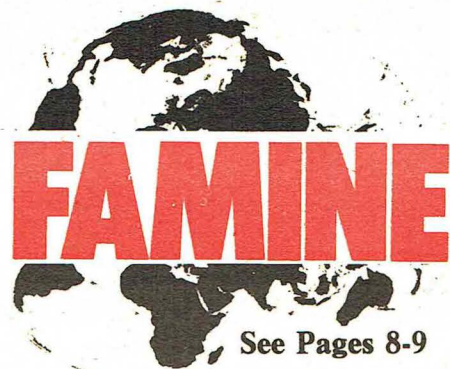


# Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

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15p



## 2,062,866 Out of Work...

# FIGHTING FOR OUR FUTURE

“When we hear about 2 million unemployed, we should remember that means more like 10 million living on the dole when we consider families.”

“Most of the workers here have families. If they get away with these 590 redundancies, it won't just mean another 590 on the dole. It will be more like 2,000.”

By Matt Wrack  
(Farnworth LPYS)

Vinny Peers, senior shop steward for the foundrymen at Gardners diesel engine factory, speaking at an LPYS meeting last week summed up the reason for Gardners' workers determined action in occupying their factory.

This week unemployment reached 2,062,866 nationally and the seasonally adjusted figures showed the biggest monthly increase since the war.

If the 590 jobs here are allowed to go, more will

follow. Eccles, where Gardners are based, has one job vacancy for every fifty people—where else can workers go? Every job lost is another nail in the coffin of school leavers looking for work now and in the future.

Now the dispute has been boosted by the AUEW making it official, branches in the district can be balloted for a levy. The union leadership must ensure a major campaign of sup-

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BACK PAGE

## Gardners' workers show way to fight sackings



# No To Arms!

In Britain £1 million an hour is spent on so-called 'defence'. Meanwhile, over 1,000 kidney patients will have died for lack of proper medical facilities. The Tories say they have no money.

They are increasing defence spending by 3% a year until the middle of the decade and then they propose to spend a further £5 billion on the new Trident submarine system.

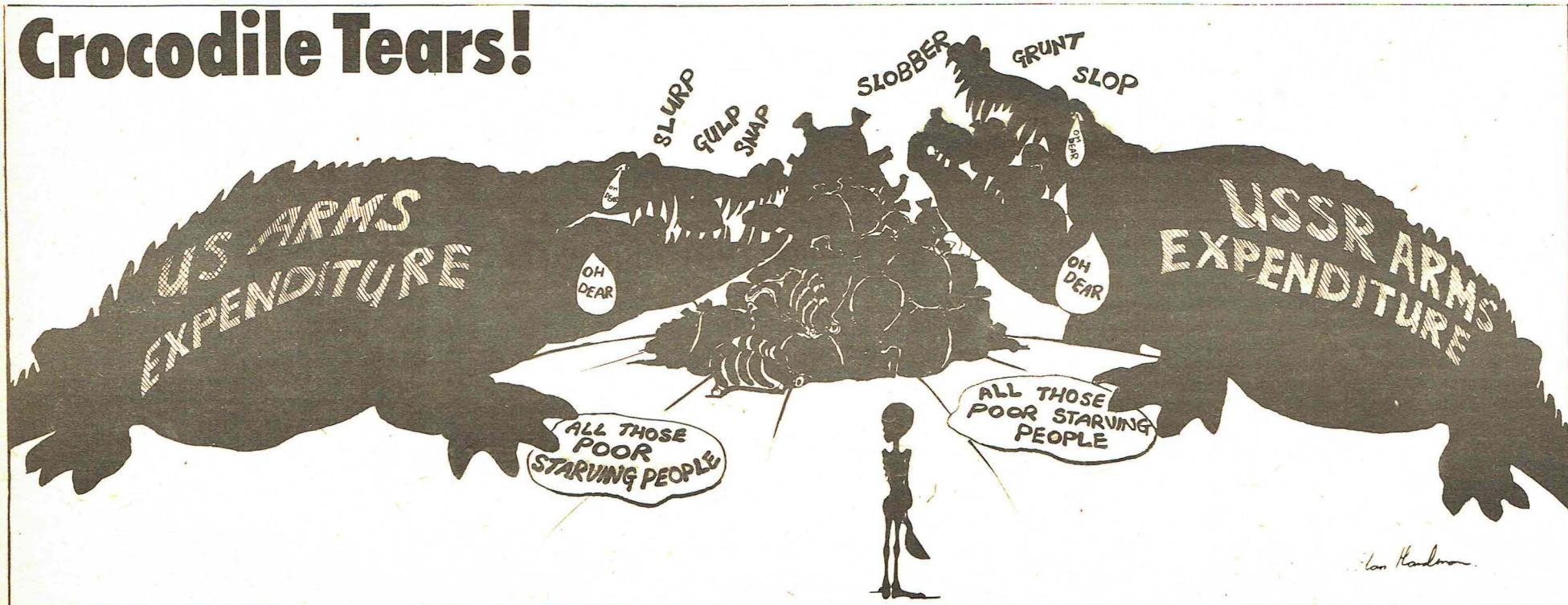
Tory Health Minister Jenkin says £4,000 milli-

ion is needed to bring our hospitals up to modern standards. Again the Tories "haven't the money."

Nearly 5% of the Gross National Product goes to waste on defence in a country which has fallen

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PAGE TWO

## Crocodile Tears!



# Militant

1 Meritmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## LABOUR LEADERSHIP

### NO VETO FOR PLP ON NEW ELECTION

Following the decision of Jim Callaghan to stand down as party leader, a fierce discussion has developed in the Parliamentary Labour Party and labour movement.

In the light of the conference decision to widen the franchise for the election of the party leader, it is clear that the most democratic course would be for the PLP to suspend its standing orders and allow the deputy leader to take over as interim leader until a new method of election can be put into effect.

This would clearly meet with the overwhelming support of the party membership.

Spokesmen and commentators of big business, without exception, have attacked in a frenzy, the decisions of the party conference, both in relation to policy and the moves towards greater democracy in the party. These steps have opened their eyes to the threat that the Labour Party, with socialist policies

and a fighting leadership would pose to their system.

The attitude of Labour's extreme right wing, is confirmation of the need for increased party democracy. In effect they have sided with the capitalist press and media in their denunciations. The vicious criticism of the "undemocratic rabble" assembled in Blackpool, levelled by Owen, Rodgers and others on the extreme right of the party, shows the contempt with which they hold the active party and trade union membership.

Big business, the 'Times', 'Financial Times' and the right wing have all swung behind Denis Healey. They hope that his disastrous policies of diluted monetarism and pro-capitalism as implemented by the last Labour government, would be readily accepted by a future Labour government under his leadership.

The 'Financial Times' went even further. "The idea of Mr Foot even beginning to try to end the process of infiltration by the non-democratic left is al-

most beyond belief." [FT, 21.10.80].

In other words they are urging support for Denis Healey to defend the PLP against the rank and file.

They want the instigation of a witch-hunt against Marxism and the left in general. This has already been rejected by the party membership and is unlikely to be initiated by the currently left-wing dominated National Executive Committee. The election of Healey by the PLP would clearly be unacceptable to the party membership as a whole. This was shown in 1975 when he was decisively voted off the NEC and replaced by left-winger Eric Heffer.

Some of the right wing are claiming that the PLP should have to ratify any changes and also claim that the PLP alone is the best judge of the MP suitable to lead the party. It should be established from the outset that only the party conference can amend the constitution, with no veto from the PLP or anywhere else being exercised.

Their claim to be the best judge of suitable leaders looks somewhat shallow when the record of shadow cabinet elections or cabinet appointments are looked at. In the early 1970s Reg Prentice topped the poll in elections to the shadow cabinet.

Of the membership of the Wilson cabinet, at least eight have deserted the labour movement. Lords Chalfont and Brown are no

longer party members. Richard Marsh together with Lord Chalfont advised against voting Labour in May 1979. Reg Prentice has joined the Thatcher government.

Dick Taverne formed his own party. Chris Mayhew stood for election as a Liberal candidate, whilst John Stonehouse tried to get elected as a candidate for the English National Party. Not a list which will inspire many party members in the judgement of the PLP as a body to choose the party leadership.

If the PLP goes ahead with an election, as appears most likely, the NEC must make it clear that any candidate elected will have to face a new election under the procedure to be agreed in January.

In the meantime CLPs will undoubtedly be demanding an influence in the way their MP votes. Special meetings of GMCs, with Labour MPs present, and an agreement reached to vote in accordance with the GMC recommendation are the best way to ensure members of the PLP act in accordance with the party's views.

This should be done with the clear understanding that any candidate elected would still have to face a fresh election under the new method. Of the candidates so far declared, Michael Foot should be supported, as the candidate most acceptable to the majority of party members. In supporting his candidature, party members would not be endorsing the policy he has advocated over the last few years, but would be ensuring the candidate most hostile to the decisions of party conference is defeated.

He is receiving support

from trade unions such as the TGWU and GMWU who should be pressuring their sponsored MPs to back him. With the likelihood of the PLP conducting an election, it is essential for the party membership to ensure the victories of the party conference are consolidated in January, and that the electoral college which is adopted provides for a genuinely democratic framework.

Union leaders like David Basnett rejected the final proposal placed before conference because their "members hadn't been consulted". It must now be ensured that real consultation takes place through the convening of special conferences where all options are open for discussion.

'Militant' is of the opinion that the most democratic way of electing the party leader would be at annual conference in the same way as the treasurer is currently elected. However, at this stage support for such a change is not widespread, and it is therefore essential that support is centred on the most favourable composition of an electoral college.

The proposal to give 40% of the votes to trade unions and affiliated societies, 30% to MPs and 30% to CLPs is the best formula likely to be accepted. It provides the largest proportion of the votes to the trade unions, which are the lifeblood of the party, and at the same time allows the CLPs an equal share with the PLP.

A major campaign clearly must be launched in every union and CLP in support of this proposal. Its adoption will build on the victories for the party membership scored at the Blackpool conference.

## LONDON LABOUR ADOPTS RADICAL POLICIES

"If there are any GLC candidates who don't feel total commitment to the policies adopted here, the time to decide not to stand is now."

This statement by Arthur Latham, the chairman of London Labour Party, came at the end of a conference marking a big step forward for party democracy and socialist policies.

Labour's manifesto for the 1981 election for the giant Greater London Council had been decided by a special conference.

As Arthur Latham pointed out it was not necessary for manifestos to be written by a small group of people a few days before an election. Conferences like this should be a model for the labour movement.

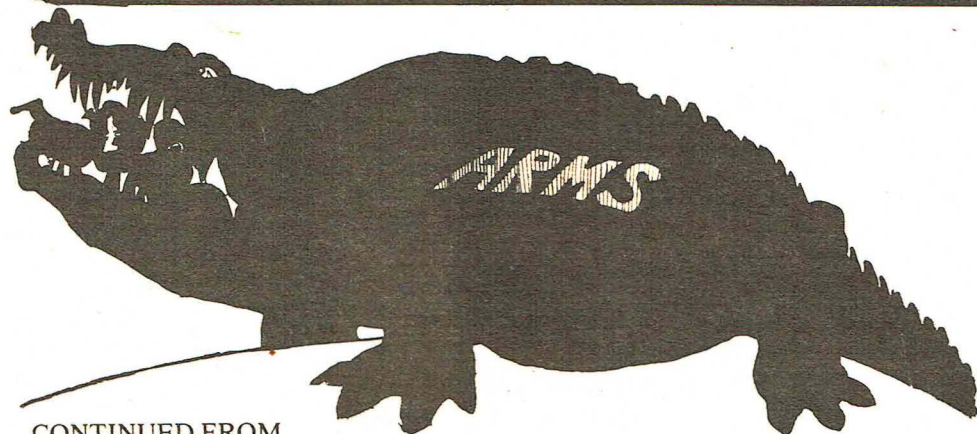
Radical proposals were passed on housing and on employment where the Labour GLC was committed to intervening to stem the loss of jobs from London, by creating a Greater London Enterprise Board and by direct investment. Conference also agreed to plans to rescue London Transport from its present predicament by reducing fares by a quarter next September. Although the demand for free transport was turned down it was kept as a target for future GLCs.

These and other proposals produced scorn from the capitalist press. But the scorn denoted real fear of the consequences of such a programme. Their hostile reaction is nothing to the wrath the Tory government and their upper crust backers would arouse if a Labour GLC were to try to implement them, particularly in light of the Heseltine policy of forcing councils to cut services.

So the resolution passed by conference on fighting cuts was central to all the decisions. The LPYS resolution called for total opposition to all cuts and demanded that the government should be forced to provide the necessary finance to maintain and improve services. This was passed.

The resolution called for an appeal to the trade union movement to take action, including industrial action in support. It was realised that this would need to be part of a national mobilisation against Tory plans, but "mass opposition to Tory policies led by a Labour GLC would become the focal point of a national campaign involving other Labour councils against the cuts and for an immediate general election and the election of a Labour government."

Undoubtedly the going will be rough with attempts to sabotage any bold measures by a socialist-minded GLC. A clear campaign to mobilise the support of workers in London and the rest of the country could leave the bosses powerless against it. But firm resolve is needed.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

further and further behind its capitalist rivals due to lack of investment by the bosses.

The decisions of Labour's conference—to demand the banning of US nuclear Cruise missiles—and to demand that Trident missiles should not replace ageing Polaris submarines (at a cost of £5,000 million) were steps forward.

British capitalism's expenditure on arms, both conventional and nuclear would be ludicrous were it not so tragic. American imperialism and the Russian bureaucracy each have sufficient arms to destroy every person on the planet 20

times over.

In comparison with these fearsome armaments Britain's nuclear capacity is like a peashooter against a machine gun.

The demand to ban nuclear arms and to cut conventional weapons, which we support, will, nevertheless, not solve anything. In the event of a nuclear war there are no "neutrals". Everyone on the planet would die painfully from radiation, disease, pollution of water, air, food and the earth in all-out nuclear war between American imperialism and the Russian

bureaucracy.

However, peace or war is not determined by the possession of either nuclear or conventional arms. Since the Second World War there have only been 17 days of peace, 25 million people have been killed and enormous destruction has been wrought in the areas where these wars were waged.

Peace or war is determined by the relationship of class forces. Only the power of the trade union and labour organisations in Western Europe, Britain, Japan and the USA can prevent nuclear war.

The international solidarity of the working class is far more powerful than even nuclear weapons. The reason why there has not been a Third World War is the increased power of the workers' organisations.

But the present balance of class forces cannot be maintained indefinitely. The world crisis of capitalism means that either the workers' organisations will take power into their own hands and in the next decade or two and transform society, or the capitalist class in desperation will try to destroy the organisations of the working class by the setting up of a military-police dictatorship as in Chile.

But if power were obtained by maniacs such as Pinochet in the most powerful capitalist countries such as Japan and the United States, the control of the situation could slip out of the hands of the capitalist class themselves.

Capitalists have no more desire to be fried in nuclear war than the mass of the population. They wage war for markets, raw materials, colonies, spheres of influence and so on.

None of this, however, would be possible in the event of another world war. But if the capitalists in defence of their system hand over power to bonapartist military dictatorships then the road would be open to inevitable world war and the possible annihilation of mankind.

The crisis of capitalism ushered in by the slump of 1975 is such that on the road of capitalism there is no way out. In their endeavour to maintain profits first, as in Britain, the capitalists will try to limit the rights of the working class—and then very rapidly would pass to the destruction of the organisations of the working class.

The real struggle against war can only be waged on class lines. It is a struggle to bring down the lunatic Tories, rendered mad by the crisis of capitalism, and to work for a Labour government to take power and transform society.

It is in the insanity of the capitalists that there lies the danger of the establishment of military police dictatorships. This horrifying prospect makes even more essential the socialist transformation of society.

# 29th November HOW COVENTRY ARE PREPARING

**"The workshop of the world"—that was how Britain was described in the Victorian era. If that was still true by the 1950s and 1960s, then Coventry was Britain's fitting shop.**

Manufacturing industry involved up to 67% of the workforce at its peak. That position has disappeared completely in recent years.

In a matter of years, firms changed in recent years, firms like Alfred Herberts and Ronald Chain have totally collapsed, and approximately 10,000 redundancies hit virtually every factory in 1980 especially in the car industry.

Now 26,364 are jobless in the Coventry area, a quarter of them under the age of 21. Dave Nellist, Chairman of Coventry SE Labour Party and Secretary of the newly formed "Coventry Labour and Trade Union Campaign against Unemployment," explains how the campaign of the 29 November Labour

By Dave Nellist  
(Coventry South-East Labour Party)

Party national march in Liverpool is being built.

"At the initiative of the Coventry South East Labour Party, a meeting was convened at the end of September with representatives from 35 trade union and labour organisations in the city. A campaign committee of nine was elected—three leading trades unionists, one trades council representative, four Labour Party members, and the regional committee representative of the Labour Party Young Socialists.

The meeting set the target of booking a 600-seat train

(for £1075) with 200 free places reserved for the unemployed. By the second week in October, over £250 to finance the unemployed has been donated to the campaign from shop stewards' committees, trade union branches, and local Labour Party wards.

Over 600 campaign letters have now been distributed to every trade union branch, shop stewards' committee, youth and community centre in the city—including 60 to the committees of all Coventry's Working Mens' Clubs and Institutes!

They call on all the organisations to sponsor the campaign, send a donation, invite a speaker from the campaign committee, and to send delegates to campaign meetings. November 15 to 22 has been designated as a "Week of Action" on unemployment in Coventry, beginning on Saturday with an open-air precinct meeting.

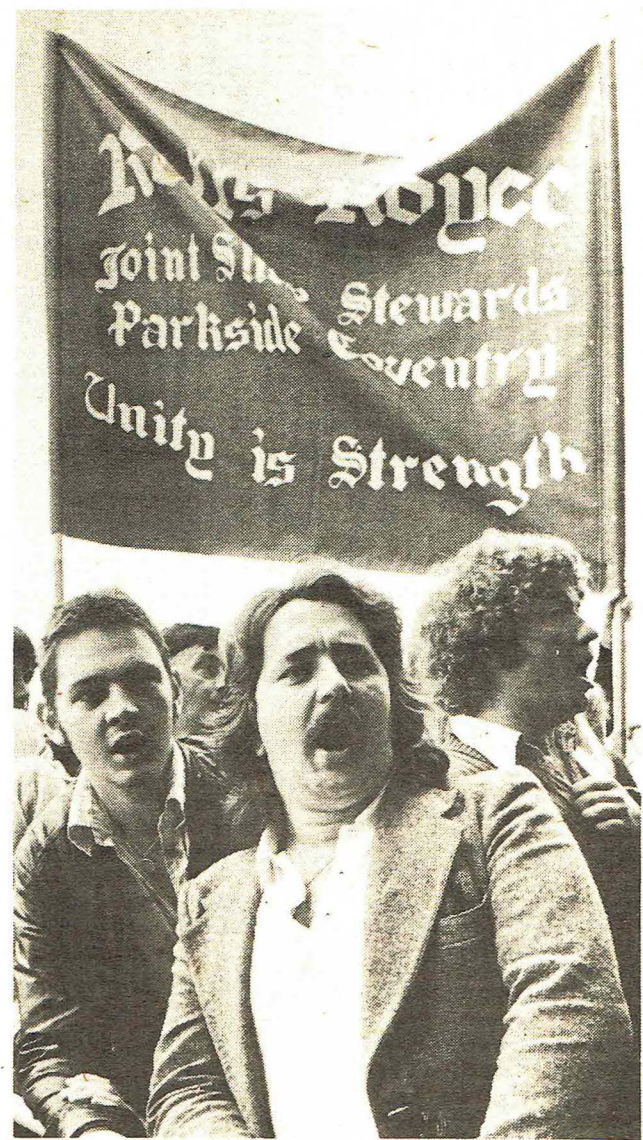
This will include displays on the Tories' attack on welfare rights, on the destruction of Coventry's industries, leaflets from the campaign and the LPYS—as well as featuring local trade union and Labour Party speakers. Coventry's labour council has

given permission for a financial appeal, to be conducted by 12 collectors, in the busy shopping precinct.

Discussions will be taking place between the five Constituency Labour Parties and the two local Trades Councils, for a local march and rally against unemployment.

Demands accepted at the first campaign meeting which will form the basis of our campaigning include:

- ★ Free bus passes for the unemployed (as for pensioners);
- ★ Free access to Council owned leisure facilities for the unemployed;
- ★ The Council to provide a special day-centre for the unemployed to meet and to organise;
- ★ A massive expansion of the Youth Opportunities Programme—with trade union rates of pay;
- ★ An end to systematic overtime—for a shorter working week of 35-hours with no loss in pay;
- ★ A national minimum wage of £80 per week—index linked to cover any inflation;
- ★ Early retirement on full pay;
- ★ No to voluntary redundancy;



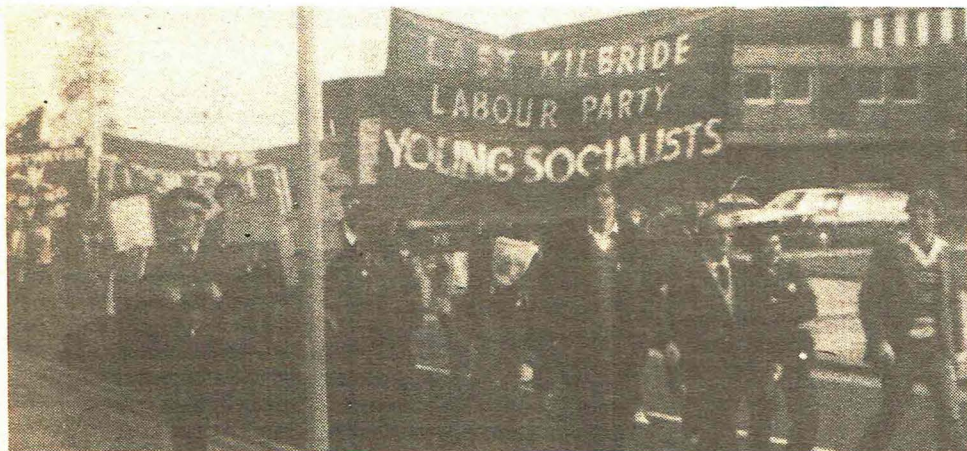
Rolls Royce workers from Coventry lobby Labour's conference last year. The manufacturing base of the city has been steadily eroded

★ Trade unions to organise socialist party to fight the Tories and their system.

In campaigning for these policies within the Coventry labour and trade union movement, it should be easy to convince more workers and their families to join the Labour Party and the Labour Party Young Socialists and help build up a working class

Train tickets at £3 per head (free to the unemployed), and details of how your organisation can become involved in the campaign are available from:— Dave Nellist, 26 Coundon Road, Coventry CV1 4AW.

## Defend LPYS budget CHILE



LPYS members marched in East Kilbride against unemployment on 11th October. Many such initiatives have been taken by the LPYS on very slender resources. More funds are vital for Labour's youth

The decision by the Labour Party National Executive meeting on September 26th to implement the Labour Party Young Socialists' proposals for increased finance and structural changes is now being threatened by a sinister campaign of the press and the right wing.

The National Executive agreed in principle that the LPYS budget would be increased to £50,000. Included in this would be provision for a full-time National Chairman, and LPYS representative on the NEC.

The position of National Youth Officer will become that of a Secretary appointed by the LPYS National Committee and five National Executive members. The

By Kevin Ramage  
(LPYS National Chairman)

National Youth Officer's Secretary's post will become that of Assistant Secretary to the LPYS NC and Editor of 'Socialist Youth', and will be appointed in the same manner.

The 'Sunday Express' (12 October) reports that Labour 'moderates' are enraged at this decision. They echo the LPYS complaint that in the past it "has always been kept very short of funds", but they applaud the fact!

What they find so alarming is that "some of the 'extremists' on the NEC are anxious to see the LPYS prosper."

We say three cheers to the bosses' press for letting the cat out of the bag. The LPYS finances account for a miserable 1% of the party's budget. The LPYS are asking for very little in return for 'prospering'. An increased

budget for the party's youth will be more than repaid in new party subscriptions.

The LPYS National Committee which met last weekend, reported tremendous enthusiasm for the NEC decision amongst the LPYS and Party members. Its implementation will mark a major step forward for the party and its youth wing.

It is urgent that the National Executive is given encouragement to resist the campaign of the right wing and the press.

The LPYS National Committee are confident that this will mean a deluge of resolutions, telegrams and letters to the National Executive and its members from party and trade union organisations and officials urging the NEC to stand firm.

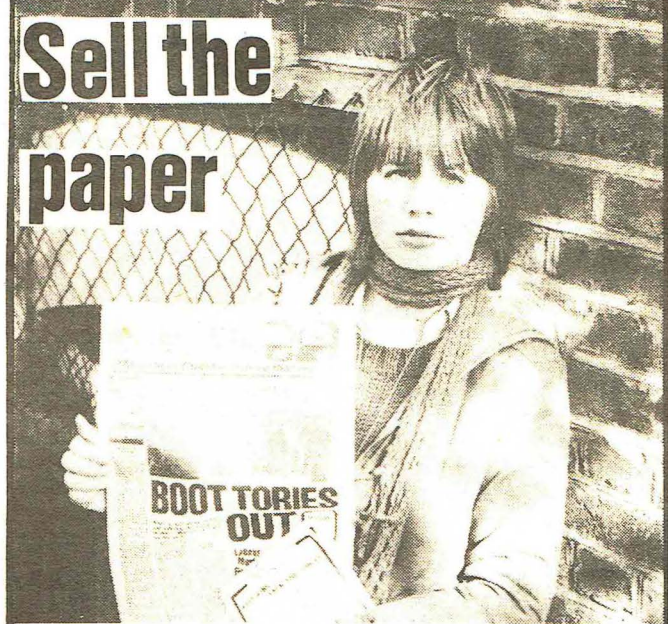
The majority on the National Executive are committed to Labour Party democracy. Now let's see the implementation of the NEC's democratic decisions.

'Militant' has previously reported that the Chilean Navy, by agreement with the Tory government, were due to send one of their training ships to Britain on a 'goodwill' visit. The Esmeralda, a ship which was used to imprison and torture Chilean socialists after the 1973 military coup, was due to come to London in November.

However, realising that the visit would not meet the 'goodwill' of the British workers and would further expose the Tory support for the murderers of thousands of Chilean workers, the visit has been postponed to the indefinite future.

## New Pamphlet Lessons of Chile

Analysis of the 1973 coup and its lessons for the labour movement in Chile and internationally. Price 50p+10p post & package from Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.



As a 'Militant' supporter who has sold 158 copies of 'Militant' within the space of four days, I was asked by the circulation manager to give tips to other comrades who sell the paper.

There is no magic solution, because the paper sells itself. If you are prepared to enthusiastically sell the paper, audaciously going up to people in the street convincing them that we have the only programme that can show a way forward for the labour movement, boldly showing the paper, then the paper will sell itself.

On the other hand, if you stand on the corner of the street like a squeezed lemon hoping that someone will take pity on you and buy a paper, then there is not much chance of selling many papers. You are thereby preventing Marxism gaining an ear from workers who are looking for our ideas.

Comrades, the 'Militant' is the best paper by far in

By Brian Lewis  
(Swansea LPYS)

the labour movement. It is the only paper that weekly answers the lies of the Tory and gutter rags such as the 'Sun', 'Mirror', 'Mail', etc.

To give an example of our sales in the area, 50-60 papers are sold in the collieries every week, 30-40 on the dole queues, and 40-50 on street sales. In Neath last Saturday, 143 papers were sold in one afternoon in which one seller sold 60 himself.

In South Wales at the moment, we can only go forward, but what is needed is for other comrades to take up the lead and try and overtake us here in Swansea.

The comrades in Swansea have put Marxism on the map in South Wales. It is now up to other 'Militant' sellers to do the same throughout the rest of Britain.

# Blackpool—as important as 1918



Delegates at this year's Labour Party conference give Benn an ecstatic ovation.

## “In many ways the recent Labour Party Conference was even more significant than that of 1918.”

This was how Peter Taaffe, Editor of 'Militant', opened his contribution to the now traditional post-conference 'Militant Readers' Meeting' held in Liverpool last week, which over a hundred people attended.

Referring to Clause IV, introduced at the 1918 conference, Peter explained, "...it is one thing to pass a resolution but entirely an-

other for power to be vested in the hands of the rank and file, even if only to a limited extent."

This indeed was the real significance of the 79th National Conference of the Labour Party.

Liverpool Wavertree delegate Tony Mulhearn, during his earlier lead-off, had quoted both gutter and 'serious' press reports on the conference which showed the bosses' disgust at the passing of democratic constitutional amendments and socialist resolutions.

One newspaper had even

accused supporters of 'Militant' of being responsible for 'the air of violence' around the conference.

Taking this up, Peter explained, "There was an air of violence in the purely political sense" reflecting the determination of delegates to play a part in the debates in order to ensure the acceptance of socialist resolutions and reforms.

Illustrating the anger of many delegates at Blackpool, he cited the example of a woman who told the 'MPs'

By Steve Higham

(LPYS North West Regional Committee)

shop steward' Joe Ashton, after he defended the right wing. "You should be hung from the nearest lamppost."

The conference, however, unlike the press attempts to portray it, was not a bout between one personality or another.

"The need for fundamental change felt by the majority of delegates and the decisions which naturally flowed from this were an accumulation of social, economic and political processes that go back for more than a decade."

Consequently, as the capitalist economy degenerates, the tensions facing the working class will pressurise the trade unions and Labour Party into accepting the programme of socialism—which is the only programme

that can permanently provide the answer to their problems.

The days of the right wing are therefore numbered. But Peter explained that this doesn't mean that every right-wing Labour MP will suddenly disappear from the stage.

If, however, Shore was elected, this may be a signal for a number of right-wing MPs to split from the movement to form a centre party.

Because Tony Benn—by far the most likely candidate for the left—represents more accurately the hopes and wishes of the rank and file it is certain—if the right wing get their way—that he will not be chosen as leader at this stage.

Peter went on to deal with the ideas of Benn and left

reformism, making the point that only when the labour movement is married to a Marxist leadership, programme and perspectives will it be invincible in carrying through the socialist transformation of Britain.

A full discussion followed with one LPYS member explaining how he had sold a copy of 'Militant' in the town centre to a passer-by, and then asked him to join the Party.

"Not until Tony Benn is leader," came the sharp reply! This, he explained, indicated the attitude of many in society.

After a fighting fund appeal by Terry Fields (FBU National Executive) a magnificent £183 was raised.

## Let Tories do their own dirty work

The bingo hall was full as 1,000 out of Stockton Council's 1,200 employees attended a mass meeting to decide how to fight the cuts.

All the unions were present with speakers from the T&GWU, NUPE, G&MWU and NALGO. In an important step forward they decided with only a handful of votes against to take joint action.

Stockton Council has responded to Heseltine's order to cut by scrapping agreements on work patterns, manning levels, overtime and car allowances. Among the effects will be a reduction of wages of up to £48 a week and baths attendants being forced onto a 7-day shift system instead of the present Monday to Friday!

The unions have discovered during discussions on the cuts that Stockton has at least 49 private contractors doing jobs which council workers could do. One example is that market stalls are erected by the council but maintenance is privately done at a cost of £22,000.

By Bill Hopwood  
(Teesside Thornaby LP)

The councils have said they will negotiate, but insist on their definition of 'status quo'—the cuts are accepted—first.

All the unions have agreed a ban on overtime and a work to rule starting on 13 October. If the council takes any disciplinary action then all the unions will respond.

There is nothing to be gained by carrying out the cuts for either the council, its workers or the residents of Stockton as next year Heseltine wants another £1.7 million cut.

Instead of following the Tories' orders, the Labour-controlled council should give a lead in fighting the cuts. The unions have shown the way by uniting. The council should join them so that the fight is with the real enemy, the Tories, rather than between sections of the labour movement.

## AUEW Rule changes help right-wing

By Pete Skerrett  
(Secretary, Coventry AUEW Junior Workers' Committee)

At the thirteenth rules revision meeting of the AUEW (engineering section), the way was paved for more involvement in the decision-making within our union.

The national committee was increased from 42 delegates to 147, with seven of this number to be elected from women's conference.

Both the women and annual youth conferences have always had seven delegates sent as observers with speaking rights, but no voting rights. But why have Executive Council, who originally formed the resolution, and this year's right-wing dominated National Committee decided to give women's sections this power? It has never been in the interest of any bankrupt union leadership to promote interest in any form of rank-and-file involvement in union affairs, because of the threat of that involvement turning into power. Can it be the fact that the women's conference is generally known to always vote towards the

right and send a right-wing delegation?

To combat some of the plans of the present leadership, one thing that could be done by activists in the labour movement is to publicise the very existence of the conference itself. If it became common knowledge it would promote the interest among genuine class conscious women and youth, who in many cases would put some fire into such a lacking conference at the moment.

At the 1980 youth conference itself, twelve resolutions were agreed upon, compared with only four passed at women's conference; it need not be pointed out where the most activity will be found!

But what sort of reward is granted to the youth, when nine out of twelve resolutions never even make the agenda? The three that did were the weakest, and only needed amending to become union policy.

This disappointment clear-

ly demonstrates the need for youth to get involved at all levels within our union.

There will inevitably be a rude awakening of anger within our union over such questions as the fact that our present leadership accepts clause one of the Employment Bill (accepting public money and accountability for secret ballots) despite the TUC opposing all the clauses, the Isle of Grain dispute and the threatened suspension from the TUC.

Resolutions and nominations for the 1981 women's and youth conferences must be sent into District Committees from branches by mid-December at the latest, in time for Divisional Committees, which then endorse them at their own discretion. The role of an active women's and youth conference will be of importance, but must not be divorced from the general struggle. There must be a definite move towards securing the central object of the union: Rule 1, clause 2 of the constitution, "The control of industry in the interests of the community."

## AUEW: The case for a Fighting Socialist Leadership

Militant Pamphlet 40p (inc. P&P) from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

## Lowestoft protest

The battle against the Tories is being taken into their own backyard. The Waveney district trades council, representing workers in Jim Prior's constituency of

Lowestoft, has called for a 'day of protest' on October 25th. As their programme for this activity states, "The mobilisation of the whole trade union and labour

movement will be needed to fight for alternative economic policies, and a focus of attention and activity like this day of protest is necessary in building the fightback."

They are holding a march through the town followed by a rally with speakers

including Derek Robinson, and Chris Edwards, of the Unemployed Workers Centre in Newcastle.

For information and credentials contact Mr F. Joyce, 37 St Georges Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk [please send SAE].

## TEESSIDE

## A change for the better

By a 'Militant' Reporter

Teesside Thornaby is not noted as a left-wing constituency.

However, at its last meeting, immediately after the conference in Blackpool, among the decisions taken were: to book a bus for the November 29 demonstration, before each meeting delegates to have an agenda and minutes of the previous meeting, and to take a collection for the LPYS's national appeal at the end of that meeting. Also to have political speakers and discussion at the meetings which would be open to all members.

The final item on the agenda was the MP's report, which was how depressing the conference had been and he thought things would get worse.

There was little time for discussion, but what there was didn't show depression! The meeting itself, and the discussion in the bar after showed that most members were encouraged by the conference.

The Labour Party is changing and the local decisions, like the national ones, show the change is for the better.



These are hard times. Take Anne Heseltine, for example, wife of the Tory Environment secretary. She gave an interview with the 'Evening News' [October 15]. Speaking from their 18th century mansion, complete with genuine Roman mosaic floor and set in 400 acres of Oxfordshire countryside, she complained she was "continually exhausted". After all, she had just returned from her hols in Italy, her hobbies did include scuba-diving and hunting, and, to cap it all, the butler was away and her personal secretary was on holiday. But, asked the journalist, seeing that her husband and the rest of the Tories were continually appealing to the rest of us to tighten our belts in this austerity age, didn't she feel just a little bit embarrassed about their lifestyle? Not in the least! "This is what the Tory Party is all about. We think people should work so that they can achieve something." The two million rotting on the dole think they should work too, but then this is what the Tories are all about.

Gallons of crocodile tears have been wept by the Tories over unemployment. But their real attitude to the unemployed could be seen at Tory Party conference. One Tory 'dissident' who worked in the Hartlepool Unemployment Office, suggested that the cuts could go too far. The only response he got was one delegate yelling, "Try working for a living." And when one 'Right to Work' marcher managed to break through the ring of police that surrounded the building to let the Tories know what he thought of them, there was no sympathetic ear for him. Rather, he "was...dragged from the hall unconscious after a pounding on the floor of the central aisle by security men in plain clothes and some Conservatives, including women" ['Times' October 11]. This must be the Tories' idea of 'fighting unemployment'.

Paraguay in South America has been ruled by the military dictatorship of General Stroessner since 1954. In that time thousands—not only labour activists but even liberal capitalists—have been gaoled, tortured, deported and murdered. The country's security forces are trained by former Nazis and SS guards, not to mention CIA 'specialists'. In the prisons, political prisoners [those not immediately murdered] break stones 12 hours a day, seven days a week. Amnesty International reported horrendous tortures in the prisons, which included burning with hot irons and near drowning in baths of human excrement. The country's dwindling Indian population are forced into reservations and survive only by selling their children into slavery or working in the country's biggest 'illegal' industry, producing heroin. But General Stroessner has one admirer—Prince Philip! In a new book by Denis Judd, the royal parasite when visiting Paraguay is reported to have said that it was nice "to be in a country that isn't ruled by its people" and where "the government decides what's to be done and it's done."

"When Tony Benn complains that Labour's manifesto in 1979 was re-written by Callaghan to exclude such commitments as the abolition of the House of Lords, does he really believe that if that commitment had been in, Labour would have got a single extra vote? On the contrary, such was [and is] the right-wing mood in the country that the more left wing the manifesto had been the less votes Labour would have got." Who said this? Denis Healey, Shirley Williams or William Rodgers perhaps? No! It appeared in last week's 'Socialist Worker', written by the SWP's leading light Paul Foot, former editor of the paper and now of 'Daily Mirror' fame.

# A boss's advice to his friends

"We told the unions that when the first brick went through the window of a home of a loyal member of staff we would retaliate with a petrol bomb through the window of a union official's home."

By Tony Cross  
(East Nottingham CLP)

These are allegedly the words of the Sheriff of Nottingham, better recognised as the Managing Director of the Nottingham Evening Post, Mr Christopher Pole-Carew, according to notes made public in the NUJ paper 'Journalist', the 'New Statesman' and 'Nottingham News'.

During Pole-Carew's long and bitter battle with trade unionism, some trade unionists have seen him as a rogue employer unlike other more reasonable bosses. But this is naive. For Pole-Carew was having a friendly chat with other more "respectable" employers.

The freedom-loving upholder of law and order was talking to ten directors and managers of Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers, including chairman, Sir Richard Storey.

The time was just after last year's strike, and Pole-Carew was carrying on his lockout of

'Post' journalists who'd supported their union. Just as active trade unionists give a sympathetic hearing to workers involved in dispute, these bosses were giving their class brother a little fraternal support and picking up a few tips from his experiences in the previous lockout at the 'Post' in '73.

"We bribed people to stay in during the strike...by giving those who remained loyal £30 to £40 extra for the duration of the strike. Money is a weapon—a very potent weapon—and should be used."

This attitude was carried on after the lockout; "For example, if a returning striker had swept a floor, the overseer sprinkled dirt all over it and made the man sweep it clean a second time."

Pole-Carew, who according to these notes, bragged of being paid £19,500 a year—"only one editor in Fleet Street is paid more"—also gave hints on how to humiliate union officials and even



After helping scab vans break through the mass picket, these thugs hired by Pole-Carew from nearby pubs, march off heavily flanked by police to protect them from the wrath of trade unionists, during the 1979 NEP dispute

how to get the doctor doing medical checks on new staff to find out if they are "security risks".

And then there's the problem of pickets—"What I did was to imply to the police that they might have to prevent our loyal staff from assaulting the pickets if the pickets came on the premises. Therefore, can you keep the pickets off the premises? This is precisely what the police did. In effect we forced the police to become involved."

Those of us who in 1979 were pushed up against a wall by lines of police clearing the

way for scab vans may think they didn't need much 'forcing'.

When we were thrown out of the 'Post' editorial room by a bunch of thugs recruited from nearby pubs (enthusiastically led by Pole-Carew himself)—we didn't feel the police were going out of their way to stop pickets being assaulted.

Pole-Carew denies he made the statements attributed to him. You can judge his respect for the truth by what you estimate to be his respect for the working class.

## 'FROM ONE STRIKE TO ANOTHER'

By Willie Griffin  
(LPYS NC)

After hearing about their latest play, Teddy Taylor, Tory MP for Southend East, has called for an end to the Arts Council grant received by the theatre group 'CAST'.

"From One Strike to Another" urges its audiences to break the law, the specific law in question being the Tories' Employment Bill.

The play tells the story of the 'Smellnice Strike Committee'. Two toilet roll workers are indiscriminately sacked by their Texan boss—the JR of the toilet roll industry.

The workers, all non-union, strike to gain the two jobs back. They are unorganised, don't know who to contact for help and don't know how to organise a picket. They find that their only friend, a lorry driver, has pulled a fast one on them and moved the stocks inside the factory to a new factory.

This angers the workers so much that it increases their determination to win the strike and they organise a successful picket. They realise that they will never win their jobs back unless they picket the new factory.

When they attempt to picket the new factory they find that it is illegal to

secondary picket. One scene depicts a court with the prosecution charge "freedom to picket is like freedom to murder and steal from others—the world must prevent it."

The defence asks for leniency and pleads insanity on behalf of the workers.

The workforce realise that the courts will not help them. They come to the workers who supply the paper to 'Smellnice' and through solidarity they get it blacked and win their jobs back.

This greatly angers 'JR' who complains, "I was promised a healthy investment climate, with a workforce that's flexible, dispensable and non-unionised. A workforce should be like a great toilet roll—first you use it, then you throw it away."

The play is not outstanding but funny in parts. Its message is clear: the Employment Act is an anti-working class law. Smash the Employment Act.

CAST are presenting the play all over the country and will be touring Yorkshire and Hull in October; Eastern, North West, Merseyside, East Midlands and South East in November; and Southern and London in December. For details phone 01-250 1789 [or 01-582 5088 evenings].

## SAVE YOUTH FROM FASCISM

Forty was all the National Front could muster for their demonstration outside Walton Gaol recently.

The NF were demanding the release of a man sentenced to three years for knifing an Asian.

At less than 24 hours' notice 50 trade unionists, Labour Party and LPYS members and the Anti-Nazi League turned out on a counter-demonstration.

And, of course, the police were there in force. The SPG were marching Prussian-style across the road, backed up by a dozen black Marias around the corner, in case the police horses, dogs and 60 or so police needed help. The anti-Front demonstrators were neatly pinned against the cemetery wall, on the other side of which was a reception party of police dogs.

Although the demonstration was peaceful, you could see how this was regarded as a training session for the forces of the state for future battles with the trade union movement itself.

Just as at Catercups and King Henry's pickets, you couldn't step off the pavement. The march of the SPG displayed increased militarisation of sections of police, in preparation for the coming class struggle.

Equally disturbing was not the bleatings of "Land of Hope and Glory" or Webster's barely audible speech, but a few young people on the NF side. Unfortunately, the ANL organisers of the counter-demonstration did not use the opportunity to explain and undermine the NF racist poison: the ANL simply shouted abuse.

Of course, out and out fascists such as Webster are not going to be won over to the ideas of socialism—the only thing good enough for them is to have their 'heads acquainted with the pavement', as Trotsky put it, by the labour movement.

But with mass unemployment, and no decisive lead given from the leaders of the labour movement, young workers can fall into the web of reaction.

It is vital that the unemployed are brought into the labour movement, by the trade unions opening their doors. The LPYS particularly have a responsibility in catching young people before they fall into despair, and explaining the class nature of this decrepit capitalist society, turning them into fighters for socialism, rather than mere lackeys to the bosses' class.

# "IT'S TIME FOR ACTION"

## Women workers fight back



Workers at Klein's on strike for union recognition, March 1980

**The textile worker standing on the dole queue in Rochdale was staggered when she discovered that her dole would be cut after a year. There's no chance of getting a job around here in that time.**

**By Margaret Creear**

(Heywood and Royton Labour Party)

A friend of hers explained that she was the last of her family to lose her job. She had been the only breadwinner; now she, her husband and three sons are all on the dole. They were two of a group of twenty women who were at the dole queue for the first time. Until the previous day they had worked together at Standard Mill, along with 200 others.

They'd all received the same letter on Wednesday throwing them on the dole, some after 20 to 30 years working there. On Thursday the gates were locked behind them; even the mugs the workers bought to brew their tea in were considered part of the firm's assets.

These women are among the latest victims of the Tories' attacks on the working class.

Already many women have had to shoulder the extra responsibility of caring for the young, elderly and the sick as nurseries, homes and day centres are closed and hospital places cut back. Cuts and price rises in school meals, attacks on the health services, the rise in the cost of children's clothes, all make it impossible to stand in a bus queue or at the school gates without being involved in a political argument.

Women in work are in a worsening position. Women's average wages have fallen from 75.5% compared to men's in 1977, to 73% now.

During the post-war boom years, women's pay and conditions improved marginally, largely due to their own militancy. Now in a crisis, equal pay is a luxury capitalism cannot afford, and many women will be asking them-

selves if they can ever expect this system to drastically improve their position.

In addition to low pay, the threat of unemployment hangs over most heads. It is a very serious threat. One in five working women are now the sole breadwinners in their families and with inflation around 20% and fuel bills of over £100 per quarter, nobody works for pin money any more.

**She was the last of her family to lose her job. She had been the only breadwinner. Now she, her husband and three sons are all on the dole.**

Unemployment amongst women rose from 4.6% in May to 6.4% in July. Even these figures are a gross underestimate. A general household survey indicated 48% of unemployed married and 25% of unemployed single women don't register for the dole.

hospital places cut back. Cuts in price rises in school meals, attacks on the health services, the rise in the cost of

More than half the women working in manufacturing industry work in the food, drink and tobacco, electrical engineering and clothing sec-

tors. This year at least 100,000 jobs are expected to go in textiles and clothing.

Firms such as GEC have put thousands of women workers on short time. Two thousand have recently been made redundant at John Myers, a mail order company in Eccles, as workers struggle to make do with old clothes and household goods.

Many of the women are part-time workers who have worse pay and conditions and often aren't entitled to dole money. They work shorter hours usually due to the lack of nursery facilities and the burden of work in the home. Their earnings are no less essential and the shorter hours shouldn't make them

easier targets for redundancies. In the public sector, another area where women are concentrated, out of 300,000 dinner ladies, 30-45,000 will lose their jobs this year. School cleaners are being sacked and replaced by child labour at 85p an hour for under 16s and 90p an hour for over 16s.

Women workers are being forced to fight back. In the Manchester area, the two main disputes in recent months have been at Kleins, where women fought for trade union recognition for

the Tailor and Garment Workers Union, and at King Henry's Bakery, where women and youth fought together for the right to organise in the Bakers union. They understand the need to organise to defend themselves.

The Standard Mill workers are still very angry and bitter. They, along with other workers, are beginning to demand united action by the unions to fight off the attacks of the Tory government.

One worker expressed the feelings of their last meeting: "It's time for action. Employers and unions have failed to persuade the government to do something. We will have to take the only action that the government understands. This works—we have seen it happen in Poland."

Many women now see that their work is essential to their welfare and that of their families and, as at Meccano, they won't be driven back to the kitchen sink without a fight.

Organised in the trade unions and playing an active part in the labour movement, women workers can prove the most resolute fighters for the interests of the working class. Isolated and unorganised, they will be picked off by the bosses, exploiting all the old reactionary rubbish about 'a woman's role'. The movement would be divided and weakened.

The whole labour movement must take up a fight against redundancies and cuts in social services and resist the attempts of the Tories to drive women back into the home.

# Immigration laws cause misery

**Five years of suffering. That's what Anwar Ditta has had to endure just to get three of her children to join her in Britain.**

**By Tom Stott**  
(Rochdale Labour Party)

The decision made on 22 September to refuse her leave to appeal against the adjudicator's decision to refuse entry means that she must re-apply and start the whole process again as she did five years ago.

Anwar's children must stay with a 65 year old grandmother who no longer feels she can cope. The adjudicator claimed that Anwar and her husband Shuja "have not established that they are the parents."

When members of the local Labour Parties' anti racialism sub committee attended the Immigration Tribunal in Manchester on 30 July, they felt the questions asked were totally irrelevant to the issue.

Anwar's documents were described as "relating to peripheral matters" like medical evidence, and the "usual local marriage and birth certificates." The adjudicator disregarded a letter from Inland Revenue, accepting that on the basis of their enquiries in Pakistan, the children were Anwar's on the grounds that "it did not state the basis on which allowances had been granted."

The Inland Revenue, doubtless on account of pressure from the Home Office, have now ceased to make allowances for the children and are trying to recover over £800 past allowances. As Anwar earns a pittance as a homemaker and Shuja is on short time there is little possibility of paying this money.

The adjudicator accepted that the money sent to Pakistan pointed to the children being hers but considered the receipts produced "too few in number to outweigh oral evidence."

They based their case on the adjudicator's personal opinion of the witnesses. He refused to accept that anyone could be confused by immigration laws, despite the fact that these are frequently changing and confusing even to lawyers! He considered Anwar "sophisticated" enough to be unconfused on the grounds of her having sought contraceptive and abortion advice.

He refused to accept evidence of a large number of people even though the Home Office had no contradictory evidence and can not say whose children they are if not Anwar's and Shuja's.

Anwar is a member of Rochdale Labour Party, and received tremendous support from union and constituency delegates at Conference when she visited Blackpool to gain support. Readers should request their organisations to pro-

test to Whitelaw and demand a reversal of the decision and allow the children in.

Please also send messages of support to the campaign c/o 66 Crosshills, Ashfield Valley, Rochdale. Cheques are payable to Labour Party anti-racialist Committee. Support is also important for our demonstration on Saturday November 15.

Anwar's case is not the only one. In the Rochdale area alone over 100 Asians face immigration or nationality problems. We must ensure that the next Labour government repeals all immigration legislation.

In the future no-one should have to face the years of misery inflicted on Anwar.

## Worker victimised

For 17 months Harold C. Yatigammana was quite happy in his job. So were his employers. He was looking forward to the arrival of his first baby.

But in the summer the Tory Home Office informed Courtaulds of Aintree that Mr. Yatigammana had no work permit, so he would have to be sacked. It refused requests from both Courtaulds and Mr. Yatigammana to issue a work permit.

Now Harold Yatigammana faces the prospect of six months trying to keep his wife, and the baby, on nothing. With no permit he can't work, and is not entitled to unemployment benefit, or supplementary benefit because of his situation.

All they have is his wife's maternity grant; to pay the rent alone costs £82 a month.

The couple entered Britain quite legally. Mrs Yatigammana had a job. Harold was sent to the Department of Employment, told to find a job so he could be issued with a work permit. He went to Courtaulds, explained his situation, and on 30th April 1979 began work.

He was given a National Insurance number. Now the Home Office deny he was ever on their file!

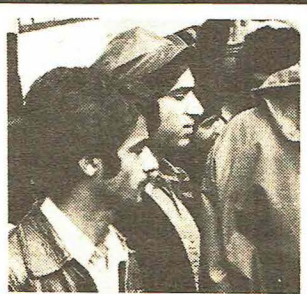
This is a direct result of the Tory immigration laws brought in in January. No worker or family can be allowed to be treated in such a way.

Allan Roberts, Labour MP for Bootle, has taken the case up, at the request of the T&GWU convenor of Courtaulds.

Pressure can be put on the Home Office by letters from MPs, trade unions, LP and LPYS branches. Send messages of protest to the Home Office, resolutions of support to: J Nettleton, T&GWU Convenor, Courtaulds, Ormskirk Rd, Liverpool 9.

## Fight racist immigration laws

**National demonstration organised by Anwar Ditta Defence Committee on Saturday November 15th. Starts at Church Stile, off Drake Street, 12 noon.**



# SECRET MISSION

## Electricity board harass tenants

As mothers were dressing their children for school and the menfolk were away to their dreary jobs, sinister movements were seen in a quiet corner of a council estate in South London.

A London Electricity Board personnel caravan was being installed. This was to be, on Friday and Saturday, headquarters for the dreaded MIU—Meter Investigation Unit.

Specially trained men, gathered from all over London, were given their final briefing. The mission was to raid 680 houses, to find the meter fiddlers!

No house would be safe from the LEB's prying eye. Everyone was suspect. At 9 a.m. as the children laughed and skipped to school, and men and women yearned for a restful weekend, the MIU started their insidious work.

The above account might well have come from some Orwellian book. But the above did happen on the 26/27 September on the Horn Park Council Estate in South East London.

What took place was, in the opinion of the LEB shop

### By an electricity supply worker

stewards in the Meridian District, a flagrant disregard for civil liberties. It certainly violated the axiom that we are all innocent until proven guilty.

Acting "on information received," the police found a person living on the Horn Park Estate in possession of a pair of sealing pliers, sealing wire and seals used for Board meters. These were later found out to have been stolen, along with an LEB van, four years ago.

The police then asked the Board if they would visit some neighbours' houses to see if the man found with them had been using them to reseal meters after illegal abstraction of electricity. The police then would use this information as evidence for conspiracy charge along with other charges.

The Board willingly agreed to this co-operation, and decided that the whole estate would be covered. This involved visiting 682 houses. The

MIU personnel were drafted in from other districts, and along with Meridian District engineers, they were sworn to secrecy.

The secrecy was so that ordinary workers and their shop stewards would not ask question and raise objections. Some Board employees live on this estate.

The cost of this expensive exercise has not been revealed. Large amounts of overtime had to be paid to the men. About eighty houses were suspected of illegal abstraction.

### Affront to civil liberties

Shop stewards and workers, both manual and clerical, are outraged at the way this exercise was carried out. It is one thing to act on information received (i.e. reports from meter readers of seals missing, etc.) but an entirely different principle to carry out blanket cover, street by street.

Taken to its natural conclusion, this sort of action, if used by the police, would enable them to visit every

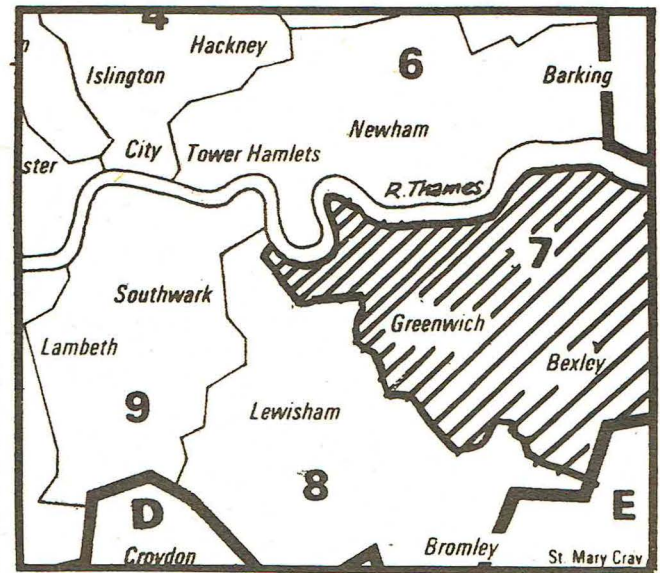
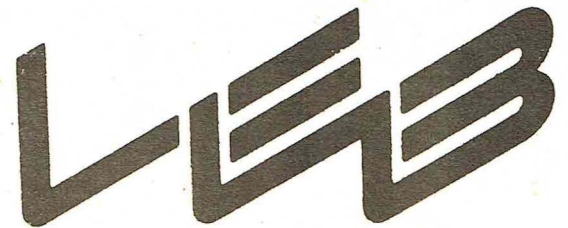
house in the vicinity of anyone suspected of a crime to see if anyone was in possession of stolen goods.

Of course, this sort of power for the police would be wrong, and an affront against civil rights. So it is even more abhorrent when an Electricity Board take up the role of policemen.

We must protest long and loud at these strong-arm tactics. Once again we are shown how the authorities are ready to violate workers' rights on the flimsiest of pretexts.

It is significant that they chose a council estate to mount their search-and-detect operation. It's not hard to imagine the furore that would have resulted had they dared to try out their indiscriminate bully-boy tactics on a similar number of people in the plusher areas of Hampstead or St Johns Wood.

Instead of persecuting the section of society least able to afford to pay for electricity, they should be making it available to all according to need. For energy, like housing and food, is a basic necessity of life, not a luxury commodity for sale only to those with well-filled pockets.



This summer it was reported that over 100 London families per day had their electricity cut off by the London Electricity Board—a total of almost 40,000 a year.

These figures which show an increase of 224% over the previous year show not only the dire financial straits many families face in this supposedly better-off area. They also herald a much tougher attitude by the London Electricity Board, now asked to "balance their books" far more rigorously.

In this article an electricity supply worker in South London describes an incident which illustrates the effects this can have.

# BRAVE NEW WORLD?

"A year ago, if my factory had put us on short time, I'd just have walked down the road and got another job. Now there's no chance of that. And a lot of the blokes are realising it."

In these words, an engineering shop steward summed up the desperate situation facing even skilled workers in Cardiff, supposedly the most prosperous town in South Wales.

Many articles in Militant this year have outlined the

catastrophe which impends for workers in Wales. The devastation of jobs at Llanwern and Port Talbot, the threat to twelve pits by the NCB, and a veritable epidemic of "small" closures threaten the very survival of industry.

Unemployment levels in many parts of the South Wales valley have risen to 1930s levels. Every day, you can pick up the "South Wales Echo" and a fresh batch of redundancies is announced.

One union official told me that he returned to his office after a few days break to find 16 new notices of redundan-

cies waiting on his desk.

In this situation the lunatic prophecies of Joseph and Howe, that 'private enterprise' will create a brave new world of prosperity for the depressed areas, becomes a sick joke.

Lay-offs and short time working have become a way of life in many Cardiff factories. This includes that great bastion of private ownership in the steel industry, GKN, the largest employer in Cardiff.

The car industry has fared little better. Workers at the Rover plant have been laid off for long periods in recent

months.

Ford's, whose new works near Bridgend was hailed as the saviour of Welsh employment, regrettably 'discovered' they could not, after all, afford to take on as many workers as originally planned.

If these are the actions of 'respectable' employers, how much worse has it been for workers in the 'cowboy' outfits like Rosedale's, who sacked all their workers and closed their factory during the 1979 engineering strikes.

The Tory government's paymasters in the industrial field carry out this butcher's operation, while simultan-

By Brian George

(Vice-Chairman, Cardiff North Labour Party, personal capacity)

Photo: MILITANT

ously Thatcher's puppets in local government twist the knife still further.

The Tory controlled South Glamorgan County Council recently announced, as part of a package of cuts, a £1 million 'saving' on school meals and milk, putting up the price of meals and depriving infant school children of the automatic right to free milk. These lovers of individual 'freedom' are in effect re-introducing the means test—in infant schools!

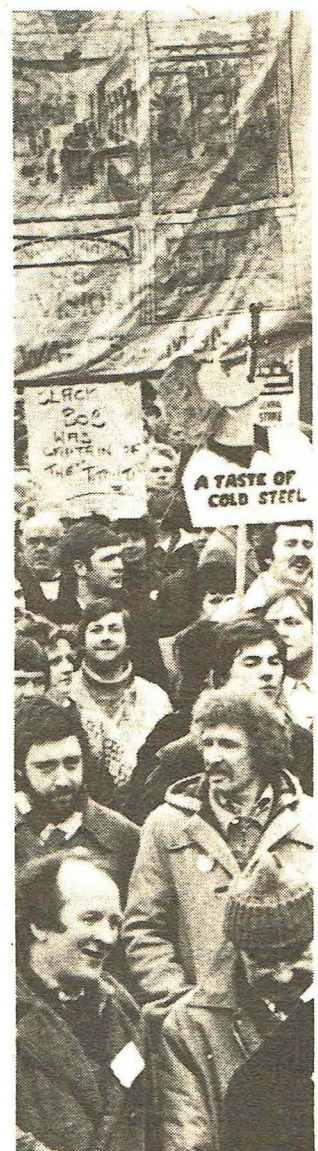
Council tenants in Cardiff have faced rent increases, and the Labour controlled City Council found themselves having to choose between building new houses or repairing existing homes.

Unfortunately, the City Council has not come out clearly against implementing cuts, and has not campaigned to expose the real parasites—the banks and finance houses—forcing them into this position.

Recent campaigns we have mounted in Cardiff North Labour Party on the question of cuts and against the Tories show that there is a growing mood for a fight—particularly if the leaders of the labour movement prove that there is an alternative to mass unemployment and despair.

The AUEW steward I mentioned earlier told me "I just get depressed when I pick up the 'Echo' and see closure after closure; you Militant people don't get depressed though, you get up and fight it."

We can be confident that the working class as a whole will "get up and fight it" in the months ahead. A movement equipped with a pro-



Welsh workers demonstrate in Cardiff against Tory attacks

gramme and a leadership that shows workers something to fight for; a programme and leadership that gives a good chance of success would speed up this process tremendously.

# ON THE BLACK LIST

Subject:

Restriction on Employment

Four employees, listed below, were recently discharged from DRG employment at Apsley. All four were dismissed for taking part in industrial action and it is now known that, previously, they had an employment record chequered with stoppages. Additionally, they had absences which coincided with certain political demonstrations.

You are advised that under no circumstances must anyone of these individuals be offered further employment by a DRG Unit.

Digel Shaw's article on the building trade [Militant 3 October] mentioned the possibility of his being blacklisted. This stirred the memory of a reader who sent us a piece of paper [above] he came across while working for the stationery combine, the Dickinson Robinson Group.

The memo from the grandly named "Group Employee Relations Department" shows what the Tories mean by "reforming" industrial relations. The closed shop to defend ordinary workers is an "affront to freedom" but the well-heeled directors [the top paid last year got £50,000 in Dickinson Robinson] can organise a blacklist

with no squeals from the Tories.

The bosses know which side their political bread is buttered. Dickinson Robinson paid £10,000 in 1979 to British United Industrialists. This mystery organisation is neither a limited company nor friendly society nor a charity. It produces nothing, not even propaganda. It is widely understood to be a channel for funds to Tory Party coffers.

The 'freedom' to organise a blacklist is one reason why the 'investment' by big business in the Tory Party went up 63% last year.



# FAMINE



By Jeremy Birch



# Capitalist sickness - not natural disaster

**“You may find the following shocking,” warned a newscaster. Anyone with a shred of humanity, seeing the features of emaciated children in the concentration camps at Belsen, would be sickened.**

But socialists would not be filled with anger, too. Despite all the marvels of science and technology, the capitalist world still cannot provide for the most basic needs of humanity.

The hideous famine in East Africa, threatening virtually the entire existence of the Karamong people, is just the latest tragedy to remind us what is happening every day in the economically backward countries.

Five hundred million people are undernourished or actually starving. In a “good year” only ten million starve to death. What is the answer?

There are many well-meaning people, some of them in the labour movement, who tell us the West consumes too much and must cut back for the sake of the world’s poor. Or that they can be helped by an increase in aid.

There are others, who in despair of ever finding a solution, just issue dire warnings of the impending apocalypse—6,000 million on the planet by the year 2000 and not enough to go round.

A new book, ‘Food First’, by Frances Moore Lappé and Joseph Collins (A Condon Book/Souvenir Press, £8.95) explodes many of the myths about scarce resources and the inevitability of want. It provides much valuable information for socialists to argue that it is the economic system we live under that bears the real responsibility.

Any reader thinking of pulling this book down from the shelves, however, should be warned that the mass of statistics and detailed examination of particular examples do not make for easy reading.

Also, despite some apparently radical statements—“the barriers to unleashing this productive capacity [for food in the third world] are, in most cases, not physical, rather they are social”—the words “socialism” and “capitalism” are not mentioned in the 416 pages. The authors commit themselves no further than to the need for some vague “democratic control” of land and of resources.

Yet they also reveal a starry-eyed view of the regimes of Cuba, North Korea, etc., and particularly of China.

They quote Mallory’s 1928 book ‘China, Land of Famine’. The title alone indicates what life must have been like in China before the revolution. Mallory wrote of one disaster a year—flood, drought, etc. But by 1975 China produced 1,700 pounds



## Some of the most disturbing television pictures in an ounce of food are the pictures of the children who have been

of grain per acre, 60% more than India.

The eradication of hunger in the world's most populous and within just three decades is precisely because landlordism, production for profit, and capitalist norms of distribution have been abolished.

China's agricultural achievement is in spite of the bureaucratic, one-party state which has zig-zagged from the "great leap forward", through the cultural revolution, and now to the "pragmatism" of the post-Mao era, none of which is commented on in the book.

Nevertheless, 'Food First' provides irrefutable evidence of capitalism's guilt in the underdeveloped world. Why do millions starve?

In the eighty-three backward countries examined, 3% of landowners held 80% of all farmland. These giant estates are the least productive, with land being held for prestige and as an investment, not to produce food for the needy. Only 44% of the world's cultivable land is cropped.

## Why do millions starve?

In Latin America and Africa—the poverty belt itself—just 20% is tilled. Hence in the revolutionary fervour of Portugal in 1974, when the oppressed of the big estates in the Southern Provinces of Alentejo and Bijo seized three million acres, the area under cultivation was tripled and employment quadrupled.

Rural poverty and landlessness is caused not by overpopulation but by this system of land ownership. This lies behind hunger, for the poorest cannot afford to buy the food they need. Even if they grew it themselves, where do they store it?

In fact, their debt burden usually forces them to sell cheap to the middlemen at harvest, and buy dear when they need to eat. In the face of famine itself in 1973, 36 of the 40 most poverty-stricken countries still exported food to the USA. It made more money.

The food crisis is not one of production but distribution. Daily two pounds of grain (equal to 3,000 calories) is grown for every man, woman and child, enough to keep them alive, without including the meat, fruit and vegetables also produced.

But under capitalism, food

is just one more commodity. What is produced, and how much, is determined by the potential profit. The EEC surpluses, and the ploughing into the ground of produce to maintain prices and profits are infamous. Between 1959 and 1973 the value of American fruit not harvested or discarded alone reaches £1 billion.

Even impoverished Bangladesh produces 2,300 calories per person a day. But the hoarders and merchants inflate the price beyond the means of the hungry. During the 1974 floods and subsequent famine, speculators held on to 4 million tons of rice.

The book reveals how imperialism (though this accurate term is not mentioned) and the big multi-national corporations have wildly distorted "third world" agriculture—at the expense of food production. Countries that once could feed their own production have been dragged by international big business into capitalism's world market-place, and as a result they now import food-stuffs, while their economies are dependent on earnings from export of a single cash crop that has taken over vast areas of their cultivable land.

About 58% of Panama's export earnings come from banana exports, while coffee provides Colombia with 51% of its earnings and 61% in Rwanda. These economies are then at the mercy of prices on the capitalist world market, which determine what food imports and industrial goods they can buy from the West.

Banana prices, for instance, have slumped 30% over the last twenty years. In 1960 three tons of bananas provided enough foreign currency to buy a tractor; ten years later, ten tons were required.

Enforced concentration on cash crops has meant for Mexico a decline in basic food crop acreage of a quarter in ten years, while over the same period infant mortality due to malnutrition has jumped 10% in the underdeveloped world. Capitalism kills.

But these countries cannot get off the treadmill of export crop production. Owing the industrial world over \$200 billion, taking out loans to pay interest on old loans, repaying the "aid" received, they have to earn foreign currency. What choice within capitalism do they have, but to develop export-orientated agriculture, concentrating on the crop they can sell in the capitalist world.

## Capitalist strait-jacket

In Nicaragua over a quarter of a century cotton acreage increased five times, while the area devoted to basic grains was halved. One French nutritionist said that, "If people are starving, it is not for want of cotton."

Or take a country like Colombia. Why does it not grow more food? Perhaps because for each hectare devoted to carnations for the

florists' stores of the United States, it can earn a million pesos. Planting with corn or wheat only makes 12,500 pesos.

The developing world is tied down in the strait-jacket of the capitalist market. But it is the direct intervention of the multi-national "agri-businesses" that is pulling the strings taut.

The book exposes the obscenity of an Italian multi-national granted a concession by Emperor Haile Selassie to grow livestock-feed for export on the Ethiopian plains. The plantation was situated in the very area where thousands of nomads and peasants perished from starvation in the 1973 drought. Few would weep that soon after, the regime of Haile Selassie perished too.

But increasingly, the multi-nationals are turning away from direct land ownership. It becomes an open provocation to any radical government in the ex-colonial world.

United Brands, the American corporation, had to endure the expropriation of its 271,000 acre Cuban landholding in 1960. So in defence of its interests it has moved away from the old plantation system, shedding two-thirds of its Central America land by 1971. But the difference is nominal: their grip over agriculture has not weakened.

## 'Aid' = loans = growing debts

The multi-nationals have merely moved over to contract farming. So in Brazil dairy farmers are pawns in the hands of Nestlé, the world's second largest food company. They sow seeds selected by the Nestlé Brazilian Research Station, borrow from Nestlé to buy the seed, and finally sell the milk under contract to the company, which then deducts the loan repayment from the price.

A marvellous system. The farmers take the risk, while Nestlé rakes off the bulk of the profit. And while the milk produce and the earnings flow abroad, one baby in four dies in its first year in the rural communities of north-east Brazil.

Those who believe that without tackling the social roots of starvation, but merely through help and charity, the plight of the "third world" peoples can be relieved, will have to answer the author's charges that the very institutions and methods used to "assist" exacerbate the situation.

Half of all aid from the developed capitalist states takes the form of loans. By 1978 debt repayments for private and governmental loans from the West almost equalled the total aid for the year. More aid only compounds the debt burden, and so more land is turned over to export production to pay the interest.

As for direct food aid, let the supposed "liberal" American politician Hubert Humphrey speak for imperialism: "If you are looking for a way to get people to lean on you and to be dependent in terms

of their co-operation with you, it seems to me that food dependence would be terrific."

Political manipulation of aid has a long history. While the Vietnam war was still in progress half of all American food aid went to Indo-China (South-East Asia). Aid to Chile, however, was curtailed when President Allende's left-wing government took office.

But even when food aid finds its way to the countries in need, how is it distributed once it arrives? Bangladesh, it is true, is now the main recipient of food aid. Yet a quarter of the food sent fills the bellies of the police, army and bureaucracy, who are employed to protect the Bangladeshi ruling class from the wrath of the masses, who must go without.

As for commercial food exports from the capitalist West, the rule is, "those who can afford to buy get fed." American food exports to Canada are greater in value than those to all Africa. In fact, internationally, with the compulsion on the poorer countries to increase their exports, more meat comes out of the "third world" countries than is exported to them. 'Food First' can justifiably ask, "Who are the real food donors?"

The book reserves some of its most stirring criticisms, however, for the World Bank, provider of much of the "assistance" to the poorer countries. First and foremost it is still a bank. So it declares that "lending only to those with investment sufficient to produce a significant marketable surplus is perhaps the best way to reduce the level of default."

The World Bank, like all institutions and governments that "assist" the underdeveloped countries, believes in the "trickle down" theory. Lend to the rich, the landlords and the big farmers, and the subsequent commercial success of these people will lead to the employment of more of the landless and ease poverty.

But help with irrigation and fertilisers just makes land more productive, so more money can be made from cash crop exports. After all, even if it does create employment, rural wages are at subsistence level, so the labourers still cannot afford to buy enough. The use of agriculture is unchanged. But with improved land, the rich growers and multi-national giants of the "agri-business" just get fatter.

Anyway, half of the World Bank's loans go on infrastructure—roads, rail, telecommunications, etc., which may create a bigger market for manufactures from the advanced capitalist economies, but leaves the village masses largely untouched.

The US State Department could report two years ago, that for every dollar paid by the government to the World Bank, two dollars were spent by the poor countries in the American economy. So who is aiding whom?

There rests the case for the prosecution. Capitalism's guilt is evident. But there too ends the book's real value for international socialists.

For the book naively argues for a complete reorganisation of world agriculture, with each country becoming self-

sufficient, putting "food first". Production should be for local need, as it was before imperialism spread its tentacles into every corner of the globe. Cash-crop production for foreign markets and foreign currency should be pushed aside.

It actually idealises primitive subsistence, "small self-provisioning farmers". They put 'food first' until world capitalism came along and spoiled everything. The authors even imply that because mechanisation increases both unemployment and dependence on the industrialised world, it should not be encouraged.

## Rural simplicity?

For the labouring masses of the economically backward, neo-colonial world that would mean a life-sentence of hard labour. They would toil for ever as beasts of burden in the fields, condemned to the narrow existence of rural life, without any possibility of controlling their social relations or determining the future of society.

Industrialisation, with the releasing of the majority of the rural population from the back-breaking tasks of primitive farming and the application of modern, industrial-based techniques and equipment to agriculture, is the only path to feeding the hungry and easing the toil of millions.

Such rounded-out industrialisation as is required will never take place under capitalism. The countries of the colonial and semi-colonial world began their industrialisation too late. Their industries, as well as their agriculture, is completely dominated by the capitalist giants of the West and Japan. Imperialism, moreover, has in most of these lands propped up and preserved with arms semi-feudal, semi-capitalist ruling classes whose existence is incompatible with

economic development.

But it is too late to go back to pre-imperialist conditions. The population of Mexico City will be 30 million by the turn of the century—unemployed in the shanty towns or working in massive industrial complexes. How can they be fed by returning to rural simplicity? Under capitalism, the world will never escape hunger.

Yet to meet the authors' own demands—to rid the underdeveloped countries of capitalist-enforced export agriculture, to take over the land (which is all too often in the hands of finance capital or foreign companies) would require the socialist transformation of society, nationally and internationally.

Then the idea of agricultural "autarky", or self-sufficiency, already ruled out by capitalist development, would appear ludicrous. With the elimination of landlordism and capitalism, enormous progress could rapidly be made in even the most underdeveloped countries.

Under a world-wide socialist plan of production, which would be essential for the solution of all the problems of the backward countries, a planned international division of labour would be an enormous advantage to the most backward countries.

Instead of locking them into an inescapable position of dependency and backwardness as under capitalism, a planned, socialist division of labour would be a powerful lever of world-wide economic development.

The planned use of natural resources, planned farming, planned production and trade, would provide more than enough material wealth to raise the living standards of third-world peoples to Western levels and higher, while not at all ruling out vast improvements for workers in the advanced countries too.

The present, horrifying spectre of millions dying from hunger on an increasingly populated planet makes the struggle for a socialist world even more urgent.





# Which Way Forward for the



# South African Revolution?

## Strikes, uprisings, and street fighting have swept South Africa's towns and cities.

By  
**Harry Thompson**

In the past few months on the gold mines, in the meat factories of the Cape, in the massive textile complex of Natal, in the car industry of the Eastern Cape, and municipal workers of Johannesburg, tens of thousands of workers have moved into battle with the capitalists' apartheid regime.

Employers are locking out the workers, determined to crush the workers with the regime's police. And in the schools the black students are maintaining the boycotts in implacable hostility to racist education.

As this mass resistance has gained momentum the ANC (African National Congress) has committed itself even more resolutely to guerilla action. More attacks in the urban centres have been promised as the main thrust of the resistance.

Striking at the strategic Sasol oil-from-coal industry on 1 June 1980 the ANC guerilla movement warned the regime that further blows could be expected which would dent its military prestige and expose gaps in the security network. The failure of the regime to make any progress in tracking down the

guerillas demonstrates the considerable support from the black townships both before and after the attack. As the mass resistance has gained strength, so the notorious informer network is visibly cracking up in the townships.

But unlike previous guerilla activity which tended to follow after the decline of mass resistance and demonstrated the despair of youth, the current attacks have occurred simultaneously with a renewed upsurge of boycotts and hard fought strikes. In the statement put out by the ANC after the bombings, the attack was said to have been taken in response to the police retaliation to this upsurge.

The statement implied that the action against the 'oil production complex which fuels South Africa's fascist terror machine' was taken to widen the field of operation for the mass struggle of oppressed workers and students in the cities.

But while the explosions at the oil-from-coal plants have shaken the confidence of the bourgeoisie in the armed forces as the protectors of property, they cannot give a political direction for the workers and youth.

The bold attack shows the ANC is attempting to avoid the dead-end terrorism of many guerilla movements

(its strategy has been generally to avoid deaths of innocent people and to strike at strategic targets rather than public bombings). But it is also an attempt to put the stamp of the guerilla movement on the mass struggle rather than to organise and arm the workers in preparation for an insurrection leading to a democratic workers' state.

As was so violently demonstrated in the unarmed struggles between the youth and workers and the police in Cape Town, in their daily struggle with the police the urban masses have only sticks, fire and stones to fight with.

### Armed struggle by military cadres stands poles apart from the self-defence of the workers and the preparation of the black working-class for armed insurrection.

The horrific brutality of the police in 1976 taught the black youth and workers that the mass struggle had to be armed. But in Cape Town 1980, the insurgents were again defenceless against the police who were instructed to 'shoot to kill.' The guerilla damage was part of the strategy of arming the organised workers for defence against the murderous police, but is self-contained. The spectacular actions are designed to shock the bourgeoisie into an awareness that the ANC is a serious political force with whom negotiations are ultimately inevitable.

But there is a stark contrast between the bare-handed struggle with the police and sophisticated attacks on strategic installations. Along with the urban uprisings, attacks

on strategic targets such as Sasol strike fear into the ruling class and spell out the fact that the days of the apartheid regime are numbered.

But bombings do not destroy the basis for the wealth and power of that regime: the super-exploitation of the black workers. The Sasol 'miracle' of oil from coal is only possible because the pithead price of coal in South Africa, based on the starvation wages of the coal miners, is about a quarter the price per ton of UK coal.

Without the foundation in the cheap labour system, the Sasol plant would be completely overpriced even com-

pared with rising oil prices. The guerilla damage was repaired, the machinery set in motion again, and production resumed as before.

Marxists have to criticise the guerilla attack for providing no way forward to the crucial revolutionary force in South Africa: the black working class. Surprisingly to those who consider it the most radical form of resistance, armed struggle conducted by a guerilla army does not aim at arming the revolutionary workers and students.

Armed struggle carried out by military cadres stands poles apart from the self-defence of the workers and the preparation of the black working class for armed insurrection.

As the statement of the ANC President, Oliver Tambo, unfortunately makes

clear: 'This attack is in the pursuit of the aim of peace, it encourages the possibility of a peaceful settlement which can only come with the demolition of the structure of apartheid domination.' In this context the daring raid, reaching over the mass struggles of the workers and students, is a demand for negotiations to begin.

The army of the ANC has proved it can mount destructive attacks on strategic targets; negotiations, possibly through the third party of the reformist African petty bourgeoisie, are always a possible alternative to arming the organised workers.

The Sasol attack and the mass struggles of the workers and students have sharpened the contradictions among the African petty bourgeois leaders: the well paid government functionaries, churchmen, doctors, and lawyers. Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, the leader of the national reformist Inkatha movement based on the Zulu-speaking people (with whom the ANC leadership recently had negotiations) denounced the bombings and urged the formation of armed black vigilante groups to 'shoot to kill' those attacking property.

He has established a Kwa-Zulu police force which has already been used to attack the school boycotters, and other Bantustan leaders have helped to build black regiments within the racist Defence Force. The urban reformist leaders such as Bishop Tutu have tried to make use of the guerilla attacks and mass resistance to project themselves as the non-violent leadership of the black oppressed with whom

the negotiations can be started.

Far from guiding the struggle of the workers and the student, the Sasol attack is an attempt to reduce the desperately urgent questions of political strategy to military formulas. It has stiffened the determination of the ultra-right white backlash and enabled the regime to rush through emergency legislation in Parliament, but provides no direction for the mass resistance which stands without arms against the bloody attack of the regime.

Some guerillarist leaders even welcome the repression for driving the black youth out of the cities to swell the ranks of the guerilla army in exile! A continuation of guerilla campaigns would eventually result in defeat and demoralisation for the workers. And yet this is what is still being planned, despite a recent lull in guerrilla attacks.

It is only the workers who have the capacity of withstanding round after round of blows from the regime and forcing concessions from the hands of the ruling class. The political organisation of the black working class to lead the struggle against the racist education, unfettered trade unionism, and for the release of all political prisoners is the central task.

Workers self-defence organised in the factories and townships against the vicious armed forces is the task of the labour movement.

It is only on this basis that the workers can be politically prepared for their historic task of overthrowing the racist capitalist state and substituting for it their own democratic workers' state.

# Vital election for Jamaica

The forthcoming general election in Jamaica, to be held on 30 October, is without doubt the most crucial since the island gained independence in 1962.

The most reliable forecast suggests that Michael Manley's People's National Party will win a third term in office by a narrow margin provided the electoral process is completely fair, and the voters are free from intimidation and harassment.

The recent assassination of PNP Junior Minister, Roy McGann, coupled with a new spate of attacks on Michael Manley's supporters, shows that the CIA-backed opposition, the Jamaica Labour Party, is viciously determined to secure a victory for reaction any price.

This first-ever assassination of a PNP MP must be taken for the danger it is for the whole labour movement. On the basis of widespread violence and intimidation, the possibility of a win for the JLP cannot therefore be ruled out. Reaction should be countered decisively by socialist action.

Every general election campaign is accompanied by a certain level of violence.

In 1976, for instance, the PNP suffered the massacre of hundreds of its supporters, economic and intervention by the CIA. Yet, despite the adverse conditions the PNP, on the basis of the huge reforms carried out by the government, won a decisive majority.

Today the position is completely different. The failure of the present government to consolidate the reforms by

By  
Delroy Williams

implementing a thorough going socialist transformation of society, has resulted in the virtual collapse of the Jamaican economy.

Instead of using the election victory of 1976 to dismantle the old state apparatus of British imperialism and abolish capitalism in Jamaica once and for all, the PNP leadership turned to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The consequences of this move have been a complete disaster.

As a result of the conditions laid down by the IMF, many of the gains won by the working class have been systematically eroded. Unemployment has now reached crippling proportions. Official estimates are as high as 40% in some areas.

Drugs and medicines are in short supply, and so too is fertiliser desperately needed for the land. Many basic foodstuffs, including rice, flour, salt, sugar and salted cod are also scarce, often as a result of deliberately hoarding by food manufacturers and black marketeers. And in the last few months the IMF has been having secret negotiations with the JLP as part of a plan to impose even severer fetters on the Jamaican



Part of the massive People's National Party rally at Montego Bay earlier this month

economy.

Far from averting the crisis the agreement with the IMF actually served to hasten Jamaica's economic decline. The savage cut backs demanded by the IMF were supposed to result in new investment and an expansion of industry. In fact, the opposite was true.

## Economic nightmare

The terrible sacrifices made by the workers and poor peasants came to nothing. In the last twelve months alone, forty of Jamaica's biggest factories have closed, alongside ten thousand small businesses.

The collapse of the economy has been a nightmare for the Jamaican people. Many

peasants and unemployed rural farm workers now live in conditions of abject poverty. Tens of thousands of youth in the capital, Kingston, have been driven into the blind alley of petty crime as result of the crushing unemployment.

Prostitution has once again become widespread. Even the pampered middle classes have not escaped the crisis. Soaring inflation has undermined the living standards of hundreds of small shopkeepers, professional people and many others of this middle strata.

Yet all this could have been avoided if the present government had acted swiftly, following its massive victory in 1976. With an overwhelming majority in Parliament it would have been entirely possible for the government to mobilise the whole working

class around a decisive programme to take over the economy.

## Socialist measures

Only the enactment of bold socialist measures could have finally removed the possibility of a return of the JLP. By turning to the IMF, the PNP government provided American imperialism and the Jamaican ruling class with an opportunity to rebuild their forces by undermining the gains that had been made during the mid-seventies. There can be no doubt that much of the present chaos can be attributed to the conscious designs of American imperialism.

From the point of view of

imperialism, the defeat of the PNP leader Michael Manley is crucial if they are to succeed in stemming the tide of revolution that is sweeping through the Caribbean.

The PNP must win and adopt a bold socialist programme, to nationalise the commanding heights of the economy under workers' control and management. If such a programme were linked to the revolutions in other Caribbean islands and on the South American mainland, then the possibility of harnessing the vast resources of the region for the benefit of the toiling masses could become a reality. The road to a socialist federation of Latin America and the Caribbean would be opened.

# Italian workers learn from Poland

The events in Poland have been greeted enthusiastically by workers throughout the world.

And the lessons of the struggles have been drawn by the most politically advanced sections; nowhere more so than in Italy, where a 'hot autumn' beckons as workers struggle to gain a decent standard of living and defend jobs.

When a journalist from the daily paper, 'la Repubblica' recently went down to the factory gate of the Alfa Sud plant near Naples he found workers full of confidence in the strength of the international working class and critical of their own leadership.

"The workers of the world are the strongest power; stronger than the Russians, stronger than the Americans, stronger than the bosses of every country." That was how one worker described the impact the events of Poland had had on him. "They've got their ideas clearer than we have, they've shown us how to fight."

Another worker chipped in;

By  
Giuliano Fiorini

[FGSI, Italian YS  
Ferrara]

"I don't want to talk anonymously. I'm Roberto Affineto a worker, and I say that the right to strike won by the Polish working class is a step forward for world democracy. No-one can make the working class take steps backwards."

"I want to say that only the workers can build socialism, because the workers are the base; never the bureaucrats, never the intellectuals. And it's the workers who build democracy and enforce democratic control."

These comments brought other people into the discussions; "In Poland the workers have shown that they know how to run a factory, how to run the country, and to run socialism too."

But this drew disagreement from one worker; "Let's mind what we're saying here, comrades, and not talk too much nonsense; Poland seems to be a beacon of freedom, an earthly paradise for the working class. But then they've always been slaves and have had to struggle to get

just a small part of the rights we've had for years. They're only coming into their own now and starting to imitate Western nations."

This brought an immediate response from another worker; "Well you mind what you're saying too, because they've got another right which we certainly haven't got here; the right to be free of the bosses, who've they've got rid of already. But here we've got Lockheed, black funds (oil scandal), white funds (banks scandal) all those crooks who get rich on our backs like Gava (a family of Christian Democrat ministers powerful in Naples for many generations—GF)."

"But you are out of your mind," replied the previous speaker, "you don't know what a Polish workers takes home to feed his kids, they haven't got a thing to their name, they've got desperation and nothing else."

"All right," countered the other worker, "so what have you got? You've got lung

disease from the paint, you've got a liver swollen this big, and we all know that half of us won't even get to draw our pension and enjoy it in peace."

At another discussion, a Communist Party member of the factory council explained: "Poland has been a victory for all workers—for Italian workers too. No, wait, those aren't just big words; I'll explain what I mean."

"Before the events in Gdansk there were many intellectuals in Italy, who were playing with the idea of anti-strike laws. Now these intellectuals have all disappeared all of a sudden; who at this moment would dare to talk about limiting the right to strike after what the working class has just done in Poland? So it's a victory for all of us. But watch out—those intellectuals will be back."

Another worker saw a further problem which the Polish struggles had highlighted; "Our union is no good, our officials elect themselves from amongst themselves; what's happened to the control? All right so we talk about Poland, but let's have a bit of democracy around here too."

"Here we all know people get taken on with all the backscratcher and hangers-on. Here everything seems empty and useless; the Poles in a week of strikes have changed the government, put the Russian empire in crisis, and basic rights have been restored."

"Here on the other hand, we go through thousands of hours of strikes (i.e. 24-hour, 8-hour, and 2-hour strikes called by trade union leaders—GF) and not only does no-one consider our demands but no-one even listens to us."

These comments show how the Polish strikes have reinforced the distrust Italian workers have for the bureaucrats and intellectuals who lead them. And the confidence they have that only they know properly how to plan society and run a factory.

"Write my name down," said one worker, "it's Tagliatela and they can kick me out if they want, for all I care. Here in the factory, the management don't know how to manage. We could make 1,000 cars a month and they don't get made, while the market's there for them. Then they complain about absenteeism, but when we do all come into work the management haven't even got anywhere to put us or work for us to do."

And another worker ended the discussion by saying; "Poland demonstrates that when you want something you can get it regardless. There isn't a struggle that can be halted. And Poland also shows that the working class cannot be goaded into action, it doesn't make sense, it goads itself into action and it can change regimes and governments."

The Polish events have aroused Italian workers with anger at all the things

promised but not obtained by their own trade union and party bureaucrats. But more than anything else we can see confidence and strength in their own ability to transform society, that leaders can and must be changed when they block the way forward, that gains must be defended, or else the bosses will take them back, and above all that to win a battle is not to win a war, and it's time to win this bitter war once and for all.

## Argentina

The replacement of Videla with Viola as dictator [see last week's Militant] is just a continuation of the rule of the same military faction who desperately seek a deal with some right-wing civilian politicians. In July the government introduced a new economic package but it has been reluctant to apply all the measures as it increased the cost of living by a further 6%. And they are trying to keep inflation down to under 100% this year.

In last week's article we stated that the Metal workers union leader was involved in these talks. Instead he is involved with attempts to unite the Peronist and non-Peronist unions, whose potential for opposition so scares the military.



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**EBBW VALE LPYS Public Meeting** Against Unemployment. Hear Mike Markey, NUPE Steward, North Gwent NHS/LPYS, Terry Burns ('Militant'). Bridgend Inn, Ebbw Vale, 23 October 7.30pm.

**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'.

**SOCIALIST ACTION Public Forum.** 'Which Way for the Labour Party?' The Labour Party is in turmoil. Major debate is taking place on the party programme and democracy. What significance does this have? Where will Benn and the left take the struggle? What significance does this have for Marxists and how can they intervene in the process. These are the questions to be discussed at the Socialist Action Public Forum. Friday 24 October 8pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square.

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'Why we hate the Tories.' Hear Andy Bevan [Labour Party National Youth Officer] on Thursday 13th November, 7.30pm. At Trades Council, Picardy Place, Edinburgh. All Welcome

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'Organise—Hit Back—Join the Young Socialists To Fight Thatcher!' Meeting—Tuesday November 18th 7.30pm. Speaker: Andy Bevan. At Bethnal Green Labour Party Rooms, 349 Cambridge Heath Rd, London E2. Be There!

**IN MEMORIAM.** Harry Thomas [Harlow]. Died 23rd October 1979. 'I was born naturally, without fuss, so shall I die.' 'Do not mourn—organise'.

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Humberside	1,341		2,500
London East	4,582		6,200
London West	2,539		4,700
London South	4,045		4,700
Manchester & Lancs	2,286		5,100
Merseyside	3,189		6,000
Northern	3,799		7,300
Scotland East	1,716		3,200
Scotland West	3,103		5,000
Southern	3,688		5,900
South West	1,874		3,200
Wales East	1,281		2,800
Wales West	2,576		3,100
West Midlands	5,662		9,000
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Not many working people ever have thousands of pounds coming their way in any one lump sum. Those who do have either won the pools, lost their job or been 'compensated' for a crippling injury!

Nevertheless, many workers dream of how much easier life could be with that kind of money. They could buy new labour-saving devices, furniture, a car, redecorate the home or even try and get a new one!

A few years ago most people thought they would get all these things if they simply worked hard enough and saved long enough. Now young people have no such prospect.

Yet one young mother in Dorset who could have eased life a little with a recent windfall has made the commendable decision to donate £1,000 to 'Militant's' Fighting Fund.

This is obviously a considerable personal sacrifice, but, in her view, and that of all 'Militant' supporters, contributing to a paper that fights for the ideas of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky brings nearer the time when the "good life" will be possible not for just a small minority but for the working population of the entire world.

To this end 'Militant' appeals for the pennies and pounds of workers as well as the windfalls. We are aiming for another £35,000 by 10 January and this week's

By Steve Cawley

total was boosted to £2,680 with this splendid £1,000. That's the kind of weekly figure we need from now until the end of the year!

The main source for our funds this week has been donations from individuals. A total of £230 came from readers in the Midlands, and £220 from Yorkshire. £185 (before expenses) was raised at a Merseyside Readers' meeting called to assess this year's historic Labour Party Conference.

Many thanks to our readers in Sheffield, Coventry and especially H McIlwhannie of Glasgow who sent us an excellent £60.

Examples of fund-raising last week were: a 'Militant' stall at a Labour Party fête which made £16 and parties in Ipswich and Sheffield (a 'love and peace' one) which netted us £36.

From the Manchester area we've had a larger number of donations than usual—don't stop now—including Oldham darts winnings, sponsored walk and a donation from W Harvey, Salford.

Over £100 from Welsh readers should mark the beginning of a new drive: thanks to J Cuthbert (£20), four other Caerphilly readers who put in fivers, and Swansea 'Spot the Ball' competition.

Photo: MILITANT



£1,000 is small change for them, so their money goes to the Tories—your money is needed for socialism

Tenners came from two members of Penistone LPYS and a 'friendly Knowsley bureaucrat', and £7 was collected from TGWU members at Bendix in Bristol. Also from the South West, £12.50 has been sent to us from a reader in Redruth, Cornwall, from supporters there.

Finally, £13 from Grimsby, £5 donation from Cramlington LPYS, £3.40 from D Taylor (Birmingham) and £1 from G Wallace (AUEW Fife) were just typical examples of the many donations we receive every week. Many thanks to all 'Militant' readers who send regular amounts that don't get

mentioned in this column.

If you went by the hysteria in the mass media, you would think that almost all workers have accepted the ideas of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky! Members of the labour movement will know, however, that this is by no means the case.

Yet substantial and permanent changes to the system of society in which we live can only result from the wide-spread implementation of these ideas. We've a very long way to go as yet, but with every penny you can afford on us now, the earlier we can get rid of capitalism—and ensure a 'good life' for everybody.

# 'We're out till we win'

**"Every member will be involved in picket duty. Whatever the police say as the limitation on numbers we will double it as we don't accept any employment act guideline."**

The words of a shop steward show the anger and determination of the workers at T Lucas in Bristol after being provoked into strike action by management. And they are not idle words—on Tuesday 250 workers picketed the site!

By  
**Bryan Beckingham**

(Bristol SE CLP)

On Friday 17th October following a mass meeting, all work ceased at the Kingswood T Lucas site. The entire shop floor voted for immediate strike action. This followed provocative action by the management in refusing to implement national wage negotiated rises at the local plant level.

In practice many of the work force see this as an attempt to take on the union in a well-organised plant, which has achieved the highest wages in the area.

I spoke to shop floor workers and shop stewards at the factory on Monday; including Russell Gill for the strike committee and Colwyn Jones, the convenor. These comments clearly show the mood of the workers:

"The pay rise should have been settled on August 19th and yet only now do we get this intransigence from the management. With unemployment at 2 million and redundancy at local factories the management see this as the time to threaten the workers."

"We were offered 15% but local management will not pay the 15% on our incentive bonus—£3 per week extra for 80 of the workers. A trifle for a multinational making millions in profit. Its come to a head now. The strike will be made official."

"Myself, as with most members with children, cannot afford to go on strike but we will stick it out as long as it takes to win, and

this will be the same feeling throughout the factory. The women's wages have been settled, but they still voted in favour."

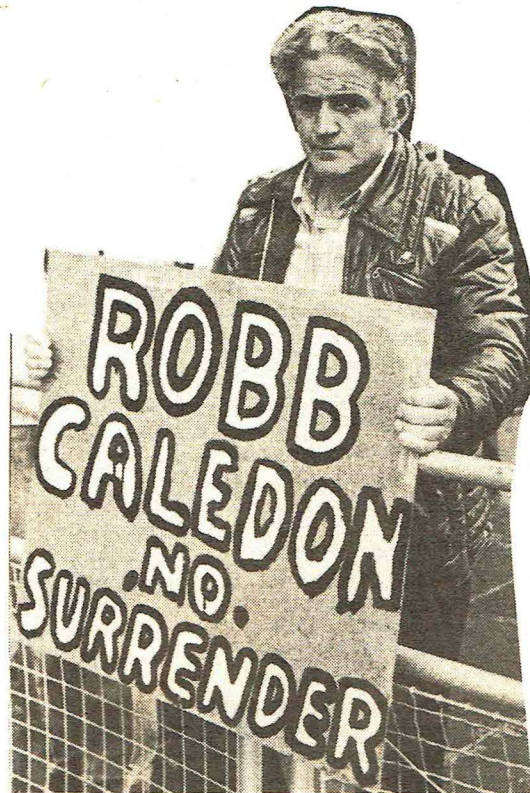
"The next step for the strike is negotiations and a mass meeting on Friday. This is a situation that is bound to come about with the present government and the first signs of action at T Lucas, the work force realise the only way out is strike action. The bosses have their answer today with 100% stoppage."

"The T Lucas workers are politically educated and we will see the need to fight on a wider political front. We have spelt it out, we have come out to show we can carry our words into action. With short-time work down the road they are trying us out. T Lucas is a spearhead for the whole industry and management want to smash us, but we will give them a fight. This strike will remain solid."

From all these comments I can only add the T Lucas has average weekly sales of 50 'Militants'. This means that the entire workforce sees a copy of the paper most weeks.

The workers are very politically aware, and many are in fact joining the Kingswood CLP under the influence of the leading shop stewards and convenor and seeing the need for wider political activity.

## Robb Caledon The battle goes on



Robb Caledon workers lobby last year's Labour Party Conference for support.

Photo: Militant

By **Alex Allen**  
(Deputy Convenor,  
Robb Caledon)

The battle to save 700 shipbuilding jobs at the Robb Caledon yard in Dundee was taken to London last week.

At British Shipbuilders' offices in Knightsbridge management, unions and shop stewards negotiated for eight hours. Outside, a lobby of 70 workers showed their support for their representatives.

The outcome of the meeting was a small step forward. For the first time since the fight to save the yard began, BS have agreed to consider finding a ship for the yard to build. Previously they have talked of other kinds of work in the oil-related or general engineering fields.

A new sub-committee has been set up comprising representatives of BS, the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, shop stewards and yard management, to oversee the task force which is looking for possible new work. They will report to a further full meeting on 24 October.

Until then, the workforce will maintain their overtime ban, which effectively means the blockading of the last ship—one of the Polish

order—being built in the yard. This was supported by a big majority at a mass meeting on Tuesday.

The fight is far from over. There is still not the "cast iron, copper-bottomed guarantee of a ship which the unions were demanding. Management have not abandoned their aim of reducing the workforce to a "core" of 350 and have made a new call for voluntary redundancies. They have extended their guarantee to keep the 350 in work, but only until the end of March 1981.

The next two weeks are crucial. If the 24 October meeting fails to produce a ship, there will be no alternative to all-out confrontation.

The sanctions must not be lifted at this stage. They remain our most effective weapon. The fight needs to be extended to involve the whole of the labour movement in Dundee and throughout the ship-building industry.

## TGWU BDC: The Way Forward

The 1981 Biennial Delegate Conference of the Transport and General Workers' Union will be an important one for all workers in the public services.

We are under persistent attack from this government as they ruthlessly cut our jobs and the services we provide.

In the Southern region we are particularly vulnerable, as Tory county and district councils enthusiastically implement government policies and propose new cuts. John Morgan, leader of the Test Valley Borough Council [Andover, Romsey], has suggested that it is not essential to collect refuse every week and that once every two or even three weeks would be adequate. John Morgan is a "respected" national figure among Tories in local government.

As a recent article in this paper pointed out [issue 521], workers at the Ministry of Defence are far from immune from the cuts. Existing jobs are under fire from private contractors and a recruitment ban has been imposed on the civil service. This ban has contributed to previously unthinkable levels of unemployment now being announced throughout the south of England: in Salisbury, over 1,500 are now out of work.

Public service workers elected to go to the BDC must commit the TGWU to:

- ★ A vigorous campaign against the cuts in jobs and services.

- ★ A campaign for a minimum basic wage of £80 a week.

- ★ Fight for genuine industrial democracy in the public services.

- ★ Socialist policies that will bring about a transformation of society in favour of working people and ensure an extension of public services.

Andy Holloway [Chairman, Salisbury District Government Workers' shop stewards' committee, personal capacity] is candidate for BDC public services group TGWU region 2.

## Busmen fight cuts

By **John Hunt**

(Moss Side CLP)

The Tories who run Greater Manchester Transport have given 80 days' notice of 1,500 redundancies. This is estimated to mean taking about 500 of Manchester's 2,900 buses off the road.

GMT are blaming a growing annual deficit but their policy of constantly increasing fares—now the second highest in the country—has helped cause this.

A special Policy Committee meeting of T&GWU stewards in GMT on 27

October will discuss plans for a fight-back. Resolutions from the 6/5/3 branch at Hyde Road depart clearly show the way forward.

The Hyde Road busmen are demanding the withdrawal of the notice of redundancies, a ban on overtime, worksharing and the imposition by the workers of a 20p maximum fare to attract more passengers. They are calling for a mass campaign to mobilise support, including a demonstration and rally, and "as a last resort, strike action and

the occupation of the depots."

As Warren Bates (branch chairman, Hyde Road depot) points out, 'GMT belongs to the public, but the Tories want to castrate it.'

With the Gardners' workers (see back page) showing the way in Manchester and nationally, a bold campaign by Manchester busmen would be a tremendous boost to the fight against redundancies and cuts in services. They will need the widest possible support.

# Ross Food: Stop 'Monty Python' management!

By **John Goodby**  
and **Alan Hartley**

Stewards at the Ross Food factory in Hull wondered what was afoot when management announced they were creating 60 new jobs in the factory.

An hour later management presented them with non-negotiable notice of immediate cuts in the sickness benefit scheme.

Violating agreed procedures, management are using 'carrot and stick' tactics in an attempt to wring concessions from the workforce. The stewards' response was immediate: refusal to accept the new scheme and, after a mass

meeting, a 24-hour strike was called from 15 and 16 October. The white collar workers (ACTSS) who are not included in the management attack and the AUEW struck in sympathy.

The attitude of the shop floor is determined: the next stage will be an all-out strike unless the ridiculous and amateurish proposals are withdrawn.

Ross Foods Ltd are part of the massive Imperial Foods and Tobacco conglomerate, one of the top three multinationals with an annual turnover of billions

of pounds.

Over the last eighteen months jobs have gone in Grimsby, Hull and Liverpool, following company claims of a slump in the fish, meat and poultry markets. Now, as part of their 'rationalisation' scheme, they intend to close the Liverpool plant with the loss of 190 jobs, 60 of which are being transferred to Hull.

So management's 'generosity' is revealed for what it is: an attempt to split the workforce so that they can write off a factory for tax reasons. Meanwhile, because labour costs in the Hull factory are "too high", the sickness scheme must go.

The new scheme would include the right to deny payment to those believed to be abusing it—i.e. the right to victimise without expert medical advice. A second clause puts the onus on workers to prove sickness, by seeking a second expert medical opinion after 21 days. This amounts to one rule for the bosses and another for the workforce.

The third proposal is discretionary—the discretion of management alone as to who is paid sickness money! But it is the fourth proposal which, by making nonsense of invalidity benefit, made stewards wonder about the sanity of management. "The whole docu-

ment seems to be the work of the Monty Python team rather than rational managers and executives."

The Hull workers see their struggle as affecting other workers in the combine, who have been weakened by management's divide and rule tactics, playing off workers in subsidiaries against one another, by splitting them into divisions and separate combines.

At the moment there is no joint shop stewards' committee for the whole combine. The Hull stewards see this as one important lesson to be learned: that all workers in the combine must be united to fight as one.

In their opinion, a new Victorian mentality prevails amongst the management. They believe the proposal for a new sickness benefit scheme is either the work of an idiot or an attempt to provide a test for bosses up and down the country.

Either way, they are going to fight it. There has been an overwhelming response to resist and the workforce are firmly behind their stewards and officials.

Send messages of support to: Terry Jackson, 8 Stratten Close, Longhill Estate, Hull, N Humberside.

# BL-FORCE BOSSES TO RETREAT



BL workers unite to defend their shop stewards from management attacks last year. Now they must stand by the white collar workers.

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

**Edwardes and his Tory backers are planning to forcibly make redundant 3,300 white-collar workers from the factories that are left after his last demolition job.**

**But this time everything is not going his way. The clerical, technical and supervisory workers at BL are voting to resist these sackings.**

Despite this resistance, the management at the time of writing have issued many selective redundancy notices.

The workers have responded initially by banning overtime, a big factor in the introduction of new models like the Metro. And already we have right-wing trade union leaders like Duffy siding with the management and condemning even this limited action.

With mass unemployment, more and more workers, even foremen, are realising that there are no other jobs but the one they have got. Only by fighting back will the bosses like Edwardes retreat.

The BL white-collar unions should link up with the manual unions and map out a strategy for the defence of jobs, working conditions, and living standards.

Trade union leaders are forever bemoaning that the workers won't fight for their jobs; BL trade unionists should demand that their leaders give full support to this struggle and instruct all BL workers not to cross the picket lines set up by white

collar workers.

Also BL trade unions have rejected the management's miserable 6.1% wage offer, and plants such as Cowley have had mass meetings and supported the rejection. What must be done now is that a real campaign of leafletting and mass meetings be held in all plants to prepare the workers for industrial action in defence of their living standards.

This campaign, if properly carried out, would instill confidence in BL workers through demonstrating their collective strength. Many remember the events of last April where we were on the brink of the first ever BL-wide strike with over 20,000 out. That issue was also over a miserable 5% wages offer and only lost out when our leaders backed down to the tactics of Edwardes.

The first step in joining together all BL workers in the fight for jobs and wages must be the calling of a one-day strike as a means of testing the mood.

Resolutions to this effect should be sent to the Leyland Cars Joint Negotiating Committee and the National Executive of the BL unions.

**By Bill Mullins**  
(T&GWU, Rover, Solihull)

## LIVERPOOL FIGHTS BACK

By Jimmy Hackett

(Kirkdale Labour Party)

The fightback against health service cutbacks in Liverpool is spreading.

At Walton hospital, after management attempted to cut the bonuses, canteen staff began a work to rule.

Pay was withheld, so staff barricaded themselves in the canteen as a protest!

Only 20 minutes later, management arrived with private contractors—they obviously had in mind to smear the union by saying that they weren't prepared to feed the patients.

But now, management are refusing to send food up from the stores to the kitchen, and the workers themselves have said that they are determined to continue feeding the patients.

In the Eastern division of the Area Health Authority

ambulance men have been suspended following a work to rule. The ambulance men began taking action because of proposed cuts, particularly in emergency services and training, e.g. there would be no emergency ambulances after midnight.

The action was also against the enforced one-hour dinner break, meaning a 9-hour day, with one hour without pay, instead of the present 8-hour day with 20 minutes' break.

As a protest against the suspensions, the ambulance men staged a demonstration on Sunday, at the depot's open day. Management called the police to see the ambulance workers off the premises.

Workers in Newsham hospital (see recent issues)

are also facing disciplinary action. Three nurses were hauled before the nursing officer for attending an action committee meeting. The nurses have now been given emergency stewards' credentials.

And the action committee at Newsham has renewed its determination to fight on. It has agreed it will only allow moves to other hospitals for patients to get different facilities such as surgery.

They are also planning to lobby the North West MPs.

The Merseyside anti-cuts committee have called a rally for this Thursday in order to co-ordinate the action between all health service workers. The need now is to go out and forge links with other local authority workers and industrial unions, to stop these cuts.

## BICC

Prescot in Merseyside is in danger of becoming a ghost town. BICC is the biggest employer.

Next year, 350 redundancies are going to take place. There were redundancies earlier this year and there have already been one thousand redundancies in the last 18 months.

The total of 4,000 jobs

have been lost in the last ten years, with virtually no publicity.

The attitude of the shareholders is to put up the shares; BICC shares went up 11p in the week of the announcement of redundancies. BICC is one of the biggest employers in the North West, they have plants in St Helens, Skelmersdale, and many other areas.

Only Wrexham is expanding. BICC began in

Prescot in 1893, and some of the buildings are nearly as old!

For instance, the North Work building is a hundred years old. The unions fear that there is a deliberate policy to run the plant down—orders have been lost because of lack of investment or not followed up. It remains now to be seen whether management intends to continue their action.

## USDAW

By George Williamson  
(USDAW)

For the 460,000 members of Britain's sixth largest union, the coming months will be crucial.

For decades, the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers has had a so-called 'moderate' leadership, and organised workers in the retail trade have suffered some of the lowest wages and longest hours in the country.

The USDAW Broad Left is determined to change this. They are supporting the election of Audrey Wise as President, leading a team of Broad Left candidates for the Executive and Divisional Councils.

The recession has hit with a vengeance throughout the retail trade. Profits have tumbled with sales in the high streets falling by 8% in volume since March this year. Wages for shopworkers have always been well below the national average, even in the years of record profits. Now, shopworkers' meagre living standards are threatened still further.

In 1979 Woolworth's made a profit of £57,253,000. Wages were then £50.50 net per week. They are little better now. There has been no determined lead from the top to achieve the union policy of £70 minimum for 35 hours a week. Meanwhile, the bosses speculate and impose mass

redundancies.

The union needs a leadership prepared to fight for union policy. Increasingly, USDAW members are turning to the Broad Left for a lead.

Nominations for the union presidency will open in a few weeks. It is essential that as many branches as possible are committed to voting for change. The first step is to ask every USDAW branch to nominate Audrey Wise. This will considerably assist the campaign.

The opportunity to elect a fighting leadership has never been greater. For a living wage for all USDAW members of at least £70 for 35 hours; for democracy and accountability in USDAW and the Labour Party; for an effective fighting leadership.

## Downings

### -Strike Solid

Steel erectors working for the Barnsley firm of Downings, have been locked out of their site. The conveyors and washer plant being built on the site for Kellingly Colliery near Selby are important if the new Selby coalfield is opened.

Billy Steel, shop steward in the AUEW construction section, told 'Militant' of the tactics used by the employers to blatantly save money, make redundant the present workforce and take on labour on lower rates of bonus.

The dispute began four months ago, after Downings offered a total wage deal that included a bonus offer of under half the national minimum bonus deals in the industry.

On 27 August this year, the steel erectors walked out on a token two-hour strike to demonstrate their frustration at the failure of negotiations. The following day, when the men came to work, the total Downings workforce on site were locked up.

The week after the strike began, the men offered to go back at the rate, they came out on and await the results of the negotiations. At this point, the crude tactics of the bosses came to the fore. Downings knew that nationally, the crane drivers were going into dispute and that this would stop work anyway on the site. They continued to lock out, demanding that the erectors accept lower rates of bonus.

Morale is high among the strikers—after seven weeks out they are rock solid. Billy Steel is confident that they will win. There is a major contract for the firm and they want their men back. Through a fighting spirit and maintaining solidarity, the men now have every likelihood of winning.

There has been solidarity from other workers in the AUEW construction section, and members working on the Humber Bridge donated a magnificent sum to the strike fund.

All donations to the strike fund should be sent to Bill Steel, 129 Charles Street, Selby, North Yorkshire.

## 30 Pickets 200 Police

Police are once again jumping the gun, implementing the Tory anti-union laws before they are passed, at a Taylor Powell building site in Camden, north London.

The dispute began with workers at this site, with no toilets and no canteen, joined the union UCATT. Management cut their bonuses from £35 a week to the government minimum of £9 a week, cut out overtime and savagely cut other bonuses. On 15 September

they went on strike.

The first mass picket had 30 workers confronted by 200 police including the SPG. There have been four mass pickets since, with massive police presence. Now workers have been restricted to one picket per gate—and workers say they are being treated like children. Support these workers' resistance to Tory attacks. Messages of support to E. Devine, 8 Camden Road, NW1.

# TWO MILLION REASONS TO FIGHT

The Tories have ordered a new computer for Whitehall. The present one is too small to cope with the unemployment they expect in the next few months.

With unemployment standing officially at 2,062,866, this is the only measure the government have come up with! A fat lot of help to those on the dole queues.

**By Robin Clapp**  
 (South West Youth Campaign Against Unemployment)

The Tories whined that a lot of school leavers had managed to get jobs—but an enormous number still have not—and 80,000 workers in manufacturing industry have lost their jobs in the past few months.

What is happening to my home town of Bristol could be repeated all over the country. The spectre of mass unemployment, which traditionally haunted the north east, Scotland and Northern Ireland is now threatening even our 'affluent' city.

Over 22,000 are now on the dole in Bristol—over 4,000 of them school leavers.

But why are we returning to the days of mass unemployment? To hear the bosses' apologists in the media, you'd think unemployment was a natural disaster like an earthquake. But unemployment is no accident: it is part and parcel of a capitalist system in crisis.

Industry has been steadily run down in past years with the bosses' failure to invest their profits. They tried to make a fast buck in the

lucrative world of speculation in land, treasures—anything except what really is the power house of society—manufacturing industry. The many useless empty office blocks which litter our city centre bear witness to this.

Unemployment cannot be looked upon as purely a local issue, though. Take the case of the Robertson's jam factory in Brislington. After sixty years of making jam the company has decided to concentrate all its production in Manchester, at the cost of 600 Bristol jobs.

However, workers at Manchester don't really gain. There, Courtaulds have said they will close their seven mills in the town. Similarly, the Courage breweries at Avonmouth and Bristol, long threatened with redundancies, has been given a reprieve—which is good news for Bristol workers—but the same company are sacking 800 workers at their Southwark plant in London.

Trade unions on a local basis must obviously take initiatives to save jobs, but the



Workers from Bristol demonstrate against Thatcher on May 14th. Unemployment has soared by half a million since. There are now 2 million reasons to join Saturday's LPYS demonstration in Bristol.

fight against unemployment, the Tories and their capitalist system, must be taken up by the labour movement on a national scale.

To effectively raise these issues within the labour movement, Bristol Young Socialist branches, organised in the Youth Campaign Against Unemployment, have mounted a campaign in the city. And it has found a great deal of support, amongst youth especially.

In our build-up for our

demonstration through Bristol on October 25th—which has all the signs of being a great success—we have held many well attended meetings. For example, at an ordinary YS meeting in Kingswood 60 young people attended. On Friday at a meeting addressed by Tony Benn MP and Margaret Reavey, LPYS National Committee, over 150 people attended.

We are now taking the campaign forward, fighting for our demands for a 35-hour

week with no loss of pay and an £80 minimum wage. The trade unions must fight every redundancy—a redundancy, 'voluntary' or otherwise, is a job lost and yet another unemployed school leaver.

We demand the companies threatening closure open the books! Let's end the secrecy over 'rationalisation' and company transactions, and see where the bosses have frittered away their profits at the expense of workers.

The unions must open their

doors to the unemployed—let sacked members retain their cards, and young unemployed without a trade must be organised by the general unions.

But above all, the power of big business—who are solely to blame for inflicting this misery onto our backs—must be broken, and the commanding heights of the economy nationalised under workers' control, with minimum compensation for the capitalist press.

## Fighting for our future

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

port for the workers.

Morale is high. Film shows are being organised as well as darts leagues and other entertainments. Meanwhile support continues to flood in. Even ordinary passers-by stop at the gate and give a pound or two and a few words of encouragement. This is an issue which concerns the whole community.

Support is arriving from many other factories, for example Chloride, another factory facing redundancies, sent a large donation. The dockers have also sent support. So too have local Labour Party organisations.

Gardners are introducing new technology as part of a

£17 million investment programme. This will mean even more jobs lost in the future.

The Gardners workforce are being asked to accept redundancies, then work harder to produce the profits so that the firm can introduce new machinery and then make even more people unemployed. It is like being asked to dig your own grave.

As Tommy Macafee said at a recent meeting, "We are not Luddites. We welcome new technology, even if it means that the machines are switched on by monkeys. But it will be our members pressing the buttons to feed the monkeys."

The question is, who bene-

fits from new technology, the workers or the bosses? If new technology means there is less work to be done, there should be no redundancies. Even in this recession people should not lose their jobs; the work should be shared out with no loss of pay.

L Gardner and Sons Ltd. is part of the massive Hawker Siddeley group. The annual report for 1979 blames industrial action for a fall in profits but at the same time the dividends handed out to shareholders went up from £9 million to £16 million in 1979. So much for "tightening the belts".

The Chairman of the Hawker Siddeley board of directors received a wage rise of £5,803 in 1979, bringing him up to a salary of a mere £71,218 a year. He also owns 4,000 shares in the group, which will help with the housekeeping.

With the top people receiving such salaries it is no wonder that one of the pickets the other day shouted over the

road to the management and their scabs, "Due to the worsening of the recession we regret to inform you that we are no longer able to afford the management."

Workers at Mirrlees Blackstone, another Hawker Siddeley factory in Stockport have already sent support. A combine shop stewards committee would strengthen the workers tremendously. Against such a giant boss the workers need a big organisation.

Last week management said that instead of leading a strike the union representatives should be discussing ways of enforcing these "regrettable" redundancies. The message from the labour movement is very different. The Gardners workers must win!

Send all messages of support, donations and telegrams to: Bro. Dave Marsden, 187 Barton Lane, Eccles, Manchester. Cheques payable to L Gardner and Sons Joint Shop Stewards No. 2 A/C.

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