

Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

ISSUE 505
30 May 1980

15p

Militant analyses
the NEC's statement
'Jobs Peace and Freedom'

Pages 7, 8, 9 and 10

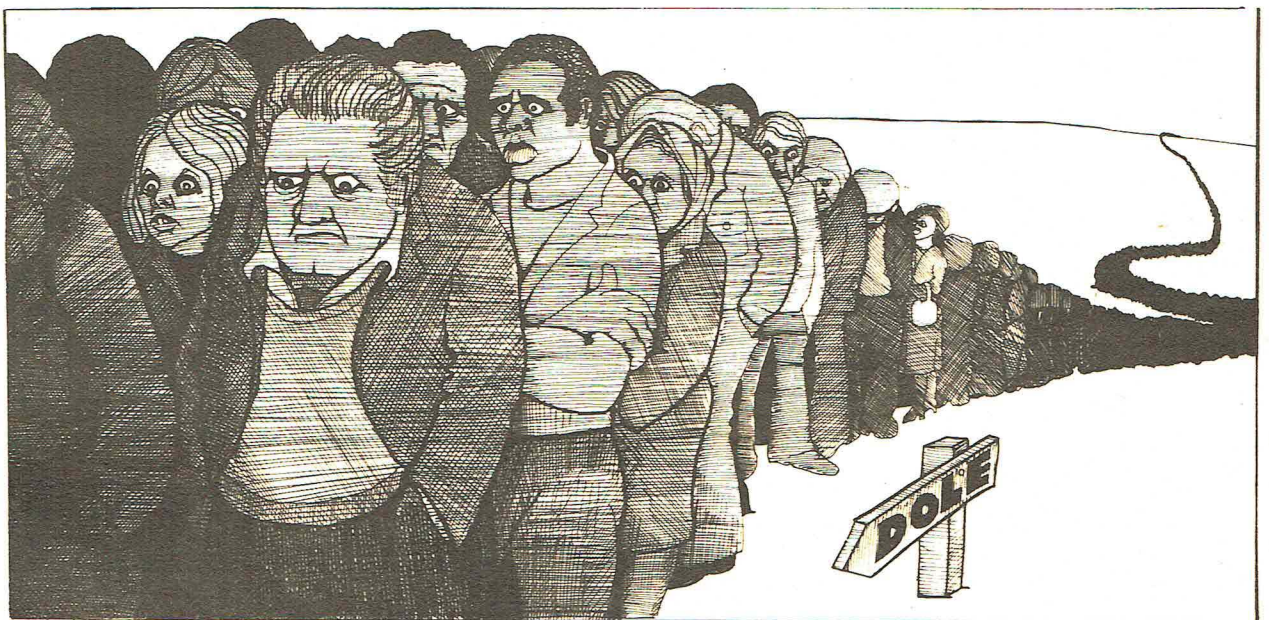
FIGHT FOR JOBS

At last the Tories have found a way of 'reducing' this summer's unemployment figures!

School leavers now won't be able to collect social security until September—so till then there's no point in them signing on!

By Kevin
Ramage

(National Chairman,
Labour Party Young
Socialists)



THE LAST ELECTION MEANT MORE THAN A CHANGE OF PARTY. IT MEANT A NEW PERSPECTIVE. [Mrs Thatcher, Tory Women's Conference, 21/5/80]



Photo: MILITANT

Is this the only 'job' the Tories can offer—'life' in the Army?

The fact that an estimated half a million unemployed people do not register already hides the result of Tory policies—absolute misery for two million people and their families.

Already, 10.5% of young people will be out of work. They now make up 40% of the unemployed. They will be joined in the search for work by over a million school and college-leavers in the scramble for just 161,000 official vacancies.

In Merseyside and

Glasgow it is a tragic situation. In every class of 30 half will not get jobs this year. In one North London school, there was a class of 30 where 25 had no jobs to go to. The other five left at Easter and still are out of work.

Little wonder that the army last year recorded their best recruitment figures for under 17½ year olds in 14 years. The Royal Marines had their best recruitment of servicemen since conscription.

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FIGHT THE TORIES

- 35 hr WEEK
- £80 MINIMUM WAGE
- A JOB FOR ALL SCHOOL LEAVERS

S.Wales - The search for work

Being unemployed I make a habit of looking through the local press for job vacancies. A quick glance through the 'S Wales Evening Post', however, was enough to make anyone despair.

This particular issue did not contain a single vacancy but on the contrary, contained eight articles describing future redundancies or threats of redundancies in Swansea, Port Talbot and the surrounding areas.

By Dave Warren
(Swansea LPYS)

Even leaving out redundancies in steel and coal, almost 1,000 people could lose their jobs in West Glamorgan by the end of the summer.

In Swansea itself, 49 people have been made redundant at the Louis Marx toy making factory following on from the 119 jobs axed in March in an

effort to "streamline the company". On top of this, the BSC foundry at Landore is ear-marked for closure by August 1st with 228 workers being discarded.

Just up the motorway at Port Talbot, a town already cowering under the threat of a shut-down of its steel-works, the

civil engineering contractors T Potter and Son has gone to the wall following the refusal of the National Westminster Bank to increase its loan.

Already they have announced that the services of 600 people are no longer required and another 150, working for the firm's sub-contractors, are also likely to go.

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**SOCIALIST
POLICIES TO END
DOLE QUEUES**

Militant

1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

FORCE THE TORIES OUT

The Tory government has opened up an offensive aimed at securing a sharp cut in real wages during the autumn-winter pay round.

Thatcher, Howe, and the other Tory leaders hope that through a combination of mass unemployment, suitably manufactured hostile 'public opinion', pressure on trade union leaders, and their new anti-trade union laws they will be able to lower living standards.

'The Times' has commented that the Tories' "entire economic strategy depends on incomes rising by less than prices over the next year and more." That is why Thatcher and Rippon have been demanding that pay increases are less than the rate of inflation, which is now officially running at 21.8% a year.

The Tories have already bluntly said that they will

attempt to set the pace in this onslaught on workers' living standards by restricting pay increases in the public sector. It appears that the Tories will seek to impose a 10% wage limit in the public sector, enforcing it through a strict Rate Support Grant settlement on local authorities and rigid cash limits on central government departments and nationalised industries.

Jack Smarth, who is likely to be the new Labour leader of the Association of Municipal Authorities, has said that councils have only the cash for a 7½% rise and that any rise above this figure will mean redundancies.

Howe added last week that "the prime minister has not ruled out" a legal incomes policy—a real "U-turn"—if they cannot hold down wages by other means. The Tories have sought to avoid imposing an incomes policy because they rightly fear that ultimately it will break down, possibly through a massive confrontation between the govern-

ment and the working class, a confrontation which they would not be confident of winning.

Thatcher's campaign for wage restraint also flies in the face of her so-called 'monetarist' views. The 'monetarists' of the Friedman school hold that wages have nothing to do with inflation, and is solely caused by a growth in the money supply!

But whatever tactics they employ, this Tory policy is a serious challenge to the labour movement. There is no way in which we can accept the idea that working people must suffer because of British capitalism's dire straits. The trade unions were built in order to safeguard and advance workers' conditions, and today that means not allowing cuts in living standards or increased unemployment.

The Tories are expecting increasing class struggles. Biffen told the recent Tory Women's Conference to expect "a protracted winter of discontent" when "we shall need to look to all the friends we have got." But they are clearly hoping that they will be able to weather the storm. Whether they are successful in this aim largely depends on the policies adopted by the leaders of the labour movement.

Unfortunately some right-wing Labour leaders are offering an olive branch to the Tory government if in return the Tories give them some concessions with which they can try to impress their membership.

Len Murray complained

to an American Chamber of Commerce lunch that "the government seems to be deliberately unravelling relationships fashioned between government, employers and unions." Denis Healey has urged the TUC to continue to press for talks with the government, and complained, "I was at the CBI dinner on Tuesday night and I don't believe there was anything in Sir Geoffrey's speech which was different from what he had said before."

Jim Callaghan, moreover, has been campaigning for the trade unions to accept wage controls once again. He explained on TV at the end of April that "we've got to convert the trade unions back to some kind of prices and incomes approach. I have started the process already."

The labour movement must clearly state that it rejects this approach of trying to change the Tories' policies by appeasement.

There may well have to be bargaining on specific points with the Tories, and such talks should not be ruled out entirely. But bargaining will only serve the workers' interests if it takes place on the basis of bold demands put forward from a position of strength—backed up by movement of mass working-class pressure.

But any such negotiations must not be any nice cosy tête-à-têtes with the Tories or nosh-ups with the bosses. There must be no question of any form of collaboration or pact with this Tory gov-

ernment. The labour movement's policy must be exactly the opposite one: that of fighting for an immediate general election.

The fight against the Tory government begins with the struggle against its policies and against the effects of the capitalist recession. There can be no acceptance of the Tories' cuts or of redundancies. It is essential that wage increases provide, at the very least, for a comfortable standard of living. Increases must at least compensate for the ravages of price increases, and be protected against future inflation through an automatic cost-of-living adjustment.

More and more workers, however, are drawing the conclusion that the only answer is to get rid of this reactionary Tory government. The government itself is already split and has been forced to retreat, as on the proposed £2 charge for eye tests. On crucial economic issues, the Thatcher clique [Joseph, Howe, and other Treasury ministers] are in a minority in the cabinet, and there are growing rumblings among Tory back-benchers about the need to replace Thatcher as leader.

A fighting campaign against this government could very quickly undermine the Tories and force a general election. No one should be taken in by the press's talk of the weakness of the labour movement and the continuing strength of the Tories' support. The media's lies are a desperate attempt to hoodwink work-

ers into thinking that there would be no real support for a drive against the Tories and to intimidate the Labour leaders into a long session of passive parliamentary opposition. But the three-month steel strike, fought without strike pay, showed how willing millions would be to struggle if they could see that their effort was going to lead somewhere.

Now it is crucial that the labour movement states that it will not accept any form of wage restraint, official or unofficial, however it is dressed up. The entire movement must rally to support any group of workers who may be picked on as a vulnerable target by the Tories and the bosses. No section of the working class must be isolated in its battle, as the Post Office workers unfortunately were in 1971.

The leaders of the movement have a duty to mobilise the movement in the struggle for a general election and the return of a Labour government — committed this time to implementing socialist policies. If the leaders are not prepared to do this, then the Labour Party Special Conference, and the Trades Union Congress in September and Labour Party Annual Conference, will have to take on the task of mobilising the movement for the defeat of this government and the sweeping away of the rotting capitalist system it is upholding.

When the bosses make you a 'scrounger'

After leaving school and spending six weeks on the dole, I was lucky enough to find a thing which is fast becoming extinct—a job!

But was it the end of my search for work and some kind of security in the form of employment? No! I had worked there for only two weeks when the factory workforce of 1,500 was informed by management in Toronto that the plant would be closing down pending the result of a 'feasibility study.'

We carried out our own feasibility study and tore the company's to shreds, by proving it to be lie after lie. But they still insisted on closing us down. It had been a foregone conclusion.

It was just my misfortune to be employed by Massey-Ferguson in Kilmarnock, an enterprise that has the power to lay off workers virtually without resistance or strings from the government, they carry so much influence.

A second thought is certainly not given to your circumstances or the positions that they are putting you into. You exist only as a number in their profit-making network.

You are thousands of miles away, why should they bother about the life of unemployed misery that they have condemned you to with a stroke of their pen? To be thrown out, cast onto the

By Julie
McGregor
(Kilmarnock LPYS)

ever mounting industrial scrapheap.

Massey-Ferguson are currently carrying out further "rationalisation" measures on "the road back to profitability" in the form of another closure at the Knowsley factory involving 500 workers.

What is there to being made redundant? Well one week you are working and getting paid as normal while the factory is gradually being run down for the closure. Work gets less and slowly but surely familiar faces leave the scene.

Then one week you get your notice and shortly afterwards you receive a cheque and are shown the door.

Once redundant, many find it difficult to adjust to not having to get up early in the morning to put in a hard day's graft, especially those employed by the firm for a long time.

Many become frustrated, knowing that they are fit and capable to work for a good few years yet, but being unable to find employment because it just doesn't exist. People do not have the same companionship and try to find enough to do to get the day in reasonably well. You also miss the wage packet, quickly learning how to do an even cheaper week's shopping

and existing on basic needs.

Meeting men who had been paid off earlier is disheartening, you know that you are coming out to the same situation. To see the traditional family breadwinner carrying out the role of job searching, knowing full well it is hopeless.

Some have started their own little businesses, knowing that this is the only way they will be able to work again. Others go for walks, dig the garden and catch up on household jobs. It's not so bad for them just now that the weather is good and they have got their redundancy money, but what happens when the money runs out and the odd jobs about the house are all done?

Such is the degradation of some that they will not leave their home or go into town because they feel so guilty at their own predicament of being unemployed. People know they are unemployed and the person cannot face them in this knowledge. Thanks to the image of the unemployed as painted by artist Maggie Thatcher (she paints everybody's future black) in her "scrounger" campaign.

Seeing a thriving and profitable industry that had excellent work records lying empty, the shell of a former hive of industry, you see the outcome of the insanity that overcomes the bosses and shareholders in their clamour for more and faster profits.

Just why we were closed

down is a secret locked up in a filing cabinet in Toronto. Perhaps it was because we did not produce armaments to threaten and kill fellow workers in the interests of capitalism. No, we only made combine harvesters, a machine which could have been put to much needed use in helping the starving millions, the "third world", those that the capitalists abuse and oppress.

Our factory was also unique: the only one in the country to produce combines. Now they will all have to be imported.

I finish my last day of work on 6 June, when I am made redundant. Then I have to go back to the living death of the dole queue. Six weeks was long enough before. Who could look forward to the soul-destroying days of fruitlessly job hunting, surviving on your dole money so grudgingly given to you by the state?

What am I now? A worker reduced to being just another statistic in the unemployment figures and in being unemployed am I not another of those lazy scroungers?

This time my spell on the dole is indefinite. Massey-Ferguson was one of the largest employing firms in the area, its closure was one of a local trend.

My experience made me politically aware, it led to my realising the significance of politics in everyday life. And it is only when the masses are so educated and only when we rid ourselves of such a society that we will be free from the real parasites who prey on the working class.

London Trade Unionists' Day School Saturday June 7th

Bob Wright, AUEW presidential candidate, will be one of the leading trade union figures at the 'Militant' Trade Union Day School. The school, organised by London 'Militant' supporters, is a chance for trade unionists and labour activists to have the fullest possible discussion on the issues raised by the May 14th TUC 'Day of Action', with the morning session being 'The Employment Bill and Tory Economic Strategy.'

Other main speakers during the day include Ron Brown MP, Peter Taaffe [Editor of 'Militant'], Stan Sheridan [South Yorkshire ISTC] and Bill Mullins [senior steward, T&G, Rover, Solihull]. The afternoon includes seminars on 'Workers' Control', 'What kind of nationalisation?', 'The role of the police in industry' and 'The General Strike 1926.' There will be speakers from Trades Councils, NUM, NGA, NUPE, and the Labour Party.

London Trade Unionists Day School
Saturday 7th June 10am to 6pm
Sir John Cass's Foundation Secondary School, Stepney Way, London E1
[Nearest tube: Stepney Green]

For further information contact: Peter Jarvis, 'June 7 Day School', Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

'We won't rot on the dole'



Part of the 5,000-strong LPYS demonstration 'Youth against the Tories in February

Unemployment has reached record levels. Hundreds of thousands of school leavers face the prospect of 'signing on'. But this year it will be even worse.

Thousands of apprenticeships in industries like steel, shipbuilding and jobs in the civil service etc, normally taken by school leavers have been destroyed by the policies of the Tory government.

Back in 1978, over a third of a million of the unemployed had been continuously out of work for 52 weeks. Now the position is even more horrific.

The problem for youth has been described. "In the less prosperous areas of Wales, the North of England, and parts of Scotland, unemployment among juveniles has a deeper significance. Those who are unemployed have in many cases had little or no employment since leaving school, and even where they eventually get work, the duration of their unemployment between jobs is more prolonged."

This grim but accurate picture of life in the 1980s, was written in 1935—in the darkest depths of the depres-

By Nick Toms

(LPYS National Committee)

sion.

This is where the capitalist system is trying to drive us back to, in a mad rush for profits. And what a rush—a few days ago the profit figures for Shell (remember the rise in petrol prices) were announced as being 'a little disappointing'—they only made £8 million a day.

While the 'experts' count the numbers and work out the percentages, unemployment takes a far more gruesome toll. Corby, which has been devastated by the run down of the steel works, had its problems recently outlined: "Infant mortality 50% above the national average, an illegitimate birth rate more than double that of neighbouring towns....alcoholism, juvenile crime, drugs—there is a glue-sniffing craze there at the moment...."

The Labour Party Young Socialists are not prepared to see a generation of working class youth rot on the dole. We demand that councils open up free day centres for unemployed youth to meet, and organise themselves. All municipal facilities such as swimming pools etc should be free for the unemployed.

As long as we live under a

system that cannot provide work for all, we must demand work or full pay. We shouldn't have to suffer for the problems of the capitalist market.

Every extra person on the dole weakens the position of the working class to defend itself from the attacks of the bosses. The whole Labour Movement needs to take up a socialist programme as the

only alternative to a future of mass unemployment.

Support the Labour Party Young Socialists in the fight for: A 35-hour week with no loss of pay! A guaranteed job for every school leaver! No redundancies! Open the company accounts—let's see where the profits go! Nationalise firms threatening redundancies under workers' control and management.

Come and enjoy LPYS Summer Camp

This year's LPYS Summer Camp will be bigger and better than ever. The National Committee are aiming for an attendance of about 800. Among the speakers who have already agreed to come are Tony Benn MP and Frank Allaun MP. The week will include special rallies on Chile, Northern Ireland, and a debate between 'Militant', 'Tribune' and the Manifesto Group on 'Which way for Labour?'

A new innovation this year is the inclusion in the seminars during the week of three special commissions of three seminars each, one on trade union work, one on the Labour Party, and one for school students. These com-

missions will consist of sessions on both the political issues, and on organising our work in these areas as LPYS members.

Not only will it be an excellent week politically, but also socially! A disco is being organised, not to mention a couple of club nights—start practising now! During the daytime many sporting activities are arranged.

Book your summer holiday now—July 26-August 2, LPYS Summer Camp, in the Forest of Dean! Cost? Only £35, three meals a day included. All you need to is to bring your own tent (or borrow one!) Send your booking fee of £5 to Andy Bevan, LPYS, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.

WHAT KIND OF INQUIRY NEEDED IN BRISTOL?

The one-day visit last week to St Pauls, Bristol, by a parliamentary Select Committee has renewed calls for a full inquiry into April's riot. But there is confusion within the local community over who should conduct the inquiry.

Very few black youth went to see the Select Committee on Race Relations. As one of them told me, what could be expected from people down from London on a fleeting visit "in their soft seats with Parker pens."

With a Tory majority on the Select Committee, will they get to the roots of the problems facing St Pauls?

A full inquiry is required. But who should undertake it? In the aftermath of the riots, with an absence of any clear leadership in the black community, various self-appointed 'leaders' and spokesmen of community groups have come forward.

It is vital that all the different groups are brought together under one umbrella to conduct a thorough inquiry. That is why the LPYS has called for a labour and trade union inquiry.

Such a demand has gained a response within the local labour movement. Four trade union branches have donated funds to the Labour and Trade Union Defence Campaign, established to help defendants charged after the riots.

St Pauls Labour Party, in conjunction with neighbouring Ashley LP, has held a public meeting in the area. The trades council is investigating whether to set up an inquiry into the question of police harassment and social conditions in St Pauls. This pressure must be maintained through trade union and Labour Party branches.

Understandably many black youth are suspicious of the Labour Party. They want to know what Labour has done for them during its years of controlling Bristol City Council.

And the right-wing in the Labour Party still do not want to take up the issues. They oppose any political activity in the area by ward parties and the LPYS.

But it is vital that angry black youth are won to the only movement that can really change their lives—the organised labour movement. It would be tragic if the energies are wasted in either hoping for help from the Tories above, or in isolated fringe activities.

Some so-called community leaders have proclaimed that socialists should keep out of St Pauls because "blacks don't want politics." Some of us live here though and are determined to change it.

One of these spokesmen, an ex-Liberal candidate, has said that what is required is a judicial inquiry into the events of April 2nd—not with just any old High Court judge presiding but one who would be sympathetic to the conditions in St Pauls and who could identify with the plight of unemployed black youth.

Such a specimen would be hard to find. But even then, diagnosis is not enough.

Cure is required and only the working class bringing round it other sections of the population, fighting on a clear socialist programme can provide that. And that is what we must argue and fight for in the period ahead.

By Pat Graham

(Secretary, St Pauls Labour Party)

Militant Readers' Meeting 'Unemployment and Housing'
Thursday 12 June, 7.30 pm
Central Hall,
Old Market, Bristol

JOIN THE FIGHTBACK

The Labour Party Young Socialists, the largest socialist youth movement in Britain, have organised a national Week of Action against school leaver unemployment to highlight the importance of working class youth taking up the fight for a socialist alternative to the Tories' attacks. This Week of Action is part of our regular campaigning work, which we organise alongside our local branch meetings.

Join us in the Labour Party Young Socialists in the struggle to get rid of the Tories at the earliest possible opportunity, and replace them with a Labour government committed to socialist policies, as the only alternative to a future of 2½ million or more unemployed.

For further details of your local branch, write to: LPYS, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.

'Get out' if you're single

The Wokingham Constituency Labour Party Anti-Cuts Committee and LPYS are campaigning against a proposal by Bracknell District Council Tories to throw about 600 youngsters off the housing waiting list. If this proposal is implemented it will mean that single people currently on the waiting list under the age of 25 will no longer be eligible for council accommodation.

Bracknell being a New Town has hardly any privately owned rented accommodation. Therefore the under-25s will either be forced to leave the town in search of housing or to live with parents or

relatives. This callous proposal must be seen in the context of the increasing number of people on the housing waiting list, which now stands at 3,652.

Of this figure 1,149 are single people, of whom about 60% are between the ages of 18 to 25. Clearly the Tories have decided to 'solve' the housing problem by a 'stroke of the pen', a solution which will destroy the hopes of youngsters finding houses in the town.

Since the Tories gained control of the council four years ago the housing waiting list has risen from about 800 to the current figure of 3,652. Yet only 62 new council houses will be built in 1980/81 and 48 in 1981/2.

At the same time the Tories are currently negotiating the sale of 369 council houses, which will further deplete the already shrinking pool of houses to rent. The combination of council house sales and a derisively small house building programme can only mean further misery and frustration for all those people in housing need.

This Tory attack on the housing hopes of Bracknell's youngsters is of obvious importance to the LPYS, some of whom are directly affected. But more importantly the LPYS can play a leading role in a campaign to co-ordinate opposition to the proposal.

The Labour Group on the District Council has persis-

tently opposed the Tory majority's housing policies and will bitterly fight this current proposal by every means at its disposal. However, the fight must be taken into the wider labour movement if the Tories are to be defeated.

The bold socialist policies of the Labour-controlled Bracknell Town Council have shown what can be achieved in terms of winning seats from the Tories. The labour movement in Bracknell will not let the youth be made the scapegoats for the bosses' crisis without one hell of a fight.

By Terry Pearce

(Bracknell District Councillor)

Labour Party Women's Section conference

'WOMEN MUST RECOGNISE THEIR STRENGTH'

Inflation increased to 21%; mortgages up 15%; jobless over 1.5 million and the prospect of worse to come.

This is the result of just one year of Tory rule, with the richest and most reactionary Tory cabinet for nearly 160 years.

By
Heather
Rawlings

Delegates at this year's Labour Party Women's conference demonstrated clearly in their contributions how working class women urgently need a militant, campaigning Labour Party Women's conference prepared to take up and fight on such issues as rising prices, unemployment, cuts in the welfare state and nursery closures.

As **Sheila Woodhead**, a 'Militant' supporter, pointed out, many women are not active in the labour movement because they feel incapable of changing anything. The job of the LP Women's sections is to galvanise these women and give them a lead to help them recognise their own strength.

The women's section can play an important role in building a mass Labour party, but **Margaret Creear** of Rochdale Women's section, warned that numbers are not enough. We must develop the commitment to socialism and use the Labour Party as a weapon to achieve this.

The conference passed many resolutions calling for the restoration of all Tory cuts in services and for an

improvement in many areas, such as the NHS. One delegate at the rostrum complained that all the resolutions passed were forgotten by the delegates once the conference was over.

The resolutions may be forgotten, but the main reason why nothing is done is that no economic policy is passed to enable a future Labour government to implement the reforms called for in the resolutions.

In the debate on unemployment, the resolution from **Llanelli**, moved by **Muriel Browning** was narrowly defeated.

It spelt out a programme calling on the next Labour government to nationalise the big monopolies and finance houses because, to implement much needed reforms, capitalism must be broken and replaced with a democratic socialist system.

The delegate from **NOLS** attacked the programme of 'Militant', particularly our demand for the nationalisation of the 200 top monopolies on the grounds that it would

not help women because we'd still have male directors!

Margaret Creear, in a stirring speech which was enthusiastically received, pointed out members of the capitalist class, no matter what their sex, were still class enemies.

Doug Hoyle, for the Labour Party NEC replied to the debate on unemployment.

He criticised the resolution from **Llanelli** on the grounds that it was too woolly. We should have spelt out which monopolies were to be nationalised in the resolution!

In the debate on racialism and immigration, 'Militant' supporters were in the fore-

front of drawing conference's attention to the blatantly racist and sexist laws that are being introduced by the Tory government.

Conference voted for the repeal of all immigration acts and an end to immigration control.

The most important debate of the conference was probably on Labour Party democracy and the commission of enquiry. The National Women's Advisory Council refused to allow the most important issues to be debated—such as the election of the party leader and reselection.

But a victory was scored for the left when, on a card vote,

conference rejected the statement of the committee which included such demands as the abolition of women's places on the NEC, and other such organisational measures.

Delegates rightly argued that the reorganisation was a political attack on the NEC, and the NEC must be under the control of National Conference. Because this section was referred back, conference had voted for the status quo.

At this year's women's conference, the gulf between the floor of conference and the national Women's Advisory Council has widened. About 30 people attended the Militant meeting and £72 was collected for the fighting

fund. Clearly, Labour women are moving towards the socialist alternative.

No alternative was offered by the leadership of the women's conference. No programme, no campaigns—even when resolutions such as one calling for a campaign on nursery closures was passed unanimously last year, yet nothing has been done nationally.

The women's organisation needs urgent reforming into a fully democratic organisation capable of taking up and fighting on day to day issues affecting women.



Supporters of 'Militant' at Labour Party Women's Section Conference.

Northern Labour Party conference

Marxists elected as the north swings left

The record high temperatures outside the Park Hotel, Tynemouth, matched the heat of the debate inside, at the Northern Region Conference of the Labour Party.

Anger at the record level of unemployment, anger at the closure of the Consett steel works, anger at the cuts in local council spending, and most of all anger and hatred of what the Tories and their big business backers are doing to the working people of the North-East.

One of the best contributions came from **Kath Hardisty**, the youth delegate from Newcastle North, herself unemployed. She told the conference that the unemployed could not afford to wait 4 years for the election of a Labour government to solve their problems. A massive campaign against closures and redundancies must be mounted now or there would be nothing left for Labour to save.

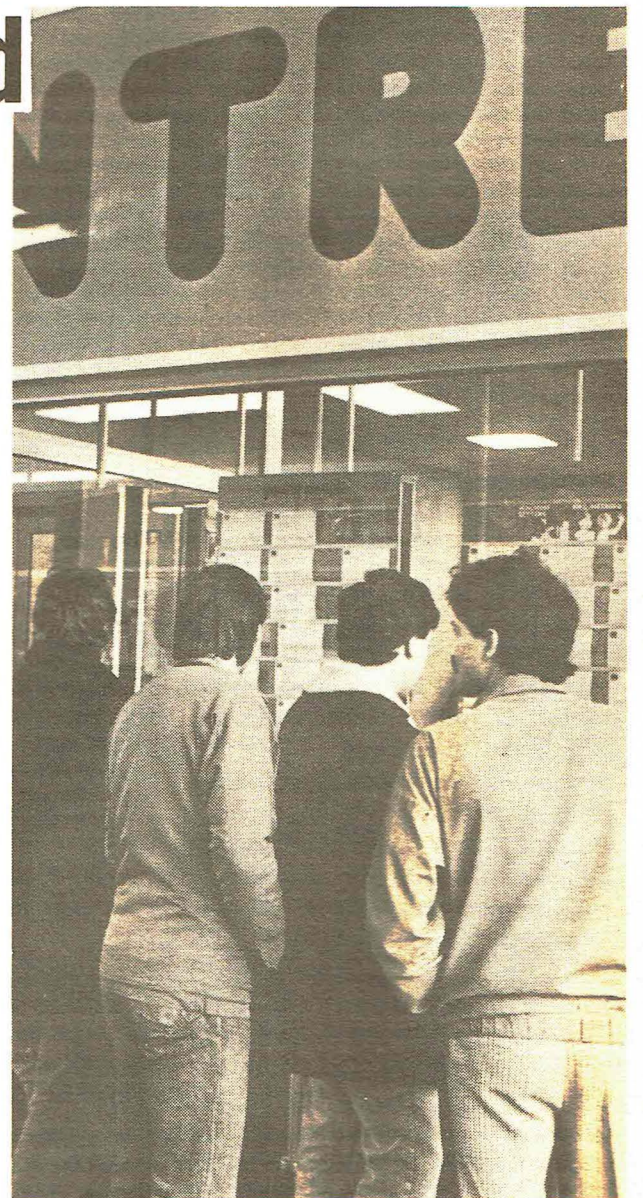
The conference, although clearly the most left-wing for

many years, failed to adopt a clear programme. For example, calls to defy the Tories on the sale of council houses got the support of a large number of delegates, but was defeated by the trade union block votes, after an appeal from the executive that they did not want local councils to stand outside the law.

Labour Party democracy and the enquiry were also discussed and conference passed a resolution calling for the Leader of the Party to be elected at National Conference. Resolutions from the right wing failed to get support and were remitted to the EC.

The swing to the left was also reflected in the voting for the executive. In one Constituency section which normally elects its three members unopposed, ten people stood.

And after a re-ballot for the third place, the three Marxist candidates (**John Pickard**, **Jeff Price** and **John Noble**) were elected, defeating the three sitting members which included the Tyne and Wear County Council Leader!



'Unemployed youth can't afford to wait four years for the return of a Labour government.'

JOHN SMITH

With regret, 'Militant' has to record the death of John Smith on Saturday May 10th.

John was a building worker, a carpenter, active in the former Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, before it merged into UCATT, and was on the London District committee of the ASW.

This committee was 're-organised' after supporting a strike on the Barbican, and John was suspended from office for three years.

He was convenor and steward at Beck and Politzer, being involved with the exhibition-building industry for nine years. Here he played a

leading role in the struggle of the exhibition-building workers for decent conditions.

He also participated in the battle in the Labour party for socialist policies. He was won to the ideas of Marxism by **Jock Milligan**, a founding member of Lenin's Communist International.

Such was his commitment to the workers' struggle, in the fifties he spent six months in Morocco to help in the Algerian revolution.

He remained a supporter of marxism and Militant for the rest of his life. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife and family in this tragic loss.

LEFT and RIGHT

■ The next time the Daily Mail points its accusing finger at 'scroungers', screams about 'trade union bully boys', or calmly tells us all in its sober editorial that we must accept a pitiful standard of living, spare a thought for its owner. The Daily Mail, worth itself about £20 million, is owned by Lord Rothermere, this country's wealthiest millionaire. He has set up a trust fund for his wife, estimated at more than £2 million. They own a £300,000 apartment in Belgravia, a £400,000 house in Regents Park, two apartments in Paris worth about £1 million, a £300,000 villa in the South of France, two apartments in New York, again worth £1 million and his latest purchase is a new house in California worth £500,000. And to give an idea of his life-style, he gave his wife £12,000's worth of jewellery for Christmas. With this in mind, it is no wonder that this parasite's rag, the 'Daily Wail', is a champion of big business and the Tories.

■ Remember those nauseating billboards at the time of the election last year produced by 'Saatchi and Saatchi' for the Tories? During the TUC Day of Action some anonymous artist remembered and took his revenge on the Saatchi and Saatchi headquarters in London, pasting up along its entrance the immortal legend: "May 14th—labour isn't working!"

■ This must be one of the richest [money-wise] Tory governments this country has seen for some time. Take for example, the Tory Arts Minister, Norman St John Stevas. He has just bought himself a race horse, because he told the Express [May 23] "I felt I should have an interest of my own." For the working class, as the Tory blows rain down, leisure facilities are rapidly disappearing or being priced out of the reach of their wage packet, and low wages are forcing more people into working overtime—what little leisure time they have left, they are usually too tired to feel like going out. But for the aristocratic capitalist class, typified by Tory MP Stevas, buying and racing a horse is a mere 'interest'.

■ The Tory press has reached new levels of hypocrisy when reporting on the situation in Afghanistan. They have kept up an unrelenting campaign with the aim of boycotting the Moscow Olympics. And as part of this propaganda barrage, the following quote by an Afghanistan sportsman, Mr F Shan, appeared in the Daily Mail: "By boycotting the Games you will at least sympathise with the suffering of an agonised people and will persuade the Soviet invader to stop its brutal aggression and withdraw its troops from Afghan soil." While condemning the reactionary manner in which the Soviet Union intervened in Afghanistan, Marxists must oppose the withdrawal of Russian troops as it would allow a counter-revolutionary upsurge, backed by western imperialism and with the reactionary religious mullahs at its head. And Marxists will also see through the pleadings of Mr F Shan, when you consider that in 1936 he was captain of the Afghanistan hockey team. The Olympics that year were held in Nazi Germany.

■ Students may remember this column turning the spotlight on Eric Douglas [son of Kirk the filmstar]. He came to London last year to study acting; but no flea-ridden bed-sit for him—no, this deb moved in [and is still there] to the Dorchester in the exclusive Park Lane area, in an apartment costing £69 a night! And this week he celebrates his 21st birthday. But he will not be scrimping and scraping a few pounds for a few drinks in the student union bar; only the best for Eric. He's having it at 'The Garden', formerly Regines, in the West End which must be one of the most expensive night clubs in the country, which has an annual membership fee costing around £200.

DISCIPLINE AT WORK- WHO DECIDES?

MEIRION EVANS
[Brynlliw Lodge
NUM] explains his
Lodge's attempt to
intervene in discipli-
nary procedures
without becoming an
arm of management

Workers' control can mean all things to all men, but for Marxists, it is seen as a living phenomenon, a struggle that takes place each day between the owners and managers of industry and the workers on the shop floor—or in this case, the pit.

There are various elements of control that take place due to past struggles, which could have taken place over many years.

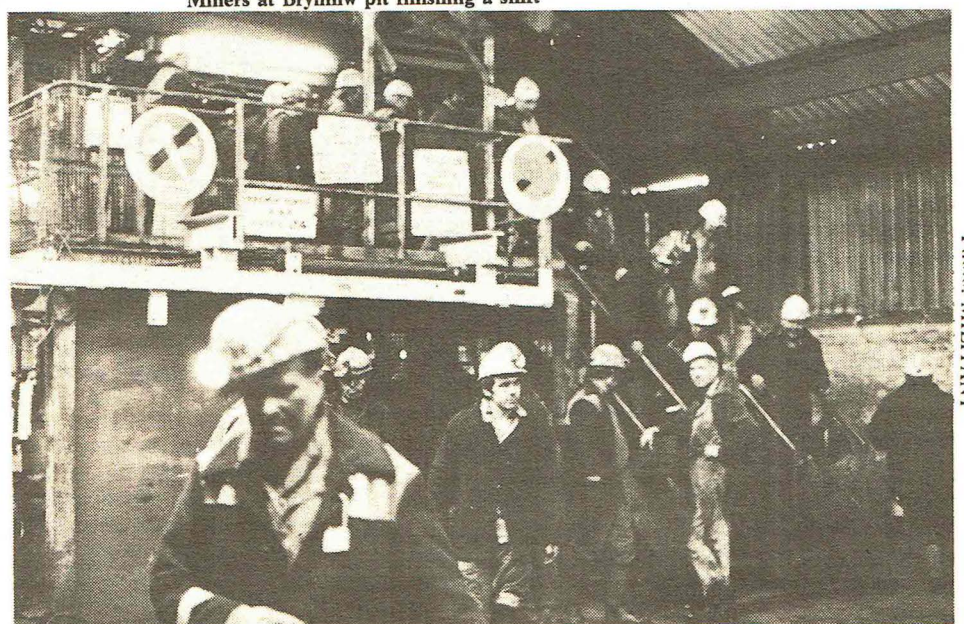
In many instances, the degree of workers' control is dependent upon the strength of the workers or their representatives and/or the weakness of management, also external factors which prevail at any given time.

In my following example there may be some who disagree with our method or approach, but this should not be taken in isolation.

Provisions are made in South Wales for 'absence committees' to be held, i.e. in order to reduce absence in the industry men can be called to attend meetings of management to improve their attendance. In our pit two representatives from the lodge committee are also in attendance.

Prior to each meeting, management hand us a list of names of workers who they intend to interview. If, as a lodge committee, we feel that a workman should not be called, e.g. if he is physically unable, we object and he is not summoned to attend.

Once at the interview, the workman's record is scrutinised, or if the workman is failing in his ability to carry on working at the same job, then an alternative job may be



Miners at Brynlliw pit finishing a shift

Photo: MILITANT

offered to him. In the cases where bad records do exist, the lodge representatives use the principle that we can only defend the defendable.

If the workman feels that he is unable to explain his absences in front of a number of men, due to personal problems, he does have the opportunity of speaking to the manager alone.

Some men have attended up to 20 of these meetings over a period of 10-15 years, others attend only three or less even, before they have been sacked.

Twelve months ago, the absence rate at our pit was verging on the 20% mark, i.e. one man in five was off work at any day of the week. The high rate, we found, was causing tremendous problems.

Key men involved in coal production were missing, which meant that face teams were working undermanned. Attendants who manned transfer points (a point where one conveyor tips into another) would be absent, therefore another workman would have to be taken from another part of the pit to replace him.

Also the high absence rate had a big effect on the

coal-face training programme whereby a new entrant would have to wait possibly three years to start his training. Because of this, the lodge committee were directed by a general meeting to study the problem and come up with something to try and reduce these absences.

Over a number of weeks the lodge committee looked at the situation and came up with some proposals, which were accepted by the following general meeting.

It was decided that the management/union absence committee continue to exist, but we as a lodge would hold our own meetings quite independent from management.

The proposals were, that if after the initial interview the workman's attendance did not improve: (1) if he was a faceworker he would lose his seniority for a month (which would mean that he would lose his place on the team—reduction in wages) and not work any overtime for that month.

(2) If he was currently carrying out his face training he would lose his seniority for a month (which would allow the next man to be trained) and also any overtime.

(3) and (4) were similar penalties for those men waiting for training, and for face craftsmen.

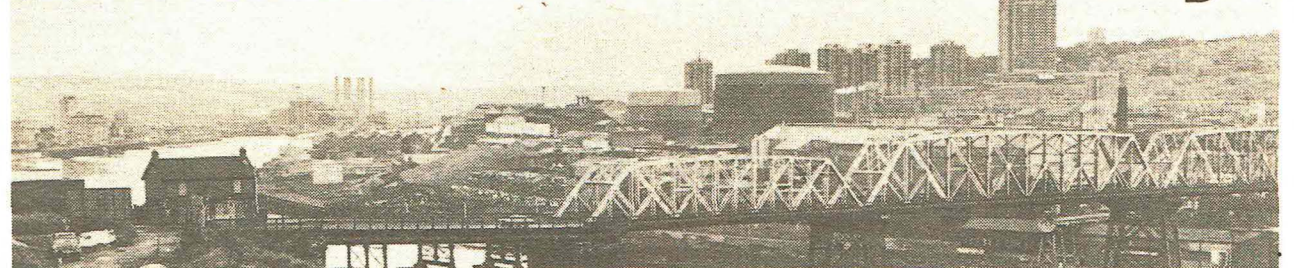
There were some categories for which no penalties could be agreed upon, viz. those men who were already on the lowest grade, and those who did not work overtime.

Since its inception we cannot claim tremendous success, but there have been a number of men whose records have improved (if their record hadn't, in all probability management would have sacked them—and we would not have been able to defend them) and are now back on their jobs, working regularly.

From the outset, we were careful that we would not be just another arm of existing management. But at the end of the day, management still hire and fire. We as a lodge had a problem, we feel we have come up with a solution in our members' best interests.

As I mentioned earlier, some may not agree with us, and I would be interested in the comments or observations of other comrades who feel they have similar problems at their workplace, particularly in the mines.

Newcastle's 'other' history



This year marks the 900th Anniversary of the City of Newcastle, and no expense has been spared by the City Council to celebrate the event.

The fine traditions and ancient history of the city are being lauded by the city fathers, and the shops are adorned with posters. Celebratory dinners and shows have been organised, and the citizens of Newcastle could be

excused for thinking that the history of their town is one of a smooth and tranquil progression towards a prosperous and expanding city.

But there is another history that has not been told. The history of the real people of Newcastle, the 900 years of toil and exploitation of the working class.

Alongside the story of the growth of the massive industries which dominate the Tyne, is the story of the development of the working class organisations in their struggle

to defend their living standards.

Newcastle now has massive and increasing unemployment, empty factories and waste ground sprawled alongside the once busy Tyne, and savage cuts in public services now, more than ever, we need to be reminded of those people who created the wealth of Newcastle, but who reaped none of its benefits.

"900 Years—A Workers History of Newcastle" does this. It tells the story of the development of the great

traditions of labour in the city, and how their fight is still being waged today.

Written and produced by Newcastle 'Militant' supporters, it is a valuable record not only of the past traditions of the working class, but it shows how the heirs of the early rulers of Newcastle still run the business of today!

Available from J. Pickard, 5 Masefield Place, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear. Cost 25p [+ postage].

TRADES COUNCILS: AN HISTORIC ROLE TO PLAY

The National Conference of Trades Councils opening on May 31st has exceptional importance for the whole labour movement this year.

Over a hundred years ago, it was this body which took the initiative in bringing the TUC itself into existence. Yet, over the years, it was relegated to a purely advisory role, carrying little weight in the decisions made by the trade union movement as a whole.

Only at times of very great crisis has it become clear, as during the general strike in 1926, that trades councils must play an indispensable role in mobilising the whole working class by "hand or by brain".

In the light of the successes and failures of the TUC's 'Day of Action' on 14 May it has again been shown that this task of mobilising the working people in the localities almost automatically falls onto the shoulders of those thousands of delegates who give their time to the building of trades councils throughout Britain.

Wherever the Day of Action was a success it was because the local trades council rose to the occasion, taking bold steps in good time to rally around it all affiliated

By Dudley Edwards
(Brighton Hove and District Trades Council)

organisations and the officers and stewards of those unions.

Without these dedicated efforts, the hesitant and rather unclear call of the General Council of the TUC would have been as ineffective as the vile propaganda of the capitalist press has claimed it was.

In the event, in many areas, organised labour was able to put on demonstrations which in size and spirit have not been seen since 1926.

It is for this reason that resolutions coming before the National Conference have great importance for all workers in the labour movement. Unfortunately these resolutions can only have an advisory character, but they cannot be ignored by the TUC General Council.

They truly reflect a growing desire by thousands of the most active, enlightened rank and file members of the labour movement for active resistance to Margaret Thatcher's attacks, both on work-

ing class standards of living and hard-won trade union rights.

Some of the resolutions to be debated at Conference reveal an increasing demand that trades councils should become the all-inclusive "working-class parliament" they were originally intended to be.

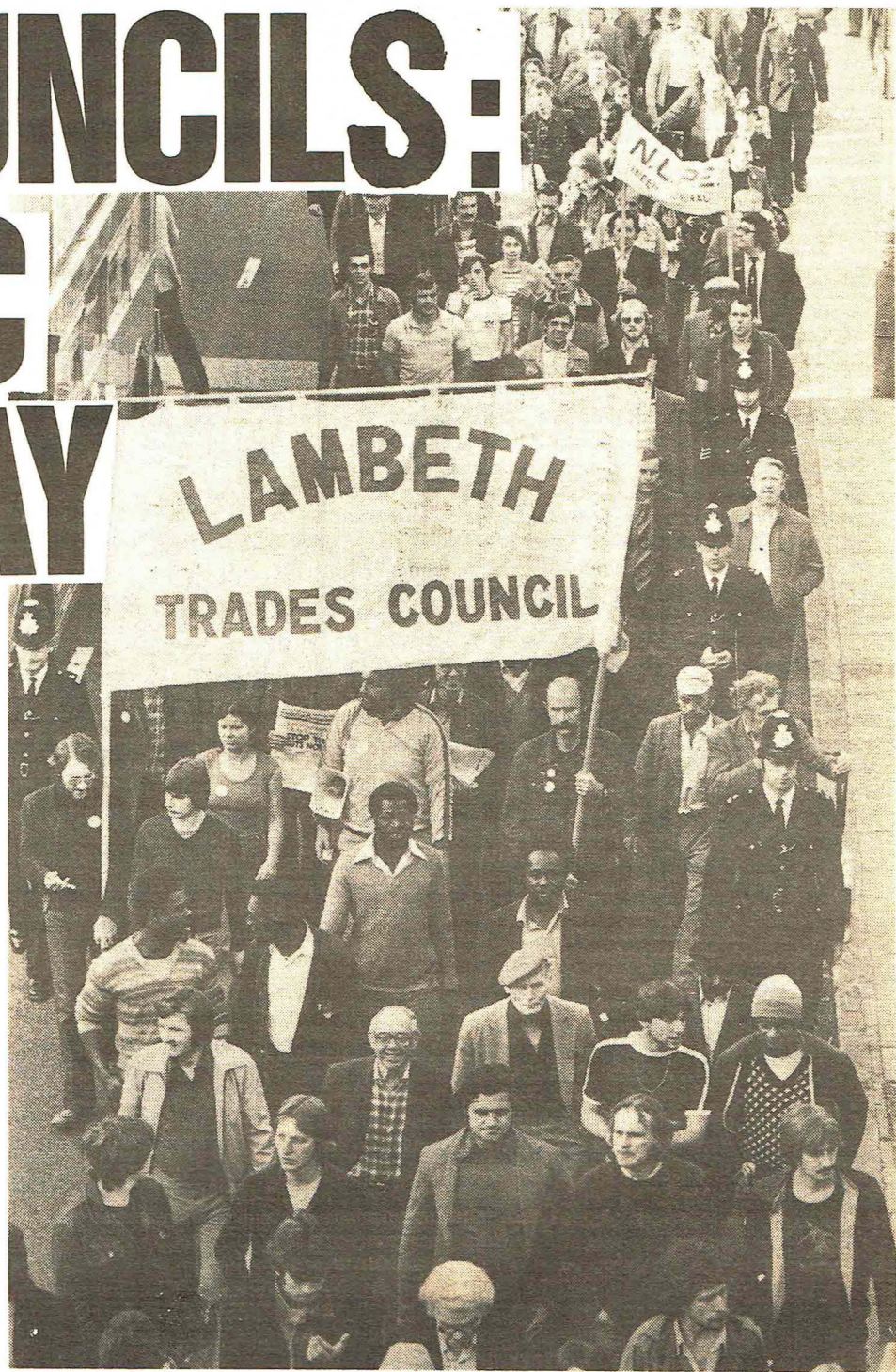
Several councils have therefore put forward proposals for constitutional changes to enhance the authority of trades councils locally; enabling them to assist and co-ordinate all industrial and social struggles in their districts.

Resolution No 1 from the Brighton, Hove and District trades council asks the TUC to "reconsider the possibility of direct representation of shop stewards' committees on trades councils."

For direct representation of shop stewards' committees

At present trades councils can only contact such stewards indirectly through branches, but in most cases the branch delegates are not stewards. Direct representation would enable trades councils to more speedily reflect day to day struggles of workers.

At the same time it would make it easier to co-ordinate their activities when a national call to action is made by the TUC.



Trades councils must have the ability to respond to day-to-day struggles of workers Photo: MILITANT

least one representative from each trades council be elected to TUC regional councils as a constitutional right."

There is also an indirect but pointed reference to the scandalous sacking of Derek Robinson from Leyland. This resolution expresses "its grave concern that shop stewards who put forward alternative proposals to those of management can be dismissed without consultation with TUC representatives concerned."

It calls upon the "TUC to use all measures in its power to ensure that shop stewards should not be dismissed without consultation with the full-time officer of the union concerned."

This resolution is therefore pressing for a real application of the traditional working-class principle that "an injury to one is an injury to all."

Too often has a valiant defence of trade union principles by rank and file delegates, as at Grunwick and now at Chix of Slough been abandoned by the TUC. Every time this happens the trade union movement as a whole is weakened.

Almost all the 28 resolutions reflect the growing anger of trade unionists against the ruthless attack of the Tory government on the social gains won by the workers in a hundred years of struggle.

Resolution No 9, for example, calls for "non-co-operation with the government's anti-trade union legislation" and asks the TUC "to get assurance from the Labour Party that when returned to office they will repeal all the anti-trade union legislation."

It also calls upon the TUC "to wage an uncompromising campaign against these anti-working-class measures." It calls for a restoration of all cuts in social benefits and an

extension instead of a contraction of existing social services. All the demands in these resolutions must certainly be backed by the Labour Party in or out of office.

If there is a weakness in the resolutions, it is in the section dealing with economic affairs. Resolution No 7 "recognises the reality of the world economic crisis of capitalism." It also calls for a reduction in working hours as a means of combatting mass unemployment. This must be supported by the entire movement.

The solution it proposes, though, is the 'alternative economic strategy.' It does not define what this strategy is, but as the articles on the centre pages of this week's paper show, "you cannot control what you don't own."

Only the taking over of all the commanding heights of the economy and the driving through of a socialist economic plan will bring about any real increase in the production of real wealth in Britain today.

Writing in the 'Labour Standard' 99 years ago Frederick Engels, who kept in close touch with the London Trades Council, wrote the following inspired words:

"The workpeople of England have but to will and they are masters to carry every reform social and political which this situation requires. Then why not make that effort?"

Today this situation requires that that effort be made to fundamentally change society. In bringing together all sections of the working class, the trades councils of Britain can play an historic part in bringing that change about.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

■ A House of Commons Select Committee has been told by Environment Secretary Heseltine that he "could not foretell" what would be the effects of the planned 50% reduction in housing public expenditure. Local authorities, he claimed, were being given "vastly more freedom" and allowed to choose their own priorities!

He did admit though that council house approvals had fallen from the 1975-76 level of 116,000 to 33,000 in 1979-80. Councils like Hounslow which have announced that they will be able to start no new house-building next year might be able to enlighten him on the effects. The Tory chairman of the Association of District Councils said that prospects were "very grim" for anyone wanting a mortgage or improvement grant and that there was a real danger of many older houses declining beyond the point of no return.

Private housebuilding is also at a very low ebb and

has been hard hit by high interest rates. The National Housebuilding Council reckons that housing starts are likely to be down from 140,000 in 1979 to 105,000 this year and completions likely to take a similar fall. The total could be the lowest since the 1920s.

Already by February 1980 the level of unemployment in construction had risen to 13.6%. What will that figure be by the end of the year?

■ The strong move away from investment in British industry by British financial institutions continues apace. It has been further aided by the end of exchange controls last year. The controls did not prevent investors putting their money into profitable foreign investments even when controls were in operation, through devious means. Since the lifting of controls, the trickle of overseas investment has become a flood.

Recent figures show that purchases of overseas company and government securities shot up from £195 million in the first half of 1979 to £490 million in the latter half, following controls relaxation in July and abolition in October.

■ Since last September, unemployment has officially risen by 17.5% nationally. Some areas of the country have suffered an even larger rise though. The East Midlands has seen an increase of nearly 25% while unemployment in the West Midlands, Yorkshire and Humberside, and the North West has shot up more than 20%.

According to the 'Financial Times', two areas, Scotland and Northern Ireland, have had "below average" increases. But as in Scotland it means unemployment up from 7.3% to 8.6% and Northern Ireland increasing from 10.4% to

11.4% workers in these areas will hardly be rejoicing.

■ According to latest Department of Industry figures, investment by manufacturing industry fell to £930 million [at 1975 prices] in the first quarter of 1980. This is 4.3% below the corresponding period last year. The government survey found that firms anticipated a drop in manufacturing investment of 6 to 10% this year.

Their statistics also show a large fall, totalling £371m, in stocks held by manufacturing industry. This is the largest drop since records started in 1955. Stocks of fuel, materials and work in progress have been cut because of "lack of business confidence" say the Industry Department, aggravated by the high cost of borrowing to finance them.

As interest rates are likely to remain high, stock levels are likely to be cut even further.

LABOUR PARTY



SPECIAL CONFERENCE

A SOCIALIST PROGRAMME THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE

Militant analyses the NEC's statement 'Jobs Peace and Freedom'

The National Executive's statement to the special party conference will be welcomed by the majority of Labour Party members.

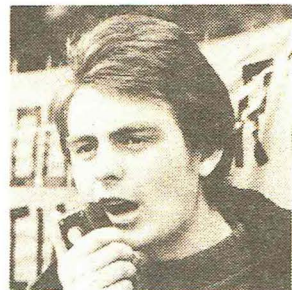
If implemented, the policies outlined in 'Jobs, Peace and Freedom' would signify a tremendous advance for the labour movement.

After twelve months of the most anti-working class government since Baldwin, the reforms which the statement pledges the next Labour government to enact could undoubtedly win the support of the vast majority of workers and their families. Its clear departure from the "mild" Toryism of the last Labour government, which paved the way for Tory victory, marks a tremendous step forward.

The disastrous policies of Labour's right-wing leadership: cutting £9,000 million from public expenditure, presiding over a doubling of unemployment and a 5% incomes policy, get no echo in the statement, which is based on party conference decisions over the past few years.

The statement correctly proclaims that "...unemployment—now standing at more than 17 million (in the advanced countries)—is the price of capitalist economic decline." The effects of draconian attacks on living standards are clearly defined, there for all to see.

To look ahead at the



**By Tony Saunois
LPYS rep
on Labour's
NEC**

prospects for workers under capitalism is to stare at misery and poverty not witnessed for generations. Unemployment is currently soaring towards two million. One recent forecast estimated it will rocket to 3½ million by 1983. A survey conducted by the 'Financial Times' found that a staggering 40% of companies expect to reduce their workforce over the next 12 months!

The National Health Service, comprehensive education, housing and the entire "welfare state" are threatened with destruction as a result of public expenditure cuts.

Standing in opposition to the Tories' programme the statement reasserts that Labour is for "...a fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of power and wealth in favour of working people

and their families...the public ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange—against the harsh, impersonal values, inefficiency and waste of production solely for profit."

It pledges the next Labour government to extend public ownership into North Sea oil, sections of pharmaceuticals, micro-electronics, construction and building, together with a commitment to renationalise without compensation any part of state industry sold off by the Tories.

The document also promises to reverse cuts in public expenditure, make a "progressive" move towards a 35-hour week and abolish the House of Lords.

If such a programme were implemented it would even outstrip the reforms carried through by the 1945 Labour government. The decisive

questions before Party members are: will such a programme be carried through? And could such reforms, if implemented, be maintained?

Party members will recall that similar pledges and programmes were presented in 1974. The issue before the conference is: how can such a policy be put into effect? Failure to grasp this issue and spell out a viable answer is the document's fundamental weakness.

The underlying weakness is indicated by the rejection of Thatcher's programme as "foolish" and founded on "false economic thinking." The real point, not tackled by the statement, is why have the Tories changed from the policy of "consensus politics" pursued under Harold Macmillan to the "confrontation" policy adopted by Thatcher? The switch cannot be

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 10



ONLY THE LABOUR MOVEMENT CAN PREVENT WORLD WAR

Military rivalry and war—potentially the danger of a totally destructive world war—is rooted in capitalist society.

How could it be otherwise in a system based on class exploitation and oppression, with irreconcilable national rivalries between the powers and the neo-colonial exploitation of oppressed nationalities?

This is a fundamental question—ultimately the fundamental question—for the labour movement.

The NEC Statement, in the section 'Policy for Peace', rightly opposes the monstrous, world-wide accumulation of armaments. It correctly says that "a third world war would destroy civilisation..." but provides no real explanation for the arms race, and offers no analysis of the social, economic, and class factors which determine the ultimate question of war or peace.

End this grotesque waste on armaments

Since the end of the second world war there has supposedly been 'peace.' Yet every year since 1945 there has been a 'small' war somewhere. Since 1955, in fact, there have been 120 armed conflicts in 65 countries, limited of course to conventional arms but claiming an estimated 25 million lives. This bloodshed was mainly in under-developed countries of the former colonial world, the gruesome consequences of imperialism's poisoned legacy of national conflicts and social crisis.

World war between the super powers—the United States and Russia, which dominate respectively the imperialist and Stalinist camps—has been ruled out by the prevailing balance of forces. But the contradiction between the capitalist states, on one side, and the deformed workers' states of Russia and Eastern Europe, on the other, two fundamentally opposed social systems, has produced an ever accelerating race to stock-pile nuclear weapons.

In 1978, £212,000 million was squandered internationally for military purposes, £60,000 million of this on

By Lynn Walsh

armaments—70% higher in real terms than in 1960. This is when over 660 million people in the 'developing countries' go without basic necessities of life, and 8 million children die every year of hunger and illnesses related to malnutrition.

In Britain, too, workers are paying for an enormous burden of military spending, with 'defence' currently devouring £1 million an hour. Despite drastic cuts in social spending, the Tories are increasing 'defence' spending by 3% a year in real terms, pushing it up to a monstrous £8,000 million a year.

The Tory spokesmen of British capitalism are deluding themselves that they can maintain an 'independent nuclear deterrent,' apparently oblivious of the fact that Britain's arms, though a colossal waste, are nevertheless like so many pea-shooters compared to the weaponry of US imperialism and the Russian bureaucracy.

Scandalously, the last Labour government (a fact not mentioned in the statement) also continued to increase arms spending, secretly (among other things) approving £1,000 million spending on modernising polaris. This deliberate contradiction of conference policy must be vigorously condemned by the party.

The statement says "The next Labour government will reduce the proportion of the nation's resources devoted to defence so that the burden will be brought into line with that carried by our main European allies." But it is necessary to go further than this!

The capitalist governments of Europe are not the 'allies' of the working class. The labour movement has no interest whatsoever in the maintenance of useless expenditure on arms. The next Labour government must end this expenditure and, as the statement rightly says, provide alternative employment for workers in defence indus-

tries, converting the sophisticated technology now squandered on arms to socially useful projects. Labour should also cut off all arms sales to reactionary governments.

The ranks of the labour movement, however, must be warned that a sharp reduction of arms spending would provoke a furious reaction from the capitalists. Notwithstanding its delusions of military grandeur, the ruling class regards defence spending as vital to defend its property and power, against both foreign rivals and its own working class. Appeals to humanitarian principles and 'reason' will have no effect as far as the capitalists are concerned.

Labour must go to the root of the problem, the class tyranny of capitalism which can be maintained, in the last analysis, only by armed force. An attack on arms expenditure must be part and parcel of a programme to take over the commanding heights of the economy and introduce a socialist plan of production.

Spiralling arms race will not be ended by talks

The statement's "policy for peace," however, is unfortunately completely divorced from the fundamental social and economic problems facing the working class (except for passing reference to the solutions to the 'north-south' conflict proposed by the Brandt Commission). Referring to the world arms race, the statement says "we shall campaign for international peace, international co-operation, and international development"; a Labour government would enter "immediately into East-West negotiations," attempting "to breath new life into the disarmament negotiations."

But it is utterly utopian to rely on capitalist governments or the Stalinist bureaucracy making any real steps towards disarmament, just as it would be to rely on capitalism limiting unemployment or the bureaucracy granting workers' democracy.

How many times have the super powers, and lesser powers, pledged themselves to "peace" and "disarmament"? None of the many post-war negotiations or dozens of "peace" treaties, including SALT and "Detente", have made the slightest difference. The arms race is rooted in the social antagonisms within capitalism, and between the capitalist West and the Stalinist East. While the capitalist class and the Stalinist bureaucracy rule over their respective working classes, no amount of humanitarian pressure, appeals to "reason" or the like, will force them to abandon military preparations.

In the case of the Russian

bureaucracy, nuclear stock-piling is a preventative measure for fear of imperialism, which was the first to manufacture (and use in Japan) and stock-pile nuclear arms. In the case of the United States and the imperialist powers, nuclear stock-piling is motivated by fear of the Soviet bureaucracy's overwhelming superiority of conventional forces, which would enable them to take Europe and parts of the Middle East in weeks, or even days.

Once begun, the arms race has a crazy logic of its own, despite the crippling burden it now imposes on both the American and Russian economies.

With a balance of nuclear terror, the super powers' stock-piles cancel each other out. Both have the power to wipe out humanity several times over. Despite this satanic "overkill," however, the military strategists on both sides are madly striving to achieve a "first-strike capacity" capable of knocking out their opponent's nuclear arsenal, and eliminating the power of retaliation. This is why both sides are continually manoeuvring over the question of "supervision," about which neither can trust the other.

The SALT II agreement, for instance, even if implemented, will have little effect on the Soviet-American arms race. It "obliges" both super-powers to scrap a few already obsolete nuclear weapons, but actually allows them to build up their stocks of even more sophisticated weapons (up to 14,000 nuclear warheads each). Prior to the signing of SALT II, however, Carter had already approved the US's MX mobile missile system, clearly intended to achieve a massive "first-strike" capacity—and inevitably giving a new twist to the arms spiral, with steps by the Soviet bureaucracy to produce a counter-system as soon as possible.

Class relations decide the question of world war

Even if temporary arms reductions were genuinely agreed, the fundamental antagonisms between the powers would make it certain that in the event of renewed tension and conflict science and technology would rapidly be applied again to the development of even more sophisticated and destructive weapons. As it is, however, the revolution in Iran and especially the Russian invasion of Afghanistan have been seized on by the leaders of American imperialism as the excuse for a new and even more costly round of nuclear arms building.

Has Afghanistan in fact brought the danger of a third world war nearer? The NEC Statement clearly contends



Workers are paying an hour for Britain

that because of this and other recent events "the danger of (a third world war) breaking out is growing alarmingly."

In reality, however, Afghanistan (which is a relatively minor conflict compared to the long war over the fate of Vietnam) is just one symptom of imperialism's world-wide crisis, which has brought about the domino-like collapse of its puppet dictators and sharpening economic difficulties. The intolerable contradictions developing throughout a decayed capitalist system internationally,

together with the growing problems in the Stalinist states, has inevitably led to growing instability and a heightening of international tensions. Afghanistan, which is far less serious in its implications for imperialism than the revolution in Iran or the possible overthrow of its client regime in South Korea, is being used by the US as a diversion and as the pretext for whipping up reactionary, nationalist fervour.

Afghanistan is not a new "Sarajevo," and recent events have not made world war nay

The threat of world war given priority over the socialist revolution because socialism is the nuclear annihilation

MOVEMENT WAR



ing £1,000,000 ins 'defences'

more likely. The Statement is mistaken in implying that it is the build-up of nuclear arms which makes war inevitable, or that it is diplomatic misunderstandings or the mistakes of "world leaders" which can precipitate world war.

The fundamental question of war or peace depends not on relations between the powers, but on relations between the classes.

Given the existing balance of class forces, with the enormous power of the workers' organisations in the

advanced countries and elsewhere, and while the capitalist class is itself in direct control, nuclear war is ruled out. The idea of "limited nuclear war" is absurd. A "limited" or so-called "tactical" nuclear engagement would inevitably lead to a holocaust, resulting in the complete destruction of capitalism, Stalinism and most of humanity, contaminating the earth indefinitely. Total destruction is not in the interest of the exploiting capitalist class (or the parasitic bureaucratic caste of the Eastern

is not a problem to be struggle for socialism— only way of averting

Bloc).

But the present balance cannot last indefinitely. World capitalism is rotten-ripe for socialism, and if the working class fails we would then face the hell-black prospect of counter-revolutionary reaction which would make nuclear war inevitable.

The world would be at the mercy of bonapartist dictators equipped with atomic hardware. Consider Pinochet with nuclear missiles, or the maniacal American generals in Vietnam who used mass terror weapons like blanket bombing, napalm, and lethal defoliants. What if they had a free hand?

With the intense aggravation of class tensions which will accompany capitalism's death agony, such madmen, unbalanced by the crisis, would sooner or later attempt to resolve their problems with a "first-strike" against Russia. It would be the carrying out of Hitler's final order: "Destroy everything!"

This is the terrifying danger we face in the next ten to twenty years—unless the working class of America, Europe and Japan take power and establish socialism.

The threat of world war, therefore, is not—as the Statement implies—a problem of such urgency that it must be given priority over the struggle for socialism. On the contrary, socialism is the only means by which the ultimate threat of nuclear annihilation can be averted. The inevitability of nuclear war if the workers fail to take power is the fundamental reason for the urgent necessity of transforming society on socialist lines.

The present strength of the workers internationally, moreover, not only makes it impossible for the imperialists to launch a world war, but gives the working class an overwhelming superiority of social power in the battle to decide the future of society. What is as yet lacking is the mass consciousness of the need for socialism, and the organisation of the exploited classes around a clear programme. Putting "peace" before socialism could only delay the development of conscious, mass support for socialist aims.

The labour movement in Britain and internationally must explain the necessity of socialism to avoid nuclear war—and point to what could be achieved if, with a world-wide plan of production, the science and technology now squandered on arms were used to eradicate hunger, disease, and the terrible poverty and human misery which exists throughout the world. The living standards of the whole world population could be raised enormously, with a dramatic reduction of the working day and working week. The material well-being of the earth's people could for the first time be assured, and human culture would flourish as never before.

The NEC Statement says that the next Labour government must "plan our trade in manufactures...to protect and promote industrial development in Britain" — which most people will take to mean import controls.

But protectionism will provide no way out of the crisis. With a socialist plan of production, there would of course be control and planning of trade and capital movement, as well as of trade. But in a capitalist economy—and the alternative economic strategy would leave the 'commanding heights' in the hands of big business—import controls not only would not restore British industry, but would have adverse and reactionary consequences for the working class.

If British capitalism adopted protectionism—and sections of big business are already calling for a tariff wall against foreign rivals—there would inevitably be retaliation by the other capitalist economies, which would create even worse problems for the sick British economy.

In a "siege economy" the bosses would use import controls, not to invest and modernise, but to milk their outdated plant and low-paid workers for higher profits. This is exactly how the competitive "advantage" of a massive devaluation was used. Shielded by tariffs, the bosses would push up their prices to the highest possible level.

Support for protectionism by the labour movement, moreover, implies an alliance between the workers and the bosses to save a bankrupt British capitalism. The Tories and the employers would also exploit this politically, using "economic nationalism" to whip up the most reactionary nationalistic sentiments and prejudices—which would be turned against the labour movement.

The call for import controls goes against the fundamental principle of workers' unity across the national borders of capitalism. International solidarity is vital to the struggle of the labour movement.

Mass unemployment and de-industrialisation must be fought with bold socialist measures, hand in hand with the workers of other countries who are facing exactly the same fundamental problems.

In the following article an unemployed Yorkshire textile worker gives his views on the call for import controls.

By John Vasey

(Former shop steward,
National Union of
Dyers, Bleachers &
Textile Workers)

There are now 840 jobs at Homfray carpets in my area, about 560 at Birstall, about 300 at Batley. The workforce has recently experienced two waves of redundancies. 1978 saw 66 jobs lost. I joined the unemployed this February when the second lot of redundancies meant that a total of 159 of us lost our jobs.

The only alternative ever

IMPORT CONTROLS NO WAY OUT

"The main reason is the contradiction between import controls and concept of union solidarity."

heard to unemployment was import controls. With the union offering no fight for jobs in the industry, import controls seemed a demand to support. Since the start of the year, however, I have joined the Labour Party and come to read and support the arguments for a socialist alternative based on workers' action.

Homfray's production has been changing from long-lasting, quality axminster to the cheaper, oil-based, tufted carpets. In 1978 management put in new machines aimed at producing tufted carpets, and reducing manning levels. In less than two years, they were making redundancies even in this department.

The firm tried to chase the new expanding sales of tufted carpets, but lost out to competitors. This set-back came at the time when Associated Weavers of Bradford and BMK of Liversedge closed their factories and withdrew from the market.

We hear that cheap imports are to blame, yet the prices in the showrooms remain high. In effect, the distribution section of the industry has had a bonanza, insisting on low prices from manufacturing without passing benefits onto the public.

Burton's tailoring gave the same medicine to their workers, sacking some 10,000 over a number of years by transferring business to distribution and property speculation.

No worker has a secure future so long as industry and management are motivated by the drive for profits for the share holders.

A partial explanation for the decline in sales is shown in the axminster section. The machines there were installed when the carpet industry first came to the district in 1936, and little investment has followed. The result is an expensive carpet product. However, even at a high price the axminster range of wool carpets would be far more economical than the new cheap tufted carpets, because wool carpets last for years and years. Yet the reality is that workers cannot afford the initial outlay. To be more specific, our family had to buy a carpet from a carpet sale even though both my father and myself worked in the mills.

For 40 hours the wage was £63.01. Even with the extra 1p you can see why textile workers cannot even buy their own products, let alone those produced by other workers.

The wage also gives the lie to the idea that imports are

the result of cheap labour abroad. We are today's cheap labour.

Even a temporary lack of sales brings massive problems. Recently, the firm stockpiled carpets well above the 'safety level' due to lack of sales. This not only made for dangerous working conditions but the thousands of pounds tied up in the stocks were serviced by loans from the banks at crippling high interest rates, just as is any new machinery or developments.

The main reason to look for an alternative to import controls is the contradictions between this and the concept of union solidarity.

Since starting work, I have always liked unions and the idea of standing together, and, yes, even been proud of being a worker involved in production. Alongside this developed an attitude to management, who always set you against one another, even attempting to stop people knowing who is on what wages.

It seems more in keeping with the idea of solidarity to support the ideas of internationalism argued for by the "Militant". Such an approach, hopefully, could stop a revival in nationalistic ideas. Regrettably, part of the TUC demonstration on 9 March carried union jack placards in support of import controls. The steelmen would not have gained as much support from abroad as they did in the recent strike if the labour movement was purely national and there had been no tradition of internationalism built up over the years.

Workers will move more for a socialist programme. I had never understood internationalism until recently. In the past, I was not even too enthusiastic about immigrants coming into the country. But prejudice and mistaken ideas can be dispelled if the unions and the Labour Party give a lead on jobs, wages and other issues worrying workers.

The change is already starting in the textile unions.

The left of the trade unions have a duty to point workers not towards the narrow nationalistic demands of import controls, but towards the international strength of the trade union movement.

For a European 35-hour week and a minimum industrial wage! The unions fighting on these issues could realise the potential of international co-operation of trade under a socialist planned economy, refuting the import-control demands which belong to the 1930s.

A SOCIALIST PROGRAMME THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE

Continued from page 7

It is not determined by the subjective qualities of the Tory leadership, but by the "capitalist economic decline" to which the statement refers, and which has reached catastrophic proportions as far as Britain is concerned. It is this that underlines the Tories' "monetarism", a new name for the old policies of savage deflation adopted in past periods of recession and slump.

It is the special crisis of British capitalism, the "sick man" of the capitalist world, in the context of acute world-wide difficulties for the capitalist system, that will confront the next Labour government.

The inadequacy of the NEC statement becomes clear when it talks of Labour's economic alternative being based on "expansion". Public ownership is for a few key sectors, as part of a long-term "rolling programme" of step by step nationalisation, with planning agreements to direct the development of private sector big business. It is clearly expansion within the framework of a "mixed" (i.e. capitalist) economy which is being proposed as the alternative.

But if it were simply a question of encouraging "expansion", which the statement claims "will make it easier for industry to contain costs," why has big business not itself chosen such a path? The slashing of living standards, with inevitable social and political clashes as a result, is not the most beneficial course for capitalism. They would undoubtedly prefer, if it were compatible with their drive for profit, to avoid mass unemployment, to return to steadily rising living standards, and thus to preserve social peace as the best framework for the continuation of capitalist exploitation.

But big business produces for profit, and is now faced with an acute crisis of profitability as a result of the economic contradictions within the system and the adverse social and political conditions which have appeared with the exhaustion of the long post-war boom.

Even North Sea oil, once hailed as the "saviour" of Britain's economy, has had a partially negative effect. While providing rich profits to a handful of big companies (many foreign-based multinationals), cushioning the balance of payments, and keeping down the national debt, the oil has also—through helping to sustain the pound at a relatively high level against major currencies—actually helped undermine the competitiveness of British exports.

The capitalist class is out to force workers and their families back to economic levels of the 1930s because they have no alternative, if

profitability is to be restored. British capitalism's share of the world market in manufacturing has shrunk from 25% in 1950 to only 8% or 9% in 1980. Even on its home markets, British industry is being undermined by foreign competitors.

The one-time "workshop of the world" is being turned into an industrial desert! Investment in manufacturing industry has continued to fall despite all the state hand-outs under the last Labour government. Investment in manufacturing industry totalled £4,177 million in 1970, but fell to only £3,853 million in 1978 at 1975 prices. At the same time, investments in more lucrative and totally unproductive areas, such as land, art and property speculation have reached record levels.

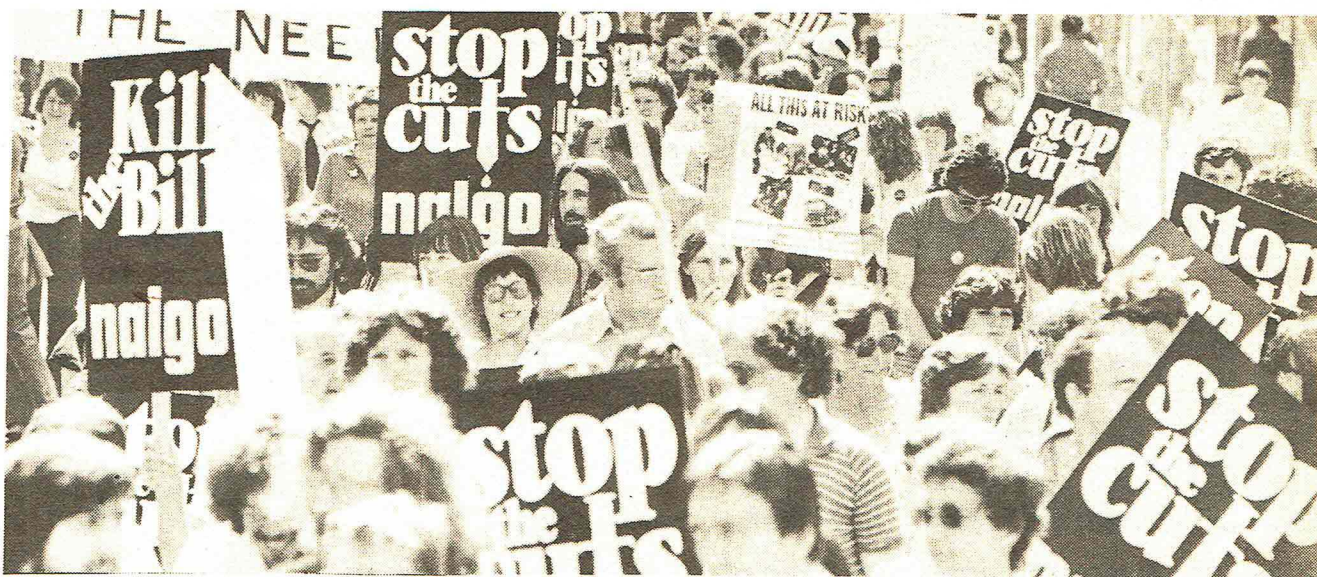
The capitalist class put investment where they get the best return. The lack of profitability of industry is the underlying cause of the fall in investment and the consequential failure to compete with rivals. From a rate of return of 12.5% in 1964 it has fallen to 4.7% today. It is precisely in an attempt to restore profitability that the employers are compelled to trample over the living standards of workers and their families. On a capitalist basis, this is the only option open.

We would be the first to support expansion, and we stand for a massive increase in public spending with a crash building programme to restore the cuts and improve services. But to imagine that this can be achieved within the framework of a diseased capitalism is utopian.

The last Labour government did not abandon expansionary policies and promised reforms simply through a lack of commitment or political will. Because it set out to work within the system and tried to manage capitalism, it inevitably succumbed to the pressure of big business, which necessarily dictates in a profit-motivated system. Any Labour government which fails to transform the system on socialist lines will be pushed in the same fatal direction.

To significantly reduce unemployment, an estimated 4% annual growth for the next five years would be necessary, a figure never achieved by Britain even in the best years of capitalist expansion. By the end of 1980, output is expected to fall by 3½%, the greatest drop since 1892!

Who will finance the "expansion" of the economy? This is the key question left unanswered by the NEC statement. Expansion could be financed from only three sources. Money could simply be printed, resulting in the nightmare of hyper-inflation.



Above and Page 7: Trade Unionists turned out in force in Bristol for the Day of Action against the Tories, 14 May.

Photos: Julian McKittrick/Militant

Only the programme of the socialist transformation of society, linked to reforms to solve the immediate day-to-day problems facing millions of workers, could provide the basis for the mass mobilisation of the labour movement, drawing behind it unorganised workers and sections of the middle class, absolutely vital to achieve a fundamental change in society.

Profits could be taxed, which would result in an even further decline of investment, if not a "strike of capital". Alternatively, taxes on workers could be raised, thus reducing the standard of living of the working class still further. None of these roads offers a way out, either for big business or the working class.

For big business, profitability is the key to new investment and increased output, and profits could only be restored through horrendous cuts imposed on the working class. For the workers, expansion can only be achieved through a massive real increase of production to create and provide the resources for houses, schools, hospitals etc., and generally improved living standards. But such an increase will only be achieved by taking the "commanding heights" of the economy out of capitalist hands and through implementing a socialist plan of production.

The flaw in the policies outlined in the statement are reflected in the argument on the NEC on the question of unemployment. Neil Kinnock, for instance, has argued that the party should not commit the next Labour government to ending unemployment "within the lifetime of a parliament." Presumably, he realises the policies proposed will not be capable of ensuring enough jobs in the crisis conditions of the 1980s. But the conclusion which should be drawn from this is not that the commitment to end unemployment—a burning priority for the labour movement—should be abandoned, but that socialist

nationalisation measures, however, would not give a Labour government decisive control of the economy.

Compulsory planning agreements, which are proposed by the NEC statement to supplement the extension of public ownership, would not ensure real control of the public sector. Faced with the opposition of big business, the last Labour government virtually abandoned the idea of planning agreements, except in the case of Chrysler, a case which hardly protected the interests of that firm's workers.

To imagine that, regardless of big business profitability, a Labour government could compel big monopolies to undertake investment and increase production according to the parliamentary prescriptions of a Labour government is completely utopian. Any serious attempt to take over the bosses' right to manage and direct their own industries would be met with the determined resistance of the capitalist class.

In all probability, at a future stage of developments a Labour government will be returned to office on a wave of anti-Tory and anti-big-business feeling, with mass support from the working class and sections of the middle class. Enthusiasm for the reforms proposed by Labour will make it quite possible that important reforms, such as a 35-hour week, a minimum living wage, extended trade union rights and so on, could be implemented in the first period of a Labour government. The crucial point is: how could such reforms be maintained?

The ruling class would still have decisive control of the economy—if Labour confined itself to the partial measures outlined in the NEC statement—and would from the outset prepare to claw back every concession that they were obliged to grant under the pressure of the working class.

Unprecedented big business pressure would be brought to bear on the Labour government in an effort to force it to abandon its programme of reforms, and even push it into counter-reforms. There would undoubtedly be a "strike of capital", with every conceivable means of economic disruption being employed.

Together with economic sabotage, moreover, the ruling class, through its control of the tops of the civil service, the police and the armed forces, would embark on a campaign of "destabilisation" to bring down the Labour government and prepare the ground for a reaction against the labour movement.

As the proverb says, "You may as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb!" Partial

nationalisation measures, attempts to enforce planning agreements and anti-capitalist reforms, far from placating the capitalists by virtue of their "moderation", would on the contrary provoke the ruling class into a fury.

Yet this "half-way" programme would not give the Labour government decisive control over the economy. Without a socialist plan of production, there would be no way of ensuring production could be dramatically increased in order to provide for dramatic improvements in workers' lives. The acute economic problems that would remain and the lack of commitment to a thoroughgoing socialist change in society would open up the danger of demoralisation of sections of the workers and an undermining of the Labour government.

Only the programme of the socialist transformation of society, linked to reforms to solve the immediate day-to-day problems facing millions of workers, could provide the basis for the mass mobilisation of the labour movement, drawing behind it unorganised workers and sections of the middle class, absolutely vital to achieve a fundamental change in society.

The key planks of a socialist programme for Labour must be the nationalisation, with minimum compensation on the basis of proven need, of the 200 big monopolies, together with the banks, insurance companies and finance houses to be run under democratic workers' control and management. This alone could provide the basis for a democratic socialist plan of production.

The enormous industrial resources that have been accumulated in Britain, together with new science and technique, and the skill and initiative of the workers themselves, could then be fully utilised to develop the economy in a planned way, rapidly bringing about an enormous improvement in the living standards and the quality of life of the whole population. The mass unemployment, poverty and misery endemic under capitalism, would be wiped out forever.

This is the programme Labour must adopt. Explained and campaigned for, it would arouse enormous enthusiasm amongst the ranks of the labour movement. The movement has never been stronger, now embracing over 12 million organised workers. With millions mobilised on the basis of a rounded-out Marxist programme, conscious of the need to carry through fundamental changes, nothing could stand in the way of the socialist transformation of society.

KOREAN WORKERS START TO SHOW THEIR POWER

The popular uprising in Kwangju South Korea's fourth largest city, has come in the wake of nationwide strikes and sit-ins.

Last October there was a graphic split amongst the ruling-class on how to cope with the rising opposition. The head of the intelligence services killed the President.

At that time opposition was in its infancy. Now it has grown to literally explosive proportions. At the time of writing the military have been driven out of Kwangju and the revolt has spread to 16 other towns.

Workers throughout the south-west have flocked into Kwangju, the provincial capital. Miners brought with them explosives. Armouries were raided and army vehicles commandeered.

Well-organised militia have been established controlling who enters or leaves Kwangju. Distribution of food has been arranged as armed people administer the town. They have demanded an end to martial law and the establishment of democracy.

It was the imposition of martial law on 17 May, which sparked off the revolt. Martial law was imposed to try to curb the growing strike-wave and protests. When students in Kwangju protested, they were brutally attacked by the military. This in turn provoked renewed opposition culminating in the uprising.

By Jim
Chrystie

Whatever the final outcome and it seems probable that in the short term the military will re-establish control, the Kwangju insurrection has inaugurated a new period in the struggle for freedom in South Korea.

President Park was assassinated last autumn after workers in Pusan, the second largest city, revolted over the expulsion of the opposition leader, Kim Dae Jung, from the National Assembly (see 'Militant', 9 November 1979).

The new President promised concessions, but hard-liners in the army disagreed. In December they staged a coup within the military, and established themselves as the real power behind the government.

The narrowness of the ruling elite can even be seen by the fact that three of the four top military figures are related to each other. The dominant military figure is Chun Doo Hwan, who now heads the Korean CIA and Military Security Command. One of his brother-in-laws is now head of the army and another is in charge of military security of the capital.

They have advocated a hard line to dissidents, as protest has grown. In the first four months of 1980 there

were 719 industrial disputes, compared to 105 for all of last year.

The Washington Post reported on May 1 "In the most serious confrontation coal miners last week took over the central city of Sabuk, attacked a police station, killed a policeman, and demolished several houses.

"They were trying to oust their union president who had accepted a 20% company wage increase instead of a figure twice that much being sought by the rank and file. Other plant rebellions have been settled without serious violence, largely because employers have granted big wage increases to avoid more trouble."

In Seoul 980 workers at the Il-shin Steel Company sat in for two days before management gave in, doubled bonuses, increased wages by 25% and agreed to the ousting of their puppet union president. In April in the southern port of Pusan 1,000 steel workers clashed with police, leaving 11 policemen and one steel-worker injured.

The Washington Post commented "Business leaders are shocked and angered by the unrest but agree employers will meet most demands unless the government intervenes. The labor movement is spreading rapidly and won't reach its peak for months" said one executive who asked not to be identified in print. "It is just the beginning."

According to the head of the Korean Employers Association, wage increases have been averaging 25%, despite a government guideline trying to limit them to 15%.

Workers have moved into action as the Korean economy runs into difficulties. Al-

though economic growth is high by European standards, last year's growth of 6% in GNP was only half the previous year's. Exports make up 35% of the Korean economy and they have been hit by the growing world recession, especially in the textile markets.

Inflation is running at 40% and workers are organising to try to combat the problems facing them.

Korean workers are a new working-class, who are not prepared to suffer silently under a military dictatorship. Some capitalist commentators have drawn parallels between what is happening now in South Korea and the student revolt which helped Park come to power in 1961.

But there is one fundamental difference between now and 1961, and that is the enormous strength and, until recently, untested power of the Korean working class.

Since 1961, the economy has expanded eighteen-fold, so that South Korea has become an important industrial nation. With that has grown the size of the working class, the majority of whom, 8,800,000, no longer work on the land.

75% of the workforce are under 29. 44% of women work. And much of this working class is concentrated in large factories or shipyards. Alongside this has been the growth of the towns, with Seoul now comprising 20% of the country's population.

Not all areas have developed equally. And this too has resulted in opposition. Kwangju (pop. 700,000) where the uprising began, is capital of the depressed Cholla Nomdo province, which has seen most development projects trans-



Military vehicles were commandeered as armed people controlled Kwangju last week

ferred to ex-President Park's neighbouring home province over the last 20 years.

But this uneven development has not cut across the nationwide wave of revolt against the military dictatorship. The opposition capitalist New Democratic party has demanded an end to martial law and the holding of free elections. But their programme

of purely democratic reforms would be unable to satisfy the aspirations of Korean workers for a society free from all oppression.

South Korean society has entered a period of turmoil. And neither repression nor concessions will be able to hold back the Korean workers for long.

QUEBEC

The referendum defeat for Quebec sepeparation does not end the issue. Although for the immediate period ahead the question may move more into the background, it could well re-appear as part of overall provincial strains within Canada.

These strains will grow as the economic situation deteriorates. Unemployment is now at 8%, inflation over 10% and it is estimated that growth will only be about 1% this year. In the Western Provinces oil, mining and agriculture interests resent control from Ottawa.

Neither of the two main capitalist parties, the Liberals

or Tories, are national parties. The Liberals won no seats at all in the three Western Provinces and the Tories won one out of 74 in Quebec.

Only a clear socialist approach can bring real unity. If the New Democratic Party took a clear class approach to combat the multi-nationals hold on the economy and the recognition of the right of self-determination for the French-speaking population, it could build on the gains made in February's general election and begin to build a socialist alternative to the capitalism of the Tories, Liberals or the separatist Parti Quebecois.

MIAMI RIOTS - THE LAST STRAW

All the reports indicate that the Miami riots have ended through exhaustion. The anger of black youth has not subsided. It just simmers on the surface.

Miami was America's worst explosion of anger since the late 1960s. It was sparked off by an all-white jury finding four white policemen innocent of killing a black prisoner. This was the final straw which unleashed an outpouring of black attacks on authority.

Police were attacked, then whites in the ghetto, then shops looted and fighting within the black area. After four days in which 3,600 of the para-military National Guardsmen were drafted in, 16 people were dead, 926 arrested and over \$100 million damage done to property.

During the riots many of the police continued to vent their fury against the black population. They smashed up cars owned by blacks and sprayed on them the word "looters."

The response of the state and national government has

been to tackle the symptoms not the causes. The Attorney General has called for the strengthening of federal supervision of law enforcement in Miami. The Governor of Florida has started a new investigation into the case of the four policemen.

But the problems of the black population go far beyond the continual police harassment. They face dis-

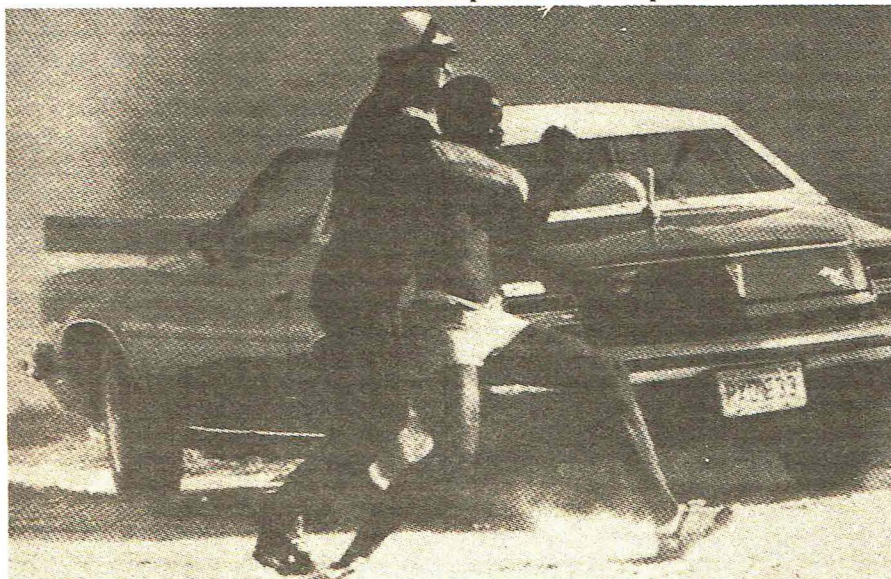
crimination in all areas of life. Blacks suffer the worse housing and chance for jobs. Black youth unemployment is treble that of whites.

Dead-end lives lead to the need to 'lash-out' at authority. And as the economic recession deepens, blacks will suffer more. In April national unemployment rose to 7.3 million, up 825,000 on March, which is 7% of the

'working population.'

A recent report from the US Commerce Department shows that the 'growth' in the economy is slower than predicted. And Carter's response is to cut back more on welfare and aid to the inner cities. So can we expect more 'Miamis' this summer?

By Phil Frampton



Vicious police harassment sparked off the Miami riots

AUSTRALIA

Australian metal workers voted last week to take industrial action to get a 35-hour week. In the past the 550,000 strong union has led the way in gaining pay increases and improvements in working conditions. Their decision to start action immediately has drawn predict-

able criticism from the employers and the reactionary Liberal government.

But scandalously it has also been opposed by Bill Hayden, the Labour opposition leader, who has argued against a shorter working week as being irresponsible. Once again workers who want a decent living are having to fight on two fronts, against enemies and fair-weather friends.

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Tory horror comic

Dear Comrades,

The election address horror-comic by the Tory candidate in this ward began by boasting that the local Tory council has reduced the house-building programme to almost zero, "thus cutting subsidies which are, of course, paid by you the taxpayer." There is no mention of the subsidies which taxpayers, including council tenants, pay in connection with mortgage relief for house owners—so called—whose homes are almost permanently in pawn to the money lenders.

Next the statement boasts about the low rates in the area, but says that opportunities for economies are limited, as such a high proportion of the rates go to the County Council.

Is this one of the "spend-thrift Labour councils" referred to later, which thinks that a local council has a responsibility towards the low-paid, the sick, elderly, children and the homeless?

On the contrary, the Kent County Council is dominated by a particularly backward and reactionary gang of Tories, although they undoubtedly face strong competition from other Tories in their policies of penny-pinching nastiness.

The attempt to take credit for the concessionary bus fare scheme for the elderly and handicapped is a particularly sick joke. In fact the Tories opposed such a scheme for years on one pretext or another and Tunbridge Wells was the very last town in Kent to introduce one!

Similarly with the new sports centre. The local YMCA made a bomb out of the sale of its premises in the centre of the town and offered to donate the proceeds towards the building of a sports centre. The Tory council stalled all developments for years and only agreed when it was clear that if no action was taken the money would have to be paid over to central YMCA funds.

Our Tory candidate is the chairman of the Tunbridge Wells Old People's Welfare committee and also a member of the executive council of the British Federation of Cremation authorities.

She was completely silent on the subject of the closure of two old people's homes in the town (to keep down the rates). Is her idea of old people's welfare a new Auschwitz solution—let them die then cremate them?

But it is not sufficient simply to replace Tories with right-wing Labour councillors carrying on a policy of appeasement to big business, the Marxist alternative needs to be clearly stated and that is why the publication and expansion of 'Militant' is of such importance.

Yours in solidarity,
Colin Knight,
Tunbridge Wells

Another cut in 'social wage'

Dear Comrades,

Following their decision to stay within government cash limits, the Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow Area Health Authority (AHA) are proposing to close down the renowned maternity unit at the West London Hospital.

Apart from greatly reducing the number of maternity beds available in Hammersmith and the surrounding area, this action would reduce the West-London service to little more than a shell, rendering it vulnerable to still further attacks.

One of the main arguments for the move is the AHA's parochial view that

many expectant mothers attending the hospital come from outside the area—hardly surprising when the hospital is right next to the boundary with Westminster, and just over the river is an entirely different region! In fact, the majority of women having babies at the hospital come from within a radius of a few miles.

The attempted closure must be fully resisted, not only because the unit was voted equal first in Britain last year, but because it would represent another cut in the "social wage" of ordinary people in an attempt to make them pay for an economic crisis they did not cause.

Yours fraternally,
Jonathan Golding,
Medical student, Charing Cross Hospital,
Fulham LPYS

Sweet Charity? part 1

Dear Comrades,

Geoffrey Howe in his benign magnanimity declared in the budget that rules on covenants for tax relief were to be relaxed "to assist charities in furthering and extending their work."

What Mr Howe neglected to say was that some of these laudable charities include the very "independent" schools which undermine the standards of finance to comprehensive schools.

It used to be possible to draw up covenants to send children to public schools, as long as the covenant lasted for more than six years. This would give a certain amount of exemption from tax at the basic (30%) rate.

Due to Howe's proposals it will be possible from April 1981 to be exempted twice

as much at the top rate of earned income (60%). The time limit has also been relaxed to 3 years.

Howe put the bosses' top tax levels down last time around. The campaign for comprehensive education in 1978 estimated that this tax relief costs the government £25 million a year. Today the figure would be closer to the £35,000,000 mark.

This means that from April 1981 it will be possible to avoid paying £1,200 out of the £3,000 it costs to send a child to a top public school for a year.

According to the 'New Statesman' (4/1/80), this is not all that the man in the street pays for the education of the parasitic elite, they produce the figure of £654,000,000 per annum. (See Militant 1 February)

It may be of marginal interest to Mr Howe when considering how to best educate the next generation

Training—or profit boosting

Dear Comrades

On Radio One on Thursday morning I heard something which amazed me. Radio One have joined the fight against unemployment, advertising jobs for school leavers and training courses.

Of course, it's the same old story, qualifications needed even for low paid jobs, and very little available if you haven't got at least top grade CSEs. But what really got me was the announcement about jobs in engineering.

The field here is wide open to girls, because the government is paying £5,000 a year for each girl taken

on to train in engineering over the normal intake of females.

But what sort of wage will these apprentices be paid? We can rest assured that it won't be £100 a week.

Undoubtedly the employers will use this latest scheme simply to boost their profits and it will not result in more skilled engineers as they will train the same number, just replacing boys with girls.

Subsidies to capitalists are no answer, what we need is socialism with industry under the control of the working class, to ensure that everybody, male and female, has a worthwhile job when they finish their education.

Fraternally
Derrick McLelland

Action in North Wales

Dear Comrades

The day of action in my area was an overwhelming success: twice the expected number turned up to the demonstration in Llanudno. The media would claim

all those who didn't strike on the day supported the Tories—not exactly the impression I got as I got off a bus after the demo.

The driver, proudly displaying his TGWU badge, said, "Well done comrade, we're behind you all the way." We raised our fists, shook hands and I promptly sold him my 'Militant'.

Yours fraternally
Brychan Davies
Bangor LPYS

Socialism round the corner

Dear Comrades

Thanks very much for an excellent paper. I subscribe to 'Militant' and a very worthwhile subscription it is too. Your informative writing gives the real truth of whatever matter you are writing about.

I believe that socialism is just around the corner. It will bring the downfall of capitalism, the Tories and the monarchy, and the uprising of the working classes against the capitalist oppressors.

You are helping a great deal in the struggle and I have this to say to you: keep up the good work!

I am sending you this



poster because I thought you might like to print it in your magazine.

Yours fraternally
Seth Gillman
(age 14 years)

Workers' control at BSC

Dear Comrades

I read with interest Joe Herbertson's letter in the 'Militant' (issue 504). As a BSC employee myself who has worked with Joe, I would like to take up the conclusion he draws concerning 'Militant's' attitude to workers' participation.

'Militant' supporters don't and never have supported the idea of participation that allows workers' representatives to be used as stooges on the present boards of nationalised industries.

We have consistently opposed such collaboration, ranging from workers' directors to the ineffectual workers' councils. There should be no collaboration with MacGregor and his ilk, who represent the interests of big business and the Tory government.

But the problem of the way the nationalised industries are run remain—they will not go away. The fact that big business representatives run a so-called 'public' industry is a vital issue for every steelworker.

It is no good just saying that under socialism things will be different. The logical conclusion is that we cannot achieve or even formulate demands in the meanwhile to give an alternative to the present set-up.

The programme that Lynn Walsh put forward was the reverse of collaboration. As he stated, "The labour movement must reject the appointment of MacGregor and any similar appointments within the industry. We must campaign now for the establishment of democratic workers' control and management in the steel industry and in all other industries as well."

'Militant's' programme calls for an inbuilt majority for the labour movement in nationalised industries, as well as an inbuilt majority for central planning.

This, if at all realistic as policy, can only be achieved by union independence and struggle against the present set-up, linked, as 'Militant' supporters always put forward, to a fully socialist programme for the economy as a whole so industries such as steel are not used as a milch cow for big business.

Yours fraternally
Phil Townsley
Rotherham

of the ruling class, that this money would buy 12,275 million third pint bottles of free school milk!

Yours fraternally,
Guy Halliwell,
Swansea LPYS

Sweet Charity? part 2

Dear Comrades,

The Tories think they have found someone more capable of running the health service in Lambeth than the members of the Area Health Authority they suspended a few months ago for refusing to implement cuts they were demanding.

It is none other than Mr Eric Morley, organiser of the 'Miss World' contests. According to the Guardian he "has had no previous experience of health service management" so comrades might be wondering what he has to offer. In his own

words:

"My hope is that we can get things sponsored by private individuals who don't like their money taken away from them by the state, but are very generous in giving it away and getting a ward named after themselves."

"For example if a hospital wants a new boiler house, nobody will want to sponsor that. But if I can raise the money for a new kidney unit, then the health authority might be able to pay for the boiler house." (Guardian 18/4/80)

So there we have it! The Tories want us to depend on the charity of the rich for our health. The NHS was created 30 years ago to put an end to that. Now it must be defended and these reactionary plans of the Tories defeated.

Fraternally,
Chris Ridge
West Nottingham CLP

Super exploited then imprisoned

Dear Comrades,

Swadeka Bibi Emambuus is a 37 year old Mauritian woman who worked in a Bournemouth restaurant for two years without pay.

Swadeka entered this country in July 1977 with permission to stay until August of that year. She was completely alone. Before she arrived in England she had been divorced, and she had no surviving relatives to whom she could turn.

Her return ticket to Mauritius expired, and she was earning no money. The owner of the restaurant told her not to worry, because

she could work there for her board and lodging. No wages of course!

Not being a member of the Hotel and Catering Workers' Union, who would have explained to her the seriousness of her position and stopped her from being exploited, Swadeka agreed to work without pay.

She paid for her mistake when the police found out and arrested her. Swadeka was sentenced to one month in prison with a recommendation for deportation.

No action was taken against the owners of the Bournemouth restaurant for so cruelly exploiting her!

Sincerely,
Lomond Handley,
Dorset

One pencil a term

Dear Militant,

I am writing on behalf of my education.

Last term Rise Park junior school had a sponsored hush-in and raised over £600 and we were supposed to be using it for books and pencils. The only thing was they used some for prizes.

This term we still have only one pencil. If you broke this pencil or lost it, then you would have to buy your own pencil. On April 24th I broke my pencil, this means I have to buy my own.

Karna Bennett,
Rise Park Junior School,
Nottingham

Build Militant

Area	Received	Percentage of half-year's target achieved	Target half-year	Target for year
Eastern	1405		2,250	5,000
East Midlands	1260		1,710	3,800
Hants & IOW	1177		1,755	3,900
Humberside	480		1,125	2,500
London East	2189		2,790	6,200
London West	1565		2,115	4,700
London South	2289		1,800	4,000
Manchester & Lancs	941		2,295	5,100
Merseyside	1780		2,700	6,000
Northern	1810		3,285	7,300
Scotland East	796		1,440	3,200
Scotland West	1367		2,250	5,000
Southern	1766		2,655	5,900
South West	841		1,440	3,200
Wales East	449		1,260	2,800
Wales West	602		1,395	3,100
West Midlands	2713		4,050	9,000
Yorkshire	1711		3,285	7,300
Others	5905		5,400	12,000
Total received	31046		45,000	100,000

TARGET FOR JULY 12th £45,000 TARGET FOR YEAR-£100,000

DON'T STOP NOW!

"Please find enclosed cheque for £32.50. This money was given by delegates and observers to the BGM of the National Union of Seamen who are employed at Felixstowe."

"It was agreed by the Port Committee that they would give a days wages and expenses to the four papers which supported the May 14th Day of Action, in contrast to those newspapers which howled abuse at trade unionists for daring to protest at the government's policies."

**Yours faithfully,
I Argust,
Chairman of FPC
pp. G. Cartwright."**

This letter from a group of active trade unionists shows the value that they place on 'Militant's' consistent support for workers in struggle against the Tory government and the grasping bosses.

This is the kind of support we need from class conscious workers every week. After all it's not just support for the movement that our paper provides.

Where else can you get a clear Marxist analysis of the crisis facing capitalism in

By Derrick McClelland

Britain today? Where else can you get a serious analysis of events throughout the world—from Ireland to Chile to the USSR—from the viewpoint of the workers? Plus excellent industrial coverage, of disputes, union conferences and much more—all for 15p.

But we always want to improve and expand—and this is where your help for your paper is essential.

This week's Fighting Fund at nearly £1,400 is down on last week's figure. But we have also been told of more money on the way: over £60 raised at the Readers' Meeting at GMWU Congress, and £121 at the IRSF Conference, both amounts before expenses! This shows that our tax officials don't exactly back Thatcher!

Apart from the very welcome donation from Felixstowe, money that has reached us in the last few days includes the collection from the Fire Brigades Union Conference, where No 9

Region put in £11 and Yorkshire £2; extras and donations from the Agricultural Workers' Conference at Cromer; cash from the Labour Party Women's Conference, where £73.20 was given us at the Militant Readers' Meeting; and £10.83 in extras and smaller donations from delegates and visitors at the EETPU Conference.

Money from groups of workers and individual union officials each week assists our finances and also with the comments they make, our approach and content of the paper. For example, workers at TI Bradbury's, Braintree, collected £9 for us this week.

However, one of the workers there (who put in £1) has criticisms of our style. We invite the brother to send us a letter or article on the subject of his daily grind, or his thoughts about our rulers. We'll look out for it!

Thanks to the Batley Branch of the NUDBTW (Dyers and Bleachers) for their £5 donation, and for a similar amount to T Fields (FBU EC) which was his expenses for a meeting in Coventry.

A discussion group of health service workers at the Bethnal Green Hospital in East London sent us £5, and £50 came from Militant supporters in East London in memory of the work of Ian Burge (see last week's Militant). EETPU readers at Ferranti's, Edinburgh, passed on £2.60, and a tenner came from C Worthington (Merseyside, ASTMS). 'Anon' (Kilburn) sent us a day's pay for May 14th, and over £20 came

in this week from supporters in Ruislip and district. Donations from Ipswich are among the most regular week by week, and the latest letter included contributions from R Herbert and P Medhurst, District Organisers of respectively BFAWU and NUAAW.

Yorkshire by contrast has been a bit behind, but if their current form is kept up they could be strong finishers: £125 after expenses came from a meeting in Leeds, and other cash from a Huddersfield Readers' Meeting and jumble sale, together with £4.25 from NJ Lee (NUJ, Pontefract) made a gain on the week approaching £300!

Bracknell readers have complained they don't get their fair share of the lime-light. Well it's so regular to get donations from the comrades there, we'd come to the conclusion they have their own printing press: this week the winnings on an FA cup draw from M Hutson (Wokingham LPYS).

Finally, thanks to comrades at the Raynes Park meeting (£33.10), Rochdale supporters for the international evening raffle (£20) and to L Marsh (Newcastle North CLP) for the first four of the promised £1 per week. That's an example that readers in all parts of the country should copy—then we'd have no worries—except that it's even more difficult to mention all donations in this column. Thanks to everyone who helped us but we haven't listed.

But don't stop now! We need over £2,000 per week to reach £45,000 in just seven weeks.

Militant Readers' Meetings

STAFFORDSHIRE MILITANT RALLY

Saturday 7th June 1.30-6.15pm in Stafford At: United Reform Church, Eastgate St. Stafford (Meetings start at 2.00pm). 2.00pm 'Militant' The Socialist Way Forward. Speaker Ted Grant—Militant Political Editor. 3.45pm Break, food, drink, stalls. 4.30pm 'Militant' and Internationalism. Speaker: Jeremy Birch. Birmingham Selly Oak Labour Party. finish 6.15pm. 7.30pm Social, with disco at Railway Club, Stafford. All welcome. For further details, information, Contact: D. Griffiths, 72 Peel Terrace, Stafford (48400).

BRADFORD Militant Readers Meeting "General Strike in the 80s?" Speaker: Terry Wilson (Leeds NE Labour Party) 7.30pm Thursday, 5th June Room 2, Floor 2, Central Library.

Now Available on Cassette! Speeches from the 1980 LPYS Conference Rallies. Peter Taaffe, "Workers of the World Unite" £2.00 (incl. p&p) Ted Grant, "The Crisis of Capitalism and the Socialist Revolu-

ads

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

Classified

HILLINGDON Labour Party Young Socialists PARTY. Saturday May 31st, 8.00pm. Brunel Chaplaincy, Kingston Lane, Uxbridge £1 entrance for food and Ruddles Bitter (20p per pint). Bring a bottle if you don't like beer!

HILLINGDON Labour Party Young Socialists Public Meeting "How to Fight the Tories" Speakers: Andy Bevan (National Youth Officer) and Jake Magee (Uxbridge Labour Party) Tuesday 10 June 7.30pm, Hayes Community Centre, Island site, Station Road, Hayes, Middx. (nearly opposite Hayes BR Station).

tion" £2.00 (incl. p&p) Every LPYS branch should have these useful aids in the political education of comrades! Cheques, etc, with orders to World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

MILITANT MARXIST WEEKEND SCHOOL June 27th-29th

COURSES ON:

Introduction to Marxism Speakers: John Pickard and Brian Beckingham.

Marxism and the Trade Unions Speakers: Brian Ingham and Bob Faulkes.

The Life of Trotsky Speaker: Ted Grant.

China: History and Perspectives Speakers: Peter Taaffe and Lynn Walsh.

Marxist Economics Speakers: Brian Beckingham and Rob Jones.

PLUS:

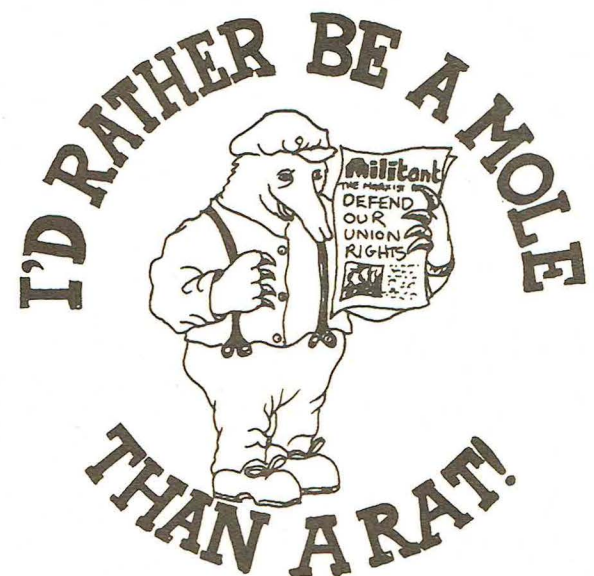
Debate: The Lessons of Chile 1970-73. Speakers: Lynn Walsh (Militant) Mike Gatehouse (Communist Party).

FILM: The Battle for Chile

At: Goldsmith's College Students Union, Lewisham Way, London SE14.

Cost: £3.00 whole weekend, £1.50 Saturday or Sunday only, £1.00 Friday evening only. Half price School Students and Unemployed. (Cheques payable to 'Militant').

BOOK NOW! Send bookings to, or for further information: Militant Marxist Weekend School, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.



Summer T-shirts. Colours—white, yellow, sky blue, dark green, navy and black. All with red motif. Styles—round neck, and short sleeves or cap sleeves (state which one you prefer) sizes—children's 24, 26, 28 and 30 inch chest. £2.50 each.

Adults—Small—32-34. Medium—34-36. Large—38-40. Extra Large—42-44. £3 each.

Both costs include postage and packing.

Please indicate, colour, style, and size preferred. ALL PROCEEDS TO THE FIGHTING FUND.

Cheques and postal orders made out to R. Harris. Send orders with payment to: R. Harris, 35 Westminster Court, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 1UR.

POEU UCATT NUSMWCH & DE — CONFERENCES

MODERNISATION MUST MEAN SHORTER HOURS

By
Kevin Patterson
(Secretary, Leeds Internal
branch POEU,
personal capacity)

In the next five to ten years, the Post Office's telecommunication modernisation programme will be complete and the Post Office Engineers' pay and grading standards will have been established for the next two decades. POEU members will therefore be looking to this year's conference for clear decisions on the vital issues facing the union.

Unemployment and inflation are rising rapidly. The Tory government's answer has been to make working people pay for this economic crisis of capitalism, combined with an attack on trade unions, our only means of defence. Families are already £15 a week worse off than a year ago.

The recent series of circular letters to branches show great dissatisfaction with the way the union is handling the major issues. The circular detailing the POEU's case to the pay arbitration board gave a clear picture of the drastic cut in living standards our members have already suffered: a fall of £3,000 a year for a technical officer on maximum.

A pay claim of 30% is therefore certainly not unreasonable. If the leadership were prepared to fight on a claim of that sort they could count on the support of POEU members.

Such a fight would need to be well-prepared, however. The full facts of how badly

our wages have been eroded must be spelt out to prepare the union for determined industrial action. For undoubtedly, we will need to fight if we are to get a decent settlement.

Conference will again be debating the 'job security agreement'. The only guarantee of a 'job for life' is a progressive reduction in hours, linked to the modernisation programme.

The new technology at our disposal is, without doubt, more efficient. So why can't it provide the increase in productivity to pay for our shorter working week?

Our answer to the PO should be that if they are not prepared to steadily reduce hours then we will stop the modernisation programme.

The Tory plans to split the Post Office will be discussed in a separate section of this year's agenda.

The POEU has found itself in an invidious position of supporting the split but opposing any plans to hive off the profitable sections of telecommunication and other services. Unless that decision is reversed, it will be impossible for the POEU to hold a joint campaign with the UPW against the Tory proposals.

For the proposal to split the business is only a prelude to hiving off the most lucrative parts of the nationalised industry. The only effective way to defend ourselves is to go on the offensive. If the unions seems to be backing away, the barons of

private industry will seize the 'loot' with both hands.

The POEU must demand full nationalisation of the private manufacturers. This demand should be raised in the Labour Party so that it will be one of the first acts of the next Labour government.

Underlying all these debates will be our members' justifiable concern to know how our leaders, both in the POEU and the Labour Party, are preparing to combat the Tory government, and its attacks on us at work and at home.

The POEU leaders, representing a Labour Party-affiliated union, still, it seems, support the same Callaghan-style leadership and policies which lost Labour the last election. Our union, together with APEX and the EETPU, have even gone so far as to put advertisements (presumably paid) in the journal of the extreme right-wing 'Campaign for Labour Victory.'

If the 'Campaign for Labour Victory' get their way the Labour Party will, at the next election stand on policies that, under Callaghan, resulted in £8,000 million cuts in public spending and a £10 per week cut in living standards via wage restraint. That same Labour government also opposed the POEU's hard-fought campaign for a 35-hour week without loss of pay.

The POEU, in the fight to protect and raise the living standards of our members, must of necessity play a full role inside the Labour Party to give political expression to our anti-Tory struggles. The alternative we must be able to offer workers is the election of a Labour government on a full socialist programme.



MFI, the discount furniture chain, do not count on their employees joining unions. When warehouseman Gary Cook signed up ten of his eleven colleagues at the Stratford store in London

into the T&GWU, he was sacked. The other union members immediately came out on strike, and were dismissed.

All MFI shops and warehouses must be blacked

until Gary Cook and the others are reinstated and the union recognised. Support to the picket line, Stratford High Street, and c/o F Higgs T&GWU, 43 West Ham Lane, Stratford E.15.

UCATT: our jobs—your homes

At the fifth national conference of UCATT, the building workers' union, the major issue on the agenda is wages.

All the resolutions call for a consolidated basic wage as opposed to the present poor basic wage and bonus system, which leaves skilled tradesmen a basic of £67 per week and unskilled operatives £56.

There will be tremendous pressure on the leadership to adopt the demands outlined. Delegates are all too aware that in face of the Tory onslaught on wages and jobs, the union must prepare to fight to defend our members.

The resolutions from North Shields and London No 2 branch calling for action by the leadership to secure a decent living wage and a 35-hour week, should be supported.

The Stevenage resolution on incomes policy reflects the bitter experience of the

last year, and the growing awareness of union members as to what went wrong: "...the tragic failure of the last Labour government largely resulted from its stubborn adherence to its wages policy."

The other major problems facing the industry: lump labour, de-casualisation, sick pay schemes and decent conditions are surely the consequences of a small number of parasites controlling the construction and supply industry.

One company controls over 50 per cent of the supply of bricks, two companies control over 83 per cent of the cement. Over 300,000 construction workers are registered as unemployed while Tory policy is

to destroy the direct labour departments and end council house building by 1984.

It is up to the conference and leadership to mount a campaign to fight redundancies and increase living standards with demands for increased public expenditure, house building and social facilities tied to a programme involving the TUC and the Labour Party, to oust the Tories and tackle once and for all the misery of homelessness.

To achieve that we need a strong construction union and a Labour government committed to a socialist programme.

By
Jim McGuinness
(UCATT)

SHEET METAL WORKERS

By Steve Hatherley
(Eastleigh 4J Branch Committee
and shop steward, NUSMWCH&DE)

As the biennial conference of the National Union of Sheet Metal Workers, Coppersmiths, Heating and Domestic Engineers meets at Eastbourne, living standards in general and trade union rights in particular face unprecedented attacks.

The proposed Tory anti-union 'Employment Bill,' if made law, will open the door for employers to attack well-established rights such as the closed shop and picketing, no doubt accompanied by a stepping-up of the offensive on leading shopfloor militants such as Derek Robinson in the engineering industry.

Resolutions show that many branches regard the lack of action by the right-wing leaders of the AUEW in defence of Bro Robinson, as a reason for not going ahead with amalgamation with the AUEW.

However, we should recognise that members of the NUSMWCH&DE could play a vital role in a leftward shift in the AUEW, which will be hastened by the present government's anti-working class policies.

One engineering union would put us in a much stronger position to withstand the Tory attacks and help us improve our wages and conditions.

In the wage rounds of 1980 we need to achieve the '79 target of £100 minimum for skilled engineering workers, and a 35-hour week with no loss of pay.

But Thatcher, Howe and the other Tory war-mongers, with our bosses gleefully egging them on, have left no doubt that the fight for reasonable wages and conditions will mean a confrontation with all the forces the bosses can muster.

It is a mistake to look to import controls and getting out of the EEC as a solution to our problems, as some resolutions do. It's the nature of the capitalist system which is at fault.

Only when the commanding heights of the economy have been taken into public ownership, will we see resolution 142 which calls for 'A fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of power and wealth in favour of working people' become a reality.

New 'Militant' trade union pamphlets

Militant 1980 GMWU Review 20p
Socialist policies for the UPW 20p
CPSA—The major issues 30p
A fighting programme for firemen 20p
A fighting socialist programme for USDAW 20p
Please add 10p for postage. Order from World Books
1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

WOMEN WIN AT KLEINS

The strike at Klein Bros. is over. The owners have given an undertaking to abide by an ACAS recommendation on union recognition.

This climb-down is due to the persistent picketing by the workforce and solidarity action by other trade un-

ions, in particular the blacking of Klein's casual-wear products by USDAW workers in Littlewoods.

The strike was an impressive demonstration of working women's capacity to organise.

In spite of early doubts about their ability to fight, in spite of family responsibilities, seeing to the kids and looking after the homes, by the end of this twelve-week strike many of the women had surprised themselves: speaking to large meetings, organising solidarity and standing up to the bosses on the picket-line in all weathers.

The rag trade in this area is suffering from a severe recession; closures and short time working are widespread.

This victory, in spite of the unfavourable conditions, shows that there is potential to build trade unionism in the clothing industry. The success of the Klein's strikers should be seen as a green light for unions to launch a vast recruiting campaign in the non-union shops.

By
Peter Gunn
(Salford LPYS)



EIS members demonstrating in Glasgow, May 1980—their determination must be reflected by decisive union leadership

SCOTTISH TEACHERS STEP UP THE PRESSURE

Thousands of Scottish teachers have been on a three-day a week strike following the one-day national strike called by Scotland's largest teachers' union, the Educational Institute of Scotland.

Already over 250 schools have been hit as 8,000 teachers walked out, affecting 25,000 pupils. Over 80 schools in the Glasgow area have been out over a two-week period.

This is in response to the management's '14 per cent plus strings' pay offer.

The response to strike action has been excellent. School reps in Glasgow quickly formed committees to organise leafletting, petitions and visits to schools not on strike. Hundreds of teachers have been involved. Picket lines have been set up outside

By
David Williams
(EIS, Glasgow)

a number of schools, mainly in an attempt to persuade more teachers to join the action.

Other groups of workers have offered their support: steelworkers in Motherwell agreed to pay for strike headquarters in the town.

The press has had a field-day. Reporters have been giving massive publicity to a (now former) member of the EIS executive who refused

to pay the strike levy and has been campaigning against strike action. The concerted propaganda by TV, radio and newspapers has not dismayed teachers, but demonstrated whose side the media is on.

While teachers' anger has been directed at the Tory government and its policy of keeping wage rises below the rate of inflation, the chairman of the management side is Malcolm Green, a Strathclyde region Labour councillor.

No public attempt has been made by the Labour councillors to disassociate themselves from the government's wages policy. Already pressure is building up from local Labour Parties on this issue. Labour councillors should be campaigning against Tory policies, not helping the government implement them.

With only a few weeks to

the end of term and the EIS AGM (annual conference), teachers want a speedy and successful conclusion to the dispute. Any deterioration in working conditions is completely unacceptable—the task now is to put enough pressure on the union leadership and management to raise the pay offer.

The good news that the usually 'moderate' Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association has also decided to strike shows the growing anger of Scottish teachers.

A continuation of local strike action together with another national one-day mobilisation of all teachers will show negotiators on both sides of the table that we are not prepared to accept a drop in our living standards.

ALAN SMITH
"We'll win—
with your
help"

"Before the strike I used to be a 9 to 5 man" one striker at Alan Smith, Nottingham, says, summing it up. "But since the strike my whole world has turned upside down. I thought if you were in the right, justice would prevail.

"But now I understand workers have to fight for their rights; the ruling class won't just give them because the workers need them."

The strike needs, and has received, support from all round the country, but to win the dispute, we need the support of workers at the parent company, Etona Solihull and Newman Tonks Birmingham.

Cash is urgently needed. A vote is still taking place on a district levy and it will be a few more weeks till we know the outcome. The remarks made by one worker that he used to pay the blue bills as soon as they came in, but now he can't even pay the red ones, is just plain fact.

All donations c/o 95 Brownlow Drive, Rise Park Estate, Nottingham.

By Roy Bennett
AUEW convenor (sacked)

Pit closures - NCB throws down gauntlet

The National Coal Board has thrown down the gauntlet to South Wales miners.

Just one week after the miners' area annual conference which unanimously decided to fight all colliery closures, the NCB in South Wales has announced that it wants to close the Tymawr/Lewis Merthyr combine by July of this year.

The shock announcement was made when delegates from the National Union of Miners went to the Coal Board's area headquarters on Thursday 22nd May. The day before Mr Philip Weeks, the NCB's area director, had told a House of Commons select committee that twelve collieries hung like an albatross around the neck of the South Wales coalfield, and in his

By Anthony Tynan
(Tynawr Lodge,
South Wales NUM,
personal capacity)

view six ought to close.

He claims that Tymawr/Lewis Merthyr, Aberpergwm, Brynlliw, Wyndham/Western, Bedwas and Blaenserchen, are not economically viable.

Bro Dave Duckfield, Lewis Merthyr lodge secretary and newly-elected vice-president of the South Wales NUM said: "There are workable reserves in the pit, and in line with local and national union policy we will be opposing the closure, it is clear cut. It is too early to give any indications about possible industrial action," he added, "we will have to see how events develop."

At mass meetings held last Saturday morning the men from both pits heard that Emlyn Williams, the South Wales area president, had informed Mr Weeks on behalf of the NUM that we would not accept any closure of pits in South Wales and that if the NCB wishes to discuss any closures, they should inform the union beforehand.

A joint lodge committee had been formed, also incorporating a few members from Mardy and Rhondda collieries. From now on all meetings regarding the closure issue would be one mass meeting.

The South Wales area executive council will be meeting the National Executive of the NUM on 3rd June to report on the situation. It will be up to the NEC to take a lead in this fight.

The miners' main concern is to save our jobs, not just for those working at present but for the young people who will be leaving school in July and every July for the next 50 or so years.

It is obvious that Tymawr/Lewis Merthyr is a test case. If the NCB is allowed to close this pit then no pit in Britain will be safe. The NEC must support the miners of Tymawr Lewis and give them the strong leadership they deserve.

BAKERS-

Union strength can stop the rot

The Bakers' Union conference at Skegness this week must provide an opportunity for active workers in the BFAWU to draw up a fighting programme for the industry as we enter a new recession.

As a result of the struggles in 1978, the membership of the union fell drastically. A sign of the regrowth of confidence is the rapid rate of increase since that time.

Factory closures and redundancies have been announced throughout the industry. Although union policy is to fight all redundancies, there has yet to be a significant struggle to stop this rot.

The recent Country Maid strike was yet another experience that bakery workers have had to suffer of organised attacks on the trade union movement. The Allied Bakeries (ABF) management sent in scab managers from all over the country to do the strikers' work.

The workers would not have been forced to return to work on management terms had funds been available to sustain the struggle. This clearly shows that though the Executive was asked by last year's conference to draw up a 'master plan' on the conduct of struggles, the spirit behind the resolution has yet to be

fully adopted.

The recent closure of Almond's bakery in Manchester shows clearly that Federation factories can not be beaten locally but must be taken on at national level.

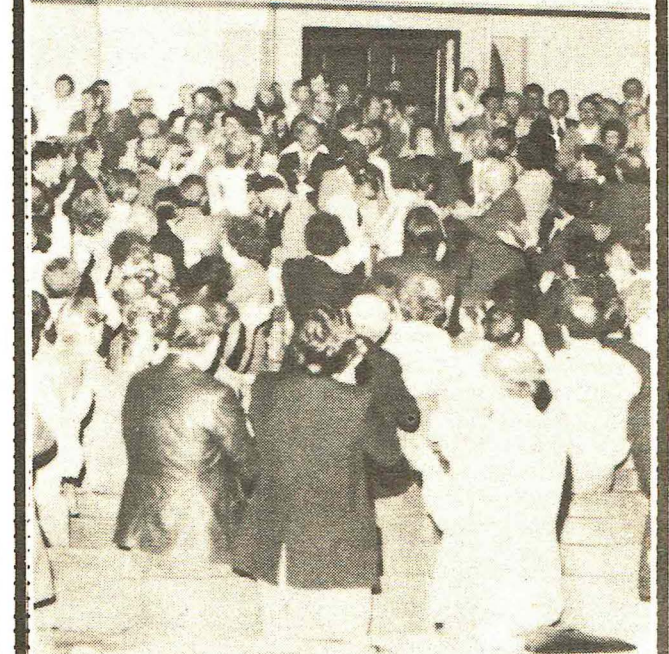
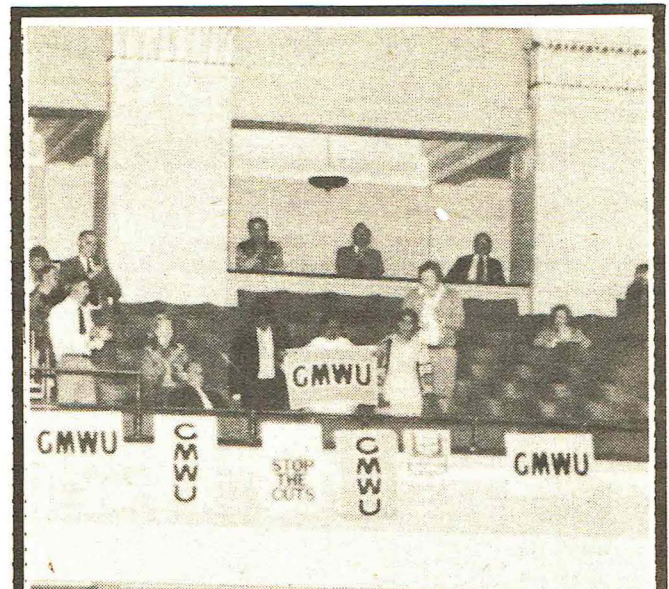
The conference must spell out the importance of full involvement with the wider labour movement—that is Labour Parties, trades councils etc. The last few years must have disabused any section of the union which believed that it could manage on its own.

The failure so far of the labour and trade union movement to halt the Tory offensive is largely due to the lack of a socialist alternative.

The call must come loud and clear from this conference for a campaign to bring down the Tory government, and the return of a Labour government, but this time committed to socialist policies including the nationalisation of the major food monopolies under workers' control and management.

Such a programme, if implemented, could guarantee the jobs and conditions of workers in the bakery and food industries.

By
Gerry Lerner



Delegates at GMWU conference stand to applaud Chix workers. The day after, Chix management gave in to the determination of the 45 Chix workers, out on strike for 8 months. The union will be recognised and allowed to recruit. Wages have been upped by 33%. Those working on the day-shift will be re-employed. The evening shift closed, partly because the strike cut production by two-thirds. But if it restarts the strikers here will be re-employed. In the meantime they will get redundancy pay.

Militant

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

ISLE OF GRAIN-

UNITE AGAINST BOSSES ATTACKS

By seven on Tuesday morning [May 27] more than a thousand laggers had responded to the call for a mass picket at the gate of the Isle of Grain Power Station in Kent.



Laggers on the picket line. They need the full support of all trade unionists

Photo: Militant

By Clare Doyle (GMWU) & Roger Gow (Gravesend Labour Party)

Four coachloads had come from Merseyside, three from Wales, three from Southampton and car and minibus loads arrived from Nottingham, Sheffield, Bristol, Dungeness, and Didcot power stations.

There was even a contingent of T&GWU laggers from Scotland, who had travelled overnight to back their brothers in the fight

to stop blackleg labour doing their jobs.

After eight months on the picket line, the Isle of Grain laggers have seen an unprecedented attempt by a union official, J Baldwin, to recruit and train men to break their strike. They feel the dispute over their bonus has arisen as a result of the CEEB's attempt to hold down earnings levels on power station sites throughout the country, particularly in preparation for the nuclear power construction programme.

It has found itself with excess capacity and expensive projects due to the recession in demand and the massive increase in oil prices since this particular station was started. It is the biggest oil-fired project in Europe.

The officials of other unions at the site—notably the Construction Engineering Union and the EETPU have instructed their members to cross the picket line. All unions were involved in strike action on 14 May in protest at the Tory government.

Disunity now will only play into the hands of the CEEB and split one of the strongest trade union sites in Kent.

Temper were high amongst the pickets. Alternative labour here means the possibility of breaking the control over the thermal insulation engineers' jobs on all major sites in the country. The laggers' job carries enormous risks to health and life, and takes four years training to begin to do it properly and safely.

Half the Kent police force

prevented the pickets from blocking the road by fair means and foul. One policeman was seen by four of the Merseyside delegation to throw a stone from the field behind the pickets, smashing a window of a coach. 37 arrests were reported to have been made.

The response of the laggers will undoubtedly be for all out action from their delegate meeting on Thursday. They must receive the fullest support from the GMWU (already committed to official backing) and from the TUC.

All union jobs and conditions are at stake. Unity at site level must be forged if we are not to see a CEEB victory on the question of wages and conditions throughout the country.

FIGHT FOR JOBS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

tion was abolished.

The Tories put out a stream of propaganda about the unemployed being 'lazy scroungers' but they don't hesitate to capitalise on the desperate demand for jobs. Within months of the announcement of mass sackings at the Corby steel plant, the army and prison services were staging a mass recruitment campaign in the town.

After thirty-five years of post-war 'progress' under the profit system, youth unemployment is higher than in the worst years of the 1930s. Before the 1979 general election the Tories were promising to reduce unemployment. Yet Tory policies will mean 300,000 industrial jobs disappearing this year! And 200,000 other jobs will go! The Tories promised "incentives to work", but manufacturing output may fall by 6% this year!

The labour and trade union movement must take action to avert this catastrophe for working people and youth. That is why thousands of Labour Party Young Socialists are engaged in a week of action from May 31st to June 7th to press home the call for action based on socialist policies.

Only the independent action of the working class can save 600,000 unemployed youth from further misery. The Tory Minister for Employment, James Prior, has declared that unemployment is bound to rise because of "the world situation and the uncompetitive state of parts of British industry."

What an admission of the failure of private so-called 'enterprise' in what was once the proud 'workshop of the world.'! They can't guarantee even the fundamental

right to work. They won't take action because it threatens their profits. . .

But Labour must take action because of the threat to the lives of working people. Over 60 years ago the Labour Party declared in its constitution that socialism was the only answer. Two generations suffered war, impoverishment and mass unemployment under the bosses' rule.

Unless action is taken and the profit system ended, another generation will suffer even more! The message must go out—after the TUC Day of Action, step up the fight for;

- ★ A guaranteed job for all school-leavers
- ★ A 35-hour week with no loss of pay
- ★ An £80 minimum wage
- ★ Kick out the Tories!
- ★ Labour to power on a socialist programme.

BSC's Expensive amateur

The following is an excerpt from an internal memo at the BSC plant at Scunthorpe on the occasion of a visit by new super-star chairman, Ian MacGregor.

"Workers should try and create a good impression for our works. If men are likely to be standing by their jobs, eg scaffolders working to erect

scaffold, welders etc, let's have them either working constructively or away from the route taken by the Chairman.

"It is important to create a good impression on Mr MacGregor, remembering that he most probably is quite unfamiliar with the nature of our business."

S.WALES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

These redundancies added to the domino effect of the rundown of the steel industry and the 2,800 already out of work in the town may mean an unemployment rate of 34% in Port Talbot by the end of the year.

Who dares say that the talk of a return to the misery of the 1930s is scare-mongering?

Other areas in South West Wales do not escape the hatchet either. The small town of Briton Ferry is to lose its fire station.

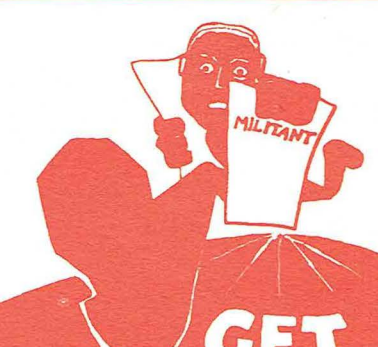
Such is the chaos of this system that it cannot even afford to maintain services that were originally designed to protect private property. Lives are of course a secondary consideration to the Tories anyway.

The Delanair car-heating company in Ammanford may shed 400 of its workers after taking on about 400 only last July after the closure of its plant at Barking, Essex.

Regional aid cannot provide jobs for 34% of a town's working population. Port Talbot already had special development area status but this could not alter the laws of capitalism which demand the sacrifice of whole communities if there's no profit for the bosses.

The list of redundancies seems endless—and it will not end until the labour movement takes a firm stand—and hammers out a socialist alternative to the shadow of the dole queue.

Full report on industrial disputes and trade union conferences—see pages 14 and 15



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