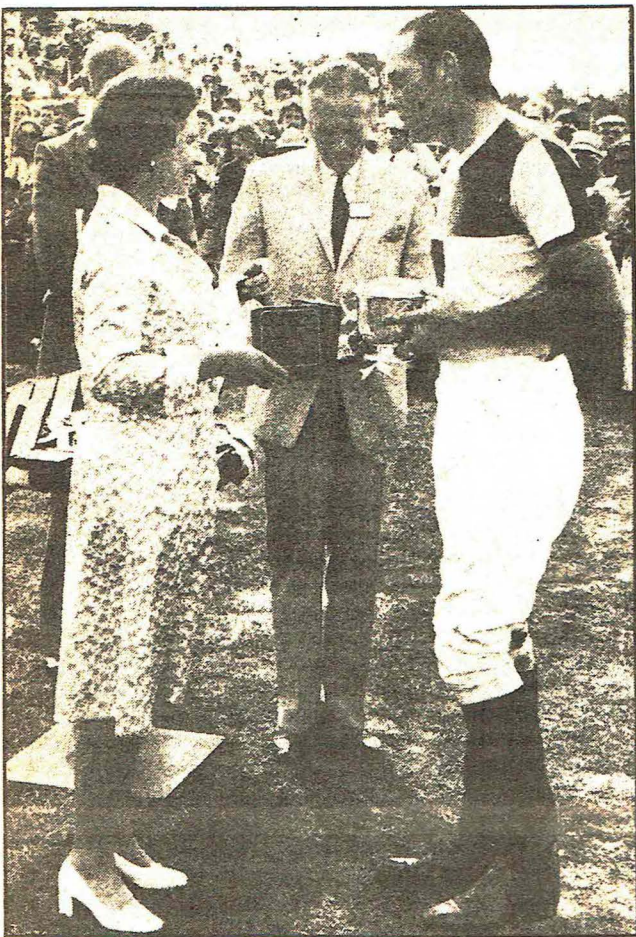


MILLIONAIRE TAX SCROUNGER PAYS WORKERS PEANUTS

Desperately low paid workers refused rise by tax dodger Vestey

By George Williamson
(USDAW)



With a brave disregard for the facts, Mrs Thatcher told her fan club at Tory conference that the government was "restoring the fortunes of this nation."

Workers who have lost their jobs, are suffering from short-time working, or are seeing their health or education ruined by public spending cuts must have thought she was talking about Mars.

In spite of all the usual Tory hypocrisy about "one nation," there are two nations in Britain; the producers of wealth, the working class, who

are being bashed to boost profits; and the other "half", the tiny handful who own the wealth, industry, and the banks and pocket the profits for themselves.

Certainly, Lord Vestey has had his "fortunes restored," if indeed he ever lost them. This man, who estimated in 1978 that he spent £50,000 a season playing polo, a member of the richest family in the land, paid no tax last year.

Under the Tories, he

has had income tax due on £4.3 million and surtax on £7.3 million "written off" by his peers the Law Lords [See page 5].

Yet workers at one of Vestey's companies, Dewhurst the Butchers, are at present earning a basic wage of just £55 per week. And most of them pay more tax than the multinational, multi-millionaire Vestey.

This illustrious man, however, has the brass neck to tell his workforce that he "cannot afford" to give them a pay rise! The shopworkers' union, USDAW, put in a claim for £70 a week for 35 hours, hardly an outrageous demand in these inflationary times.

Vestey's rivals in the retail butchers trade are not renowned for generosity—and some of them presumably even pay tax

CONTINUED ON
BACK PAGE

STOP PRESS SRI LANKA

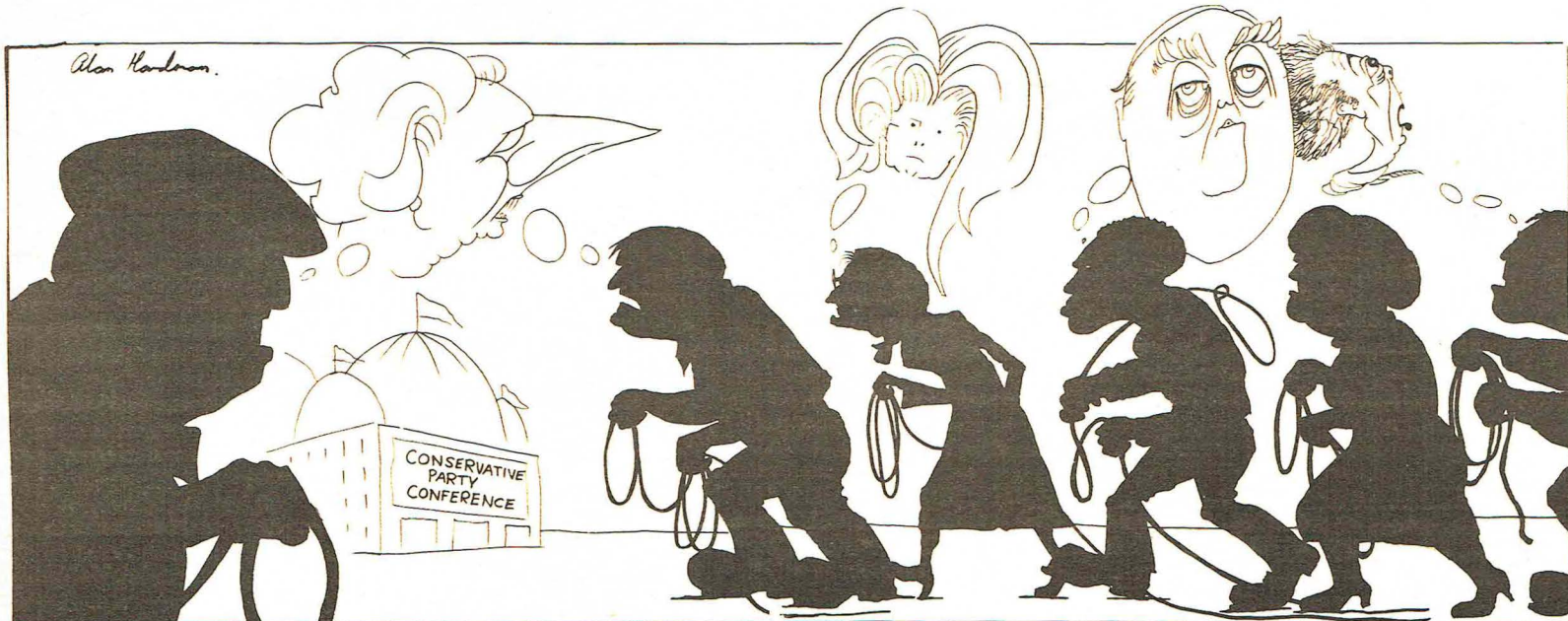
By Bob Labi

Amid mounting opposition, the Sri Lanka government of J R Jayawardene attempted on Tuesday 14 October to re-impose a state of emergency, but the joint government - military - police Security Council decided not actually to put it into effect. Clearly, the Security Council, aware of the government's growing unpopularity, was unwilling to risk a major confrontation at this moment.

The Marxist Nava Sama Samaja Party has issued a statement condemning the emergency and calling for action in defence of working-class and democratic rights. The state of emergency was primarily aimed at protests at the proposal to strip the SLFP leader and former prime minister, Mrs Bandaranaike, of her civil rights.

The NSSP has supported these protests, not in defence of Mrs Bandaranaike, who as premier herself, used her arbitrary, repressive measures against her opponents, but to defend the democratic rights of the working class and peasantry.

Protests should be sent to the Sri Lanka High Commission and messages of support and donations to: The Campaign to Defend Trade Union Rights in Sri Lanka, 32 Hollydown Way, London E.11.



"PUBLIC OPINION POLLS SHOW THERE IS A CLEAR MAJORITY IN FAVOUR OF HANGING"

—Teddy Taylor, Tory MP Southend East on BBC Radio, 8 October

inside

A FIGHTING PROGRAMME FOR LONDON LABOUR

Page 7
Labour leadership
Page 2
West Germany
Page 10

Militant

1 Mentmore
Terrace,
London E8 3PN

Resist Right-Wing Labour Manoeuvres

The decision at Labour's conference that the party leader should be elected by the whole party and not just the Labour MPs was an historic step forward.

Together with the establishment of automatic, mandatory reselection, which will make MPs democratically accountable to their constituency parties, this will for the first time begin to put control of the party into the hands of the rank and file.

These decisions were greeted with enormous enthusiasm at Blackpool. The majority of Labour Party members and a growing number of active trade unionists see these reforms as the key to the implementation of socialist policies by a future Labour government.

Not surprisingly, however, the changes have been hysterically denounced by the capitalist press, who fear the development of a mass, socialist Labour Party. Now, the right wing within the Parliamentary Labour Party are manoeuvring to preempt the conference deci-

sion in favour of a wider mandate for the election of leader.

They are attempting to pressurise Jim Callaghan into standing down, so that, at the beginning of the Parliamentary session in November, they can go ahead with the election of a new leader under the old rules—prior to a more democratic election procedure being adopted by the special conference to be held in January.

In the long battle over the democratisation of the party, the right—David Owen, William Rodgers, Shirley Williams, and the rest—have claimed to be the real champions of "democracy", trying to blacken their opponents as "conspirators" and the "enemies of democracy".

Now their hypocrisy is clear. Despite the clear conference decision on the acceptance of a wider franchise, the right-wing MPs want to reserve to themselves the exclusive right to elect the party leader.

Behind the argument of Labour's right are the objections of the ruling class itself. In a recent editorial [14 October] 'The Times' admitted that it would probably be best, from the point of view of the party, to

wait for the new procedure, rather than appointing a new leader on the basis of the old procedure that is about to be discarded.

But they then put forward a "constitutional" objection to this: "Is it right that the leader of one of the two principal parties in this country, and therefore very possibly a future prime minister, should be chosen not by members of parliament answerable to the electorate but by an electoral college in which MPs will share power with trade union bosses, most of whom will be answerable for the way in which they cast their block vote only to their executives, and with constituency delegates who are not representative of Labour voters?"

But how are Labour MPs, selected by Constituency Labour Parties in the first place, and elected to parliament because of the strength of the Labour Party, answerable to the electorate—except through the Labour Party itself? For the workers, it is only through their own class organisations, the trade unions and the Labour Party, that they can have any real influence over their parliamentary representatives.

'The Times', like the

right-wing MPs, would like to see the Labour Party dissolved into an amorphous mass of Labour voters—which could then potentially be influenced and manipulated by the capitalist press and television.

That is why 'The Times' is really up in arms: because they have lost the ability to determine the parliamentary representatives and the leader of the Labour Party.

It is not surprising that 'the Times', despite admitting that "Denis Healey does not command universal confidence among Labour right wingers," nevertheless concludes, "he remains the best candidate available."

Labour's ranks must resist the efforts of the right-wing MPs to foist their own leader on the party against the wishes of conference. They should heed the warning of David Basnett, that "there should not be any move to make a permanent change in the leadership prior to the special conference."

The majority of Labour Party activists will support the proposal now being put to the Parliamentary Labour Party by a number of left MPs, including Tony Benn, Eric Heffer, Dennis Skinner and Joan Maynard.

This calls on the PLP to suspend its normal practice to allow the present parliamentary committee (shadow cabinet) and the leader and deputy leader to continue until after a wider franchise is agreed. This would mean either Jim Callaghan staying on as leader until the January conference or, if he steps down, Michael Foot taking over as a "caretaker" leader.

At Blackpool, the decision on the new procedure of election of party leader was postponed, mainly because of a number of big trade union votes, on the grounds

that there was a need for "consultation" with the trade union membership. In the three months to the special conference, then, there should now be genuine consultation throughout the unions, with special regional conferences and recall national conferences.

Members of the Municipal workers' union [GMWU], the engineers [AUEW], the shop workers [USDAW], the miners [NUM], and construction workers' union [UCATT], will undoubtedly be fighting especially hard for such a course to be followed.

Only after a thorough debate on the issue in every branch, shop stewards' committee and district committee of every union, and the forwarding of their views to national conferences, will it be possible to claim that the membership has been fully consulted.

The postponement of the decision on the new procedure has been used by some right-wing trade union leaders to put forward proposals which would make a mockery of the conference decision. Terry Duffy of the AUEW, for instance, has been reported as suggesting an electoral college whereby 90% of conference votes would go to the MPs, 5% to the trade unions and 5% to the constituency parties!

Whether this is an attempt to bolster up the right wing in the parliamentary party or a misguided attempt to placate the capitalist press's denunciation of trade union "domination", it should be completely rejected. It is absurd to accuse the trade unions, which created the Labour Party and remain its vital base, of having "too much influence" in the Labour Party.

The best proposal for an electoral college—which

would apportion the conference votes of the trade unions, the constituency parties, and the PLP—was the constitutional amendment finally tabled by the National Executive Committee. This is the one most likely to win the majority of support.

It proposed an electoral college with 40% of votes going to the trade unions and affiliated societies, 30% to the CLPs and 30% to Labour MPs. This formula, turned down at conference only on the grounds that union members had not yet been consulted, is clearly the one that should be fought for throughout the entire labour movement.

Every constituency party, district party, regional executive of the Labour Party should be approached to support it. Constituency parties should call special general management committee meetings with the MPs in attendance to make it clear to their MP that they are opposed to the election of party leader going ahead before the general conference.

Resolutions endorsing this proposal and urging that the NEC does everything possible to ensure its adoption should be sent to the NEC as soon as possible.

Most importantly it must be fought for in the trade unions. Union executives and special conferences must be left with no doubt that this is the option they should back at the special conference in January.

The membership of the Labour Party and the trade unions have three months in which to complete the unfinished work of the 1980 Blackpool conference. In this time the overwhelming wishes must be made clear to all.

Hunger Strike in H-Block

The prisons in Northern Ireland have reached breaking point.

By Dennis
Tourish

(Northern Ireland
Labour and Trade Union
group)

A statement from prisoners in the infamous H-Blocks of Long Kesh [now renamed the Maze] has issued a statement announcing that beginning on 27 October, a number of them will go on hunger strike, "to the bitter end of death, if necessary."

There are currently 334 on the "blanket" protest in the H-Blocks, many of them already seriously weakened by years of protests and deprivation.

Intervention by the labour and trade union movement in Britain and Ireland is more necessary than ever. The labour movement completely repudiates the methods of individual terrorism adopted by the Provisional IRA. Nevertheless, the movement has a duty to protest against the brutality and torture in the prisons, and defend the basic rights of prisoners. The repressive methods now being perfected by the ruling class in Northern Ireland also pose

a potential danger to the whole labour movement, and must be exposed and fought.

The conditions under which H-block prisoners are forced to exist include no clothes except the blanket, virtual solitary confinement, no cigarettes, no newspapers or books, no access to TV, radio or games.

Food is abominable and medical treatment virtually non-existent. To top this constant horror, their urine or excreta is not removed from the cells. The men claim that to stop the warders throwing it over them, they have been forced to smear their own excreta onto the walls.

It is out of despair at this unending nightmare that the prisoners have now announced a hunger strike.

Responsibility for the plight of the prisoners lies with the prison authorities. Successive governments have perpetuated prison conditions which are among the worst in the world.

For a time, those convicted

of "political" crimes were allowed to wear their own clothes and did not have to do prison work. They could associate freely with other prisoners and organise their own work and educational classes.

From 1976, however, prisoners were once again ordered to wear prison uniforms and accept standard prison discipline. Refusal to wear prison uniform—which involved the loss of all other normal rights—brought instant retribution.

Confinement to the cells with only a blanket was followed by other measures, like intolerable restrictions on prisoners' access to the toilet.

This brutal treatment has to go on because of the failure of the labour movement to intervene and the association of the protest with the Provisional IRA (the Provos). The terrorist methods of the Provos have isolated them from the bulk of the Catholic population, as well as the workers' movement in Britain and internationally.

The "special category" status was won for prisoners not just by a hunger strike, but by the mass upheaval in 1972 which forced the Tories to make concessions. So isolated are the Provisional IRA at the moment, moreover, that the Tories believe they can withstand all the protests of the Provos and their support groups.

The Provisionals launched their military campaign of individual terrorism claiming that this was the way to defeat imperialism. But as the Marxists predicted from the beginning, these methods could only strengthen the hand of imperialism, which the present situation confirms to be the case. Now, in place of promises of "imminent victory", members of the Provos' ruling Army Council were recently quoted as saying: "We are prepared for the long haul—thirty, forty or even fifty years, if necessary."

For people living in the revolting conditions of the H-Blocks, such a "strategy" offers little encouragement. The projected hunger strike has been conceived in despair. It is another testimony that only class action around a socialist programme can solve the problems of Northern Ireland.

Without doubt, deaths in the prisons are now a possibility. But it will take more than this threat to dent the rigid determination of the British ruling class.

Hunger strikes without support outside—or supported solely by protests linked up with the Provos—offer no way out. Only the labour movement has the power effectively to take up this question and force the state to retreat.

It is in the movement's own interests to act. Today, it is



The daily face of repression on the streets of Northern Ireland

the prisoners of H-Block who are facing the full brutality of the British ruling class. In the future, such calculated cruelty could be turned on the labour movement.

The Labour Campaign on Prison Conditions in Northern Ireland can now have a big impact. It includes the following programme:

Right of all prisoners to wear their own clothes.

Full access to newspaper, TV, writing materials.

No restriction on letters.

Minimum of two unsupervised visits and two food parcels per week.

Right to election their own representatives.

Trade union rates of pay and right to trade union

membership. Right to negotiate choice of work.

These demands spell out rights which should be the basic minimum for all prisoners.

Support for the Labour Committee on Prison Rights in Northern Ireland by the Labour Party and trade unions in Britain would convince many trade union activists in Northern Ireland that the issue can be effectively taken up in a non-sectarian manner.

For the prisoners in H-Block such support is now becoming a matter of life and death.

YS hold a funeral



for Thatcher

"Is she really in there? Yes I'll give you some money if she's really in there."

This was a typical comment we heard on our march last Saturday in Hackney led by four pallbearers dressed in black and carrying a coffin to mourn the death of 8,000 jobs in the area.

The march was part of our Youth Rally against Unemployment.

There were several banners, placards and giant red flags. Over 100 'Militants' and 'Socialist Youths' were sold. The coffin had a tremendous impact on the shoppers and young work-

By Ian Harkness

(Hackney Central LPYS)

ers.

One bloke grabbed a whole stack of leaflets from me and started to give them out in a pub. Most people seemed a bit disappointed when we told them Maggie Thatcher wasn't really in the coffin!

The previous weeks of preparation with meetings at local YS branches on 'Youth Unemployment', mass leafleting of schools, colleges, factories, and on street paper sales, really

paid off.

After the march a film 'Divide and Rule—Never' was shown at the local Labour hall. This went down really well and later a discussion on how to combat youth unemployment with a socialist fighting programme took place. Later over 50 people attended our disco and had a really good time dancing to reggae music organised by 'Franklin's Disco'.

However, it won't end there. A meeting this Wednesday of Hackney's three YS branches on 'Youth Unemployment' will have a lot of new faces because of our rally.

The youth of Hackney need a socialist alternative to the degradation of unemployment and slum housing and as they showed on Saturday, they know that their enemies are the Tories.

And YS branches should

Hackney Young Socialists mourn the death of 8,000 jobs in their area

Photo: MILITANT

use local events like these to build up to the national **Labour Party demonstration against unemployment on November 29th**. A million free leaflets are now available from Labour Party Headquarters, 150 Walworth Road, London S.E.17 (ring 01 703 9833) and free posters will soon be available. Use these to build support and take your campaign to local factories and shop stewards' committees.

And ask for donations too to cover the cost of regional events or to cover transport for November 29. Wales LPYS has received a donation of £200 from the South Wales NUM to pay for their demonstration in Port Talbot on November 8, and the Liverpool Tobacco Workers Union has donated £200 to the YS to help in the build-up to November 29th.

FIGHT FOR REAL FREEDOM OF PRESS

By Dave McHale

Change the letters round in the words 'Evening Mail' and you get 'Meaning Evil'. This fateful anagram brings readers of Birmingham's only evening paper somewhat nearer the truth.

For too long this pernicious anti-trade union scandal sheet has gone unchallenged in the Birmingham area. But following the hysterical lead articles around the May 14th Day of Action (headline on that day was 'Damn you Murray') things have begun to change.

NUPE called for a boycott of information and the West Midlands TUC has backed this move. Now Birmingham YS has thrown down the gauntlet and has called for a picket of the Evening Mail building.

Not surprisingly this 'forum of democratic opinion' has shied away from public debate on the freedom of the press. The editor refused to debate at a public meeting with the YS, and has also refused us space in the paper to put the labour movement's criticism.

But if we are to believe their infamous editorial of May 19 this will not mean that they are biased or undemocratic. To quote, "It is perfectly true that most newspapers were against the day of inaction... This is not because of carefully co-ordinated campaigns by the authorities, but because newspapers reflect the views and opinions of their readers."

How to turn reality on its head without even trying! Are we supposed to believe that the whole population of Birmingham support the Tories for instance, just because they have no alternative but to read the Mail? What rubbish!

Even if it were true that the majority of the Mail's readership did support the Tories before the general election, now Labour has an 11% lead in the opinion polls. Has there been a switch of editorial policy to "accurately reflect" its readers' opinions? Not on your life!

How also, may we ask, does the Mail gauge the feelings of ordinary readers? Especially when the board of BPM (Holdings) Ltd. which owns the Mail contains very few ordinary people. Typical of its membership are big business magnates like Sir Michael Clapham, Chairman of Lloyds Bank and of IMI, and

pampered aristocrats like the Duke of Atholl. There's nothing even remotely ordinary about these people!

How do they arrive at an editorial policy for the Mail? There are certainly no public meetings held! Well, what about a secret ballot? Oh no, these 'democratic' methods are only advocated to 'deal with extremist' trade unionists and the like, whilst the Evening Mail remains a law unto itself.

Bosses are unelected and unaccountable

Unelected, unaccountable, these newspaper barons make a laughing stock of the notion of 'press freedom'.

The Evening Mail's task, along with that of Fleet Street millionaire press is to mould so-called 'public opinion' through distorted and selective reporting. That, and the same time make a fast buck for the public service of 'interpreting' majority opinions.

These sort of arguments don't wash with the Young Socialists, nor with the rest of the Birmingham labour movement. We believe it is necessary to take BPM (Holdings) Ltd press facilities into public ownership, to end the monopoly of big business ideas in Brum. And these facilities should be controlled by a democratically accountable board of worker representatives. This should include trade unionists, tenants, and other representatives of the community along with the elected local authority councillors.

The presses could be open then to all groups and parties (except fascists) in the area, and resources allocated according to the amount of support held. This alternative would end once and for all the anti-Labour tirade of the Mail.

Moreover, it would be the most democratic set-up possible. But the Young Socialists will wait in vain for our gauntlet to be picked up. For the same people who attack us for being 'undemocratic extremists' have no taste for real democracy!

TORIES OUT!

By Wayne Jones

The angry voices of nearly 6,000 workers and unemployed rudely shattered the cosy atmosphere of the Tory Party conference in Brighton on Friday.

Thousands of trade unionists joined the demo, called by the Transport and General Workers Union, and, alongside the thousand or so 'Right to Work' contingent, they were a stark contrast to the pin-striped, blue-rinse world inside the conference hall.

Inside, cut off from the worry of poverty and hardship inflicted on the working class by their policies, the few hundred Tory delegates sang 'Land of Hope and Glory', dismissing the demonstration outside as 'red rabble'.

Outside the air was 'blue' all right, as the trade unionists' anger boiled over at the Tories and the misery they bring for the working people.

And the conference hall itself was surrounded by a sea of blue—thousands of policemen, with dogs, horses, and a helicopter overhead, stood in ranks of two deep, behind steel barriers.



Despite the tactics of the police, the anger of the workers at the Tories could not be suppressed

Photo: MILITANT

They kept the protesters well away from the conference hall, no doubt to protect the Tories' delicate ears from the mass chanting and singing.

The demonstration once again showed the growing wave of anger by more and more sections of the labour movement at the Tories' attempt to off-load the failures of their bankrupt profit system onto the shoulders of the working people, especially the unem-

ployed, the pensioners and the sick.

As a 'Militant' leaflet handed out at the demo stated: "No amount of talking inside No. 10 will shift the Tories. The trade union leaders must now pick up the gauntlet and use the full strength of the movement to defend all workers in the battle against redundancies and closures, and bring this anti-working class government down."

YOUNG WORKERS CONFERENCE

Just one week to go until the biggest event for the LPYS in Greater London this autumn, the Young Workers' Conference on 25 October.

As well as the main meeting 'Fighting the Tories with Socialist Policies,' there will be seminars dealing with particular problems and issues, including transport, the health service, working women, the Employment Bill, education, and

Youth and the trade unions.

The speakers include Bob Wright (Assistant General Secretary AUEW), Arthur Latham (Chairman, London Labour Party), Peter Taaffe (Editor, 'Militant') and Kevin Ramage (National Chairman, LPYS).

Every branch should make sure that members of their branch come to this vital meeting—and that every factory, bus depot, railway station and office is

visited. This is a great opportunity to build up a mass LPYS which can play a huge role in the struggle to remove the Tory menace from power.

Conference at North Westminster Community School, Oakington Road, W.9., 11 am-5 pm. Fee £1, 50p for unemployed

TAKE THE MESSAGE ONTO THE STREETS

There's no two ways about it, the days of the Labour Party Young Socialists being a cosy discussion circle have long since gone.

Thatcher and her crew have created the most favourable circumstances for building the YS for decades. The YS in all areas must go public in a big way. Where they have, there have been great successes.

In East Kilbride the YS branch held a demonstration on Saturday against the Tories, and the way they organised for it is worth all YS branches noting.

At the end of August they

By 'Militant' Reporters

held a disco to raise cash to cover the costs of the mobilisation, needed to ensure an excellent demonstration. They produced fifteen thousand leaflets and 1,500 lapel stickers declaring 'Tories Out' with the money made on the disco.

Hundreds of letters were sent out explaining the YS case and urging Labour

Parties, trade union branches, OAP associations and community councils to join the demo.

And at the other end of the country, in Thanet, the west and east branches of the YS have been petitioning against unemployment, urging the council to open educational and recreational facilities to the unemployed free of charge.

A YS member wrote to the local press explaining their case, and a 'political vice chairman' (?) of the local Young Tory group responded, saying, "free facilities for the unemployed will not make them look for any jobs"! If this is the backwardness of the local Tories, it is no wonder the YS campaign has gone down so well.

They are now going to organise 'days of action' in Margate and Ramsgate, and a Young Workers' Conference will be held in Gravesend on October 18th.

Young Socialists in Kirkby are building, despite police harassment—the local constabulary accused them of obstruction when paper selling: on a pavement about 16 feet by 8 feet! Undeterred, however, the YS went on to leaflet and sell papers at dole queues and collected 30 names of people interested in the LPYS.

And in Durham, the Constituency Labour Party has agreed to give their YS branch an annual budget of £50. When raised before on the GMC it was narrowly defeated, but after a recruitment campaign held by the YS—in which over a dozen new members were made in just two hours—the party reconsidered the call and passed it overwhelmingly.

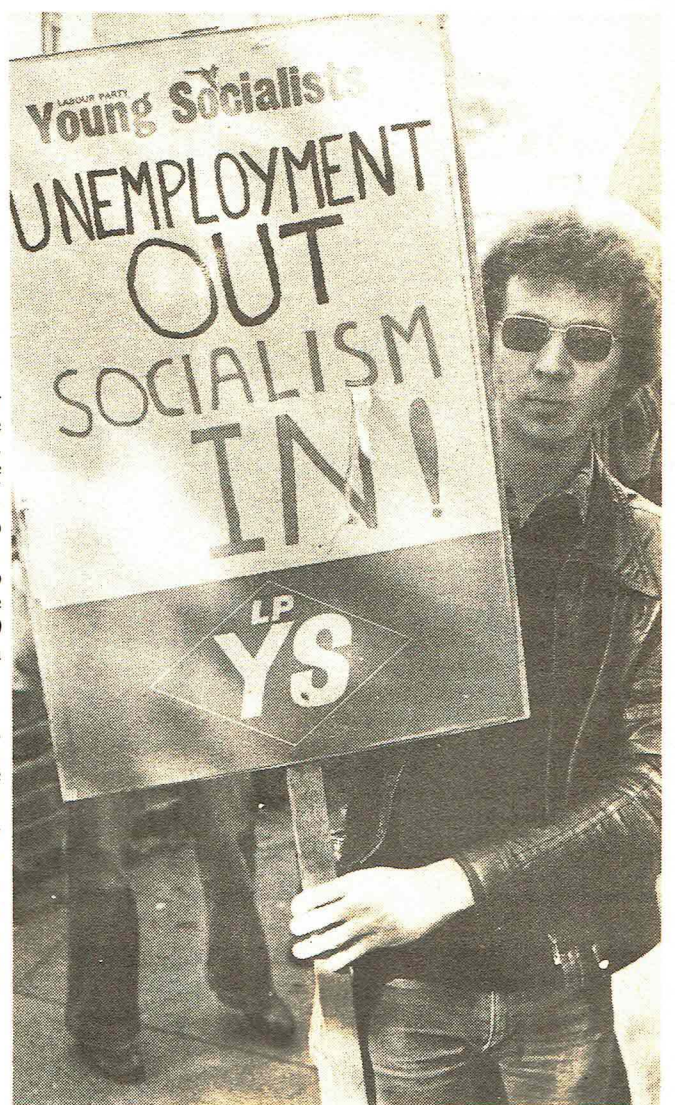
CHILE

Since the launching of the Chile Socialist Defence Campaign, LPYS branches up and down the country have organised meetings, film shows and other activities in support of the Chilean Socialist Party [Interior]. Hundreds of pounds have already been raised.

Now is the time to intensify the campaign. Every LPYS branch should follow the example of LPYS members in East London, where a number of branches have set themselves a target of raising £50 for the CSDC.

LPYS branches must take the campaign into every section of the labour movement. Trade union branches, shop stewards' committees, GMCs and Labour Party branches should all be approached for support.

Every area should immediately send in orders for bulk supplies of the leaflets and model trade union letter which have been produced by the LPYS National Committee—both the leaflets and the letter are available free of charge from the Labour Party National Youth Officer.



A Young Socialist spells it out on the demonstration in Hackney on Saturday [for report see page 3] Photo: MILITANT

SALEP

At the recent meeting of the No. 10 (Manchester) Divisional Council of AUEW TASS, one of the many items of correspondence was a circular from John Jones, one of our national organisers, regarding the South African Labour Education Project.

The circular stated that SALEP was a breakaway group of people expelled from the ANC and had no standing whatever in the anti-apartheid movement, and concluded that their work should not be encouraged by the union.

The delegates had not previously heard of SALEP, and the circular was taken at face value and business moved on to weightier matters.

Since then, SALEP have produced a pamphlet, "Profits and Cheap Labour", which has already been reviewed in 'Militant', and TASS members have had the opportunity to make their own judgement to SALEP's role in the South African

struggle. The pamphlet has been thoroughly researched and is packed with information which can be used by the Trade Union movement to assist the struggles of South African workers and clearly demonstrate SALEP's commitment to the liberation struggle in South Africa.

TASS has a long and excellent record on the subject of South Africa, both on the specific case of Dave Kitson, a TASS member imprisoned in South Africa, and the anti-apartheid movement in general. But it does itself a disservice in its attitude to SALEP.

It is essential that pressure be brought to bear on our national leadership to reconsider its position in this case and to actively encourage and support SALEP. All branches and ECs should take copies of the pamphlets and invite speakers to discuss the aims and objectives of the South African Labour Education Project.

Students JOIN YOUR LABOUR CLUB



Students protest against the cuts—they must be recruited into college Labour Clubs to further the struggle against the Tories and their profit system.

The Tory attacks on education and the living standards of the working class have led to a growing radicalisation of students.

More and more students are beginning to realise the need to link up with the power and strength of the trade union and labour movement.

Over 500 crammed into the Collegiate Theater at UCL for an anti-Tory lobby to hear Tony Benn, Alan Watson, NOLS NC, and Martin Elvin, London Regional Chairman, LPYS.

LSE Labour Club had 150 at their first political meeting and 120 at a business meeting. Over 70 attended a meeting at Newcastle University to hear Joan Maynard.

The above few examples are just an illustration of the mood of students.

Most Labour Clubs are experiencing a large increase in membership; 151 joined up at the freshers fair at Leeds

By Alan Watson (NOLS NC, personal capacity)

University when they only recruited 130 members throughout last year!

Traditionally the Tories are the strongest political grouping in Leeds but now the Labour Club is by far the largest political society.

South Bank Poly Labour Club had 13 members last year but now has 40 and tremendous potential for further growth.

Liverpool University Labour Club signed up over 110 members on the freshers fayre and over 50 attended the first meeting on an 'introduction to the Merseyside Labour Movement'

Coventry Poly had a very successful freshers week with events daily and an increase

over last years membership.

Technical Colleges are also proving to be a fertile recruiting ground with the potential of new Labour Clubs in every area of the country, e.g. Coventry Tech, Paisley Tech, Napier College, Edinburgh, etc. If part-time students had been allowed into membership, as the last NOLS Conference demanded then undoubtedly there would be far more new clubs.

With the obvious hatred of the Tories that exists membership will continue to grow. The major campaign that clubs should be taking up is support for the Labour Party demonstration against unemployment in Liverpool. If this is organised for we can have thousands of students marching with the labour movement against the Tories and win them to real active work in the movement itself.

Clubs must consolidate these new members and fully integrate them to assist in the process of building a mass, socialist NOLS.

JOHN DEMPSEY

John Dempsey, a member of the CPSA D&M Glasgow Branch Committee, was tragically taken from us after a short illness.

John, affectionately known to his friends as the 'wee man', had been a union and Labour Party activist for many years.

When, due to an arthritic condition he left Rolls Royce to work in the national savings bank, then employing over 5,000 staff, John brought the attitudes of an industrial trade unionist that was to benefit all those who came in contact with

him.

Always an outspoken opponent of compromise, he was nevertheless respected even by those who vehemently disagreed with him.

As a class conscious socialist, a Marxist, John re-joined the Labour Party in 1975 and became an active member in Springburn, where he consistently sold 'Militant' and supported its policies at meetings.

In recent years, John's chronic arthritis took its toll and he could only play a marginal role in the labour movement although still an

active trade unionist.

He was due to have surgery for his condition before his final illness.

John Dempsey will be missed by all his friends locally, in the labour movement and particularly within the CPSA where he played a most valuable role, developing us 'youngsters' into active trade unionists and socialists.

Supporters and readers of the 'Militant' may remember his article of about three years ago, when trapped on the twenty-ninth floor of his block of flats with the twenty-third floor ablaze, he managed to phone in an article on his experience, drawing the lessons from his situation and applying them.

Such was an example of his bravery and commitment to the cause of socialism. He will not be forgotten. His cause is our cause still.



The right-winger, Neville Sandelson, MP for Hayes and Harlington, is a great one for seeing plots and conspiracies all over the place. His analysis of the recent Labour Party conference? It's all the fault of a 'fifth column' which is 'dominating' the party. No question of it being the left gaining support among the rank and file socialists of the Labour Party as far as Mr Sandelson is concerned. And his solution to the situation? Mr Sandelson told the 'Daily Telegraph' [October 6], "Democrats of all political colours must combine to prevent these people coming to power at the next election." The voice of a true 'democrat'—'democracy's all right as long as it goes my way,' seems to be Mr Sandelson's attitude.

'Militant' has often commented recently on the collapse of the paper industry in the face of the recession. But workers for Bradbury Wilkenson printing group must be counting their blessings that they live in a capitalists system in crisis! While other printing companies collapse all around them, sacking thousands of workers, the Bradbury Wilkenson group is having a bit of a market boom. In fact the company has just opened an £8 million factory in Cornwall. Their trade? They print bank notes and with the capitalist disease of inflation, demand for their products is on the up and up!

Who made the following speech, reported in the 'Guardian' [October 8]? "He called for the total cessation of immigration and a massive repatriation programme backed by a system of resettlement grants." He went on to say that the new Nationality Bill wouldn't halt the flow of 'tropical people' into Britain, but still leave discretion in case of doubt to 'lenient' Home Secretaries. He also said that 'such a rate of change inflicted on our country is not compatible with the survival of a sense of national identity.' According to this gentleman, Indians, Iranians and Arabs had entered Britain 'in droves' and 'nearly all the incomers breed faster than we do.' John Tyndall? Martin Webster? No! This speech was in fact made by Sir Ronald Bell, Tory MP for Beaconsfield. In desperation, the pin stripe racists of the Tory Party will increasingly use the poison of racism in a futile bid to divide and blind the working class to the failure of their bankrupt capitalist policies.

British capitalism has long preferred the easy profits made from property speculation, to the 'risks' of creating real wealth in manufacturing industry.

One company that published its results last week is following this trend. Mr Ernest Hall, Chairman of the Mouthleigh Group Limited, said to his shareholders, 'The property division remains very active and we are examining the scope for new developments...Our Worsted manufacturing business is now operating satisfactorily, but if trading becomes more difficult we shall not hesitate to reduce further our commitment in this field.'

In the past year turnover in the property division had doubled to over £3 million, whilst profit had more than trebled to £826,000 [approx 27% of turnover]. However, in the Worsted manufacturing division, turnover had fallen from over £3 million in 1979 to £2,138,000; whilst profits had gone up from a mere £72,000 to only £86,000 [about 4%]. Doubled dividends and earnings per share were the reward for the shareholders, But the only people in the company making any real wealth—the workers in the Worsted manufacturing division—will probably be rewarded with the sack. That's the free enterprise system the Tories worship!

Press panic - Press poison

The mammoth events at this year's Labour Party conference brought hysterical howls of rage from the Tory press.

With the successful moves to democratise the party and with the victory of the left on one policy after another, the capitalist media squealed with despair.

They immediately found friends in the party's right wing—in the shape of the 'Gang of Three,' Shirley Williams, Bill Rodgers and David Owen. The left of course, especially Tony Benn, were presented as a threat to western civilisation as we know it, more dangerous than whole battalions of Russian tanks.

The 'Gang of Three' thus became 'powerful' figures in 'the thick of the battle' fighting to save 'Labour's frightened members' ('Daily Express'). More than one editorial applauded the three for taking up the old Gait-skellite stand of 'Fight, Fight and Fight Again' against the left.

And no matter where ever it was, as soon as these three opened their mouths the capitalist media was there, notebook or microphone in hand, ready to blast their attacks on the left—and on the party itself for that matter—across whole front pages.

Shirley Williams was even described as a 'Joan of Arc' type character (they must have forgotten the fate of that particular historical figure!).

But never did the Tory press dare mention the policies behind the battles—it was reduced into a 'power squabble' leaving the reader with



A typical example of the Tory press coverage of Labour Party conference

the impression that Tony Benn merely wanted to be leader of the party, and the 'Gang of Three' wanted to defend the 'traditional' party.

When Fleet Street did mention policies they just made themselves look ridiculous. The so-called 'Labour' paper the 'Daily Mirror' wrote an editorial attacking the conference decisions (as it did throughout its reporting of the conference). It outlined the policies—the 35-hour week with no loss of pay, scrapping the elitist public schools, pulling out of the Common Market, nuclear disarmament and no incomes policy.

The 'Mirror' thought these 'astonishing' and said they were 'damaging' to the party's credibility. However, if the Labour Party does go forward on these demands at the next election, it will gain momentous support from the working class.

But with the victory of the left at conference the press realised it couldn't manipulate the conference and so

poured on the scorn. 'Torn Apart' ('Sun'), the party was 'dead', and the new one was a 'Marxist Monster' ('Express').

The 'Express' growled: "The tinpot Trotskyist dictators of the constituency parties who have swaggered through Blackpool this week—the political equivalent of the football hooligans (!)—will demand that their MPs toe the new party line or get out." A typical example of the drivel that oozed out from the pores of Fleet Street.

But the Tory press still managed to pull off yet another spectacular somersault.

With the defeat of the party's right wing the editorials lamented; '(Labour) pounded to chaff' ('Mail'), 'Labour Party, deceased' ('Express'), 'a disaster for democracy' ('Sun'). The Labour Party was dead, finished, they cried, because it was so extreme and people wouldn't vote for it. We'd all have to put up with the Tories even longer because there would be

no competition during an election (but didn't they urge the masses to vote Tory every election? Shouldn't they be pleased if this were true?)

But what they really were in despair about was not that the working class will now turn away from the Labour Party in horror—rather it would gain popular support, especially after the onslaught of this Tory government, the most reactionary since the war.

For example, the 'Daily Express', having declared the Labour Party dead only a few days before, then stated "The new Labour party which emerged at Blackpool threatens to subvert the constitution...that Labour Party could win the next election." It went on hastily to add that Labour wouldn't win merely because "the country in any way endorses its policies (!)" Rather, because no-one liked Mrs Thatcher it would win by default!

This sort of garbage will intensify as the Labour Party, with the polarisation of the classes with the increasing crisis of British capitalism, increasingly will represent the aspirations of the working class.

The pretence of the Tory press to be merely an "independent voice" rather than tied part and parcel with the capitalist system will become more shallow in the eyes of the labour movement in the coming struggles.

As the reporting of the Labour Party conference by the Fleet Street press has shown, the media, in the hands of a handful of millionaires and tied up with the parasitic capitalist society they support, will never present the truth when it comes to presenting the labour movement's case. But if you want the truth—read 'Militant'.

VEST EYED INTERESTS

The Tory press, horrified at Labour's commitment to abolish the House of Lords, have described those ermined fools as defenders of democracy.

Their noble heroes include Lord 'Sam' Vestey, ex-Eton and the Guards. Hobbies: gambling, shooting, polo—and tax avoidance!

Vestey and his cousin Edmond have total control over a huge empire of 250 companies in 27 countries. The 'Sunday Times' in an exposé (5 October) estimate this to be worth £600 million.

In 1978 their biggest firm Dewhurst the Butchers (1,400 shops in Britain) paid £10 tax. A single man earning £30 a week would pay this much, but that year Dewhurst made £2.3 million profit and the Vestey family are thought to be the richest family in the country!

In the past five years their total tax bill was £215 out of £8.8 million profit. As they paid tax in the tax haven of Jersey they didn't pay UK standard rates. Their cunning scheme is one of a number they have worked out over more than 60 years of tax manipulation.

By Roger Shrivs

The Vestey family have probably paid less tax than it cost the first Baron Vestey to get his peerage from Lloyd George for £20,000.

In 1915, says the 'Sunday Times', the first noble Lord started a long war of attrition against the Inland Revenue. "It's like trying to squeeze a rice pudding," one tax officer said, as the Vestey family set up the perfect tax avoidance scheme.

The Vestey empire covers every aspect of the meat trade. They own the ranches, packing plants, ships, insurance companies, docks, cold stores, wholesalers and retail shops. As they control the whole operation there is no difficulty in "readjusting" accounts so that profits are made where tax is lowest. As a private company, not quoted on the stock exchange, it can be even more secretive than other firms, and the Vestey family can enjoy tax-free life without becoming tax exiles, getting their huge income through a trust.

The rich could at one time legally arrange for assets to be transferred to a tax haven, the income to be held by a trustee who could then send irregular, but large, sums to Britain free of tax.

When this was made illegal in 1936, the accountants of the upper crust merely made the millionaires' relatives "passive beneficiaries" who got the money from the same trusts.

Rich parasites can get around reforms

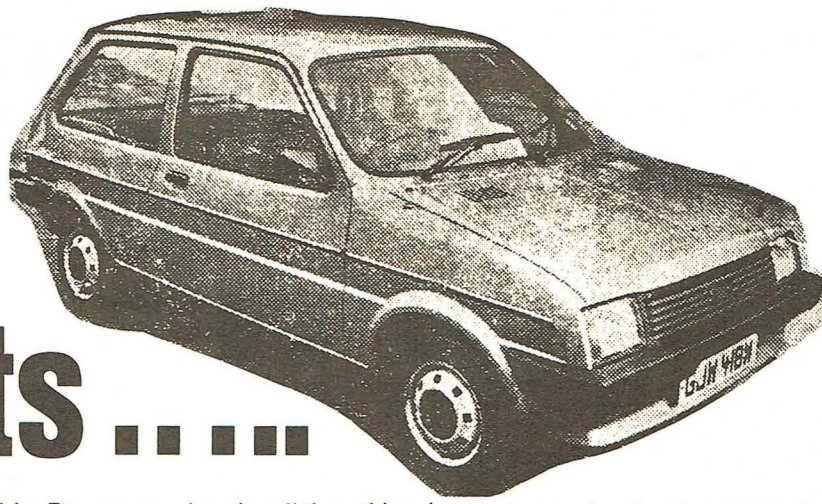
This loophole was (at least officially) blocked in 1948. However, when the Inland Revenue started to investigate the Vestey tax arrangements in 1967, they started a legal battle which ended in 1979 with the 1948 ruling being overturned by the Law Lords. The Vestey companies may be ideally placed to avoid tax but they are not unique. Inland Revenue think £1,000 million a year may be lost through such schemes, both legal and illegal.

The 'Sunday Times' carried their exposé opposite a swingeing attack on Labour's conference for daring to suggest a socialist future for Britain. They say "that if rich families can avoid massive tax payments in a time of economic crisis, a call for equally shared sacrifice may fall on deaf ears."

Lord Thorneycroft, Tory Party chairman, gave the real views of the ruling class. The Vestey family "deserved the best of luck". Howe said he would plug the Law Lords' loophole (though he didn't want to punish the 'wealth creators') but there are hundreds of ways the rich can get round any such reforms. The Vestey family have been successfully fending off such attacks for 60 years.

The Vestey family of the world are able to sleep easily in their beds in the arrogant assumption that even Labour leaders won't permanently harm their wealth and privilege. The only way to disturb their complacency is to fight for a socialist society where the purse strings are controlled by the working class, not by rich parasites.

Mini Metro Behind the glossy adverts



New cars seem to appear on our roads almost every time you step outdoors. But you could be excused for thinking that the new Mini Metro can fly, in view of the coverage the car and its new plant have had in the media.

It soon becomes clear, however, that the Metro is just another addition to the range, several years behind its rivals. The Metro's success therefore depends on its ability to prove a cut above all competition in performance and price.

With daily reports of gloom and doom in UK manufacturing industry, it's perhaps not surprising that so much attention has been given to the Metro's new body shell assembly plant at Longbridge. With a floor area equivalent to about 15 football pitches, maintenance workers use push bikes to get about.

BL may be asking us to buy British when it comes to cars but the company have had little option but to buy foreign when it came to machinery and technology. Many of the

By Les Kuriata
(EETPU Longbridge)

major installations are from abroad.

The floors of the Metro are put together and welded by two massive Kuka Multi Welders from Germany. The monosides and the roof are welded to the floor by two French Sciaky welding systems involving 14 Unimate robots each. Most of the nine miles of conveyor systems are Italian.

Such is the speed of development in industrial technology world wide that technical reps have been almost apologetic about some of the now-outdated equipment BL purchased two or three years ago. Indeed some factories in Europe would probably already consider the Metro plant old fashioned.

Among the many new and exciting concepts of industrial production, the new electrical control system stands out as the most revolutionary. Relay systems have for many years been the accepted method of controlling machines and equipment, but these have

been replaced by Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs).

The PLC is basically a small computer, employing microchip technology, which can be controlled by a Visual Display Unit (VDU). The VDU is like a small television with a keyboard directly under its screen.

The electrician no longer goes round prodding relay contacts with his 12-inch screwdriver among arcing voltages and flying sparks. His day now revolves around punching commands into VDUs and wading through sheets and sheets of teleprintouts.

There are about 60 robots employed on the Metro, mainly in the welding field. People often think of the robot as the chief threat to jobs. In fact the robot is one of the less sophisticated pieces of equipment compared to many of the real job eaters.

Often when a robot makes a mistake, drops a component for example, there is a loud cheer from a section of on-looking production workers. Many commentators have talked about the role of automation and robots in eliminating boring and dangerous jobs and reducing hours. At 3 am, in the middle of a ten-and-a-half hour night shift, it's a little difficult to

imagine all these things in our present society, however.

Ironically one of management's early problems with the new plant was the need for a massive maintenance team and a lack of skilled workers prepared to come to Longbridge. BL carried out massive recruitment campaigns in Scotland, the North East and of course Liverpool. Even six months ago electricians and fitters generally stayed well clear of Longbridge, but the overnight collapse of manufacturing industry in the West Midlands has meant that many have had no choice but to come to Longbridge for a 'future'.

Management have also had problems recruiting production workers from the rest of the factory. At first they tried to hand-pick volunteers but this failed—due to the lack of volunteers.

Many workers have also been worried by new working conditions: management are determined to make this plant a model. On one occasion, a group of track workers who had been refused permission to go to the toilet, waited until a large section of the media were making a tour and approached foremen with one hand in the air asking, "Can we go to the toilet please sir?" Some of the latest arrivals

have already demonstrated that they won't tolerate nineteenth century conditions in a twentieth century plant.

BL have heralded the Metro as the car that must save the company. But even if the Metro is a success it will not save BL, sliding still further down the slippery slope of underinvestment and contraction.

When Prince Charles visits the new plant to officially open it on 22 October, I wonder whether the management will show him round the old body assembly plant next door? Most BL workers are more familiar with the antiques in that building than the new space-age technology.

Edwardes himself let the cat out of the bag recently when he said, "The LC 10 (next proposed model) is even more critical than the Metro to BL Cars. The success of the Metro alone would not be enough to bring about the recovery of BL Cars."

How many more models have BL got to launch onto a recession-torn, cut-throat market to prove to all that we must have one national, integrated, nationalised motor industry—minus Edwardes and Co.—if we are ever to see that recovery?

Barrow's 'silly twits'

Tory leaders at their recent conference polished up their (comparatively) sane public relations mask. The outburst at Barrow shows the real face of Toryism.



Photo: MILITANT

By Dave Cotterill

Barrow in Furness is not a town which gets much attention in political circles—its geographical isolation goes a long way to explain why. Yet it has considerable industrial importance, with Vickers as its main employer.

At the Vickers yard, the boilermakers had been on strike for nine weeks, although only the local press seem to have covered the dispute.

Local Tories made the strike their main target at a meeting which coincided, ironically, with a Trades Council meeting to discuss action on growing unemployment.

At their secluded dinner these backwoodsmen gave

utterance to views usually reserved for private thoughts at a national level. They were truly revealing.

Sir Leonard Redshaw observed, "I read in the newspaper that about five per cent of British people are illiterate. I think that percentage must be higher in Barrow."

"Eighty per cent of all shop stewards in Vickers are sub-standard and have no more than one 'O'-level each."

"Unions and nationalisation are diseases worse than leprosy...As for nuclear

lear protestors, they are a pack of silly twits."

This is how top Tories think. In an unguarded moment it slips out. Every worker should ponder on this: the true face of the Tories.

"Nuclear protestors are a pack of silly twits": Barrow is hemmed in by nuclear power stations; the shipyards build and service nuclear submarines and nuclear cargoes are transported through the town.

This has roused enormous apprehension. The local anti-nuclear campaign is linked with the Labour Party and the local trade unions, and recently held an 800-strong demonstration.

What do the Tories care

as Barrow, formerly a special development area, is hit by the chill winds ravaging the rest of the North-East? Most of Barrow's new industry has been attracted—or bribed—by government grants.

Bowater, who are slashing jobs in Merseyside, have a plant here, for which 40% of the £5 million investment was provided by the government. The same applies to practically all the new investment.

The Tories have now withdrawn the special status, and unemployment is accelerating. There are 34 people chasing every vacancy in the town; unemployment among boys under 18 has risen by five hundred

per cent, and for girls under one job at the beginning of the summer.

The Trades Council have responded, deciding to try to organise the unemployed and begin a fight back. On the same night as the Tory bun-fight, they invited Chris Edwards, from the Newcastle Trades Council Unemployed Centre, to speak at a meeting with Albert Booth MP.

With this type of local activity against unemployment, the local employers and the nuclear threat, there can be no doubt that Barrow will be breaking through the isolation.

**Heseltine's
act of war**

Report by Eileen Short

(Bethnal Green and Bow CLP)

"The Tory asset-strippers are destroying the foundations of public housing." This angry cry set the tone of the housing debate at Labour's Blackpool conference, echoing the challenge facing Labour Councils, Labour voters and every worker in search of decent housing.

The toll was long: building standards abandoned, direct works slashed, waiting lists growing daily. The hypocrisy of the Tories and their 'rent-scrouter' myths and the callous savagery of Heseltine's cuts, provoked angry contributions from delegates.

"All our plans come to nothing unless we build new houses—how can we help the homeless if Heseltine takes all our money away?" demanded a Yorkshire speaker.

Heseltine's "act of war on the working class in this country," brought Ted Knight, leader of Lambeth Council, to the rostrum, demanding a co-ordinated national fight combining Labour Councils and trade unions on a firm 'no cuts' position. This won a noisy, enthusiastic reception.

Councillors from Labour authorities, including Lambeth, who had imposed massive rate increases in attempts to offset the cuts—came to the rostrum to say that they could not continue imposing increased financial burdens on working people in a vain attempt to preserve local services. Workers asked to pay the price for Toryism one year will inevitably be dubious about a fighting call from that same local authority the next!

The trade unions, TUC and every Labour council must be united in a massive campaign against the cuts and in defence of services, initiated by Labour's National Executive Committee. This fighting call was again greeted with prolonged applause.

In spite of Roy Hattersley's warning that if such a fight meant "massive strikes with a political aim," it could not be supported, conference insisted that Labour councils must fight to defend the manifesto on which they were elected—to defend working people from the ravages of Toryism.

With the National Executive's support, conference overwhelmingly endorsed this call for resolute opposition to Heseltine's cuts, combined with a programme of reforms to protect council and private tenants, giving local authorities first option on buying back any council houses sold, and to end the growing waiting lists with a massive building programme.

LONDON LABOUR PARTY SPECIAL CONFERENCE

A FIGHTING MANIFESTO FOR LONDON

This conference marks a significant step forward in the battle to democratise the Labour Party. For the first time ever the London Labour Party, through conference, will have the final say on the content of Labour's manifesto for the Greater London Council elections.

By Nick Bradley

(London Labour Party Executive)

Never has there been so much discussion within parties and trade unions on the content of an election manifesto. The failure of previous Labour GLCs to carry out their policies led to a growing demand for democratic control, resulting in this year's breakthrough. The proposals before conference mark the determined leftward shift of the London labour movement.

The GLC elections in 1981 will take place against a starkly polarised political background. Local authorities face not just cuts but complete annihilation.

On the opening day of the Tory Party conference, GLC leader Horace Cutler brought

the conference to its feet with a call to "cut, cut and cut again." Amid rapturous applause, Cutler announced "It is inevitable that the issue of compulsory redundancies must and will be faced."

The Tories have already begun the task of dismantling the GLC with the forced transfer of housing stock to the boroughs. Against a grim background of housing misery, they are attempting to abdicate any housing responsibilities.

Outside of Thamesmead, the GLC are building less than 400 new homes this year. Their slum clearance programme has been abandoned, while 253,000 homes in Greater London are legally classified as unfit for human habitation and, according to official figures published in June this year, one quarter of all London homes are "unsatisfactory."

In contrast, the draft manifesto prepared by the Regional Executive is full of proposals which would im-

prove the standard of life for the majority of Londoners.

The proposal to form an enlarged Direct Labour organisation capable of undertaking major building works is to be warmly welcomed. It is a nonsense that a public authority should have to contract its building works out to private contractors whose over-riding interest is profit rather than decent homes and amenities.

The establishment of a municipal bus manufacturing plant is proposed to build London's buses—another measure that socialists will applaud.

Other excellent initiatives and reforms include commitments to provide decent facilities and wages for GLC staff themselves, which should meet with the enthusiastic support of the GLC staff trade unions, as will the proposal to provide decent day-care facilities for the children of people working within the GLC.

In campaigning for the GLC elections, it is vitally important that Labour explains in the clearest and simplest way all its positive policies which would improve the lives of millions of Londoners. Our policies must not be confined to the committee room and conference hall but should be used to show that Labour has an alternative to anarchic Toryism.

The Labour Party—in conjunction with the trade unions—must pursue its decision to organise a major demonstration against unemployment. Such a demonstration through a working class area would be an effective new year opening to a fighting GLC election campaign. If our manifesto is to be implemented, we cannot shirk from an all-out battle with the Tories. This demonstration must be the first shot.

The transport debate promises to be lively. We will all welcome the option which proposes to cut fares immediately by 25%, as a step—within the lifetime of the incoming Labour GLC—to a complete fare-free policy and the integration of London's British Rail network into London Transport.

Such a policy would win the party millions of votes from families paying ever higher and higher fares and would make a reality of clearing the terrible traffic congestion on London's streets.

This is, however, a retreat from the original proposal that a Labour GLC would make its immediate aim the introduction of a fare-free system. The majority of the

Executive felt that the fare-free policy would bring the GLC into head-on conflict with the Tory government.

We should be under no illusions, however: even this will meet with fierce resistance from the Tories, insistent on making workers pay through the nose for barely skeletal services.

The draft manifesto calls for the establishment of a Greater London Enterprise Board. Certainly, industry in London needs planning and development, under the control of the labour movement. But the central question will remain—where are the resources to come from?

Half a million jobs have disappeared in London's manufacturing industry alone since 1960. How are they to be replaced, without control over the banks and big monopolies on a national scale? More handouts to ailing firms being driven to the wall by capitalism's 'free market' chaos cannot be our answer.

Resolution number 3, submitted by the South Suburban Co-operative Society, proposes that public funds should not be used to provide assistance to private sector firms.

GLC cut-backs

The last government was handing out £20 million a day—but industry still failed to invest.

All the debates, however, will revolve around one central issue: cuts in public spending. Here, the resolutions for debate go right to the heart of the problem which will be faced by an incoming Labour GLC.

Resolution 10 from the LPYS Regional Committee puts the clearest and most telling argument. While the Tories remain in power, "the GLC will be under continuous pressure to cut back its plans, services and staff."

Heseltine and the Tories are determined to destroy the public services. Their new Local Government Act will give the government legal powers to completely hamstring local authorities.

A Labour GLC will need a programme not only to resist the cuts but to fight a whole new legal structure designed to tie its hands.

As the LPYS resolution makes clear: "This pressure will only be successfully resisted if the Labour GLC is able to draw the majority of Londoners behind a determined stand against the Tories. A Labour GLC and ILEA will have to give a clear

lead...refuse to make any cuts and demand that the government provide the necessary finance to maintain and improve all council services."

This is not simply a 'no cuts' pledge; it points the way to an effective campaign demanding the necessary financial resources, as part of a wider, inseparable, fight to get rid of the Tory government as soon as possible.

Either a Labour GLC resists with an effective campaign, or it will be forced to implement Tory policies and cut staff and services. A Labour GLC could be the focus around which other Labour councils unite in developing a mass movement capable of bringing down the Tory government.

The LPYS Regional Committee resolution—supported by the Executive Committee—points to the stranglehold of the financial institutions over local authorities.

In the 1978-79 financial year, debt charge amounted to 41.8% (£354,929,000) of the GLC's spending. On the housing account this year, £91,360,000 was collected in rents, yet £257,239,000 was paid out in debt charges. Since then, interest charges have rocketed, providing massive profits for the city and crisis for the authorities forced to borrow money.

We must not let ourselves get carried away with the idea that it will be possible to build an island of socialism in London. Of course a Labour GLC can set an example to the movement but it just won't have the money necessary to re-build London's defunct factories and replace the loss of half a million jobs.

The Labour GLC, unfortunately, does not have the powers to bring the City's banks into public ownership. We must say that we do not just want a Labour government returned, but one that is committed to implementing Clause IV of the Party's constitution and taking over the commanding heights of the economy.

Similarly, delegates, along with every Labour Party member, will be insistent that London needs a fighting policy and a good manifesto, but just as importantly that it needs a Labour Group on the GLC prepared to fight for that manifesto.

This conference can mark a milestone in the development of the London labour movement. The whole movement wants to see the return of a Labour GLC which will be as resolute in pursuing its policies as were George Lansbury and the pre-war Poplar council.

Photo: Blackfriars Settlement



South London Tenants protest against speculative GLC plans to build offices and hotels at the expense of housing—London Labour Parties must fight Tory plans to cut back housing stock even further.

'Tories can be beaten' says GLC candidate

"A bold and enthusiastic campaign and clear socialist policies to bring down the Tories." That is how Jake Magee, 'Militant' supporter and GLC candidate for Uxbridge summed up his approach to the forthcoming GLC elections after the recent constituency selection meeting.

Jake, a factory worker for many years and a member of the T&GWU, spoke to Mike Lee of Uxbridge LPYS about the campaign.

My experiences on the shop floor have taught me a number of things, which I believe are central to my campaign.

The Tories have to be fought by the labour and trade union movement in a direct and clear fashion, with the movement mobilising support for a policy of confrontation with the Tories, locally and nationally. Court actions and

massive rate increases are not an answer to the needs of working class people.

Secondly such a campaign has to be linked to a programme of socialist policies clearly setting out Labour's alternative. Policies that actually reflect the needs and aspirations of ordinary people, not the 'alternative' of the 1974-79 Labour government, which supervised a massive cut in workers' living standards by bowing to the demands of big business.

I believe a Labour GLC can provide a lead in building a clear socialist alternative, by utilising its resources to support working people's industrial and political struggles, and by taking seriously many of the excellent pledges made in the manifesto for the GLC in 1981.

Let's put an end to any defeatist talk that the Tories cannot be beaten in this struggle! The lessons of the Heath government, the great Glasgow rent strike and the historic struggle of the Poplar council prove the opposite.

I believe a Labour GLC must fight to carry out its manifesto pledges, and to do so it must raise the question of the moneylenders' strang-



Jake Magee

lehold on local authorities—who are being almost bled dry by debt charges—and the power of big business in controlling industry and employment.

That is why the battle against the Tory cuts, the battle for a socialist GLC, is linked to the struggle for a Labour government, implementing a socialist economic programme based on Clause IV, part 4, which could provide adequate resources to finally solve the problems working class people face.

I believe the GLC campaign is of crucial significance in launching this fight, and that all Labour GLC candidates have a responsibility to the whole of the labour movement to ensure we do not fail in this task."

THE STATE

It is not accidental that the British capitalists have posed the question—however seemingly remote at this stage—of the eventual use of the army against the working class.

As early as 1975, as Jack Jones pointed out, the generals and some strategists of capital were issuing dark threats about a coup unless the working class was brought to heel by the trade union leaders.

This threat was quickly withdrawn when the capitalists pondered on the developments in Portugal and Greece. It is one thing to resort to a bonapartist regime; but the removal of that regime can open the floodgates to revolution.

At the same time, any premature attempt to use the army against the working class could result in an explosion that would place the system itself in danger. It is not at all accidental that in the discussion pages of 'The Times' on this issue, the experience of the Kapp Putsch in Germany in 1920 was discussed in some detail. That attempt of the generals to overthrow the government resulted in a general strike which utterly paralysed the generals.

But as the recent TV programme 'War School' showed, officers are already being trained for "urban guerrillaism" and "riots" in Britain. In effect the army is being perfected for use against the working class in Britain at a certain stage in the future.

In 1972, the Tories, in a pamphlet mis-named 'In Defence of Peace,' were already taking on board the lessons and writings of Brigadier Kitson.

At the same time, the police are being beefed up to meet the social upheavals which will be a consequence of the ruthless attacks on the working class by capitalism, particularly through the medium of this present Tory government. For example, more policemen were injured in training for 'riots' last year than in the pursuit of crime itself!

The ruling class are already flirting with the idea of using volunteers, that is scabs, in the event of big upheavals in the coming period. All of this

demonstrates that the British capitalists, if the situation permits them, would not hesitate to protect themselves and their system.

Sir Ian Gilmour, on the so-called 'wet' wing of the Tory government stated in his book 'Inside Right':

"Conservatives do not worship democracy. For them majority rule is a device...majorities do not always see where their best interests lie and then act upon their understanding. For Conservatives, therefore, democracy, is a means to an end and not an end in itself. In Dr Hayek's words, democracy 'is not an ultimate or absolute value and must be judged by what it will achieve.' And if it is leading to an end that is undesirable or is inconsistent with itself, then there is a theoretical case for ending it."

In other words, if it no longer suits them the capitalists will move to replace democracy with a regime more suited to their interests. If the labour movement fails, therefore, to carry through the socialist transformation of society, the capitalists will undoubtedly consider resorting to a royalist bonapartist, that is, to a military-police dictatorship, regime as a means of checking the movement of the working class.

As experience has demonstrated, if it were left to the present leaders of the labour movement, particularly the Communist Party leaders, this task of the capitalists would be enormously facilitated.

This is shown most clearly in the writings of Santiago Carrillo, leader of the Spanish Communist Party. Carrillo is a guiding light of 'Euro-Communism,' upon which the British Communist Party bases itself.

Many of the ideas of the reformist left of the labour movement throughout Europe are also akin to Carrillo's ideas. His book 'Euro-Communism and the State,' is, on the one side, an attempt to convince the capitalists of the

Communist Party leaders' 'democratic' credentials; and on the other, to give a theoretical justification for the abandonment of the traditional Marxist approach towards the state.

In contradistinction to Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky, who advocated the formation of a new state machine as a precondition for the transition towards socialism. Carrillo proposes "the transformation of the state apparatus by democratic means." This is at one with the Communist Party's conception of a piecemeal transformation of capitalism into socialism (which was analysed in the first article of this series-Ed). Carrillo accompanies this with the idea of the democratic and peaceful transformation of society.

The Marxists are also of the opinion that it would be possible for the labour movement, with the correct programme, perspectives and leadership, to carry through the socialist transformation of society in a peaceful fashion.

But one thing is certain: such a development is out of the question on the basis of the road chosen by the Communist Party leaders themselves. Their conception of the capitalist state is completely utopian. They seek to educate the advanced workers, not on the basis of a clear understanding of the nature of the capitalist state and the dangers which are posed to the labour movement in the future on the basis of the continuation of capitalism, but with sugary illusions about the possibility of the reform of the capitalist state.

Yet the living experience of Chile is a complete refutation of all their ideas. But none are so blind as those who refuse to see! The Chilean experience is a book sealed with seven seals, so far as these gentlemen are concerned.

For instance, a past leader of the British Communist Party, the late Jack Woddis, in his book 'Armies and Politics,' outlines the measures taken by the Allende government

The third and final article in a series by Peter Taaffe looks at the state in a stormy period of capitalist crisis

PHOTOS: Above: the higher echelons of the armed forces claim allegiance to "the monarchy", not to individual governments. Below: The Army used as strike-breaking force in firemen's dispute in 1977

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report) II



to 'democratise' the Chilean armed forces.

This took the form of measures "to improve the pay and conditions of officers and soldiers in order to avoid any grievances which could be exploited by the counter-revolution. Army pay was increased by some 40%, flats were built for army personnel, the children of a number of officers were granted scholarships to universities and colleges."

Thus, the way to influence the officers to the side of the revolution, according to the Communist Party leaders, was to offer financial inducements. Moreover, these efforts were directed in the main towards the summits of the army, and not at all to drawing the rank and file within the army over to the

side of the working class and the peasants.

As to the possibility of influencing the army, Woddis writes: "It was not possible for the political parties to be the main instrument in bringing about changes in the outlook of the armed forces." And the reasons for this? "Not only would this have created acute tensions between officers and parties, and presented other difficult technical questions, but the constitution itself to which the Popular Unity was pledged strictly forbade it."

Here is an example of the "parliamentary cretinism" (idiocy) which Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky never ceased to denounce, when it was practiced by the reformist leaders of the socialist

parties. It is an example of the cringing policy of the Socialist Party and Communist Party leaders in Chile before the officer caste.

Their conception of winning the army officers over to the side of the workers and peasants was by concessions, by discussions, addresses from Allende, and even by the inclusion of generals within the cabinet—but in no sense to attempt to win over the ranks of the army, navy, and air force to the side of the working people.

Woddis comments, in view of the catastrophe of September 1973: "It might be argued that all this was a wasted exercise"—at which the most thinking workers in Britain and Chile, on the basis of their harsh experience, would





“Conservatives do not worship democracy..... If it is leading to an end that is undesirable, or inconsistent with itself then there is a theoretical case for ending it” Sir Ian Gilmour

POLICE HARASSMENT

The recent utterances of James Anderton [the chief constable of Greater Manchester] gave an example of the attitude of the police towards blacks, and the labour movement generally.

By Kevin Fernandes
(PNP Youth)

gally.”

He attacked “creepy minorities” and “black racialists and revolutionaries who grab every opening to alienate black youths from their families, the police and all established systems.”

As a token gesture he went on....“White racialists flaunt their sickening gospel of hate under a banner of crude nationalism, creating atmospheres of conflict and tension.” The fact that he gave protection to National Front marches and meetings in Greater Manchester and Bolton (in which he colluded with NF organisers) had obviously slipped his mind.

The hostility of black youth towards the police force has not come about (as Mr Anderton claims) through the workings of “anti-Establishment factions,” or because of “creepy minorities,” or because of “cultural” misunderstandings.

It is the product of the many bitter experiences suffered by black youth at the hands of the police. The “rude boys” of the ‘sixties can remember only too well the violent raids at Saturday night “blues” dances. The raids on the Metro and the Mangrove frame-ups were part of a series of mass arrests, trumped-up charges and wholesale victimisation directed against the black population.

The harassment has not died down—it’s got worse.

Police harassment against blacks, is both “official” and “unofficial”. The “unofficial” victimisation has been mainly through the use of the ‘Sus’ laws, and the “swamping” of areas using the Special Patrol Group.

Though ‘Sus’ is increasingly being used on white youth, blacks are the main target. In the London area, 40% of those arrested on ‘Sus’ are black: even though blacks only make up 3.4% of the London population. To convict on a ‘Sus’ charge, no crime need have been committed, and the police needn’t produce witnesses, which has proven very handy.

“Official” harassment is meted out using the various Immigration laws. The 1971 Immigration Act provides the police with special powers to detain anyone they suspect has entered the country “ille-

Even before they arrive in this country, many blacks are harassed and humiliated by unscrupulous immigration officials, who sometimes go so far as to carry out inspections on young girls to establish their virginity.

The Tories have given the green light to officials to step up investigations, searches, and deportations using the Immigration laws. During the summer, police carried out three large operations in London.

Minorities victimised

Last June, police carried out the largest ever raid under the 1971 Immigration Act. Forty police officers with dogs, and fifteen Home Office investigators, raided the Main gas appliance factory in Edmonton, North London. Twenty-eight Africans and Asians were detained.

These “fishing raids” represented a concerted attempt to intimidate black workers, to prevent them from organising, and becoming active in the labour movement.

The police harassment of blacks is no accident. At the turn of the century, Jewish refugees, fleeing from the pogroms in eastern Europe, were the victims of police terror in Britain. The same applied to the Irish minority. In fact the Special Branch was originally called the “Special Irish Branch,” its task—to harass and victimise Irish Catholics.

Oppressed minorities in capitalist society invariably fall victim to state persecution because, more often than not, their experience of being the most oppressed, forces them to become the most militant and revolutionary section of the working class. Their struggles can often provide the vital flame to ignite a movement of the whole of the working class.

Therefore it is always in the interest of the ruling class to intimidate and isolate, to split minorities away from the rest of the working class. This is the underlying calculation behind the police persecution of blacks in Britain.

It is no accident that with the worsening crisis of capitalism, the ruling class want to give the police more

powers. Recently the Tories have proposed that the Public Order Act should be applied not only in cases of “serious public disorder,” but also when there is “reasonable apprehension of serious disruption to the normal life of the community.”

What march or demonstration doesn’t disrupt the normal life of the community? They also suggested that the Act should cover “static demonstrations” as well as marches and processions: this would include picketing in industrial disputes.

Mr Anderton also had a word to say in this area. He thought that the framing of laws to do with Public Order, picketing and industrial relations was “fraught with contention.”

He thought it would be much simpler to convict people under the laws of sedition. That is, to charge those “endeavouring by written or spoken words to vilify or degrade the Queen, or to create tumult, violence and disorder, or to bring the government, the laws or the constitution into hatred or contempt, or to effect any change in the laws by the recommendations of political force”!

However, the British ruling class are mortally afraid of an outright police clamp-down on the labour movement because of the anger it would unleash. They still lay their hopes on the “bobby on the beat,” who in the words of Whitelaw is “the surest guarantor of our safety.”

There is, however, increasing hostility generally to even these lower ranks of the police. In fact it is these “bobbies” who are implementing the ‘Sus’ laws—blacks certainly have no trust in them.

Local Labour Parties and Labour Councils need to monitor police activities, and to carry out investigations into them. Once an investigation’s been carried out, the results shouldn’t be filed away—publicise them!

Labour movement watch committees need to see that the victims of harassment aren’t isolated and left defenceless. The T&GWU and the GMWU have already said they’d defend in court those arrested in immigration raids. This defence has to be taken up out of court too.

The police force and the courts were not set up to act in the interests of the working class. The labour movement needs to clearly recognise this, and mobilise to end the bosses’ political control of the police.

within the state apparatus itself. In particular, the radicalisation of civil servants, particularly the lower levels, of some sections of the judiciary and the army. However, the decisive levers of state power, the summits of the civil service, judiciary, army, police, etc, in their overwhelming majority, remain on the standpoint of capitalism.

Rather than these sections being won over to the labour movement and the working class, through Carrillo’s methods they will be driven further and further into the arms of the capitalists.

There are examples of where the capitalist state machine, under the pressure of enormous radicalisation, has split, with a big section of the officers coming over to the side of the working class. Such was the case in Portugal in the recent period. Not just sergeants and captains, but even admirals and generals formally adopted the ideas of Marxism and socialism. However, this was not achieved by the methods of Carrillo or of his counterparts in Portugal.

It was the movement of the Portuguese working class following the events of the attempted coup of March 1975 which compelled the leaders of the Socialist Party and the Communist Party to nationalise the greater part of the Portuguese economy. It was this movement of the working class, not the fact that the CP leaders whispered into the ears of the admirals and generals, which exercised an enormous effect on the outlook of even the summits of the Portuguese army, navy and air force.

Only by opening up new possibilities for the further development of society is it possible to exercise a powerful influence on the

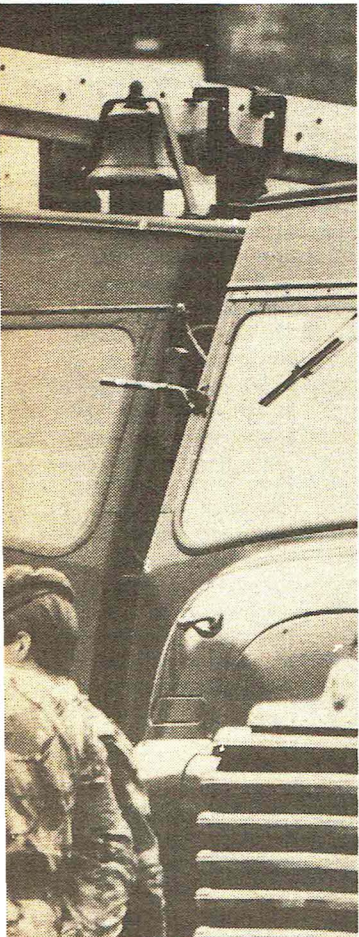
ranks of the army. These layers are part of the intermediary strata within society as a whole. Experience has shown that prevarication and half measures, as was the case in Chile, will drive them into the arms of reaction. Carrillo’s methods will have the same effect.

For instance, imitating Allende’s courtship of the generals Schneider and Pratz, Carrillo writes of the Spanish army: “everything leads one to think that the military leaders Lieutenant-general Diez Allegrea and Lieutenant-general Mulado have broader and more modern, though not widely expressed views of defence.” It is not by attempting to influence one or two isolated figures, but by offering the perspective of a new society, that the officer caste can either be neutralised, or sections, even a majority, won over to the side of the working people.

Piecemeal measures, attempts to “merely reform the state machine,” and seek “further inroads into capitalism,” without completely shattering the basis of capitalism, would give all the possibilities for the capitalists to use the state machine to smash the workers’ organisations when the time is right.

The issue of the state, which was pushed to the background in the post-war period, will more and more come to the fore in the stormy period that is opening up throughout Britain, and indeed throughout the capitalist world.

It is necessary for the advanced workers to grasp fully the essentials of the state, to see the changes that have taken place, and in that way prepare themselves, the working class, and the labour movement, to carry through the socialist transformation of society.



agree. But on no account can we assume that the Communist Party leaders have learnt the lessons of Chile.

In his book, Santiago Carrillo put forward a similar position for Spain, and indeed for the advanced capitalist countries as a whole. Carrillo asked the question: “Is it realistic by an act of violence to smash the coercive apparatus of the state?”

Carrillo falsely draws in by the hair the possibility of “an act of violence” in relation to the destruction of the apparatus of the capitalist state machine. On the basis of a peaceful socialist transformation of society, it would be entirely possible to reconstruct the new state machine.

Moreover, Carrillo correctly points to the changes

WEST GERMANY

Victory for SPD coalition

The election has been seen as the most important in the Federal Republic of Germany since the war. Franz-Josef Strauss had been nominated as the candidate of the Tory bloc of the Christian Democratic Union and Strauss' own Bavarian party, the Christian Social Union.

Even more than most CDU/CSU figures, Strauss is a personification of reactionary capitalist policies. "I am the German Thatcher" he said with pride, and he has amicable relations with Chilean dictator Pinochet. The disgust amongst workers and the youth stirred determined class feelings, and opinion polls showed a clear move to the SPD.

Gains for Liberals

This polarisation which threatened to submerge Strauss was eased to a halt more than anything else by the SPD leadership. They spoke of their aim as being the maintenance of the coalition with the Liberal Free Democrats, not an SPD majority.

The SPD election campaign became a second gear operation to save the cabinet of Helmut Schmidt and FDP leader Hans-Dietrich Genscher. The campaign ignored the real issues raised in street discussions.

About five million voters abstained and in the end only Strauss delivered the election to the coalition. Probably only a lunatic could have lost!

The election signified a victory for the "coalitioners" and none were happier as the results were made known than Schmidt and Genscher, who led the liberal FDP to their best result since joining

As part of their hysterical propaganda against the Labour Party conference, the British press have pointed to the electoral victory on October 5 of the so-called "sensible, moderate" Social Democratic Party in West Germany.

The implication is that such policies are attractive to voters whereas the policies forged at Blackpool are not. They particularly approve of the increased votes for the Free Democratic Party, the German liberals.

Greg Powell, a member of the SPD in Altona-Alstadt looks at the lessons of these elections.

the coalition in 1969.

Schmidt was not deterred by questions from reporters about the minimal increase in votes for the SPD. "Now we can govern properly," he told them. Even Willy Brandt remarked that the target had been reached—maintaining the coalition, but the "special bonus" of becoming the biggest party in parliament had been missed.

Large sections of finance capital and those shareholders who wanted all-out battle with the unions and the SPD, particularly its left wing were frustrated.

The Frankfurt Securities Exchange though, on the following Monday showed a "distinct recovery of quotes" as a reaction to the election results. The quotes for standard shares increased by six marks! [Frankfurter Allgemeine 7 Oct. 80].

Observers were particularly pleased with the FDP results, which money circles count on as a "strengthening of liberal influence and the driving back of 'Left tendencies' in the governing coalition."

Even Helmut Kohl, CDU chairman, has promised 'constructive opposition' to the coalition. None of the serious capitalist papers express any worry because Helmut Schmidt has remained Chancellor. The little liberal party of capital, FDP, fought the election campaign on the basis of the "Bonn coalition," parallel to the wishes of the SPD leaders.

The "Frankfurter Allgemeine" of 6 October said

"The Liberal Party...has nothing in the least to criticise Schmidt for; on the contrary: Genscher canvassed for his party with the slogan "He who wants to help Schmidt must vote FDP."

Most instructive is the comment on the elections in the West German equivalent of the Financial Times, the "Handelsblatt" of 7 October, which describes Helmut Schmidt as "the FDP Chancellor."

It continues; "In previous legislative periods he has already used the dependence on the little party as an alibi, but also as a cane against his own party, especially the lefts. In future he will have to advance the argument of the FDP even more, in order to restrain the strengthened left wing in his own parliamentary fraction."

A brake on the SPD

The new government programme will not be presented to the Bundestag [Lower House] until the middle of November, but the capitalists through their media have begun massively putting pressure on the ruling parties.

The 53 FDP MPs are seen as the brake to prevent any far-reaching or even moderate reforms which in any way jeopardize the power and privileges of capital.

But particular attention is focussed on Otto-Graf Lambsdorff, Economics Minister, who has already won a place in the Hall of Fame for telling



German workers, after a visit to Japan, that they didn't work hard enough. He has put himself to the right even of some in the CDU by outrightly opposing any changes to the set-up on workers' co-determination.

Genscher has compared him to the "father" of the German "social market economy," the late CDU leader Ludwig Erhard. As the election results were still rolling in he stated categorically his intention to ensure that there would be no "socialist" measures, which for workers means no significant reforms.

The coalition it seems, want to leave as much open as possible and concentrate on agreeing on the lowest common denominator. And Hans Dietrich Genscher even found it difficult, when pressed for an answer, to state categorically that the coalition would last the full four years.

Even though West German capitalism has suffered less than weaker countries like Britain, Italy etc., a million unemployed and large scale short time working, reflects the drop in growth from 8% in the "miracle" years of the 50s to 2.8% in the 1970s.

One to two per cent of households own over 70% of all manufacturing assets while at the other end of the scale, according even to the social experts of the CDU, 5.8 million people in 2.2 million households have incomes under social security level.

It must not be the task of this government to make the rich richer and the poor poorer! Already German workers are discarding the constant illusions they are daily fed with. Despite enormous anti-red propaganda and against some of the most prominent CDU politicians two north German states,

Schleswig Holstein and Lower Saxony experienced sweeping victories for the left.

Jansen, well known for his criticism of Schmidt, Gerhard Schröder, until recently Juso chairman, Konrad Gilges, ex-chairman of the Falken youth group, all enter the Bundestag, despite criticism, in some cases, from the SPD itself. On the other hand, well known right-wingers, for example Glombig, in Hamburg, lost.

It is vital that the left in the SPD and the Jusos take up the problems forced on the working class and the youth by the capitalist crisis and put forward a fighting alternative of an SPD government—without the Lambsdorffs and their policies—but with a socialist programme geared to the needs of the working class as a whole.

HUNGER STRIKE IN MAURITIUS

The world wide recession in the capitalist world affects the poorest semi-colonial economies with a severity that can push class conflicts to new heights. We print below a report from trade unionists from the small island of Mauritius.

On 6 September, 13 Mauritian trade union leaders and workers started a hunger strike. Organised by the General Workers Federation (GWF) and the Federation des Travailleurs Unis (FTU), the island's two main trade union federations. They demanded the immediate reinstatement of workers who lost their jobs while on strike and the amendment of the repressive anti-trade union Industrial Relations Act.

The hunger strikers are receiving tremendous support with mass demonstrations in Port Louis, the capital city, and public meetings all over the island.

The present hunger strike is a continuation of the general strike launched by the

Messages of support to General Workers' Federation, 23 Brabant St., Port Louis, Mauritius.

GWF and the FTU last year. In August 1979, the sugar workers went on strike to force employers to recognize their unions—the Sugar Industry Labourers Union (SILU) and the Union of Artisans of the Sugar Industry (UASI).

Sugar being the backbone of the Mauritian economy (over 80% of foreign earnings are from sugar exports), strong trade unions in that sector are much feared by both employers and government.

Hence the sugar magnates have since 1971 refused to recognise SILU and UASI or even organise a referendum as proposed by the unions to prove numerical strength of their membership.

After 9 long years of negotiations, the workers resorted to strike action in August last year. Support by workers from other sectors was immediate and spontaneous. Their concerted action lasted 17 days, the longest in the history of Mauritius.

Workers' demands ranged from better wages and conditions to trade union rights and the repeal of the Industrial Relations Act (IRA), passed immediately after the historic general strike of 1971. Under the act, all strikes are illegal in Mauritius.

Working class movement

The IRA was designed to break the strong working class movement emerging in the 1970s. This was also the decade when the Movement Militant Mauricien (MMM), now the most powerful party in the country, became a

major force in Mauritian politics.

The employers attempted to break the August strike by sacking hundreds of strikers. Several trade union leaders including the leader of the MMM, Paul Berenger, who is also official negotiator of the GWF, then went on hunger strike in protest.

The government stepped in and signed an agreement with the GWF that the government would seek reinstatement of the workers or provide them with alternative jobs. It was also agreed that the MMM would be allocated parliamentary time to propose amendments to the IRA "on the first day when parliament assembled." The agreement satisfied the unions and the strike ended.

A year has since passed but over 600 of the sacked workers are still unemployed and the IRA is still on the statute book. The government as was feared by some sectors, has never implemented its own agreement. In the mean-

time, the economic and political situation has deteriorated. The Mauritian currency has been devalued by 30%, the price of basic foodstuff such as rice and flour went up by nearly 300%.

Workers of one transport company are being paid a percentage of receipts in lieu of regular wages. Although unemployment is steadily rising there is still no provision for any system of unemploy-

ment benefit or social security allowance.

There is growing dissatisfaction with the general economic and political situation. Hence on 6 September, 13 trade union leaders and workers, including Paul Berenger, went on hunger strike as a means to force immediate action on the August agreement. The GWF and FTU is urgently seeking international support.

MILITANT INTERNATIONAL PAMPHLETS

On USSR and E. Europe:

"Bureaucratism or Workers Power" by R. Silverman and E. Grant 30p

"Lenin and Trotsky: what they stood for" by A. Woods and E. Grant £1.50

Add 25% for P&P from

World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8

ARGENTINA

Desperate Military consider 'democracy'

Argentina is crucial in the struggle for socialism in Latin America, both because of its class composition due to a high level of industrialisation, and its wealth in agricultural and mineral resources.

Only 14.4% of the population work on the land, and the vast majority of them are wage labourers [a peasant class as such is virtually non-existent]. 84% of the population lives in towns, and only 6% is illiterate.

These figures show the importance of Argentina for the Latin American socialist revolution; a large, educated and organised working class, with a long history of struggles is rare among so-called "third-world" countries.

When the military came to power in March 1976, the economy was in ruins. Inflation ran at 700%, wages were falling drastically, there was a massive shortage of goods caused by the capitalists themselves, corruption was an everyday thing. This, coupled with right and left wing terrorism, a general political crisis, and the absence of a worker's party committed to end capitalism, led large sections of the population and the working class to welcome the military.

Unlike in Chile, not a single shot was fired, and for a period, the activities of the secret police and the paramilitary AAA seemed to be less. It was only later, that repression grew gradually, to match and then outstrip Pinochet's regime.

Now after four years of military rule, the prospects for the ruling class and their lackeys in the armed forces are bleaker than ever. Together with most of the developed world, Argentina has experienced a relatively short-lived boom in the last few years, particularly in the first half of 1979.

During that year, the GDP grew by a healthy 7.5%. Oil production rose by 4.5%, natural gas by 7.7%, electric power by 14%. Volkswagen, after taking over Chrysler

confined to the car industry. Imports as a whole in 1979 were 75% higher than 1978, while exports stagnated.

Industry is facing one of its worst crises ever. According to a spokesman of the Association of Industrialists of the Province of Buenos Aires, the textile sector is now down to 50% capacity, "because of the fall in purchasing power of the public and the flood of imports." And with growing unemployment—one of the major effects of the present crisis—purchasing power will fall even more.

The same gloomy picture appears in every sector of the economy, and given the general fall in living standards, increasing unemployment, the government's policies, and the present world recession, things can only get worse.

This instability in the industrial sector, and the high number of bankruptcies, led to the collapse of the BIR, Argentina's second largest private bank. In a bid to stop a major run on the banks, the government has had to intervene in all the major private banks.

In one week, the amount of Central Bank reserves used to cover the withdrawals, rose from 346 million to 7.1 billion dollars!

This will further aggravate the crisis and lead to more bankruptcies, since banks will be reluctant to lend to firms in difficulties.

At the same time, a crisis is developing in the armed forces. Any Bonapartist regime, such as the Argentine one, is by its very nature unstable. In this context, the splits developing within the forces (a reflection of the splits within the ruling class itself), make the regime even more fragile.

This conflict came to a head last October, when a section of the army, led by General Menéndez, tried to oust Videla because he was "too liberal" (!!). The attempt failed miserably, and immediately afterwards, with a series of "promotions" and "retirements" Videla consolidated his power-base. However, the split has been temporarily neutralised, but it has not and cannot be eliminated completely.

These splits put the working class in a strong position. However, the fightback has been mainly on a local basis, because of a crisis in the leadership. When the govern-



General Menéndez and friend. Last year, Menéndez tried to oust Videla as "too liberal".

Unless the working class overthrows capitalism, military regime will follow military regime, each more vicious than the last.

ment banned the CGT, a new federation of unions was created: CUTA.

This year, however, this has split between the Group of 25 (Peronist unions) and the CNT (non-Peronist unions), over the election of delegates to the ILO and the ICFTU. This has temporarily delayed working class action, particularly against the new vicious anti-union legislation (see 'Militant' 29th February), and the general fall in living standards. This will only be a temporary split: under the pressure of events, the unions will be forced to come together to oppose the already shaky but still vicious regime.

'Conditions' unacceptable

Indeed, the military know they are very unstable, and have started to hold talks with a view to returning to democracy. The Metal Workers Union leader is arranging such talks.

The military have two conditions for "democracy", first that the Armed Forces are given a constitutional role including the right to veto. The second is that fearing an "Argentinian Nuremberg trial," that all crimes committed during their rule should be forgotten!

"No victorious army was ever asked for explanations of its behaviour during the war" they plead. Both their demands are totally unacceptable. The real war, the class war continues and the workers can not afford to give such weapons to the enemy.

For the moment the mili-

tary are just changing leaders, with General Viola replacing Videla at the end of the year. If they can't make a deal with the civilian politicians the military hope by this means to rotate the Presidency amongst themselves on a three-yearly basis.

The fact that the military are thinking of "democracy," raises the question of a political alternative.

Initially, as they did in 1973, workers will turn to the Peronist party. Within it a mighty power-struggle is developing which will intensify with the new influx of workers, between the old right wing, which is completely bankrupt and discredited and the left reformists like former President Campora. The 'left' will probably win that struggle.

However, in the same way as protectionism would not solve the present economic crisis, capitalist democracy will not be a lasting solution. Capitalism in third world countries is very unstable. This instability becomes greater in a period of slumps and

recession, as the ruling class, in despair, goes from concessions to repression, to concessions, and back to repression again.

Unless the working class overthrows capitalism, new military regimes will follow, each one ten times more vicious than the previous one.

Although at present working class action is localised and on economic issues, the situation is potentially explosive. Nationwide strikes could develop, and the possibility of localised uprisings such as those in the city of Cordoba in 1968 and 1969 should not be discounted.

The need for a Marxist leadership is now vital. Marxists should work in the traditional mass workers' party, the Peronist party, in particular amongst the youth, to gain the best elements, educate them and build the necessary leadership. Thus, when the present ripples of discontent turn into a tidal wave of revolution, the working class will be able to fulfill its historic task and go forward to socialism.

'LESSONS OF CHILE'

- Why was Allende overthrown?
- What should Chilean socialists do now?
- What are the lessons for the international working class?

Read this Marxist analysis price 50P (inc p&p) from World Books 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Another casualty

Dear Comrades

Recently my sister was made redundant from a clothing manufacturer's sweatshop. She had only been employed there about six weeks after leaving school in July.

After four weeks she had to go into hospital for an operation and about two days after she came out, she found from a friend that she no longer had a job.

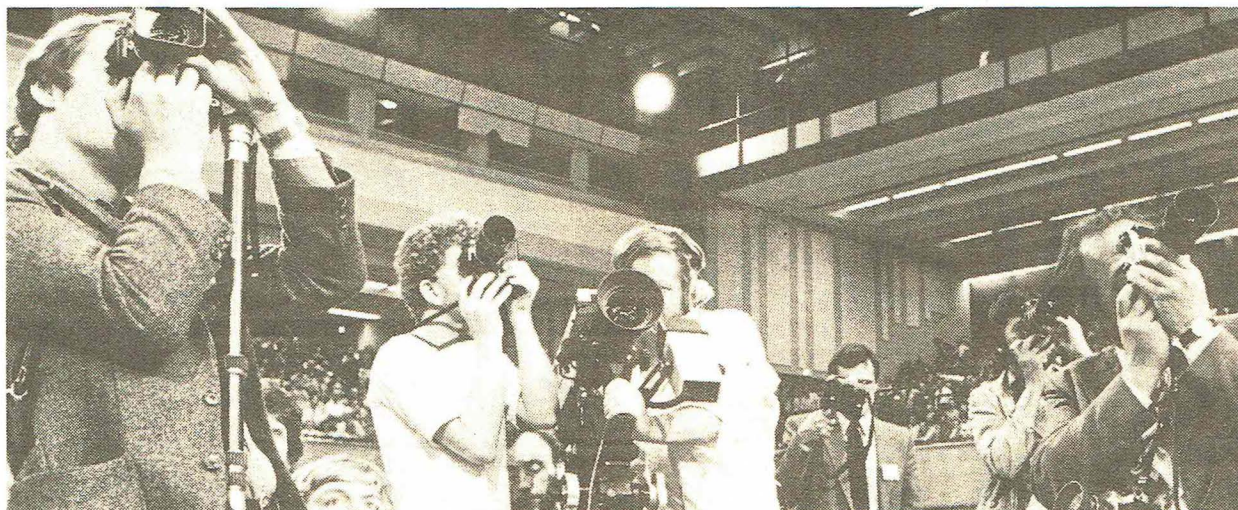
The owner had decided that, because of the economic recession and falling orders he would have to finish four girls. So, ten minutes before closing time on Friday he called three girls into his office and gave them the bad news.

He also told them that my sister was finished as well. He didn't even have the decency to get in touch with her himself.

So much for the caring British bosses. Now my sister stands hardly any chance at all of getting a job in a region where unemployment is over 14%.

The sooner we put an end to this inhuman rotten system the better it will be for all of us.

Yours fraternally
Steve Black
Washington LPYS



Press at TUC Conference 1980: a democratically elected Labour leader could get on with ending the big business monopoly of the media

Conference— instructive reporting

Dear Comrade

Reading the columns of the so-called 'quality' press last weekend it is crystal clear, with the defeat of the right-wing at the Labour Party conference, that the bosses no longer consider Labour as a possible 'reserve team' to the Tories to carry out pro-big business policies. It was also instructive to see what kind of 'balanced reporting' we can expect in future.

'The Times' leader on

Saturday 4 October literally frothed at the mouth at the prospect of the rank and file having a say in the election of leader and MPs being subject to some, though not in my mind enough, accountability. But more threatening, in their eyes, was the prospect of a Labour government coming to power with a mandate to implement socialist policies and really attack the base of capitalism. This of course, would be undemocratic, and is portrayed as evil, sinister and in common with Stalinist Russia.

It goes on to instruct its readers, in the main the ruling class, that all god-

fearing patriots will have to waken up to this dangerous challenge and in a roundabout way suggests that mere 'talk' in parliament will not be enough. Can we wonder what this means, after Chile!

The 'Sunday Times,' not to be outdone, went so far as to lay down a 'plan of action' for right wing labour and trade union leaders, as a last hope of winning back control of the party. This included a 50% share for the PLP in the electoral college, postal ballots to elect 'democrats' such as Chapple and Duffy in the unions, and a suggestion that the PLP elect a new

leader in November and refuse to recognise whoever is elected by the electoral college.

But it is obvious that all the manoeuvres and concern of the voices of big business will not take back the gains made at conference or stop the shift of opinion in the party and the working class as a whole towards having a mass democratic party that fights for the interest of workers and their families, by implementing socialist policies when in power, and not to have a repeat performance of previous right-wing led governments.

Fraternally
J McLelland,
Glasgow Craigton CLP

Photo: MILITANT

The many and the few...

Dear Comrades

Just recently the managing director of a particularly large chain of shops and branches visited the shop where I work as a shop assistant.

He stated that due to the recession the business was in financial difficulty, and we must "pull our socks up" to keep the profits up. He abused the area manager about getting behind in his work, and was furious with the manager, who later told me we must work harder as the bosses rely on us.

There have already been a number of redundancies in all departments, and more jobs will go. The shops are short-staffed, we are over-worked and definitely underpaid.

After similar experiences over the years, it's now time all shop workers, managers, supervisors etc. saw there is no way out under a capitalist system, and we must all get together as one and overthrow those few who oppress workers. Then and only then will we see a change in society.

I have enclosed £2 for the good cause, the fighting fund.

Yours fraternally
An Ellesmere Port
LPYS member

Redundant ostriches

Dear Comrades

I thought you might be interested to hear Prince Philip's views on the present conflict between Iran and Iraq, as stated in 'The Guardian' [3 October].

When asked, at a New York Zoological Society do, about a possible solution to the war, he quipped, "It's bad news for the animals. It's not my problem. I'm sorry."

This "I'm all right Jack" attitude is unacceptable in someone looked upon as representing Britain. Isn't it about time he was given the sack—and his wife too? Let's see what he says about unemployment then!

Yours fraternally
Doreen Roberts
Wimbledon CLP

Survey of destruction

Dear Comrades

The latest survey by the Merseyside Chamber of Commerce and Industry describes the situation as grim. The survey shows that more than half the local firms were working at roughly 60% capacity, that is a decrease of 15% in the last three months alone.

Half the firms had cut back their workforce, and a third have cut their investment programmes because of the Minimum Lending Rate.

That is the logic of Thatcher's monetarist policies—destruction of industry wholesale.

Yours fraternally
Lesley Holt

'Working people should not pay'

Dear Comrades

Lancaster Labour Party has moved towards the left in recent months. The policies of the Tory government and a series of closures and redundancies locally has led to a situation where one out of two school leavers in Lancaster are unemployed.

As a reflection of the growing mood of militancy locally, the Labour Party's General Management Committee overwhelmingly passed the following resolution against unemployment on 24 September:

"The Lancaster Labour Party recognises that unem-

ployment is caused as a result of the crisis in capitalism.

"Since we believe that working people should not pay for crises not of their own making, we believe that the next Labour government should carry out a bold socialist programme to abolish unemployment. Such a programme should include the nationalisation of the 200 companies that dominate the economy, to be placed under workers' control and management."

I enclose £1 that was collected at the meeting for your fighting fund.

Yours
Graham Carrington
Treasurer,
Lancaster LPYS
Mike Smith, Secretary,
Lancaster LPYS

NUSS— has it collapsed?

Dear 'Militant'

Is the editor certain that the National Union of School Students has collapsed? (See page 3 'Militant' issue 521). I ask this for I thought NUSS was functioning normally.

Recently I have received letters, information, campaigning material, new membership cards and copies of 'Blot', the union's

paper, from the London office. At present I am signing up members and taking orders for 'Blot'.

Surely there must be some mistake for one would think that if a union did collapse, its members would be the first to know. Perhaps 'Militant' could let us know the exact state of affairs as regards NUSS?

Yours fraternally
S L Foster
NUSS Contact
Wem area, Shropshire



Photo: MILITANT

Your freedom, our misery

Dear Comrades

In reply to last week's letter from Comrade Marsh (issue 523) on loss of freedom, I look on the closed shop differently, as a means of protecting our limited freedoms.

The closed shop has been won by the trade unions as protection against the bosses, whose views on democracy and freedom can be judged by the large number of unorganised sweat-shops that exist.

Sackings, to give us the freedom to be unemployed, low wages giving us the freedom to choose between eating or paying the rent, dangerous and unhealthy

work-places, to give us the freedom of a restricted health service. These are just a few of the choices they want to return to us—all in the name of freedom to make profits, with the help of Thatcher, Prior, Joseph and Thorneycroft, those well-known lovers of freedom and profits.

The Tories hate the closed shop because it restricts their freedom to exploit us. Non-trade unionists dislike it because they have to pay, at last, for the benefits they gained off the backs of the trade unions in the past. I've worked under both systems and I know which one I prefer.

Yours comradely
John Woulfe
National Society of
Metal Mechanics

The Cure

Dear Comrades

After a wait of five years I had an operation. It was not very important, but even so I had to be transferred from Good Hope to East Birmingham Hospital due to the under-staffing and long waiting lists at Good Hope.

When I arrived at East Birmingham I found that the majority of the nurses were students younger than me (I am 20). Without these students the ward I was in would have closed.

One of the older nurses told me that she wanted to become a midwife in America. She said it was because of the cuts which affected the patients' welfare. A good example of this is the fact that Britain has one of the highest infant mortality rates in Europe.

As for the doctors, both the specialist and the most experienced doctor on the ward have private practices.

It's strange that in a civilisation like ours thousands of millions are spent on weapons and cuts are made in the 'not so important' field of health.

We in the LPYS call for an £80 minimum wage and a 35-hour week, with wages tied to the cost of living; full staffing for all services; a reversal of all the cuts; a rapid expansion programme for the NHS, taking over the drug monopolies and ending private practice; flexible working hours and nursery facilities for all staff, the abolition of private staffing agencies, and workers' management and control of the NHS in a socialist planned economy.

Yours fraternally
Mark Chesney
Perry Barr LPYS

Winning the gold

Dear Comrade

Do you remember the outcry just a few short months ago over British athletes competing in the Moscow Olympic Games?

We were treated to the propaganda of the capitalist press day after day about the brutal actions of the Russian bureaucracy in their invasion of Afghanistan and British competitors were informed, ad nauseum, that by taking part in the Games they were condoning the slaughter of thousands of innocent peasants.

With this still fresh in mind I recently listened with interest to a news item on my local radio about a trade

mission by the Leicester Chamber of Commerce to Moscow. The leader of the mission was full of praise for the excellent trading links his company, A A Jones and Shipman, had made with the bureaucracy for the sale of machine tools.

Perhaps it was not surprising that when it was suggested that the trip might be hypocritical in view of the attitude towards the Olympics, this bosun of industry replied curtly, "We live on trade, sport we enjoy!"

A classic and telling example of the bosses' belief that boycotts against the Eastern European bloc are fine, as long as they don't interfere with the profits.

Fraternally
Tony Church
Leicestershire CPISA
(personal capacity)

ads

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

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

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

BASILDON Militant Readers Meeting 'Unemployment and the Fight against Redundancies' Speakers: Wayne Jones ('Militant' Industrial Correspondent) Larry Hill (Shop Steward, Ford, Pagenham). Laindon Community Centre, Aston Road, Laindon, 8.00 pm, Monday 27 October.

PADDINGTON LPYS strikes again! Special Disco near Young Workers Conference. Saturday October 25th, 'British Oak', 137 Westbourne Park Road, W.2. Tube: Westbourne Prk. Buses: 7, 28, 31

KENT LPYS Young Workers' Conference Saturday 18 October 1980, 11 am-4.30 pm. Rowing Club, Promenade, Gravesend. 1. Charter for Young Workers. 2. The fight against unemployment and the Tories. 50p per delegate. All welcome—crêche available. 0474 23102.

WOKINGHAM Labour Party Young Socialists Public Meeting 28 October, 8 pm, Griffin House (next to Bracknell Cinema). Tony Saunio on 'Youth Unemployment and the Fight Against the Tories'.

LEEDS Militant 50 club. Winner: T Wilson, No. 27.

BRIGHTON Public debate 'The Way Forward for Labour after Party Conference'. Speakers: Ray Apps ('Militant'), Stuart Holland MP ('Tribune'), a speaker from CLV. At Wagner Hall, Regency Road, off West Street, Brighton. Thursday 23 October, 7.30 pm.

BIRMINGHAM LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS Fight the Tory 'Mail'
Picket and public meeting
PICKET: Evening Mail Building, Colmore Circus, Saturday October 18, 10 am-4 pm
PUBLIC MEETING: Monday October 20, 7.30, Carrs Lane Church Centre

LIVERPOOL District Labour Party Women's Council meeting 'No cuts in the NHS'. Speakers: Renee Short MP, Cllr Julie Taylor, Cllr Pauline Dunlop. Wednesday 22 October 1.00-3.30 pm, The Braddock Lounge, Newsham Hospital

JOHN DEMPSEY A fighter all his life for the working class will be sadly missed by friends, trade unionists and socialists. A personal friend and comrade remembered with love. Jeanette and Willie

Build Militant

Area	Received	% of 3rd qtr target achieved	Target 3rd qtr	Target for year
Eastern	3124		3500	5,000
East Midlands	2648		2660	3,800
Hants & IOW	2627		2730	3,900
Humberside	1258		1750	2,500
London East	4468		4340	6,200
London West	2486		3290	4,700
London South	3971		3290	4,700
Manchester & Lancs	2226		3570	5,100
Merseyside	3087		4200	6,000
Northern	3744		5110	7,300
Scotland East	1676		2240	3,200
Scotland West	3017		3500	5,000
Southern	3661		4130	5,900
South West	1845		2240	3,200
Wales East	1232		1960	2,800
Wales West	2497		2170	3,100
West Midlands	5405		6300	9,000
Yorkshire	3307		5110	7,300
Others	10161		7910	12,000
Total received	62441		70,000	100,000

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

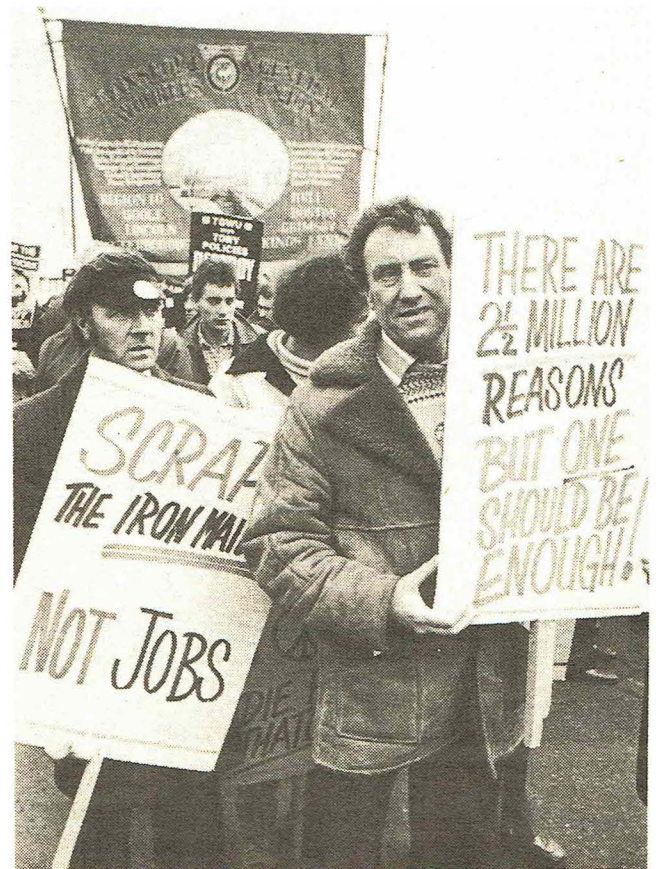
DOUBLE THE MONEY

THIS WEEK £1,621

This week's total of £1,621 is an improvement again over last week, but it still only brings the total for the third quarter to £62,441.

If we are to reach the annual target of £100,000 this means that nearly £2,900 on average must come in each week from now on.

By Steve Cawley



Part of the large anti-Tory demonstration which greeted their Conference last week.

Photo: MILITANT

We appeal to every seller and reader to ask everyone who reads 'Militant' to send us a donation. Not only that, but consider how much you could afford on a regular basis, either fortnightly or weekly.

Contrary to the lies from people who cannot criticise our political programme, we have no rich backers and depend entirely on donations from readers, either given individually or at meetings etc.

£63 has been sent from CPSA members in the Civil Aviation Group EC and £40 from D Spagnol, another CPSA member who wonders who else had a back-dated London Weighting award? Five Boilermakers Society members from Sunderland and Scotland sent us £19 in total, while Merseyside NGA/SOGAT members sent £8.87 (including R Lewis £1.15).

A Tyneside brother let us have £15 union expenses, and £6 similarly came from a GMWU member on Merseyside. Scottish readers have

pulled up in the last two weeks—don't stop now! A donation of £14 came from E Edinburgh LPYS, and £1 from T Robinson (EETPU).

From London ASLEF members and workers at EMI and Hillingdon Parks Dept. came sums (average £1 a head) that soon mount up. Thanks also to students O Tudor (Oxford) and S Williams (W London) for fivers.

South Yorkshire supporters have boosted their total with £55 from a Doncaster social and nearly £44 from Sheffield. Gwent supporters gave us £24.31, a sick Birmingham comrade £10, and five Huddersfield readers nearly £7 (including G Hancock, AUEW, £2).

A collection from Newcastle students came to £3.32 and one at a LPYS Weekend School in the Northern Region £28.67. Last but not least £97.27 has been collected this week at various public meetings and discussion groups in Gosport, Folkestone, Lincoln, Leicester, Nottingham, Hull and Huddersfield.

In order to reach the £100,000 figure this year, we must have a motto that will remind all our readers all the time of the need to assist the 'Militant'. How about 'A fiver every holiday, meeting collection every month, extras on sales of 'Militant' every week?'

Any other suggestions? Send yours, together with a donation of course, as soon as possible. Other papers may be the beneficiaries of billion pound tax avoidance. We're not asking for billions of pounds, or even billions of pence (though we won't turn our noses up, of course)—just a relatively small sacrifice from each reader to enable us to take advantage of the much-vaunted right of freedom of the press.

'The Marxist Theory of the State'
By Ted Grant

Price 50p (including p&p) from World Books 1 Mentmore Tce London E8 3PN

Militant Winter Holiday Draw

Win a winter holiday abroad for two worth £500—can be taken any time mid-January to mid-April!

Second prize: a weekend for two in Paris! Eight other prizes include record tokens and a portable TV.

Tickets only 10p from your 'Militant' seller. All proceeds to the 'Militant' fighting fund.

PLUNDER WOMAN IS BACK!

[As seen on TV]

Alan Hardman's popular cartoon reproduced as a striking red and black poster [approx 2ft x 1 1/2ft], 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.

SHEFFIELD PARK LPYS presents Super Red Star Disco-Stars

Nightclub, Queens Rd, S2 8-midnight, Wed Oct 29th Tickets £1. Be there!

Mobilising Committee Pamphlet

Price 20p. From John Lansman, 10 Park Drive London NW 11

WORLD BOOKS The book service for the labour movement

- ★ Militant International Review 40p
- ★ Grant—Socialism and German re-armament..... 30p
- ★ Grant—Rise of De Gaulle and the class struggle 30p
- History of the Labour Party: articles reprinted from MILITANT 30p
- Trotsky, Grant and Taaffe—General Strike 1926..... 30p

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

Beeching—1980 style

Railworkers must bury the Tory hatchet

By Jim McLelland
(Corkerhill ASLE&F)
and John Heron
(NUR No. 5, Glasgow)

Unemployment and falling coal and steel production are having a disastrous effect on rail passenger and freight traffic. Combined with cash limits and staff shortages, this spells disaster for rail services.

Against this grim background, the first joint meeting of ASLEF and NUR District Councils since 1962, when the Beeching axe was flying, took place in Glasgow's TUC Club recently. The purpose was to bury the hatchet of inter-union rivalry and forge unity in the face of yet another carve-up of the rail system, a threat to all railworkers' jobs and conditions.

The British Rail Board intend to close 58 marshalling yards, cut local and inter-city services, and withdraw the Kilmalcolm line

service altogether, due to the withdrawal of Section 20 grants. Other lines which receive this grant will come under attack in an effort to balance the books and as many as 500 jobs would go in Scotland.

While the need for unity, and the importance of fighting this threat, got rhetorical support from the NUR officials, they opposed as 'unconstitutional' a call for a one-day strike on 22 October, with further action as necessary, which came from Corkerhill ASLEF branch. The meeting, they said, was only to advise members.

It was pointed out that with the lack of leadership coming from national level,

Scottish railworkers must take the initiative. Some members did point out that the proposed date for the strike could have been later, to allow time to build up a campaign to inform all the members of the need for action, but there was no alternative or amendment put forward.

The voting being about equal, the motion fell. The feeling was overwhelmingly in favour of a fight, however, and a motion was moved that a liaison committee be set up linking both councils to discuss building up a campaign involving strike action and to seek a united campaign with workers in the steel and coal industries.

The meeting should be seen as a step towards unity of railworkers, but the attitude of some of the NUR officials, using constitution-

al issues as a smokescreen, was seen by both ASLEF and NUR members as an excuse to do nothing but talk.

The question of unity can't be solved overnight, as was pointed out from the floor. It is the nature of capitalism that creates and exploits division not only between railworkers but also between us and road haulage workers. These divisions can only ever be overcome in the fight for a socialist society.

Other transport workers face the same threat of unemployment: we can best forge unity by fighting for our jobs and in the process extending this unity in a united fight of all workers to oust Thatcher and return a Labour government committed to a socialist transformation of society.

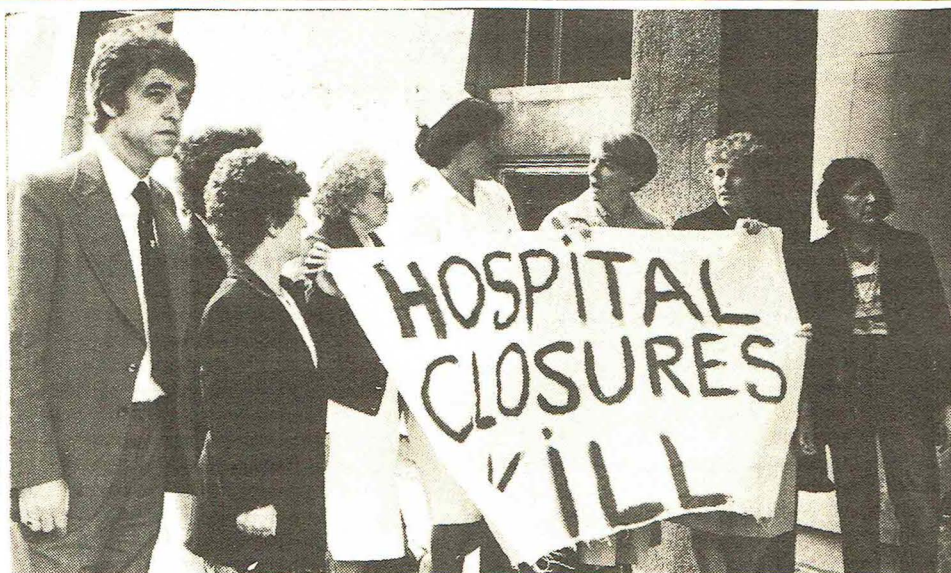
NEWSHAM

Support for the Newsham hospital fight is spreading. Liverpool dock stewards have even promised industrial action if necessary to keep the hospital open. This magnificent example must be repeated by other industrial unions, to prove the determination of all working people to resist Tory cuts. Liverpool Labour women's sections and the Merseyside anti-cuts committee have organised meetings to rally opposition to health cuts.

Newsham has become a focal point for opposition to the health cuts. The women's hospital and others under threat are looking to this fight—a victory here will force the Area Health Authority to back down on their plans to cut beds all over Merseyside.

One doctor has approached the action committee to be allowed to move individual patients. Consultants have been threatened with disciplinary action if they

Photo: Militant



continue to refer patients, while management have moved individual patients to whittle down the numbers and justify closure of wards.

The action committee and work force must ensure that this does not begin again. The workers at Newsham are not challenging doctors' professional judgement but

wish to be satisfied that neither patients or consultants are used as pawns by the AHS in carrying out closures.

In the deal rejected by health workers at their mass meeting, management wanted to cut overtime rather than increase staff. If this fighting mood is to hold up,

however, regular mass meetings must continue, with full discussion and votes taken. In this way even NALGO administration workers could be convinced of the need to take a stand in line with their national union policy against the cuts.

Jimmy Hackett Kirkdale LP and Terry Harrison AHA

'We can't live on last year's money'

"It's impossible to live on last year's money this year," said Lynette Williams, NUPE shop steward at Churchwalk House Old People's Home in Hendon. "A nurse gets £1.61 an hour; cooks, domestics and cleaners get £1.36 an hour; the handyman gets a miserable £1.23 an hour."

"For a 40-hour week some of us can take home as little as £42." With all the hard work and dedication that goes into a job like this, these rates of pay are scandalously low.

Nurses and staff at the home have been forced to take industrial action to win their London weighting allowance. Last November, management accepted that they ought to pay £10.20 per week London weighting; this is even implied in the contract of employment.

Churchwalk NUPE members spoke to Ed Bober

But they have not paid it. They now owe about £600 to each worker.

The home is owned by Hendon Old People's Housing Society. They say they cannot afford to increase pay, although even the London Borough of Barnet, who provide some of their cash, have agreed in principle that the extra money should be made available to bring these workers in line with other staff in the borough.

The union gave 72 hours' notice of strike action to allow time for contingency plans to care for the elderly people. The elderly folk in the home are sympathetic to the strikers; they can see

that the staff deserve a decent reward for the work they do.

Last Monday a one-day strike took place, to warn management that the workforce mean business.

The Chairman of the Housing Society had the cheek to tell the workers "What you've never had you never miss." His "expenses" go up every time petrol goes up, but these workers have to find the extra bus fares out of their continually dwindling pay packets.

The Society threatened to take away the keys to the resident matron's flat if she joined the strike, so for the moment she is staying in work with the agreement of the other strikers. Three years ago the workers here won the fight for union recognition. "We will win this one," Lynette says.

SHORTER HOURS—MORE JOBS

By Alistair Tice
(NUPE branch chairman)

Amid all the redundancies, lay-offs, short time working and jobless school leavers, the introduction of the 37½-hour week for nurses and midwives has largely gone unnoticed outside of the health service.

This may be because we were not forced to use industrial action to achieve it, but more likely because the press do not want to publicise the benefits of a shorter working week to other workers.

'Militant' has consistently demanded a shorter working week with no loss in pay as a means of challenging unemployment and redundancies. Increasingly, sections of the labour movement—the Labour Party as well as trade unions—have taken up this demand as the recession bites deeper.

On behalf of our union branch I successfully moved a resolution at the 1979 NUPE Conference calling for a 35-hour week with no loss in pay, no job losses and no productivity strings. Now, just over a year later, nurses are benefitting from this in a real, practical way.

In the past, nurses and other health service workers have suffered low pay and long hours as a result of poor organisation and lack of militancy. This particular victory deserves publicising throughout the labour movement.

Although industrial action was not necessary to win this improvement in working conditions, negotiations at a national level have been long and hard, particularly with the cuts in public expenditure biting ever deeper into the resources of the NHS. Thatcher said we could have a 37½-hour week provided we accepted a wage cut to pay for it!

The management side of the Whitley Council were so concerned about the long hours nurses work, that they walked out leaving a meeting still in progress, last September, because they wanted to go home!

However, by April of this year the Whitley council agreed that the 37½-hour week should be implemented by April 1981, after

which all hours worked in excess of 37½ would be paid at overtime rates. The cost of this is being funded by the government, arising from the recommendations of the Clegg Commission set up by the previous Labour government during the so-called winter of discontent.

In the Hull District, the reduction in hours was implemented on 1 September and the resulting extra half day off has been received enthusiastically by nurses. But its effects are more far-reaching than just extra leisure time.

Due to the local unions' insistence, extra staff have been taken on to make up the loss in hours worked due to the reduction in the working week. The staffing establishment levels have been raised and there has been an increase in staff of about 45 full-time equivalents at our hospital.

This has meant that 32 newly qualified staff nurses have got jobs, many of whom would almost certainly still be on the dole otherwise. On some wards there are now three or even more staff nurses, which means that the nursing care will improve, with nurses less tired and run-down.

Those nurses presently training will have a better chance of employment when they finish their courses. There has been a 20% increase in the next intake of student nurses, and when you consider that last year there were 2,000 applications for just 200 places in the Hull School of Nursing, this will mean extra school leavers finding work.

Although the 37½-hour week may not yet be operating in some health districts, and we will have to be vigilant in safeguarding these gains in our hospital, I hope this article shows in a concrete way the benefits for working people of a shorter working week and the relevance of this demand as part of 'Militant's' socialist programme.

Braintree workers' revolt

Over 100 years ago Courtaulds started weaving cloth in a small Essex town.

Now Braintree has been stunned by the threat to close the Courtaulds factory, still standing on the same site. This would mean 260 redundancies in one savage blow. On Monday 29th, at midday, nearly 100 workers stopped work to show their feelings at the threatened closure. In good heart, emblazoned by stickers, they picketed the gate.

Eagerly the workers talked of the tradition of the mill. It makes high fashion cloth; it had even woven cloth for special royal gowns.

The sense of tradition and loyalty of the workforce wasn't being matched by the hard hearts of the company board, who are motivated solely by profit [and loss]. This is the sole consideration behind plans to diver-

Courtaulds Braintree workers spoke to Bob Edwards Harlow Labour Party

sify into more profitable fields. The effects of closure on a whole community are totally disregarded.

Some of the machines the workers use are over fifty years old. The last investment was ten years back: new looms with a lifespan of five years. Of course they are still in operation.

Following the picket, as the workers returned to the factory, up came a policeman. The four people chatting near the gates informed him that the demonstration had happened and been good humoured and peaceful. "That's because we weren't there,"

was the spontaneous answer of the representative of the law!

Braintree is not like the Northern mill towns; its traditions stem more from the rural craft industries of the 15th and 16th centuries than the industrial revolution of the early 19th. But the revolutionary fires and stoic independent traditions of the peasant revolt still smoulder.

At this stage the mill workers, through their stewards and officials, are planning a campaign of opposition to the closure. A prerequisite must be establishing close links with the other Courtaulds mills for joint action.

The peaceful token factory gate picket was a start; a town march planned for 18 October is the next step. But even more muscle, with wider backing, may be needed to change Courtauld's decision.

AUEW wage agreement

SULZER WORKERS DEFEND ENGINEERS' PAY

Tommy Wake AUEW convenor, Sulzer, and Leeds District Committee member spoke to Jon Ingham

The pay fight at Sulzer, Leeds, is developing into a bitter battle.

Wages have been tied by wage restraint for four years. As Convenor Tommy Wake (AUEW) explains, during those years management argued that they would love to pay extra in wages.

So in today's 'free bargaining', the union presented their initial claim for 25%. The reply—6.2%, the offer of the national Engineering Employers' Federation.

Sulzer's, who are about to transfer to a new factory, now argue that the extra profits of past years have all been invested in new plant and machinery. They are not prepared to invest further in the workforce.

Through negotiations, the offer has been dragged up to 10%. Following a one-day strike last week the workforce of 300 returned as a goodwill gesture. As a reminder of their determination, however, they blacked a £250,000 pumping machine which was near completion.

Management reacted by threatening to suspend five

packers for two days, pending sacking. Such brutal action galvanised the whole workforce behind the claim.

Work stopped on Saturday, extending to a 24-hour picket on Monday. The workers are adamant that the fight can be for nothing less than 16%, the rate of inflation.

If the present AUEW leaders had an ounce of the resolve of the pickets who stayed overnight defending their bargaining power, these workers would not be fighting on their own.

Tuesday's 'Daily Mirror' headline crowed "8.2% Engineers Deal Boosts Maggie". This is a disgrace in the record of the AUEW leadership.

One of the Sulzer pickets describes the national settlement as an absolute sell-out: "£79 basic wage in 1980/81, when we went through a 12-week strike last year over £80 for 35 hours."

"You could picture the managing director rubbing his hands in front of the gas fire when the national settlement was announced."

No wonder the mood is bitter. One manager described the problem as 'workers living beyond their

means.' "My wife and I never had a washing machine when we got married."

While the company pays for a whole fleet of managers' cars, it is precisely that kind of argument that has led to thousands of jobs disappearing at Hotpoint factories.

Tommy Wake described how Sulzer, part of a giant multinational, had maintained production in a stable market for pumping machines, supplying power stations, water works, sewerage and the Coal Board. Now plans for expansion in the new factory are being reviewed due to public expenditure cuts.

Even expanding industries are threatened by this Tory government. The union at Sulzer is standing to defend members' living standards. That fight will not be won by the inexcusable "8.2% Engineers' Boost for Maggie," delivered by Duffy and the AUEW Executive, but when engineers stand firm on wages, conditions and jobs. Not in isolation, but mobilised together behind a fighting AUEW leadership.

DHSS BACKDOOR SACKING

Members of the Civil and Public Services Association employed at the DHSS office in Hackney walked out last Monday over the sacking of a colleague. They returned to work on the next day, but further action is planned unless they win reinstatement.

This sacking is due to alleged sick leave during a previous spell of employment in the Civil Service. The colleague has not had a single day of illness since she returned to the Civil Service in July.

As far as I am concerned, this is back-door implementation of staff cuts. Rather than face opposition to redundancies from union members, management are using various guises to claim staff are "unsuitable".

The gentlemanly way negotiations on individual cases have been conducted is now a thing of the past. Direct action to protect victimised union members will more and more be the order of the day.

By a CPSA member

Christian Salvasen, the cold store group, have announced closures affecting 300 jobs at its packaging in Bourne, Lincolnshire. The company blame the recession coupled with a bad harvest.



Engineers' picket at GEC, Birmingham. During the 12-week 1979 strike. Photo: MILITANT

CHURCHILL AUEW 'Mafia'?

Despite Tory threats, the fight for trade union recognition continues, with more workers organising each year.

Such a fight is taking place at Churchill, a small engineering manufacturing plant in Uxbridge, West London.

Workers have been picketing outside since 1 October, when management refused to recognise their trade union, the AUEW. Brother Kalwat Kundi, a shop steward, had already been sacked.

Shortly after the AUEW wrote to management, in September, informing them that the majority of workers had joined the union and calling for recognition of the AUEW, Bro Kundi was sacked, on the pretext of redundancy. The day before, management were interviewing people for his job.

The AUEW requested a meeting with the Churchill bosses, which was refused. They went through ACAS, and again the company refused to meet or talk.

Finally at a lunch-time mass meeting attended by district officials, a majority of the workers voted for strike action as the only way forward.

About 45 are out on strike of a total production workforce of 85 including ten apprentices, who are not being called out. The majority of those still working are older people, frightened of the sack. Fifty per cent of them are nevertheless in favour of the trade union.

Several letters have been sent to strikers and their

families in a hopeless attempt to undermine morale. When the works' committee put in a claim for a 10p an hour increase, they were told the company could not afford it unless workers accepted 30 redundancies and loss of tea-breaks. They are now offering a 20p an hour rise with no strings attached if the workers return and drop the claim for trade union recognition.

The company is American-owned, and local management claim they don't have the power to recognise the trade union. The American bosses, they say, are frightened of the union because in the USA they are Mafia-run!

Morale among the strikers is high, pickets are well attended with nothing going across and most deliveries not turning up at all. One driver who did cross the line unobserved, when approached put the unloaded equipment back in the van and drove off!

Support of this kind will ensure speedy victory for the strikers at Churchill.

The threat of redundancies faces Churchill's in the near future and management want to introduce complete mobility and flexibility. They know that trade union organisation can thwart their plans. Victory for the strikers is therefore crucial.

Mike Lee [Uxbridge LPYS] and Martin Elvin [Ruislip-Northwood LPYS] spoke to Churchill workers

Militant Engineers pamphlet AUEW—the case for a fighting socialist leadership

Price 30p [plus 10p postage] from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

in brief

An insight into the callous 'profits-come-first' attitude of the bosses' class can be found in a brief report in the September 24 issue of 'Printing World,' a trade magazine for printing companies; Bowater workers take note! "One man died and another was injured at Bowater Corporation's Kemsley mill in Kent last week when a transformer exploded in a power house. Little production was lost, and within eight hours the mill had returned to production."

Over 3,000 construction workers at the Texaco refinery site near Pembroke, West Wales, have rejected proposals to allow trainee ladders onto the site, while trained ladders are still unemployed [see 'Militant' 522]. The mass meeting heard John Baldwin [Secretary of the AUEW construction section] defend the union's position on the Isle of Grain dispute and threaten that the whole Pembroke project could be closed if trainee ladders were not allowed on site.

He then announced that national officials would support employers going ahead with the plans, as they had already signed an agreement to this effect! This provoked angry cries from the floor about the lack of union democracy; as one member pointed out, the full-time officials were "here to try and make us do what they've already decided and not to represent our views."

Shop stewards also took up this theme from the platform. Members supported their recommendation, insisting that only trained ladders would be allowed onto the site, under the same conditions of employment as the other craftsmen.

Despite a previous dispute over the victimisation of a shop steward which workers at Harshaw Chemicals fought and won, the plant is now being closed with the loss of 130 jobs. The management blame lack of orders.

After long weeks of the Baico lock-out in West London one small victory last week cheered workers' spirits, as they try to build maximum support and pressure for reinstatement before their dispute goes to arbitration at the end of the month [see 'Militant' 520].

Management have made a habit of stealing pickets' placards every time their backs are turned. Last Tuesday they got hold of some particularly good placards from the gate. This childish petty-minded attitude so incensed the workers that they decided to report the theft to the police, who after all claim to enforce the law on picket lines. Two sergeants went into the factory and after fifteen minutes we saw the spectacle of police and factory managers walking out bearing strike slogans.

Clearly the police have come under so much pressure lately for siding with the bosses that in this case they felt compelled to ensure the pickets' property was returned.

BOWATER- DETERMINED TO SAVE JOBS

"We will fight Bowater into the ground in order to save Mersey Mill," pledged SOGAT general secretary Bill Keys to a packed meeting of 300 members in Liverpool last Saturday (11 October).

The unions had been set back the previous evening, when mill workers failed to endorse Bill Keys' call for action against the company, who rejected demands to lift the 90-days' notice to employees after government aid was refused.

SOGAT members in the Merseyside branch have shown their determination to fight, however. Bill Keys was given unanimous support to use "whatever action necessary, including industrial, to keep Mersey Mill open."

Delegate after delegate supported the call to continue the fight. Significantly, the strongest calls came from workers at the fibre container and sack plants, who share the Bowaters site and are themselves threatened. The fibre plant workers are currently on short time, and facing 40 redundancies.

A resolution moved by

Jim Wilson (FOC Eric Bemrose Chapel) at the meeting called for "decisive action now...strike action involving all unions on the site" and for "industrial action on Fleet Street and the Bowaters combine in support of our members at the Mersey Mill."

The leadership felt the Bemrose solution was "too specific," and asked for it to be withdrawn. The delegation felt they could not do this, but agreed to remit it to the NEC while calling for its support. A divisive vote could have undermined unity.

SOGAT members on Merseyside clearly believe that the Mill can and must be saved if decisive action is taken now. The campaign has nationwide support—the Scottish Divisional Committee of SGD (West), and the Manchester branches are among those supporting the union's fight and the call for action.

Events over last weekend have borne out the need for branch policy to be carried out. A "joint approach" can save the mill—a joint workers' approach in collective action, fighting for the right to work.

Gardners Occupation

FIGHTING FOR ALL WORKERS

“Enough is enough”, say the workers at Gardners’ diesel engine factory in Eccles, who have occupied their factory to save 590 jobs.

In the middle of a tidal wave of redundancies in the Salford area, there is no alternative to such a fight.

By Matt Wrack

(Farnworth LPYS)

The mood of the workers is determined and optimistic as they settle in for a long occupation if necessary. The occupation rota means that there will always be 200 in the factory, but in fact there are many, many more at all times.

The canteen is full of workers, talking or playing cards or dominoes. An advice table has been set up to sort out social security entitlements and problems and a print shop established to produce appeal sheets and news bulletins for the workers.

The workers are sleeping in their own sections or in the canteen and even people who voted against action are taking part in the occupation.

Only a handful of senior management want to go in to work and the one gate which is not locked has plenty of pickets on it. One of the signs on the gate reads, “Under New Management.” A delegation from Gardners went down to join last week’s lobby of Tory Party Conference.

Gardners, employing about 2 500 workers, is a major employer in the area, and most people know

someone who works there. It is owned by Hawker Siddeley and already £100 has been received from another Hawker Siddeley factory in the North West. Other workers in the combine will be watching events at Gardners very carefully and should send support.

The number of apprentices taken on this year was only ten, compared with fifty and more in the past. Over 500 young people applied for those jobs which shows the shortage of work in the area. In the Salford district 50% of this year’s 2,900 school leavers are still unemployed. Another 800 are on temporary schemes with no guarantee of work at the end.

In the past few months the Salford area has experienced an enormous wave of redundancies. Salford is again living on the dole. For example, just down the road from Gardners is John Myers, a mail order firm, which is closing down with the loss of 1,900 jobs.

Management are blaming the recession for the redundancies but the workers are calling for work sharing. Mr



Photo: P Wollenden

“If the management get away with this first wave, they will get rid of the best organisers and the second wave will be made easier” Works Convenor, Tommy Macafee

Tommy Macafee, the works convenor, said, “You’d think the recession was our fault. Well, it isn’t.”

As Tommy Macafee explained, these redundancies will be just the start, the firm are planning to introduce new technology which will mean more redundancies and more unemployment.

“Management thought they were in the driving seat because of all the redundancies recently but we have stood our ground. The employers will be afraid because this sort of fight is bound to spread to other workers threatened with redundancy.”

Gardner’s workers are well known for their mili-

tancy. In 1973 there was another occupation over a wages issue. Out of that struggle Gardners got a very much stronger union organisation. It is obvious that management are trying to break that organisation now.

“If they get away with this first wave,” said Tommy Macafee, “they will get rid of the best militants and organisers. Then the second wave of redundancies will be much easier.”

The Engineering Employers’ Federation will be meeting because they realise that such fights will spread. Gardners is a test case. That is why the workers must win.

Support is already flood-

ing in from the local labour movement, particularly as Gardner’s workers have always supported other workers in struggles. “People who you support when they are in dispute never forget you.”

The local fire station have pledged support as have Salford Trades Council. A few weeks ago there was a march organised in support of Gardners and other workers fighting redundancy.

The LPYS are doing their best to help. They have organised a day of action in Eccles about unemployment and are raising money.

Workers at local factories are also sending support and the dispute has been made

official by the AUEW whose Executive Council met on Tuesday 14 October.

If the Gardners workers are successful they would provide hope to workers everywhere. The full support of the entire movement will be vital.

Send messages of support to Tommy Macafee, Convenor, L Gardner and Sons, Patricroft, Eccles, Manchester.

Donations to Dave Marsden, 187 Barton Lane, Eccles, Manchester. Cheques payable to L Gardner and Sons Joint Shop Stewards No. 2 A/C.

MILLIONAIRE SCROUNGER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

—but they managed to cough up £64 a week—though with no reduction in hours.

Not Vestey! Over the last sixty years he has regarded profits taxed as profits lost. Some of the government’s money, you see, is spent on “useless luxuries” for the lower orders, like the NHS. The cash is much better spent feeding polo ponies and tax experts. He sees money for his workers, the people who create his wealth around the world in his companies’ ranches, cold stores, and shops in the same way—as money wasted.

Vestey is not alone in these ideas. Tax “arrangements”,

mostly perfectly legal, and low pay for workers are common to many bosses. Vestey’s just have more cheek than many others.

The obscene contrast between Vestey and the Dewhurst workers is capitalism in miniature. This is the abiding scandal of private so-called “enterprise”, where profits come from the exploitation of workers, from the expropriation of the unpaid labour of the working class.

Shopworkers are amongst the lowest paid workers in the country. USDAW members are fighting for a decent living wage of at least £70 per week. Shopworkers on £55 a week are common, and women workers in multiple grocery

jobs frequently take home well below £50.

How can anyone pay the rapidly growing bills on such wages? Yet all we hear from the bosses and the government is that we are “pricing ourselves” out of jobs! If shopworkers are pricing themselves out of jobs, what are the likes of Vestey doing?

We are also fighting for a 35-hour week with no loss of pay. It is crazy that workers at branches of Woolworth’s among others are working a 3-day week (with only three days’ wages) while other shopworkers are forced by low basic pay into long hours overtime.

Shopworkers worked on average 9½ hours of overtime last year, sixty, and even seventy hour weeks, were known. Now the recession has meant short-time and severe hardship.

A decent living wage for 35 hours work is vital, to improve conditions and to

save jobs and give employment to those on the dole. Certain USDAW members have forced the 35-hour week from employers through the strength of the union. We are fighting for this to be universal for all workers.

So Vestey can’t afford a pay rise? Can workers afford him or the rest of his class? Can we afford the Tory Party, funded by the rich, and acting for the rich? A party whose chairman Thorneycroft wishes Vestey “good luck.”

Can we afford a capitalist society where for more than sixty years, Vestey’s have been avoiding tax? Where even twenty years of Labour government have left their fortunes untouched?

No! The scandal of Vestey-tax fiddles, low pay and all—can only go when the Tories are deservedly chucked out of office, and the labour movement overturns the rotten system they uphold.

subscribe now!

BRITAIN & IRELAND
 26 issues...£ 6.50

13 issues...£ 3.25
 52 issues...£13.00

EUROPE
 [by air]
 26 issues...£ 7.25
 52 issues...£14.50

REST OF WORLD
 [by air]
 26 issues...£10.00
 52 issues...£20.00

Name.....
 Address.....

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