

# Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

ISSUE 487  
25 January 1980

15p

# TORIES SENTENCE YOU!

“Three years of unparalleled austerity...” After all the Tories’ electioneering promises that their policies would cure Britain’s chronic economic sickness, the champions of big business are now forced to admit the blunt truth.

Mr John Biffen, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who made this grim forecast last week, is well known for his ruthless defence of ‘free market’

policies.

But none of the Tory ministers can now hide the fact that their policies will mean untold misery

**higher prices  
fewer jobs  
more cuts**

and poverty for millions of working people.

“I am asking myself questions on prescription charges,” Biffen says. “Are they high enough?” For most people, the answer would be obvious.

Charges of 20p on items before Thatcher arrived will be up to 70p this spring.

“Are the exemptions [for prescription charges] too liberal? Should there be charges for home visits by general practitioners and accommodation in hospital?”

These are some of the grisly options being eag-  
CONTINUED ON  
BACK PAGE

# -steelmen lead the fight back

Over 2,000 steel workers marched in pouring rain through the centre of Sheffield to demand a living wage and an end to the ruthless Tory government. The air rang with shouts of ‘Maggie out’ and ‘What do we want? Twenty per cent!’

Every union in the steel industry seemed to be represented, but especially prominent were the banners of the South Yorkshire ISTC branches who make up the No 3 Division.

The marchers were in a confident mood and welcomed the decision to bring out the private steel. Most of them thought it should have been done straight away, so there would have been a united stand from the outset.

This delay created dif-

ficulties at Hadfield’s, but none-the-less it was felt that overall, despite press reports, the private steel workers would support the official strike call from Monday.

By Wayne Jones

The demonstration filled into the City Hall for a rally. The platform was full of local MPs and trade unionists, and they were given a good reception—but especially Arthur Scargill and Keith Jones, Division 3 strike committee co-ordinator.

The slogan at the front summed up the situation under the Tories: ‘Us Today: You Tomorrow!’

Speakers pointed to the tremendous unity and solidarity which has been the feature of the strike, especially in the South Yorkshire area, probably the most militant and the best organised in the country.

All the steel workers in the hall realised that it was a political strike, and that steel workers are fighting on behalf of the whole of the class. This had been acknowledged by the other unions within the TUC, who have pledged their support.

CONTINUED ON  
BACK PAGE

Steel reports from around the country, pages 14 & 15

inside

## CIA Infiltration of Labour Party

Pages 8-9

## Private Steel Bosses - Parasites on BSC

Page 6

Brazil ..... page 10  
Zimbabwe ..... page 11  
LPYS demonstration ..... page 3 & 4  
Sri Lanka ..... page 3  
Labour Parties move against the witch-hunt ..... page 2

## Witch-hunt Defeated

The National Executive of the Labour Party last Wednesday decisively rejected moves to initiate a witch-hunt against the ‘Militant’ and the left in the party.

The capitalist press and television, which has frenetically supported the efforts of Labour’s extreme right-wing Labour MPs, will be bitterly disappointed.

But members of the Labour Party and the trade unions will overwhelmingly welcome the NEC’s firm stand, by fourteen votes to twelve, against a proposal to re-open the “Underhill Report”.

The NEC also confirmed the composition of the joint NEC/trade union Committee of Enquiry into Party Organisation, and rejected the demand from the right wing for Norman Atkinson and Alex Kitson to be

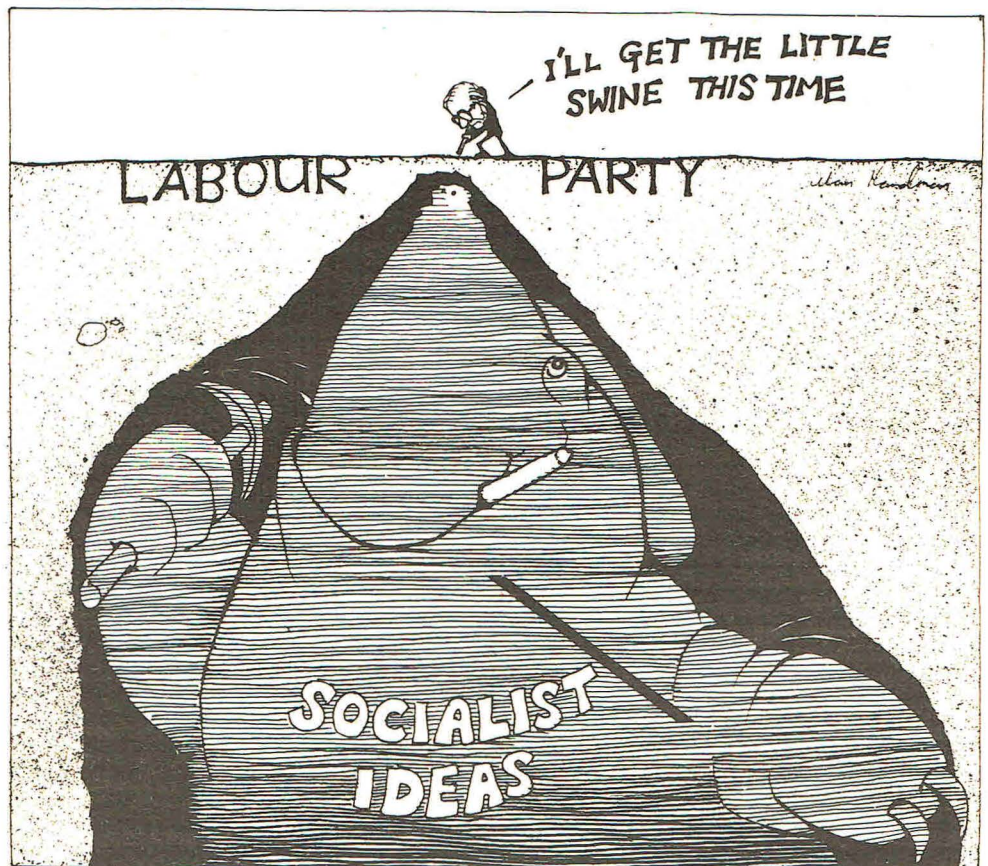
dropped, a change which would have reduced the NEC’s clear majority on the Enquiry.

The determination of the NEC to resist any return to the witch-hunting of the past was also underlined by the full NEC’s rejection [by 14 votes to 8] of a recommendation from the Organisation Sub-committee to expel a member of the Oxford Labour Party for his views.

It is to be regretted, however, that the NEC also decided on Wednesday to reduce the budget of the Labour Party Young Socialists.

This will probably result in protests from Constituency Labour Parties and affiliated trade unions, as well as from the LPYS themselves, as the building of a strong youth section is vital to Labour’s future.

★ The story ‘The Times’ didn’t print, page 2



## The Mole hunter



# Militant

## A Centre Party?

In the last few weeks, the capitalist press and media have pretended to show a touching concern for the democratic well-being and electoral prospects of the Labour Party.

Behind their frenzied campaign to prevent an alleged "Marxist takeover", however, is a fear that a democratised Labour Party, committed to bold socialist policies, will pose a serious threat to their class interests. They can no longer rely on Labour as a reliable "second eleven". That is why they are up in arms.

This hostile class pressure is reflected in the campaign of the extreme right wing of the Parliamentary Labour Party, laughably known by the press as the "moderates". These people, who

have worked hand-in-glove with the media in trying to whip up a witch-hunt, are the real interlopers in the Party. Their paramount concern is their own Parliamentary seats, to which they feel they are entitled for life.

The hypocrisy of the right is shown by the fact that at least twelve Labour "moderates" have joined Roy Jenkins in attempting to find backers, probably big-business backers, for the formation of a new Centre Party. They have no scruples about splitting the Party and attempting to inflict the maximum possible damage on Labour.

Other right wingers, like Bill Rodgers and Dr David Owen, have let it be known they consider it "premature", but they too will have no hesitation in splitting if they fail to secure their domination of the Parliamentary Labour Party in the course of the next year.

Writing in 'The Times' [17 January], Ronald Butt bluntly admitted that the current press campaign is aimed, not just against the 'Militant', but against the left as a whole. "The Militants are taking the odium, but what about the old hard left, which remains unchallenged and in its atavistic sympathies unprobed?"

By "atavistic" Butt presumably implies that those who want to commit the Party to the implementation of its fundamental socialist aims stand for a return to "primitive barbarism". On the contrary, socialist policies will provide the only way out of capitalist barbarism.

But why has there been a swing to the left? It has come about not through conspiracies or manoeuvres by the left, but as the result of the worsening crisis of capitalism and of the complete failure of the right wing's policies.

This is also admitted by Butt: "The success of the left arises in part from the failure since 1964 of the kind of social democracy attempted by Sir Harold Wilson and Mr Callaghan to

deliver reasonable prosperity, or to control the mixed economy..."

But the strategists of Capital now have to come to terms with the fact, underlined by last year's Labour Party conference, that Labour's parliamentary right no longer has a firm basis within the ranks of the movement. The left, with the enthusiastic support of the activists, has won a clear majority on the NEC and other leading bodies.

The spokesmen of big business are therefore afraid of the strong possibility, with the undermining of Thatcherism, that the next general election will result in the return of a left Labour government. "If the Labour Party go further left," commented 'The Times' in an editorial [17 January], "and Conservative economic policy fails, a centre alternative becomes a necessity..."

Backing up Roy Jenkins' call for the formation of a Centre Party at some stage in the next period, 'The Times' published the results of an opinion poll which claimed to show that there is massive support for the idea of such a party. Signifi-

cantly, however, they admitted that "a Centre Party, even if constructed from the right wing of the Labour Party, appears to draw almost as much support from the Conservatives as from Labour, and would at present leave Labour as just the largest party."

The spokesmen of capitalism see a centre party as the possible solution to two key problems: the splitting and defeat of the Labour Party, and the breaking of the power of the trade unions.

But despite any momentary successes its candidates might have, largely as the result of media backing, a centre party would soon be torn apart by the sharpening of the deep class polarisation which has already begun to make itself felt in British society.

The present Tory government has not carried out vicious, anti-working class policies just because of the stupidity and malice of Tory ministers. Their policies are dictated by the crisis of British capitalism.

Just as the right wing Labour leaders, who attempted to work within the framework of a diseased

capitalism, were pushed along the road of austerity measures to boost big business profits, a Centre Party would have no choice but to follow the same course.

The continued catastrophic decline of British capitalism and the further radicalisation of wide layers of the working class, will make possible a massive growth in Labour's support.

The potential mass support, however, will be realised only if the Labour Party actively campaigns to mobilise millions of working people on the basis of bold socialist policies.

This has been realised in the last period by the activists of both the Party and the trade unions. That is why there have been moves to democratise the party and oust the right-wing carpet-baggers of the parliamentary party. That is why there is rapidly growing support for the ideas of the left in general, and especially for the Marxist policies of the 'Militant'.

The process will not be halted by the witch-hunting propaganda of the capitalist media.

## LABOUR'S MEMBERS MOVE AGAINST WITCH-HUNT

**MILITANT PUBLIC MEETINGS**  
'What Militant Stands For'

### CARDIFF

Friday 25 January, 7.30 pm.  
Hear: Ray Apps (Brighton Kemptown Labour Party), Empire Pool, Cardiff

### NOTTINGHAM

Sunday 27th January, 7.30 pm  
Hear: Brian Ingham (Militant Industrial Correspondent)

### LEICESTER

Thursday 31st January. Hear: Ted Grant (Militant Political Editor) AUEW Hall, Vaughan Way (near St Margarets Baths), Leicester

### EDINBURGH

Speaker: Pat Craven ('Militant' Editorial Board). Friday 1st February, 8.00 pm, Trades Council Club, Picardy Place, Edinburgh

### LEWISHAM

Tuesday 29 January, 7.45 pm  
Hear: Lynn Walsh (Militant Assistant Editor), Deptford Town Hall, New Cross Road, London S.E.14

### Labour Party Young Socialists Public Meeting

On Tuesday 29 January, 7.30 pm, Ramsgate Labour Hall. Speakers: Ray Apps (Militant Editorial Board), John Nicholson (Thanet West CLP Youth Officer). Subject: Public Service Cuts and What Militant Stands For

### SOUTHAMPTON

The media's attempts to stoke up an hysterical witch-hunt atmosphere recently included an attack in News At Ten—now widely 'Lies At Ten'—on supporters of 'Militant' in Southampton.

The report implied that 'Militant' supporters had 'taken over' a ward Labour Party branch by underhand means and were threatening to subvert the 'unsuspecting' local Party.

Yet the open and honest way in which 'Militant' supporters work for their ideas

has won respect even from those who disagree with them. On the other hand local right-wing councillors have gone to the local Tory press, and now appeared before TV cameras, to bemoan the turning to the left by the Labour Party.

We reprint part of a minute of the Executive Committee of Southampton Labour Party, which was accepted overwhelmingly by the AGM of Southampton Labour Party.

"We re-iterate that Southampton Labour Party is not controlled by any faction or individuals and that all people willing to fight for socialism and against the policies of this reactionary Tory government are welcome in its ranks.

"Ideas within the Party must be fought for politically and not by means of threats of expulsion and temporary alliances with anti-socialist newspapers and reporters."

## Ebbw Vale: Labour Party opposes attacks on 'Militant'

At the GMC of Ebbw Vale CLP some discussion took place over the current attacks presently being made by the tory press and Labour Right on the supporters of 'Militant'. The issue was discussed during a discussion period with local MP Micheal Foot.

Bill Harry, a NUM delegate expressed concern over the current witch-hunt campaign and attacked the right wing for attempting to split the party. He felt it was no accident that this campaign started at this time after the right wing had been defeated at the conference.

Mike Markey a Militant supporter and LPYS delegate explained that this witch-hunt would not stop at supporters

of Militant but would quickly turn on to supporters of Tribune. He backed this up with a quote from the 'Western Mail' editorial which proved this point.

During the discussion it was generally agreed that no witchhunt of supporters of Militant should take place.

Micheal Foot, commenting on the discussion, agreed that no witch-hunt should evolve. He said that some of the "Militant supporters" in the local LPYS played a valuable role during the General Election. He went on to say: "If I tried to produce a document to expel Mike Markey from this party then this GMC will probably think I've gone mad".

He said the party should be tolerant towards those with different points of view."

## TRADE UNIONISTS BACK 'MILITANT' SUPPORTERS

This is the story 'The Times' didn't print.

This newspaper encouraged a manoeuvre in the hope of 'a good story'—i.e. one that would discredit the left. When it didn't work out, they said nothing.

As this year's AGM of the Bradford trades council approached, it became clear that NALGO, still upset about a resolution criticising unions accepting voluntary redundancies, was affiliating its full membership in a bid to take control of the trades council.

Their allies in this enterprise were the Communist Party delegates, who had still not forgiven Pat Wall, star of Labour Party Conference and 'The Times' front page, for defeating their then president

By Pete Watson

of the trades council in the early seventies.

Not only did this unholy alliance hope to oust Pat as president, but it was clear that an agreement had been reached with 'The Times' to run an article on the AGM on 'How the moderates ousted the Militants'. This in partic-



Pat Wall, president of Bradford Trades Council moved the successful re-selection composite at 1979 Labour Party conference

ular aroused the anger of delegates, and a motion was passed restricting any article on the meeting to the discretion of the new executive and the publicity officer.

The tone for the meeting was set by two steel pickets,

voting drew near, the tension heightened, and the tellers announced over 100 delegates were present—a record!

The tellers withdrew, and the meeting listened to speakers on various points, while heads looked nervously towards the door, trying to estimate numbers. Then the results: a clear win for Pat Wall.

After commiserating with the loser, Pat described his recent visit to Sri Lanka, and discussions with trade unionists there. Delegates agreed a collection at a later meeting for the Sri Lankan comrades.

In the ballots for the executive, there were more shocks for the NALGO and CP supporters. Many of those elected were Labour Party members, including supporters of 'Militant'. 'Militant' supporter Keith Narey, standing for the first time, was elected to the executive.

Delegates were confident that they had elected an active executive capable of giving the clear leadership that will be needed in coming months. Several NALGO members

voted against their own leadership, whilst the unity of the left delegates was an encouraging sign.

Finally, the manoeuvres of the Right and the CP failed. One female member of AS TMS left her sick bed to attend, while one print worker on night work, obtained a pass out from work to come and vote.

The result also scotched the myth that Marxists only receive support from poorly attended and unrepresentative meetings. So far the local 'free press' have maintained a shattering silence over the results. What a contrast to the crescendo of lies, distortions and innuendo which has filled the press in the last fortnight.

The organised representatives of the working class of Bradford have obviously made up their minds as to which side they will support. It is not the right wing, supported by the media.

'The Times' was disappointed—and they will continue to be disappointed.



# MARCH AGAINST TORY VANDALS

"It is an opportunity to show young steelworkers the socialist answer to unemployment and wage cuts."

That's how Andy Fenwick a member of the ISTC and Stockton LPYS, described the Labour Party Young Socialists' national demonstration on 2nd February.

If Joseph and Thatcher are allowed to carry on with their policies, there won't be many young steelworkers left.

Worse still will be the plight of school leavers in steel towns—that was the message that Newport LPYS took to the streets in a day of action. Sixty papers sold, eleven new members signed up—three or four of them steelworkers—it showed what youth think of Thatcher's policies.

Every area should be planning a 'day of action', for Saturday 26 January, with

petitions, papers, leaflets, placards, and a megaphone.

Hillingdon LPYS branches have even taken collecting buckets along with them, and raised several pounds in small donations to help finance school students attend the demonstration. The last few days should be used to make sure every coach seat is full!

LPYS branches in Yorkshire are planning to offer spare seats cheap or even free to steelworkers that they meet on picket lines.

**LPYS Demo-Dance  
from 6.30 p.m.**

**Colombo Sports and Social Centre,  
Colombo Street,  
[South side of Blackfriars Bridge]**

## LPYS march and rally Saturday February 2nd

Send-off rally with speakers from local labour movement, including Ted Knight [Leader Labour Group, Lambeth Council] and John Bulaitis [LPYS NC member, London]

March through Brixton and Lambeth to rally at Central Hall, Westminster, 2.30 pm-5.00 pm

Speakers: Tony Benn MP, Eric Heffer MP, Dennis Skinner MP  
Tony Saunois [LPYS rep on Labour's NEC]

Andy Bevan [Labour Party National Youth Officer] and others  
The demonstration will move off at 12 noon from Slade Gardens, off Robsart Street, S.W.9., not Porden Gardens, as previously announced. Nearest Tube: Brixton

# Legal threat over 'Militant's head'

The spectre of Marxism is clearly haunting the bosses and their press. At a time when steel workers are facing horrific attacks from the bosses and their Tory government, the press have been busily 'exposing' the 'danger' of 'Militant'.

But in the middle of these hysterical press campaign, our readers and supporters have not forgotten that a legal action, hangs over the heads of 'Militant'.

Amongst a number of resolutions passed by organisations within the labour movement is one passed by both Littlehampton and Arundel CLP. It has been passed to the executive of John Golding's sponsoring union, the Post Office Engineering Union, and to officers of his constituency party in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

"This party condemns John

Golding and the executive of the POEU in pursuing its legal action against the paper 'Militant', particularly in the light of:

1. the fact that a number of reliable witnesses have corroborated the paper's report of the Labour Party NEC meeting where the question of the 35-hour week was raised.

2. The reasonable steps taken by the paper to come to a settlement suitable to both sides.

3. The fact that the paper is willing to print an article by John Golding putting his case.

4. That if the paper loses, or even if it wins and costs go against it, the action of John Golding could possibly result in bankruptcy proceedings against the paper and even against the editor personally.

As this resolution says, the consequences of this court action for 'Militant' could be drastic. We are sure that we have an unshakeable case, but the support of the labour movement is nevertheless the only certain defence.

Resolutions, like the one

from Littlehampton and another from the CPSA branch Executive Committee at the National Savings Bank, Glasgow, deploring John Golding's action and pointing out that "disagreements of this kind should be settled within the labour and trade union movement and not through the courts," are great encouragement.

'Militant' has consistently offered, and continues to offer, John Golding the right of reply in our paper.

Among the donations this week were collections at General committee meetings of Labour Parties in both Thanet East and Thanet West amounting to £30.20. This and similar collections in Paddington are essential to ensure the continued publication of our paper.

Send resolutions and donations to Militant Defence Fund, 5 Cremer House, Deptford Church Street, London SE8



## WHY WE ARE GOING

"We have to go on the march on 2 February to show that young people are going to fight for their rights."—Chris Varles, 17-year-old building worker in Bristol North East LPYS.

"We need to show the real strength—that we're interested in our future and we care about what happens to it. We can't just sit at home and complain—we've got to get out and fight."—Louise James, 15, school student, Bristol North East LPYS

"Politics isn't just about voting and making speeches—it's also about going onto the streets and giving a fighting lead. Today's youth face a decade of struggle. The LPYS will have to provide the ideas and leadership so that social-

ist conclusions will be drawn from these struggles. This march is the first step."—Brian Keely, 24, POEU member, Bristol North East LPYS Chairman.

"My union branch is sponsoring 10 places on the coach to the LPYS march. We see the need to assist all sections of the movement in the fight against the Tories and especially to encourage our young members to be involved in this fight."—Tony Mulhearn, NGA Liverpool Branch Committee

"With the crisis facing the National Union of School Students, it is even more vital that school students are on this demonstration and shown the need for a socialist fight back with the LPYS."—Dale

Ackroyd, NUSS National Committee.

"It is an opportunity to show young steelworkers the socialist answer to unemployment and wage cuts."—Andy Fenwick, ISTC and Stockton LPYS

"Black and white youth must fight together against racism and unemployment."—Bob Lee, Jamaican PNP Youth (UK section)

**For further reports  
on preparation by  
LPYS branches for  
February 2nd, see page 4**

# Protest grows at Sri Lankan repression

Within a couple of hours of information reaching Britain that the leaders of the Government Clerical Services Union had been arrested by the reactionary UNP government in Sri Lanka, a petition of protest [see below] carrying the names of fifteen prominent members of the labour movement was handed in to the Sri Lankan High Commission in London.

Those who immediately joined for the release of the arrested trade unionists included Joe Marino [General Secretary, Bakers' Union]; Dave Chaloner and Terry Fields [National Treasurer and National Executive member, Fire Brigades Union]; Tony Saunois [Labour Party NEC]; Kevin Roddy and Pat Byrne of the CPSA National Executive, and various regional representatives of the labour and trade union movement.

The sleepy diplomatic outpost in Hyde Park Gardens was woken with a shock by the speed of the response of trade unionists in this country to the news of attacks on their brothers—Sri Lanka's would-be Napoleon hadn't yet warned his spokesmen in Britain of his next campaign against the enemy.

Within days the UK branch of the socialist New Sama Samaja Party—the mass workers' party to which the GCSU is affiliated—had met with Labour Party NEC member Joan Maynard MP, and hours later thirteen

was brought to a halt and the delivery of the urgent petition delayed by 24 hours because the High Commissioner and his entourage had taken the day off!

The two GCSU leaders are now awaiting trial on bail, but others have since been arrested too in an attempt to destroy the power of the trade unions to defend the Sri Lankan workers from the destruction of their already meagre living standards and democratic rights. Resolutions and telegrams must now be rushed to:

**Sri Lankan High Commission  
13 Hyde Park Gardens,  
London W2 2LU Tel: 01-262-1841.**

Copies of all protests and messages of solidarity should be sent to the GCSU and the NSSP branch in Britain: GCSU headquarters, 90 Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Mawatha, Colombo 2, Sri Lanka, tel: 010 94 1 24688.

The British NSSP Secretary Wesley Muttiah, 19 Hawthorn Avenue, London N13

**By Brent  
Kennedy**

Labour MPs sent a petition against the attacks on democratic trade union rights.

The arrest of the trade union leaders had taken place during a big campaign against the government's reduction of holidays of government employees from 45 to 21 days a year. Ironically, the rapid protest campaign here

"We protest most strongly against the unwarranted attack by the Sri Lankan police against the peaceful pickets called by the joint Trade Union Action Committee to defend Government employees' working conditions which took place on 9 January. We note with indignation the brutal stabbing of the trade union leader Munlanna, the police raid on the government Clerical Services Union headquarters on 10 January, and the arrest of its president and General Secretary, GD Sawanadasa and G Mahanama, under the so-called Terrorism Act.

"As leading members of the British trade union movement we regard such attacks as a provocation against the whole Sri Lankan trade union movement and as a grave and ominous threat to the democratic rights won by the Sri Lankan organised working class. We therefore demand that the Sri Lankan Government immediately releases from custody brothers Sawanadasa and Mahanama."



# 'FROM BABES TO GIANTS'

**"With the present steel strike we have seen the beginning of not just a battle between the BSC workforce and BSC management, but the start of a long, angry class struggle between British workers and the present Tory government."**

This was how Wendy Mason [Rotherham LPYS and ISTC, BSC worker] began the public meeting called by the LPYS to discuss the steel strike, which was attended by 37 people, including LPYS members, striking ISTC members, as well as private steel workers.

The magnificent support given by the NUM, NUR, dockers and, in Rotherham, the craft unions was the theme taken up by Stan

**By Karen Round**  
(GMWU and Rotherham LPYS)

Sheridan, branch secretary, Anchor Melting Shop, Scunthorpe.

He emphasised that the strike's success in South Yorkshire was solely through the strong support by the

members themselves.

"For years we have been a moderate union—accepting redundancies and low pay increases.

"But we are not prepared to stand by and let Joseph destroy our industry."

Now, he said, what was vital was that private steel workers must come out in support. In reality, it was a political strike and added if the government had its way, Britain would have the highest paid steel workers anywhere—one per plant!

This has been the greatest struggle for the ISTC, and many members were already saying a 20% claim was too low—some are now saying 45%.

The 100 years of trade unionism through the ISTC has been eclipsed in five days stated Keith Jones, ISTC organiser and strike co-ordinator.

If the policies of Thatcher—the destruction of the manufacturing base of Britain—are to be defeated, Labour needs a programme of bold socialist policies.

## Friends and enemies

"We know who our friends are now in the labour and trade union movement" and in particular he praised the

LPYS for the work, support and money it was raising.

He drew a vivid picture of how the strike organisation had been built up in the area, and stated this strike was the product of many years of dissatisfaction.

**"We were babes in arms when we started, but we are giants now."**

He drew attention to the hypocrisy of the press in demanding a ballot:

"We have balloted with our feet. Where were the cries for a ballot when we accepted 8% last year, or over the projected closures now?"

Tony Saunois, LPYS NEC representative drew out poli-

tical lessons from the steel strike in challenging a point made in favour of import controls. He spoke of the unity that had been forged on an international scale during the steel strike—such unity would be imperiled by the demand for import controls, and would also mean cut backs in the interest of British capitalism.

**For more reports on the steel strike see pages 14 & 15**

## Rotherham LPYS/ISTC meeting

**New pamphlet out—**  
'A Socialist Strategy for Steelworkers'  
Price 20p + 10 P&P.  
From World Books,  
1 Mentmore Terrace,  
London E8 3PN

## REINSTATE ROBINSON NOW!

**Over 1,000 delegates attended a conference called by the Austin Joint Shop Stewards' Committee and held in the Birmingham Town Hall.**

The clear message from the delegates was a determination to defeat the BL attacks on TU representatives, but this message was not translated by the platform speakers into a worked-out plan of action.

Derek Robinson reminded the delegates of the demonstration through Birmingham but, although the AUEW's decision to hold an enquiry had stunned this movement, Bro. Robinson did not make an outright attack on the inquiry nor did he pose a clear alternative to it.

This subdued beginning was reinforced by the next speaker, Bill Jordan, AUEW Divisional Organiser, who tried — unsuccessfully — to convince the delegates that the National Executive fully supports the reinstatement of Robinson. He poured contempt upon 'spontaneous movements' because they always peter out; he preferred a planned strategy like Michael Edwardes' plan! He even claimed that the National Executive ordered an inquiry because the spontaneous movement was petering out!

His comments provoked an angry uproar from the floor.

Many speakers from the floor gave examples of how similar attacks on shop stewards had been fought, and how the labour movement was ready to be mobilised against these attacks by BL.

Sid Harraway (Fords' National Shop Stewards Committee) pointed out that all the Fords' Works Convenors had agreed to a press statement that gave full support to the defence of these TU rights, which he read out, and then explained that he was quoting from a reprinted version that appeared in the German Ford

workers' bulletin!

The highlight of the conference came in the second session when it was addressed by Arthur Scargill. He began by informing the conference that the whole of the Yorkshire NUM Executive were present as delegates, and that was an indication of how important this conference was regarded by the Yorkshire miners.

He then explained how these BL attacks could be defeated: "If justice and eloquence of speech won issues then Derek Robinson would not have been sacked. What we need is not an inquiry but industrial action!" The conference erupted into a roar of applause.

Arthur Scargill had simply expressed the basic class approach to defending TU rights, but its absence from other platform speakers made its appreciation by conference that much greater. He concluded: "If the inquiry doesn't win your job back Derek, the labour movement must. A call should go out for its support, and if such a call is made, the Yorkshire NUM will answer that call!" That brought the conference to its feet.

A declaration demanding Robinson's unconditional reinstatement was overwhelmingly passed. However, no further meetings or other activities were proposed. It is not enough to hang around for the result of the inquiry in the apparent hope that it will support reinstatement, and therefore responsibility for mobilising the movement will formally lie with the AUEW National Executive.

It is clear from that leadership's conduct of the National Strike last year that such mobilisation should not be left to those leaders; without such mobilisation BL's attacks on TU rights will not be rebuffed.

**By John Merrell**



Birmingham demonstration for re-instatement of Robinson [left] last November

Photo: A Wiard (Report)

## YOUNG SOCIALIST ROUND-UP

### Getting ready for February 2nd

#### Cardiff

Despite harassment from the police, LPYS and Cardiff University Labour Club members held a successful Day of Action preparing for the 2nd February demonstration.

Our policies, particularly those relating to the crisis and strike in the steel industry got an enthusiastic response, since industry in Newport and the surrounding area is heavily dependent on BSC Llanwern, the biggest employer in the town, which is threatened with closure.

The police, however, did not seem to share the appreciation, although they did feel there was safety in numbers, since at one point there were eight of them trying to persuade Chris Burns, the Chairman of the Welsh YS, to stop speaking over the loud-speaker.

It is ironic that the Square where the Day of Action was held is named after John Frost, one of the leaders of the Chartist uprising in 1839, which ended in the Chartists

#### GLASGOW

Over 40 young people met in Glasgow City Halls in December to hear Phil Frampton speak on a "Youth Against the Tories" platform.

Considering that the bus service was grounded by a petrol shortage the turnout was in fact quite high.

The strength of feeling

against the Tories was also high, reflected in the excellent collection of £31.02½.

Referring to a newspaper article concerning a proposed display of historical teddy bears owned by a prominent Tory, who subsequently turned down the request for the exhibition because of the "risk" to the teddy bears, one speaker from the floor point-

ed out that the Tories would look after you, protect your rights and living standards—as long as you are a teddy bear!

But if you're a young person out of work, young parents with kids at school, or a young worker, then your future lies in the LPYS and the fight for socialism. That was the message of the Rally.

#### Bournemouth

The Tory stronghold of Dorchester was woken with a jolt last Saturday morning when a joint invasion of Bournemouth and Poole YS members and 'Militant' supporters got together with Dorchester YS in the Market Square for a Day of Action.

With the sun shining, but sub-zero temperatures, the reaction of the locals was very warming.

Our petition against the education cuts in Dorset, which has been accumulating since last August, was boosted by nearly 400 signatures; 30 or 40 copies of 'Militant' were sold; dozens of badges

eagerly pinned to lapels; and Dorchester YS secretary Steve Sibley was given the names of lots of potential new members.

All day long there were crowds milling around, and we were able to put over the views of socialism and hear first-hand the disgust of working people with Thatcher's policies. Leaflets were distributed about the National Rally on February 2nd, and several people hope to join our coach on that day.

All in all it was a day we shall not forget for a long time—we finished up with frozen fingers and toes, but a great deal of satisfaction.

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE AGAINST CUTS**  
**Saturday March 22nd**  
**11.00 am-4.00 pm**

St George's Hall, Liverpool  
Labour movement delegates.  
Credentials from: T Harrison/A Dodswell  
70 Victoria Street, Liverpool 1  
Organised by Liverpool Trades Council and District Labour Party;  
Merseyside Anti-Cuts Committee (50p fee)



# LEFT and RIGHT

## Riding an old, old hobby horse

"Organised, decent sports competitions and dramatic competitions, and organised on a real educational basis. You will then get the youth in.... You will thus build up a mass youth movement not one confined to silly people talking of Trotsky, attacking the party and leaving the rest of the youth stone cold." Reg Underhill at the Labour Party Conference in 1939 speaking on how to build Labour's youth-lots of sport and little politics. And what does he think now? If you can't find him in the chambers of privilege, the House of Lords, to ask him, just pick up any copy of the Tory press and you will find many or Lord Underhill's tales of sinister plots to subvert the party, much to the delight of the bosses' class. But his attacks on the left of the party are leaving the youth stone cold, by all accounts.

## Scab Sighted!

After much searching in vain among the solid ranks of the striking steel men to find a bosses' man, the Fleet Street barons must have given a sigh of relief when one was eventually dug up after three weeks. While only publishing short statements from ISTC officials [if any at all], the Tory Daily Mail, gave a large section of page two [January 16] to Roger Cuckow, who is organising a 'break the strike movement', in Scunthorpe, although he adds, "It's no secret I am a member of the Conservative Party."

That figures. The Mail reports the movement has 'massive' support. But an official for the strike committee, which heads the 12,000 workers out on strike in Scunthorpe said the story was a load of nonsense, which is more to the truth. Like at British Leyland, at Fords or in last year's engineering strike, the determination of the striking workers and trade union solidarity will not be broken by a few scabs getting mass coverage when they whine to the Tory press.

## Bills, bills and bills

Electricity prices are to go up again by 17% in April, with similar rises in gas charges, with another 10% to be added on in October. Now before all you workers start moaning about heating bills going up again, just you listen here. As Mr Alex Young, commercial manager of the North Eastern Electricity board explained, "people should be able to afford them because of what they already spent on beer, baccy, bingo, and Benidorm." [Daily Mail January 16]. No going out drinking or for a game of bingo after a hard week's work; certainly no smoking, and, heavens forbid, were you really thinking of going on holiday this year?! How dare you when you've got all these bills to pay.

It would be interesting to know where Mr Young is spending his holidays, and what sort of social life he leads.

# FROM SCHOOL TO THE DOLE



Young workers on a 'temporary employment' scheme in Birkenhead—this is no alternative to full time employment

"What are you going to do when you leave school?" In light of the Manpower Services' Commission's forecast of a doubling in school-leaver unemployment, the question takes on a new slant.

The latest official Department of Employment figures (in December 1979) showed that 1,355,458 people were out of work, including 39,186 'school leavers' (all those unemployed since leaving school).

The Thatcher government's coldly calculated attack on jobs has already started to push up the dole queues.

These figures, however, only tell half the story.

Including all those on the various job creation and other government work programmes, the January 1980 figure is estimated to be over one-and-a-half million, with 288,000 under-nineteen year olds not in permanent work, 95,000 of them school leavers.

The Manpower Services Commissioners have drawn up estimates of how rising unemployment will affect youth and the Youth Opportunities Programme 'client group'. Using the predictions of the London Business School (who use a monetarist model in line with present Tory policy), they forecast that there will be more than a quarter of a million under-19 year olds on the dole in 1980.

By January 1981, 170,000 young people will still be out of work after leaving school. By April '81 the numbers will swell to 210,000. Youth out of work for more than six weeks will double.

by  
Eileen Short

The MSC concluded that even on a "very cautious" projection, without allowing for the rise in unemployment amongst youth being greatest than even the generally bleak forecasts, the Youth Opportunities Programme will need to be expanded by 20% to 25% if they are to honour the undertaking to offer a place to any young person who has spent a year on the dole.

But the Tories' post-election budget announced cuts of £150 million in the MSC projected 1980-81 spending!

Already 10,000 TOPS course places have disappeared. The Special Temporary Employment programme (STEP), providing places for 19-25 year olds out of work for a year or more, has had its budget halved.

'Eliminating waste' in fact means dismantling the training workshops, projects and courses—which cost more to run—concentrating on placing unemployed youth with

**You find that many immigrant and coloured workers who can't find work refuse to go to sign on—either they don't want to go or their parents won't let them. This is because of the stigma of being labelled a scrounger by the neighbours or the dole office. Some parents give their children money rather than let them sign on. This is all because of the vicious smear campaign carried out by the Tory press, which built up to a crescendo a few years ago, about unemployed coloured workers.**

private employers who are supplied with cheap subsidised labour from which they are free to hand-pick and recruit, while the potentially explosive youth unemployment figures are artificially kept down.

Young people, and in particular school leavers, will bear the brunt of this de-manning. In July 1979, 16-25 year olds made up more than four in ten (44.2%) of the dole queues, although under-25s form less than one in five (20%) of the workforce.

## Incompetent bosses

Over the last six years, the numbers of young people unemployed for over a year has trebled—young workers are being abandoned by a system which callously regards them as 'surplus to requirements.'

In areas where skilled labour and apprenticeships are vital passports—such as the West Midlands—the prospects for youth are even bleaker. In Yorkshire, Humberside and the West Midlands, under 25s make up more than 47% of the regional unemployed.

Talk of a 'falling education system' and 'incompetent', 'work-shy' youth is just more Tory humbug—it is the custodians of industry and the economy, not today's school leavers, who are being proven incompetent.

They say they have no 'quick answer' to unemployment—under the profit system this is certainly true. But young workers want decent paid jobs today—not in ten years time!

The LPYS does have an answer. We demand:

- Guaranteed jobs for all school-leavers.
- Crash training programmes under the control of the trade unions
- Share out of the work with a 35-hour week and no loss of pay
- Programme of useful public works
- Socialist plan of production

Join the LPYS and fight for these demands! Join the demonstration against the Tories on February 2nd [see page 3].

"Then there was a woman who walked her dog every day at 6 am—her services were made use of. I used to give her a list of enquiries in the area."—A member of the DHSS in Chelmsford explaining how he got people to spy on social security claimants to check who they were living with, if they went out regularly or had any 'luxuries'.

## What is 'backdoor redundancy'?

A member of East London Claimants Union explained: "As part of the National Insurance Act there is an Industrial Misconduct rule, which we are finding is being used more and more, as the economic crisis deepens.

"What's happening is that workers, especially school leavers are being taken on by a small firm, and then sacked for trivial matters just before the six month period, when they would receive at least some protection under the job protection legislation—i.e. they could take the boss to an industrial tribunal and get an unfair dismissal payment.

There was one young worker aged 17 who fell victim to this—he was caught smoking in the factory—this was wrong of course, but the smoking signs were virtually non-existent, and everyone else who worked there smoked—even the foreman who reported him. The firm itself had just closed down one of its small plants.

For the boss this rule means he doesn't have to make any redundancy payments. For the young worker it means no job, no dole for six weeks because he was sacked, and any supplementary benefits will be reduced by 40%. And of course it looks good on unemployment figures—as far as the government is concerned this worker has been registered as employed. We estimate the number of unemployed is double the official figures."

## Defend unemployed workers' centre

By a 'Militant'  
reporter

The North East has for a long time been regarded as an unemployment black spot. Steadily increasing de-industrialisation has had a terrible effect, even on previously prosperous areas like the West Midlands. In the North East it has had a disastrous effect.

In the first three months of 1979, North East firms announced 5,311 redundancies. That's 58 every day! There was an unemployment rate of 10%, with ten people chasing every vacancy.

Early in 1978, Newcastle Trades Council started a Centre for the Unem-

ployed, to act as a focus for activities uniting the unemployed and trade unionists at work.

Activities so far include a very successful Unemployed Workers' Union ('Militant', 9 November 1979).

Now this unique Centre is under Tory threat. The Department of the Environment has announced that they will not endorse a grant for the Centre after March 1980.

A DOE-dominated committee will meet in February to discuss this. Trade unionists realise that a Tory government will have no

sympathy with such an attempt to weld together workers and unemployed.

The centre is ensuring that no worker forgets the real facts about unemployment. It provides a meeting place for many labour movement and unemployed people's meetings.

When the centre opened, many supporters hoped that it would be short-lived. But with unemployment spiralling upwards, the centre and the Unemployed Workers' Union is more vital than ever. All the support of the labour movement will be needed to save these facilities.

Messages of support and financial contributions for Newcastle Trades Council Unemployment Centre (to whom all cheques should be made payable) should be sent to: The Treasurer, 5 Queen Street, Newcastle 1.



# PRIVATE STEEL

## PARASITIC STEEL BOSSSES PROSPER

Photo: MILITANT

By Michael  
Unwin

The British Steel Corporation, spurred on by the Tory government, have pointed a double-barrelled shotgun at the heads of steelworkers. Redundancies at steelworks up and down the country, and a derisory pay offer which would mean a savage pay cut for all BSC workers.

There has been an insistent demand from union activists for stepping up the steel strike by a blockade of the private steel producers whose continued working would seriously reduce the effect of the strike.

Workers in private steel themselves would suffer tremendously from a victory by BSC management. Private steel bosses would use the opportunity to cut wages in the private sector and generally attack the living standards and job security of their workforce. The fight for steel jobs and for decent wages is indivisible.

For years now, the private sector has been parasitic on the nationalised part of the industry. Privately owned steel has now begun to suffer from grave problems, and many redundancies have been announced. This has not made the sector any less parasitic—quite the contrary.

In this article, Michael Unwin looks at the role of the private steel firms, and shows why the bringing of the private sector into the strike is so vital.

Like starving vultures circling over a dying animal, the private sector steel producers have been hovering over BSC for a long period.

Nearly a year ago, the 'Financial Times' gleefully reported that private sector steel was "poised for the upturn" (FT 21 February 1979).

Their stocks are being turned over faster, and in the event of a boom, they would snatch the cream of the orders—at BSC's expense. This process will only be furthered by the present vicious 'pruning' exercise of the BSC chiefs.

The Tories are drooling at the thought of private sector profits. Brymbo steelworks was sold off for a pittance to the steel giants Guest Keen Nettlefold. GKN's reward has been a profit margin of 19.2%. The lowest profit margin in the top ten steelmakers last year was the 9.1% obtained by Firsteel.

It is easy to contrast these profits with the declared losses of BSC. The truth, however, is that parasitic private enterprise offloaded its obsolete plant on to the British Steel Corporation back in 1967—and were lavishly paid for their services into the bargain. The most profitable sections remained privately owned.

At the time of nationalisation, a relatively small private section was foreseen. Now it is growing strong. 26% of all British orders go to private firms, and they will take more and more.

In 1967 any firm with more than 450,000 tonnes of crude steelmaking capacity was taken over. Now we find that GKN make roughly that amount on two sites, and Sheerness Steel make about as much. Alpha Steels have a capacity close to 1 million tonnes.

The orders these firms take could be going to BSC. The only road to control and to safeguard jobs in the public and the present private sector is the road of nationalisation.

Of course since 1967 these firms have modernised. But why didn't they do it before that date?

Take the example of GKN. It owned a vast site in Cardiff. One half of that became the East Moors Works of BSC. It was closed on grounds of obsolescence. On the other half of the site, GKN has invested in a spanking new works.

Ebbw Vale Steel was denied modernisation and declared desolate. Yet Alpha Steel have been able to open a new works a few miles away with a bigger capacity.

It is not just a question of the incompetence of the boneheads who at present are steering BSC into the rocks. It is a question of the way that nationalised industry modestly opens the door and ushers through private 'enterprise'.

In the early days of nationalisation, BSC allowed small orders to be snapped up by stockholders. Now the stockholders have become a monstrous canker eating away at BSC's viability.

Their profits belong within the public sector. By leaving them out, capitalism can amass vast profits—and at the same time crowd at BSC's losses as showing that 'nationalisation doesn't work'! Heads they win, tails BSC loses.

Not all of the private sector has invested either. In the Special Steels sector, it is being taken to the wall by more efficient European producers. In one case, import



Steel strikers picket stockholders

## Nationalisation of the entire industry is the only guarantee of steel workers' jobs and conditions

penetration of the UK market has reached 83%!

In Sheffield, it is still possible to find antiquated one tonne furnaces. But will the sharks of the private sector suffer themselves? Not if they can help it. The bosses' failure to reinvest is taken out on the workforce.

Seven thousand jobs in the private steel industry disappeared between 1974 and 1978, and many more have been under threat since then (see 'Militant' 14 December 1979).

The workers will be called upon to sacrifice their jobs so that the specialist steel pro-

ducers can carry on for a few more years. When only two firms are left in this sector, they will then cut each other's throats to survive.

In 1973-78 the private sector's output rose from 2½ to 3½ million tonnes. Most of these were slump years when public sector production came crashing down. An indirect denationalisation of the steel industry is taking place before our eyes, assisted by the preference of capitalism and the machinations of the BSC bosses.

It is in the interests of the owners of private steel concerns to feed off the problems

of BSC. The interests of workers in the private sector are totally different.

In the present steel strike, any victory for the bosses in cutting real wages, any victory for the bosses over mass redundancies in the public sector will be used by the private owners to reduce savagely the bargaining power of their workforce, particularly as they slide further into crisis themselves.

Not only are the interests of all steelworkers indivisible for the steel strike. They are also all at the mercy of the anarchic system of capitalism.

Only nationalisation of the entire steelmaking sector can balance BSC and give it control of trade. Only this total nationalisation can keep the productive wealth inside BSC.

It is also the only basis for a planned production of steel—the only guarantee of the jobs of all steelworkers in the stormy years to come.

# A LIMESTONE MILLSTONE

"The British Steel Corporation are paying £300,000 a year for the weekly supply to Llanwern steelworks of 2,000 tons of limestone pieces—which are no longer delivered to the plant because they are not required"!

This was the allegation by the Labour MP for Newport, Roy Hughes, at the start of the steel strike. The govern-

By our South  
Wales  
correspondent

ment and the steel bosses are trying to shove the blame for the present state of the steel industry onto the backs of workers through redundancies and low pay.

This incident comes as a further salutary reminder of the bungled 'planning' inevitable in the present bureaucratic running of the steel industry. It is also a bizarre

example of the rich pickings to be had by private contractors from nationalised industries.

The contract was between BSC and Amey Roadstone Corporation—a subsidiary of Consolidated Goldfields Ltd. The original agreement was for the supply of two inch stone. After a visit to Canada by the then works director, local management felt that the two inch stone was no longer needed.

They requested a local quarry to crush it prior to use, but this proved too expensive.

So the stone is delivered—but put to no use!

Colossal  
waste

BSC have tried to buy out the contract which was signed at national level three years ago, as otherwise the Corporation could be lumbered for another twelve years. But the contractors have refused this.

The question remains—why was such an agreement signed nationally when simultaneously there was a local

decision to alter the use of limestone? The present cost is £300,000 a year, but this is not static—it rises periodically to adjust for increased haulage and other costs.

Trade unionists would certainly support Roy Hughes' demand for an enquiry into this colossal waste of resources.

It is not just a case of this steelworks and this contract, though, it highlights again the dead weight permanently carried by the steel industry both from the bungling bureaucratic structures (modelled

on the private firms whose profit-grabbing first brought the industry to its present condition) and from the continued parasitism of private contractors.

The demands made by 'Militant' for nationalisation of the private suppliers, and for the democratic workers' control and management of all nationalised industries become even more important.



# WHAT THE RIGHT ARE REALLY OUT

**'Militant' reveals the full details of a recent Newcastle meeting in which right-wing MPs made it absolutely clear that the mis-named Campaign for a Labour Victory is an organisation out to smash Labour's left.**

Last week, the capitalist press, so fearless in exposing the left-wing 'plots' it claims to have discovered in the Labour Party, also gave some publicity to the right-wing Campaign For Labour Victory.

On 10 January, 'The Guardian' reported the CLV's proposals, set out in a new pamphlet, for 'reforming' the Party.

Predictably, these included the abandonment of re-selection of MPs, direct representation of the parliamentary party on the National Executive, and the purging from the Party of "those whose aims and objectives are inconsistent with those of the Labour Party."

Next day, the 'Guardian' even reported that the CLV had held a meeting at Newcastle's plush Northumbria Hotel, with Dr David Owen as the main speaker.

In approving terms, the paper reported Owen's "sustained defence of the Labour Party's Centre and Right..." This, however, was just the bland, 'public' version of Owen's speech.

What the press did not report was that Dr Owen and other right-wing MPs present expressed views that leave no doubt that they are fundamentally opposed to the socialist aims of the Party expressed in Clause IV, part iv, of the Labour Party constitution.

Nor did the 'Guardian' report remarks that make it quite clear that the right wing are trying to organise a witch-hunting campaign, not just against the 'Militant', but against the left as a whole.

Fortunately, 'Militant' is able to report to the labour movement the truth about the CLV's aims, as put forward at the Newcastle meeting.

Held on Thursday, 10 January, the meeting was by invitation only. Chaired by Mike Thomas (MP for Newcastle East), the platform included John Horam MP (former chairman of the Manifesto Group), Gordon Adam MP, and Dave Clark MP.

Also associated with CLV are former Labour ministers Bill Rogers, Roy Hattersley, Roy Mason, and Shirley Williams. They claim the support of 100 MPs.

In contrast to other attacks on the left, Owen's speech called for an 'ideological' as well as an organisational fight. This is to be welcomed, as it is only through debate between the different tendencies that the Party can go forward.

Owen's ideology, however, clearly has nothing in com-

mon with socialism, and reveals the paucity of ideas on the right.

In rehashing the hotch-potch of post-war reformism, Dr Owen conveniently forgets that since 1964 successive right-wing Labour governments failed to carry out even the modest reforms that they themselves promised, and prepared the way for the return last May of the most reactionary Tory government this century.

Dr Owen spoke of the need to appeal to young people with 'tough', 'radical' policies, which would be based on the philosophy of 'Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity.' Labour must be identified with the 'good-neighbour society.'

**Owen's "ideology" has nothing to do with socialism, and reveals the right's paucity of ideas. He welcomed increased VAT and the rundown of steel.**

What this would mean in practice—other than the policies of the last Labour government—Dr Owen left unclear. He mentioned the 'radical ideas' of co-operative housing and productivity in industry.

Dr Owen welcomed Mrs Thatcher's switch to higher VAT. He said we needed markets for choice and variety and put forward the idea of co-operatives which could provide a "pool of resources".

Steel, he said, had to be run down, though the Tories were going too fast.

Attacking last winter's public-sector workers' strike, which he claimed destroyed the labour movement's 'fraternal image', Owen said that the Labour Party must "take on the vested interests of the trade unions."

Dr Owen gave the example of his father, who said that the greatest sense of freedom came the day when he didn't have to charge his patients. That is what 'altruism', concern and compassion' meant. "We're fed up with hearing about the nationalisation of yet another bank or insurance company," he complained.

Dr Owen had apparently forgotten that the Labour government increased prescription charges, and set in motion spending cuts which are devastating the NHS. In a diseased capitalism, who will pay for 'Fraternity'?

Ignoring the fact that it was the Labour government's record which led to Thatcher's victory, Owen stressed the electoral superiority of the supporters of 'consensus pol-

## FOR

Photo: David Owen, shadow Energy secretary. Attacked Labour's NEC for condemning Derek Robinson's sacking. Photo: Militant

**In private, the right make it quite clear that they are out to organise the overthrow of the democratically elected Party bodies on which the left has a majority.**

itics', and strongly denounced the 'elitism of the activists'.

There were many people who never attended meetings, who were not active, but should still have a say, he argued. Delegated democracy in the party, he said, allowed the left to put through policies which did not appeal to the majority of Labour voters. This was shown by opinion polls.

Dr Owen could hardly have made cruder appeal for a system of MP's rule by plebiscite.

The activists who work to return Labour MPs are dismissed as 'elitists'. Labour's manifestoes will be decided, not by democratic debate within the party, but by 'public opinion', opinion which, in the absence of a socialist campaign by Labour, may be largely determined by the capitalist media.

Commenting on the call for a new centre party, Dr Owen said he had supported Roy Jenkins in the past, but thought his recent speech calling for 'moderates' to split away came at a 'damaging time' for those who wanted to 'fight back'.

However, he warned that there was a 'clear, firm sticking point.' It would be dishonest, Owen said, to stand on a manifesto 'foisted' onto MPs by the NEC.

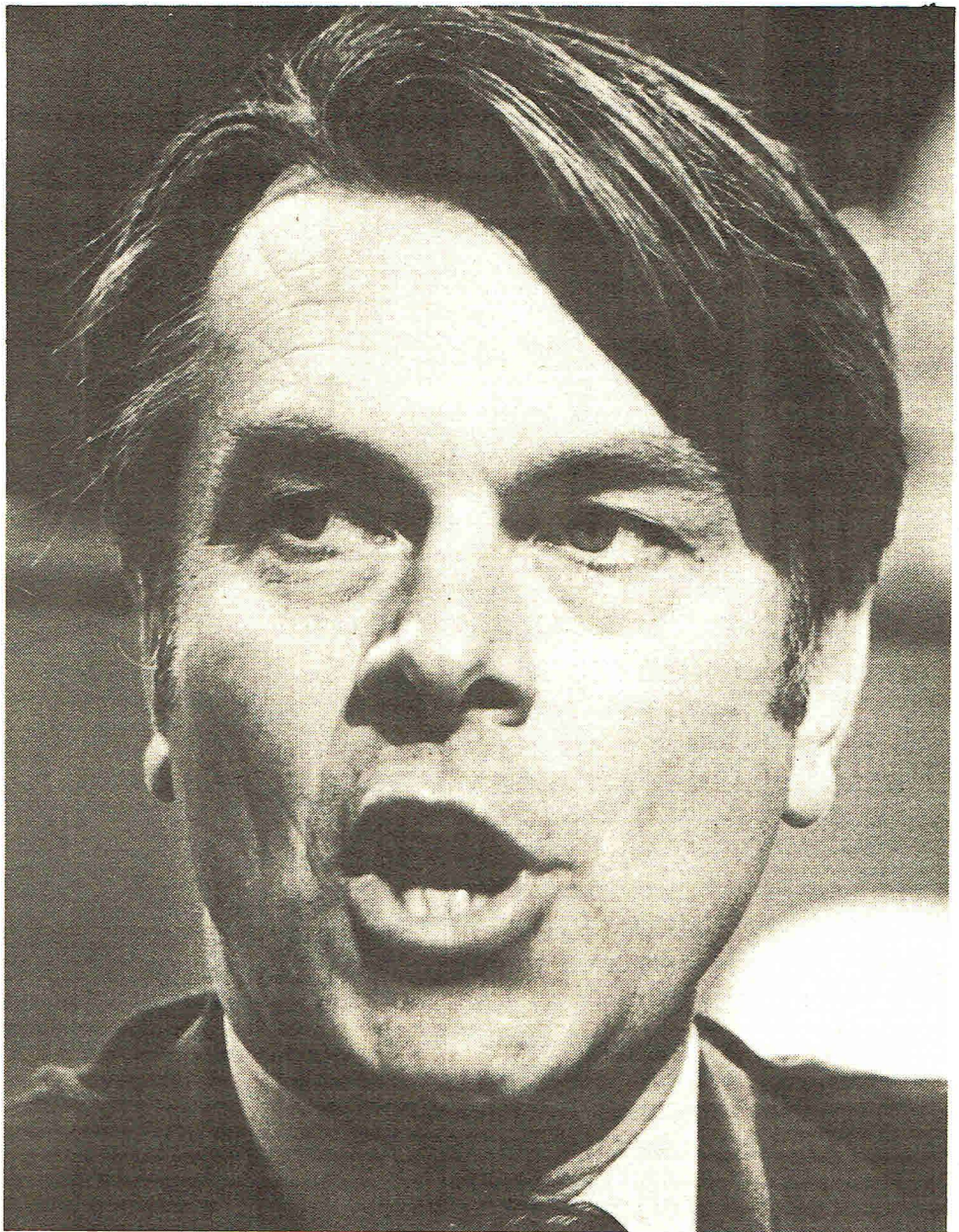
**Owen thought Jenkins' 'split' call premature... "but there is a sticking point"**

Answering a subsequent question on proportional representation, Owen said that he didn't support it, but would change his view if the left 'squeezed people out'.

Clearly, when the crunch (as he put it) comes, and if the right failed to keep a monopoly of the parliamentary leadership, 'stay-in-and-fight' MPs like Owen would switch to Jenkin's position, espousing PR in the hope of boosting support for a centre party.

The growing influence of the left on the National Executive was given as the main reason for the forming of the 'Manifesto Group' to defend the 1974 Manifesto 'in desperation' at the attacks on the Labour government.

The Group feared being labelled as 'right wing' he said. "I can't understand how favouring incomes policy is



**'Militant' is the real enemy, David Owen told the Campaign for Labour Victory ... But 'the group we are after is the National Executive Committee'**

right wing." The Group had also defended 'left wingers', Michael Foot and Albert Booth.

Remarking at this point that it was possible to be more 'open' in this meeting than in public, Owen said they hoped for an organisation in the constituencies, not just a group in the parliamentary party.

Some MPs might not join the Manifesto Group "since there might be political reasons in their own constituencies why he cannot join." But the Campaign for Labour Victory would be a broader organisation working in the constituencies.

This point, and Mike Thomas's appeal for donations and monthly subscriptions through bankers' orders, made it quite clear that the CLV is an organisation within the Party.

Mike Thomas recommended subjects for resolutions to the North-East Region LP Conference, and announced that the next CLV meeting would be "a business meeting" about three weeks' time, to elect a steering committee, and a chairman.

Clearly, the right-wingers involved in CLV are in no

**Owen denounced the "elitism of the activists". He wants a system of MP's rule by plebiscite.**

tempting "to get rid of Joan Maynard for years", but it hadn't happened. Tony Benn, Owen conceded, could well deserve to be on the NEC. But what he went along with had to be attacked. The NEC went against the trade unions in condemning Derek Robinson's sacking by British Leyland, despite the request from John Boyd (of the AUEW) that they should not take a position.

In his summing-up, David Owen returned to the attack on the NEC. He explicitly disagreed with Rob Brown who said they should be attacking the 'lunatic fringe' not the 'left of the Party.'

The 'lunatic fringe' were seeking positions, Owen agreed. But although Lestor, Benn and Heffer were individually 'OK', they were going along with and acquiescing to the extreme left.

They control the NEC, he said. 'Militant' was the real enemy, but the craven ones should also be attacked. "The group we are after is the NEC."

He said they had tried waiting for a few women to fix the elections for the NEC women's section, at-

tempting "to get rid of Joan Maynard for years", but it hadn't happened.

One of the main purposes of this and other CLV meetings throughout the country—said Mike Thomas in his closing remarks, was to exert constituency pressure on the Commission of Enquiry into party structure.

The NEC were trying to rig it, he said. Benn and Heffer would decide what went in the report, "if they haven't already written it." But he placed some hopes on "Bassett (G&MWU general secretary) and trade union financial pressure" to get a better result (for the right).

This, then, is what the capitalist press did not report about their right-wing friends in the mis-named Campaign for Labour Victory.

This, then, is what the capitalist press did not report about their right-wing friends in the mis-named Campaign for Labour Victory.



# HOW THE CIA FUNDED LABOUR

Last weekend, 'The Sunday Times' added another long centre-page article to its efforts to fuel a witch-hunting campaign against the 'Militant' and its supporters in the Labour Party.

This "fearless", "investigative" paper is now supporting the right wing's call for an investigation into alleged Marxist "infiltration".

But in 1972, when Richard Fletcher, who was commissioned by the 'Sunday Times' Colour Magazine, produced a mass of detailed, documented evidence of actual CIA infiltration into the Labour Party, the editor refused to print it.

"Told that it had been cleared for libel," related the journalist concerned, "he [Harold Evans] said the piece was unfair and that he was withdrawing it on editorial grounds.

" 'Anyway,' he said, 'these are the people we support'."

So, in the interests of this capitalist paper's right-wing friends in the Parliamentary Labour Party, Harold Evans was quite prepared to suppress evidence that the American CIA had, through one front-organisation or "conduit" or another, funded right-wing Labour journals and groupings which were considered sympathetic to the interests of US imperialism.

There can be little doubt, too, that the British intelligence services were involved with the CIA in this covert penetration of the labour movement.

A number of Labour MPs, like Bill Rodgers and Dennis Healey, who were associated with journals and organisations for which there is clear evidence of CIA backing, still figure prominently in the right-wing leadership of the PLP.

If they were unaware of the CIA's covert role, surely they would be the first to support a thorough Party investigation into interference by intelligence organisations?

Labour's National Executive has considered an enquiry into the role of the intelligence services. But so far no action has been taken.

It is now vital, in view of the steadily accumulating evidence, that the NEC begins a thorough investigation.

This week, we print the first part of extracts from the article which the 'Sunday Times' commissioned from Richard Fletcher in 1972 but refused to print.

Now, there is certainly additional and more up-to-date evidence of CIA interference in the labour movement, but this early article clearly presents the facts of the CIA's massive post-war operation to subvert the labour movement.

When Gaitskell was Labour Leader, he frequently attacked the left as "fellow travellers". In answer to the right-wing leadership, this article gives force to the question: "Who were THEY travelling with?"

## When the 'Sunday Times' was given a documented account of CIA infiltration into the Labour Party, the editor refused to print it.

The cloak and dagger operations of America's Central Intelligence Agency are only a small part of its total activities. Most of its 2,000 million-dollar budget and 80,000 personnel are devoted to the systematic collection of information—minute personal details about tens of thousands of politicians and political organisations in every country in the world, including Britain.

And this data, stored in the world's largest filing system at the CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, is used not only to aid Washington's policy-machine, but in active political intervention overseas—shaping the policies of political parties, making and unmaking their leaders, boosting one internal faction against another and often establishing rival breakaway parties when other tactics fail...

One of its targets in the years since the Second World War has been the British Labour Party.

The Labour Party emerged from the war with immense prestige. As the sole mass working class party in Britain it had the support of a united trades union movement whose power had been greatly enhanced by the war, and it had just achieved an unprecedented electoral victory...

Labour was undisputed head of Europe's social democratic family.

But as the euphoria wore off, old differences began to emerge with prolonged post-war austerity. The Left wanted more socialism and an accommodation with the Russians, while the Right wanted the battle against communism to take precedence over further reforms at home. And those who took this latter view organised themselves around the journal 'Socialist Commentary', formerly the organ of anti-marxist socialists who had fled to Britain from Hitler's Germany.

The magazine was reorganised in the autumn of 1947 with Anthony Crosland, Allan Flanders and Rita Hinden who had worked closely with the émigrés as leading contributors. And 'Socialist Commentary' became the mouthpiece of the Right wing of the Labour Party, campaigning against Left wingers like Aneurin Bevan, whom they denounced as dangerous extremists.

Crosland, who ended the war as a captain in the Parachute Regiment, had

been President of the Oxford Union, and a year later, in 1947, became Fellow and lecturer in economics at Trinity College, Oxford. Flanders was a former TUC official who became an academic specialist in industrial relations and later joined the Prices and Incomes Board set up by the Wilson Government. Rita Hinden, a University of London academic from South Africa, was secretary of the Fabian Colonial Bureau—an autonomous section of the Fabian Society which she had set up and directed since the early Forties. In this position she exercised considerable influence with Labour Ministers and officials in the Colonial Office, maintaining close links with many overseas politicians.

### The role of 'Socialist Commentary'

The new 'Socialist Commentary' immediately set out to alert the British Labour movement to the growing dangers of international communism...

The journal's extended American connections were further extended by its US correspondent, William C Gausmann, who was soon to enter the American Government Service, where he rose to take charge of US propaganda in North Vietnam, while support for the moderate stand taken by Crosland, Flanders and Hinden came from David C Williams, the London Correspondent of the 'New Leader', an obscure New York weekly specialising in anti-communism. Williams made it his business to join the British Labour Party and to take an active part in the Fabian Society.

This close American interest in socialism on the other side of the Atlantic was nothing new. During the war the American trade unions had raised large sums to rescue European labour leaders from the Nazis. and this

had brought them closely in touch with the American military intelligence and, in particular, with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), whose chief in Switzerland and Germany from 1942 to 1945 was Allen W Dulles, later, of course, to become famous as head of the CIA in its heyday.

In America the 'New Leader' came to provide one focus for these activities, organising a weekly meeting of minds for professional anti-Communists in the unions, universities and government service, both at home and abroad. It had a relatively large paid staff and a world-wide network of overseas and roving correspondents.

Its guiding spirit as Executive Editor and business manager was Sol Levitas, a Russian émigré who... fled to the USA in 1923, bringing with him a life-long hatred of Bolshevism.

The 'New Leader' claimed to be independent, but in 1949 it carried a piece by Allen Dulles advocating a "commission of internal security", to examine subversive influences in the US and to "use the institutions of democracy to destroy them" which, in the light of Dulles' work helping the White House reorganise OSS as the Central Intelligence Agency, was rather like the head of MI5 writing for the 'New Statesman'. And at this time too, although the 'New Leader' was issuing frantic appeals for funds to pay of its \$40,000 worth of debts, it started appearing in April 1950 as a new 'New Leader' with an expensive 'Time'-like magazine format.

The importance of this dramatically reborn publication for British and European Labour parties was that it now began openly to advocate the infiltration of foreign socialist parties, echoing the arguments of James Burnham who, in his book 'The Coming Defeat of Communism', pro-

posed that "the Western World, led by the United States, should go over to the offensive by using the same sort of methods—open and covert—that the Kremlin has so massively employed".

Allan Flanders contributed an article to the revamped magazine on the British Labour Movement, and in 1954 Denis Healey, who had entered Parliament as a Labour MP in 1952, became the 'New Leader's' London correspondent...

### The CCF "conduit"

American Cold War strategy, as Burnham and the 'New Leader' had proposed, now moved into the financing of world-wide front organisations, and in June 1950 the free world's top men of letters were duly assembled in the Titania Palace Theatre in the US zone of Berlin, before an audience of 4,000, to launch the Congress for Cultural Freedom, a body whose purpose was to "defend freedom and democracy against the new tyranny sweeping the world".

It was no coincidence that the main organiser and chairman of the Congress was Melvin Lasky, who in 1948 had been 'lent' by the 'New Leader' to the US High Commission in Berlin, where he had set up a successful literary magazine, 'Der Monat', with the encouragement of General Lucius D Clay, head of the military government. Nor that the man chosen to head the permanent secretariat of the congress was an official of the American military government, Michael Josselson, who administered and arranged the financing of the vast organisation.

The Congress seemed to have unlimited funds...

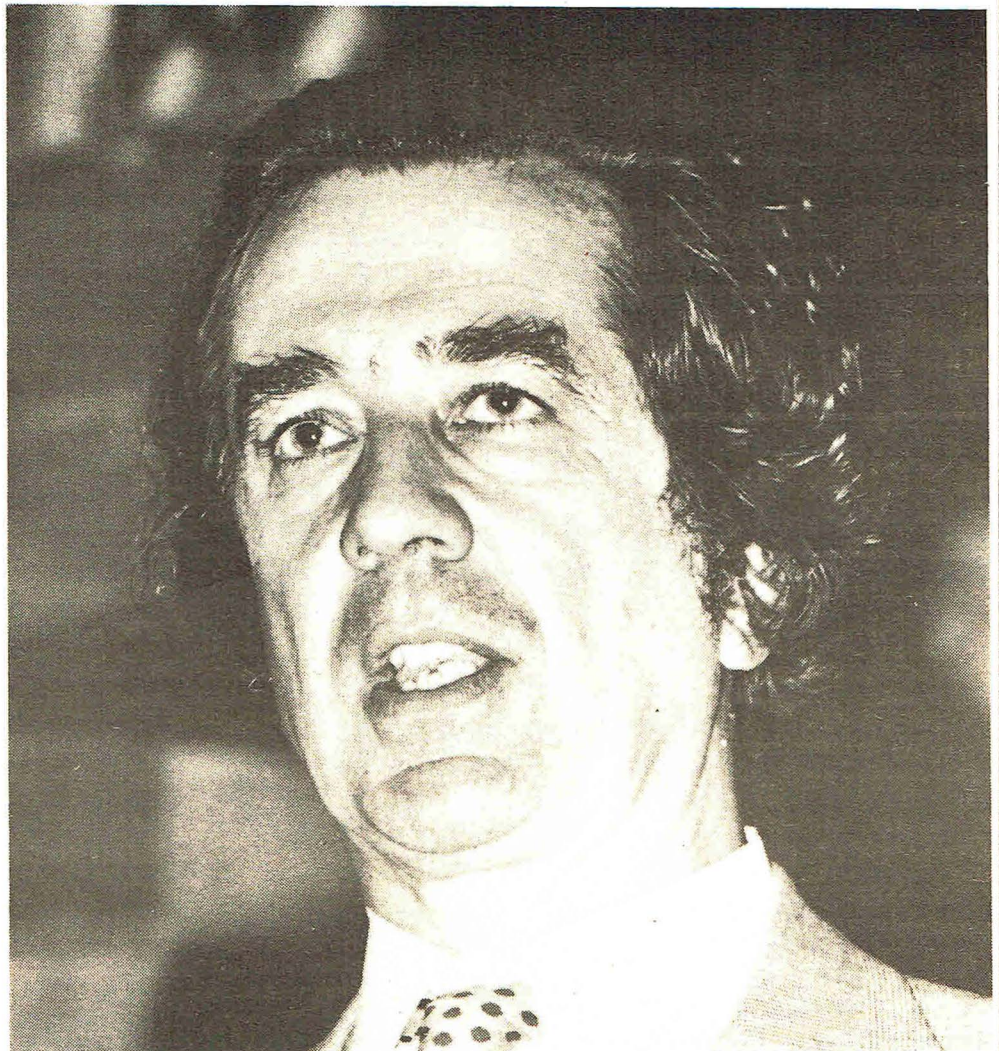
In 1953 the Congress for Cultural Freedom launched 'Encounter', an English language monthly which was an immediate success under the editorship of Irving Kristol, another of Levitas's 'New Leader' protégés and ex-Lovestoneite, and soon a bewildering range of publications in several languages had joined the CCF stable, with 'Encounter' becoming one of the most influential journals of liberal opinion in the West.

As the CCF network grew it embraced many prominent figures in the British Labour Party—among them Anthony Crosland, who began attending CCF seminars, where he met Daniel Bell, who was at

**Shortly before being expelled from Britain under American pressure, Philip Agee, former CIA agent, said the CIA was trying to generate a purge in a political party... There is a real possibility of a propaganda campaign to isolate those on the left of centre."**



# OUR'S RIGHT-WING

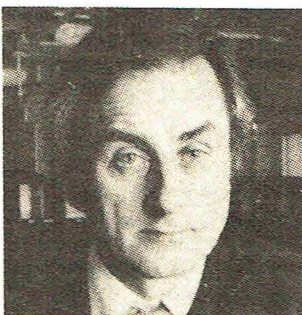


Dennis Healey [left] and William Rodgers [right]. If they worked with CIA-backed journals and organisations in all innocence, surely they will support a full NEC investigation into the penetration of the labour movement by intelligence agencies?

this period moving away from journalistic red-baiting in the 'New Leader' towards academic respectability.

Bell's thinking was later summarised in his book—'The End of Ideology', and it formed the basis of the new political thesis set out in the major work that Crosland was now writing and which was published in 1956 under the title 'The Future of Socialism'. The book had also been influenced by the arguments put forward at the Conference of the Congress for Cultural Freedom held in the previous year in Milan, where principal participants had included Hugh Gaitskell, Denis Healey and Rita Hinden as well as Daniel Bell and a bevy of American and European politicians and academics.

Put at its simplest, Bell and his colleagues argued that growing affluence had radically transformed the working class in Europe—and Britain—which was now virtually indistinguishable from the middle class, and thus Marx's theory of class struggle was no longer relevant. Future political progress, they thought, would involve the gradual reform of capitalism and the spread of equality and social welfare as a consequence of continued economic growth.



Harold Evans,  
editor of  
'The Sunday Times'

Crosland's book, though not original in content was a major achievement. In over 500 pages it clothed the long-held faith of Labour's new leader Hugh Gaitskell in the academic respectability of American political science and was immediately adopted as the gospel of the Party leadership.

Labour's rank-and-file, however, still clung to their grassroots socialism, and Gaitskell's obvious preference for the small coterie of cultured intellectuals and visiting foreigners who met at his house in Frogna Gardens, Hampstead, alienating the Party faithful, and gave added bitterness to the internecine quarrels that were to

follow Labour's defeat in the 1959 election.

In 1957 Melvin Lasky had taken over the editorship of 'Encounter' which had, by then, corned the West's intelligentsia through its prestige and the high fees it was able to pay. Lasky was a trusted member of Gaitskell's inner circle and was often to be seen at his parties in Hampstead, while Gaitskell became at the same time a regular contributor of the 'New Leader'. Sol Levitas would drop in at his house on his periodic tours to see world leaders and visit the CCF in Paris.

It was during the Fifties, furthermore, that Anthony Crosland, Rita Hinden and the other members of the 'Socialist Commentary' group adopted the argument put forcibly in the 'New Leader' that a strong united Europe was essential to protect the Atlantic Alliance from Russian attack, and European and Atlantic unity came to be synonymous in official thinking as Gaitskell and his friends moved into the Party leadership.

They received transatlantic encouragement, furthermore, from a New York-based group called the American

Committee on United Europe, whose leadership was openly advertised in the 'New York Times' as including General Donovan, wartime head of OSS, George Marshall, the US Secretary of State, General Lucius D Clay and Allan Dulles of the CIA.

This high-powered and lavishly-funded pressure group—whose thesis was essentially that a United Europe would defend America's interest against Russia—financed in Europe the so-called 'European Movement', whose inspiration was a friend of Hugh Gaitskell's Joseph Retinger, an elderly Polish James Bond, who, after a professional career as an éminence grise, had come to rest at the Dutch court under the patronage of Prince Bernhard.

Retinger had, furthermore, secretly persuaded Shepard Stone of the US High Commission in Germany to finance his European Movement out of so-called "counter-part funds"—Marshal Aid repayments which the Americans banked in Europe. Later he promoted select gatherings of European and American politicians, businessmen, aristocrats, top civil servants and military leaders to propagate the ideas of Atlantic and European

unity. Invitations to these Bilderberg Group meetings—named after the Dutch hotel where the first gathering was held in 1954—were issued personally by Prince Bernhard on Retinger's recommendation.

Few of those who received the card of invitation embossed with the Royal Netherlands coat of arms declined to spend three or four days in civilised discourse with the world's leaders in luxurious surroundings—certainly not Hugh Gaitskell and Denis Healey, who were founder members of the Group along with such diverse personalities as the President of Unilever and Sir Robert Boothby.

Healey, an ex-Communist, had been head of the International Department of Transport House before entering

Parliament in 1952. He was a convinced supporter of Atlantic Union and spread the message through 'Socialist Commentary' and the 'New Leader', for whom he wrote nearly 80 articles before joining the Labour government as Defence Minister in 1964.

*These extracts are taken, with the author's permission, from the article commissioned by the 'Sunday Times Magazine' in 1972 but first published, after being rejected by the paper's editor, by Radical Research Services and later re-published in 1977 by Spokesman Books under the title 'The CIA and the Labour Movement'.*

**In next week's extracts: 'Socialist Commentary', the 'Campaign for Democratic Socialism,' and the Bilderberg connection.**

**Evidence of interference in the labour movement by American and British intelligence has been steadily accumulating. The National Executive must undertake a thorough enquiry now.**





# BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT ADVISES MASS SUICIDE

When Brazil's President, General Figueiredo, was asked on TV by a 10-year-old child what he would do if his father earned the minimum wage, the general replied, "I would put a bullet through my head."

The remark, which shocked the industrialists, didn't, however, appease the workers. When Figueiredo went to the small sleepy town of Florianopolis, the people beat him up! The military dictator then went on record as saying that the incident was proof that Brazil is now a democracy!

On the contrary, the incident reflected the growing anger of the Brazilian masses at the conditions they face and their willingness to struggle against the military regime which has propped up Brazil's bankrupt ruling class since 1964.

The minimum wage, which Figueiredo alleges would drive him to suicide, is the maximum received by one third of Brazil's 40 million workers. It will buy a family of three a cup of coffee and a slice of bread each, three times a day.

On this wage a man must work a 23½ hour day, seven days a week to earn the official basic diet established in 1938! Too poor to pay rent, the workers live in huts made from cardboard, wood and scrap metal.

Two million abandoned children wander the streets homeless. Another 14 million suffer from malnutrition, mental illness or disease. Crime, alcoholism and prostitution are the lot of the shanty dwellers.

Rio de Janeiro is the second most violent city in the world. 15 buses a day are held up and robbed. The trains are so crowded that dozens of people are killed as they fall off the sides, and the streets are so bad that the number of people killed on the roads is ten times as high as in the USA.

Adding to the problems of the workers and peasants, food prices last year doubled and inflation, at 75%, has returned to the levels of the past. All this despite the fact that the national income has quadrupled since 1964.

The wealth created in the boom has been consumed by the ruling class and the foreign companies, while the real wages of labourers have

been halved. Recovering from the setback of 1964, when all independent workers' organisations were banned, the working class have risen up in one strike after another to win back what they lost in the co-called 'Brazilian Economic Miracle'.

Opposition is now emerging at a time when Brazil is beset by economic crisis and the problems of world recession.

The 'miracle' which made Brazil the tenth largest economy in the world was achieved by providing a huge market, a cheap—virtually enslaved—labour force, and by mortgaging the economy to foreign capitalism.

## Economy in massive debt

Apart from 75% of production being in the hands of US and other international monopolies, Brazil also has a \$52,000 million national debt; the largest in the third world. As a result of soaring interest rates the servicing of foreign debts alone accounted for 70% of Brazil's export earnings in 1979.

The massive sums borrowed from abroad to finance the boom have become a crippling drain on the economy while the foreign companies have transferred several billions of dollars worth of profits out of the country.

The result has been a slowing down of growth to 5% a year which, though high by the standards of British capitalism, is barely enough to provide for a labour force which increases by 1.4 million annually.

The Brazilian ruling class tried to maintain the break-neck growth of the late sixties over the last decade even while the world economy was slowing down. With inflation, the Brazilian currency (cruzeiro) had to be devalued by 50% last year to maintain exports.

In the summer the Figueiredo government hit a crisis. Simonsen, the monetarist planning minister was arguing that given a world



Police on the streets of Rio against a student demonstration

recession, growth would have to be cut. He was forced to resign and replaced by the pro-Keynesian Netto.

The generals feared that a cut in growth would lead to massive increases in unemployment and social upheavals which they could not control. Consequently their plan for 1980 depends on an increased rate of growth and a 35% increase in exports in a year of economic stagnation!

No solution exists for Brazilian capital except to increase profits at the expense of the workers and in turn this will result in massive protest movements, in strikes and occupations.

Last year, eight workers and peasants were killed in battles against the regime. When 50,000 building workers in Belo Horizonte went on strike in July the police were sent in to break it. The workers took to the streets and fought a day long battle with the police in which one worker was killed.

The injured workers who were taken to hospital were all taken away in the middle of the night by the police. Nevertheless the employers finally conceded a 78% wage increase.

In Sao Paulo, in October the regime, fearing that the

employers would accept the demands of 400,000 engineering workers, ordered the employers to stand firm. Army commandoes were sent to the picket lines, shot one worker, and put 700 union leaders in detention.

Despite the attempts of the military, strikes have spread to include doctors, journalists and teachers. The housewives and priests join the workers on the picket lines fighting against the police. Cardinals denounce scabs and call on workers to strike (see 'Militant' 14 January).

## 'Liberalisation' and 'Democracy'

It is not just a struggle for democratic rights which is taking place but the beginning of a revolution.

The ruling class have lost their confidence. While the workers are pitched into battle, the middle classes are on the side of the workers.

Aware of its growing unpopularity, the regime has already embarked on a programme of 'liberalisation' and 'democracy' as Figueiredo calls it.

The government-vetted

official opposition, the MDB has been 'allowed' to form four new parties, as long as they show 'no racial, religious or class bias' and can count on the support of 48 of the government approved MPs to support them. So keen are the military that Figueiredo even considered offering the Labour Party (PTB) 18 MPs to make the PTB official.

Their aim is to split the opposition and maintain a parliamentary majority for Arena, the military party. The only real concession has been a political amnesty for 5,000 which allowed the PTB to return to activity.

Democratic rights have not been extended to the workers. The Mussolini-inspired labour laws remain. However, it is through their own actions that the working class are establishing their rights, despite the use of the police and military to break strikes.

All that is lacking to bring the death blow to Brazilian capitalism is a party of the working class prepared to mobilise the workers to overthrow the military and big business.

The leaders of the Communist and Labour Parties have put forward the strategy of a struggle first for democracy and national liberation, to

be followed only later by a struggle for socialism.

This is utopian. When the ruling class of Brazil are tied hand and foot to imperialism, freedom from rule of the economy by the international monopolies necessitates a struggle against the ruling class.

Similarly for the ruling class, democratic rights for the workers would be a nightmare because democracy for the workers is really a tool to end their impoverishment, which, given the crisis of Brazilian capitalism, can only be achieved at the expense of the workers.

The struggle for democracy and national liberation is inextricably linked up with the struggle for socialism. If the workers' leaders embark upon the false two-stage strategy of alliance with sections of Brazilian big business the workers will face treachery at every turn.

In the period ahead activists will be forced to come to the conclusion of the need to decisively break from capitalism and struggle to weld their organisations into bodies capable of carrying out the socialist transformation of Brazil.

## VIETNAM—THE DEFORMED LEGACY OF U.S.—STYLE 'DEMOCRACY'

The sheer horror of what US imperialism and its allies inflicted on the Vietnamese people will affect generations still to be born.

In Australia 25% of ex-servicemen exposed in the Vietnam war to the defoliant 'Agent Orange' have fathered deformed children. That is 250 times the national average.

The families of the ex-servicemen include children

By Colin Barber

with deformed hands, including three cases in which all the fingers of one hand and half the thumb are missing, two with deformed legs, including one on a baby girl which had to be amputated, one missing ear, four cases of club feet and two deafness.

Similar results have occurred in America and most of the ex-servicement themselves suffer from illness.

The Australian government has now decided that it should hold an inquiry into

the effects of 'Agent Orange'. That is a bit late for the servicemen and the Vietnamese people.

From 1965 to 1970 over 45 million litres of 'Agent Orange' were sprayed on Vietnam, to deny cover to the guerrillas.

One can only imagine what horror is now occurring and will occur in the future to Vietnamese children.

Imperialism did not care what effect it had on its victims or its servants. 'Agent Orange' is a phenoxy herbicide containing dioxin. This kind of drug apparently binds itself to the victim's genetic

material effectively putting a 'knot in the rope' which can create kinks in the transmission of genetic messages from parents to offspring.

Some countries such as Holland have banned from agricultural use dioxin in many herbicides because of its danger. In 'Agent Orange' 5,000 times as much dioxin was used as in the banned herbicides.

What new horrors await the people of the world if imperialism remains?



## ZIMBABWE AMERICA HOLLAND CHILE

# SOAMES ATTACKS ZIMBABWE NATIONALISTS

In a quite blatant attempt to establish a black capitalist regime in Rhodesia, British imperialism is trying to restrict and harass ZANU, the radical African nationalist movement.

"Mugabe is a frightening prospect" was reportedly what Lord Soames told an audience of US Congressmen ('Sunday Times', 13 January).

Mugabe, ZANU's leader, was banned from holding a rally last Sunday. Soames also ruled out ZANU's proposed electoral symbol (the hoe and the rifle).

Guns have been taken off some guerrillas, in contravention of the Lancaster House agreement. A number of ZANU officials were at first refused permission to return, and then harassed by customs on return.

British imperialism has been essentially using the old Rhodesian state machine to run the country. And it has turned a blind eye to Rhodesian violations.

Two weeks ago seven ZAPU guerrillas were killed by the Rhodesian army. They had apparently been held for 3½ hours before being killed—the Commonwealth monitoring force were not informed.

Amnesty International believe that up to 6,000 political prisoners are still imprisoned. In addition, according to Rhodesian official estimates there are 5,000 detainees held under martial law regulations.

The existing body of repressive legislation remains and no assurances were given to a recent Amnesty mission to Rhodesia, that this legislation would not be used. Instead martial law and the State of Emergency will be renewed at the end of January. Detentions under martial law will continue.

## Business finances friends

British imperialism is trying to pave the way for a repressive black capitalist regime to rule after the February elections.

And big business has given substantial financial support to pro-capitalist parties.

Looking for rich pickings British business is stepping up its links with Rhodesia and its backing for Muzorewa's capitalist policies. Off last week to Salisbury went an eleven-man CBI trade mission.

This mission set off shortly after one from the Institute of Directors and is seen as paving the way for a large trade mission in March or April, if the 'right' government is chosen at the elections.

And British capitalism does not want to leave that electoral result to chance.

The 'Financial Times' re-

By Jim Christie

vealed recently that over £100,000 was raised for Muzorewa in the farcical 'internal' elections last April. "The organisers of the fund-raising effort said they would consider a new campaign for the planned fresh elections but no decision had been taken because there were probably sufficient funds still available in Rhodesia.

"Mr Philip Duntley, chairman of Mitchell Cotts, said he



Trying to exclude Mugabe? Section of Lancaster House Conference, from left to right: member of Muzorewa delegation, Muzorewa, Carrington, Gilmour, Nkomo

and Mr Murray Hofmeyr, chairman of Charter Consolidated, helped to organise the Zimbabwe-Rhodesia Electoral Fund which raised money earlier this year to back Bishop Muzorewa's United African National Council. Both companies have interests in Rhodesia.

"The special fund was set up after a meeting in London between CBI member company chairmen, CBI overseas directorate staff and Bishop

Muzorewa about 18 months ago. At the meeting, Bishop Muzorewa told them that as prime minister he would seek to cultivate free enterprise." ('Financial Times', 28th December)

## Utopian dreams

But Muzorewa may not prove to have enough support to establish a viable neo-colonialist regime.

In recent weeks there has been clear liaison between Britain and Nkomo in an attempt to isolate radical nationalists. Apparently many white businessmen, civil servants and military leaders now consider that Nkomo may be a safer bet for stability than Muzorewa.

But imperialism's aim to install a reliable puppet

regime is utopian. If the elections are not free and fair, the war would go on. And any black nationalist government, ZANU or Patriotic Front (ZAPU) would have to respond to the pressure for jobs and land—problems which cannot be resolved whilst the economy remains capitalist.

## Who funds American TUC International work?

At the recent AFL-CIO [American TUC] convention which saw Lane Kirkland installed as President of the Labor organisation, an officers' report on international affairs was presented which outlined a foreign affairs programme.

The AFL-CIO hierarchy operates a labor cover up for CIA labor operations abroad ostensibly promoting unionization "along the lines of the free trade union system."

A large part of the approved report boasted of the AFL-CIO's expansion activities abroad through three "Institutes":

1. The American Institute for Free Labor Development [AIFLD]
2. The African American Labor Centre;
3. The Asian American Labor Institute, formed in 1968.

The report announced that since the last convention a fourth Institute, the Free Trade Union Institute [FTUI], operating in Portugal and Spain, had been set up. The move into the Iberian peninsula is clearly prompted by the newly-risen trade

unions there after the overthrow of fascism.

Many millions of CIA dollars are pumped through AID [Agency for International Development] into the four "Institutes" and this money is kept as secret as are all CIA expenditures.

In 1969 Senator William Fulbright, the chairman at that time of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, lifted the secrecy cover and disclosed that until that year [1969], AID's contribution to the Institutes was \$28,117,767.

With the rising expenditures for all four of the CIA covers in the decade since, the total outlay must have come to several times the amount given above. This is in addition to the "token" contributions that the AFL-CIO, and involved corporations are making for that type of "internationalism".

The AFL-CIO's own 'token' contribution to the work of the four institutes in the last two years since the previous convention amounts to more than it spent in its

organising department. During that period the rise in membership figures was not much above zero, but the total organising drive cost was \$968,383, of which \$786,903 went for salaries.

But the report to the convention on contributions from the "special purposes fund" ["special purposes" is not spelled out] showed that \$2,765,739 was given to scores of organisations with the four Institutes getting over one million dollars. These funds come from a special assessment on the union membership.

To name a few: AIFLD got \$463,000; Afro-American, \$430,000; Asian American, \$130,000; Spanish-Portugal, \$97,000; Committee on the Present Danger [anti-left US organ of which Lane Kirkland is vice-president] \$30,000; Histradut's [Israeli Trade Union] Afro-Asian Institute \$18,000; international affairs office operations, \$168,000.

By Betty Traun

## CHILE: HUMAN RIGHTS HYPOCRISY

The British government announced this month that it was so concerned about human rights that it was withdrawing its Ambassador from Afghanistan. The hypocrisy of this was exploded last week when it also announced that it was restoring full diplomatic relations with Chile, and sending a new Ambassador there.

Britain did this despite the fact that over the last year the human rights situation in Chile has worsened. In their 1979 Annual Report, Amnesty International state their concern of "reports of great numbers of arbitrary arrests, short-term disappearances and cases of torture."

But Thatcher is not concerned about that. What

worries her is that British business has been losing out in the Chilean market. In 1978 whilst France increased its exports to Chile by 106%, Spain by 58%, USA by 40%, Britain's actually fell from £39 million to £37 million.

One of the first actions of the Tory government was to restore medium-term cover for exports to Chile. Now they have established full diplo-

matic relations to help exporters.

The mutual admiration of Chilean and British businessmen and government continues. It is vital that the British and international labour movement strengthens its links too—with the socialist and trade union movement of Chile who are the real fighters for human rights.

## SUPPORT DUTCH BATCO WORKERS

Even though it did not look like it in the beginning of last year, we have succeeded in keeping British American Tobacco Amsterdam open until at least 1 January 1981, through our collective effort.

We have been successful, because of the good co-operation between the company council (a body where workers and employers meet to discuss), trade unions and the action committee. We also had a lot of support from the media and community groups.

Just before the date of the ultimatum which the unions had set, was going to expire, management caved in and met all the demands of the union. Those demands were:

1. jobs for all workers guaranteed until 31 December 1980
2. The employers will discuss the situation in the company with both the company coun-

cil and unions at least twice during the year. More specifically, the question of jobs will be talked about.

On the basis of these results we now have some time to gather our forces to make sure that management's decision to keep Batco Amsterdam open temporarily is changed into a decision to keep it open permanently. This will take a lot of work and that is why it is so important that the workers of Batco Britain also know what management of Batco Amsterdam is planning to do.

They are scheming to close a plant which is running at a profit, because they want to make still more profits in Belgium. At least, that is what they hope for.

Speaking for all of the workers of Batco Amsterdam, I would like to ask the workers of Batco Britain to give us all possible support. We think such support would be of the utmost importance and that's why we will try to let the workers and trade unionists in Britain know about the developments.

For further information and support please contact the action committee, c/o Gerard Houtbraken, Het Laagt 133, Nieuwendam, Amsterdam, Holland.

**Batco Amsterdam Action Committee**



## LETTERS

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

## Afghanistan-Imperialism beaten to the gun

Dear Comrades

Having read last week's article concerning the Russian invasion of Afghanistan I felt it necessary to point to a number of issues which I believe to be of crucial importance.

The Russian invasion of Afghanistan cannot be viewed outside the crisis of the world economy and its relationship to the essential, though diminishing, oil resources of the Middle East.

In the West, the crazed pursuit of profits by the ruling capitalist class has plunged all economies into a dire crisis. At the same time, in the East, the strangulation of the Stalinist bureaucratic bo-constrictor increasingly ruptures the planned economies of the deformed workers' states.

Likewise, in the Middle East, the international and national economic crisis is causing enormous social and political upheavals. The collapse of capitalism in Iran

gave rise to a revolutionary upsurge against the terroristic regime of the Shah. The revolution in Iran remains unfinished—the still-fizzing fuse for the powder keg of revolution in the Middle East.

However, what Stalinist and capitalist fear most, is not the direct overspill of potential revolutionary action across their borders, but the internal revolutionary implications which the crisis has for them in their own countries. At a time of crisis in these economies the disruption or cessation of oil supplies would cause such economic chaos as to quickly bring social unrest to a pitch—a pitch of working class anger that would threaten to overthrow the ruling elites of both blocks.

Capitalists and Stalinists alike recognise that the cessation of oil supplies could be the very fuel for revolution. For this reason, they see it as essential to capture control of the means of production,

distribution and exchange of the oil resources before revolution in the Middle East sparks the fire of international proletarian revolution.

Initial action was taken by the United States in sending its fleet to the Persian Gulf. Awaiting an excuse to intervene on a major scale, imperialism was to some extent beaten to the gun by Stalinist adventurism.

What the capitalists and Stalinists fail to see, however, is that, even if one were to succeed, they would still not be able to solve the national and international problems - oil resources never saved the capitalist system in Iran or the position of the Shah.

The fact is that it is not oil—the scarcity of it, or the unreliability of its supply—which is the cause of economic decline. It is the continued existence of capitalism and Stalinism which lies at the root of the problem.

Only with a planned world socialist economy can the

problems of scarcity and the possibilities of war be eliminated. This can only be achieved through the establishment of a United Socialist States of Western and Eastern Europe and a World Socialist Federation. Our slogan remains: **Workers of the World Unite!**

Yours fraternally  
BJ Morgan  
Reading LPYS

## Hypocrisy

Dear Comrades,

Let's hear three cheers for the good ol' United States of America, once again the heroic defenders of small independent nations threatened by wicked foreign imperialism.

Shout your praises in the streets! Just one thing though: don't mention Vietnam, or the word "hypocrisy"

Yours fraternally,  
John Rubenstein  
Haltemprice LPYS

## Poachers

Dear Comrades,

I noted with interest Sir Monty Finniston's analysis of Britain's economic decline which was given so much press coverage last week. How ironic that an ex-chairman of British Steel should blame our poor industrial record on a lack of skilled engineers!

Presumably the lay-offs at his old firm and at BL's London based AEC works are designed to produce a surplus of engineers for the private sector, so that the bosses don't have to raise wages to lure more school-leavers into engineering courses?

Yours fraternally,  
Owen Tudor  
Kingston LPYS

## Reply to press

Comrades,

Please find enclosed copy of a letter sent to the Guardian by myself:

Sir,

I write in response to your hysterical and unfounded allegations about the 'Militant Tendency' (Guardian 11th Jan) and to explain how and why I came to support the paper.

I joined (or should I say "entered") the Labour Party two years ago with a programme totally different to that of the Labour government—it was one based on the main proposals in the 1974 and 1976 Labour election manifestos.

I wanted to know, as an ordinary Labour voter, why the only party which represents the mass of working people was actually cutting their living standards. It soon became clear that any resemblance between the Labour Party and the Labour government was purely co-incident (though nobody advocated the latter's expulsion, least of all 'Militant').

During the democratic debate and discussion inside the Labour Party and particularly in the Labour Party Young Socialists, I was won over to the ideas of Marxism as represented by the 'Militant'.

It became clear to me that only the policies based on scientific socialism could take our society forward. This is totally compatible with clause four part 4 of our constitution which advocates the socialist transformation of society.

I therefore suggest that instead of engaging in "psychological" attacks on the 'Militant' you allow its editor to explain its policies and allow free and full discussion of them. If 'Militant' is so nasty surely that is best represented by what they say and not by misrepresentation and character assassination.

It has been suggested 'Militant' is a threat because of the relative smallness of the Labour Party membership. Why not campaign for working people to join the Labour Party?

Nothing could suit 'Militant' more than mass membership of the Labour Party; its ideas will only gain with a wider audience.

D Milsom  
Sheffield Attercliffe  
Labour Party.  
Young Socialists

## Is this the way to fight cuts?

Dear Sir

There have been a very large number of cut-backs with a lot more on the way. These could not only put the normal person in the street in a state where they could die, or be disabled; it places even more burden on hospitals and emergency staff.

Here in Nottingham I run a very small church, and with a friend of mine have come up with an idea. We are both trained in medical work, as male nurses in local hospitals. Most countries in the world have a para-medical service; we are going to start one here in Nottingham, using motor bikes with first aid stuff.

If it is successful we will be able to help others to start this type of service. It will not only be a great help to the people but help the emergency service and hospitals, for there are times when one needs first aid very fast and others, when first aid could be done and save maybe ambulance and hospital time.

We hope to be able to start in the next 2 to 3 weeks, first of all on a part time basis, going on if need be to full time. It will take at least a year to find out if it will work, but I think others will benefit from it and learn from the mistakes we make.

As we are workers we are asking for help from other workers: we need cash to run the service, keep the bikes going and get medical supplies, so I am asking if you and your readers will help so that we can begin. As well as giving people the medical care that is being taken away bit by bit, as workers it will show that we will fight back.

Yours  
Alan Beeby  
Arnwood, Nottingham

## 'War school': Army tops practise revolution

Dear Comrades

A salient warning of what the capitalist state has in store for the working class in the coming period of struggle was given by the BBC TV programme 'War School'.

The programme was about the elite officer training school at Camberly. The school is under the direction of General Kitson, infamous for his open advocacy of a greater role for the army in British politics. His name was linked with a coup during Harold Wilson's government, which was mooted by some members of the ruling class at the time.

Part of the training involved a 'play' in which instructors took the part of 'revolut-

ionaries'. The officers were left in no doubt as to who the real 'enemy' was, the whole thing being presented in such a way as to associate labour activists with terrorists.

In his book 'In Britain', Kitson describes 'potential trouble spots' in Britain which could be used by 'extremists' to produce a situation beyond the ability of the police to cope with. The whole purpose of the 'Kitson Class' is to train officers to take command of such a situation, and the officers were seen discussing the possibility of the situation escalating to a point where guns would have to be used.

Engels simply and accurately

described the state as "a body of armed men". Trotsky pointed out the farce of calling capitalist countries 'democratic', when the state is armed to the teeth, but the workers are unarmed.

When Thatcher and White-law rant about "increasing lawlessness", their true concern is the increasing contempt with which workers view the sorry state of capitalism, and begin to turn to the ideas of socialism. The police force itself grew up in the 19th century not as a response to a crime wave, but to protect the private property system against the challenge of organised labour.

The labour movement of

Britain, potentially one of the most powerful in the world, would have to suffer several major defeats before the more astute representatives of capitalism would dare put Kitson's scenario fully to the test. But, emboldened by such defeats, and the vacillation and reformism of the labour leadership, there is no doubt they will try—what alternatives do they have?

Only a bold socialist programme resolutely pursued by a genuine Marxist leadership can defend the working class and lead it to victory.

Fraternally  
Clive Gravell  
COHSE

## Managers?

Dear Comrades

One of the lads at our union branch who works at a power station on the south coast, gave us another insight into the realms of management today.

The cranes for off-loading colliers at the station are on their last legs. A new one will cost £160,000. So they struggle along buying new cables at £500 each, which only last five minutes.

A collier on hire from private enterprise was recently tied up for three weeks whilst the cranes were repaired. It takes 24 hours to change a cable; to miss a tide costs £100 a time plus the ship's running costs.

The workers reckon that they could have paid for a new crane with all the bungling that has gone on recently. But then when do the workers have any say? We're not expected to have any brains. But they call themselves managers!

Not a patch on the workers once we gain control. Then it will be all hands to the pumps, for the benefit of all.

Yours fraternally  
Mike Singleton  
Brighton AUEW

Dear Comrades

Enclosed is poem one of the kids in school brought in for me—his mother is involved in the Meccano sit-in and one of the women made this poem up.

Yours fraternally  
Lesley Holt  
Liverpool

## THE MECCANO

Last Friday was just another day—  
All the employees were happy and gay.  
Workers assembled upon the shop floor,  
Just like they have been a thousand times before.

Then at ten to four the news broke;  
We all thought at first it was a joke.  
Everyone around me just went white  
It really was a terrible sight  
Men all around started to sob  
Because in twenty minutes they had no job.  
The Meccano has been going for 70 years  
Most of the workers collapsed in tears.  
Christmas should be a time of good cheer  
But I'm afraid it's not so for the workers down here;

With mothers and fathers on the dole  
If you look in their pockets you will find a hole.

When you give your child a Meccano toy  
Their little face would shine with joy  
Life is short but not always sweet  
But if we all pull together we won't be beat  
Oh yes we will forget Airfix  
We don't need them any more  
In fact their name has been kicked out the door

I as an individual will only say  
Please give your support—  
Don't let it fade away

## Who controls the shares?

Dear Comrades

According to 'Lucas 1979—The Chairman's Review to shareholders and employees', more than 80% of the total number of Lucas shareholders hold only 6½% of the shares.

Who, then, are the small elite band who control the rest? Not surprisingly the largest group, with 22%, are insurance companies; and yet they total only 0.7% of the shareholders! Furthermore, the insurance companies, investment trusts and the banks: just 4% of the shareholders, control 40% of the total shares.

This is just another example of the power wielded by financial institutions in industry and society as a whole. What better reason could there be for the demand that financial institutions be nationalised along with the top 200 monopolies?

A member of Birmingham  
Selly Oak LPYS



# A POLICY FOR THE FUTURE

**Fleet Street is controlled by just six millionaires with enormous funds.**

**Yet, in the last few weeks, it has been these press barons who have asked us on behalf of their capitalist sponsors where we get our money from and what we do with it all!**

As we have consistently explained, every penny and every pound comes from active workers in the labour movement. 'Militant', the Marxist voice of the labour movement, does not have any rich backers—their money goes to the screeching Tory voices in Fleet Street. Nonetheless, like

them we are subject to the economic ravages of a chaotic, inflationary capitalist system. The rent on our premises is to be

By Steve Cawley

increased from April by over £200 per week.

Then, last Friday, we received notice from our suppliers that the price of photographic arts paper has been put up by 25%, phototypesetting film and paper by 25%, roll film by 12½% and so on. And just read their explanation!

"As you will know, the raw material which most influences the price of our products is silver and we are sure that the reports in the National News Media of the massive increase in the price of precious metals will not have escaped your attention.

"From a 1979 trading low of £2.70 per troy ounce in May the price of silver rose to around £4 in July/August and the dramatic rise in the final quarter took it to a level of over £19 immediately before Christmas.

"Under the abnormal conditions which all manufacturers are now facing [our emphasis] it has become impossible for us to attempt to absorb cost escalation on this scale."

So...the "national news media" explains why prices are going up for the bosses... but then wonders innocently why 'Militant' appeals for sums like £100,000 for its fighting fund.

The price of our paper is not increasing so we are almost like the Red Queen in 'Through the Looking Glass' who had to run as fast as she possibly could just to stand still. But Militant wants to go forward and build its capacity. Only you can help.

This week, the total of £643 towards our 1980 fighting fund target is extremely low but it has been in addition to another £900 worth of 'promises' from last year being redeemed.

Of this sum £500 was from a 'Humber-side Mole' who

says "this is not a loan but my life insurance with Militant for a socialist future." Many thanks, comrade.

Needless to say, our insurance 'policy' is based on a socialist plan of production and workers' democracy. Every worker needs such a policy—send us your 'premium'—large or small.

This week, £123 cash (plus IOUs) was raised at a Militant Readers' Meeting in London addressed by Ray Apps and 'Ginger' Evans (EMI) shop steward under the scrutiny of TV film cameras! In West Wales, Brian Ingham, Militant's Industrial Correspondent spoke at a series of meetings on the steel industry. At one of these Swansea—£42.62 was collected, including £1 from an INCO steward in the 14th week of his dispute!

Newcastle Central Office CPSA members sent us £34, (including £10 from C Eley, £2 each M Fitton and P Mahoney.) 14 members of the CPSA DHSS Section Executive sent us the following letter, putting in £1 each: "We note the unprecedented campaign of publicity which you have managed to achieve in the national press, television and radio over the past fortnight or so. Please accept

the following loan which you can repay after the socialist transformation of society (with appropriate interest)!"

Other CPSA members in London collected £11 for Militant and Knowsley NALGO members and Merseyside NGA supporters sent us £23.50. Liverpool students at the University and Poly donated £16 and Bristol LPYS sent £5. Finally £13 'trade union expenses' came from Liverpool and London and £17 from a meeting in Chester-le-Street.

Some of the individual contributions this week included 'tenners' from T Middleton (Birtley LP) and two Canterbury readers 'fivers' from P Wharton (E London), P Whelpton (Leicester), J Wooton (Convenor, Garriston St, Solihull), T&M McGlynn

(Paisley) and an Iranian reader.

Thanks also to T Wilson (Middlesborough) for £3, D Chapman (Craigton LPYS & ASLEF) for £2, I Jones (Queens Park LPYS & NALGO) for £1.25 and the following amongst others for £1s: B Ollier (TSSA Notts), B Hodge (Basildon), G Wareing (N Fylde LPYS), T Drum, P Williams and I Goldsmith (all S London), M Walsh (Rover, Solihull), S Hawkford (Perry Barr LPYS), M Crackett (Stanley LPYS), B Keen (Bradford) and four Tyneside supporters—P&K McKeowan, J Flynn and J Pattinson.

Social events and local raffles etc, netted over £100, from Sheffield, Tyneside, and Birmingham.

We appeal to all our readers (including any affluent NUJ members, reading this column for the first time!) to dig as deeply as possible into their pockets. Ask your shop stewards' committee, LPYS, trade union and Labour Party branch for an official donation and to take out a subscription to Militant.

Read our columns and you have a solution to the nightmare of capitalism. Read our Fleet Street competitors and you see no way out, unless you're a millionaire! If you have to sell your labour-time to live, put your money on us—it's the best policy!

## THIS WEEK £643

## SELL THE 'MILITANT'

### The antidote to press poison

By Dave Farrar

The welter of 'advertisements' that the 'Militant' has received in the last two

weeks, on television, on the radio and in the press, has been met with just as formidable a campaign on behalf of 'Militant' sellers!

Although reports have reached us from every area of the country, supporters in Scotland have again shown the way. In Govan, 100 copies were sold in the pubs [mixing business with pleasure?] and at the railway stations.

Fifty papers were sold in the shopping centres in Pollok [Glasgow] and Newport [Wales], 40 in Consett and Stafford shopping centres and over 40 on the streets of Lambeth.

Not to be outdone, supporters in Portsmouth trebled their sales, and in Hatfield [Herts] sales increased tenfold!

The lies and distortions of the bosses' press get enormous circulation. But we do have one weapon to answer the press poison—the 'Militant'.

Make sure that workers throughout the country know what the 'Militant' supporters in the labour movement really stand for.



Trade union delegates to Labour Party Conference read 'Militant'

Photo: MILITANT

## ads

CLASSIFIED: 5p per word, minimum ten words  
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All advertisement copy should reach this office by SATURDAY

### Militant Meetings

**SHEFFIELD Militant Public Meeting**

'The Fight Against the Cuts' Speakers: M Bower (Sheffield District Councillor); Tom Doyle (Sheffield NUR and Trades Council)—both in a personal capacity.  
Hare and Hounds Pub, Nursery Street, off the Wicker, Sheffield 7:30pm, Wednesday 30 January

**TYNESIDE Militant Rally** '1980s—A Decade of Social Revolution!

Speaker: Keith Dickenson (Militant Editorial Board) at Durant Hall, Ellison Place (opposite YMCA) on Friday, January 25th, 7:30 pm—9:30pm.

**SALFORD Militant Marxist Discussion Meeting** 'Muslim world in Turmoil' Sunday 3rd February, 7:30pm for further details phone 793 5808

**SOUTHEND Militant public meeting**

'Against the Tory cuts' Speakers: Orville Faulkes (Shop Steward, Ford's Dagenham); Bob Edwards (Harlow Labour Party)  
Southend Labour Hall; 8:00 pm Wednesday 6 February

**Militant International Review**  
New issue out shortly

## CLASSIFIED

**Dagenham Labour Party Young Socialists Public Meeting**

Speakers: Jo Richardson MP (Barking, & Labour NEC) Orville Faulkes (EETPU Shop Steward, Ford's Dagenham) Andy Bevan (National Youth Officer, Labour Party)  
The meeting will be opened by John Parker MP (Dagenham) 7:30pm, Thursday January 31st Leys Hall, Ballard's Road, Dagenham  
Bus nos. 87, 145, 148, 174, 175 to the Princes's 5 minutes walk. Tube to Dagenham East 10 minutes walk.

**SOCIALIST SONGBOOK**

(New printing). Only 40p Single copies post paid 50p. Bulk orders for 30p each plus postage. From Bryan Beckingham 62 Haverstock Road, Bristol

**VAUXHALL LPYS Public Meeting** 'Youth Against the Tories'

Speakers: Stuart Holland MP John Bulaitis (LPYS National committee) 7:30pm Monday 28th January Room 119 Lambeth Town hall, Brixton Hill  
All Welcome

**CROYDON LPYS Public Meeting** 'Fight the Cuts' Speakers:

Nick Bradley (London Labour Party Regional Executive) Ian Smedley (Croydon Cuts Campaign) 7:45pm Thursday 31 January Cedar hall, Ruskin House, Coombe road, Croydon.

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# EPCO- Workers win first battle

The 24-hour picket line at Epco, Leeds, maintained through this winter's most cutting weather, has forced management to back down and re-open discussions with the AUEW and Boilermakers, who represent the 170 hourly-paid workers.

The first exchanges came on the picket-line when convenor John Hawley raised the idea of a meeting with Managing Director D Oxley. This conversation was not so much due to a change in Mr Oxley's 'heart' but due to the 80 plus pickets standing behind brother Hawley stopping the managers' car get-

ting into work.

Already support has flooded in from the labour movement, with many Labour Parties giving their support, including the Harehills Labour Party which followed with a £14.50 donation along with the Leeds District Labour Party and the LPYS National Committee, which passed a resolution of support on 19th January.

With engineering workers being sacked while on strike (see Militant 11 January) for the national minimum time rate of £73, then support has been quick to come in from engineering workers in Leeds. Even the Engineering Employers Federation (the bosses) has condemned the action of the Booker McConnell combine (enclosing Epco).

The support of the movement has sustained the pickets while extending the dispute, gaining full co-operation from sister firms in the blacking of Epco work and the transfer of any Epco machines, together with practical help like a collection of £40 at Fletcher, Sutcliffe, and Wild of Wakefield.

If management try to compromise by offering redundancy payments then combine action will be essential to compel the Booker-McConnell combine to main-

tain production and re-instate the hourly paid workforce.

Epco had a history of decent working conditions, won by the union, and stood as a profitable section of the combine producing lifting gear, still in very high demand. Therefore no worker can consider their jobs safe in manufacturing industry today.

Although the re-opening of negotiations is a victory, the stewards are already discussing the question of a combine-wide claim for the full national engineering pay award of £73, with full trade union practices applying and tied to the re-opening of production at Epco Leeds.

This demand could really gain support in the combine, as Booker-McConnell begins to offer the same conditions to one group of workers after another. With the crisis now totally rooted in the engineering industry urgent attention has to be paid to the development of fighting combine organisations to defend the gains made through national action.

By Jon Ingham

(LPYS National Committee)

## WHO RUNS INCO?

After thirteen weeks on strike, craft and T&GWU members at INCO Mond remain resolute. They will not return to work on management's offer of 27% and a better pension deal.

Mass pickets of up to 300 members have been held at the nickel works in Clydach, Swansea, this week.

Management has pulled some pretty dirty tricks in the past fortnight. Last week cries of 'Marks and Spencers' were heard on the picket line. This refers to £25 Marks and Spencers vouchers sent out to 'Employees for loyal services': in other words, bribes for scabs.

They also spread the idea that, due to flooding, it would

take four weeks to repair the damage to machines etc. This was clearly intended to make their strikers fearful for their jobs and depress their buoyant mood. On 18th January two hundred and fifty of the three hundred pickets walked round the works, blowing horns, and cheering and waving to the remaining pickets, to inspect the flood damage. After a brief meeting it was widely thought that the damage to the machines would only take one to two weeks to repair. This week ASTMS members in INCO have reverted to their normal work (probably because there's no unskilled repair work left). Their action has caused a great deal of

bitterness amongst the pickets.

Under the statue of Ludwig Mond (founder) at the works there is a note which reads "Who's running my Mond: Griffiths (Chief Engineer) or Davison (Manager)?" With the solidarity shown by these workers, the answer must be neither—the Strike Committee does!

Many of the INCO workers are suffering great hardship. Following the example of ASTMS Hereford's £50 donation, send financial help and messages of support to: **Neville Rees, 221 Cwmaman Road, Garnant, Ammanford, Dyfed.**

Meccano.

National blacking of Airfix has become another vital issue. If a call went out to black Airfix, it would quickly bring the company to its knees and make them agood deal more co-operative in negotiations.

The toy industry is in crisis. Another famous name, Matchbox, have announced thousands of redundancies. If hundreds of thousands of more workers are not to join the jobless, if those factories are not to become yet more warehouses or deserted shells. If toy-making is to survive—after all, no one can say kids don't want toys any more—then Labour must pledge itself to take over and nationalise the whole toy industry, with compensation on the basis of need only, when it is returned to office.

All messages of support should go to Meccano, c/o 99 Edge Lane, Liverpool. Or phone 051-228-1088, 4333, or 2171.

By Richard Knights  
(Birkenhead Labour Party)

wages, while they have increased productivity by 50%.

Send all donations and letters of support to Mr Arthur Boughy, 5 Lebelia Crescent, Kirk Sandall, Doncaster, South Yorks.

By Lawrence Major  
(Doncaster Labour Party)

## YOGI'S AND TV'S NO ANSWER

The new year shows no let up in the employers' offensive against Merseyside. 400 jobs at Tillotons, 90 at Barbour threads, 260 at Dunlop's golfball factory—these are the latest jobs threatened.

It was against this background that Meccano workers gathered for a mass meeting on Monday 21st, to hear a report-back from a meeting with Airfix management last Friday. Union Official Mike Egan outlined the company's three-point plan: that they take the factory back on 28 February, with no guarantees other than that no court order would be served, a joint working committee with the union to investigate buyers; an agreement to allow workers to take redundancy.

This plan was rejected with

only two votes in favour. Mike Egan warned against taking redundancy money, while agreeing that those who wished to could leave the factory. However, as he outlined ex-Meccano workers would face bleak job prospects, particularly after Meccano hatchet-man Nick Cowan's unfounded remarks about 'drunkenness, vandalism and thieving' in the plant.

At the moment several companies are interested in Meccano, including 'The Age of Enlightenment Company' connected to the Maharishi Yogi; and also Colourvision. The problem is that these companies are anti-union: Colourvision have offered to pay just above dole-levels.

Airfix are playing a waiting game, hoping to starve the workers into submission. It is essential that national action is taken by the unions. It is a scandal that eight weeks into the struggle, not one union has given official support to the Meccano workers. Resolutions should be moved, particularly in the G&MWU, asking for official backing for

of their union—the T&GWU—and Doncaster Trades Council. Scab labour has been brought in to do their work and management have stated that they will close the factory down rather than recognise the union.

The workers joined the union because in the last year they have taken a £12 cut in

# STEEL STRIKE WEEK 4 :

## AROUND THE COUNTRY

Send reports on the Steel strike in your area to 'Militant', 1 Mentmore Terrace London E8 3PN

### CONSETT

The steel workers at Consett are still picketing local steel stockholders, now on a random mass-picket basis. Every morning the ISTC and NUB members gather in Consett and then, quite unexpectedly, some local stockholder is faced with hundreds of pickets for the day.

The steel unions have all along said that the craftsmen were sympathetic, but the local papers have tried to play up one of the craftsmen organising a petition against the strike. Now the press and the 'petitioner' have been given their answer—at a mass meeting, the union concerned voted overwhelmingly to reject the offer BSC had made them. The voted to strike with the ISTC members.

Across on the coast last Monday, the Wear Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions discussed the steel strike and the implications for local shipyards and industry. The Confed agreed to give steelworkers the maximum practical and financial support and the secretary has now been instructed to circulate leaflets around the whole of Wear-side, explaining the steelworkers' case.

By John Pickard

### MIDD'SBOROUGH

BSC claim that the average wage of a steel worker is £100 per week. Most strikers find this figure hard to believe: their wages certainly don't match that.

Middlesborough pickets gave me examples of workers on £60 for 51 hours or a cleaner getting £1.09 per hour. For one man with a wife and two children, take-home pay, including bonus, shift allowance, the lot, was £53 for 6 shifts (48 hours) or, another week, £89 for 10½ shifts (84 hours).

With wages like these the only way BSC's average can be £100 is with massive overtime and a lot of overpaid gaffers. Judging by the number of fancy new cars still going into work there are plenty of them.

It is also true that there is a lot of overtime worked. This area is full of workers with bad guts and insomnia, some of the penalties of shift work. BSC claim there is overmanning and yet they constantly

demand massive overtime. Many steel workers resent the need to work overtime, which is usually in the form of a full extra shift—a double shift—which mean a straight stretch of 16 hours. The graffiti in the mills shows the anger: there is a list of ten men who died of coronary diseases "and they all worked doubles" adds the scribe.

The writing on the wall is sometimes humorous but the warning is grim. "If the cranes break down, what chance has your heart?", "Ban the doubles and save the heart troubles", "Don't live at BSC, get yourself home and see the family."

The lure of money isn't everything: "All the money in the world can't save you, ask Onassis, and he worked doubles." But at BSC you'll never get Onassis's money, or even near it: "Why work three weeks for one week's pay?"

Bill Hopwood spoke to pickets in Middlesborough

### PORT TALBOT

"We're here to stay—nothing will move us. The only thing we allow in is coal for the brazier.

"The women have been fantastic—they're on the picket lines every day and we've had hot soup and sandwiches brought for us.

"The other day two lorries came in and the drivers had masks over their faces. It's sickening—they're bringing in cowboys. Yesterday we pulled the mask off one of them and took his photo.

"The police turn up and say we're doing a good job. When a lorry tries to come through, they change their tune."

We asked how the newspapers had treated the dispute:

"The newspaper propaganda is bullshit. The 'Mirror' only pretends to be a workers' paper.

"The 'Weekend World' TV crew turned up last week, but there was nothing much going on. So they asked if they could drive their car up for the pickets to stop. We turned them away.

"We've sent most of the press packing. Their attitude

is making tempers short.

"On top of that there's the attitude of BSC management. They say this works is outdated, but it isn't—it's a major producer. The hot strip mill is the main target for redundancies, but in the last six months it has made a profit."

One picket, known affectionately to his workmates as 'Terry the Red', described the effect closure would have on the area:

"They'll wipe this area clean. People who've worked here for fifteen to twenty years will lose their jobs.

"The whole area from Bridgend to Swansea will be affected, and Port Talbot will be a ghost-town. All the small businesses will collapse. We'll be back to the 1930s if things continue like this.

"I've got a trade to fall back on, but I won't look for a job until this strike is over."

The threat to livelihoods is clear linked to the Tory government:

"If Thatcher tries to withdraw benefits from strikers' families, she'll never succeed" continued Terry.

"As it is a single man can't

get a penny for himself. Even at work, I only bring home £60 per week after tax.

"What we need is a national strike to bring this government down. They're no good to us. We won't get anything from this government—they don't want to know."

Could Labour provide any alternative? One LPYS member took out her Labour Party card to show Clause 4, part 4, written on the back. "This is what we fight for" she explained, "the common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange."

As a result of that conversation, we are expecting a group of steelworkers to come to Swansea LPYS to explain their point of view and to discuss socialist policies as an answer to the crisis in steel.

Swansea  
LPYS members  
spoke to  
Port Talbot pickets



# STEELMEN'S FIGHT IS THE MINERS' FIGHT

See page 6—article on Private Steel

The Tories and the British Steel Corporation management deliberately provoked the national steel strike in the mistaken belief that steel workers would be incapable of fighting to

defend their interests.

But steel workers have sent the Tories reeling. Even the capitalist press, for example, 'The Observer' has been forced to conclude that "the problem for the government is to extricate itself without too much damage to its reputation for firmness."

Rather than turning steel worker against steel worker, and isolating striking steel workers from the rest of the labour movement, as they intended, the Tories have helped forge the most striking

degree of unity ever seen among steel workers.

Now the Welsh TUC has called for a one-day strike action involving all the main trade unions in Wales, in opposition to the planned steel closures.

The Welsh miners, in particular, are prepared for indefinite action alongside steel workers to halt the planned closures.

This underlines the need for the steel union leaders to spell out unequivocally that the steel workers' strike is not

just for a living wage, but also to force the cancellation of all the threatened closures.

The demand has come forward for a two-year reprieve of those steel plants due for decimation. But this would only postpone the problem.

The unity and determination aroused by action must be used to force the Tory government to share the available steel work around all the plants, with no loss of jobs, and with a living wage for steel workers.

A special one-day conference of the NUM has been suggested over the run-down of the steel industry and the threat which this poses to the jobs of miners.

Such a conference should take place as soon as possible. It should announce that if South Wales takes industrial action to defend their jobs, then the NUM as a whole will stand by the traditional NUM policy and move nationally as one body to stop pit closures and defend jobs.

## S. WALES

BSC's proposals for steel would have tremendous effect on the mining industry in South Wales. We are caught two-fold.

First, as a result of government policy to introduce a free-trading market, the British Steel Corporation immediately indicated their intention to increase their use of imported coking coal. That has a disastrous effect on the coal-mining industry: their first extra import orders meant a loss of market of somewhere in the region of half a million tons to the South Wales pits.

Secondly, as a result of the declaration by the Minister of Industry, Sir Keith Joseph, that the steel industry was to become 'viable' by the end of the financial year, the Steel Corporation immediately took a decision to cut back production. With 40% of South Wales coal production going to the steel industry, the effects were disastrous.

The future is very black, as far as the South Wales coalfield is concerned.

When the miners accepted 20% it must have made a tremendous impact on the government. They are accustomed to the miners setting the pattern: they did not anticipate opposition from other areas.

They have been proved wrong—the rank and file of the steel unions are hardening as the strike goes along. In their determination they have expressed the same solidarity as the miners in our struggle;

it is obvious that they will struggle to the bitter end. I hope that the broader trade union movement will lend its weight to support them.

From the very outset the South Wales area of the NUM has moved very closely with the Wales Trades' Union Congress, and I believe that the Wales TUC are to be congratulated on their approach. They have clearly indicated their condemnation of the BSC and at the first meeting where the problem was discussed they forwarded a resolution to the British TUC calling for an immediate suspension of the BSC chairman along with his senior executives.

We also agreed to call for a strike on 28 January.

The South Wales area has given one hundred per cent support to that resolution. Our lodges have been balloted and by an over ninety-per cent majority they are prepared to take any action the executive deem necessary in order to maintain their jobs in South Wales.

It is important, in my opinion, that mass meetings and rallies should take place in order to make the public aware of the seriousness of the situation. In effect, if the decision of the BSC is put into operation, it means the de-industrialisation of South Wales.

**Dave Warren talked to Will Hayden Thomas [Vice President S Wales NUM]**

## BIRMINGHAM

"A lorry came straight at me, and went on through the fire (brazier—Ed)."

Fellow-picket: "If he had not jumped the right way the lorry would have gone over him."

This incident at Bore Street in Walsall, was just one of many for the lads from Tinsley Park, Stocksbridge in Rotherham, South Yorkshire. The police who were present took no action against the maniac driver.

Police 'impartiality' went a step further the following day when they arrested the same picket for alleged 'criminal damage.'

Within four hours of the arrest, he had been remanded in custody for three days. Today (Friday 18) he has been discharged without the police offering any case and bound over for 12 months. Two more pickets were arrested for sitting down while trying to prevent one scab lorry from crossing the line.

At 10.30 am, last Thursday the ISTC office received a call from one TV crew saying they and 80 police had been at Bore Steel since early morning and wanted to know where the pickets were. The

Yorkshire phantoms were elsewhere, holding up the movement of steel at Gibbons, outside Wolverhampton.

The political nature of this dispute has been confirmed by one squad of police, openly calling scab drivers through the picket line, and again by the sewage department that masquerades as editorial comment in the 'Birmingham Evening Mail', which called pickets 'Rotherham scrubbers'. And to top that, Thatcher and Joseph may talk about 'non-intervention', but they still openly support Mr 'Pastry' Villiers.

**By Brian Debus [Erdington Labour Party]**

"Considering the ten to eleven hours we stood out in the cold and, since Wednesday, the provocation from the police and the aggro with some of the drivers, morale is still amazingly high.

"Many of the lads are volunteering to come back next week or the week after. The mood is hardening all the time—nothing less than 20% without strings will do.

"Thatcher has done more for the unty of the steel



Pickets stop a lorry at a steelworks in Rotherham

Photo: MILITANT

## SHOTTON

At Shotton, members of Birkenhead LPYS arranged for a Labour Party member who works at the DHSS to speak to a meeting of Shotton branch secretaries explaining their rights on social security and answering any queries.

During the course of the meeting the CPSA member promised to implement the union's decision to waive their overtime ban in steel areas in order to help strikers and their families.

unions than we could have hoped to do in twenty years. We are really working together for the first time.

"It's a political fight. Thatcher increased the pay of the police and the army, bought off the NUM, but because of the 'moderate' steel unions, thought that we were a push-over. Now we're showing her different.

"The attacks by the 'Birmingham Evening Mail' resulted in the first week in people refusing to serve some of the blokes in pubs. Two of our workers were attacked in a restaurant and when the police arrived it was them who were arrested.

"But it has made the blokes see through the press and we now refuse to speak to the 'Mail' as a matter of policy."

**Charlie Simmons [EET PU deputy convenor BSC Rotherham works] on picket duty in Birmingham spoke to Jeremy Birch**

## MOTHERWELL

"The longer the strike goes on, the larger pickets get." Tam Clements and his workmates on picket duty outside a private steel firm told me.

They are some of the hundreds of Scottish workers who are now on their 90-day redundancy notice from the Hillside works near Glasgow. Although they will soon have no jobs to go to, they realise that their place is on the picket lines, fighting for wages and their future.

The pickets on three local private firms have been very successful; these firms are likely to close very soon. There was an unexpected contribution to the strike fund from the management of one of these firms, when an

estate car shed its load of steel trying to get through the picket lines!

Much of the success of their action, according to the Hillside men, can be attributed to the organisation of the local strike committee as well as the determination of the workers to show Joseph and Thatcher that they are not a 'soft touch.'

They know that any talk of productivity agreements are a nonsense, especially when, as one steelworker told me, "some of the machines in our works were built in 1905."

**By Stuart Bates [Queens Park CLP]**

## BLACKBURN

Walker's of Blackburn is one of the biggest private steel stockholders in Europe.

Although 95% of its steel is supplied by BSC, Walker's one hundred T&GWU lorry drivers are refusing to recognise the picket line even after being shown signed statements from Moss Evans. These same drivers blacklegged in the lorry drivers' strike of last year.

ISTC pickets have been at Walker's since the beginning of the strike travelling from Sheffield Stockbridge, Rotherham and Warrington—they have recently been joined by AUEW and GMWU members.

Though a 24-hour picket has been started, a convoy of 30 lorries smashed through the picket line in the early hours of the morning. The police had been tipped off about the manoeuvre and outnumbered the pickets.

Press and TV were also present, no doubt to record any trouble and the successful breaking of the picket line.

Maurice Kay, managing director of Kay Steels, a smaller private steel stockholder, commented in the local press "We're not being ruled by unions, we will just run through the picket lines. Our drivers will get their cards if they don't. He is typical of local managers.

Despite the action of Walker's and Kay Steel's drivers, other T&G drivers have respected the picket line one hundred per cent. The local Trades Council stepped in quickly with fuel and food supplies. Help is also coming from the local Labour Party who are arranging a public meeting where the steelworkers can explain their case, while local sponsorship of the Tories' demonstration in London on 2nd February will

## TEESSIDE

The pickets' determination shows in their proposal to change the ISTC's name to 'Federation of Iron and Steel Trades' (FIST).

The local Teesside management claim that the strike is needless and that there is local money available. They are trying to split the strike: what they don't say is that it means even further job loss—one in three jobs, pickets estimate—on top of the announced redundancies.

Behind BSC and Villiers, Thatcher and Joseph are clearly seen to be pulling the strings. Only one picket admits to voting Tory and he says it was the worst decision of his life.

Most of the picketing has spread to the stockholders, now seen as the key to victory. Most union drivers and even some non-union have turned back at the picket lines. However the regional organiser of the T&GWU, Joe Mills, has said that drivers can cross picket lines at stockholders, which has caused considerable anger among pickets and other trade unionists. Already there has been one lobby of T&GWU offices.

The flying picket team have christened themselves the 'Nairobi Scouts' and their motto is 'To bravely go where no-one has gone before.' Their symbol is a steel worker spearing Thatcher.

There is no question of going back without victory. One picket said "We'll stay out even if it is jam and potatoes." Standing around coke braziers which roast one side while the wind freezes the other, eating baked potatoes and coke-flavoured soup, another added, "could become a way of life."

**By Bill Hopwood [Teesside Thornaby LP]**

enable some of the pickets to join the LPYS march.

It is vital that Walker's, who probably have ten weeks' supply of steel are prevented from moving it from the factory. As well as asking for extra support on the line, pickets want to see this factory and its drivers blacked throughout Britain.

All messages of support, offers of help and information or donations to P&R Harris, 35 Westminster Court, Blackburn, Lancs. BB1 1VR

**By Peter and Rossina Harris [Blackburn Labour Party]**



# STEEL WORKERS DETERMINED TO WIN



Andrew Ward (Report)

Pickets at Port Talbot

**Nine-thirty in the morning. Outside GKN Steel Stockholders at Hebburn stand two flat-back trucks loaded with steel coils. Across the entrance stand fifty picket**

**from the BSC Jarrow works.**

A heated discussion is taking place between the drivers and the pickets. It transpires that the steel

has been recently imported and should not have got through at the docks. The non-union contract drivers

are determined to deliver, so the police arrive.

Two policemen have been permanently assigned to the picket line. One steward remarks that they are the pickets' badge of merit for being good trade unionists. They radio for reinforcements.

An inspector reads the riot act. It's the same speech heard by the pickets every time. It goes "we're not here to take sides, just to enforce the law to make sure people's rights are protected."

The pickets protest that they are just there to protect

the scabs. Tempers are short and feelings are running high.

Suddenly the wagons are moving at speed. One picket just avoids being run over by flinging himself out of the path of the speeding lorry. Why don't the police do something about it?

But the pickets know nothing will be done. They've learnt a lot in the last two weeks—is that how long it's been? It seems like they've been standing there for months.

One message that's come home with a vengeance is which side the police are

on—every time a wagon arrives, so do the police—to escort it in.

Myself and two of the picket leaders go off to Newcastle to address two meetings organised by the Labour Students at the University and the Polytechnic. The magnificent sum of £64 is raised for the strike fund in the meeting and around the campus, with promises of regular donations.

As we return to the picket line a discussion is going on between the stewards from GKN and the pickets. The GKN men agree not to

handle the steel coils delivered this morning and give an undertaking that any other steel which gets through will not be handled either.

Everyone's spirits lift. They know that GKN have very little steel left and it's only a matter of days before it dries up completely.

No-one doubts that if the steelmen have any say in this strike—and they are making sure they have the maximum say—they are going to win.

By  
**Jeff Price**

## TORY SENTENCE

from page one

erly studied by Tory ministers in their desperate efforts to boost big business profits.

Even the Queen, it seems, has been threatened with a symbolic reduction in her Civil List allowance. But you can bet 'Her Majesty' will not be living one bit less majestically after the 'cuts'!

The real 'savings', says Mr Biffen, will be on welfare benefits, aid to industry, and education, along with higher duty on cigarettes and alcohol. All these will affect workers and their families—not the rich.

The press were singing their hearts out recently at the glad tidings that inflation, which had been rapidly accelerating, had dropped—by 0.1% in December. This is little consolation, however, as most experts expect inflation to be 20% again in the next few months.

Look at the rise in fuel costs. This will mean a staggering 27% rise in gas bills this year!

For the next few years, domestic gas prices will have to rise by 10% more than the current rate of inflation. Electricity prices will go up by 5% above the inflation rate.

By 1983, conservative estimates are that gas will be 80% dearer. More likely the price will have doubled. Both the British Gas Corporation and the Electricity Council are now expected to make big profits, particularly from domestic users.

So much for the benefits of North sea gas!

The anarchic market mechanism, which the Tories worship as the cure to all ills, means that even with a huge bonus in the form of North Sea oil and gas, British workers will be paying sky-high world prices for their fuel.

Who will suffer? All those on low incomes, who spend a higher proportion of income on heating than the well-off. Thousands of old people already face, in the winter, the chilling choice:—food or heating. 'Age Concern' have good grounds for fearing that many old people will go

without adequate heating because they won't be able to afford the cost.

Such price rises are equivalent to an enormous cut in wages. So are the attacks on vital services.

Workers can't afford the Tory price rises. They can't afford Tory cuts in vital health and welfare services.

In short, workers can't afford a Tory government.

The Tories' drastic cuts in living standards may featherbed the bosses with £ millions of extra profits, but they will not halt the 'irreversible decline' of British capitalism.

The crisis is of the bosses' making, and working people

must not be made to pay for it.

At the moment, the steelworkers are at the forefront of the fight to defend jobs and living standards. The whole labour movement must give them support.

The fight back against the Tories has begun in earnest. Now the labour movement must offer working people a real, bold alternative:

Fight for an £80 a week living wage for all workers; for a £35-hour week without loss of pay; for a job for every worker; for the reversal of all spending cuts, and a massive programme of useful public works.

working class. He recalled the massive demonstration of trade union strength by 10,000 Midland workers at Saltley Coke Depot in 1972. That, he said, was "one of the lessons of my life." Unity of the whole working class was the key to defeat the Tories: "with your solidarity you are invincible."

The rally was concluded by Bill Sirs, who was greeted with polite applause. He promised to continue the fight for an "honourable settlement," but this statement was immediately greeted with a cry of "20% and nothing less!"

This magnificent demonstration—one of the biggest held in Sheffield for many years—left the ISTC leaders without any doubt of the steel workers' determination to win this dispute, and win decisively.

## STEELMEN FIGHT BACK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Internationally, the support has also been marvellous.

Four German shop stewards brought fraternal greetings from Thyssens, the giant German steel-makers: "We have come to learn from your experience, to fight shoulder to shoulder with British steel workers. The European steel monopolists are working together to attack steel workers. We must link together and fight back. Your struggle is our struggle."

The standing ovation they received was a crushing reply to those who demand divisive and nationalist slogans such as import controls to 'solve' the crisis of capitalism.

Stan Crowther, Labour MP for Rotherham, won loud applause when he said that the only way to win convincing victory was to stop all movement of steel.

Keith Jones in a stirring speech pledged to fight against redundancies and the threat of de-nationalisation. He also spoke of the change taking place in the ISTC: In future, we will not stand aside as we have done in the past. We know now what fraternity really means."

Arthur Scargill, bringing the "fraternal greetings of 66,000 Yorkshire miners, their wives, and families," referred to the power of the

**Start the fight-back at the LPYS demonstration against the Tories on February 2nd. See page 3**

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