

Militant

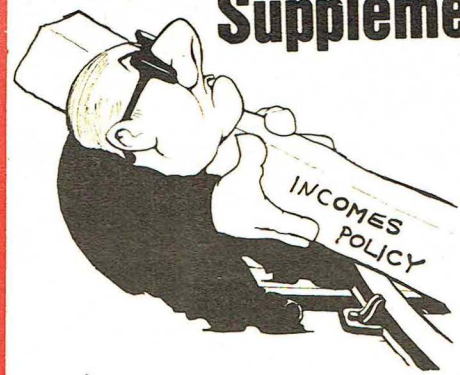
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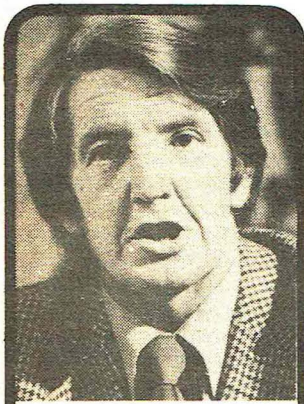
FORCE THE TORIES OUT

Special Conference Supplement



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HIGHER EDUCATION page 6



By Dennis
Skinner
(Labour Party
NEC member)

PLUNDER WOMAN



MUST GO!

The unemployment figures [now 2,039,003] are not an accident. It's a deliberate strategy.

The Thatcher-Joseph strategy is to reduce the number of people in trade unions, and one of the best ways of doing that is to throw them out of work.

Then they are cutting the provisions in the Welfare State, by cutting benefits across a very wide area, starting in the next few weeks with unemployment benefits and short-term benefits generally. They've already had some reduction in many of them, and earnings related supplement is to be abolished completely in 1982.

The Tories hope all these measures will un-

dercut the ability of the workers to resist.

They are also out to reduce real wages below the current rate of inflation. Cash limits, the severe rundown in industry, and closures, massive lay-offs and so on—they're all ways of trying to weaken the ability of the trade unionists still in

work to fight for wages that are even commensurate with the cost of living.

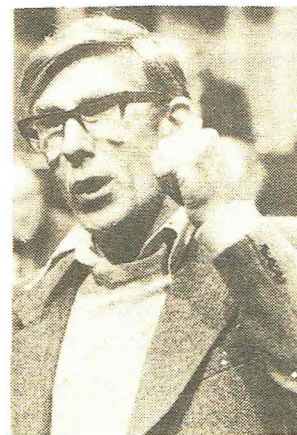
The strategy is quite purposeful; it is aimed at giving more power to the bosses, to restore the waning fortunes of the capitalist system.

Britain's No. 1 lady "terrorist," Mrs That-

cher, has introduced a new calendar for old age pensioners. Instead of having 52 weeks in the year there are now 54. Pensioners will be paying for their own Christmas bonus and more besides, as a result of the two weeks' delay in getting

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Militant Supporters Stand for Labour's NEC



Ray Apps



Pat Wall

Photo: MILITANT

This year's Labour party conference has the task of forging the socialist policies and democratic changes necessary to drive out the Tory government.

A fighting lead from Labour's National Executive Committee will be vital in the year ahead. Two well-known 'Militant' supporters Ray Apps and Pat Wall are standing this year for election to the NEC in the constituency section.

Ray Apps is a member of Brighton Kempton Labour Party, and sat on the NEC working party on re-selection. Ray was a signatory to the minority report providing for mandatory re-selection together with CLPs being able to remove an MP as candidate at anytime.

Pat Wall is a member of Shipley Labour Party and President of Brad-

ford Trades Council.

At last year's conference, Ray and Pat, standing as rank-and-file candidates received significantly more votes than most of the non-elected MPs who stood in the section.

'Militant's' programme on the major topics of the conference is outlined on pages 9-12. We print below the election statement issued by Ray Apps and Pat Wall.

● We are seeking election to the Labour Party National Executive Com-

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PAGE TWO

LABOUR TO POWER ON A SOCIALIST PROGRAMME!

SRI
LANKAWORKERS ACTION FORCES
GOVERNMENT BACKDOWN

NEC

CONTINUED FROM
PAGE ONE

After six weeks' detention, without any charges ever being laid against them, nine of the remaining eleven trade union and opposition leaders being held in Sri Lanka were released on bail on 18 September.

Only J D Silva [President of the Government Sector United Workers Federation] and G I D Dharmasekera [National Democratic Front leader] are still being held. The police claim they have "reason to believe" these two threw bombs, even though no charges have yet been laid.

On his release from prison, Vickramabahu Karunaratne, Nava Sama Samaja Party general secretary, stated that the international campaign of protest at the arrests and sackings had an enormous effect. It was one of the reasons, he said, for the Sri Lankan government's retreat.

Not only were the prisoners released, but also the government has said that it will take back most of the strikers and has rejected an appeal from

By Bob
Labi

the Employers' Federation to pass new laws banning "political" strikes. At the same time, he was confident that the remaining two leaders in jail would soon be released.

Vasudeva Nanayakkara, President of the United Federation of Labour, added: "The only visible international support and action for the strike was limited to what was done by the 'Militant' through the Labour Party and trade unions. The 'Militant' has become well known among broad sections of workers, and they found tremendous inspiration and courage thereby.

"The 'Militant' had an enormous effect in encouraging the prisoners, it showed that our arrest had not gone



Workers at Lever Bros. in Colombo during the General Strike. International labour movement action caused the government to retreat from reprisals and victimisation

unnoticed by the international working class. When J R Jayawardene had to take time, in the course of one of his public speeches, to deal with the protests in London, the impact of the 'Militant' became even clearer.

"We are most grateful to the comrades in England and internationally for their effec-

tive demonstration of internationalism. This has in turn spurred a new and higher sense of internationalism among the Lankan workers in general."

The Campaign to Defend Trade Union Rights in Sri Lanka would like to thank all the many organisations and individuals who have sup-

ported its work in the last two months. The labour movement, however, will have to keep alert to the situation in Sri Lanka to ensure that the J R Jayawardene government cannot succeed in any renewed attack on the Lankan working class.

See page 14

TORIES OUT

CONTINUED FROM
PAGE ONE

the new benefits.

I recently came across a list of attacks upon the old and the sick:

In Kent, the Tory county council are carrying out the policies of Mrs Thatcher to the letter by employing kids at very low rates of pay, cleaning classrooms after school.

In Tory Bedfordshire they've got rid of the free milk for the toddlers and put up meals to 55p. But at the same time, this Tory county council are spending £750,000 for the private education of 90 children.

In Tory Cambridge they've got rid of the plates for the dinners. I don't know how they manage to operate, but that's what they've done.

Then in Tory Cumbria a further attack has been made upon the kids and their parents by sacking 41 school crossing patrols. The old are being attacked in Tory Westminster by closing a home for old people—and half the money that's been saved, £6,000, was spent on a two-day reception for the Lord Mayor.

In Tory Hertfordshire they've abolished the free transport for the mentally handicapped when they go to the training centre. You can't get much lower than that!

In Tory Berkshire they've ended the clothing allowance

for the handicapped. But at the same time, that Tory council has introduced cut-price private health cover for their staff and so on.

These are the sort of vindictive measures that are being carried out. This Tory government is not sorry about these cuts, it's a deliberate strategy to sap the morale of the working class.

Their kids, children from the Tory hierarchy, by and large finish up at schools which are paid for, generally speaking, by the taxpayer, because they have covenants and all sorts of ways in which they're able to finance private education by setting it off against tax.

We can't expect the arithmetic in parliament to change. Currently, the Tories have got a majority of seventy over Labour, when you include all the odds and sods like Powell and the rest who are Tories anyway.

So people should not assume that the manoeuvres like the one got up to at the back-end of the session, when we defeated the Tories on the selling-off of the pensioners' bungalows, will force the Tories to change their policies.

It's always been our experience that when the Tories are in government the industrial wing of the labour movement has to assert itself.

That's why Maggie That-

cher, Joseph and the rest of them are attempting to weaken the industrial base, because they know it's from the industrial side of the movement that the real attacks can be launched against a Tory government. In 1974, the Tory government were defeated by a succession of victories—the Pentonville dockers, the fight against the Industrial Relations Act, which was successful, there was the ballot of the railwaymen, and they finally culminated in the victory of the miners. As a result the climate was changed.

Dockers' victory

It's in this context that I think we've just seen the first real victory, and that is the dockers. Looking back later their victory will be regarded as very symbolic, as the turning point, when the workers on the docks in Merseyside and the rest of the country said "No, we're not going down the road of pay-offs, hand-outs and redundancies any more. We're going to put a stop to this."

This kind of organisation, and a will to win, has got to be repeated up and down the country. That will be the key to shifting this government. Tory governments are defeated by the workers organised outside parliament in the factories, in the pits, in the local government areas. Fine words at conferences and so on are not enough. There's

got to be organised attacks launched by workers outside against this government, with a view to shifting them. Unfortunately, this is weakened by some trade union leaders who actually believe that they can get inside No. 10 and bring pressure to bear. The victory cannot be secured there—it can only be done by the weight, the mass weight, of organised labour outside.

There have got to be campaigns all over the country, and the Tories have got to be confronted wherever they go.

There's a lot of silly talk from elements in Labour's parliamentary leadership, that if they got back into power, they wouldn't have enough money to restore the cuts. That ought to be defeated at conference.

A resolution should be passed in which we say quite clearly that prescription charges would be restored, and that all the costs that have been thrown onto the working people in respect of education will be done away with. There's got to be a total commitment by the Labour Party to restore all the cuts, right across the whole field of social services, education, housing, etc.

Then there's the question of the mandate. People say, why should Labour threaten to kick out a Tory government that's got five years to run? I don't accept that notion. Democracy is not just about putting your mark on a ballot paper every five years and

then lying back while somebody tramples all over you. It's about stemming these attacks, and if necessary clearing them out long before the five years are up.

When the Labour government was in power, within a few months the CBI said to the Labour cabinet: "You can forget about the compulsory planning agreements in your manifesto, because if you try and carry that out we're going to have an investment strike." They weren't bothered about the mandate argument.

Similarly, the House of Lords wrecked about four bills, and they've not been elected by anybody.

Then the IMF came along and they said: "Is there anything left of that Manifesto, because if there is, we want it shifted." The Labour government was still building a few houses and trying to maintain the welfare state, and the IMF said, "To hell with the mandate, we've got a fresh manifesto here that says you've got to cut here, cut there and cut everywhere." Sadly the Labour leadership in parliament went down that road and laid a basis for the Tories to build upon.

That's why it's absolutely paramount, that in the course of defeating the Tories we have a leadership that is going to be absolutely dedicated to looking after its class, the working class, when it gets back into power, and not one that is trying to search for some "consensus" or some bogus "national" interest.

mittee in order to fight for socialist policies and greater party democracy.

The labour movement is faced with a Tory government which is leading a brutal assault against the living standards of workers and their families.

Over two million unemployed, the destruction of a viable health service, the slashing of social services, are all testimony to the reactionary nature of the Thatcher administration.

Confronted by the worst government for decades and factory closure after factory closure, with the prospect of only worse to come, it is essential that the labour movement adopts and fights for a bold socialist alternative. Only this will ensure the defeat of the Tories and the capitalist system they uphold.

We appeal to all CLP delegates to support our election to the NEC, to aid the struggle to ensure that the Labour Party adopts such a course. The building of a mass membership, firmly rooted amongst workers and their families, with democratic control over the party leadership, is vital.

If elected, we are pledged to maintain the fight for increased party democracy. In particular, we support mandatory re-selection of MPs, with the right of CLPS to remove an MP as their candidate at any time; the election of the party leader/deputy leader annually at conference; for the NEC to have control over election manifestos based on conference policy; and for all conference decisions to be binding on the Parliamentary Labour Party.

These measures are essential if the party leadership is to reflect the desires and aspirations of the rank-and-file membership. But if they are to advance the cause of Labour they must be linked with a fighting socialist programme.

We campaign for a 35-hour week with no loss of pay and a minimum wage of £80 per week; opposition to all cuts in public expenditure; and the introduction of a massive programme of useful public works to create new jobs and provide desperately needed social and recreational facilities.

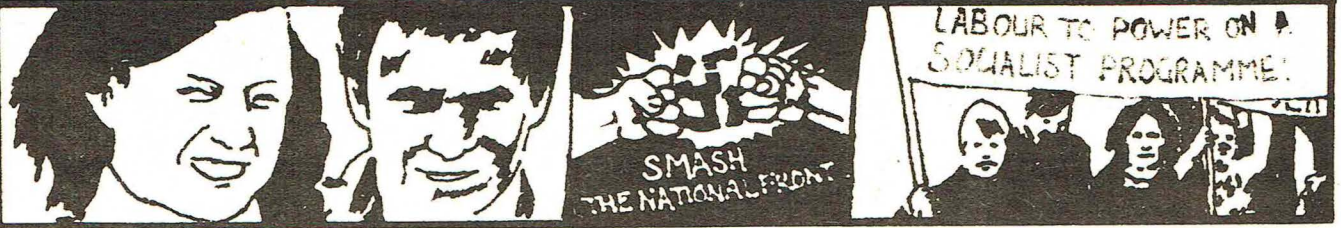
We argue for the implementation of Clause IV, part 4 of the Party constitution, which concretely means the nationalisation, with compensation only on the basis of proven need, of the 200 major companies, banks and insurance companies which dominate the economy, to be run democratically under workers' control and management.

Only in this way, with the introduction of a socialist plan of production, could the productive resources be used in the interests of working people.

These measures are, in our opinion, the only alternative to the prospects of economic catastrophe and mass poverty for working people offered by capitalism.

We ask all CLP delegates to advance the struggle for a mass, democratically run, socialist Labour Party and to defeat the Tories and capitalism by supporting our election to the NEC.

LPYS



CAMPAIGN FOR SOCIALISM

Organise to end unemployment

“What do you expect the youth and children of the country to do with their emotions when you cut back on education and school facilities?”

“What do you expect when the government has caused so much unemployment?”

By Kevin Ramage

(LPYS National Committee)

Kevin Keegan (England's millionaire football captain) correctly put the blame for football hooliganism and vandalism where it belongs—on the doorstep of the Tories and their system, which has thrown over two million out of work.

The Labour Party Young Socialists believe that the labour movement, by fighting for the socialist alternative to mass unemployment, dead end jobs, and inadequate social facilities, can offer youth a positive alternative to the blind alley of football hooliganism. We must shoulder that task, providing our answer to the hopeless despair of the dole.

The Labour Party demonstration against unemployment on 29 November in Liverpool must be the beginning of a mass campaign against unemployment and the Tories.

The demonstration and the campaign leading up to it give us a magnificent opportunity to build our ranks. The LPYS National Committee are producing a million leaflets to be used in preparation for the demonstration.

In every area we will be out on the estates, in town centres, at factories, schools and colleges in a mass recruiting drive. The mood of angry bitterness towards the Tories is growing every day. We are confident that we can massively boost our membership in the next few months.

We have set ourselves a target for 10,000 on the LPYS contingent, by far the biggest organised by the LPYS for years.

Liverpool LPYS are preparing special leaflets aimed at unemployed and black youth, young workers and

racketeers who trade in human misery” as one member put it. Their picket of the stock exchange, the Mecca of finance capital, is intended to publicise the real causes of unemployment: speculators profiting of the capitalist system.

Speakers must be sent to every workplace, trade union body, school and college to publicise the demonstration. We are approaching trade unions and other bodies to sponsor seats on coaches and trains, to finance a large contingent of unemployed youth.

Our campaign takes up the immediate issues facing the unemployed, especially the need for day centres and for trade unions to follow the call of the TUC to organise the unemployed. These demands in themselves will not, however, provide an answer. They must be backed by socialist policies to end the waste and horror of unemployment:

- ★ No redundancies
- ★ Share out the work—for a 35-hour week with no loss of pay
- ★ For an £80 minimum wage.
- ★ For a massive programme of useful public works.

If a clear socialist alternative to unemployment is linked to a bold campaign by all sections of the labour movement, through mass leafletting, public rallies, street corner meetings and broadcasts, November 29th can provide a rallying point for hundreds of thousands of working class people looking for a way out of the crisis.

A massive demonstration will be more than a protest. It can show the working class its strength, as the miners showed Heath in 1974, and prepare the way for a mass campaign of demonstrations, lobbies and industrial action to bring the Tories down and return a Labour government committed to a socialist programme and a plan of production, to sweep aside the capitalist system and end the scourge of unemployment for all time.

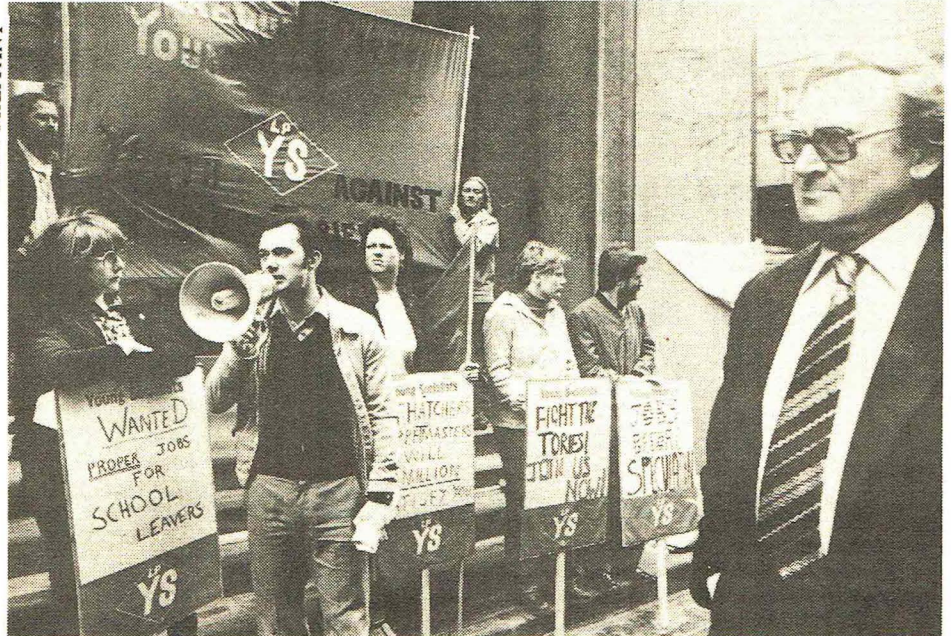
Leaflets/Badges

“Save jobs—sack the Tories” badges: 10 for £1.10.

“Unemployed youth—get organised” leaflets: £5 per 1,000

Order from YCAU, PO Box 104, London E9 5TP.

Photo: MILITANT



LPYS picket outside Stock Exchange this week as new unemployment figures announced

LPYS shows how to build despite budget cut of £14,000

Since last year's Labour Party Conference the Labour Party Young Socialists have demonstrated what could be achieved if the Party adopted a campaigning socialist stance.

The number of branches has increased by 50 to 454. Orders for ‘Socialist Youth’, the LPYS paper, have increased by 25% and financial returns by 125%.

Young Socialist branches have been to the forefront in aiding workers under attack from the employers; housing pickets, calling meetings and raising funds during the steelworkers' strike, helping out at the occupation at Meccano, proposing a demonstration at Bowaters.

The growth in LPYS activity and membership has been achieved despite the fact that the Party's youth section is still restricted to two full-time workers and had its budget cut to £14,000 this year. The LPYS call for a budget of £50,000 and two more full-timers would allow for a huge growth in Labour's youth wing.

The appeal of socialist ideas was shown by the response to the LPYS TV

broadcast in February which netted the Labour Party a record 2,000 applications for membership.

The role of the Marxist leadership of the LPYS was also vindicated by the national demonstration in the same month. Ten years ago, under the old leadership, an LPYS national demonstration could muster only 700 people. This year there were 5,000—the biggest ever LPYS march.

Out on the streets the LPYS are receiving an excellent response—except from the police, who are increasingly harassing LPYS paper sellers. In Southall, five LPYS members await trial for exercising their democratic rights to leaflet and sell papers. We replied with a march through the streets of Southall the following week, supported by local party members and trade unionists.

Harassment will not stop the LPYS. Marches and rallies against the Tories have been held in almost all the major cities. In South London a demonstration was organised against the thugs of the National Front.

With the collapse of the

national Union of School Students, the LPYS has a key role to play in organising school students. The first LPYS school student sections are now being built. These will be of vital importance in the struggle to recruit youth.

The LPYS is an internationalist youth movement. When it received an appeal for aid from the Chilean Socialist Party leadership of the Interior this Easter, a Chilean Socialist Defence Campaign was established. Despite the problems of co-ordination with comrades working in illegal conditions, the campaign has begun and almost £1,900 has so far been raised.

Birmingham Young Socialists also held a march through Handsworth in support of the black workers in southern Africa.

The LPYS record reflects why the bosses' press hates it so much. The LPYS demonstrates the great future ahead for the labour movement once it harnesses its power to a socialist programme.

Stopping their war ‘games’

Lothian Region Labour Party Group ignored a court order and prevented the use of regional staff premises and equipment in the NATO ‘Crusader 80’ exercise last weekend.

Operation ‘square leg’ was to test the region's response to a nuclear attack on Edinburgh and the nearby Rosyth naval base. Our regional seat of government comprising top regional officials, scientific personnel together with army and police liaison officers were to take over the regional headquarters as a safe bunker. The rest of us, including the councillors were presumed vapourised or in our agonised death throes.

By Tam Burke
(Edinburgh Labour Party)

Planning for this exercise began one year ago, yet the matters have never come up before the council or any of its committees for a decision as to whether or not to participate. By 16 votes to 4 against, including that of the convenor of the Council, the Lord Mayor, the Group voted against participation and instructed the Chief Executive to pull out.

Within 24 hours three Tory councillors had obtained an interim interdict from the Court of Sessions prohibiting the Group's order. So much for the democratic control by

an elected majority when the power and interests of capitalism are threatened.

The Labour Group accused the government of hypocrisy in increasing arms spending while imposing cuts in public spending and slashing the region's building programme for schools and homes for the elderly and infirm.

Some councillors see this joint army and police local exercise as part of contingency plans to defeat future mass action by workers in response to Tory government policies.

Essex Tory council explained when they set up their emergency planning system for an earlier exercise in 1974 that in peacetime the main point of such a system was to deal with strikes by public service workers.

Conference '80 GREETINGS

**Fight unemployment
Throw the Tories out
Labour to power on a socialist programme
LPYS National Committee**

Willie Griffin—Scotland
Margaret Reavey—Northern
Josie Aitman—North West
Yasmin Barry—West Midlands
Laurence Coates—East Midlands
Chris Burns—Wales
Garry Hawes—Yorkshire
Nick Toms—Eastern
Clare Baines—South London
Kevin Ramage—Chairman
Tony Saunois—NEC Representative
Linda Reid—Editor, Socialist Youth
Rob Cadwgan—South West

YOUTH CAMPAIGN AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT
[Hon. Presidents
**Eric Heffer MP,
Emlyn Williams]**

- ★ Make 29 November a massive demonstration for socialist policies to end the scandal of unemployment
 - ★ Trade unions organise the unemployed
 - ★ Labour Councils—open day centres for unemployed youth to meet and organise
- “Six hours a day, five days a week is quite enough for such work as we have to do. We must not rest until there is not a single man out of work.” Tom Mann, 1889.

For further details/literature/speakers contact:
YCAU PO Box 104,
London E9 5TP

Greetings to delegates from
West Wales AUEW supporters
FORWARD TO A FIGHTING LEADERSHIP IN THE AUEW AND A FIGHTING LEADERSHIP IN THE LABOUR PARTY

CORKERHILL BRANCH ASLE&F calls for support for the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy

LEWES ROAD BRANCH, BRIGHTON LABOUR PARTY calls on delegates to support the three constitutional demands
Forward to socialist policies

GREETINGS FROM FORD 2/251 BRANCH T&GWU
WE CALL UPON THE PARTY TO UNITE FOR PEACE AND SOCIALISM
Jim Cavanagh—Chairman
Steve Stamford—Secretary

Andrew Price (Conference delegate) and all ‘Militant’ supporters in Cardiff South East CLP send fraternal greetings to Annual Conference
No retreat on party democracy

POOLE LPYS GREETS CONFERENCE



Leyton LPYS send greetings to all delegates at Conference
Tories out!
Full employment now!

THATCHER SCRAPPED DORSET'S SCHOOL MEALS
WHAT GOES NEXT...? DON'T WAIT UNTIL 1984 TO FIND OUT
SCRAP THE TORIES NOW!

Fraternal greetings to delegates at Conference
Forward to Labour Party democracy
HENDON SOUTH LP

NORTH EDINBURGH CLP greets Conference and supports the fight for Party democracy and socialist policies

Fraternal greetings from Wally Scott
Conference delegate
Chester-le-Street

GREETINGS TO CONFERENCE FROM
THURROCK LPYS
MANDATORY RESELECTION NOW!

WOOLTON WARD LABOUR CLUB
sends fraternal greetings to Labour Party Conference delegates
We support the three proposals for party democracy
Forward to the 35-hour week
Socialism
An end to unemployment

CHESTER-LE-STREET, WASHINGTON, W. RAINTON LPYS SEND FRATERNAL GREETINGS TO CONFERENCE

Coventry [SE] Labour Party

extends greetings to all workers and their families

Step up the fight against the Tories and their system with a massive turnout on the National Unemployment march, November 29th

Details of transport etc. from:
Dave Nellist, Chairman,
Coventry SE CLP,
30 Coundon Road

VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCY FOR THE RIGHT WING —STOREMEN OF THE WORLD UNITE! BL-SCG LTD MILITANT READERS

COVENTRY SE WOMEN'S SECTION supports the ten rebel councillors
They are Left, they are right!



NEC must re-instate Coventry's ten socialist councillors!
Step up the fight against the cuts through national action!
GODIVA BRANCH LABOUR PARTY

Give the Tories a “short sharp shock”!

Fight for socialist policies!



COVENTRY NW, SE, and SW LPYS BRANCHES

No to cuts
Yes to socialism
NUT ‘Militant’ readers in Coventry

Coventry [Lanchester] Poly Labour Club: Further education for the Tories—the further the better



WILL WE BE ABLE TO BUY IT BACK AGAIN WHEN I LEAVE SCHOOL DAD?

FIGHT FOR JOBS

Fraternal greetings from Wavertree Constituency Labour Party

YORKSHIRE LPYS
Regional Committee members

G Hawes NC
P Green, Chairman
J Goodby, vice chairman
K Round
L Cooksey
C Piper
S Pitt
P Richardson
G Knell
S Jeffries

SEND FRATERNAL GREETINGS



Fraternal greetings to all comrades from members of Coventry AUEW No 2



Workers can be forgiven for thinking even the capitalists themselves don't take their system seriously. If you had to guess who was the highest paid company executive in the country, you'd probably point to someone in the important industrial sector. One of the leading lights in Fords or ICI perhaps? But no. According to the television business programme 'Enterprise' it's Victor Lowndes, the 'Playboy' gaming boss. He is paid £300,000 a year, not to mention the mansions and limousines that come with the job. In an almost apologetic tone, he said on the programme his income was so high because it was linked to the company's profits. The group, including 'Playboy' magazine itself, presenting women like lumps of meat at a cattle-market, made \$18 million profits last year. But the real money comes flowing in from the gambling dens owned by the company. One, the Claremont, made £5 million profit last year. Lowndes said it was not unusual for this casino to win or lose a million pounds in one day. And the bosses' class have the cheek to tell us we've all got to tighten our belts because this is an age of 'austerity'!

Do you feel betrayed by the fact that Thatcher and Joseph have turned out as liberal pinkos? Do you think the Tories have gone too far to the left? Then the New Britain Party could be for you. Formed last week from a motley bunch of Colonel Blimp outfits, its' leading lights are the eccentric - not to mention reactionary - Patrick Moore, an advertising executive called Mr Delderfield, and one Colonel Iremonger. However, like all amalgamations of the far right grouplets, this latest saviour of the nation has a far from united front. At a press conference they put forward varying interpretations of their own policies. They supported capital punishment, although Mr Delderfield said it was up to members' individual consciences whether they did. Asked about their economic policy, Colonel Iremonger said members probably had different views. But the colonel's political perspective was quite straight forward. He said the Labour Party would move further to the left [hooray!], the Tories would become the centre party, and the NBP, of course, would be the party of the right. However, Mr Moore didn't agree with this - he said the party was neither left, right or centre, but the party of 'common sense'. They said Britain should get out of the common market, although again Mr Delderfield said there were 'slight disagreements' on this. However they were all agreed that immigration should stop and all youth should do six months in the army.

But the intelligence of these patriots was severely tested, though, at the press conference. Faced with rows of grinning journalists, these latest standard bearers of the British Empire couldn't see what was so funny about the union jack waving NBP choosing an Italian restaurant for the venue. When one impertinent scallywag pointed this out, Colonel Iremonger replied 'Why are all you journalists using Japanese cameras?' The journalists didn't bother to point out that because of the crisis of British capitalism, British camera manufacturers collapsed and disappeared a long time ago.

'Militant' supporters in a London ward Labour Party recently moved a resolution on the Soviet Union, condemning the Stalinist bureaucracy, and calling for the right for workers to organise, the right to strike etc. The resolution was lost by the chairman's casting vote, but the comrades were amused after the meeting when they overheard the comment of an old right winger: "I don't know, these people attacking the Soviet Union. They're all communists you know!"



Steve Amor of Stevenage Labour Party, reviews 'The Radical Imagination: Frans Masereel' by Josef Herman. Price £2 (including postage) from World Books 1 Mentmore Terrace London E8 3PN

Two of the artist's works Left—an anti-war woodcut which appeared in 'La Feuille' Below: a page from one of Masereel's 'novels without words'

Frans Masereel

Frans Masereel was born in Flanders in 1889 into a middle-class family. He later attended the Ghent Academy of Fine Art, but was advised there to travel and see 'The masterpieces of the world'.

This advice took on a different meaning in Masereel's later life.

He did travel, extensively, but eventually settled in Paris, and in 1915 he volunteered to work for the Red Cross in Geneva. There he met a writer, Romain Rolland, who was a pacifist.

Masereel subsequently joined the staff of 'La Feuille', a pacifist daily newspaper.

He began to draw for 'La Feuille' which reflected his hatred for war, and his illustrations became famous as an important part of the paper's message.

Masereel used woodcuts from which prints could be made, and thereby began to use the style recognised as his hall-mark for many years. Dark sombre patches of black, interspersed with white formed the powerful images of his drawings.

In 1934, Masereel joined the Anti-Fascist Association of Revolutionary Artists and Writers. Later, During the Spanish civil war, Masereel

designed many leaflets, posters and other graphics for the republican cause.

During the Second World War he remained in France, settling in the south where he made many drawings and prints for the resistance. He continued to live there after the war, and died in Avignon in 1972.

The concrete experience gained by Masereel throughout the war years, the 1920s and the 1930s gave him a most positive basis for his striking illustrations.

Like the satiric caricaturist, George Grosz, John Heartfield, who began the Dada movement of pre-nazi Germany, Masereel was inspired by the need for political action and revolutionary change, and tried to translate this into artistic forms. For Masereel, especially strong graphic representation of workers' lives and oppression became an important theme.

In this attractive little



book, the powerful images that Masereel created in what he called "novels without words" are well presented. Masereel produced books of drawings, which conveyed their ideas without words, sometimes up to 180 pages long. Each "novel" takes a simple theme of which this book includes several examples.

Masereel allows these drawings to be simple but effective. An ordinary worker can "read" these pictorial books and enjoy them as

much as any written book.

As the introduction to the book makes clear; "His subjects were all humanitarian, they were all anti-war, anti-nationalist, anti-capitalist and anti-clergy."

Frans Masereel, although not a 'revolutionary' in the generally accepted sense, nevertheless played an important role as a political artist. Anyone who studies his dark, powerful images cannot help but see the truth and reality reflected in them.

SOCIALISM MADE EASY

A review of James Connolly's famous pamphlet Available from World Books, 1 Mentmore Tce, London E8 3PN Price 25p [+10p P&P]

In 1909 in Chicago, 'Socialism made easy' by the Irish socialist James Connolly was published for the first time.

This book is an important contribution to Marxist thinking and propaganda, and is essential reading for all socialists. It is written in Connolly's clear—and sometimes humorous—style.

The first half of the book has a novel way of introducing the reader to the ideas of socialism. Titled 'Workshop Talks', Connolly supposes questions asked by a shop-floor worker sceptical of this new society offered by Connolly.

In this typical extract, Connolly takes up the question of Irish nationalism:

will we do?

Oh, then you can go back to your slums, same as before.

"Now isn't that worth fighting for?"

"And when you cannot find employment, and, giving up the struggle of life in despair, enter the Poorhouse, the band of the nearest regiment of the Irish army will escort you to the Poorhouse door to the tune of 'St. Patrick's Day.'"

"Now, my friend, I also am Irish, but I'm a bit more logical. The capitalist, I say, is a parasite on industry; as useless in the present stage of our industrial development as any other parasite in the animal or vegetable world is to the life of the animal or vegetable upon which it feeds.

"The working class is the victim of this parasite—this human leech, and it is the duty and interest of the working class to use every means in its power to oust this parasite class from the position which enables it to thus prey upon the vitals of labour.

"Therefore, I say, let us organise as a class to meet our masters and destroy their mastership; organise to drive them from their hold upon public life through their political power; organise to wrench from their robber clutch the land and workshops on and in which they enslave us; organise to cleanse our social life from the stain of social cannibalism, upon his fellow man."

CRISIS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Profits in the driving seat

"We must give to every child, regardless of background, the chance to progress as far as his or her abilities allow."
Tory Manifesto, 1979.

This is in stark contrast to the reality facing the working class, and the present student population. The hopes and aspirations of thousands of new students are being cruelly destroyed by the policies of the Thatcher government.

The Public Expenditure White Paper, March 1980, spelt out the government's plans for education: a cut of 9% in expenditure between 1980/81 and 1983/84.

Universities have also been hit. There are an estimated 14,000 potential students who have not taken up places this autumn. According to 'The Guardian' (2 September 1980) university applicants are currently being asked for higher grade 'A'-levels to ensure a cut in admissions to meet financial restrictions.

Since 1972/73, cuts over recent years have already

By Clive Heemskirk

(Leeds University Labour Club)

meant a 7% reduction in the number of full time students. The decline in real value of student grants has also played its part in reducing the number of working class students at universities. Today, there is actually a smaller proportion of working class students (23%) in universities than in the early 1970s (27%).

In reality, the universities are still closed to the great majority of working class youth.

The 1973 Labour Party green paper on Higher Education stated: "We envisage an open system of post-school education, where a diverse range of opportunities are accessible to all and resources available shared by all wishing to further their education."

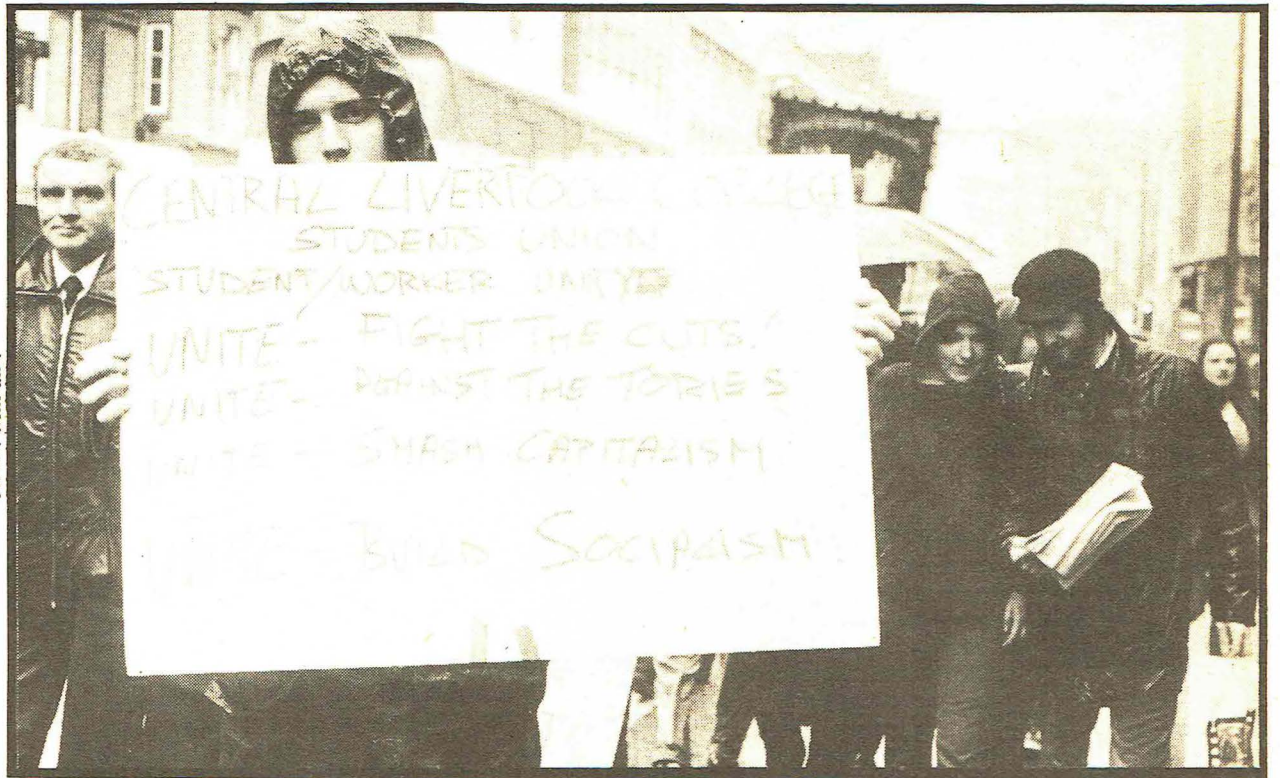


Photo: Militant.

Education in the back

This is now further than ever from being achieved.

When there has been a long-term degeneration of British capitalism, with the virtual collapse of large sections of manufacturing industry, there is inevitably a crisis within higher education as well.

During the long post-war boom, Britain failed to broaden and modernise its higher education to the same extent as other advanced capitalist countries. Even from a purely capitalist point of view, the system failed to produce an adequate supply

of highly educated personnel, especially in science, technology and engineering.

Now the Tories' ruthless attempts to prune higher education as if it were some kind of "luxury", can only accentuate the decline of British capitalism.

The old illusions of some in the labour movement, moreover, that the expansion of higher education would gradually erode class differences, has been cruelly shattered. Few students today have any real confidence that a "good degree" will be an automatic ticket to a lucrative career.

Limited to the framework of a diseased capitalism, "higher education open to all" will always remain a pious hope. Such an aim which would in practice involve the radical improvement of the whole education system, from the nursery schools upwards, will only be achieved when the means of production are in the hands of the working class, and the economy is democratically planned and managed in the interests of working people.

While the means of production are in the hands of a possessing class which runs

them for profit, education too will always be subordinated, in the last analysis, to the profit motive and the anarchy of the market.

Tory policies will bring this home to more and more students. The task of socialists in higher education is to win students to the idea of the socialist transformation of society, the only programme which can lift education to a higher level, and to bring students into the ranks of the labour movement, the only force in society capable of carrying through fundamental change.

Living grant now!

Students' living standards slashed yet again! That is the understandable reaction of most students when the new rates were announced.

In real terms the grant is now well below the level that it was when the system was introduced 17 years ago. Mark Carlisle, Tory Education maestro, justified the new levels as "a contribution to the government's policy of restraining public expenditure." Students, like workers, must make a concerted contribution to bailing out the bosses' bankrupt system.

Students lucky enough to get a full grant—still a minority—will undoubtedly find it difficult to manage on £36 a week. Hall fees alone are up 24%, that is 10% more than the rise in the grant.

Students will be compelled to cut down spending on food and books, as well as luxuries such as a "night out".

By Rob Hughes

In the past, many students have relied on getting summer jobs to pay off their overdrafts, but they are now finding this increasingly difficult as even formerly prosperous regions like the West Midlands and the South East are being hit by mass unemployment.

Students in Further education and Technical colleges are even worse off. The vast majority receive no grant, except possibly for a small travel allowance.

It is essential that the National Union of Students conducts a serious campaign to improve the level of student grants. One demonstration a year, which has little more than symbolic significance, is not good enough.

The National Organisa-

tion of Labour Students also has a vital role to play—as the "student wing" of the labour movement.

In order to defend the right of working class students to continue in higher and further education it is essential that a serious organised campaign on grants is run.

NUS must link up with the labour movement and campaign around the following demands:

- ★ Abolish the means test!
- ★ End all discretionary awards: all grants to be mandatory!
- ★ For a current grant of £2,400 [over 40 weeks] for all in higher education!
- ★ For a minimum of £20 a week for full-time students in FE colleges and Techs.
- ★ Open higher education to all!

'Poor relation' - poorer still

By Mark Picksley
(Coventry Poly Labour Club)

The Polys and Further Education colleges, - always the "poor relation" of higher education, are being decimated by the latest spending cuts

The Tories' £400 million cut from local authorities' education spending which covers Polys and FE is now having a devastating effect on conditions and standards.

The inadequacy of buildings and equipment is being accentuated, there are even worse shortages of books and materials, and student-staff ratios are generally deteriorating.

Tory junior education minister, Rhodes Boyson, has claimed that the main cut-backs will be in Arts courses—thus cynically abandoning the pretence that the Polys and FEs are in any way designed to cater for the general educational and cultural needs of students.

The decay of the economy is accompanied by cultural decay, too. But the truth is, British capitalism has long neglected scientific and technical education. It is not only "useless" Arts courses which will suffer from Tory policies but also the scientific and technical courses which

the Polys were mainly set up to provide.

The two-tier "binary" system with centrally financed universities and the mainly locally financed Polys and FE colleges, highlights the unmistakable class nature of education. In 1976/7, for example, £660 million was spent on universities, while only £340 million was spent on "other institutions".

The chairman of the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics estimated this year that if Polys were funded at the same level as the universities they would get nearly 50% more from the DES than they do now, i.e. £470 million compared to the actual £320 million.

The binary system is preserved to maintain the privileges of the universities, where only 23% of students come from a working-class background.

Accommodation for students is also generally inferior in the Polytechnics to that in the universities. Only 11% of students of the Polys and FEs are catered for with student accommodation, whereas 50% of university students have student accommodation provided.

From the beginning, the Polys have faced a continual crisis of identity, caught

between the universities and the Techs. The successive cuts which began under the Labour government and have been intensified under the Tories have accentuated all the problems.

In 1977 the CNAA threatened to stop validating degrees from Teesside Poly, for instance, because of the appalling standards and conditions. With the massive cuts that Polys have faced this year, ranging from 2% to well over 10%, how long will it be before more are in the same position?

North East London Poly has already been forced to lay off 142 staff in an attempt to meet cuts of £2.4 million.

This crisis has sent some polytechnic directors crying for charters to give them a similar status to the privileged universities, as if a formal change of status could provide a solution in the present situation.

We must fight every cut in every polytechnic, linking up with the labour and trade union movement in their fight to protect jobs and living standards. We must recognise though that the present chaos in the Polys, which reflects the crisis in the whole higher education system, will only be ended when we have a fully comprehensive Further and Higher Education system run in the interests of society as a whole, and not the interests of the profit system.



MILITANT STUDENT
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CONSETT:



Consett workers march in a bid to save their jobs. Even if private enterprise does take over Consett—and it appears to be having second thoughts—jobs will still be lost

Photo: MILITANT

working with the hot metal

I can still remember the job interview, where the manager assured me, "You can make over £100 a week here."

It soon became clear that the magic figure of £100 a week must mean working a hell of a lot of overtime. It could be done; one man regularly clocked up 15 shifts a week [I was there 6 weeks before I realised he wasn't a member of my shift]. But the physical wear and tear of working over 80 hours a week wasn't justified by the financial reward.

Consett steelworks

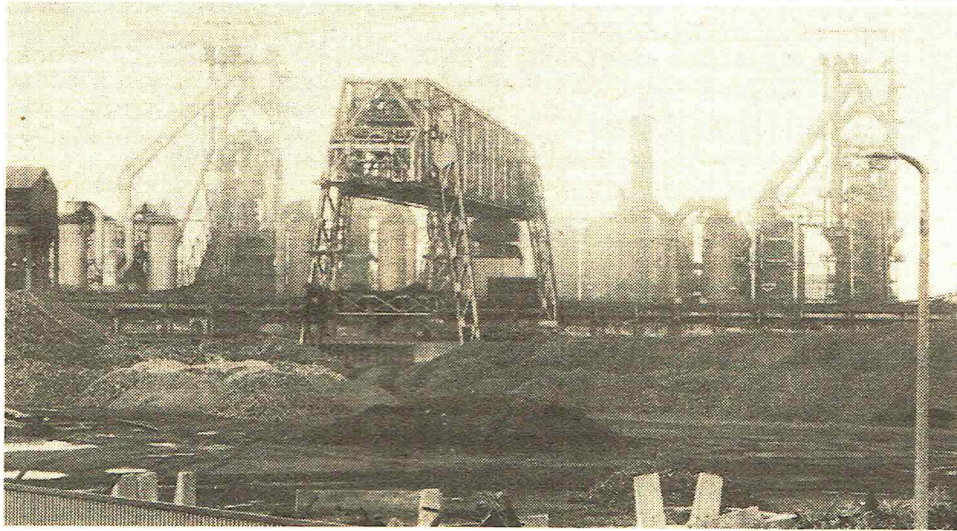


Photo: Dave Harris

red dust came home. For the 8 months I was there I had red clothes, red sheets and red feet.

When the sinter plant went onto one shift working I moved into the traffic department. Here I was led to expect better pay at £10.33 a shift, the same shift system and an easier job. In actual fact I got less pay (£9.43 a shift), a 5 day-week and put my personal safety at risk working with sub-standard machinery. For a 5 day week I would take home £35.

I began to look for another opening and found one in the steel plant. I was back on the 21 shift system and for the first time, I actually hit the magic £100 a week. Considering the danger of the job, they hardly dared pay less. With this first pay packet we went out and rediscovered the joys of a leg of pork.

As a shift labourer you act as a stand in for any absentee. This gave me the experience of every job in steel production.

Everyone had their favourite jobs and I preferred working with the hot metal. Not even the free soap tempted me to be a boiler cleaner.

The greatest hazard is burns, and you can judge a man's length of service by the number of scars and how many finger ends he's lost.

These injuries are obvious, but less obvious are the injuries which must be caused by working in an atmosphere polluted by graphite dust, sulphur fumes and the mental strain of watching out for yourself.

Even though the job's dirty and dangerous I find it interesting and satisfying. But under this bosses' system I could lose it.

The BSC management decided to close what was - by their own admission - the only profitable plant in the corporation. We told them this but it fell on deaf ears.

But there was someone listening - big business. Now like a pack of vultures, they

have swooped in for the rich pickings in the carve up of BSC

But this doesn't mean my job will now be secure. They have already said they will only employ 2,700 - that's a thousand jobs less than before BSC pulled out. The number of redundancies in the private sector is high—in Sheffield alone, 3,000 steel jobs were lost in 1978, and the same amount was lost last year.

There's only one real way to ensure job security, and that's the labour movement taking over the commanding heights of the economy—not just nationalising the bits that the capitalists have lost out on—and let the workers themselves plan it for the benefit of society. Only then will production at this plant, which has been renowned for over a century for the quality of its steel, be geared to what is really needed in society—schools, hospitals etc—and not to the crazy logic of the profit system.

By Brian Binney
(ISTC No 1 Branch)

BENDIX- open the books

"We care about our reputation not only as a successful company but also as a decent and socially useful one," claimed the chairman of the multi-million dollar US-based Bendix Corporation, presenting the company's 1977 report.

However, on Thursday 11 September management at the Corporation's plant at Kingswood, Bristol, handed out 90 redundancy notices.

The company admitted that this invited criticism as they were "continuing to recruit until quite recently" and there had been overtime working up until the summer holiday. But they bluntly claimed that the recession in the motor industry—the factory makes various components for trucks—necessitated 135 redundancies, including 98 compulsory redundancies.

So much for Bendix's "decency" and concern to be socially useful!

When the redundancies were announced a special committee of shop stewards was formed to fight them. The committee first proposed going on the government work sharing scheme. The management rejected this out of hand.

In a letter to employees, management claimed that they rejected the idea of the government's compensation scheme for short-time working because the company couldn't give the necessary assurance that the recession would be "temporary"—"this we cannot genuinely do."

In addition management added that a short-time working scheme on a rota basis "is not practically possible."

Finally, the letter says, "We trust that everyone will understand that all the possible courses of action have been well considered by the company..." Considered from the point of view of the company's profits, of course. To be sure of the real situation, the trade union must demand the opening of all the company's books.

Following the failure of these negotiations, other alternatives were put, including voluntary redundancies.

It soon became crystal clear, however, that any alternative that would cost the company money would be ruled out by management.

A mass meeting was called for Thursday, 11 September, the day before redundancies were due to take effect. Many workers had argued that a mass meeting should have taken place earlier, as agreed at a previous T&GWU branch.

The meeting, nonetheless, overwhelmingly supported the suggestion of union officials to fight the redundancies.

The stewards' committee met that afternoon. Rather than calling an all-out strike as they had been instructed by the mass meeting, they decided to call another mass meeting for the following morning.

By Rob Cadwgan
(LPYS National Committee)
and Jeff Gramlin
(T&GWU—now redundant)

At the very time the stewards were meeting, management was going round the plant issuing redundancy notices. Many people were wondering what had happened to the decision taken at the mass meeting earlier that morning.

The Friday meeting was totally different from the Thursday one. No discussion was allowed or alternative proposals. Not even those who had received their notices were allowed to speak.

The convenor tried to justify the calling of another meeting on the grounds that a new offer had come from the management. But no redundancies had been withdrawn, and the decision on Thursday should have stood. An immediate strike should have been called.

The way this meeting was conducted was totally removed from the democratic traditions of the labour movement. It led to tremendous bitterness and anger amongst the divided workforce as the day before many had anticipated a stand against the redundancies.

The lesson is quite clear. Whereas one day, a clear lead had been given to fight, both by officials and the floor of the meeting, on the second day no such lead was given, or allowed.

The mood had been there for an all-out fight. But the failure of the leadership to translate that mood into action allowed management time to lull many workers into a false sense of security when they knew they weren't on the redundancy list.

Promises today by the company will be tossed aside tomorrow as the recession deepens. The only way to beat the bosses and save jobs is by workers standing together with a clear programme: for a 35-hour week and sharing of work with no loss of pay.

Despite the setback we can be confident that the Bendix workers will look for a leadership with more understanding of the real situation facing workers and a real determination to fight to defend their interests. We need leaders who are really prepared to build the union into a fighting organisation. This is the only way jobs can be guaranteed. Promises from the management are worth nothing.

Conference '80 GREETINGS

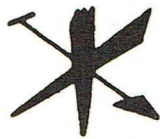
DEFEAT THE TORIES

For the return of a
Labour government
on a socialist programme
by the full
implementation of
Clause IV, part 4 of the
Labour Party constitution

May Lloyd, Chris Weeldon,
Mhairi McGowan, Kevin Roddy,
Steve Richardson,
Mike Farrimond, Tom Roll,
Dave Saxby, George Lobo,
Kevin McHugh, Barry Fuge,
Roger Castle, Rod Bacon,
Jim Norris, Gill Tromans,
John Brooks, and one other
elected Assistant Secretary who
wishes to remain anonymous

CPSA DHSS Section Executive
Committee members

CAERPHELLY
Militant supporters
send greetings
to conference
For a mass, democratic,
socialist Labour Party



Fraternal greetings
to all delegates
Forward to a
socialist and
democratic
Labour Party
HEELEY BRANCH,
HEELEY CLP

South
Gloucestershire
Labour Party
Young Socialists



send fraternal
greetings to all
delegates to
Labour Party
Conference

Kick out the Tories
Forward to socialism

THE HACKNEY
THATCHER-BASHERS
TROT ALL OVER
PLUNDERWOMAN
Hackney Central LPYS

We don't want to work
on Maggie's farm
no more!
TOWER HAMLETS
LPYS

Greetings to the
Labour Party
Conference
For democracy
and
accountability

POEU
Liverpool
Internal Branch

ARDWICK
CLP



Fraternal greetings
to all delegates
Fight Tory attacks
with socialist policies
Build a mass
democratic
Labour Party



FORWARD TO
WORKERS' UNITY
AND SOCIALISM
GOSPORT LPYS

Greetings to comrades
fighting for
greater democracy
within the Party
DRYLAW/COMELY
BANK
LABOUR PARTY

GREETINGS
TO ALL
CONFERENCE
DELEGATES
LIVERPOOL
DISTRICT
LABOUR
PARTY

HAVANT &
WATERLOO LPYS
Defend conference
decisions
Sack the Tories
Forward to
socialism

ANDOVER
LABOUR PARTY
sends fraternal greetings
to conference delegates
Say no to
nuclear weapons

OLD SWAN WARD
sends greetings to
all those fighting for
socialist policies

BUILD THE
LABOUR PARTY
SOCIALIST
POLICIES NOW
BASILDON LPYS

ROCHDALE &
ROYTON &
HEYWOOD
WOMEN'S SECTION
GREET
CONFERENCE

AN END TO ALL
IMMIGRATION
CONTROLS

SOHO BRANCH
[LADYWOOD]
LABOUR PARTY
sends fraternal greetings
to conference delegates
Defend party
democracy!



Fraternal greetings
to all our friends
in the
labour movement
5/908 branch
T&GWU

NOTTINGHAM LABOUR PARTY
YOUNG SOCIALISTS
(Nottingham North, Nottingham East,
Nottingham West, Mansfield, Beeston
and R. shcliffe branches)
greet delegates to conference and urge
support for the Marxist programme
of the 'Militant' as the only way forward
for the working class
ACTION NOW

TO KICK OUT THE TORIES!
DEFEND LABOUR PARTY
DEMOCRACY—FOR FULL
ACCOUNTABILITY OF
WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES!
LABOUR TO POWER ON A
SOCIALIST PROGRAMME!

CHESTER LPYS
send fraternal greetings
to Labour Party
Conference delegates
Workers' unity knows
no bounds

Support mandatory
reselection, Party leader
elected by Conference
and NEC to write
Manifesto
SOUTHEND LPYS



For a mass socialist
fighting Labour Party
We shall be invincible
SALFORD LPYS



BRANCH 5 POOLE CLP
send fraternal greetings
to LP Conference
Reinstate school meals
in Dorset



EAST EDINBURGH
LPYS
sends fraternal greetings
Fight for
socialist policies

SRI LANKA

'Resisting the Robber Barons'



Half the island's 14 million population live below the official poverty line of £8 monthly for a family.

The last few months have seen renewed attempts by the United National Party government in Sri Lanka to break the power of the Lankan working class.

Until released on bail last week, eleven trade union and opposition leaders had been detained for six weeks. And the UNP are continuing its drive to break union organisation in the public sector.

Since coming to power in July 1977 J R Jayawardene's UNP government's policy has been to turn the island into what the 'Financial Times' has called an "IMF experiment".

J R Jayawardene advertised the new Free Trade Zone thus: "Let the people of the world including our own capitalists come and make it a 'robber barons area'...In this area there can be no... strikes" (Sri Lankan Hansard 19/1/80).

This 'open door' policy to the capitalists has meant that the UNP has had to attempt to take drastic measures against the powerfully organised Lankan working class, in order to carry through its policy of cutting welfare payments and preventing workers resisting the policies of the 'robber barons'. At the same time a new Constitution has given President J R Jayawardene enormous executive powers.

In October 1979 after only 15 hours' parliamentary debate the Essential Services Act was passed. Once a service is declared essential by the President any worker who fails to attend work is guilty of an offence as is also anyone who 'incites, induces or

By Bob Labi

encourages' a worker to go on strike.

The beginning of 1980 saw a rapid worsening of the Lankan masses' situation. The developing world recession had a marked impact on the number of foreign capitalists willing to invest, and the government found it harder to borrow money overseas whilst the terms of trade worsened, making imports more expensive.

The 'Financial Times' estimated in August that skilled workers in Sri Lanka receive about 471 rupees a month (£12). While in July the 'Daily Telegraph' reported that half the island's 14 million population are living below the official poverty line of a monthly family income of 300 rupees (£8).

The 'Financial Times' further commented that the J R Jayawardene "government took an axe to food subsidies in February...Prices of imported rice, wheat and sugar were allowed to rise to international levels...there is also no doubt that inflation has had a heavy impact on the real earnings of many people, most especially urban public sector employees." (27/8/80).

When it is remembered that in Sri Lanka the public sector accounts for over 60% of the economy it is easy to understand the rapidly growing unpopularity of the UNP government.

In March of this year the various opposition trade unions in the Joint Trade Union Action Committee (JTUAC) held a delegate conference, drew up a list of 23 demands and decided to hold a 'day of action' as the first step to win these demands.

The June 5th 'day of action' itself was marked by a series of clashes between protesters and government supporters. The most serious clash occurred when a group of government supporters, led by two UNP MPs—Merryl Kariawasam and John Ameratunga, attacked a picket line in central Colombo. During this attack D Somapala, a leader of the State General Workers Union was killed.

Four days later 50,000 workers in Colombo, including members of the UNP government's union, struck for half a day in protest and 15,000 joined Somapala's funeral procession.

When, at the beginning of July, twelve workers from the Ratmalana railway workshops were suspended for their activity in the June protests the entire 7,000 strong workforce walked out in protest. They demanded reinstatement of their leaders and also a 300 rupee a month increase and indexation of wages.

Rapidly support for the strike grew and the JTUAC decided on 11 July to call on all its affiliated unions to join this rapidly developing spontaneous strike wave by 21 July.

In the face of this escalating movement the UNP government struck back. Its attitude was summed up by one minister who said, "We've got to crush it now, otherwise we are done for" (Far Eastern Economic Review, 1/8/80). On 16 July it declared a State of Emergency and ruled that any worker on strike after 17 July would be "deemed for all purposes to have forthwith terminated or vacated his employment...and (b) in addition, be guilty of an offence."

For any worker convicted of striking it ruled "in addition to any other penalty that the court shall impose for such offence—(a) all property, movable or immovable, of that person shall, by virtue of such conviction, be deemed to be forfeited to the Republic."

Two days later press censorship was imposed.

But still the strike movement spread. At its height over a quarter of the urban workforce was involved in this struggle.

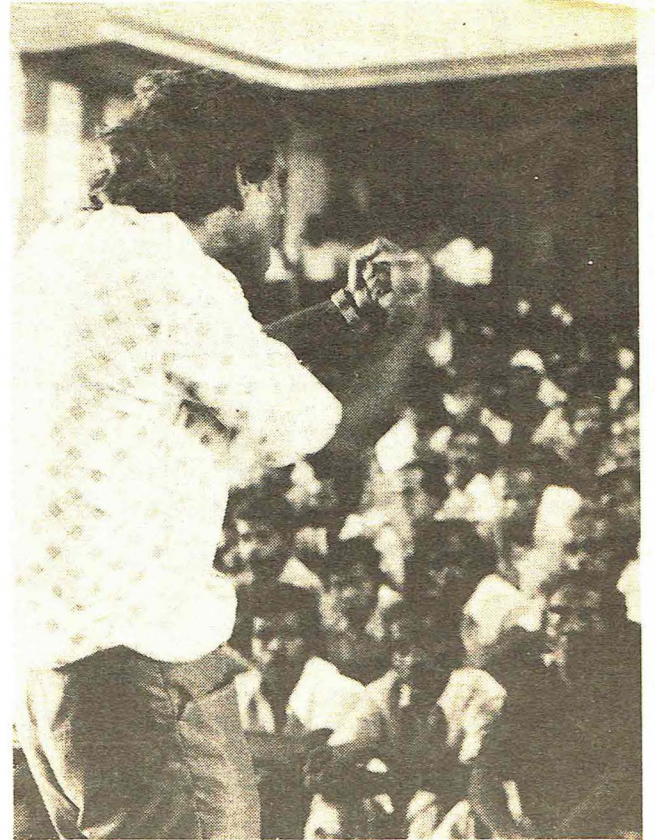
The government, however, continued to meet the strike head-on. Trade union funds were frozen for much of the strike and open-air strike meetings banned, while UNP meetings and those of non-striking unions were allowed to go ahead.

"Let the people of the world including our own capitalists come and make it a 'robber barons area'." President of Sri Lanka, J.R. Jayawardene.

Under this pressure a section of the trade union leadership wavered and the strike began to falter. By the end of July it had become clear that the major issue facing the trade unions was how to defend their organisations.

The central demand had now become the need to secure complete reinstatement of all the strikers. While in the private sector most firms were taking their workers back the government remained adamant in refusing to reinstate the 100,000 strikers from the public sector.

The JTUAC then decided to hold a 'satyagraha', a peaceful civil disobedience protest, on 8 August. However, the government used



Meeting during the July General Strike

The Nava Sama Samaja Party has argued for the unity of all the trade unions in action against the government's attacks and the formation of a United Front of all the workers parties to fight the government.

troops and police to break up the Colombo demonstration which resulted in heavy rioting.

This rioting provided the government with the excuse to arrest a whole series of opposition and trade union leaders, a number of whom were kept in detention without bail.

Among those who were held in prison for six weeks were leaders of the Nava Sama Samaja Party. They included Vasudeva Nanayakara (President of the NSSP led United Federation of Labour), Vickremabahu Karunaratne (NSSP General Secretary), Gunasena Mahanama (Government Clerical Service Union General Secretary) and Saranapala de Silva (Commercial and Industrial Workers Union President).

It was not accidental that the NSSP was particularly hard hit by the wave of arrests. During the general strike it had been the NSSP, the Marxist workers' party in Sri Lanka, who had put forward the most militant demands and proposals to take the strike forward.

The NSSP argued for the unity of all the trade unions in action against the UNP government's attacks and the formation of a United Front of all the workers' parties to fight the government.

It called first of all for the JTUAC to secure that all its membership joined the strike, that the strike should not be limited to purely economic issues but clearly raise the issue of defeating the UNP government replacing it by a revolutionary left government and that democratic strike committees representing all workers should be formed in every locality and nationally in order to give the strike direction.

But while the JTUAC majority rejected these demands, the NSSP's policies found an increasingly wider response. The arrests of nearly half its central leadership is a clear attempt by the UNP to behead the Party.

The mass sackings of strikers and the arrests of workers' leaders, both from the NSSP and other opposition parties, has provoked a wave of anger in the international labour movement.

From Britain the TUC sent a telegram expressing 'serious concern' at the arrests and calling for the leaders' 'immediate release'. National unions including the TGWU, NUR, BFAWU, FBU, UCW, and NAAAW have also called for their release along with many union branches, trades councils and Constituency Labour Parties.

The Irish Labour Party has protested and the British Labour Party International Committee is waiting to see when the Lanka High Commission in London will see them. In other European countries protests have also been made.

The Campaign to Defend Trade Union Rights in Sri Lanka is working to gather support for its three demands from all sections of the labour and trade union movement. In particular it hopes that delegates at the Labour Party Conference will support its work and inform their organisations of its activity. The Campaign is calling for:

★ **Unconditional release of all arrested during the general strike!**

★ **Full reinstatement of all strikers without victimisation!**

★ **Repeal of all anti-trade union and repressive laws!**

The next Labour government will be faced with the question of whether it should continue giving aid to Sri Lanka, particularly the Mahaweli irrigation scheme. The labour movement must be prepared to insist, if necessary, that no aid is given to a repressive, pro-imperialist and anti-trade union regime. Therefore a continued close watch is needed on the developments in Sri Lanka, along with a readiness to aid the Lankan workers' movement as and when necessary.

END PRISON REPRESSION



Army search in Long Kesh

IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Labour Committee on Prison Conditions in N Ireland was established to campaign against the appalling conditions which exist in the prisons of Northern Ireland, particularly in Long Kesh [the Maze] and Armagh women's prison, and against the brutal treatment of prisoners in RUC interrogation centres like the notorious Castlereagh.

The labour movement must take a clear stand on this issue. While firmly opposing the methods of individual terrorism used by sectarian organisations like the Provisional IRA and the loyalist UVF, the labour and trade union movement cannot remain silent over the repression and torture conducted by the state. It would do so at its own peril.

The British ruling class is responsible for centuries of exploitation and repression in Ireland. The divide-and-rule policies of the British state created the sectarian divisions which have again erupted in violent conflict.

But far from fighting imperialism, as they claim, the Provisional IRA by adopting the tactics of individual terrorism, have actually strengthened the hand of the state, and created a climate of acceptance in Britain for repressive policies. This poses the very real danger that the methods now being used in Northern Ireland will in the future be turned against the labour movement in its fight against the bosses' assault on

By Tony Saunois
(LPYS representative on EC Labour Party)

its living standards and trade union and other democratic rights.

The Labour Party National Executive Committee's decision to condemn the prison conditions in Northern Ireland and to draw the attention of the labour movement to this issue was an important step forward.

The hysterical reaction of the capitalist press to this move, when Fleet Street excelled itself in misrepresentation and distortion, confirms just how much the capitalist class fears this issue being taken up by the labour movement from a class standpoint. In an effort to blind workers to the real situation, the capitalist media tried to portray the NEC's decision as backing for the Provisional IRA—in spite of the resolution's clear statement that the NEC was "implacably opposed to the programme and methods of individual terrorism," and the clear statements of the campaign.

There is now a mass of well-documented evidence of the brutally repressive methods being used in Northern Ireland, and of the fact that the harsh prison regime is being used not for normal

judicial punishment, but as an additional method of repression.

Because of their horrified reaction to the Provisional IRA's bombings and assassinations, many in the labour movement have had doubts about the allegations of brutality. But reports from Amnesty International and the government's own Bennett Commission provide enough information to dispel any such doubts.

The Bennett Report, for example, said: "...clearly great caution is called for in dealing with prisoners' complaints if unsupported by other evidence. Unhappily, in some instances, there is such evidence." (My emphasis.) Even the Northern Ireland Police Surgeons' Association asked for a meeting with the Chief Constable to express their concern at what was taking place, a development which must surely give the labour movement cause to raise its own voice in protest.

Allegations of beatings of the stomach, ears, head; of hair-pulling, wrist-bending, cigarette burns; and prolonged interrogation using relays of detectives, together with threats to prisoners' families, have all been documented.

Amnesty International's report, moreover, points out that solicitors handling cases before the non-jury "Diplock" courts stated that "ill-treatment of suspects by police officers, with the object of obtaining confessions, is now common practice..."

Overwhelming evidence

The evidence is overwhelming. Only such methods could produce the 94% conviction rate of those appearing before the Diplock Courts, a statistic produced by the Law Department of Queen's University, Belfast. Of these convictions, a staggering 70%-90% were wholly or mainly based on admission of guilt obtained through police interrogation.

It is through this repressive

"Star Chamber" system that most of the prisoners in the Maze and Armagh have been sentenced. This in itself would explain protest by the prisoners, and the extreme forms that their protest has taken is undoubtedly the result of extremely brutal pressure of the regime inside.

The authorities in Northern Ireland, the Tories, and regrettably some former Labour ministers, have vigorously repudiated allegations of brutality. So far, however, they have upheld a steel wall of secrecy around the treatment of prisoners. If former Labour ministers are so confident that the prison conditions are fair and humane, why will they not support a full independent enquiry by the labour movement?

Political prisoners

The call has come from some quarters for H-block prisoners convicted during the "Troubles" to be granted political status. But the labour movement, while opposing oppression and brutality, cannot write a blank cheque declaring all those in the H-blocks as political prisoners and thereby campaigning for their release.

Some of the prisoners have undoubtedly been convicted on false evidence. Others, on both sides of the sectarian divide, were driven, in the absence of any clear alternative, into the various paramilitary groups, mistakenly believing that they were defending their community and fighting repression. Many of these have never been involved in any sectarian atrocities, and those the labour movement could generally defend.

However, on both sides there have also undoubtedly been vicious murderers responsible for sadistic killings, the loyalist Shankill butchers and the Republicans responsible for the desperate Bessbrook murders, being two of the most notorious examples. These people, who

could easily pose a threat to the labour movement itself, could never be classified as political prisoners and be defended by the labour movement.

However, we can rely only on independent bodies set up by the labour movement itself to conduct a thorough review of convictions and to review the cases of individual prisoners.

The labour movement has a duty to fight for decent conditions for all prisoners, irrespective of their crimes or alleged crimes. The Labour Committee on Prison Conditions in Northern Ireland demands the following:

★ For the right of all prisoners to wear their own clothes.

★ For full access to newspapers, television, books and writing materials, and no restrictions on letters.

★ For a minimum of two unsupervised visits and two food parcels a week.

★ For the right to negotiate choice of work, training and educational facilities.

★ For trade union rates of pay and the right to trade union membership.

★ For the right of all prisoners to elect their own representatives to negotiate on their behalf.

In addition, we call on the labour movement to oppose all forms of repression in Northern Ireland. The movement must campaign for the repeal of all repressive legislation, the scrapping of the non-jury "Diplock" courts, and the closure of the special police interrogation centres.

Support has already been received in the form of sponsorship from the London REC of the Labour Party, and numerous CLPs and union organisations, together with the LPYS National Committee.

It is now crucial for the labour movement to make its position clear and take up the above demands. Get your CLP/union branch to sponsor the work of the LCPC—NI and send a message of support to: The Secretary LCPC NI, 38 Bowsprit Point, Mellish Street, London E.14.

Treading the national road to socialism

The French 'Communist' Party have reached new depths of national 'Patriotism'. When the West Germans pulled out of the Moscow Olympics [following Carter's appeal], the CP paper 'L'Humanite' carried a cartoon of:

Jimmy Carter wearing Nazi uniform receiving the Nazi salute from some young Germans chanting "Heil Carter".

Hard to believe? Since then Marchais [French CP leader] has warned that the French army is now even weaker against Germany than in 1940, and asks "Is Schmidt pushing the German youth into new battles with new weapons?"

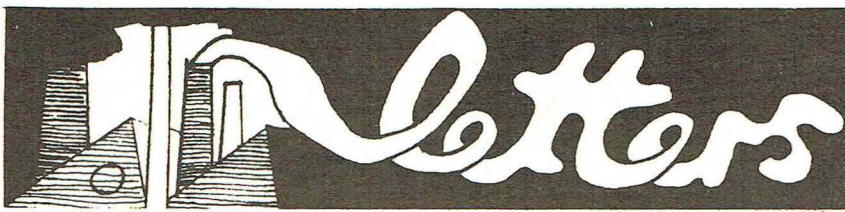
Trotsky brilliantly predicted in the 1920s that the adoption by the Stalinists of "socialism in one country" would turn the CPs into the most virulent nationalists. But it is sickening to see the depths which the French go to.

Import controls are popular with the French CP leadership. "Buy Renault, not Mercedes cars", even though they're more expensive. In Brest for example, the decision of the council to buy 17 French instead of 25 German buses was described by 'L'Humanite' as a "victory by Communist representatives for the people".

In time workers in the union and socialist/communist parties will see through the blind alley of national patriotism. Even the "Carter = Hitler" cartoon brought protest from party historian Ellenstein who described it as an "absolute scandal. In the whole history of the French CP there's rarely been such a depth of national hatred".

"Workers of the world unite," the CP motto in 1920, must once again rule in the party.

By Mike Levene



**VIEWS? COMMENTS? EXPERIENCES?
CRITICISM? WRITE ABOUT THEM TO:**

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Hit the headlines!

Dear Comrades,
Recently the LPYS held a day of action outside the Swansea Woolworth's store, to draw attention to the fact that there were now over 2 million people in Britain thrown on the scrap heap of unemployment.
To shouts of "End the Tory chaos—bring down the Tories" people were keen to take our leaflets and buy 'Socialist Youth', the LPYS paper, off us. That day we sold 33.

We also had the local press write an article for us in their paper and were mentioned on BBC Radio Wales. The mood of most people that day was "let's get Thatcher out before it gets worse."

We are in a period now where working people will be looking for an answer to the crisis in society and we have to be there on the streets, on the TV, radio, and press giving them a socialist alternative to the chaos of capitalism.

Brian Lewis
Swansea LPYS

Youthful advice

Dear Militant,
I thought you might be interested to hear that me and my friends were talking about Maggie Thatcher and not one of them liked her. So I asked them about Callaghan and they said they weren't keen but he is better than Thatcher.

I think we should get someone better for the Labour leader is we're going to win next time.
Best wishes from
Gillian Faulkes, age 8
Hackney, London

NI: Protecting whose 'security'?

Dear Comrades,
On Friday night myself and another comrade, both members of the Labour and Trade Union Group, were poster Belfast city centre advertising a public meeting on unemployment. We were almost finished when we were stopped by a UDR (Ulster Defence Regiment) foot-patrol.

They asked to see our poster and when they read the contents of our leaflet we were detained. Although not the most politically advanced section of the 'security' forces, it must have been obvious to the UDR that the leaflet was orientated towards trade unionists and was neither sectarian nor paramilitary based.

Despite our explanations that we were trade union activists, we were questioned, put up against the wall and thoroughly searched by a UDR member. To check our identification took 30 minutes—usually with their intricate system and wealth of information, two to three minutes are sufficient.

Housing—Tories' soulless misery

Dear Comrades,
Members of the LPYS recently attended a meeting held by 'Shelter' on the housing problem in Thanet. A Cllr. Roland was on hand to reassure us that Tory-controlled Thanet District Council is the "most soul searching in the area", but a woman I spoke to afterwards told me just what those souls are like.

Out of work, on social security, with a 14 year old girl and 17 year old boy to bring up on her own, she found it impossible to meet her monthly mortgage payments, and had to sell her house at a loss.

She went to the council, explaining her situation and asking for help. They told her they had nothing for her, but if she could find somewhere herself they'd be in a better position to help.

After protests we were released and continued to poster the area. Obviously concerned for our welfare, our security forces followed us until we had finished—we were careful not to poster any government buildings.

It will become more obvious to trade union activists in the North of Ireland that the army, police and UDR will, when necessary, be used to hinder the unions, particularly when they adopt bold and more political action.

When the interests of 'property' and the wealthy ruling class are threatened, these forces will be used as a last means of defence.

Belfast member of
Labour and TU Group

But she kept on, until they offered her bed & breakfast in a hotel for homeless families, the only problem being...it wasn't ready yet!

This family has been split up for a month now, each member living with friends. At the end of the discussion that evening this lady queued up, with several other people desperate for housing, to give their names and (temporary) addresses to our "soul searching" Tory councillor who "promised" to look into their cases and "let them know."

Fraternally,
Helen Gasking
Thanet East LPYS

The Council's advice was "find somewhere cheaper!"

Some good news

Dear Comrades,
Due to the recession we're sinking deeper and deeper into every day, Dorchester comrades are finding that paper sales become increasingly more fruitful. We have decided to get out on the street regularly on a Saturday now as well as the regular Wednesday market sale.

Indian Militant

Dear Brother,
I have been a subscriber to 'Militant' for the last four years. During that period I must have been undergoing transformation—from reformism to revolution. This must have been the situation among 'Militant' readers all over the world.

The effect and activities of 'Militant's' political philosophy to build a socialist society is shaking the foun-

dation of capitalist society. This is why Lord Underhill and Co. are given all the possible aid to destroy 'Militant'.

'Militant's' stand on international affairs has a good appreciation abroad. My article in 'Militant' on Tamil Nadu (India) was translated in the Tamil language and printed on the front page by "Malai Mur-

asu" (a Tamil daily). While realising the acute financial difficulty 'Militant' faces, I still earnestly request you to print the Indian version of 'Militant'. This would be an invaluable service to Indians in India and England.

Yours faithfully,
S. Segaran
T&GWU, Cowley
General Secretary,
Tamil Progressive Assoc.

Callous bureaucrats

Dear Comrades,
South Yorkshire County Council, a solidly Labour-controlled council, has a progressive policy on bus fares.

By means of a subsidy it has kept fares very low and so increased the use of public transport. For instance it costs me only 9p to travel from home to town, a distance of five miles.

However, this socialist attitude is not shared by the top bureaucrats in the passenger transport department.

On the 15th August hard-hearted passenger transport officials demanded £3.40 from an absent-minded 91 year old widow who had left her bag on the bus. They insisted she pay a statutory 10% reward be-

fore returning the bag and the £34 weekly pension inside.

This frail old lady had difficulty understanding what was happening so in the end they took the amount from her purse before allowing the pensioner her property back.

Challenged about this decision, a spokesman for South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive replied that "A law was a law and had to be applied in every case in the same way. The police would not let an old lady off for committing a crime."

When Marxists implement a policy of workers' control such bureaucrats will end up in the dustbin of history where they belong!

Yours fraternally
D Milsom
Attercliffe LPYS

**Conference '80
GREETINGS**



NORWICH LPYS
greet Labour
Conference
Kick the Tories out!
Labour to power
on a
socialist
programme

**NEWCASTLE NORTH
LPYS** sends greetings to
Labour Party Conference
Forward to a socialist
Labour government

**YAPTON BRANCH
ARUNDEL CLP**



sends fraternal
greetings to 1980
Labour Party
Conference
**SOCIALIST
POLICIES FOR A
SOCIALIST PARTY**

**NUM SOUTH WALES AREA
BRYNLLIW LODGE**
Greetings to all
Labour Party members
Fight the Tories with
bold socialist policies

**THANET WEST
YOUNG
SOCIALISTS**



wish to greet
Labour Party
Annual Conference
Smash Thatcher,
Labour to power on a
socialist programme
Support 'Militant'
for workers' control

**FORWARD TO
SOCIALISM
IN THE 1980s!**

Fraternally
Ware and Hertford
LPYS

Forward in the '80s!
Fraternally
comrades from
**EAST COWES
LABOUR PARTY
BRANCH,
ISLE OF WIGHT**

**For a mass
Labour Party
and socialist
policies**



**WHITEHAWK
Labour
Party**

Maggie kills MG's—
30 school leavers
chase each vacancy
**CUT TORIES
NOT JOBS!
ABINGDON LPYS**



Fraternally
greetings
to Labour Party
Conference delegates
from Transport &
general Workers
Union 5/909 branch
Rover Solihull

**HARBOROUGH
LPYS**



greet Labour's
Conference
Fight unemployment
Nationalise the
leisure industries!
A better deal
for rural youth!
Kick out the Tories!

CARDIFF SOUTH EAST LPYS
sends fraternal greetings
to Labour Party Conference
Full support for Party democracy

**Swansea LPYS send
fraternal greetings to
Labour Party Conference**
The best answer to the Tories is
a mass, socialist Labour Party

**SOUTH
GLOUCESTER-
SHIRE CLP
GREET ALL
READERS OF
'MILITANT'
AND 'TRIBUNE'**

Fight redundancies!
Cut hours—not jobs!
Nationalise under
workers' control!
BIRKENHEAD CLP

WIGAN LPYS
Fraternally
greetings to
Labour Party Conference
Vote for socialist policies!

Fraternally
greetings
to all
Conference delegates
from Egerton Branch
Birkenhead
Constituency
Labour Party

**ISLE OF WIGHT
CONSTITUENCY
LABOUR PARTY**

Calls for all-out support for our
resolution on mandatory re-selection
Fraternally greetings to all socialists
from: Ryde, Newport, Sandown,
Shanklin & District, West Wight
branches and both LPYS branches

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 READERS' MEETING at Labour Party Conference TORIES OUT—
Labour to power on a socialist programme
At Blackpool Library Lecture Hall, Queen Street Blackpool
Tuesday 30 September 6.30 pm

Speakers:
Terry Fields [FBU Executive, personal capacity]
Ted Grant [Militant Editorial Board]

WEST LONDON Marxist Discussion Meeting Monday 29 September, 8.00 pm, North Hammersmith Labour Party rooms, 446 Uxbridge Road, W12. Hear: Bob Labi on Marxism and the labour movement.

STRATHCLYDE 'Militant' Trade Union Day School scheduled for 18 October now postponed due to pressure of other events.

LEEDS Militant Industrial Rally. Speakers: Brian Ingham (Militant Industrial Correspondent); Bill Mullins (Senior Steward, Rover BL). At Victoria Pub, behind Leeds Town Hall. 7.30 pm, Sunday 5 October

SUNDERLAND 'Militant' supporters regret the sad loss of Allan Anderson. Allan, an ardent socialist and a member of the Roker/Monkwearmouth Ward Labour Party, will be a great loss to the labour movement. Our condolences go to his wife and family.

BLYTH Militant Readers Meetings every Wed. in the Buffalo Community Centre Blyth at 7.30pm. Further details, contact Joe Cox, Tel. Cramlington 712035

EAST KILBRIDE Militant Readers' Meeting Tuesday 21 October, 7.45 pm. 'The Fight against the Tories and the struggle for socialism'. Peter Taaffe—Editor of 'Militant'. Ballerup Hall, Town Centre, East Kilbride

CHILE SOCIALIST DEFENCE CAMPAIGN Film—The Battle of Chile

★ Edinburgh—Saturday 27 September
Venue: East Edinburgh CLP Social Club, Market St., Musselburgh. Time: 10.30 am
ALL WELCOME

LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE MEETING
'Northern Ireland—the struggle for workers' unity and a mass Party of Labour'
Speakers:
Bill Webster [Labour and TU Group and Derry Trades Council]
Tony Saunois [Labour Party NEC and member of Northern Ireland study group, personal capacity]
Monday 29 September 7.00 pm
Conference Room
Claremont Hotel
North Shore, Blackpool

LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS Public Meeting
Thursday 2 October 7.30 pm
in the Ballroom, Imperial Hotel North Promenade, Blackpool [i.e. in the NEC hotel]
'The Fight Against Mass Unemployment'
Speakers:
Dennis Skinner MP
Tony Saunois
Andy Bevan

PLUNDER WOMAN IS BACK!
[As seen on TV]
Alan Hardman's popular cartoon reproduced as a striking red and black poster [approx 2ft x 1½ft], now available again. Single copies 50p post free, orders of 4 or more to be sold for Militant Fighting Fund 25p each, cash with order please. Make all cheques, POs, out to 'MILITANT' and send to Steve Cawley, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

EALING LPYS Thursday 2 October, 7.30 pm, Rock & Reggae. Featuring Gun Control and the Spice Group. At Queen's Hall, Ealing Town Hall. £1 entrance.

Bradford Jazz Society JAZZ AT THE CONFERENCE
Saturday 27 September 8.00 pm to 12.00 pm
Queens Hotel, South Shore Art Steads
Southern Comfort
New Orleans style jazz
Bar facilities—admission £1
Proceeds to the 'Militant' Fighting Fund

LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE 1980
Fringe meeting:
'Fight back for jobs'
Tuesday 30 September 6.30 pm. Cliffs Hotel, Queens Promenade, Blackpool
Speakers:
Dennis Skinner MP
Neil Kinnock MP
Alec Jones MP
Emlyn Williams [NUM]
Bill Sirs [ISTC]
Eddie Loyden [T&GWU]
All welcome
Meeting organised by Llanwern Steel Action Group, sponsored by Bedwellty CLP, Monmouth CLP, Newport CLP, Bristol SE CLP, S Wales NUM, Wales Rank & File Mobilising Committee, Wales LPYS, Wales Labour Co-ordinating Committee.

Build MILITANT

Area	Received	% of 3rd qtr target achieved	Target 3rd qtr	Target for year
Eastern	2862		3500	5,000
East Midlands	2423		2660	3,800
Hants & IOW	2472		2730	3,900
Humberside	1114		1750	2,500
London East	4166		4340	6,200
London West	2373		3290	4,700
London South	3928		3290	4,700
Manchester & Lancs	2139		3570	5,100
Merseyside	3008		4200	6,000
Northern	3489		5110	7,300
Scotland East	1344		2240	3,200
Scotland West	2944		3500	5,000
Southern	3471		4130	5,900
South West	1797		2240	3,200
Wales East	1169		1960	2,800
Wales West	2388		2170	3,100
West Midlands	4983		6300	9,000
Yorkshire	3090		5110	7,300
Others	9223		7910	12,000
Total received	58383		70,000	100,000

TARGET FOR OCTOBER 11th £70,000 FOR YEAR-£100,000

A LOUDER VOICE FOR SOCIALISM

THIS WEEK £806

By Steve Cawley

Every time a group of workers decides to take action against this hated Tory government, you can predict that the bosses' press will come to the defence of Thatcher's crew, armed with their usual weapons—lies and distortions.

Unfortunately 'Militant' has nowhere near the financial resources of the Fleet Street giants—but our paper—and our readers and supporters—have been active in all these struggles. Our weapons are the truth about working class struggles and a clear Marxist analysis of the present capitalist crisis.

We obviously don't get the massive sponsorship of

big business advertisers in our fight to produce our paper. We rely totally on the donations of active members of the Labour Party and the trade unions.

We won't get very far though, in improving our coverage on the money that came in this week. Costs are going up daily—fares for speakers at meetings are the latest rise and we need at least twice this amount every week.

We would ask all readers of 'Militant' to make a regular donation to 'Militant's' fighting fund. Ask others—in your union branch, Labour Party, your neighbours, to help us. Make sure our clear socialist message is heard louder and

more needed!

Money from Perth (Scotland) came to nearly £20 this week (including £3 from Cllr B Scotland). In addition we had a £5 donation from Strathaven LPYS, and nearly £18 from Strathclyde NALGO members from the West of Scotland.

From the Lothians £10 came from Newtongrange Labour Party and to round it off £10.72 was raised at a Scottish LPYS weekend school.

'Militant' readers' meetings in London and on Merseyside resulted in total donations of £325 before the expenses of the meetings. Those expenses, however, were quite considerable. Canterbury Marxist Discussion Group has started the autumn series again, while tenners included those from Joe Collis, Brighton (TUC steward); K Bryan,

Andover, Gateshead teacher, and Anon. (Bootle).

Readers in Hatfield have started sending us regular donations and other contributions came from J James (Stratford on Avon), P Callaghan (Boilermakers steward, Sunderland), and five-year-old Tracy Pandolfo from Manchester, a present from her birthday money!

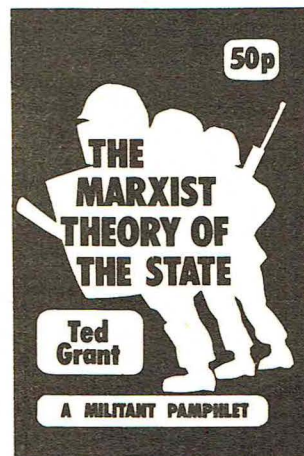
Socials in Rochdale and Coventry, a jumble sale in Brighton, and money for looking after the cat were good sources for our funds, but the outstanding effort this week was the sale of a gold chain by a Peterborough comrade for £120 for us! Are there any more golden gifts lying around that can be put to good use investing in a socialist future?

MILITANT REPRINT

The Marxist Theory of the State

By Ted Grant

Price 50p [+ 10p post and packing]



WORLD BOOKS The book service for the labour movement

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Please add 10p postage and packing for each pamphlet. Send for free comprehensive booklist to World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

Obtainable from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

M.O.D. workers - RESIST THE BAN

Before this Tory government finishes its term in 1984 thousands of Ministry of Defence workers will know that increased defence expenditure does not mean increased job security.

In an effort to decimate the civil service, the government have imposed a recruitment ban in a very crude manner. When a worker leaves a job the vacancy created is not filled.

The Tories and their allies in the media have attempted to give the impression that it is the Whitehall mandarins who are being cut, when in fact it is the low paid, cleaners, drivers, storemen, clerical assistants etc. who are taking the brunt.

The major effect of this ban is that it is aggravating the problem of unemployment, particularly in areas experiencing the effects of a national recession for the first time, areas that have always been able to look to the local military establishment to mop up any unemployment.

Unfortunately trade unions, particularly on small MOD establishments, are finding great difficulty in fighting the ban effectively. The government is enforcing regulations that allow them to move workers of similar grades from section to section in an attempt to

**By an MoD
worker**

paper over cracks caused by the recruitment ban.

They are also enforcing the terms of efficiency agreements that gave workers a supplement to their meagre basic wage but meant that they accepted flexible working arrangements. However, the signs are that shop stewards' committees will be set up to examine ways of challenging those regulations and agreements.

As well as cutting jobs, the Tories are putting existing jobs at risk by their blind faith in private enterprise.

There are plans to put many of the jobs currently done by industrial civil servants (i.e. catering, gardening) out to private contract, and there are firm proposals to introduce contract cleaners to several

MOD establishments, including Stafford, Yeovilton and Boscombe Down near Salisbury.

Private contractors are of course cheaper; however, the move to private contractors is also an attempt to smash effective trade unions in the MOD as most private contractors are hostile to trade unions. So it is vital that where private contractors succeeded in getting on to MOD establishments, every attempt is made to organise their employees in trade unions.

Not content with eroding job security and attempting to limit trade union effectiveness by not allowing trade union meetings on government property when discussing industrial action, the government have fiddled industrial civil servants out of an 8 per cent wage rise.

A pay research unit recommended they were paid twenty-six per cent this year but the government would only concede 18.

The recruitment ban is due to be reviewed next month. But even if a decision is made to lift it, little comfort can be taken. The signs are that decisions on the vacancies to be filled will not be taken locally but nationally.

To counter this, industrial civil servants must press for the T&GWU's proposals on industrial democracy in the MOD to

be implemented. These proposals call for joint union management boards to be set up, the union side consisting of representatives elected by the workers in that establishment.

However, any workers elected on to such boards must go solely on the understanding that they are not there to be consulted or to rubber-stamp management decisions but are there to protect the jobs of their members and fight for jobs for the unemployed. The workers who elect them must be prepared to give their active support when their representatives' demands are obstructed by management.

Industrial civil servants must unite with all civil service unions in a campaign against low pay, the threat to jobs and government attempts to curb trade unions. This campaign must call for:

- ★ All out resistance to the Employment Act.
- ★ £80 minimum basic wage for all civil servants.
- ★ A 35-hour week without loss of pay.
- ★ All vacancies frozen by the recruitment ban to be filled to ease unemployment
- ★ United resistance to private contractors and the use of servicemen in civilian jobs

SHAND KYDD

On 3 October, the workers at Shand Kydd wallpaper factory in Christchurch will clock on for the last time. Most have the prospect of either never working again, or at the best, a job with a vastly reduced standard of living.

In June, when the closure first leaked out, 450 people worked at Shand Kydd, and three months later, only 60 have found a job elsewhere. Even government training courses have been hit by the Tory cuts and many of the courses are either full up, or have a very long waiting list.

Three months ago, with tremendous support from local LPYS branches, a campaign of leafletting, petitions, a public meeting and a fighting fund was set up.

However, the fight was hindered by some sections of the Joint Union Committee, set up in the factory, who were slow to react to the situation facing us. Despite the stirring support the LPYS gave us, these sections publicly criticised the LPYS in the local paper (although later the JUC

appealed to the local Labour Party for support, which it, including the LPYS, was glad to give!).

The Shand Kydd factory has a history of a chronic lack of investment, and the main building has already nearly been cleared out, about 95% of the machinery being demolished for scrap. Much of it dates back to the '30s.

There can be no excuse for this, as the parent group, Reed International, a multi-national company, increased its profits this year by 25% to £99m.

What is clearly needed is for the next Labour government to nationalise under workers' control all the companies in this country which belong to Reed International, along with the rest of the wallpaper industry.

Only then can the workers be protected from joining the dole queue, and guaranteed a decent standard of living.

By Dave Lovett

(NGA and Bournemouth East CLP)

M.A.S.

On 17 September workers at Modern Air Systems, mainly in GMWU, walked out at the culmination of a long series of provocations by management.

Within the last two months there have been nine redundancies at the firm, who employ about 60 people. No bonuses have been paid for six months.

The workforce had put in for about 25% on 1 August, but management refused to negotiate, saying the firm would be forced out of business. A mass meeting held this month decided to start a "work to rule", an action which was fully supported by the G&MWU District Official who was present.

Yet, because of the intransigence of management, on 15 September a further meeting of shop-floor workers decided to step up the action. Two days later, whilst the shop steward was away, three men were asked to work machines not covered in their contract. Similarly the fork-lift truck driver has been forced to drive the firm's lorries since one of the drivers was sacked.

At this point the men

walked out refusing to return until a serious offer was made. The following day, all 34 union members turned up to the picket line and succeeded in convincing over half the staff to support them. Now only about a dozen people are working with management and staff trying to do skilled work. The boss has stayed on till 7 pm to finish drilling.

The management, showing their contempt for the workers, offered a derisory 11p per hour (4.8%) rise in basic pay. They have said there are only orders up till November; this is clearly an attempt to run down the firm for closure.

Increasingly disputes will occur in small firms as these are hit first by the recession. The workers are fighting to maintain their living standards and probably their jobs as well. They need all the support they can get.

Messages of support to Tony Bradshaw, c/o G&MWU Offices, Belgrave Gate, Leicester.

Derek Hilling [Leicester West LPYS] spoke to pickets at Modern Air Systems, Leicester]

USDAW

Some sections of the right wing are desperately fighting the leftward move of Labour Party conference.

New USDAW General Secretary, Bill Whatley took the unprecedented democratic step of consulting the Executive Council about recommendations for Labour Party conference voting.

Unfortunately, this step forward seems to have been taken as a disguise for two steps back. He refused to support USDAW member Audrey Wise [who received top votes for the union's delegation to LP conference] in her bid for election to the Labour Party NEC.

The NEC's women section has long been subject to attempts by right-wing

groups such as the Manifesto Group and the Campaign for Labour Victory, to change its composition and thus affect the balance of forces on the NEC.

The Eastern Division Quarterly conference on 21st September expressed its disgust at this manoeuvre instructing the Divisional Council to write to the general secretary protesting, with the hope that its feelings would reach USDAW's Labour Party conference delegation which can still disregard the Executive Council's recommendation.

By a 'Militant' reporter

Heathrow workers fight redundancies



Heathrow BA workers at a recent mass meeting

Photo: Militant

"In the event of management attempting any enforced termination, a mass meeting will be called with a view to immediate industrial action."

This was part of the resolution passed unanimously by hundreds of British Airways workers.

The meeting was called by the joint shop stewards' committee in order to inform the membership about the latest threat to jobs at Heathrow. The chairman pointed out management now say there are over 500 surplus workers on the base, but not to despair,

By Dave Bayle
(AUEW Heathrow)

there are 120 vacancies on offer, if we fancy going to Sumburgh on the Shetlands!

Shortly many old aircraft are to be sold off and replaced with new up to date types that are less labour intensive. But of more significance, we were told how the Tory government's economic and industrial policies were no doubt having a considerable bearing on the 20% drop in

passengers this year.

What with over 2 million on the dole, many more on short time, and nearly everyone finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet from week to week, it's little wonder that fewer can afford to 'fly the flag'.

Save jobs

The trade unions here are to put pressure on management to stop work going away to sub-contractors, and to cut out all non-emergency overtime working whilst redundancies are

threatened in an effort to save jobs. Short time working is also a possibility.

The present threat to jobs security is without doubt the worst BA workers have ever faced. BA is to come under the hammer, with some areas to be sold off to private industry, to speculators and city whizz-kids in job lots, due to denationalisation.

The BA workers are right in challenging management over forced redundancies. Only solidarity and united action plus effective leadership can save jobs and living standards.

NUJ FIGHT FOR LONDON WEIGHTING

Members of Walthamstow/Loughton NUJ chapel join a national demonstration against the sacking of journalists at the Nottingham Evening post. Now they have been sacked for taking trade union action.



Photo: Militant

A week after printing a certificate of congratulation from an advertising bureau for making record profits, London and Essex Guardian Newspapers locked out 28 journalists.

The journalists had been fighting for a London weighting allowance by imposing sanctions (work to rule) when they were sacked.

They were imposing sanctions alongside other London National Union of Journalist members employed by Newspaper Society newspapers. The NUJ are claiming up to £400 p.a., but so far the NS has

By Pete Mumford
(Leyton LPYS)

offered figures well below this.

At the Guardian group itself, the company offered a paltry £1 a week, giving a trainee reporter the grand weekly sum of £43.

The NUJ voted to strike after the sackings.

The printers' union, the NGA, is currently supporting the dispute by refusing to print news usually pro-

duced by the striking journalists. However, some managements are getting around this by producing 'free-sheets'—papers full of adverts and the occasional rabid anti-union editorial, but no 'real' news.

At Guardian newspapers itself, a 'free-sheet' was produced last week. The striking journalists are now collecting them up and will present them to management—several shops, including W H Smiths, have refused to touch it. The journalists no doubt have conservation in mind and wish to save the area from a sudden deluge of litter!

The London and Essex Guardian Newspaper NUJ chapel need support and money. Send to: **Walthamstow/Loughton NUJ chapel, 173 Brookcroft Road, Walthamstow.**

Liverpool Docks - 'we've won a battle, but not the war'

After the dockers successfully forced the management to back down over the 'Temporary Unattached Register' [see back page], Councillor Alec Doswell, a delegate to the dockers' recall conference and secretary of Liverpool Trades Council, told 'Militant' of the mood of the dockers and future problems they may face:

"The mood was very militant, throughout the members. Usually when a dispute loomed up you got a few rumblings and so on, but this time there was a

By Bob Wade

united feeling of being prepared to fight.

"We were determined to win. With the unemployment figures now at 2 million we realised there was no chance of getting a pay off and then getting a little job somewhere. Jobs, around here especially, have just totally dried up.

"It was a victory for us. The TUR has been done

away with—we have all received a letter confirming this. But as one member said, 'We've won the battle but we haven't won the war.' Knowing the Tories for what they are, they have backed off this time, but for how long?

"There's now severance money up to £12,500 being offered and this is tempting for men over 60. But as far as our union's concerned here, we don't touch it. It would just be selling jobs.

"But although this battle may have been won, management are now turning on

the ancillary workers and riggers. They have been told to get their cards on Friday and haven't been promised any other jobs. The riggers, with the tugs, have said they will stop this port if this happens. This stand received a good reaction from the union platform at a mass meeting."

The mass meeting gave its support to the ancillary workers.

Lowestoft 'day of action'

The Waveny District Trades Council is holding a 'day of action' in Lowestoft, Suffolk. This is Prior's constituency, the 'Minister for Unemployment' as he is called locally.

The event will be held on 25 October, and will include a demonstration and an unemployment conference, and the trades council is urging all trade unionists and labour activists to join in the event.

The Waveny Trades Council has an active record in the area.

As Mr Cooper, Vice president, said, "We have to date organised several pickets on Mr James Prior's local surgery, organised the local march on 14 May and organised activities connected with the labour movement.

"Members of our committee have been on every demo in this area to date, and will be supporting the LPYS march against the Tories in Cambridge in November.

"The fact that Lowestoft is in the provinces should prove that no MP or minister of government is too far away from mass protest."

For details, credentials or visitors' tickets apply to Mr F Joyce, 37 St Georges Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk.

in brief

Despite unemployment reaching well over 2 million, the Tories are planning to cut 1,400 jobs in dole offices around the country from October 1st. Mr David Luxton, national officer of the Society of Civil and Public Servants said, "The cut will not improve efficiency in local offices—it will only add to the strain currently being experienced by the staff."

A recent government booklet dealing with the textile industry says that the Tories have increased 'significantly the size of the HM Customs fraud investigation team' to deal with import frauds in the industry. Customs officers, represented in the SCPS, have protested, explaining that this 'significant' increase consists of only seven extra staff, who have to carry out other work as well!

The death knell of the British cash register industry has finally been sounded, with Chubb closing their Brighton factory making 375 workers redundant. Chubb management blame foreign imports, but workers there have pointed out the real reason goes back several years, with the failure of the company to invest and turn production towards the more competitive computerised designs.

The Liverpool Daily Post has announced plans to cut 160 jobs. The nine unions at the works sent a delegation to meet management this week demanding a withdrawal of the redundancy notices.

Ninety jobs at an agricultural factory in Ely, Cambridgeshire, are to be lost as the company Ransomes, Sims and Jeffries pulls out.

The London printing operation of the Daily Star has had its life extended for a month while unions talk with management. Matthews, chairman of the group says he wants to make £2.5 million savings on the paper, by shutting the London plant down.

A union committee at Courtaulds in Braintree, Essex, has been set up to fight the threatened closure of the textile factory. Management want to close the site, chopping 280 jobs. The group's workforce has been slashed from 123,000 to 84,000 over the past five years.

EEC unemployment has leapt 3% to 6.8 million. Britain has the worst unemployment percentage of the EEC countries.

The major engineering firm GKN has announced massive redundancies throughout the group. Labour industry spokesman Les Huckfield said this will be 'a test case for the unions. With so many people in the Midlands scared still about their jobs there will now be a determination to fight back and resist further closures.' [Sunday Times, September 21].

TANDY STRIKERS STAND FIRM

On Monday, Wolverhampton's local Beacon Radio announced that a mass picket was taking place next morning at Tandy's.

This was news to the police, who turned up, and to the pickets on the line!

However, it is intended to hold a mass picket on Monday 6 October, involv-

By Brian Debus
(Erdington LP)

ing considerably more than Beacon Radio's phantoms.

By then, this recognition dispute will be nineteen weeks old. The mass picket comes the day before a

tribunal meeting between the union, the T&GWU and Tandy's solicitors.

Support is crucial not only for the pickets and in boycotting the shops, but also for the five pickets arrested last week, three of whom will have to pay £150 for legal aid expenses.

As the Tandy Defence Fund statement says, referring to the Wolverhampton 'Express and Star' headline: 'Punch-up on the picket

line: five held'; "distorts the truth when in fact none of the arrested punched anyone."

Further it states, "the police were not present when the one alleged incident took place, yet arrested three pickets on the say-so of management."

Donations urgently needed, rush to: Janet Marsh, Treasurer, Tandy Defence Fund, 3 Park Street, Wednesday, West Midlands.

BOWATERS

Bowaters in Ellesmere Port have announced a further 40 redundancies, this time in the fibre container site. However, the workers are continuing their fight back [see recent issues of 'Militant']. A local SOGAT members' rally will be held on Sunday—this must be used by the leadership to give a full explanation of this branch's policies. These

include the need for unity amongst the Bowater workers, and for regular mass meetings to explain developments, as well as the need for nationalisation of the paper industry and the tactic of occupation to save jobs. A site combine of SOGAT members at Ellesmere Port held its first meeting recently.

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IRAN-IRAQ WAR INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND PEASANTS IGNORED

The conflict between Iran and Iraq, which has grown in intensity in the past twelve months, has now broken out into open warfare between the two countries.

Iraq has conquered 200 miles of Iranian territory and is reported to have completely surrounded the oil refinery of Abadan, and its neighbouring port. Abadan is the largest oil refinery in the world, and accounts for over 70% of Iran's oil.

Iran has countered with the bombing of Baghdad and the refinery of Basra, together with other Iraqi towns. As we go to press, it appears that Iraq has had the better of the initial conflict.

Iranian military might, under the Shah the most powerful in the area, has been weakened by the denial of spare parts for its

airforce, particularly from the American embargo. The constant purges of the officer caste and the general dissatisfaction in Iran at the consequences of the Khomeini regime's policies have also taken their toll.

The present conflict broke out over the Iraqi regime's reclaiming of the vital Shatt-al Arab waterway. This was ceded to the Shah of Iran in 1975 in return for the Shah's agreement to assist in the suppression of the Kurdish revolt in Iraq. The Shatt-al Arab waterway is the only outlet for the otherwise land-locked Iran.

But the conflict has nothing to do with furthering the interests of the workers and peasants of Iran and Iraq. It is a struggle for power, prestige, influence and domination of the area by the elites which

rule both countries. The Iraqi regime has a ruthless and bloody record in the suppression both of the working class and the national minorities of the country, particularly the Kurds.

Amnesty International has reported that political murders in Iraq have averaged more than a hundred a year in the past five years!

On the other hand, the Khomeini regime has also ruthlessly suppressed opposition on the left and also the growing discontent of the minorities in Iran. The Kurds, the Arabs in Khuzestan, and the Baluchis have been in growing conflict with the Iranian regime.

The reactionary clerical regime of Khomeini has not hesitated to use religion and the oppressed minorities in Iraq against the Iraqi regime. A majority of the Iraqi population are Shi'ite Muslims. But the ruling clique around Iraqi "strongman" Saddam Hussein in the Baathist Party are from a minority of the Sunni Muslims.

The Iraqi regime has replied in kind, by stirring up the revolt of the Arabs in Khuzestan. Hussein has calculated that the Khomeini regime is so weakened by internal upheavals that

The working class and poor peasants have nothing to gain from this conflict and everything to lose

it can be defeated in a war which would lay the basis for a coup and the coming to power of a regime more acceptable to Iraq.

The sheer cynicism of these ruling castes is demonstrated by the fact that the Iraqi regime sought the collaboration of the Shah in suppressing the revolt of the Kurdish population. It has also recently courted the reactionary Saudi Arabian regime. Yet, as a means of furthering its own interests, it has not hesitated recently to support the Kurdish minority in Iran against the

Khomeini regime.

In this conflict, it is the workers and peasants who have most to lose. Imperialism is weeping crocodile tears at the consequences of the war. They, however, bear the main responsibility for the explosive tensions which exist in this region.

It was western capitalism, particularly Britain and France, who were responsible for creating the patchwork of artificial states, which cut across the bodies of different peoples throughout the area. Every one of the states is composed of a number of large minorities.

On the basis of landlordism and capitalism, it is impossible for a long-term solution to be effected. On the other hand, even if landlordism and capitalism is destroyed, as in the case of Syria, if it is on the basis of the establishment of a deformed workers' state, the national problem can still remain, and indeed can even be intensified.

Imperialism's chief concern is the danger posed to oil supplies from the region. About 60% of the capitalist world's oil supplies flow

through the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf.

The working class and poor peasants of the region have nothing to gain and everything to lose from this conflict. The key to any long-term solution lies in their hands. Neither support for Iranian clerical muslim reaction, nor support for the equally vicious Baathist elite of Iraq can assist the working people of the area.

Only a socialist Federation of the whole area, which would involve the overthrow of the Hussein regime and the Khomeini regime, and their replacement by a workers' and poor peasants' democracy can remove the simmering conflicts which scar the area.

This in turn would mean the beginning of the end of the reactionary Sheikdoms throughout the Gulf. Hand-in-hand with the socialist federation of the Middle East, such a development could mean that the enormous benefits of oil and other natural resources could be used to transform the lives of the workers and peasants of the area.

DOCKERS-A VICTORY FOR WORKERS

The capitulation of the National Port Employers to the dockers' demand for no wage cuts and no job losses is a great victory for all dock workers.

Faced with a determined stand, the bosses backed down rather than face a national dock strike.

Following mass meetings in Southampton, Hull, Liverpool and Glasgow, which declared angry opposition and willingness to take industrial action if necessary, the leaders of the T&GWU, representing the majority of dockers, warned the employers and the Tories that a national stoppage would be called unless the bosses' threats were withdrawn.

Alex Kitson, who led the dockers' delegation, said: "The union should not be arguing about severance pay but saving jobs, and the T&GWU will be assisting the entire membership in their fight for jobs."

Undoubtedly, this clear rallying call for a firm stand on the burning issue of jobs, together with the enormous solidarity and support the dockers were assured of, forced the bosses to back down. The Tories were afraid that such a struggle would change the mood of the



By Wayne Jones

Dockers lobby the union negotiations to insist on a firm stand. Their determination won a great victory

working class and harden the determination to fight job losses throughout industry.

The 178 dockers in Liverpool whose livelihoods were at stake will now be found jobs elsewhere on the dock, and the National Port Employers have given an undertaking in writing, as the union demanded, that the Temporary Unemployed Register—which means a wage cut and halfway house to redundancy—will only ever be used for disciplinary reasons.

Nevertheless, the crisis in

the capitalist economy and the ruthlessness of the employers in defence of their profits will inevitably mean further attacks.

The uprating of the severance pay, accepted as part of the peace package, is an attempt to filter jobs away through the backdoor, now that this latest frontal attack has failed. This too must be resisted. Although the employers have been forced to increase severance, or redundancy, pay no amount of money can replace lost jobs,

especially in the present situation of mass unemployment. These jobs are the property of the whole of the working class and future generations.

This is an important victory for every section of the working class. It shows that sackings, redundancies and the onslaught against the working class by the bosses and the government can be defeated with resolute and determined action.

The dockers have shown the way.



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