even lifts in cars!

£18 for the Militant came

from Guy Fawkes evenings in Harlow and Birmingham; Brighton supporters raised £37.50 at a jumble sale; three West London readers contributed 'a day's pay'—total £22. Preston comrades sent £28 from "fund raising".

A sponsored swim by Tyneside comrades brought in another £17; Socials on Tyneside, in Canterbury, and one organised by Reading LPYS added £72 to Militant's funds. Last but not least, readers in Aberystwyth clubbed together to send £4.50, Folkestone £18, Basildon £1.38 in extras, and Ardwick, Manchester £17.

Why not get together with other readers in your area and plan to raise a definite amount by Christmas. Then add on a bit more for the New Year and Militant will have the resources to face up to an eventful 1980.

Fight the Tories with Militant policies. Fight for Militant and help us reach £85,000 in the next 5 weeks!

TARGET FOR THE YEAR - £85,000

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 'The Struggle for a Socialist United Ireland'. Hear: John Throne (Administrative Council, Irish Labour Party); Peter Hadden (Sec, N Ireland Labour & Trade Union Group). 7.30 pm, Wednesday 12 December, Waterloo Action Centre, Baylis Road, Waterloo

LEICESTER Militant Public Meeting. 'Stop the Cuts with Socialist Policies'. Speaker: Clare Doyle (Militant), Steve Marquis (NUT Divisional Council). At AUEW Hall, Baughan Way, Leicester. 7.45 pm, Thursday 29 November.

BIRMINGHAM MILITANT Trotsky centenary rally

Agenda: 11.00 am: Introduction—film, 'October 1917'. 2.15 pm: meeting—'Leon Trotsky, what he really stood for'. Speaker: Ted Grant, Militant Editorial Board.

Stalls, refreshments and creche available. Saturday 1 December, at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham.

8.00 pm: social at Sheldon Centre, Sheldon Heath Road, Birmingham. Tickets: 70p. Tel: (021) 459 7903

SALFORD Militant discussion meetings. Next meeting: 'Marxist Economics'. 7.30 pm, Sunday 2nd December. For more details tel. 793-5808

PORTSMOUTH Militant Meeting '100th Anniversary of Leon Trotsky'. Speaker: Ray Apps (Brighton Labour Party & 'Militant' Editorial Board) Friday 30 November, 8.00 pm, at Labour Rooms, 84 Kingston Crescent, North End, Portsmouth

TEESIDE Militant Readers' Meeting 'How to fight the cuts'. Speaker: Jeff Price. At Stockton YMCA, Thursday 6th December, 7.30 pm

BLACKPOOL Militant Discussion Meeting. 'Communist Manifesto', Monday 10 December, 7.30 pm. Contact K Taylor Blackpool 52279.

HACKNEY LPYS Christmas Disco. Saturday 1 December, 7.30 pm, Hackney Labour & Trades Hall, 96 Dalston Lane, E.8. Admission: 50p

STRATHCLYDE Militant supporters draw results 17 November: 1st prize 16 & 41; 2nd prize 11 & 13, 11 & 27, 13 & 27, 24 November: 1st prize 1 & 25, 1 & 29, 1 & 43; 2nd prize 42&44, 42 & 7.

BLACKBURN Militant Meeting. Thursday December 6th 7.30 pm. 'What is Marxism—is it relevant today?' Speaker: Gerry Lerner. Full discussion. All welcome. Ring Preston (0772) 25118 for venue details.

PLYMOUTH Public Meeting. 'Stop Tory Cuts'. Saturday December 1st 2.30 pm. Central Library, Scott Lecture Hall, Plymouth. Speakers: Tony Saunio (LPYS rep on Labour Party NEC), Mike Sheaff (Senior shop steward COHSE, personal capacity), Devon Labour councillor.

CLASSIFIED

NO HEADQUARTERS FOR THE FASCIST NATIONAL FRONT

Hackney Trades Council calls upon all anti-racists and anti-fascists to join its demonstration and march, on the eve of the Department of Environment Enquiry into the NF premises in Great Eastern Street. We are marching under the slogan 'No Headquarters for the Fascist National Front'

ASSEMBLE MONDAY DECEMBER 3rd 7pm at SHOREDITCH CHURCH [in Calvert Avenue], SHOREDITCH HIGH STREET [Nearest station—Liverpool Street]

March off 7.45 pm via Great Eastern Street to Hackney Town Hall.
Organised by Hackney Trades Council

MILITANT Christmas social An evening with Peggy Seeger & Ewan MacColl plus additional music, beer and food

Friday, December 14th.

7 pm-12 pm, Colombo Sports & Community Centre, Colombo Street, S.E.1.
Tickets £2 from 'Militant' sellers or B Faulkes, 375 Cambridge Heath Road E2 Cheques to NE London Militant supporters

LIVERPOOL Militant Supporters Xmas Bazaar. Saturday December 8th, 2-5 pm, Lodge Lane Community Centre, Fern Grove, off Lodge Lane. Entrance 5p.

YORKSHIRE REGION Labour Party Young Socialists Young Workers' Conference 'Youth must organise against unemployment—fight back against the Tories!' Speakers: Pat Wall (President, Bradford Trades Council); Bob Cryer MP; Joan Maynard (MP & Labour's NEC); Andy Bevan (National Youth Officer). Saturday 8 December; morning session 10:30am, afternoon 1:15pm. Leeds town Hall, Chapeltown road.

Disco/social 8.00pm at the Adelphi.

Sponsored by major trade unions in the region.

Bristol West & South-East Labour Party Young Socialists 'YOUNG WORKERS' CONFERENCE' Saturday 1st December

10.30-1.00. Trade Unions and Anti-Tory Fight. Speakers: Frank Huss (NUPE), Rob Cadogan (LPYS National Committee) 2.00-5.00. Seminars on: Youth Unemployment, Police & Black Youth, Apprentices.

8.00 DISCO Venue: 325 Church Rd, St George Bristol

Sunday 2nd December 10.30-1.00 Film 'Harlan County' USA' (struggle of American miners) 2.00-5.00

'Way Forward for Labour'. Speakers: Tony Benn MP, Andy Bevan (LP National Youth Officer) Venue: University Settlements, Barton Hill, Bristol Cost £1 per day (50p non-wage earners). Pay on door

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP THE ONLY SOLUTION

TEXTILE WORKERS LEADERS TALK TO MILITANT

Pete Watson [Bradford West Labour Party] interviewed Bill Maddocks [General Secretary, National Union of Dyers Bleachers and Textile Workers] and Eddie Haig [Assistant General Secretary NUDBTW]

"The textile industry is now in the worst position it has ever been". This was the position put by both Bill Maddocks, involved in textiles for 45 years, and Eddie Haig, who

has worked in the industry for 30 years.

Since the war one third of Yorkshire's mills have actually been demolished. Ten years ago 120,000 were employed in wool textiles; this has now declined to 52,000 and the industry is now losing jobs at a rate of 1,000 per month since the Tories got into office.

The whole textile industry now employs only 750,000 nationally and production continues to decline from 246 million square metres of cloth in 1968 to 144 million square metres in 1978.

It is not the case that jobs are only being lost in the outdated 'dark satanic mills'. The union participated in the Wool Textile Reorganisation scheme under the Labour government which reduced manning levels, raised productivity and injected £23

million of government money.

This encouraged short term investment but now seems only to have accelerated the loss of jobs. This has occurred in the most advanced mills, the closure of Learoyds in Huddersfield with a loss of 350 jobs being an example. The modernisation of the industry begun under Labour does not seem to count for anything now.

One of the chief causes of the decline of textiles must be the role of the multi-nationals. Of more and more importance to them is the system of 'outward processing' where a product is made in Britain, for example weaving, and the cloth is exported to Mediterranean countries and Eastern Europe for garments to be made up.

The garments are then re-imported, possibly through Germany and circulated freely

throughout the EEC. This method is bringing big profits for the companies but is killing the dying and finishing trades in Britain.

Having bled us dry using the injections of capital under the Labour government the multi-nationals are switching operations to the Third World in pursuit of big profits, big profits that the Third World workers never see.

In a country like South Korea for example there is no such thing as free trade unions, just 'vertical' trade unions with no right to strike, the workers live in compounds and are forced to buy from company shops. Through American investment, Egyptian mills are the most advanced in the world, but the Egyptian worker gets only 3 Egyptian pounds (about £2.70 sterling) a week for his trouble.

With this in mind the Dyers and Bleachers stands for social clauses in any bilateral agreement with the EEC which specify the textile workers in the Third World should be given a decent living wage for the job. As far as the union is concerned, the faster free trade unions are developed in the Third World the better.

There are three main demands which the union believes show the way out for the textile industry:—

Firstly we support short term import controls to stop the dumping of cheap textiles in Britain. This should be included in the next negotiations of the Multi-fibre Agreement which controls orderly marketing.

Secondly we support the demand for one union for the textile trade. The separate unions in the industry should get together as equals to form

one union which potentially being 750,000 strong and united, will have real power to fight for the interests of textile workers.

Lastly we believe that the textile industry can no longer be left in the hands of individuals but should be brought into public ownership so that the industry can be run rationally and not for short term profit. We would like also to take this opportunity to urge all our members to join and become active in the Labour Party in order to help achieve this demand as soon as possible.

[For a Marxist view on import controls, see articles on South Korea on page 11 and on coal imports on this page.]



COAL IMPORTS-CONTROLS NOT THE ANSWER

The issue of imports of coal is now widely discussed in the British coalfields. So much so that a decision has been taken by S Wales to mount a lobby of Newport Docks in order to convince dockers to black the entry of 180,000 tonnes of coking coal from America. This coal is purchased under contract by the BSC from the American coal owners.

This issue arises, particularly in the S Wales area, because of the fear of miners for their jobs and the continual decline in the number of pits in the last ten years, despite the demand for coal and the plan for coal (still requiring a doubling of output by the year 2000).

Deep Duffryn was a victim of lack of investment into new seams and nine other pits in the area remain affected.

The coal which is being imported from the American

coalfields is the same quality as that mined in S Wales. It is widely believed therefore that the importation of this coal will act as the prelude to further pit closures and that there is no other alternative but to demand import controls in order to save jobs!

The question has to be asked, seriously by every miner, "Does this demand offer a viable answer to the problems facing mineworkers? Or is it on the other hand, a demand which carries within it enormous potential dangers for mineworkers in Britain and for mineworkers on an international scale? Is it not the case that there are better slogans and demands that can be voiced in the protection of jobs and the safeguarding of the future for miners in Great Britain?"

The NUM has a long and proud international tradition,

a tradition that we should cherish and declare. But the slogan of import controls cuts across this tradition. It would be in the interests of our union to launch a campaign, in full consultation with miners abroad, for shorter hours, and international solidarity to avoid setting miner against miner in different countries. The NCB, BSC and Tory government have managed just this, where Welsh miners see American and Australian miners as a threat to their own jobs.

Our union has a policy against pit closures sanctioned nationally. We stand by the demand that we will oppose all pit closures, unless the union and the lodge involved agree that the pit is exhausted or unworkable.

Only in a situation of a strike or industrial action when coal is imported to

break that strike should we consider the blacking of imported coal. In that situation we would call for the utmost international solidarity in stopping imported coal.

The danger exists that a wedge is being driven between steelworkers and mineworkers. The BSC would blame the miners for a further reduction in steel production. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The price of steel and the price of coal are inflated in Britain due to crippling interest charges (equivalent to £2 a tonne of coal in 1980/81), due to lack of investment, especially in older collieries, and due to a failure to invest in the steel industry over the last 25 years in order to meet demand in Britain and abroad.

Our position should be that

it is up to the NCB to market coal. If they cannot do it successfully then we should demand:

Open the books for us to see the waste in financial resources

Stop the interest charges
A common plan for the co-ordination of coal and steel production

Involvement of the unions and workforce in management and control of both industries.

This offers a way forward to avoid divisions between steel workers, miners and dockers. Miners should abandon the demand for import controls! There are no short cuts, other than through the process of a socialist plan of steel and coal production and the international solidarity of mineworkers.

By Ian Isaac
[Lodge Secretary, St John's NUM, personal capacity]

Sack, sack, and sack again

The news that Sir Arthur Knight is to take over as chairman of the NEB must have angered at least 1,560 workers in the North East—that's the number Knight condemned to the dole when he closed the Courtauld's factory in Spennymoor, County Durham earlier on this year.

With an annual turnover in 1976 of £1,166,300, Courtaulds was a thriving concern. Yet ever greedy for profits, management has, since 1970, been steadily decreasing its workforce in the UK, whilst in contrast increasing its overseas workforce. Clearly, it is easier (and cheaper!) to exploit workers in South Africa (where Courtaulds has numerous connections, for example, in Saiccor (Proprietary) Ltd, where Courtaulds holds 67% of ordinary shares, and South African Fabrics

Ltd, where they hold 100% of ordinary shares). In fact, Courtaulds had to stop disclosing figures for their number of overseas employees in 1970 so obvious was their exploitive policy!

Redundancies announced by Courtaulds in the UK this year have been staggering. There were the 1,560 jobs at Spennymoor at the beginning of the year, followed in August by the announcement of the closure of 3 mills in Lancashire with the loss of 700 jobs, and in the same month, the loss of 650 jobs in Northern Ireland. Since then, 330 jobs have been lost at 2 warp knitting plants in Derby and Wolverhampton, and 600 jobs lost at a men's jacket factory in Liverpool.

Now Knight proposes to stop production of viscose filament yarn at the Red Star works in Preston, affecting 2,600 jobs.

Don't be fooled by argu-

ments that that's because of a contraction in the industry. On November 22nd, Courtaulds announced their half year interim pre-tax profits up to September 30th of this year—they showed a massive 10% increase on the previous six months. This shows their only guiding principle—create profits, not jobs!

And now Knight has announced that he intends to 'free' both Rolls Royce and British Leyland from the NEB. The final irony is, so far as the ex-workers at Spennymoor are concerned that the NEB's proposed INMOS micro-chip development is looking for premises for a factory—and the local press at Spennymoor is reduced to demanding that the empty Courtauld's factory be offered as a site—"to bring back jobs to Spennymoor!"

But the facts speak for themselves. Bribes to big business like Courtaulds have

done nothing for the Northern Region—now one of the most depressed areas in the country. Government grants and subsidies in the decade between the mid 60s and the mid 70s 'created' 50,000 new jobs in the region. However, only 15,000 of these were actually 'new' ones, 35,000 were simply old already existing jobs transferred here from other parts of the country. 10 years to create 15,000 jobs!

And yet in a recent article in the 'Financial Times' it was revealed that in the first 10 months of this year the region has lost 15,000 jobs through redundancies alone!

This figure more than anything reveals the real dilemma. It is not simply a question of Sir Arthur Knight being an evil capitalist—it is actually in his interests, and in the interests of his class, to close factories, and force redundancies, laying waste the Northern region. Faced

with such blatant class interests, what is the point of offering bribes and subsidies to the bosses, and begging for jobs?

As the works convenor at Courtaulds said to Militant supporters at the time of the fight against redundancies, "We must be the only people who tax ourselves, to give the money to the bosses, to give us jobs!"

Knight's role at the NEB will be fundamentally the same as his role at Courtaulds—exploit the workers! And if the workers get in the way of his profit margin, then declare them redundant!

By Kath Hardisty
[Newcastle North LPYS]

CROWN HOUSE SPARKS SOLID

Crown House electricians have now been in dispute for seven weeks [including a three week work-in]. The men are still determined to win. Support has been coming in from many sections of EETPU members along with other unions.

The latest attempt to frighten the men back to work is in the form of a letter from Crown House management to each worker on strike. Apart from the "we know what's best for us" attitude and the usual distortions on the issues, there is almost open blackmail.

They state, "you must be aware that to continue with your present action will not stand you in good stead for future employment whether this be with Crown House or other major contractors. There is no way that the company can concede to your demands as we do not have the work available to re-employ all the operatives."

Most building workers know that a black-list operates throughout the industry. Here is a small example of how it starts. But the men are not browbeaten. Most of the pickets just laugh at this crude attempt to force them back.

But the role of the union officials, by not making it official, plays right along with management. Reference is made in the letter that it "will not be made official" and that they will only discuss with the union area official in future negotiations. That this has apparently been agreed to by the officials shows the vast gap between full time officials and the membership.

This means more pressure must be urgently stepped up from the rank and file to make this strike official. Donations to: G Noble, 12 Balstonia Drive, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex. For more information telephone: K. Burrough, Stanford-le-Hope (037 56) 77635, or K Groom, Basildon (0268) 280546

By Bob Faulkes
[EETPU]

NATIONAL ACTION NOW TO SAVE CORBY

The labour movement must not let it happen! They must not let Corby New Town become a ghost town.

The trade union and labour movement was created to protect and advance the living standards of the working class. The people of Corby need the protection of the labour movement more than ever now. The fate of the whole town is in the balance. A handful of unelected well-heeled bosses have clinically decreed a slow painful death for the community of Corby.

There is an act of mass vandalism, causing the destruction of the industry and widespread poverty and misery. The people most directly affected, the 52,000 inhabitants of Corby,—men, women and children dependent on the steelworks for their livelihood were not even consulted.

People like Alan Kane, whose wedding took place three days after the closure of the steelworks was announced, is starting out on married life with a grim future.

It's no good asking his parents to help out—his father is also employed at the steelworks and threatened with redundancy. Yet the insensitive headline of the week's issue of 'Steel News' the newspaper of the British Steel Corporation was 'Light up your hearts'.

Corby workers fight on

If Corby steelworks were allowed to close, it would be a national tragedy for the whole working class. These jobs belong to all of us, so the fight to save Corby is a national fight. The members of ROS-AC (Retention of Steelmaking at Corby) recognise the responsibility on their shoulders. A successful campaign to save Corby steelworks would have a tremendous effect on the morale of the labour movement. The struggle to save the steelworks is part of the campaign against the cuts and against this Tory government.

Despite the determination of BSC to close the steelworks, and the decision of Shotton workers, after many long

Report by Heather Rawling

years, to reluctantly and wearily accept closure, Corby workers are fighting on. At a mass meeting last Wednesday [21st November] they voted 4 to 1 in favour of continuing the struggle. They are already involved in industrial action at the plant.

For some time now, men have been working without pay on their rest days. How dare the bosses and their press accuse British workers of being greedy and lazy?

Corby steelworks have been starved of finance, leading not only to fears for safety but also fears that the steelworks might die a natural death. The furnaces and the coke ovens are so old they need constant repairs.

Corby workers must not be left to fight alone. Last Friday 23 November, the National Craft Co-ordinating Committee met with 190 delegates representing 56,000 steelworkers. It was agreed to back the recommendation of ISTC for national industrial action.

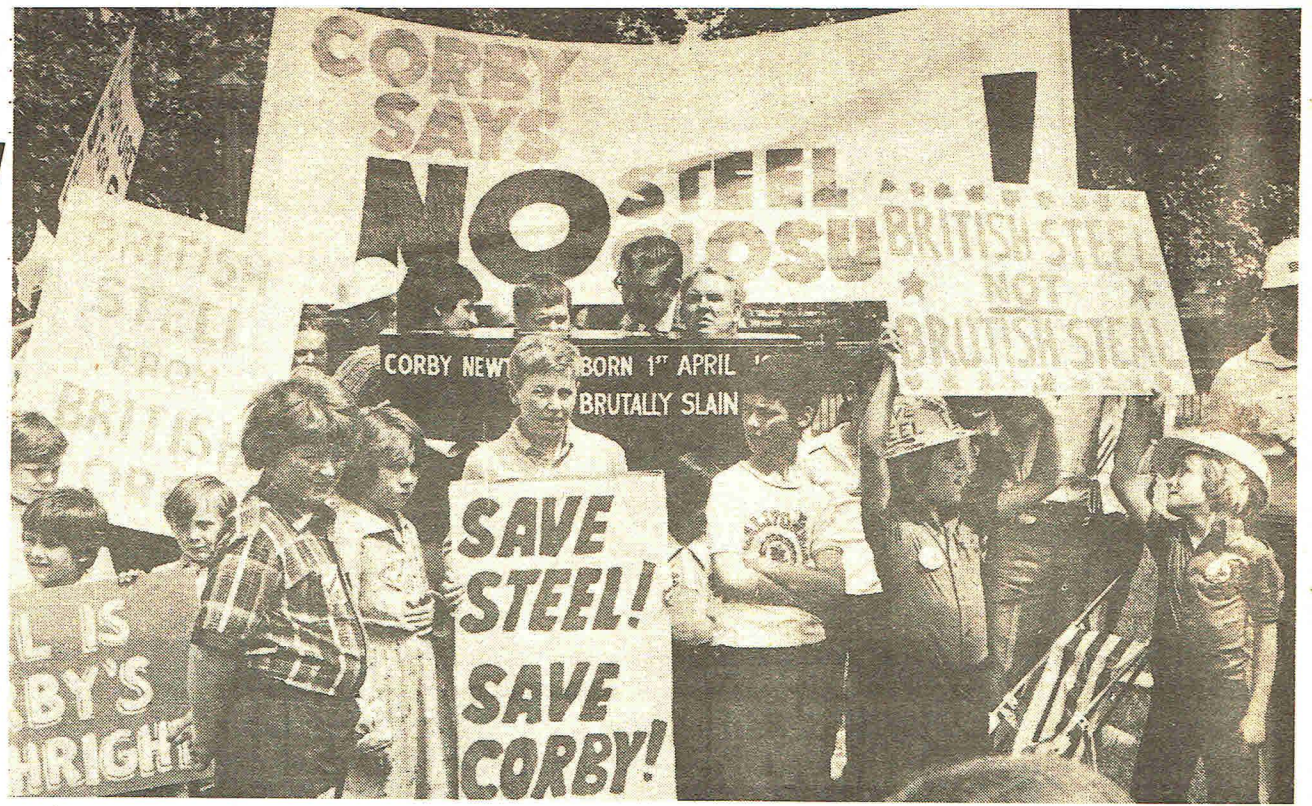
"Fight to the limits"

Reg Kinnear from the National Union of Blastfurnacemen executive told Corby steelworkers that his executive were prepared to "fight, and fight to the limits". Blastfurnaces would be shut down,

three, with a capacity of 1,040,000 have already gone and another is out of production, even though the closure has not been officially announced. That leaves only four.

Management have blamed the decline in the market for steel, and hope that it will revive in January or February 1980. Yet in 'Steel News' there is a forecast that the market is likely to contract by 25% over the next three years!

Scunthorpe steelmen are particularly concerned that



The struggle to save Corby carries on

Photo: MILITANT

DEFEND RAIL JOBS

At a recent weekend school organised by the Scottish District Council [Noll] of ASLEF that we attended, 26 copies of the Militant were sold and various discussions took place regarding the Tories' attacks on jobs and living standards.

But in particular the subject most discussed was the deteriorating condition of the railways due to the cash limits imposed by successive governments and the future repercussions the planned cuts in public spending will cause, possibly the collapse of the rail services altogether in some areas.

What became evident was the need for a co-ordinated effort nationally and regionally to defend our jobs initially, as the cuts in cash will filter down to local management, who will be waging an even fiercer campaign to prune depot staff complements, particularly in respect to driver's assistants' jobs which account for 5,000 of the 30,000 loco-men.

As Mr Parker made clear

and not one would be put back on until they all went back. The time for fine words, lobbies and demonstrations is now over. National industrial action is now urgent, to prevent further rundown of the steel industry, and to save the community.

Resolutions should be sent to all union executives involved in the TUC Steel Committee demanding support for ISTC's call for action. It is time that this draconian Tory government was shown the mighty strength of the labour movement in resisting the attacks on the working class.

Neither are they reassured by reports in 'Steel News' that the Welsh, Scottish and Teeside divisions of BSC are all achieving record levels of production, while no mention is made of Scunthorpe. The situation is the grimmest that it has ever been.

the plant in Redcar, which produces exactly the same product as they do, has recently had its capacity increased.

Neither are they reassured by reports in 'Steel News' that the Welsh, Scottish and Teeside divisions of BSC are all achieving record levels of production, while no mention is made of Scunthorpe. The situation is the grimmest that it has ever been.

last year, his drive for productivity and viability of the railways means cutting away 'waste', as he sees Driver's Assistants, and that increased single-manning must be accepted as one of the pruning operations.

It is only to be expected from such a bureaucrat, steeped in his capitalist mire of ideas about 'viability', with no previous experience of railway working, that he fails to understand that Driver's Assistants are an integral part of the promotion and training procedure which produces future drivers.

This point alone highlights the need for nationalised industries to be run under democratic workers control and management, and not by an endless stream of government appointed bureaucrats, only interested in furthering their careers at the expense of a railway industry that can go a long way to meeting the future needs of society constantly faced with energy problems.

One example alone, quoted

in the Observer (Nov 4), that if all of the present 80% of unelectrified lines were electrified, it would alone save 33% of oil consumption at present.

Couple this with a Socialist plan of transport, of extending the present rail network and the integration of all forms of transport into a system that supplements each other and caters for people's needs, would ultimately end the wasteful competition that the present capitalist system creates between Rail, Road and Air.

The social gains to be made by this would be tremendous, as the quality of life for working people could be raised not just by the vast savings on energy and productive resources, but also by the environmental impact such a system would have through less pollution, noise and fatal accidents.

An example of this is the new Rail Transfer Depot at Hendon, which will cope with 1,000,000 tonnes of rubbish a year, involving only two trains

By John McClelland and David Chapman (ASLEF)

a day, and will keep 120 juggernauts off the streets of London each day.

At present all railwaymen must mount a campaign to defend our jobs, and take a lesson from the stand taken by railworkers at Paddington, that management can be defeated locally and jobs saved, by concrete action.

LDCs and local branches of rail unions should liaise in setting up committees to organise united action against local line closures and redundancies coupled to a national initiative from all three unions executive committees against any rundown or Beeching like cuts.

All railwaymen should demand now:

- No cuts in rail subsidies.
- No cuts in services.
- No redundancies, even through natural wastage.
- A widespread policy of electrification.
- A 35 hour week NOW!
- A fight for a minimum basic wage of £70, to end the reliance on overtime and rest day working.

Clyde shipyard jobs under threat

At a mass meeting last week in Govan shipyard, Glasgow, workers at the Govan and Scotstoun yards were informed that there is still no guarantee that the order for the two Cardiff Class bulk carriers will be transferred to the Clyde.

Less than three months after the Blackpool agreement, there is again uncertainty over the workers' prospects. There seems to be growing scepticism about future orders.

Typical comments after the Govan meeting were: "They have been passing the buck all morning" and "That's us without jobs now." One worker expressed the view that the shop stewards had little idea what was happening.

However, it was decided to wait another two weeks to see if there would be further progress on the promised orders. The ships have been designated to the Govan yard, with the proposal that 'hopefully' Yarrow's will take over Scotstoun's assets and some

By John Gallacher

(AUEW TASS)

of the workforce.

Yarrow's management has, however, already expressed reluctance to accept this plan as it would "increase costs and lower competitiveness."

At the meeting, Alex Ferry, General Secretary of the CSEU, stated, "we are not in the business of selling jobs." But under the Blackpool agreement, signed by the CSEU, Robb Caledon's Dundee yard would have closed!

The workers there, though, took up the fight and mobilised support in the labour movement, including the Yarrow workforce, who, against the recommendation of their shop stewards, voted in favour of banning launches, sea trials and overtime, in support of Robb Caledon.

On Thursday, management distributed a leaflet laying the

blame for the current situation on the shipyard workers, who were accused of poor productivity and a strike record that compared very unfavourably with other countries. The general tone was "Work harder or else there will be more redundancies."

It is clear from these recent events that jobs on the Clyde are still under threat and that the campaign to protect these jobs must be stepped up. The workers at Robb Caledon have shown that the Blackpool agreement is not binding and have shown the way to fight to save shipbuilding jobs.

ANOTHER CORBY?

Steelworkers in Scunthorpe fear that they could be the next in line for the BSC axe. It has just been revealed that a further two blastfurnaces with a capacity to produce 1,200,000 tonnes of iron a year, are to go out of production. Of the town's original ten blastfurnaces,

Sell 'Militant' to your workmates
For details contact:
Circulation Department
'Militant'
1 Mentmore Terrace
London E8 3PN

MINERS - REJECT COAL BOARD OFFER

Photo: MILITANT



Arthur Scargill—standing ovation in a formerly 'moderate' area

If miners are to establish a decent fair wage it is vital that there is a 'yes' vote this week, in favour of the Executive being given authority for industrial action.

Miners have heard the government and Coal Board's statements before, that there is no money. It's the old, old story.

There is money for defence expenditure, for tax handouts to the rich, but not for working people, as we meet the onslaught of Tory attacks on our living

By a member of the Durham Area Council, NUM

standards. The strength of feeling of Durham miners can be gauged by a monster meeting held in Easington last Friday. In this trad-

itionally moderate area 800 miners packed into the Easington Miners' Welfare to hear Arthur Scargill address a meeting organised by the miners' lodge.

There was standing room only and the miners were

packed four deep in the aisles. Many had to be locked out and turned away at the door.

Arthur Scargill described the NCB offer, and in relation to the pressing inflation rate it would really mean an offer of

nothing, and after calling for a unanimous vote in support of the NEC being given authority for industrial action, the meeting gave Arthur Scargill a standing ovation.

The area council of the Durham area discussed the offer the same day and unanimously agreed to support the NEC recommendation. That decision was a reflection of the strength of feeling among the delegates present because despite the NEC recommendation some of the full-time officials actually argued against the NEC recommendation.

When the officials argued, for example, that BSC could save more than one hundred million pounds by importing coal, it was pointed out that the NCB itself was actually investing £40 million in the Australian coal industry, both for deep mined and open cast coal.

The NCB also offered working parties, one to introduce a scheme to protect the earnings of injured miners,

but this has only set aside a paltry sum of £1 million. The working party on the question of shorter hours cut no ice either because the working party on bathing time set up after a 1978 conference decision still has yet to make a recommendation.

At my own lodge meeting, the 70 members present voted unanimously in favour of the 'yes' recommendation of the NEC. Without the incentive scheme there would hardly be any wage at all, and the incentive scheme itself is the subject of huge numbers of complaints, for example 90% of all complaints that come to the lodge meetings are over incentive schemes on particular faces and drivages. There have been cases of whole teams of men walking out.

The miners must fight to re-establish their wage in the face of the Tory onslaught on living standards, and an enormous 'yes' vote will be a huge step in the right direction.

See also article, p14

BBC-TESTING STRENGTH OF UNIONS

In an unprecedented move over the weekend of the 17th-18th November, the BBC proceeded to lock out its technical staff.

The situation threatened to escalate at any time. As the NEC of the Association of Broadcasting Staff put it "It is clear that the BBC not merely proposes to act ruthlessly against individual members taking official industrial action but also intends to escalate the dispute by involving as many ABS members as possible."

The object of this action is to impose a new grading structure without union consultation and without outstanding grading claims being properly considered. Obviously the BBC is testing the strength of the union and has decided to have a showdown.

The dispute began on the 14th November when the NEC of the ABS decided to authorise industrial action by members affected by grading claims that were no longer being negotiated by the BBC.

The BBC on its part had told the union that it could no longer negotiate such claims as its grading staff were too busy working on the new grading structure to be introduced in the new year!

On the 15th November Sound Assistants in Outside Broadcasts in London withdrew their labour as did Technical Managers in the London Studios on the 17th, both for a period of only 24 hours.

However as the staff who had struck returned to nor-

By a member of the Association of Broadcasting Staffs

mal duties the management presented them with an ultimatum, saying that, by withdrawing their labour workers were repudiating their contract.

This, they said, was in pursuit of a trade dispute, and therefore they and the union would have to give assurances before they would be reinstated. The members of staff could give no such 'assurances' as the union on their behalf was still pursuing a grading claim. They were then 'taken off the payroll' and asked to leave the premises.

By the 23rd November the situation had escalated nationally until nearly 500 members of the union were off the payroll. The union is trying to contain the dispute so that as few members as possible are affected and the rest of the union can continue to support them financially.

London production studios have been brought to a standstill as have all the regional production centres, which is costing the BBC a lot of money in lost productions. If the dispute continues the Christmas Schedules will be drastically affected.

The members who have been locked out are determined to see a successful conclusion to the dispute. The whole future of trade unionism in the BBC is being tested in the same way as it was in ITV a few months ago.

UNION RIGHTS

Continued from page one

were there. This dispute for the reinstatement of Derek Robinson has to be won.

Birmingham Town Hall was packed to overflowing at the end of the march. And standing ovation after standing ovation showed the enthusiasm, anger and preparedness to struggle of the Leyland workers. If Edwardes thought that the 7-1 majority in his manipulated and press orchestrated ballot meant the fight had been taken out of the workforce he has learned different.

Derek Robinson was sacked for daring to put his name to the combine committee's document produced in opposition to Edwardes' 1980 plan. As Robinson explained to the Town Hall meeting, sacked for adhering to what was the combine policy for 15 years—non transference of work between factories.

Edwardes wanted to destroy 25,000 jobs and 13 factories. As for those left, management intends to deprive them of any control over track speeds, manning levels and mobility of labour. Longbridge will be turned into a labour camp. To get this through, Edwardes has to crush the fly in the ointment, organised workers and their shop stewards.

Grenville Hawley [T&GWU National Automatives secretary] told the rally, "The Edwardes' plan is not acceptable to the T&GWU. Edwardes has brought three plans to us—each one has involved redundancies. Where is it going to stop? Only we can stop it. Let's fight to save Leyland."

Every Leyland worker has to be clear: this battle is not just for one man's job, or even to defend trade union rights. In the end it is to decide whether Leyland itself has a future. "Edwardes has not gone mad," explained Todd Sullivan of ACTTS. "It all fits

into a pattern.

"Two weeks after the Tories came to power the original 1980 Corporate Plan was scrapped and the present one brought in. Edwardes intimidated the Confed Executive into supporting it. The real reason for the ballot was to bring in a document to break trade unionism in British Leyland."

There is certainly a pattern and it has been woven by the Tories in government as well as the Tories in Leyland. During the engineering strike it was in nationalised Rolls Royce that workers were locked out as the bosses and the Conservatives tried to break the dispute. Is it any accident now that it is in a nationalised car company that the first big confrontation under Thatcher has been launched with the unions?

The sacking of Robinson could be the start of a concerted onslaught against the trade union movement. That is why this has to be an equally determined and concerted counter-attack from the trade unions.

That is why the AUEW decision is such a blow. "It's a blatant attempt to play for time" commented Bill Mullins, senior steward at Rover, Solihull, "hoping that things will go off the boil. The Combine Committee has got to be immediately recalled to keep things on the boil until the result of the enquiry."

Duffy has pledged that if the enquiry finds that Robinson was wrongly dismissed there will be an official dispute. Massive pressure from the whole movement must now be applied to hold him to that pledge.


the way forward.

If Edwardes thinks he can still produce cars while crushing the union organisation let him try and keep the tracks running without components, without any supplies, and without transport to take vehicles away. Leyland should be blacked by workers throughout industry, on the docks and in road haulage. That is what an official strike should mean.

Every Leyland worker must be involved too, for defeat would allow the management to walk all over them in every factory.

Edwardes has to be stopped and workers' rights defended but how much longer must the labour movement tolerate capitalist mismanagement in a nationalised industry? The campaign in Leyland is also about who should be in charge.

Workers' control and management of Leyland and a socialist alternative for the car industry based on nationalisation of all the motor manufacturers would really put an end to victimisation and cut-backs, and guarantee a job for all car workers.



GET
Militant

<p>BRITAIN 13 Issues...£3.00</p> <p>EUROPE [Airspeeded] 26 Issues...£6.60 52 Issues...£13.20</p>	<p>26 Issues...£5.90 52 Issues...£11.80</p> <p>REST OF WORLD [Airspeeded] 26 Issues...£9.10 52 Issues...£18.20</p>
--	---

Name

Address

.....

Make cheques payable to MILITANT and return to the Circulation Dept, MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN, Bulk orders available, sale or return.