

Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

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15p

NO CUTS NO SACKINGS Fight for Council Jobs

Council workers are fighting back! Faced with devastating cuts in public expenditure, trade unionists are taking action to defend jobs and services.

In Winchester on Monday, 3,000 demonstrators surrounded the building where Hampshire's Tory councillors were meeting.

Teachers, builders, firemen and council workers staged a virtual half-day general strike to lobby the Policy and Resources Committee, who were discussing cuts which would mean the loss of four old people's

By Alison Hill (Fareham NALGO), John Byrne (AUEW) and Felicity Dowling (Pres. Liverpool NUT) all personal capacity

homes, all the day centres for the elderly and two sheltered workshops for the disabled.

15% of school and college staff would go and school meals would be cut by 40%.

In neighbouring Dor-

set, they are to be cut altogether, destroying 800 jobs. Ominously for other areas, they have the backing of the government—"Officials of the Department of Education had come to look at the situation but had gone away satisfied" said the council.

This proves that despite an actual fall in local authority spending of 14% in real terms since 1975, the Tories are hell bent on pushing it down even further.

Even top council officials

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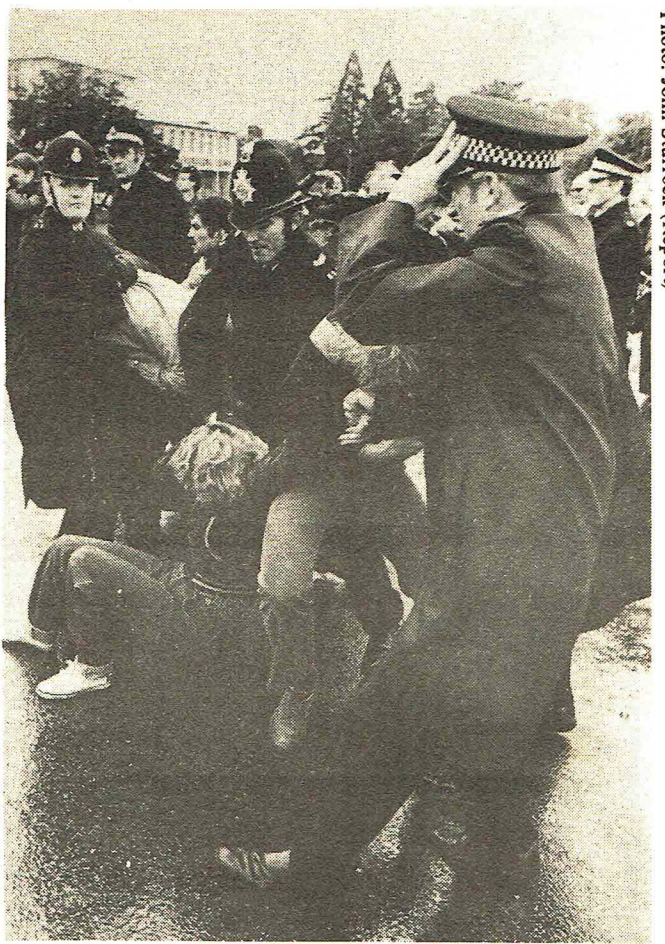


Photo: John Sturrock (Report)

Adwest Police Attack Pickets

The ten-week old dispute at Adwest Engineering, Reading, escalated further on Monday 14 July when 26 pickets were arrested.

The dispute started when 60 T&GWU members were sacked by the firm after protests at the victimisation of a worker. On 2 July, sacked convenor Danny Broderick was arrested for attempting to picket in accordance with his legal rights. The mass picket drew

support from a wide area of the south, and included a large contingent from Cowley, Oxford. The main determination was to secure the right to picket after Danny Broderick's ar-

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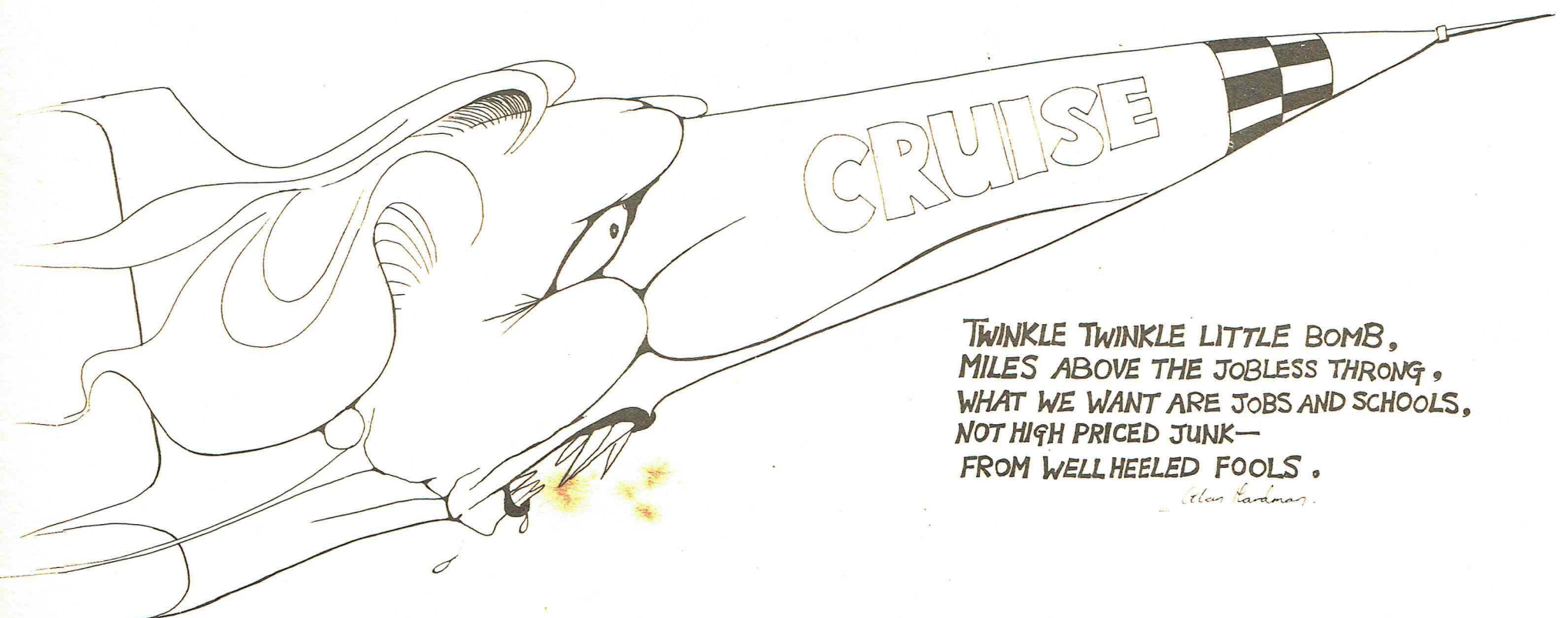


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half-year target reached!
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TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE BOMB,
MILES ABOVE THE JOBLESS THROG,
WHAT WE WANT ARE JOBS AND SCHOOLS,
NOT HIGH PRICED JUNK—
FROM WELLHEELED FOOLS.

Allen Gardner

Militant

1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

DEEPER INTO RECESSION

Employment prospects for school leavers have never been bleaker. Both the personal experiences of those hundreds queuing up for handfuls of low-paid jobs, and statistics produced by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development tell the same story.

The OECD have estimated a rise of 75% in the level of unemployment amongst young people between 16 and 24; from a level of 8% last year it will rise to 14% next year. And these figures do not include school leavers and adult students. In many areas the figures will be far higher.

The human misery which these figures represent is in

itself an indictment of the kind of society which Thatcher is creating for young people, and the social consequences will be explosive.

But they have another significance. The million young workers who will be on the dole by next year, and that is what the OECD figures would mean, represent the waste of a colossal potential for creating wealth in manufacturing industry.

Youth unemployment is the most glaring illustration of the fact that Britain is being de-industrialised and impoverished. It is no longer a slow process; every day sees more lay-offs in industry after industry and firm after firm. The West Mid-

lands chambers of commerce revealed last week that 36% of the firms they knew about had shed labour during the past three months and 41% intended to lay workers off in the next three.

So far this year in the West Midlands, 1330 companies have announced 60,600 redundancies compared to 20,441 in the same period of last year. Reg Parkes, regional chairman of the CBI claims "The scale and speed of redundancies has been devastating." Eric Swainson, managing director of IMI has even questioned whether it is worth continuing to manufacture—"an import agency may prove more attractive."

The economy is plummeting into recession. So far, thanks to the strength of the trade union movement, most wages have managed to just about keep pace with price rises. But already there are a few ominous signs of workers being prepared to take wage cuts to save their jobs.

The Tory government are now launching an insidious campaign to try and convince workers that they have to choose between lower wages or no job. Prior's monstrous suggestion that the unemployed may have to undertake "voluntary" work so as to compensate the state for the dole money it is paying out, subsequently

denied by him, yet repeated quite bluntly by the Earl of Gowrie, his junior minister, clearly indicate the way the Tories are thinking.

It is not merely outrageous that workers should be expected to shoulder the burden of capitalism's crisis by working for less money, or even just working to qualify for the dole, but it is economic madness. Joseph and Thatcher are under the illusion that by forcing down wages, industry will become more profitable for the bosses, who will then be prepared to invest in new productive capacity, take on workers again, and increase production.

In fact the very opposite is happening. The latest government figures reveal a staggering fall of 8% in manufacturing production during the 12 months up to the early summer. In the last three months alone, the fall was 4½%, with a catastrophic fall of 17% in car production in the same period.

Cuts in wages will accelerate this trend by reducing the amount workers have to spend and thus forcing manufacturers of consumer goods to cut back production and lay more workers off.

The most crucial statistic of all was an economist's forecast of a drop in industrial investment of 8%

to 12% this year, and the same again next year. Without investment now, there can be no possibility of an economic revival for the next few years. Britain is becoming an industrial wasteland.

Yet, despite a growing chorus of protest from those manufacturers most directly affected by the recession, the Tories and the bulk of capitalist economic strategists, seem determined to carry on with their policy.

Is this, as many Labour activists claim, some form of collective insanity on their part? This is a dangerously simplistic argument, implying that all we need is to replace them with sane people and Britain's crisis could be solved. No, it is not the Tories and their advisers, but the system which they represent and operate under which is insane.

The capitalist system of production dictates Thatcher's policy for her; she has no alternative. Other strategies which have been put forward would bring about exactly the same results.

This is particularly true of the idea of the Labour leaders, both on the right and the left, that the answer to the crisis is the reflation of the economy by increased public spending. More government spending on socially needed projects to restore the damage inflicted by the Tory cuts, of which

more are about to be announced, is of course vital for a future Labour government to adopt.

But as a "solution" to the problems of economic recession, it would not merely be ineffective, it would be disastrous. At a time when the creation of real wealth through manufacturing industry is in decline, increased government spending means simply printing money. It would lead to a new surge in the level of inflation, causing a further fall in real living standards and a worsening of British firms' ability to compete on the world market.

The central flaw of Labour's new draft manifesto, which is reviewed in another article on this page, is that its authors have not grasped the depth and extent of the economic chasm which British capitalism has fallen into. No medicine, no surgery is drastic enough to restore the health of this diseased economic system.

The many excellent reforms contained in the manifesto can only be implemented if capitalism is destroyed at its roots, by taking over the monopoly companies which control the economy and replacing it with democratically planned socialist system.

DRAFT
LABOUR
MANIFESTO
1980

Most radical ever

Based on resolutions passed at recent Party conferences, a draft manifesto for the next general election has been published by Labour's National Executive Committee. Despite the hostile reception it has received, predictably from the Tory press, and also from the Parliamentary leadership, it will be warmly welcomed within the party's ranks.

It aims to put into practice the decision taken at last year's conference that the NEC should have the responsibility for drawing up election manifestos from the policies laid down by conference. It is vital that this decision is re-affirmed this year so that this draft can become the basis on which Labour fights to drive the Tories from power.

If this is the case, it will without doubt be the most far-reaching programme of reform which Labour has ever put to the electorate. It will continue to provoke howls of anguish from all the vested interests in the boardrooms of the banks and industrial monopolies—a sure sign that it is looking in the right direction as far as working-class people are concerned.

Among its pledges are:—
★ Nationalisation of banks, insurance companies, the National Nuclear Corporation the power plant and mining equipment industries, commercial ports and cargo handling.

★ Re-nationalisation, without compensation, of the assets and activities of our public sector industries sold off by the Tories.

★ An annual wealth tax for those with a net personal wealth of more than £125,000.
★ A move to a 35-hour week with no decline in earnings.

★ Abolition of the House of Lords.

★ Repeal of the "SUS" law and the disbandment of the Special Patrol Group.

If this programme is explained and campaigned for, it will become a major asset to the party, drawing both votes and active members towards it. Contrasted with the desolate future offered to working people by the Tories, Labour's programme will come to be seen as return to sanity, an attempt to rebuild on the ruins left by the present reactionary government.

But workers' support will not be uncritical. At the back of many minds will be the thought that Labour leaders in the past have put forward radical programmes of reform when in opposition, only to end up when in government firstly postponing them, then abandoning them and finally going into reverse and bringing in counter-reforms.

Despite its radical proposals, which would undoubtedly inflict serious damage on the capitalists and compel them to launch a massive counter-attack to defend their interests, there is no evidence that the Labour leaders realise this and are prepared for it.

The fundamental weakness is the same as it has been in past Labour programmes, that big business will remain in control of the economy through their ownership of the big industrial monopolies, while the Labour government is trying to implement its measures.

"Our first years in office," the manifesto states, "are likely to be dominated by our efforts to rebuild British industry." That is obviously true, but it is equally true that in those first years, the owners

of the private sector will be making every effort to sabotage these efforts. "A huge injection of state finance, the creation of a new planning framework and a significant extension of public ownership" will not be sufficient to break the power of big business to wreck the government's reforms before they have been achieved.

As 'Militant' has consistently warned, if the reforms contained in this programme are to be implemented, as they must be if workers are to regain what they have lost under the Tories, then right at the outset the Labour government will have to go further and nationalise all the couple of hundred monopoly companies which control the economy.

Only this way can the potential to sabotage Labour's programme be wrested from the hands of our enemies. Only this way can the Labour government have the power to plan the economy, rebuild industry and provide decent standards of living for working people.

A major campaign of education to mobilise support for the new programme is going to be necessary. If all those workers who are drawn into activity around this campaign are not to be let down, then these serious warnings must be heeded and the programme re-inforced with clear socialist policies.

There is no easy way out of the desperate crisis of the British economy today, no short cut—either the present anarchic capitalist system remains intact, with the power to crush even the most radical of Labour governments, or it is replaced by a socialist system, with workers' control and management of industry and a democratic plan for regenerating the economy.

(Militant will be dealing in more detail with the draft manifesto in future issues.)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

are starting to complain; the anonymous chief executive of a Northern County Council is quoted as saying "My lot won't stand for any more. They've cut their lot and this time they're going to give Heseltine the old two fingers. He's really going to get his come-uppance."

In Manchester, in defiance of a 61-19 vote by the District Labour Party for a policy of no cuts, no rent rises and no redundancies, the City Council's Labour group, voted for a policy of £15 million of cuts and rent rises of £5 million. That means an average rent increase of £2.50 a week!

The District Party is determined not to let the matter rest. They are supporting the lead taken by Lambeth's Labour council and urging the Party's National Executive to give a national lead. They have also

instructed their own executive to publish the names of councillors who voted against the Party policy.

In Liverpool too, the anti-cuts fight is gaining strength. An unprecedented mass meeting of 2,000 council workers, met last week.

A resolution was passed unanimously calling for industrial action in every section in the event of redundancy notices in any one section and for a one-day strike and demonstration on 23 July.

Already city lighting workers have taken action to defend four sacked apprentices, forcing management to re-instate them, and proving the success of trade union action. NALGO members refused to process the redundancy notices, despite threats from the employers.

Unity is now the main aim of all the unions involved. It will be a difficult fight, but the strength of the unions

has never been greater.

The workers in Liverpool and Hampshire, and the Manchester District Labour Party are showing the way to fight. Only an uncompromising, united struggle by the labour and trade union movement can force the Tories to abandon their attempt to decimate social services.

'MILITANT' BROADSHEET

'For a mass democratically controlled, socialist Labour Party.'

Price, only 2p. Order from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

NO TO CRUISE!

William Rodgers, the Shadow Cabinet's spokesman on defence, has publicly backed the Tory government's decision to allow American Cruise missiles to be installed in Britain.

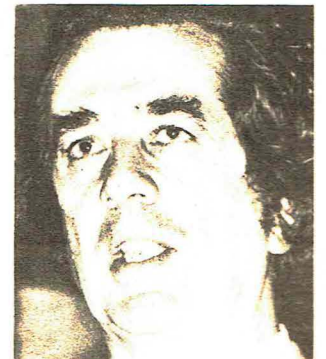
"The existence of nuclear weapons is a fact of life and we simply cannot wish them away," he claims, in a pamphlet published by the Labour Committee for Transatlantic Understanding. "Nothing should be done," he adds, "which would weaken NATO or encourage any of its members—particularly the United States—to abandon it."

These views fly directly in the face of the Party's draft manifesto which states that, "The Labour

Party opposes the manufacture and deployment of cruise missiles and the neutron bomb and refuses to permit their deployment in Britain by the United States or any other country."

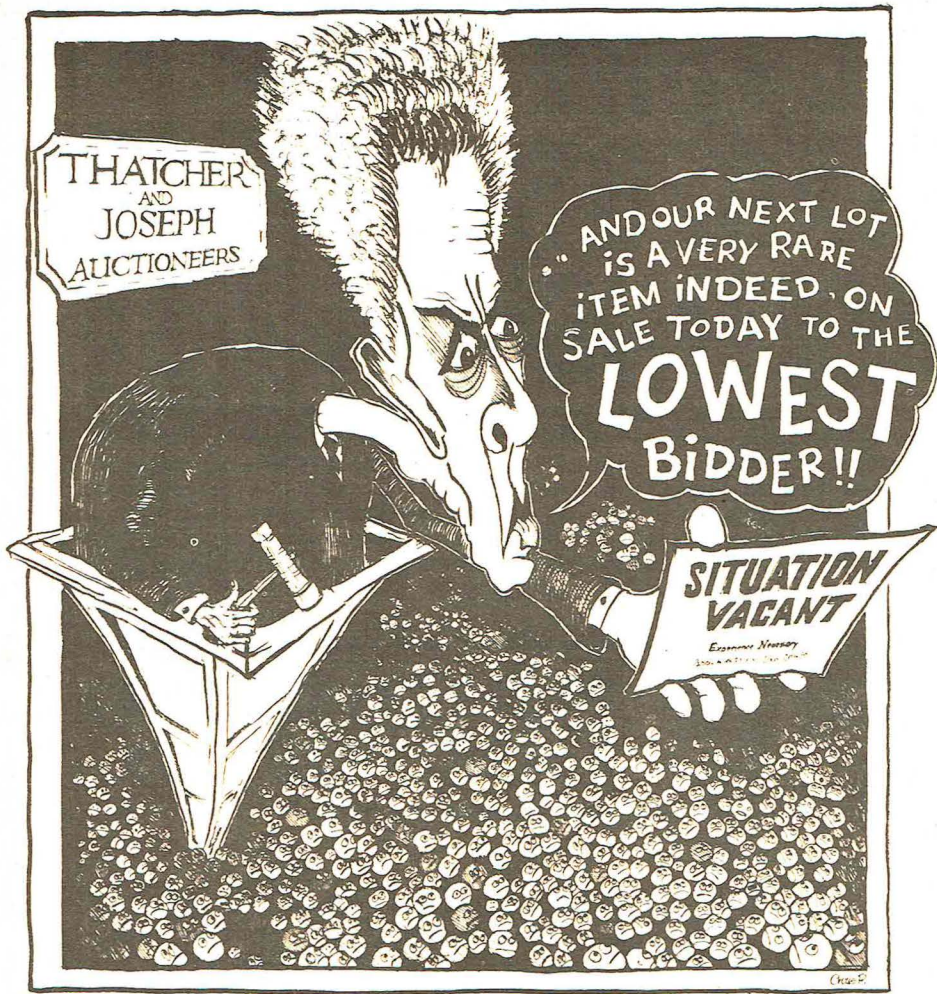
The Labour Committee for Transatlantic Understanding, whose chairman, secretary and treasurer are, respectively, Roy Mason, Terry Duffy and Franch Chapple, is a branch of the pro-NATO British Atlantic Committee. Its Labour and Trade Union Press Service is paid £5,000 a year by NATO, according to the 'Sunday Times'.

How can Labour leaders be spokesmen for NATO and the Labour Party at one and the



William Rodgers

same time? The Labour Party has absolutely no common interest with an alliance of imperialist powers which exists solely to protect the investments and profits of the big multi-national monopolies.



Summer Camp - Don't miss it

Come to the LPYS Summer Camp! Come and join in the discussions on how, and what policies are needed to fight the Tories. Come and hear Tony Benn, Frank Allaun MP, Socialists from Chile, North and Southern Ireland, in addition to leading LPYS speakers.
Don't miss out—Book Now! Send £5 deposit (or the full

£35) to LPYS Summer Camp c/o Andy Bevan, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.
LPYS Summer Camp July 26th-August 2nd, Bracelands Campsite, Near Coleford, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire £35, meals included, just bring a tent!
It's a good holiday as well! Facilities are available for swimming, pony trekking,

tennis and table tennis as well as 5-a-side football and darts competitions. Socials, discos, films every evening complete the picture.
Bring the kids too! A full time creche is organised daily and the long range weather forecast is for warmer, drier weather at the end of the month! Don't miss it. Come to the summer camp.

FIGHT YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

"500 school leavers in the queue of despair," reported 'The Times' last week, describing how 500 school leavers, some with degrees, queued up for hours desperately hoping to be interviewed for eight jobs in a Sheffield clothes shop, paying poverty line wages of £32.50 a week.

One girl summed up the desperate situation in Sheffield, where 5,400 teenagers are out of work: "I am on trial for the day, and I need the job. I've been for other jobs and all they say is "We'll let you know" but I have not heard anything since."

Nor is Sheffield a lone example. 'Nationwide' recently reported that 75% of Easter school leavers in Cornwall, and 73% in Newcastle are still out of work 3 months later!

With massive queues appearing for jobs, employers are rubbing their hands and following 'His Insanity' Keith Joseph's advice by offering poverty wages. The latest Tory gimmick, from the 'wet' Jim Prior, is that the unemployed should be made to do community work—which would represent nothing more than a modern day version of the workhouse, or the road-building gangs of the 1930s.

The return of mass unemployment on the scale of the 1930s is a burning indictment of the Tories and the capitalist system that they represent. What kind of logic is there in a system that prevents 1.6 million from working at an estimated cost of £7,000 million in benefits?

The recent Tory party broadcast, 'starring' the turncoat Prentice showed how much wealth was being lost to society through unemployment. They claimed that if, on the May 14th TUC Day of Action, the 7 million workers in manufacturing industry had all gone on strike for the day, the loss of production would have been equivalent to 20 new schools, 50 old peoples homes, 1000 new kidney

By Kevin Ramage
(LPYS Chairman)

machines, and 5,000 extra hospital beds.

If that's the wealth that 7 million create in a day, 1.6 million unemployed with useful jobs in manufacturing industry could create 50 times that and more in a year.

According to Ted Heath (writing in 'The Times' 26/2/80), unemployment of 18 million in the OECD

countries, (the major western countries) causes a loss of production of between £100,000 and £200,000 MILLION a year.

The Labour Party Young Socialists are at the forefront in the fight against unemployment, raising socialist policies as the answer:

i or a guaranteed job for every school and college leaver, A 35 hour week without loss of pay, For a massive scheme of useful public works to improve housing, health, education and public transport.

Above all, if the fight against unemployment is to be successful it must be a fight against the profit system, for a socialist plan of production which is the only means by which we can be sure of ending the misery, degradation, and waste of mass unemployment.

DEESIDE

On top of the massive redundancies and high unemployment of Merseyside, the South Wirral, Chester and Deeside area now faces decimation as a direct result of Tory policy. At Shotton steelworks, in Deeside, 6,600 men have lost their jobs since January and unemployment stands at 44%.

In Chester, one of our great national heritage centres, where the sun always shines, life is very dull for the working class youth of the town. It was announced in the local Tory rag three weeks ago, before most school leavers had signed on the dole, that the city now has the second worst youth unemployment figures in the country. Not only this but the city also has the highest percentage of social security claimants in the north-west.

Ellesmere Port now has 500 on the dole along with lay-offs and short-time working hit-

ting the area badly. Already the Vauxhall and Bowaters plants have been forced to implement lay-offs.

This, along with 22% inflation and massive cuts in education, the NHS, and public services has been the result of 14 months of Tory government. Plunder-woman Thatcher and her high-society rats have carried out all this in pursuit of maintaining profit margins and not the living standards of the ordinary working people.

The Labour Party Young Socialists now have active, campaigning branches in all of these areas. At the same time, Chester is to have its first ever Militant Readers' Meeting and Bowaters in Ellesmere Port recently held their first readers' meeting. This shows that in run-down areas, people are prepared to fight back given the correct policies and leadership.

By Simon Swinnerton
(Chester LPYS)

NEEDED-A REAL SCHOOL STUDENTS MOVEMENT

Hundreds of thousands of young people are bearing the brunt of savage cuts in education. For many the chances of a decent well paid job onleaving school are remote indeed.

The recent conference of the so-called National Union of School Students proved incapable of offering any real way out of these problems to school students.

After last year's NUSS conference the LPYS warned that the sectarian groups which had replaced the liberal Young Communist League as the union's leadership would be incapable of developing the school students movement. Unfortunately this year's NUSS conference proved the LPYS right and marked the effective end of the NUSS as a national movement.

Only 60 delegates, representing 600 paid up members, attended the first day of the conference. By the second day, only 35 were present. The conference had only a bare minimum of debate, with only two sessions.

Furthermore the conference was run in the worst traditions of the National Union of Students, not those of the labour movement. The conference was marked by the walk-out of sectarian groups who found themselves in a minority. Genuine, serious school students activists were noticeable by their absence.

As it was, very few general political resolutions were taken, with the SWP opposing demands for 'no plat-



The LPYS must lead the growing militancy of school students

form for fascists' and saying that the call for the 'Nationalisation under workers' control of any firm threatening redundancies' was utopian.

The NUSS is no longer a national union. All that is left is a name controlled by a sectarian group. Unfortunately, history has repeated itself. The NUSS has gone the way of the first schools students union, the Schools Action Union, which from having a large following when it was formed in 1969 had by 1972 degenerated into a small Maoist clique which finally vanished.

Whilst there may still be a few active branches in different areas—most of which are not involved nationally with the 'union'—the NUSS hardly exists at national level and the present leadership will be utterly incapable of building anything.

Since the school student movement first began in Britain 12 years ago, all manner of weird and wonderful political grouplets have led the movement...to disaster. Often they have only achieved control by forming unprincipled com-

binations against the largest political movement within schools, the Labour Party Young Socialists.

Whenever there has been a movement of school students the LPYS has played an active role in developing and strengthening it. But now it is the responsibility of the LPYS to begin laying the foundations for the creation of a genuine school students movement.

The building of LPYS School Student groups will be crucial in this and the LPYS School Student Charter and schools leaflet provide an excellent basis upon which the LPYS branches can plan their activity in the autumn term.

As the class battles unfold and in reaction to cuts in education and mounting mass youth unemployment, resistance to the Tories and hatred of capitalism will grow like wildfire amongst school students. The LPYS has the job to ensure that this militancy is not wasted, but linked, through the LPYS, to the struggle of the labour movement to change society.

SOUTHALL

Last Monday 14 July, 30 members of the LPYS, Labour Party and trade unionists demonstrated outside Ealing Magistrates Court in solidarity with the five LPYS members arrested in Southall.

While distributing leaflets selling papers and recruiting for the Labour Party and Young Socialists last month, the police swooped on the YS members, who were charged with obstruction.

As it turned out, the trial did not take place. The magistrates decided not to hear the case that day, but

that we should return on November 11th.

There are a number of questions arising from last Monday. The judiciary emphasised the trivial nature of the charges, which they cited as reason for not allowing us legal aid! The case in fact has serious implications for freedom of speech, assembly and campaigning.

The police, on the other hand, were represented by counsel and another legal representative for this 'trivial' obstruction case.

Also, the case was alloca-

ted one of the smallest rooms in the courthouse, despite the large number of people expected. Only after a long discussion was it agreed that relatives of defendants and one member of the press would be allowed in.

The period between now and November 11th will be used to alert the labour movement to the dangers in this attack on our rights and carry on the campaign for political and financial support.



The media came and went, but the problems remained [Above] The day after the riot.

FACTORY READERS MEETING

The first ever Militant Readers meeting at Bowater's plant at Ellesmere Port was a great success. Richard Venton spoke of the need for all trade unionists to have a clear understanding of how to fight back against the Tories and their system. During the discussion, in which everybody spoke, the question of the way forward for the Labour Party was raised. Most of the meeting

thought that Bowater workers, and all workers, should join their local Labour Party and fight for the policies of Militant.

Other workplaces should follow our example of holding readers meetings at work. We've agreed to buy 2 copies of the Militant each every week now—one for ourselves and a spare copy to leave at work. We are also going to sell more at our SOGAT branch and chapel meeting.

The comrades are all very keen to build Militant influence and to use these meetings to educate each other in socialist ideas. We collected £7 for the Fighting Fund at our first meeting.

By Gary Leech
(SOGAT shop steward
Bowater)

LPYS ROUND UP

Recent meetings of the LPYS have included discussions with agricultural workers and an attempted debate with Young Conservatives.

Reports by Anna Petrie (Pollock LPYS) and Alan Benyon (York LPYS)

In York five Agricultural Union members came along to hear the Union's District Organiser, Colin Hands, speak of the problems facing farm workers. Big multinational corporations have taken over food production and distribution and Colin spoke of how he'd recently been involved with the Texan

representative of one company. He also spoke of how the union had begun to change in the last few years as agricultural workers were increasingly prepared to stand up for their rights.

Expressing their viewpoint has been something singularly

missing from Young Conservatives. So Pollock LPYS challenged them to a debate. As Young Tories are rather an extinct species in working class Glasgow, Tory Central Office promised to import one from a middle class area.

Two days before the meeting they pulled out though. But it didn't stop the meeting, and after Willie King had spoken, six new members joined the LPYS.

DISCOPOLITICS

Over the last period, Dunfermline LPYS have held two successful discos. At one we had three live bands playing. Everybody concerned had a good time.

We also made £10 for our funds. Not only that we gained

funds. Not only that we gained new members and contacts. We are now in the process of planning an open air festival.

We feel that every branch ought to be able to do this kind of thing. The political work which is the most important part of LPYS work can be blended into this happily.

We have found that in selling tickets and talking to people at the discos [we have had two] that there are whole numbers of young disillusioned workers looking for an organisation such as ours. Conversations usually start off by talking about music and organising discos then lead on in to politics. It is when we are putting forward our political programme that these workers become most interested and decide to join.

We hope to gain many members at our open air festival. This will be free of charge. The stage we are using we got free from the

council.

Any comrades wishing to try should first approach their council. Ours proved to be very helpful. The next stage is to find bands willing to play free. This is a fairly easy task as there are many bands looking for a break.

Between bands speakers should be organised. Our political work still carries on with debates between us and the Tories being organised and regular meetings and paper sales.

Peter Lockhart
Secretary,
Dunfermline LPYS

Planning for the future

"Our biggest and best meeting for more than fifteen years." "The best meeting I've ever been to." "I've been in the Labour Party 22 years and your ideas are the same as mine."

By Steve Fear
(Salisbury CLP)

These comments were typical of the feeling of the overwhelming majority of the 40 people that attended the second members meeting organised by Salisbury Labour Party. Kevin Ramage (LPYS National Chairman) spoke on 'A Socialist Programme for Labour.'

The discussion centred around questions such as 'how would socialism be achieved', 'How could the working class defend itself against reaction' and showed the enormous thirst and enthusiasm for socialist ideas and political discussion in the Labour Party. When one self-described 'pragmatist' attacked the speaker on the grounds that

he was 'A Leninist and wanted a Leninist Revolution' one party member retorted sharply 'so what' to the general approval of the meeting.

Other comrades explained how Lenin, Trotsky and the bolsheviks had founded a democratic workers' state in 1917 and the reasons for the later rise of Stalinism in Russia. The importance of putting forward a bold, clear socialist programme as the only way of ending the crisis of the capitalist system clearly won the support of many present. An excellent collection of £18 was raised, to meet expenses and help send people to LPYS Summer Camp. Over 30 Militants were sold, and several comrades agreed to help sell the paper.

In Manchester, a meeting of 50 Labour Party Young Socialists collected over £50, while in Cambridge, an LPYS day school discussing Chile resulted in an excellent collection of over £80. Many other LPYS branches are now organising similar meetings, and beginning preparations for meetings on and around the anniversary of the Generals' coup on September 11th.

For this, the LPYS National Committee at its meeting on June 28th agreed to produce a 1 sided leaflet for branches to print details of local meetings on the back. At the LPYS Summer Camp (July 26th—August 2nd) Chile and the campaign will be one of the main discussions.

LPYS Chile Campaign

BRISTOL TRADES COUNCIL LAUNCHES ENQUIRY

By John and Pat Graham
(St. Paul's Labour Party)

In a welcome move Bristol Trades Council last week decided to hold an inquiry into the St Paul's riot of last April.

The Trades Council offered to help the local community, putting its resources at their disposal.

At the meeting to discuss the inquiry were members of the two local Labour Party branches covering the St. Paul's area, local community groups and individuals involved in community projects.

Before the meeting some members of the local black community were worried that the Trades Council were

proposing another academic, sociological inquiry. But these doubts were resolved when it was agreed that everything would be published and that a pamphlet based on the inquiry would be published. This pamphlet would have campaigning recommendations for action to be taken, to end the conditions which produced the troubles.

What probably proved decisive in the decision to hold an inquiry, was a refusal by anyone else to do anything. Only the labour movement offered a way forward for black and white youth in

Bristol.

At the recent abortive lobby of Parliament, we were told that there would be no Home Office inquiry. On the coach on the way home, one West Indian Trade Unionist remarked to me "We have the organisation—let's use it."

And that is now what is being done. On the inquiry will be Ian Mikardo, Labour MP, two members of the Trades Council, two members of the local community, a lawyer and a civil rights activist. The hearings, to be held over several weekends, will probably start in August.

The call for a Labour movement inquiry had been made by three local Labour Parties, and the two branches covering the riot area. Now that the decision to hold one has gone ahead, it is vital that all sections of the movement give it support.

HOW TO END SUS

By Chris Grace
(Norwich CLP)

After a lengthy and sometimes heated debate at its last meeting, Norwich Labour Party decided to send a resolution on Sus and trade union rights for the police to this year's Annual Labour Party Conference. There were eleven resolutions on the agenda.

The LPYS resolution had stated:

"This Conference notes with alarm the threat posed to the labour movement by the increased powers of the forces of 'Law and Order'. It notes particularly the use of the Special Patrol Group in industrial disputes and its presence and role at political demonstrations.

Conference recognises that with the threatened escalation of unemployment and the decline in public services, and the increase in political activities that the Tory policies will inevitably bring about, the menace posed by this sort of police activity can only increase. We note in particular, the extent of

police harassment of the black communities through the use of the 1824 Vagrancy Act (SUS).

Conference therefore calls for:

1. Disbandment of the SPG;
2. Repeal of the SUS laws;
3. The establishment of an independent body to investigate complaints against the police, its members to be drawn from all sections of the labour movement.

However, Conference recognises that the ranks of the police and armed forces are overwhelmingly made up of working class men and women whose interests are often the same as the workers they are often used against. It is therefore in the interests of the labour movement to draw these workers in uniform into the trade unions and free them from the dictates of their officers.

Conference therefore calls on the NEC and TUC to campaign for:

- A. trade union rights for police and armed forces;
- B. the right of members of the police and armed forces to negotiate their own pay and to take strike action to secure decent living standards if necessary;
- C. the abolition of privileged ranks, and their replacement by officers elected by the ranks of those services and subject to recall by them."

After it had been moved and seconded [by Mark Mason and Alec Rudling] a new point 4 was added by the meeting: 4. greater accountability of Chief Constables to their democratically elected local authorities. A proposal to delete C. [the election of officers] was however defeated.

Short Sharp but not enough

Gwen Taylor heads a cabinet and cast whose chief attribute is individual and collective lunacy. And Mrs Thatcher is very ably abetted by Darlene Johnson in the guise of 'His Insanity' Sir Keith Joseph, so real it's almost frightening.

**Julian McKittrick
re views the new play
'Short, Sharp Shock'**

Inspired in one successful scene by a hand-puppet rabbit, alias Milton Friedman, the Mad Monk is confirmed in his monetarism and intones it as "so stupid it's almost obvious, so brutal it's almost kind."

This is the stance adopted

by the playwrights Howard Brenton and Tony Howard, that Thatcherite policies can best be ascribed to criminal insanity rather than directly to the needs of a capitalist class in crisis.

Socialists will feel that this spectacle of government by asylum is inadequate and irritating, not assisted by the

play's lack of cohesion and coherence.

Where, in the play, is the working class and where is its guide to action? For counterposed to the psychotic cronies of Thatcher's cabinet, is an almost equally ludicrous 'family' described by one of its members as "this mad socialist extended family."

Here the characters drift in despair and opportunism from right wing Labour Party careerism to the Tory Party and out again, from the CP to the Ecology Party...and then?

Far better to have dispensed with some of the sermons

on the mount with their preachy monologues on the horrors of monetarism, and give us at least one clear-headed class-fighter.

An attack on the Tory government and its disastrous policies may be laudable but it surely isn't enough. In spite of the quality of acting, with some uncanny and well-executed impersonations, and an imaginative and impressive use of props, socialists will come away from London's Theatre Royal in Stratford, disappointed.



■ The arrogance and hypocrisy of the Tory press never ceases to amaze. Giving the NUR leaders a grilling over their demand that the profitable part of British Rail should be sold off to the vultures of big business while the 'unprofitable' parts are left to rot, the 'Express' [1 July] writes in its editorial, "...anyone would think that the railways were the property of those employed on them, rather than the public." In the cosy well-paid world the 'Express' editors live in, no doubt they think the 'public' is perfectly happy about the cut-backs in the transport system this would lead to. It then goes on to criticise the NUR leaders for being "like nineteenth-century railway barons". When the Labour government nationalised the then ailing railway system after the war, we can be sure the 'Express' was full of praise for taking this bold action against the 'railway barons', can't we?

■ The 'Daily Mirror' [3 July] took us back to the land of Billy Bunter when they asked whatever became of the 'class of '50' at the ivory towers of both Oxford and Cambridge. The occasion was the 'summer joust' between the two bastions of capitalist society, where two boat teams competed dressed in top hat and tails. Leading the light blues was Norman St John Stevas, now a Tory MP and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and for the dark blues, none other than Robin Day. These two have done alright for themselves, but what became of the rest of their crew? The crew for Oxford were Michael Summerskill [an heir to a Baroness], Stanley Booth-Clibborn, [now Bishop of Manchester] Geoffrey Dazell Payne [now a businessman], Godfrey Smith [journalist], Keith Kyle [former BBC commentator and now with Royal Institute of International Affairs], Jeremy Thorpe [the same], Peter Emery [Tory MP] and that well-known socialist Dick Taverne [who became Labour MP, until he got re-called back to base.] For Cambridge were Robin Williams [now Sir and former chairman of the Tory Bow group], Ivor Hussey [barrister], Ronald Waterhouse [now Sir and a High Court Judge], Grenville Jones [economic adviser to Gulf oil sheikhs], Julien Williams [former Tory candidate, now runs his estate in Cornwall], Gut Mathur [university principal], Tony Bullock [British Consul General in Marseille] and Percy Craddock [now Sir and ambassador to Peking]. And the steward for the race—none other than Sir Geoffrey Howe. Do you ever feel that in this capitalist society to get to the top you have to start at the top?

■ Remember the furore in the media when that nice little moderate Peter Young, far-right leading member of the Federation of Conservative Students was 'detained' in Poland. Remember the front page stories telling us how this champion of free enterprise was being 'detained' because of his political beliefs. 'Searchlight', the anti-fascist magazine has shed some light onto the affair. The Polish authorities say they detained Young for trying to smuggle out glassware on which duty was payable. As 'Searchlight' points out, "Certainly the Foreign Office have not seen fit to make an official issue out of this detention, and indeed, is said to have apologised to the Polish authorities for Young's behaviour. Claims that the affair was stage-managed are strengthened by the fact that Young remained in Poland for almost twenty-four hours after his release, making no attempt to inform relatives or friends in Britain that he was safe. Meanwhile his colleagues were doing the rounds of Fleet Street telling anybody who would listen that he was still being held by the Polish secret police." Also the period of detention is not clear: "Young himself told the 'Guardian' that he was held for six hours, 'The Times' that it was seven hours, and in an article he penned for the [Freedom Association] paper 'Free Nation' it rose to eight hours." The Poles thought they only delayed him by two hours. Enough said.

The Wasted Man



I saw an old man yesterday,
Though strangely he looked far away,
He seemed so close I recognised,
The look of anguish in his eyes,
The years upon his face had told,
A drawn expression aged old,
That spoke of days in ceaseless toil,
And led his youth to waste and spoil.

His frame stood arched beneath the weight,
Of problems realised too late,
And crippled hands that shook while still,
Could work no more with craftsman's skill,
Puzzled by his hopeless state,
I asked of him would he relate,
What horror he had suffered so,
That such waste had so quickly grown.

With piercing stare he fixed my eye,
And whispered coldly his reply,
'No horror made my form this way,
But the toil of the working day,
I alone am not unique,
For millions more share my physique,
We starved and watched life pass us by,
While others lived and bled us dry.'

'What fools you were to leave it so',
I shouted as he turned to go,
But turning round once more, said he,
'But you are more a fool than me,
For I have told you how it is,
But will you still go on to this?
'Nay, I will work until I am,
An equal to the ruling man'.

Such empty echoes were my words,
I hoped in vain he had not heard,
But sinister smile now crossed his face,
So that I wished he'd leave the place,
Then in terror watched amazed,
As this strange being began to fade,
I asked this ghost where he was from,
He smiled 'But I am you in years to come'.

By T A Fyles
Dewsbury CLP

From Lufkin to the Lords

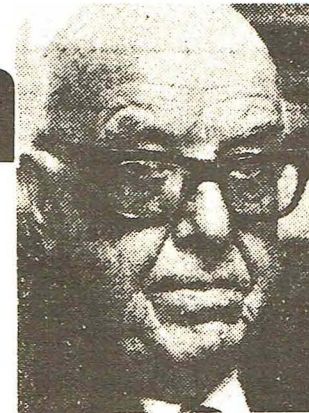
Lord Snow, who died on the first of July this year, was the author of a fascinating series of novels entitled 'Strangers and Brothers'. Some of these novels provide a useful insight into the workings of the state machine and the thinking of the ruling class.

Two of them—'The New Men' and 'Corridors of Pow-

er'—deal with the currently topical issue of nuclear weapons.

The title 'The New Men' refers to the people involved in developing the bomb and suggests that many of the scientists involved genuinely believed that it would never be used. This novel was written after ten years' experience as a Civil Service Commissioner with responsibility for scientific recruitment.

The 'Corridors of Power' demonstrates clearly how far removed from parliamentary democracy the real decision-



making process of government is. As he put it, "in the long run big business (with the military and the scientists) usually won."

Behind-the-scenes deals between top civil servants and industrialists such as Lord Lufkin (a character who is a splendid caricature of a 'captain of industry') figure as the most important element in any political decision.

Paradoxically, the bleak picture of the undemocratic

nature of power in British society which Snow's novels revealed is a crushing refutation of the moderate reformist policies which Lord Snow supported as a member of the Wilson government from 1964-66.

If even the limited reforms which the novel deals with—the scrapping of Britain's independent nuclear weapons—is impossible, what chance did that government have of implementing socialist measures without mobilising the power of the labour movement against big business?

One of his last novels—'In Their Wisdom'—was based on his experiences in the House of Lords. It is very revealing about the mood of the geriatric wing of the ruling class. It is imbued with a deep feeling of demoralisation. None of them can see any real hope for their heirs or the capitalist system itself. On this question, at least, their Lordships are 100% correct!

ONLY LABOUR MOVEMENT CAN UNITE IRELAND



The question of Northern Ireland is a vitally important issue, not only for the working class of the North but for the labour movement in both Britain and Ireland.

When Marxists analyse any situation they begin from a class basis, examining every factor in the situation from all sides: the balance of class forces, the power of the labour movement, the power of the capitalist state. From this standpoint Marxists then go on to formulate socialist demands, with the interests of the working people at the fore.

Responsibility for the situation in the North lies squarely on the shoulders of British capitalism. Two major factors influenced the British ruling class in partitioning Ireland in 1922. Partition would stem the flow of social revolution, the background to the 'war of independence', from spreading to their own country; the virtual police state in the North, resting on the shoulders of sectarianism, would act as a buffer, dividing and weakening key sections of organised industrial workers.

Secondly, the new statelet meant that British capitalism could retain the 'loot', the rich pickings of Ireland: the profitable heavy industries and the strategic military and naval outposts then situated in the North.

Today, for British capitalism the situation has changed totally. The North has been reduced to an economic wasteland. The abject social conditions, coupled with the vast expense of the military presence, make it an enormous financial burden for

British capitalism. In the age of nuclear warfare, it is of little military use.

As the 'Financial Times' (9 July) pointed out, the cost to British capitalism of maintaining its presence in the North is £1 billion a year. The serious strategists of capital would undoubtedly favour a peaceful united capitalist Ireland as a satellite of the British economy.

If this is so, workers may ask, why doesn't Britain 'get out'?

In 1969 the monster of sectarianism, created by British imperialism to secure its grip, lurched out of control. Catholic workers, driven by ever-worsening conditions and supported by advanced elements of the Protestant working class, agitated for better social conditions. The bigoted loyalist leaders whipped up a pogrom against the Catholics, whose demands they claimed were a threat to Protestant workers' jobs and houses.

At a later stage, with the arrival of the British army and the failure of the labour movement to offer a decisive alternative lead, angry Catholic working class youth turned in their hundreds to the IRA. But the Provisional IRA, guided by the middle class nationalist mentality of their leaders, deepened the sectarian divide through the methods of individual terrorism. Their tactics proved a blind alley for the Catholic youth who flocked to their

By Bob Wade

banner, and totally alienated the Protestant and British working class.

Why did British capitalism send in its army? It intervened to stave off the threat of escalation into a full scale sectarian civil war—for which British capitalism itself had created the pre-conditions.

Their concern was not for the Northern Ireland working class. A civil war would have upset the social order in which they could extract their profits, putting 'their' property in danger. With a large Irish population in Britain, enormous repercussions would have been felt in Glasgow, Liverpool and other major cities.

This holds true today. Despite the war-weariness of the working class and their revulsion at sectarianism, the conditions that could precipitate a sectarian civil war are still present. If British capitalism withdrew, and the remaining vacuum was not filled by the labour movement posing an answer to the crushing social problems on a non-sectarian basis, the Protestant population would feel they were faced with an all-out struggle for survival. The sectarians, if not answered by the labour movement, united around socialist policies, would sow the seeds of civil war.

Comrade Knight says the withdrawal of British troops alone would "radically... plough up the grassland." It would be more likely to mean tens of thousands dying in a sectarian holocaust.

The North would become the Lebanon of Europe, with the working class divided and worker set upon worker in a protracted civil war.

The probable outcome, if no intervention was made by

Comrade Editor

May I comment on some points from Bob Wade's article on Northern Ireland, in your issue of June 20?

Bob writes: "As 'Militant' has always demanded, the army must be withdrawn from the six counties. But coupled to this demand is the need for the labour movement to organise independently for its own defence and security, and to fight for the socialist programme that will eradicate the social conditions which breed sectarianism."

Is the long-standing demand of 'Militant' for the withdrawal of troops to be looked on as a specific political demand addressed through the labour movement on the government, calling on it to withdraw British state forces from Ireland; or is it to be regarded simply as the statement of a general position?

Is it intended that the creation by the labour movement in Northern Ireland of its own defence units, independent of the state, should be undertaken here and now, while the army remains in Ireland, and while as a consequence the working class remains disunited?

If so, then in the present sectarian divide [of which the Unionist ascendancy is the determinant and the army the guarantor], it is evident that the working class of Republican sympathies [in the main Catholics] cannot build trade union and working class defence units except independently of and in

hostility to the state.

It is a very different matter with the 'Loyalist' [and mainly Protestant] workers. Already involved at many levels in the police and state defence organisations, they can have no material incentive to create new defence units while their present organisations continue to be sanctioned by the political power of Unionism, which is itself underpinned by the British army.

While the army remains, it guarantees the veto of the Unionist ascendancy in the six counties. As the arm of the British state it endorses the Border, constitutionally a British state border. Thereby it is the instrument for maintaining partition, the dismemberment and division of Irish nationality.

In these functions the army does not merely continue the historic subjugation and oppression of Ireland but divides the Irish working class on each side of the Border, while in the six counties it underpins so-called "majority" Unionist rule that further subdivides the working class along the line of minimal privilege, social possession and dispossession, using the political device of sectarianism.

To remove the army is therefore to alter profoundly the political and social conditions of the map of Ireland, radically to plough up the grassland.

I believe that the building of genuinely independent, non-sectarian workers' defence organisations by a united work-

ing class cannot realistically be undertaken while the army remains in Ireland. For the British army can remain on no other basis than that of defending the Union and the British connection. Its mere presence, even if its rifles were made of wood, and its soldiers of chocolate, can do no other than divide the working class, as it can do no other than divide Ireland.

Only a united working class in the six counties can build united defence organisations independent of the capitalist state, and the precondition of such unity is the removal of the army and the dissolution of the British link.

To break the connection with Ireland, to withdraw the army that is the ultimate instrument of that connection, is in the words of Marx, "in the direct and absolute interest of the English working class." Even more directly it is in the interest of the Irish working class.

Not "civil war" and "blood-bath" as the Tories hypocritically assert, and as Mason, Foot, Callaghan and their right-wing colleagues in the Labour Party slavishly repeat; but the ground prepared and the working class set free in Ireland to take the affairs of Ireland into their own hands.

Fraternally
Denis Knight

Brighton Kemp Town CLP

How can Northern Ireland be freed from sectarianism and repression, the legacy of centuries of British domination? This letter from a Brighton reader, raises key questions for the British labour movement.

Photo: Belfast dockers march in protest at the arrest of Paddy Kelly, an IT&GWU member at the docks detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act as he travelled to Liverpool.

the labour movement or the British or Irish capitalist classes, would be the mass expulsion or exodus of the North's half a million Catholics. This mass of people could not be accommodated by the Southern Irish economy; they would be consigned to refugee camps.

To use Connolly's words, a "carnival of reaction" would follow, as after partition in 1922. This would have severe consequences for the capitalist class too. It is their own class interests they are seeking to defend.

There is only one force capable of forcing the withdrawal of troops from Northern Ireland: a united working class, moving into action on a class and socialist programme. Not individual terrorism but the formation of a mass Labour Party in the North of Ireland is the only way to really fight British imperialism and its repressive forces.

This does not mean that the British army play any progressive role whatsoever in Northern Ireland—they are acting purely in the interests of British capitalism. As an added bonus for the bosses' class, Northern Ireland serves as a training ground to perfect methods of 'counter insurgency', to be used against the British working class when they move into confrontation with the capitalist system.

Obviously workers cannot rely on the army of the British capitalist state—as it cannot rely on the Irish army, or United Nations forces, for its Protestants. This was a device and thousands of injuries, many of them at the hands of the army, prove this. In the long term, British capitalism cannot prevent sectarian violence while all the ingredients remain.

Thus 'Militant's' demands for the immediate withdrawal of the British army is linked with iron chains to the

demand for the formation of a trade union defence force.

This is not a mechanical demand—we do not expect our supporters in the North to suddenly don tin hats, marching up and down the road proclaiming themselves to be a 'trade union defence force'.

But what is clear is that the working class must unite through its own non-sectarian organisations for defence of its economic and political interests and for its own security.

Despite ten years of violence, trade union shop floor struggles have not been broken by sectarianism. Comrade Knight is a hundred times correct when he says, "Only a united working class in the six counties can build united defence organisations."

His programme to achieve this is simply to withdraw the troops. This act in isolation would in fact produce the reverse.

Rather, class issues and the understanding of the need for socialism will unite the working class. The need for socialism, not a united Ireland on a capitalist basis, will unite the labour movement behind one banner.

Comrade Knight still puts forward the myth that the Protestant working class have 'privileges', albeit minimal—this must be news for the unemployed of the Shankhill. Comrade Knight is living in the past: the situation has changed.

At the height of the capitalist boom of the '50s and '60s, discrimination against the Catholic workers meant that the better paid jobs, mainly in heavy industry and textile manufacture, went to Protestants. This was a device used by the bosses to foster sectarianism.

But capitalism is now in crisis: the bosses are abandoning the sinking ship leaving the Protestant workers on board. Harland and

Wolff, the mighty shipbuilders of the capitalist boom, employed over 25,000 mainly Protestant workers in the '50s. Today it employs under 8,000 and is only kept alive through government intervention.

Unemployment is now a staggering 70,000 in the North—in areas such as Strabane, it is at 40 per cent. And redundancies are proving to be non-sectarian!

Low wages, slum housing and general poverty affect Catholic and Protestant workers alike. In the Protestant working class area of the Shankhill, Belfast, 81 per cent of houses have no hot water, 49 per cent have total household incomes of less than £25 per week; and 79 per cent have no toilets. This is as bad as the slums in the Catholic area of the Falls Road.

The growing awareness of the workers in the face of the capitalist onslaught was heralded by the impressive support for the half-day general strike on 2 April.

In the South, workers also face the international crisis of capitalism. As workers move into increasing conflict with the bosses' system they will see the struggle for socialism, both North and South, as one struggle.

Class policies will unite the labour movement of the North: not abstract slogans of a 'united Ireland' or speculation as to what time of day the army should withdraw.

Only a united labour movement can take on the might of British imperialism. With a bold leadership, armed with a socialist programme, the mass ranks of the Northern Ireland working class can strive forward to force out British capitalism and all the misery and repression it represents, and together with their fellow workers of the South, begin the construction of a socialist united Ireland.

Deportations, raids on black workers....

POLICE HARASSMENT INCREASES

Jono Varki, his wife Meena and their son, Sonu, were deported, following what 'The Sunday Times' called a most "remarkable" campaign. Their case attracted widespread support from the most unlikely quarters.

"More than 100 MPs, as well as community organisations, Camden Borough Council, local clergy and political bodies, including the Greater London Young Conservatives, have appealed to the government to allow the Varkis to stay. A petition signed by 1,500 friends and neighbours in Camden was sent to the Home Office, and old age pensioners marched in protest to Downing Street."

The family, who had been in this country for eight years, were self supporting, devoting most of their time to voluntary community work. They had established firm roots here.

The Varki's had another pressing reason for remaining in this country. They had been warned by doctors that the Indian climate would be positively detrimental to the health of their six year old son.

If only on humanitarian grounds, it was widely expected that this family would win a reprieve. This was not to be.

The whole family were eventually deported for purely "technical" reasons: "a cru-

By Bob Lee
(PNP)

cial appeal to the Home Office was late because of a lawyer's bereavement" ('The Sunday Times', 29/6/80).

This case is only the tip of the iceberg. Scores of other families and individuals have received the same harsh treatment from the Home Office.

Repression of Britain's black community is increasing on an alarming scale. Since coming to power, the Tories have concentrated their efforts on strengthening their apparatus of "internal control". The Home Office, law courts, tribunals, the police and the immigration service have all intensified their activities against the black population.

This new wave of repression comes in the wake of the Tory proposals to amend the Immigration Act, 1971, and introduce major changes to the nationality laws. These new proposals, if implemen-

ted, will completely strip away what nominal rights blacks still possess.

Black women will forfeit their legal right to settle here with fiancés from abroad. The Thatcher government has already imposed a blanket ban on permanent settlement of temporary stayers. Quotas have been severely reduced, and only a handful of work permits are now granted to blacks. And, even though the government has abandoned its plan to introduce a 'Register of Dependents', William Whitelaw, the Tory Home Secretary, has shown little or no 'compassion' to the thousands of black relatives who have applied to join their families here.

Whitelaw has, instead, busy supervising a merciless campaign of deportations. In the last year, hundreds of blacks throughout the country have been deported as "illegal" immigrants. Never before have the immigration laws been enforced with such callousness.

Not even the most deserving cases have been spared. The Varki family are only one example.

Perhaps the most outrageous development is the brutal surprise police raids on factories with a large black workforce. Three raids have taken place in London so far this year.

In each case, immigration officers, backed by police, invaded the premises and scores of black workers were taken away for questioning. Dogs were used in the two most recent operations, where a total of 63 people were detained. The vast majority were eventually released without being charged, though some have complained bitterly about the treatment meted



This demonstration against police harassment in Bristol in April, followed the attack on the St. Paul's area, only one of a number of raids on black and Asian workers.

out to them while in custody.

These 'blanket' raids represent a new stage in the harassment of black workers. According to the provisions of the Immigration Act, 1971, the police can seek a warrant for the purpose of "searching for and arresting that person." They do not make provision for the issuing of "general" warrants, or indiscriminate swoops. Yet this is precisely what is happening.

The trade unions at national and shop-floor level, must act decisively to halt these raids. No police harassment of union members at work can be tolerated. If the Tory anti-union Bill is made law, such police powers could be used against any and every trade union activist.

Every black worker in this country is liable to be arrested at any time, unless he or she permanently carry on their person, passports or other documentation proving their right to reside here. Black workers justifiably regard this as little short of an 'identity

card' regime.

The Tories gave ample warning of what was coming. Thatcher's hysterical remarks about Britain being "swamped" by an "alien culture," in the Tory manifesto, including their comments on immigration and race in the section on "Law and Order," were an unmistakable warning. The Southall trials, and the police "mopping-up" operation that followed the St. Paul's riot in Bristol demonstrate the increasingly heavy handed tactics of the authorities.

The aim is clear. The Tories and their big business paymasters hope that increased repression will cow black workers into passive submission, isolating them from the rest of the working class. This is the calculation behind the recent raids, inhumane deportations and the other terror measures that have become commonplace for blacks since the Tories came to power.

'Militant' has consistently warned that racialism is

potentially the biggest enemy of the labour movement posing a deadly threat to working class unity.

The current Tory offensive against black workers must be seen as an attack on the working class as a whole. The ruling class are perfecting the repressive state machine against blacks in order to undermine the democratic rights of organised labour.

The labour movement must mount a massive campaign to resist these attacks. Shop stewards' committees must take steps to prevent police raids on factories. Workers at airports, ports and in the civil service must be actively involved in campaigns against deportation and detention.

Black and white workers throughout the country should take up this question in their factories, trade union branches and Labour Parties, as a first step in this vital struggle to defend the democratic rights of black and other immigrant workers.

Tory London - unfit for human habitation?

By Roger Shrivess

Housing has been one of the major casualties of the Tory cuts. Thatcher talked in her election campaign of every family buying their own house.

Heseltine has boasted that housing supply and demand are 'nearly in equilibrium'. Both claims stand exposed in a recent report.

The report, ironically, comes from the Housing

Strategy Office of the Greater London Council, one of the most devoted adherents to the wisdom of the monetarists. The government want housing spending cut by half between 1979 and 1984. No sooner said than done.

Other councils may moan about the dire effects, with improvements and new building schemes decimated. Not the GLC. They slashed their housing budget from £5,372m in 1979 to £2,790m in 1984.

The report shows the disastrous consequences. Few families in the capital can afford to buy a house, it explains. To do so, Londoners need a higher income and a higher deposit than anywhere else in the country.

Private rented accommodation tends to be old

property often at blatantly excessive rents—and in a state of chronic disrepair. 642,000 dwellings in London, a quarter of the housing stock, is defective and needs urgent repair. Over a quarter of a million of these houses are unfit for human habitation.

Tenants facing this kind of situation are being turned away by councils unable to rehouse them. Housebuilding nationally has gone down by 38% since 1968. In London it has declined by a phenomenal

60%.

Last year Camden council only rehoused 901 households compared to 1,263 the previous year. No less than 74% of applicants lacked at least one bedroom and/or shared either a toilet or bathroom. In over a third of the cases, accommodation was officially rated as being in 'poor physical condition'.

Escape from these conditions is becoming more and more difficult. Council waiting lists in London have more than doubled in five years.

The report sees one piece of "good news" for local councils. Fewer young people will be setting up home, due to rising unemployment or low pay. They will be forced to stay with their parents.

So much for the Tories' promise to allow young people to stand on their own feet!

The report clearly shows

the importance of a fight against the cuts in housing spending, and for a socialist housing programme. Unless we fight, London as a whole is destined to become a housing wasteland, "unfit for human habitation".

MILITANT PAMPHLETS

Socialism and German Re-armament by Ted Grant.

The Rise of De Gaulle and the class struggle by Ted Grant.

Both 30p [+10p p&p] from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.



AFGHANISTAN

What is really happening The truth behind the fantasies

By Alan Woods

Grotesquely exaggerated reports in the Western press have created the impression that the Russians are deeply enmeshed in an unwinnable war against an entire 'nation in revolt.'

Even the normally sober-minded 'Times' has given way to the wildest flights of fancy on the events in Afghanistan, repeating even the most absurd bits of gossip and rumour, always on the strength of "authoritative sources in Pakistan" or "according to reports reaching New Delhi" or, to cite the favourite formula: "as one [unnamed] Indian diplomat reported..."

Thus, the Voice of America, as early as February, was reporting heavy fighting between Afghan rebels and Russian troops around the Bala Hissar fort in the very centre of Kabul.

On this occasion 'The Times' took the trouble to check up and sent a journalist who duly reported that "there was no smoke or fire, no sound of car horns from the city's traffic. Nor was there any fighting. The Bala Hissar was peaceful. There were no Soviet troops to be seen and the Afghan army...was evidenced by a soldier drinking tea in a main street." ('The Times' 11 February)

And 'The Times' reporter commented laconically: "Not to put too fine a point upon it, the Voice of America was talking rubbish."

But 'The Times' itself has not been averse to talking rubbish in recent months, as when it screamed in banner headlines: **Hundreds Dead in Kabul Revolt Against Russians** (28 February), a typically exaggerated report of the strike of reactionary shopkeepers in the Kabul bazaar in February. Commenting on this the very next day, the 'Daily Telegraph', which can

hardly be accused of being pro-Soviet stated that:

"In the past week, correspondents in Kabul have consistently found foreign radio broadcasts based on insurgent accounts issued in Pakistan of the situation in the city to be very inaccurate." (29 February)

It is amusing to compare some of the recent reports of an alleged (and wholly imaginary) massed rebel offensive against Kabul, in which, it was claimed, Soviet aircraft and artillery were engaged in a fierce struggle in the Paghman mountains:

'The Times' (10 June): "Highly-placed Indian Foreign Ministry sources confirmed the fighting, while another Indian source said: 'Kabul is under threat of a massive insurgent attack'."

'Financial Times' (11 June): "Insurgents opposed to the Soviet-backed government have stepped up attacks in provinces near Kabul, but the diplomats (foreign diplomats in Kabul—AW) dismissed as 'fantasy' suggestions in New Delhi that the rebels were preparing to attack Kabul itself."

'The Times' (17 June): "It is said that a number of Mujaheddin (holy warriors) have entered Kabul. Although the guerrillas are not strong enough for a head-on clash with the Russians, they are still causing the Russians great concern. **There has been heavy fighting in villages near the capital, especially in the Paghman mountains, a focus of Russian attention.**" (my emphasis—AW)

'The Times' (16 June): "But to say that Kabul is

surrounded by insurgents would be misleading and it would be equally confusing to imagine that a physical perimeter exists around the city. **The mujaheddin insurgents control large areas of mountain ranges in the north, east and west of the capital, but their firepower—as Afghans inform foreigners—is still very modest.**" (my emphasis—AW)

Finally, on the 16 June, an article in the 'Financial Times' burst the bubble when it reported that "Afghan government forces backed by Soviet troops appear to have crushed **minor guerrilla activity in the mountains north-west of Kabul.**" (my emphasis—AW)

And, to put the cap on the whole wretched fairy-tale, the same article goes on to quote the French journalist, Jacques Buob, of 'L'Express' as saying:

"**The clashes were minor and there had been no real fighting.**" "M Buob said he visited the town of Paghman last week and saw no evidence that a battle had been waged. The town was normal and there were no soldiers in sight. Another European traveller said he was in the town of Paghman last week and saw no evidence that a battle had been waged. The town was normal and there were no soldiers in sight. Another European traveller said he was in Paghman last weekend and had heard nothing about a major rebel offensive. **Western reports of a fierce battle appeared baseless.**" (my emphasis—AW)

These few extracts, chosen at random from hundreds of

similar reports, show to what lengths even the 'serious' capitalist press can go to in lying and misrepresenting the facts when it feels its interests are at stake.

There is an uncanny similarity between the present torrent of lies coming out of New Delhi and the stories from "our Riga correspondent" at the time of the Russian revolution, when papers like 'The Times' repeated all the gossip and slander against the Bolsheviks cooked up by reactionary emigré circles in Riga, capital of Latvia.

All the talk about the Russians being "boxed in" in the towns completely misses the point. Moscow's strategy is first of all to dig in in the towns, secure control of the administration and the main highways and then, gradually consolidate their influence over the villages and the backward mountain tribes.

In point of fact, throughout the history of Afghanistan, the central administration in Kabul has only been able to exercise a very tenuous control over these tribesmen, 'dark masses' sunk in the gloom of barbarism, whose conditions of life and psychology has not changed fundamentally in 2,000 years.

With 90% illiteracy among men and 98% among women, the task of dragging the Afghan countryside out of the slough of primeval backwardness and into the 20th Century would be formidable, even with correct leadership and Marxist policies.

In a distorted, bureaucratic, Bonapartist fashion, the Russian bureaucracy and

their Afghan supporters are, in effect, carrying through the tasks of the bourgeois-democratic revolution in that country.

The 1978 revolution was an attempt on the part of the pro-Moscow wing of the officer caste to find a way out of the impasse of Afghan society. On the basis of capitalism, still at a very incipient and underdeveloped stage in Afghanistan, there was no way forward.

Successive capitalist regimes had failed to solve one single task of the bourgeois-democratic revolution: land reform, industrialisation, or even the unification of the country, which remains divided into a contradictory agglomeration of tribes and nationalities, with constant feuding, banditry and lawlessness a traditional way of life in the countryside.

Faced with the bankruptcy of capitalism on the one hand, and with the pressure of a powerful deformed workers' state on their backdoor, a section of the officers carried through a coup d'état with the idea of introducing 'socialism' in Afghanistan on the lines of the USSR, i.e. a society in which they—the officers, bureaucrats and intellectuals—would dominate with all the power, privilege and prestige that would mean.

Nevertheless, despite the grotesque deformities of Afghan Stalinism, the revolution showed the possibility of a way out of the age-old barbarism, the uprooting of feudal and capitalist relationships, and the modernisation of Afghanistan. As such, it

marked a step forward in comparison to the previous situation.

The attitude of Marxists to the Russian invasion of Afghanistan is not at all determined by sentimental considerations, but first and foremost by class considerations. Which social forces are behind the present regime in Kabul, and which class forces are behind the so-called 'holy warriors', the 'mujaheddin' guerrillas?

In an uncharacteristically objective interview with the governor of Talalabad, published on the 2nd February, 'The Times' gives a rare glimpse of the social reforms being carried out by the new government, in the countryside:

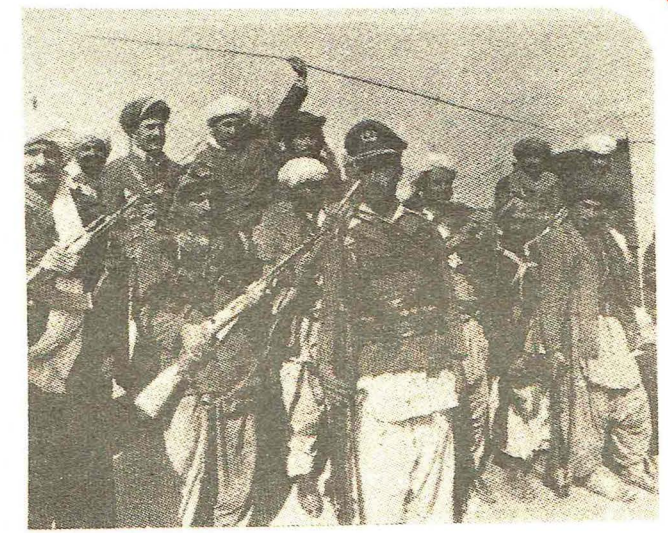
"The Governor still visits the newest villages during the daylight hours—accompanied by three soliders—to inspect the results of Afghanistan's land reforms and Jalalabad's newly created irrigation scheme..." And it goes on to quote the governor:

"'We tried,' he said, 'to make sure that all men and women had equal rights and the same education. But we have two societies in our country: one in the cities and one in the villages. The city people accept equal rights but the villages are more traditional. Sometimes we have moved. It takes time to arrive at the goals of our revolution'."

Despite all the hulabaloo in the capitalist press, it is clear that the rebels have next to nothing in the towns, where the new regime can count on the support of the small working class that exists, plus



M ing? ress



Far Left—Russian Tanks in Kabul
Left Mujaheddin guerillas, with—above—a defector
from the Afghan army.

the great majority of the students, intellectuals and functionaries. The struggle in Afghanistan is essentially a struggle of the towns against the countryside, of civilization against barbarism, of the new against the old.

"It is the bandit groups who are our enemies," the governor goes on; "Land was taken from them under our Land Decree No 6 and they are assisted by agents of imperialism" (the original says "students of imperialism"—AW).

In the past the self-styled 'mujaheddin' were known simply as Afghan bandits; now organised, armed and financed by the overthrown Afghan landlords and money-lenders, and backed by world imperialism, they became miraculously transformed into 'freedom fighters'.

Even so, despite the absurd romanticising of Western journalists, occasionally the mask slips and reveals the ugly face of bloody counter-revolution underneath.

Thus, 'The Times' (2 April) reported that: "In the past year anti-government rebels in Afghanistan have destroyed about 1,100 schools, almost a quarter of all those in the country, and have massacred pupils and teachers who ignored warnings to keep away from school."

This report, based on the Soviet press agency, Tass, lists a series of attacks on schools and the murder not only of teachers, but even of a mullah (priest) who supported the government's literacy drive, and the burning of two mosques which had been used for education after the schools

in one district had been destroyed.

The Tass report is corroborated by other sources which are not sympathetic to the Kabul government, and support the rebels, including 'The Times' itself:

"The mujaheddin, for instance, have burnt most of the schools in the surrounding villages on the grounds that these were centres of atheism and communism.

"But they also murdered the schoolteachers, and several villagers in Jalalabad spoke of children who were accidentally killed by the same bullets. The mujaheddin are still not universally loved and their habit of ambushing civilian traffic on the road...has not added much glory to their name." (4 February)

Another 'Times' report of

the 11th of February says about these self-styled 'freedom fighters': "By the same token, the 'mujaheddin' rebels have emerged, certainly in the south-east of Afghanistan as a disparate and not entirely flawless set of warriors whose activities include highway robbery as well as hostility to communism." (my emphasis—AW)

This motley tribal riff-raff, dominated by feudal chiefs, usurers and Islamic reactionary fanatics, are divided along tribal, linguistic and national lines. In Peshawar, in Pakistan, the rebels are split up into 22 different "resistance groups."

Colin Smith, of the 'Observer' (15 June) interviewed one of their leaders, the self-proclaimed "President of Nuristan": "When I asked him what kind of Afghanistan he

was fighting for, he paused and said that he thought he would like his children to grow up under the sort of Islamic government they had in Saudi Arabia." (my emphasis—AW)

'The Times' reported on the social composition of the rebel leaders in Pakistan (18 March): "Sleek Mercedes cars with Afghan number plates amid the bullock carts and traps of the local population in Peshawar are a reminder that not all the refugees are backward tribesmen awaiting their world food programme and United Nations rations. There are enterprising businessmen too."

It is perfectly clear that the military victory of these reactionary gangsters would lead to a terrible bloodbath and an orgy of violence and destruction which would

plunge Afghanistan back into the dark ages.

Among the methods used by the mujaheddin and reported in papers such as 'The Times' and 'Daily Telegraph' are: beheading, disembowelling, impaling, flaying alive, chopping off of limbs, etc. The triumph of reaction in Afghanistan would put the whole of society at the mercy of these dark forces whose historical mission is about as 'progressive' as that of Gengis Khan.

'Militant' originally opposed the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, not for abstract reasons, as a result of the so-called "inviolability of frontiers" or "aggression", but because of the damage this action caused to the consciousness of the workers of other countries.

Lenin and Trotsky never discounted the possibility of using the Red Army as an auxiliary arm of the international revolution, to assist the workers of other countries to come to power.

Lenin had this idea in mind at the time of the war with Poland in 1920, when the Red Army advanced to the gates of Warsaw. Trotsky, at a certain stage, advocated the use of the Red Army in Germany to prevent the victory of Hitler in 1933. But the preconditions of such an action was a correct policy on the part of the Polish and German Communists.

The Russian invasion of Afghanistan, on the contrary, flowed from the disastrous policies of the Taraki-Amin governments in Kabul and the narrow national interests of the Russian bureaucracy.

But now that the Red Army is firmly entrenched in Afghanistan, the whole situation has been transformed. To call now for the withdrawal of Russian troops would be to call for the victory of reaction in its cruellest and most barbarous form. 'Militant' does not therefore, call for the withdrawal of Russian troops

at this moment in time.

Marxists cannot fall into the line with the hypocritical chorus of imperialism, which for entirely cynical and reactionary purposes, is prepared to see Afghanistan submerged for decades in the bloody swamp of barbarism. For that would be the only result of the victory of the 'holy warriors' in Afghanistan.

In any event, despite all the lies of the press, the military 'feats' of the rebels are nine-tenths fantasy. The very fact that they have to resort to hit-and-run tactics is proof of extreme weakness.

They cannot compete militarily with the might of the Soviet army. And on the political front, the Stalinists will manoeuvre and make concessions, playing one group off against the other, to undermine the fragile unity of the insurgents and reduce them to impotence.

The Western press has already commented on the conciliatory policy pursued by Karmal: the release of political prisoners and amnesty for draft dodgers, declarations that the national rights of minorities will be respected, and a "rapprochement" with the Islamic clergy.

As the social benefits of the revolution begin to become understood by the poor peasants who make up the majority of society, the mass base for reaction will evaporate. When Moscow is satisfied that there is no serious threat to its satellites in Kabul, the bulk of the Soviet forces will be withdrawn.

Despite all the totalitarian deformations, the new regime will mark a big step forward for Afghan society. Industry will be built up rapidly, as happened in the Soviet Republics of Central Asia. The growth of an industrial proletariat in Afghanistan will ultimately serve to undermine the base of bureaucratic rule and prepare the way for a new political revolution, and the establishment of a healthy workers' democracy in Afghanistan.

This process, will be enormously accelerated by the coming social revolutions which will sweep the Indian sub-continent, and the political revolution in Russia itself, as the workers throw from their backs the parasitic elite which rules over them.

In the context of a planned socialist development of the whole of central Asia, Afghanistan could rise from feudal barbarism to socialism within one generation.

Marxists cannot fall into the line with the hypocritical chorus of imperialism, which for entirely cynical and reactionary purposes, is prepared to see Afghanistan submerged for decades in the bloody swamp of barbarism.



WHAT CAN HALT THE US RECESSION?

In April and May, this country suffered the biggest two month jump in unemployment ever recorded, since records began to be kept early this century.

Over 800,000 workers lost their jobs in April, and in May the figures stood at 889 thousand for a two month total of 1.7 million people. The US Department of Labour which issue those figures conservatively estimates that the number of jobless workers in the States has now hit a total of 8.2 million.

The real figures may be double that rate, since the government refuses to include those who have exhausted their 39-week unemployment claims. First-time job seekers who have never found jobs, and those who are underemployed are also not included in the unemployment figures.

Nationwide, unemployment among minority workers is soaring at a pace double that for white workers. The number of newly-unemployed in May exceeds the population of such major cities as Baltimore, Maryland, San Diego, California, Washington DC, and Milwaukee, Minnesota.

This recession is not yet as deep as that of 1973-75. It is, however, expected to be deeper than any of the seven post World War II recessions—seven in 35 years! This is the way the system works.

Yet the sad truth is that at the top of the AFL-CIO (American TUC) there is no plan for fighting back.

What does our President say?

The day the unemployment figures came out, Carter ignored them. What he said was "We have turned the corner on inflation." His Secretary of the Treasury, Mr William Miller, stated, "The trends in the economy indicated by today's statistics would not be the basis for any shift in policy directions. We will not flinch."

What is organised labour saying?

In the first week of June, the Union of Auto Workers held its convention in Anaheim, California. As he opened the convention, the union's President Douglas Fraser, noted that 235,000 of the union's members were on "indefinite" lay off. By the end of the week-long convention, Detroit reported the number as reaching 300,000, and it has been rising ever since.

The union leadership had brought before the convention a lengthy resolution of the Progressive Alliance, the union's sponsored umbrella organisation covering a coal-

By
Betty Traun

ion of 104 groups of labour and peoples' organisations formed in Detroit in 1978. It spelled out the frightful ills of the US capitalist system—political, economic, social, academic, moral, almost every aspect of life in this country.

But what was the conclusion? Did the leadership call for a change? Was there even a suggestion that the union look to an independent party of the people for whom the Progressive Alliance professed to speak?

The 5,000 delegates and visitors listened intently for an indication of how the leadership proposed to meet the crisis. Also, what they found was that the UAW's leadership simply had nothing to offer to the convention.

What they heard was a proposal to induce the Japanese to produce smaller, cheaper, and more efficient cars. One or more older plants will not reopen. It will not create jobs.

Fraser's second 'new' weapon for a fightback is the 'democratisation' of the boards of directors of the auto companies by way of union representation on the boards. It hasn't worked in Europe and in this day and age of

The workers of Japan, England and Germany are not the enemies of the American workers. The enemy of the American workers are the multinational corporations. —delegate at Autoworkers Union conference.

corporate cannibalism, it is nonsense. It is a pure diversion from the UAW's traditional course of struggle. But Fraser was not permitted to go unchallenged. Delegates brought 26 resolutions on plant closures to the convention, many of which called for government takeover of closed plants and conversion to production of socially-needed commodities such as materials for badly-needed mass transit systems nationwide.

Others pointed out that the auto companies were multinationals who were engaged

in exporting their jobs to make maximum profits elsewhere. Ford were planning to build a controversial engine plant in Mexico and General Motors five new auto plants in Europe, scheduled to open in 1981-2.

The auto workers consider these moves to be an attempt to destroy the US union.

The most significant debate took place when delegates called for mass militant action to deal with plant closings.

John McCarroll of Branch 544 of Pittsburgh put it "We need leadership now like never before...I think we should get radical." It was time, he said "to stand up and fight."

And Rick Martin, shop leader from the union's largest branch, the Ford Rouge Local 600 in Dearborn, Michigan continued the sentiment of the debate when he said that "we're going to have to go back to the old days. We have to march and demonstrate."

The most militant of the unions' members came from Branch 3 of the Dodge main plant which was one of the first to close down. They called for a mass march to Washington DC for jobs.

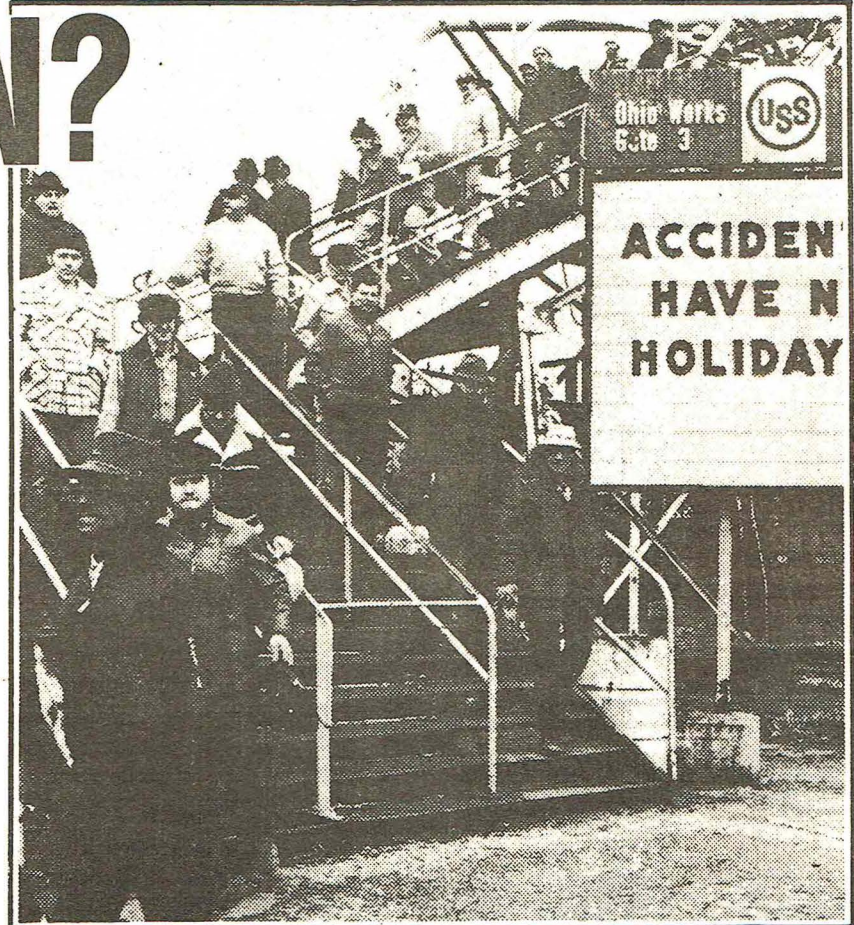
Another shop leader exposed the fallacy of the import issue, saying "The workers of Japan, England and Germany are not the enemies of the American workers. The enemy of the American workers are the multinational corporations."

A petition for a mass march on Washington circulated by several workers from Dodge Main, gained 700 signatures in a short time.

"If I thought," said Fraser, at one point of the floor discussion on mass action, "that we could solve this problem by having a massive march on Washington, we'd do it every week." This is the calibre of labour leadership with which the American workers are

stuck. Ironic as it may seem, the principal leaders of the UAW class themselves as socialists, supporters of Michael Harrington's Democratic Socialist Organising Committee. The DSOC views itself as being akin internationally to the socialists of Western Europe.

But none of the European socialists give their members a choice among the capitalist parties. They have independent socialist or labour parties through which they either hold or have held, govern-



Workers leaving the Ohio Steel Plant, the day after its closure was announced

mental power or strive to do so. But all Harrington's people applaud the 'European comrades' and go right on voting for the capitalist US Democratic Party. Their literature states that they work within the "framework" of the Democratic Party.

Several UAW leaders adhere openly to DSOC, and Harrington was the principal speaker at the convention. He was critical of the rulers of the USA, spoke vaguely of nat-

ionalisation in certain places, and the need to put union members on boards of directors as "the beginning of something tremendously important." The "challenge," he said is "democratisation of the corporate power in the economy."

The UAW still needs a realistic programme, but it will have to come from the rank-and-file. On June 21 and 22, a nationwide conference of unionists was organ-

ised in Gary, Indiana, initiated by the National Coordinating Committee for trade union action and democracy. It is attracting broad rank-and-file support.

The traditional militancy of the automobile workers and the steel workers and the rubber workers who "sat in" in the 30s will spring to life again despite their so-called "socialist" leaders.

CIA helped in killing of Chilean opposition leader

The overthrow of the left-wing Allende government in 1973 was not the last act of the CIA in Chile. Since then they have been active against Chilean socialists.

The Chilean military regime has assassinated important opposition figures. One of their more notorious murders was that of Orlando Letelier, Allende's former Foreign Minister, in Washington in September 1976.

A book published in America this month proves that the CIA knew beforehand the names of Letelier's assassins and that they tried to cover it up afterwards, claiming the murder was committed by left-wingers wanting to create a martyr.

John Dinges and Saul Landau, authors of the book, 'Assassination on Embassy Row,' document

how the assassins left Chile, obtaining visas in Paraguay. Their mission had been cleared by the CIA station in Santiago, Chile and the US Embassy in Paraguay was told they would be in touch with CIA Deputy Director Vernon Walters in Washington.

After the assassination succeeded, the CIA briefed newspapermen on 'Newsweek', 'Washington Post', and 'New York Times' that the Chilean torture police, DINA, had nothing to do with it. But gradually pieces of the truth have emerged. The US Ambassador in Paraguay had been suspicious of the two Chileans and had informed the State Department.

One week after the murder, Robert Scherrer, an FBI agent in South America, reported that Chile had organised a six-

nation intelligence network, 'Operation Condor'. One of 'Condor's' functions was to help in the assassination of exiled left-wing leaders. The six countries then involved were Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Bolivia and Paraguay.

The CIA did not help the FBI and it was not till nearly 18 months after the murder that one of the assassins was caught and turned prosecution witness. Even now, not all the truth has emerged.

Many documents have 'gone missing'. And the authors have explained "No mere bureaucratic explanation can account for the detours and obstacles the investigators encountered in solving the case."

By Jim Chrystie

EL SALVADOR INDIA CYPRUS GUYANA

General Strike in El Salvador

The success of the recent two-day general strike in El Salvador has prompted the military regime to unleash a further reign of terror upon the population.

14 families rule the country, owning 38% of the land. For 300,000 families there is no land and jobs are scarce.

Since the beginning of the year a tidal wave of revolt has threatened to sweep away the old order. The regime has responded with more repression. Over 4,000 people have died in clashes with the military this year. After the 90% success of last month's strike, the army chief threat-

ened "If the left want war they can have it."

Troops stormed the University and killed over 50 people. Military thugs, chasing one left-winger into a coffee shop, opened fire killing eleven people last week. Civil war is now virtually a fact in El Salvador, and the end of the hated junta will not be long postponed.



Troops round up any opposition in El Salvador

Murder of the Most Oppressed

For centuries the Dalit ('untouchables') people in India have faced vicious oppression. Now as they struggle for the right to live as human beings, the ruling class have redoubled their measures to try to suppress millions standing up for their rights.

The struggle of the Dalit people is an indication of the ferment throughout Indian society and must be supported by all socialists, workers and peasants in the common battle to end capitalism and landlordism.

The following report from India shows how this battle is shaping up today in one area of the country, Kolar District, Bangalore.

At midnight on 30 March, 1980 Kumbara Seshagiriappa was murdered by 30 thugs. His crime? He and his family had bought a piece of land, which local wealthy Taluk Board President Krishne Gowda had wanted to buy.

Seshagiriappa and his daughter Ansyamma were sympathisers of the Dalit Sangarsha Samithi [Dalit organisation]. When they first faced threats from Krishne Gowda, the DSS had reported the matter to the police. Nothing was done.

A few days later Ansyamma was brutally raped by Krishne Gowda and his brothers. Still the police did

By our Indian correspondent

nothing.

When Krishne Gowda and his thugs came on 30 March, the police were absent. Seshagiriappa was murdered, his sons and daughters viciously beaten and cut up. When I saw Ansyamma in hospital, she told me that she only managed to escape by breaking the light and running into the dark.

The police didn't arrive at the murder scene until 4.30 the next evening. They didn't make any arrests.

Only after mass protests by the DSS, the Communist Party and the Communist Party [Marxist] was anyone arrested. But the police's role in helping keep down the people was not finished.

On 12 June, the DSS and left-wing parties marched 45 miles to Bangalore to protest to the State Assembly that: those arrested in the case had been let out on bail, witnesses were being intimidated, and evidence destroyed.

Although at first the Chief Minister of the state agreed to see a deputation at 4.10 pm, he then told them he was too busy and to come back at 9 o'clock next morning.

At 6.30 on the same evening the marchers went off to an agreed meeting with the Speaker of the State Assembly. On the way they were mercilessly attacked by the police. Ten of the demonstrators ended up in hospital.

The DSS has not given up the struggle. Despite the increasing atrocities, the attempt to banish Bangalore trade unionists from the district, and the corruption of the government, we will fight on for our rights. 9

CYPRUS - UNITE TO DEFEAT IMPERIALISM

Six years after the coup by local fascists and the National Guard's Greek officers, six years after the invasion by the Turkish ruling class, Cyprus still lies prostrate at the feet of imperialism.

5,000 troops occupy two chunks of the island, using it as a fixed aircraft carrier for American spy-planes to serve the interests of imperialism in the area.

By Brent Kennedy

For fifteen years, successive British governments have even refused to pay rent to Cyprus for the privilege of occupying part of its territory. The presence of these military bases is a permanent threat to the interests of the Cypriot workers and the peoples of the Middle East. The British labour movement must demand the withdrawal of British troops and the handing over of the bases!

A demand for £300m compensation has been swept aside with contempt by the Tories who have even refused to condemn the Turkish army's invasion. Whilst hypocritically condemning the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, they only recognise that the Turkish army "arrived" in Cyprus.

The armed "arrival" resulted, apart from the death and carnage of war, in the uprooting and physical separation of the Greek and Turkish-speaking communities and the division of the island. As the repeated failure of negotiations shows, there is no chance whatsoever of that division being overcome while imperialism and capitalism have a stranglehold over

the Greek Cypriot capitalist economy would have collapsed.

The complete failure of this Democratic Party government to make any progress also means a failure of the attempt by the "Communist" leaders of AKEL to solve the national question on a capitalist basis. Foreign troops can be driven out and the island completely reunited and genuinely independent only by a joint campaign by Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

But the only force that could bring about such unity is the working class. Only the workers and small farmers have common interests, and only the labour movement can protect them.

What effect will an appeal to the Turkish Cypriots have if it comes from the lips of Greek Cypriot capitalist politicians who still have taken no serious action against those in the state machine who organised the coup? How can a Turkish Cypriot worker agree to live under a government which leaves fascists free and armed to attack the minority?

Only a workers' government of AKEL and the Socialist Party EDEK could gain the ear of the Turkish Cypriot oppressed. By purging the state machine and

forming a workers' defence force based on the trade unions they could guarantee the safety of workers of both tongues. By implementing a socialist plan of production, nationalising the banks and big companies under workers' control and management, they could guarantee jobs, houses and better living standards for all.

By making an internationalist, class appeal to the workers of Greece and Turkey—both now facing tremendous class battles—they could neutralise the counter-revolutionary efforts of the rulers of those countries. A workers' government on a socialist programme offers the only way forward.

**Demonstration
Sunday 20 July, 2 pm
Hyde Park,
Speakers Corner
March to
New Gallery Theatre,
Regent Street
Organised by
National
Co-ordinating
Committee of
Cypriots in Britain**

Support Guyanese workers!

After the murder of Opposition leader Walter Rodney, it is doubly important that all socialists give support to the struggles of Guyanese workers against the dictatorial regime of Forbes Burnham.

Why then is Labour right-winger Roy Mason MP going out to Guyana in August as a guest of the Sugar Federation: What is this organisation? Is it supported by Rodney's

party, the Working People's Alliance? If Roy Mason is so concerned about Guyana, why doesn't he campaign within the labour movement, with other Labour MPs and the WPA against the awful conditions experienced by Guyanese sugar workers?

By John Pulham

(G&MWU, Silvertown Sugar Workers Action Committee)

Letters

VIEWERS? COMMENTS? EXPERIENCES?
CRITICISM? WRITE ABOUT THEM TO:
MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

N.I.: THE HOLE IN JOSEPH'S THEORY

Dear Comrades

Sir Keith Joseph has recently tried to make out that unemployment is in some way related to 'high' wage levels and says that if we all took less pay there would be more for others.

On the same day as he was trying to convince the working class they were overpaid, and having no success, a report was published here in Northern Ireland by the Low Pay Unit.

Here are a few of the findings it contained: that more than one-third of full time workers are subject to low pay [compared to one in four in the rest of Britain]; that proportionately twice as many male manual workers are low paid and six times as many have to rely on the State supplement paid to full-time workers with families; that there are fewer TVs, washing machines, fridges, etc and the effects are made worse by higher living costs. Gas prices are nearly three times the British average, electricity 22% higher and food about 8% higher. The level of debt that the workers owe is huge, £9m for rent and £12m for electricity bills.

To pay for this, the pay rates set by the twelve wages councils range from £21.02 pw. for adult catering workers to £55.50 for baking employees. To enforce these rates on the employers of the 42,000 workers that are covered by the wage councils there are just two inspectors.

Now by the 'logic' of Joseph's thinking we in Northern Ireland, blessed with such low pay rates, should have about six jobs each; in fact we have the highest unemployment figures in the whole of the EEC.

Instead of investment flooding into the country to snap up all these low-paid workers the government spend a fortune trying to tempt the world's wide-boys to open factories that always close again in a couple of years once the hand-outs stop.

It is not high wages that cause unemployment in Northern Ireland, or anywhere else for that matter, it is capitalism's inability to take society forward, it is the greed of the boss that keeps the rest of us poor. Society can only be advanced by the smashing of the profit system of production. We in the LTUG seek to do that through a mass Labour Party committed to a socialist programme, for it is only by mass action that the task can be achieved.

Fraternally
Ken Aiken
Chairman, Ballymena
Labour & Trade Union
Group.

Banks pounce on steelworkers

Dear Comrade

During the long steel strike, many families in Port Talbot were without any money for over three months.

Those who went along to their banks to beg for loans to pay bills and 'friendly' Building Societies to request an extension to their mortgages were each turned down one by one.

However things have now changed. The strike is over and the steelmen are collecting their redundancy money. As they leave the works, even before they go through the gates they have to pass a group of caravans occupied

by all the big banks ready and willing to take their money to "invest wisely" (South Africa perhaps). If they then walk up the main street the Building Societies cannot pull them through the doors quick enough. One has a poster saying "You may be redundant but your money isn't." Another says "You worked hard for your money, make your money work hard for you—invest here."

The banks, insurance companies and building societies and all financial institutions should be nationalised and run in the interest of the workers, by the workers, under their democratic control and management.

Yours fraternally
PR Harris
Aberavon LPYS

Scarborough blacked

Dear Comrades

With the continuing struggle by the General and Municipal Workers Union to recruit and gain recognition in Scarborough's hotels, the white collar union APEX (the only union to hold its national conference in Scarborough this year) has decided not to hold its conference in the town in 1981 unless the G&MWU gain some agreement with the hoteliers' association.

However, this is not enough; every member of the labour movement must

support the work being done by the G&MWU by making sure that no conferences, weekend schools, special conferences etc are held in the town until the G&MWU wins its case.

The conditions of many of Scarborough's hotels are deplorable, most hotel staff work long hours for low pay, and living accommodation is usually of poor quality.

The whole movement must bring pressure on Scarborough, Scarborough must remain backed until recognition is obtained.

Yours fraternally
Dave Whitley
Scarborough LPYS
and UPW (personal cap.)

Liberals won't help Labour Students

Dear Comrades

Dave Mason, letters 11.7.80, states that none of the suspected forged membership cards were used to boost the size of Glasgow University Labour Club membership. This is not the major point. The fact that certain supporters of the Clause 4 group were prepared to resort to forgery is sufficient for activists to ask what type of organisation NOLS is!

Comrade Mason says he does not wish to see allegations of "conspiracy and intrigue" within NOLS, yet he and the National Committee refused to support my call for an open investigation. Whilst we support the step of the Labour Party Student Organiser investigating the Club, the real responsibility lies with the elected National Committee. To prevent accusations of partiality all NC members should be entitled to check the cards etc.

On what grounds does Comrade Mason welcome Liberals joining NOLS? NOLS, the student wing of the Labour Party, stands for the winning of students to the labour movement ie. to fight for the socialist transformation of society. If this is the case how has NOLS become politically attractive

to Liberals? The bosses' second party has done nothing to assist the struggle for socialism, eg. the Lib/Lab pact, and in fact the only guarantee of winning the support of the middle class is on the basis of bold socialist policies. This is the lesson of history. Comrade Mason also fails to take up the question of the Liberals being offered 'free membership' as mentioned in the original letter.

Dave Mason states that NOLS has a priority of recruiting Further Education students. Where is the evidence of this work? Also it will be difficult in areas such as Liverpool where the Liberals are actively supporting 'cuts' which will hit hard at FE colleges. Also a large proportion of FE students are still debarred from joining NOLS, eg. day and block release students.

If Comrade Mason really wishes to build a mass socialist and democratic NOLS he should support the call for minority documents to be re-introduced by the NC. He should also support the call for easier affiliation to NOLS by Labour Clubs.

A mass NOLS will not be built on large paper memberships but on the basis of an active membership engaged in the struggle to bring down the Tory government and return a Labour government pledged to the socialist transformation of society.

Alan Watson
NOLS NC (Ord Mbr)

Organise the unemployed!

Dear Comrades

Unemployment, contrary to popular myth, is not inevitable, it is not an act of God—it just does not happen, it is made to happen.

It is, in fact, a direct result of capitalism and the Tory policies.

Today the official figures state that over 1½m workers are unemployed, but the true figures would be nearer 2m if unregistered women workers were included.

Whatever the argument about the exact number on the dole, there is no doubt there will be further increases—to perhaps 2½ or 3m next year.

This certainly spells disaster for many working class and middle class families, and for young people in particular.

Unemployment, after all, means no future for whole sections of the population, resulting in bitterness and frustration. This is why I believe that a worker,



employed or not, should be able to join a union of his or her choice. Indeed I would like to see the TUC organising a youth movement so that school-leavers are not isolated.

Such a move would help put the slogan 'Unity is Strength' into action, uniting young and old, employed and unemployed.

The trade union movement could then go forward demanding a 35-hour week; work sharing instead of redundancies and a guaranteed minimum wage.

These and other demands could unite workers in the fight against the Tories. And if we can force a

general election with mass demonstrations and rallies so much the better.

But this does not mean returning to old-style Labour governments. On the contrary, the next Labour government must be mandated to take over the commanding heights of the economy—for that is the only way to deal with the economic crisis on behalf of working people.

Ron Brown [MP Leith]

PS Best wishes. I hope more workers get the opportunity of reading your first-rate articles.

Conned by GEC

Dear Militant

May I draw your attention to the disgraceful scrapping of the GEC Fairchild micro-chip venture, planned for Neston, Wirral.

The original plan was to create a 'Silicon Valley' in the heart of Wirral's much-prized greenbelt. The local council, ignoring the need to conserve what remains of Wirral's natural heritage, readily agreed that planning permission be granted for the GEC giant's factory complex.

However, this dismal decision did have some merit, for the local papers claimed that the venture would provide job-hungry Wirral with 1,000 vacancies. Nevertheless, the whole issue was still quite a contentious one amongst grassroot socialists.

Imagine my shock, then, when on the morning of July 2nd, I glanced at the front of my 'Liverpool Daily Post' and found the headline 'Wirral to Build Killer Missiles'!

It transpired that "seemingly overnight" the decision had been made by GEC to allow its subsidiary—Marconi—to use the almost completed Silicon factory to assemble, test, and check out their Sting Ray Submarine Killer Missile Torpedoes!

And, as if that were not enough, the jobs total was to be more than halved—to 400!

Couple that with the fact that the original 1,000 jobs would have soaked up a proportion, albeit a small one, of Wirral's large number of unskilled, unemployed workers, whereas the 400 now to be employed will be skilled men, 'imported' from other areas, and the whole catastrophe become apparent. The Council have been conned!

Yours fraternally
Alan Keating
Wirral Labour Party

No 'enterprise' here

Dear Comrades

Yet again the workers on Merseyside are subject to the crazy experiments of a Tory government trying desperately to keep capitalism a going concern.

Liverpool in particular has taken a hammering from the failure of these 'experiments' of the ruling class.

The latest experiment is the 'free enterprise zone' which the Liberal-controlled Liverpool Council is pushing, to appease their Tory paymasters.

The full implications of these 'enterprise zones' are not yet known, but from what we do know, and from previous experience and knowledge of their monetarist policies, it is quite clear that this would be disastrous for Liverpool or any industrial working class area.

It is essentially a 'de-restricted' zone with planning restrictions going by the board, in which all uses would be acceptable and considerable stress would be laid on the need to deal speedily with planning applications.

Major industries would not have sufficient extra incentives to be attracted to

the zones, but small industries would. This would represent not an increase of employment but a shuffling around of jobs.

Union negotiations would be waived, and health and safety regulations, so we would be left with no increase in employment, but small non-unionised firms exploiting the tax concessions, using the prime land available, and then closing down to reap higher profits elsewhere.

The workers in Liverpool have had enough of failure after failure, and especially will not stand for the wholesale destruction of trade union rights, with which they would have to buy these 'enterprise zones'. It is time that a real alternative to capitalism was tried. The City Council would be better employing the thousands on the dole to rid Liverpool of its dire social problems.

The workers of Liverpool are sick of supplementing capitalism's lame ducks. These firms should be nationalised under democratic workers' control and management so that public money can be invested in real jobs—not temporary phoney jobs as proposed by the Tories.

Yours fraternally
Pauline Dunlop
Liverpool

Black means guilty

Dear Comrades,

On 4th June in Lichfield, I was involved in a court case about a car accident. The police saw me in hospital and said I was to be a police witness. Four months later I was accused of careless driving by the same policeman.

The other driver involved was charged with the same offence. The police had five witnesses, all in my favour. After the recess the jury came back and found me

guilty, as well as the other driver.

I was astonished! Since that I have been talking to my comrades about this case being racist. Even my solicitor says so. I think I've been the victim of racialism.

I've told all my friends to sell their cars. If they have an accident they'll be found guilty. They say "What if it's not our fault?" I say "Forget it, you're black!"

Fraternally,
Pargan Singh
Derby Indian Youth
Association.

WE'RE ON TARGET LET'S STAY THERE!

Prospects under the Tories look grimmer every day and similar problems beset workers in every part of the capitalist world.

No wonder, then, that a paper fighting hard for the socialist alternative is increasing its support daily. This year, for the first time ever, 'Militant's' fighting fund is ahead of target at the half-year mark!

£47,227 is the grand total at week 27, including the proceeds of the summer draw. Supporters in four areas have raised well over their share of the target—in East Midlands, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, East London and South London.

Four other areas just made it—Merseyside, West Scotland, the South West and the West Midlands. Last minute efforts in Eastern and Southern Regions and West London got their black lines practically to the end of the chart.

But many areas still have a long way to go to catch up. They urgently need to follow the excellent examples given below from amongst the hundreds that made up the £3,528 raised this week.

Many thanks to all those who have rallied to the vital task of building 'Militant's' fighting capacity.

No efforts must be spared to ensure the summer period doesn't see a decline in 'Militant's' income. Like your rent and rates when you're on holiday, 'Militant's' bills (and ever-expanding staff) still have to be paid!

Only last week the photocopier 'Militant' needs for checking galley and page proofs had to be replaced at the cost of well over £1,200. Next will be the typesetting equipment...So, give and raise as much as you can as often as you can—summer and winter alike. 'Militant' needs every pound and every penny to be the greatest assistance in the fight for socialism.

"Enclosed is a cheque for £60. This money was raised at a party held by Shan and Norman from Maghull

Ward Labour Party." "Here's a cheque for £25... £23.50 from my tax rebate (at last!)...hoping that the half-year target will be reached."

These two quotes from supporters in Merseyside and Sheffield are typical of the letters we receive each week, but cannot find room to print. They illustrate the various sources our readers find to boost our funds.

Some comes from Readers' meetings, such as Dagenham (£36.18), Chester-le-Street (£15.53), Newham (£21), or the meeting for Bowaters workers at Ellesmere Port and members of the CPSA Civil Aviation GEC collected £31. Provan LPYS donated £20, Pollok LPYS 'Militant' supporters £3.75, and £7.85 was raised at Blaydon GMC—many thanks comrades!

Lastly, as regards special efforts, many readers sold hundreds of raffle tickets. If we had special prizes for the best sellers, Samantha Jones [aged 10] of Bristol would win one: she sold over £10 worth of tickets, and with her father, over £45 worth!

Thanks to everyone who helped us this half-year, including: Folkestone readers £22.30, C Murray (NALGO) £20, Glasgow NALGO readers £18.50 (between five), £15 May 14th Day's pay, Newcastle, I McLeve (Hayes) £12.49, P and R Bishop (NUT Wirral) £10, S Donnelly (E London) £8.50, R and A Stein £7, D Hinds £6, D E Jones (Stoke) £5, J Kelly (Patchway) £5 and J Turnbull (London) £5.

Our youngest contributor Tom Sugarman (aged three weeks, from Oxford) got his parents to send £4.30 extra, while an older reader R Clark (NGA Daily Post) sent £4, made up to £7.55 with other NGA members' contributions. Ruislip reader D Lister (Parks Dept) sent £2.50, and H Ross (GMWU N London) £2, as did S Foster from Shropshire.

£1s and less this week were too numerous to mention, but whether it's 50p regularly, or £50 (regularly!) we can use it to first of all reach the next target (£70,000) by 11 October, and in the long term, win over the labour movement to a Marxist programme.

'Militant' Summer Camp

August Bank Holiday, Creche and snacks Friday 22—Monday provided; bring own 25 August. Horton tents. Cost; [week-end] £6. Children £2, Political Programme: Under-5—free. Day-trippers £1 per day. Introduction to Marxism, The General Strike, Stalinism, The threat of world war, Sewell, 99 Penderry Rd, Penlan, Swansea. Tel. 584 542.

Build Militant

Area	Received	Percentage of half-year's target achieved	Target half-year	Target for year
Eastern	2,239		2,250	5,000
East Midlands	2,113		1,710	3,800
Hants & IOW	2,011		1,755	3,900
Humberside	868		1,125	2,500
London East	3,452		2,790	6,200
London West	2,023		2,115	4,700
London South	3,197		1,800	4,000
Manchester & Lancs	1,654		2,295	5,100
Merseyside	2,782		2,700	6,000
Northern	2,936		3,285	7,300
Scotland East	1,098		1,440	3,200
Scotland West	2,264		2,250	5,000
Southern	2,605		2,655	5,900
South West	1,506		1,440	3,200
Wales East	1,062		1,260	2,800
Wales West	976		1,395	3,100
West Midlands	4,090		4,050	9,000
Yorkshire	2,532		3,285	7,300
Others	7,819		5,400	12,000
Total received	47,227		45,000	100,000

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

THIS WEEK £3,527

GOSPORT Militant Readers' Meeting: 'The Labour Party—past, present and future'. Speaker: Stan Natrass (Littlehampton Labour Party). Thursday 24 July, 8 pm at Gosport Labour Club, 145 Brockhurst Road, Gosport.

SOUTHEND Militant Readers' Meeting: 'Fight back against the cuts'. Labour Hall, 140 Cambridge Road, Southend. Speakers: Danny Purton (Harlow TUC), Angela Anderson (CPSA and Southend CLP). 8 pm, Wednesday 23 July.

STOKE ON TRENT Militant Readers' Meeting: 'World War or Socialism'. Cartwright House, Hanley, Broad Street, near ABC cinema. Speaker: Pete McNally (Birmingham CLP). 7.45 pm, Wednesday 23 July.

CARDIFF PUBLIC MEETING Campaign for a fighting AUEW leadership
Empire Pool, Cardiff
Speakers:
Bob Wright (candidate for president AUEW)
Mike Sutton (AUEW) Chairman:
Geoff Stoneham (AUEW)
Saturday 19 July, 2 pm

ads

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

'Militant' Summer Draw

The 'Militant draw was drawn on Saturday 12 July.

The winners of the Northern Draw are: 1st [Portable TV/radio/cassette]—17598 G B Price, Newcastle-on-Tyne; 2nd [electronic wallet]—06765 Mrs G Parson, Grimsby; 3rd [electronic clock]—01006 Mrs MacNab, Wallasey.

The winners of the Southern draw [prizes as for Northern draw] are: 1st—09237 P S Hewett, Newport, IOW; 2nd—09598 T Crow, Southampton; 3rd—24162 S Eliassen, Llanderyn, Cardiff.

GRAYS Militant Readers Meeting: 'The Labour Party and the Cuts'. Thameside Library, Grays, Essex. Speaker: Dave Farrar (Millwall I.P). Tuesday 22nd July, 8.00 pm.

GREET LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

Get your Labour Party or LPYS branch, trade union or shop stewards' committee to place their greetings to Labour Party Conference in the pages of 'Militant'. Support the paper that fights for socialism.

Rates for greetings:

Semi-display:

3 column centimetres...£2

6 column centimetres...£4

Display:

one-sixteenth page...£7

one-eighth page...£14

one-quarter page...£25

Closing date for copy is Saturday 13 September, but send your greetings as early as possible to: the Circulation Department, Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

MILITANT WEEKEND SCHOOL

Come to the Danville Hotel (on sea-front) in sunny Margate

On Saturday/Sunday August 30/31

Saturday 11—1: 'The Economic Crisis'. Ted Grant 2.30—5.00. 'The Socialist Way Forward for Labour'. Ray Apps. 8.30...Social at hotel (with food)
Sunday 10.00—1.00. 'Chile—Lessons of '70-'73 and the Way Forward'. Sunday afternoon...sunbathe on beach.
Bookings and queries to K Nicholson, 25 Grotto Road, Margate, Kent. Tel. (0483) 291293. Cost: only £7.50 (including bed & breakfast at Danville Hotel). Children: half-price.

BARNESLEY Militant Discussion Group: 'Prospects for the steel industry'. Speaker: Tim Shepherd (Rotherham ISTC). Sunday 20th July, 7.30 pm. At the 'Industry Inn', Bakers Street, Barnsley (nr town centre)

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



Summer T-shirts. Colours—white, yellow, sky blue, dark green, navy and black. All with red motif. Round neck and short sleeves.

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 (no dark green)—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.

Due to demand there will be a delay of a further fortnight for delivery.

WE NEED A FIGHTING LEADERSHIP!

Every AUEW member knows that the lynch-pin of the engineering industry is machine tool production. It is this lynch-pin which was knocked out last week, when Mrs Thatcher's government encouraged the close-down and break up of Alfred Herbert's, at one time the leading tool builders in Europe.

This latest example of Thatcher's policy of deindustrialisation aims at such a high level of unemployment that the unions will be forced to accept a cut in real wages.

The jobs of every man and woman in the industry are now at stake, and the only protection against a situation worse than the 1930s is a fighting trade union. We need a union which will counter attack by forcing bosses to accept a 35-hour week as accepted by the present Executive Council of the AUEW.

Our union has a proud record. It has always stood in the vanguard of the working class to change society. Under its first socialist secretary, Tom Mann, the old AEU fought for real amalgamation and "one union for one industry."

It led to the great battles of the last century for the 10-hour and then the 8-hour day. It was the first to recognise the great Clydeside general strike for the 40-hour week in 1919. It was because of the courageous strikes led by our union that the "Industrial Relations Act" was defeated under the last Tory government.

It was the vote of the AUEW delegation at last year's Labour Party Conference which made possible the passing of the resolution on mandatory re-selection of MPs—one of the greatest steps forward in the application of real democracy since the Labour Party was formed.

It is this progressive and militant tradition of our union which is today being undermined.

At a time when the immediate application of the 35-hour week without loss of pay is a crucial means of fighting unemployment in the industry, our national leadership rewarded the enormous self-sacrifice made by our members during last winter's strike by settling for a one-hour reduction and then accepting the employers' demand for a four-year moratorium on any future demands for the 35-hour

we can remove the present right-wing domination in the EC and National Committee, the democratic rights of ordinary members will be seriously curtailed by the moves of the present Executive to alter the rules.

By their success in pushing through the present form of postal balloting for the election of national officers, the right wing tipped the balance in favour of their own election. They are now seeking to reap the fruits of that change of rules.

For the first time, the press was given the opportunity to seriously influence the internal affairs of the union by discrediting left-wing candidates and glorifying their opponents. The propaganda favouring the right-wing candidates influenced large numbers of card-holders who never attend Branch meetings or take any part in the work of maintaining and building the union.

The idea of the postal ballot was that these non-active members would swamp out the loyal and active members who dedicate themselves to keeping the union organisation alive. We are therefore getting National Presidents and General Secretaries elected as a result of the intervention of the pro-capitalist press.

The enormously expensive postal ballot system certainly produced a higher percentage vote than the old method of branch voting, but it is still a minority vote and is now falling again. The answer is to work for the transfer of balloting to the shop floor where the real strength of the union lies. This method, already used by the miners, would be by far the most democratic.

Policies of the candidates could be properly discussed at shop meetings and the ballot organised under the supervision of the shop steward.

Having gained its position by the present unfair system of balloting, the right wing is now moving towards other undemocratic organisational changes. Already proposals have been made to scarp most of the present branches and re-group them together into much larger regional branches under full-time paid secretaries. This would obviously make it more difficult for members to attend and is clearly designed to lessen the possibility of genuine rank and file control.

In the field of amalgamation too it is clear that the approach of our executive is one that favours a bureaucratic rather than democratic form of organisation. The President and others continually complain about the TASS refusal to conform with the AUEW rule book and accept election of full-time officers.

It has to be said that the attitude of TASS on this



Photo: Militant

Last winter's strike—'guerilla' strikes for one or two days cause confusion among the union members.

question is indefensible and has allowed the right wing to point to the undemocratic nature of the left. TASS is led by Ken Gill, a member of the CP.

But this is merely a smoke-screen to hide the fact that our Executive is not interested in an amalgamation with TASS because of the left position it takes on many important issues. This hypocrisy of the right wing was shown at the rules revision conference when they tried to push through the appointment of full-time branch secretaries but were compelled to retreat by the weight of opposition to this proposal.

The right wing strongly favour amalgamation with the EETPU which is bureaucratically controlled by the extreme right wing.

Of course a genuinely democratic amalgamation with the EETPU should be supported by all trade unionists standing for working class unity, but the EETPU, under Frank Chapple, has succeeded in introducing the general principle of selection rather than election of full-time officers and changing branch structure along the lines our Executive now seems to hanker after.

The question therefore arises, would the EETPU be asked to conform with our rules as they stand or are we going to be asked to change ours?

What has happened in factories all over Britain in recent months shows that the majority of working men and women in the industry do want the union to adopt a fighting policy. In case after case, where the workers have initially taken militant action against threatened redundancy or the dismissal of militant shop stewards, but they have been forced to accept defeat or a feeble compromise by our present Executive officers.

An outstanding example of this was the dismissal of Derek Robinson. True to our traditions, the workers in his factory took immediate action. Had they been immediately backed by the AUEW Executive, this disgraceful sacking of a steward for openly expressing his opinion

against the views of management would never have taken place.

By their calculated procrastination, our union leadership turned what should have been a workers' victory into a defeat, a defeat not only in one factory, but for the whole union organisation throughout the Leyland combine and nationally. This surrender to the will of the "Whiz-kid" Edwardes has lowered the whole standing and prestige of our union in the industry.

How is the damage done to be put right? We must revive a new genuine Broad Left, which will re-mobilise all the class-conscious and militant members of the union, a left which will avoid the mistakes of the past, which will strive to win the mass of the members for a clear programme of action and socialist policies.

Experience has shown that it is not enough to put blind faith in electing individuals to office, but to concentrate on winning the workers for an alternative policy to that of the right-wing opportunists.

Industrial tactics under Scanlon turned out to be no more effective than under Duffy. The guerrilla type of strikes practiced in 1972/73 and advocated by the lefts on the EC and National Committee unnecessarily dispersed the forces of the union and achieved very little. It is a strange paradox that the present right-wing tactics advocating one-, two- and three-day strikes are not all that different from those advocated during the Scanlon era.

Such purely partial mobilisation of the union's strength is inefficient and unnecessarily long-winded. To gain a

real breakthrough in minimum wage-rates—still more to win the 35-hour week (now, not in four years)—we need an Executive with the courage to mobilise all the resources of the union for all-out national strike action.

In the coming presidential election, a revitalised left must of course campaign to get Bob Wright elected against Duffy. However, in doing this we must keep in mind how the "left" Scanlon, during the period of his journey from union head office to the House of Lords, ended up taking a right-wing position on most of the crucial issues facing the working class at that time.

He supported the so-called Social Contract when his union conference had opposed it, he supported incomes policy and the 5% when the trade union movement opposed it. He twice defied the decision of his own delegation at Labour Party Conference.

To win elections is not enough. Those we put forward must be committed to a programme which the workers understand and fight for.

The whole working class movement is now threatened with a return to the '30s. Thatcher and her guru Sir Keith Joseph are deliberately engineering mass redundancies so that unemployment can be used as a whip to force the working class to accept a permanently lower standard of living.

By
Dudley Edwards

(Brighton AUEW
Branch 3)

The Broad Left should stand for:

1. Elect Bob Wright as President.
 2. £100 per week, tied to the inflation rate.
 3. Immediate operation of 35-hour week.
 4. Fight all redundancies.
 5. Defend all trade union activists.
 6. Total opposition to Tory Employment Bill.
 7. Election of Labour government committed to a socialist programme.
- For a fighting engineers' union!

King Henry's Pies—

Union recognition now!

Bakery workers at King Henry's Pies, in Levenshulme, Manchester, are fighting for union recognition.

When the 30 members of the bakers' union walked out on July 7th, the managing director gave them a 1-hour ultimatum to return or get the sack; the workers response has been to keep up a successful 24-hour picket.

Their demand has a three-year history—in fact ACAS ruled in the workers' favour, but the managing director won't accept it.

Conditions are appalling from the point of view of both workers and consumers. One girl described the packing shed: "It's like a waterfall when it rains, and there's an electrical box in there."

Safety conditions are a bad joke generally. Recently a girl lost the fingers of one hand and another worker was badly burned. Apparently one machine won't work with the guard on, and one worker reckoned most of the machines belonged in a museum!

By Withington LPYS members

Whenever the Health Inspector announces he's visiting the workers have to spend a day or two cleaning the place up. And no-one's ever seen the first aid box.

For an ordinary 50 hours they get £63 or £67 basic, working Saturday or Sunday. Women workers are on a basic £1 an hour. Any rises tend to go in the bonus, timekeeping or attendance money which can be stopped for various reasons.

The sack is always a threat and any pretext is used—like spilling a bit of flour. On top of this there appears to be a policy of getting rid of older workers and taking on youngsters to do the same job after an hour's 'training'—at lower rates of course.

One 16 year old worker showed his payslip—£19

basic!

Needless to say the managing director takes full opportunity of any job creation schemes.

The workers see union recognition as the first step to changing all this and getting union rates.

So, obviously, does the managing director. He wants a works committee of his own design and he keeps taking individual workers aside, smiling and calling them by their first name. One woman commented "That's the first time he's ever spoke except to treat me like dirt." But he's fooled no-one on the picket and the attitude is that any negotiations are as a union, on the union's terms and at the union's convenience.

Money is needed as this may be a drawn out dispute. The BFAWU have asked for blacking of all supplies. Get a collection or donation from your trade union, LPYS or Labour Party branch. Send all money and messages of support to; BFWU District Office, Room 4, George House, 30 Dudley Road, Manchester M16 8DE.

CATERCUPS

Members of the T&GWU at Catercups striking for union recognition were joined by local trade unionists for a mass picket on Friday July 11th.

Trade unionists and members of the Bootle Constituency Labour Party joined the picket lines and witnessed the Catercup managers 'escorting' blacklegs into the works by driving directly at the pickets at high speed.

Bootle Labour Party members Roger Banister and John

Abbot discussed the situation with T&GWU spokesman for the strikers, Alan McAllister, who was pleased with the support that the mass picket had attracted.

Alan described how supplies for the firm had been reduced to a trickle because the effective blacking of the firm by union drivers, but blackleg drivers had since been employed.

The union is also taking the matter up via ACAS and an industrial tribunal, but the

Catercup workers themselves readily appreciate that the real hope of victory lies in militant action at factory level.

The mass picket was so successful that it was generally agreed to hold another one in the near future. This attempt by a reactionary employer to ignore the past 80 years of class progress will not pass unchallenged by Merseyside workers.

EMI

Stewards at EMI (Hayes) plant have warned in the past year of the threat of redundancies. This is now a reality with over 70 workers at EMI Medical Radlett made redundant.

Sixty other workers are also faced with redundancy at the Hayes Jubilee House site with rumours of more to come on other sites.

The Joint Unions Committee (JUC) and union officials recently met management about failure to agree on redundancies. To date it is agreed that job offers on site must be given before the end of July deadline set by management. If no job offers have been given in the eyes of the company they will be redundant.

Before then the JUC should call on all site workers to give supportive action. Such action should involve a complete

overtime ban. This action, vital at this stage, would force management to provide alternative jobs for those affected.

Although the office jobs threatened in Medical are not directly related to manual jobs, manual workers must give support. These jobs could be for our children when they leave school.

If no action is taken for their workers the trend will continue of redundancies and loss of past concessions (i.e. notice period for sick pay).

However, if the unions on site take a firm stand backed by its membership, as they have in the past, jobs can be saved and the union's position on site strengthened.

John O'Brien [AUEW steward and branch secretary] spoke to Nigel Waterfield [Southall LPYS]

NALGO

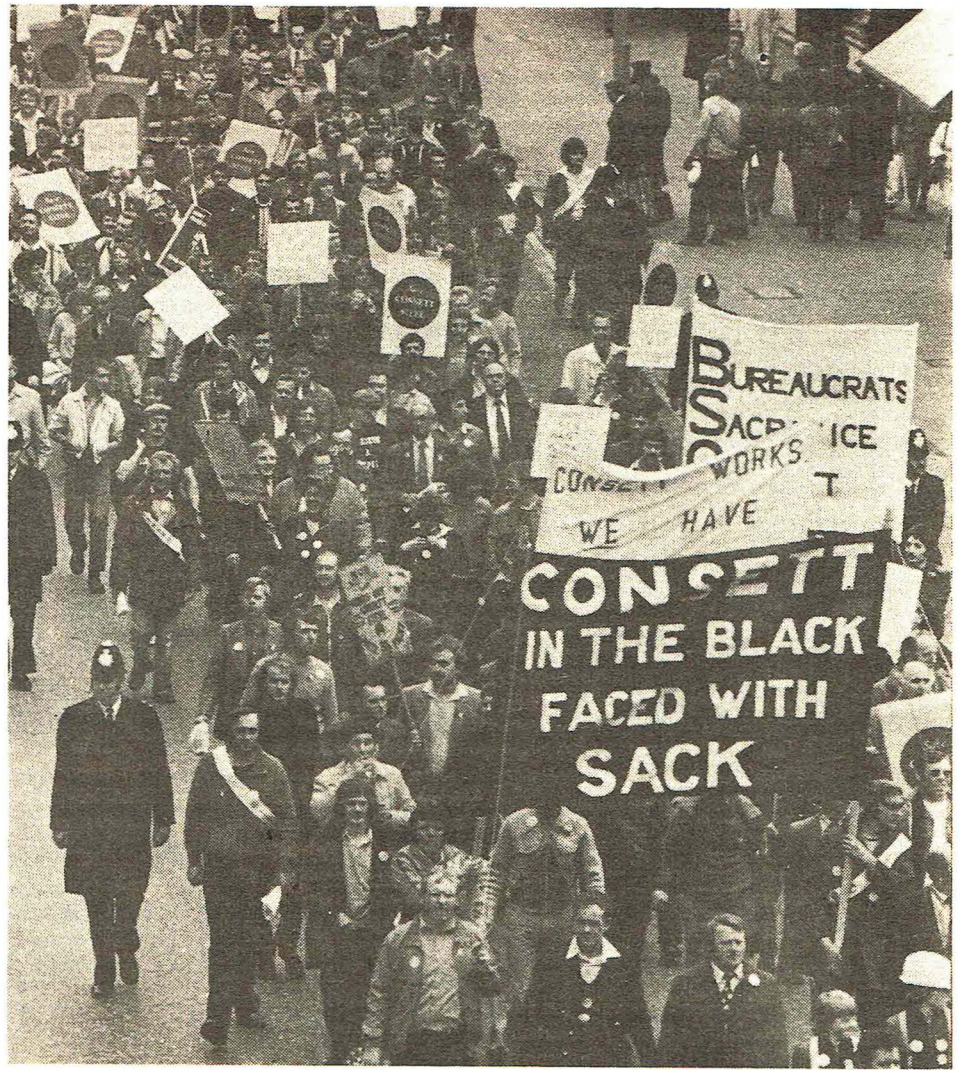
NALGO's national negotiators have quite correctly rejected the employers' insulting offer of 13 percent for our 1980 pay claim.

This offer goes no way in meeting our demand for 20 percent. No concession whatsoever has been made on the demands for a £70 minimum wage at 18 or the call for a 35 hour week. These are crucial to the claim since they would represent a great step forward for the lower paid in the union.

The national leadership have called on members to make their opposition known to the offer and branches should be calling mass meetings to overcome the crude attempts of the Tories to sell their incomes policy.

By David Churchley

(Strathclyde NALGO)



Consett workers on the march last week—as the banner points out, despite viability, Consett will be scrapped if the Tories get their way.

Photo: Militant

FIGHTING AGAINST THE 'CIRCUS'

More than 800 Consett steelworkers and labour activists converged on London last week as part of their fight to save their jobs.

By John Pickard
(Northern Region LP Executive, personal capacity)

The Consett steel men, joined by families, friends, delegations from local workplaces and the Northern Region Labour Party, demonstrated and then lobbied MPs. At a meeting in Parliament, both Tony Benn and Dennis Skinner received a good reception from the workers when they outlined how the Tories were destroying the steel industry.

BSC management, no doubt being egged on by the Tories, have presented a 'closure brochure' to the workers. But the fight is on.

In what amounts to a demand to "open the books", the Save Consett Committee are demanding that the BSC supply in full "all the evidence, data, calculations, methods and models used to arrive at their forecasts," both for the

steel industry as a whole and for Consett in particular. However, they have not yet been answered by management. Instead they have said they will be carrying out, in the interim, the closure plans.

The steps already being taken by management at a higher level are already effectively sabotaging the profitability of the plant. In the ten weeks equivalent to the second quarter of 1979 over 53 per cent of billets were for the private sector—the most profitable for the BSC, whereas the remaining 46 per cent were sold at what BSC calls 'factory value', in other words at an artificially low price.

The marketing policy of BSC is now starving Consett of the more profitable markets. Management outside Consett is clearly aiming to artificially create losses as far as the works are

concerned, even though many steel users have specifically asked for Consett steel because of its high quality (BSC itself acknowledges that the Consett billet rejection rate is the lowest in BSC).

They have said that they will import steel as an alternative. All in all, by even the standards of the BSC itself, the Consett plant is viable.

The attitude of the Consett workers towards BSC was well summed up by one placard on the march which described BSC as 'Billy Smart's Circus'!

All the best arguments in the world appear to have no effect upon the BSC management or the 'mad monk' Keith Joseph. The greater the support mobilised for the steelworkers inside Consett itself, and the greater the support achieved in the broader labour and trade union movement, then the greater will be the possibilities of keeping the steelworks open. In the last resort, the workers must rely upon their own strength, and that of their fellow workers regionally and nationally.

TANDY'S

After the socialist transformation of society Tandy's epitaph will read "starvation wages paid, scabs and black-legs welcome."

This anti-union employer is carrying on in the best traditions of American capitalism, 'Profits before People'. After 8 weeks on strike approximately 40 scabs have now been employed at the electrical goods firm including some of the original strikers.

Recently, pickets were angered over police inaction at scab lorries driving dangerously through the picket line. Later, a police woman's hat blew off across the car park and caused a laugh.

Obviously annoyed, she stormed over to the picket line cap in hand and apparently overheard someone declare, "Her head must be to big for her hat." Angered she said, "I'm only doing my job." The

pickets replied, "we are only doing our job", at which point she retired from the line.

Scab lorries are being used to carry stereos, speakers and other equipment through the picket line.

All supplies should be blacked by the trade union movement in a concerted effort to beat Tandy's.

By Brian Debus (Erdington CLP)

REMEMBER TOLPUDDLE



Contemporary portraits of four of the Tolpuddle Martyrs
 Left: George Loveless
 Below: Thomas Stanfield, John Stanfield, James Loveless

“My Lord, if we have violated any laws, it was done not intentionally. We were uniting together to preserve ourselves, our wives and children from utter degradation and starvation.”

Farm labourer George Loveless’ words to the judge at the trial of the Tolpuddle martyrs in 1834 sum up the reason why 146 years on, trade unionists, Labour Party and LPYS members from the South and West of England still meet in the Dorset village of Tolpuddle to commemorate their struggles.

Without their fight and that of other ordinary workers like them, there would today be no labour and trade union movement to protect us from the onslaught of capitalism and its representatives in the

Tory government. In 1834, six farm labourers from Tolpuddle, George and James Loveless, Thomas and John Standfield, James Hammett and John Brine, all members of the Friendly Society of Agricultural Labourers, were sentenced to seven years’ transportation. After receiving cuts in wages from 10s to 8s a week and then from 8s to 6s they had realised the necessity to form a trade union in order to protect their living standards. They were unaware this was illegal. The Tolpuddle martyrs were victims of a vicious campaign by the land owning and employing class to smash trade unions and impose savage cuts on the working class. The ruling class and their judges, Home Secretary Lord Melbourne and the

By Steve Sibley
 (Dorchester Labour Party Young Socialists)

Tolpuddle magistrates, determined to “teach the trade unions a lesson,” ensured that punishment should be as harsh as possible.

The transportation to Australia of the Tolpuddle martyrs sparked off the mobilisation of an enormous movement of opposition. An estimated 200,000 marched through London as part of the protest.

Eventually this mass movement forced the remission of the sentences and after three years of slavery as political prisoners, the Tolpuddle martyrs returned to England.

Today the trade union movement comprises 12 million workers, far more powerful than in 1834. Yet we still live in a class society where 84% of the wealth belongs to 7% of the population.

Now that deep crisis lowers the profits of these parasites, it is the working class still who are asked to pay the penalty.



Unemployment rises, real wages take a tumble and in a thousand ways the bosses conspire to attack our living standards.

Any method is acceptable to them provided their sacred profits aren’t touched. Workers in this county, Dorset, today are faced with the almost total closedown of the school meals service. The Tory council are stopping all meals for primary schools to comply with Tory government cuts. What was it that George Loveless said about ‘preserving ourselves, our wives and children from starvation’?

And just as the employers and landowners in 1834 tried to destroy the trade unions, they try to attack our union rights today, realising they have to defeat the trade union movement to secure their privileges. But our movement is much stronger now and we will resist any such attempts until they are defeated.

Yet nearly 150 years after Tolpuddle, we are still faced with constant attacks on our living standards. We are still faced with power in the hands of a small minority jealously safeguarding their profits. While Labour governments

continue to prop up the capitalist system, the hopes and aspirations of such people as the Tolpuddle martyrs can never be guaranteed.

The labour movement must use the strength that the Tolpuddle martyrs and others have bequeathed us to ensure that not only do we defeat the Employment Bill, not only do we turf out the Thatcher government but that the next Labour government implements the socialist policies necessary to end the nightmare of capitalism for once and for all.

Photo: John Sturrock (Report)



ADWEST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Policemen—and women—drag away union pickets

By Ian Warwick
 (Reading Labour Party)

rest. The police, supported by the Thames Valley Support Force, allowed a group of pickets to form in front of the gates, but as soon as the scab workers started arriving, they charged in to pull pickets away. A number of attempts were made to block the gate, during which 26 pickets were arrested, including Martin Kaufman, the AUEW member originally victimised by the company. The pickets later moved to the police station to protest at the arrests.

Unfortunately the dispute, after two months, has still not been made official, despite a sym-

thetic hearing from Moss Evans. The committee have organised another mass picket for 11 August. It is essential that support is achieved for

this picket, and that demands for the dispute to be made official are sent to the unions concerned. Cash is now urgently

needed to help pay any fines and should be sent to D Broderick, Flat 4, 46 Berkeley Avenue, Reading. [Cheques payable to J Dhoot].



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