

Angry Youth Demand: KICK OUT TORIES



Delegates enthusiastically support LPYS policies

Photo: J. Woulfe (Militant)

Only one thing stops the Tories creating a nightmare in Britain, the determination of workers, particularly young workers, that there will be no return to the 1930s.

If the Tories were allowed to get away with it, they would crush any hopes of young people getting jobs. More than a million school leavers will join the hunt for employment this year. But careers officers say it will be the worst year ever for vacancies.

Many youngsters are in fact giving up the chance of educational qualifications to leave school at Easter. All they can hope for is the dole, and if they stay on to leave at the summer, the Tories have announced they have to wait until September even to get that!

By Laurence Coates
(LPYS National
Committee)

The Labour Party Young Socialists have shown over the last few weeks they are not prepared to let the Tories get away with their plans.

Last weekend at Bridlington, more than 2,000 young workers, unemployed, school students and students came together for their annual conference. It was the biggest conference for nearly twenty years, and probably the most enthusiastic.

A record number of delegates attended. They

discussed the problems facing young workers and hammered out a programme which could put an end permanently to unemployment and poverty wages.

One LPYS member, Martin Hopley from Cannock and Rugely, told 'Militant' of the way employers blatantly exploit young workers on Youth Opportunities Programme [YOPS].

At the Photo-finishing firm where he worked until he was made unemployed, YOPS workers were used to do jobs that would normally be done by permanent workers; all for £23. 50p a week.

"One 16-year-old girl had been working at our firm for six months. The week before she was due to leave she got a letter from Personnel asking her for an interview. Naturally the women in her section thought she had a job lined up—and she was over the moon about it.

CONTINUED ON
BACK PAGE



GOOD EVENING YOUNG MAN. NOW HAVE YOU PERSONALLY NOTICED ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT HAVE ADDED TO THE TENSION IN THIS AREA?

BRIXTON- END POLICE SIEGE *Drop all charges*

The police presence has to be seen to be believed. There has been nothing like this since the occupation of Northern Ireland.

The police chiefs are taking advantage of the riots to stage a trial run for a massive police exercise.

The police are supposed to be keeping a 'low profile'. But everywhere there are patrols of two, three, four or even more policemen around the streets of Brixton. You can't put your rubbish in the dustbin without a policeman looking over your shoulder.

This is not as bad as immediately after the riot. Then you had to argue with a policeman to drive through the cordon to your own home if you lived in Brixton.

But even now the police presence is still intimidating. There is a feeling of

By Clare Doyle
(Norwood Labour Party)

tension and hostility.

Apart from foot patrols, there are police vehicles touring the area, with bus-loads of police parked all over the place. Every now and again they are let out for a walk!

It has been reported by Labour councillors that the police have set cameras on railway bridges and other buildings to carry out full-scale surveillance of the area.

During the fighting, the police used a helicopter with a powerful searchlight. It

was like a science-fiction film, with a powerful beam sweeping the area to pick out groups of people, undoubtedly photographed from above.

Everyone is demanding the withdrawal of the police!

Young people and older workers, black and white alike, blame the police for the trouble. Now, in the streets, in the meetings, and on the doorstep, there is a demand for the police to be withdrawn.

Hostility to police methods, however, has created a tremendous feeling of confidence and unity in the area.

Black and white people are talking together on the streets, brought together by a common enemy and common problems.

Rioting is not an answer to the problems. It will not provide jobs and won't build houses.

But everyone in the area recognises the frustration and anger that was expressed in the clashes. For a

CONTINUED ON
PAGE TWO

Defend Brixton

DEFEND MINORITY RIGHTS

To be young and black means you are liable to police harassment—to be a Rastafarian increases the risk.

Rastafarians, a Christian-based faith, have complained of constant harassment on the streets, and in such institutions as schools, state prisons, etc.

By Mark Harris and Jackie Ford

This is due to the refusal by the Home Office to acknowledge Rastafarianism as a legitimate religion, and subsequently prison officers have been instructed not to comply with Rastafarians who wish to practice their religion.

This is an insult to the people of the West Indies, where sixty percent in Jamaica for instance, subscribe to the religion. Rastafarianism was actively opposed in the former colonies by the British imperialists as a political threat to their own organised form of religion.

Today, many young blacks in Britain identify with the Rastafarian culture through their dress, and are also subjected to police harassment on the streets.

Rastas, also known as 'Nazirites', make a vow, which restricts them from eating certain foods. Rastas are mainly vegetarians, who don't drink alcohol, or any other product from the vine. This religious diet has been reported by Rastas to be totally denied within state prisons.

Convicted Rastas also have complained of humiliation by

prison officers who have cut their hair, dreadlocks. This non-cutting of hair is also a vow undertaken by Rastas. One 18-year-old Rasta girl was diagnosed as 'hypermanic' and another Rasta has also been diagnosed as a 'schizophrenic' for his religious views. After the death at Ashford Remand Centre last year of Richard Campbell, who was also a Rasta and was diagnosed as mentally ill, the Rastafarians in Britain have become increasingly frustrated and agitated not only by these happenings, but the constant harassment by police on the streets, due to their easily identifiable appearance and their refusal to conform with society's demands.

Young Rastas at school also feel frustrated due to the lack of facilities available to practice their faith and the constant harassment and disapproval from teachers.

The labour movement must fight to defend the rights of the Rastafarians, as it should with all minorities, and campaign for state recognition of Rastafarianism as legitimate religion.

Freedom of worship and freedom of expression must be guaranteed for all groups irrespective of their beliefs.

Photo: MILITANT



An LPYS member gets another signature supporting demands of the declaration

LPYS ACTION



LPYS mass meeting, Wednesday 15 April

Over 45 people attended the LPYS meeting called for Saturday afternoon (18 April).

These were just some of the people who had indicated at Wednesday's mass meeting that they were interested in joining the LPYS's activities. Some were over YS age, but were clearly looking to the young socialists for a lead.

There was a very full discussion on the Brixton events, and policies and tactics for the future. Plans for a labour movement enquiry were gone into, and there was also discussion on the fight against the cuts in Lambeth and the socialist policies which should be fought for by the Labour Party.

A number of people gave their own experience of police harassment at the weekend, and reported cases of arrests and brutality by the police. Defence of those arrested and charged is urgent.

The LPYS are calling another public meeting for Thursday 30 April, at 7.30 pm Room 119, Brixton Town Hall.

END POLICE SIEGE

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

time, at least, the police were pushed out. The youth of the area began to feel their power.

Now they are looking for more worked-out solutions, for political solutions.

There is widespread support for the idea of a labour movement enquiry.

Members of the LPYS, together with activists in the local Labour parties, trades unions, and black organisations, are now taking steps to form a Labour Defence Committee for Brixton, to initiate a full labour movement enquiry.

No one has any confidence that the Scarman tribunal will be anything more than a whitewash job for the Tories.

For cosmetic purposes, there may be a few minor criticisms of police tactics.

We need socialist policies

Scarman may give some 'good advice' about improving job prospects, housing, and amenities in the area.

But what solutions can a high court judge come up with?

Peope in the area want an enquiry which will put the blame where it really lies: on the Tories, on the police, and on the big-business system which created the

appalling conditions in which Brixton people are forced to live.

Workers in Brixton are prepared to fight for a way forward. They are looking for a lead. It is vital that the labour movement gives a lead, mobilising the movement to fight for socialist policies.

This is the only way in which the unity of black and white workers can be preserved and built on.

The Young Socialists have given a magnificent lead. The response to the LPYS's intervention, the enthusiastic support for the demands put forward by the YS from the beginning, are a start.

Now the fight must be taken up by the labour movement as a whole.

Tories refuse Brixton aid

Not a penny of extra money would be granted to Lambeth council to cope with the riot damage and Brixton's special problems.

This was the intransigent answer of Tory Environment Secretary, Michael Heseltine, to Ted Knight and other Labour councillors after a meeting last week.

Heseltine told the councillors: "My cabinet colleagues don't like you. They wouldn't trust Lambeth with more money anyway. If I went back and told them I'd conceded more resources to Lambeth, they would have me certified."

Compensation, the Tories say, will be paid under the Riot Act. But this, apart from

long delays, will not cover loss of business (which will inevitably mean business closures and more job losses) and will not help the council to clear up and repair damage—let alone begin to tackle the area's horrifying social problems.

The Thatcher government has already cut £20 million from Lambeth since it has been in power.

Lambeth council is cutting its expenditure by £15 million this financial year to keep the rate-increase down to 37½%, and there is no cash available to cover special expenditure as a result of the riot.

NEW CROSS COVER-UP

After a long pause, a senior police officer agreed that he had asked for a small aluminium canister to be photographed because he thought it could be an incendiary device.

This answer, given to one of the lawyers representing the families of the 13 young black people killed in the fire at a house in Deptford last January was just one indication that there was evidence of a deliberate arson attack.

Anger at the police's refusal to treat this horrific incident as a racist attack has been strong, particularly in black communities like Brixton.

Only a few days ago, New Scotland Yard announced that it was transferring detectives from the New Cross fire tragedy to the squad investigating the Brixton riots. The New Cross squad was being run down, said a police spokesman, "because as far as I know it has been ruled out that there were any suspicious circumstances as to the cause." Even the first day of the inquest (21 April) revealed any number of extremely suspicious circumstances!

A senior scientific officer from the Metropolitan police told the inquest that "at the time of this investigation I was satisfied the blaze was not an accident."

He reported that he had found traces of flammable liquid on pieces of carpet taken from the middle of the front ground-floor room. There were also traces of other inflammable liquid on the clothes of some of the victims.

He agreed that the tube found in the front garden was probably a clumsy incendiary device. He thought that it had not been thrown through the window, broken before the fire started, though he agreed that adhesive tape on the tube was similar to tape found in the front room.

Answering questions about the tube, he said: "It is very difficult to disassociate it from the event, even if you cannot find a link."

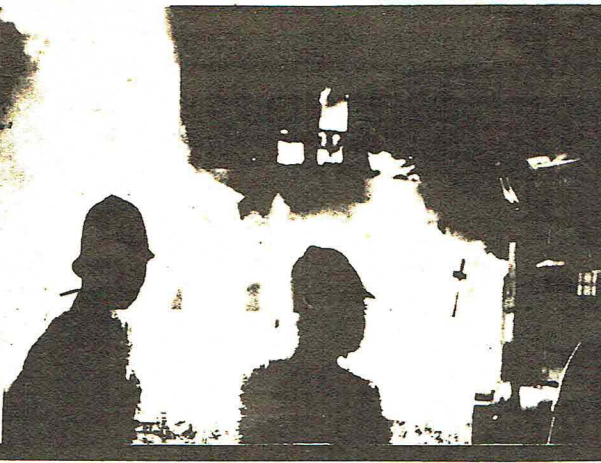
This evidence completely explodes the official police view up to now, that there was no evidence of a deliberate racist attack on 439 New Cross Road on 18 January.

Workers, especially black workers, will be following this inquest with great attention. They will be waiting to see whether it will really uncover the truth.

They will also want to know whether the police role in investigating the fire will itself be investigated. Above all, they will want to know whether those responsible for this horrifying incident will be brought to book.

The fact that members of the CID involved in the fire investigation will now be investigating "every criminal event that took place" during the Brixton rioting will only reinforce their suspicion and hostility to the police.

Defend Brixton



LPYS MASS MEETING ADOPTS DECLARATION

"I feed the police", said a young black woman. "I work and pay taxes. I have a house and pay rates ...And then the police hunt us down on the streets!"

"I'm pleased to be here at this meeting. We're tired of the police in Brixton... Too many bad things are happening to black people. This is the right time to fight back."

These comments, one of the many contributions from the floor of the meeting, summed up the angry mood of Brixton people at the police, at rotten conditions, and at the Tory government.

Over 600 people attended the meeting called by the Labour Party Young Socialists in Brixton Town Hall (15 April).

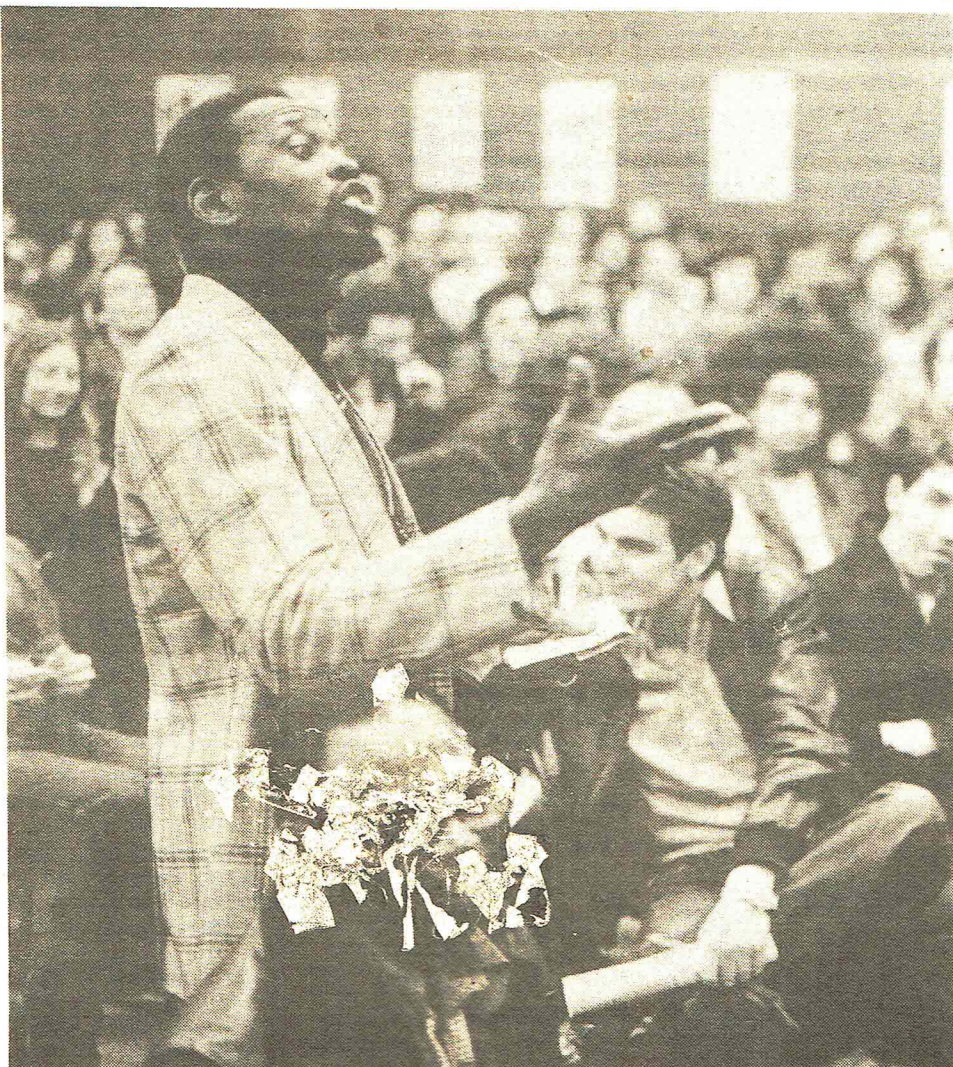
The big turn-out reflected the Young Socialists' intervention and mass leafleting in the area immediately following the weekend's riots. It was a lively, angry and enthusiastic meeting, in which the people of the area expressed their anger and their demand for action to change things.

Early in the meeting, an elderly white woman stood up and started shouting: "What about the muggers? Tell that to the people who've been mugged." The stewards gently asked her to leave, and the meeting laughed her out. Both blacks and whites expressed feelings of unity and warned of the dangers of the capitalist press and media trying to divide the workers with racist propaganda.

Later, a young woman stood up and got a very cool reception when she said the meeting shouldn't be lulled by "fighting talk". "The people who were on the streets are not here," she shouted. "Yes we are!" was the shout from around the hall.

"The Labour Party Young Socialists are part and parcel of the fight against police harassment and oppressive conditions," said Bob Lee, of the PNP Socialist Youth Movement, in opening the meeting. "The blame for what happened must be laid on the ruling class," said Bob. The Tories were trying to use racism to divide the workers, just as they were using religion in Northern Ireland.

Bob re-stated the LPYS



A speaker from the floor at Wednesday's meeting

Photo: MILITANT

demands for the withdrawal of the police, the release of all prisoners, the dropping of all charges, and a labour movement enquiry to investigate who was responsible for the situation—demands which clearly had the unanimous support of the meeting.

There was also loud applause for his call for a struggle to bring down the Tories.

Kevin Ramage, National Chairman of the LPYS, also drew loud support: "Thatcher says unemployment has nothing to do with it—but unemployment has absolutely everything to do with it!"

Thatcher was attempting a racist smear, said Kevin, when she says that nothing like this happened in the 1930s. "That's a lie!" There were riots in Birkenhead in 1932, and there were clashes when the police attacked demonstrations and marches of the unemployed throughout the 1930s.

"And there will be riots in Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, and other cities if unemployment is not brought down," said Kevin.

"Swamp '81" was the attempt to introduce a new method of repression, beginning in Brixton but then extended to other areas, warned Kevin.

Socialists to change the Labour Party, to win support for socialist policies, and to step up the fight against the Tories, the police and the whole rotten system.

Speaking from the floor, a young West Indian woman warned that the police and the Tories were trying to use the blacks to stir up racial hostility to use against the Labour Party. "They want to get the Labour Party out in Lambeth, and get the Tories in."

The police were not at all diplomatic any more, said a black worker. Their attitude to black people, was clear: "When they are on duty they are not in the NF. When they are off duty they are in the NF."

The first step in the battle, said another West Indian from the floor, was to turn over this Tory government by voting for Labour. "This is the reality," he said, "Vote for labour, or you might as well go home."

Another West Indian woman said that she had lived in Lambeth for 25 years: "It means something to me, I love it." But things had changed: "I don't care about black and white, but young people in Lambeth are definitely repressed...don't just sit

here...join together, black and white, to help young people!"

One young black said that he had lived in Lambeth for ten years. He had never been unemployed. "But I can no longer live in this state because of the way Thatcher, and also sections of the Labour Party, are treating the working class. People like yourselves (the LPYS) should be thinking of a revolutionary change of society."

This speaker was assured that the LPYS stood for a fundamental socialist change

By 'Militant' Reporter

of society. Anne Beales, Chairman of the London Region LPYS, said: "Young Socialists were there on Saturday night and know what happened. LPYS members are being arrested day in, day out. Why? Because Thatcher tells them to do it. They hate the LPYS—because we have the ideas to overthrow them."

Anne gave examples of the brutal way in which people were arrested at the weekend. There should be an enquiry. "But who will go in front of

Scarman?" There should be a proper investigation, a People's investigation by the labour movement: "Those responsible must be made to pay."

Anne also appealed, to loud applause, to people to join the fight to "take over the Labour Party and give ourselves the leaders we need."

Lambeth was now under an "army of occupation", said Ted Knight, leader of Lambeth Labour Council. He denounced the mass of arrests

Many had no job, social security was being cut, and there was not enough to maintain children and homes.

"It is not just black people, because everyone is suffering," he said. "The police must take note. They have declared war on people who are not working, on people trying to survive, and on we who are Rastafarians...the balloon can only take so much air. Too much and it bursts!" he said to laughter and applause.

Another West Indian woman called on John Tilley to say what he would be doing about those arrested, and particularly those young blacks who were arrested, beaten up by the police and then thrown out without being charged.

"The police were out of control on Saturday night," said a black worker. He had argued with senior policemen present but they had refused to appeal to the people. "The police were throwing bricks. I saw them with these eyes," he said pointing his own eyes. "What happened to those policemen? Were they arrested?" There was more laughter at this ludicrous, rhetorical question.

At the close of the meeting, after there had been many questions and contributions from the floor, the meeting briefly discussed the declaration presented from the platform.

The first paragraph was amended to read, "We the People of Brixton..." and there was a demand added calling for "our resources" to be channelled back into the Brixton community.

With these amendments the Declaration was overwhelmingly approved by the meeting. It reads:



BRIXTON DECLARATION

"We, the people of Brixton, declare that the responsibility for the riots in Brixton rests with the police, because of their harassment and racial discrimination and heavy presence in the area.

"Also responsible are the Tories and the class they represent, whose system—being run purely for the profit of the rich—has pushed unemployment up to 3 million and bred poverty and slum housing.

"We demand:

- An end to police harassment
- Withdrawal of the massive police presence
- No return of the police cordon
- Democratic street committees to involve all the people of the area and to link up with the trade unions, Labour Parties and black organisations to defend the area.
- Immediate release of those arrested and the dropping of all charges
- Immediate disbandment of the SPG
- The labour movement should launch a People's Enquiry, drawing on trade unions, shop stewards' committees, black organisations and the workers and youth of the area and tenants' associations
- Immediate release of our funds from central government—to be put back into the community.

"The above declaration was enthusiastically agreed by 600 people, at a meeting organised by the Labour Party Young Socialists, held at Lambeth Town Hall on Wednesday 15 April, 1981."





The role of the police in trying to protect the bosses' class interests was clearly shown at Grunwick's. Above workers stopped the mounted police.

'Every workers struggle can be seen as a victory'

"What we have just seen should not be a reason for despair; the events at Grunwick's in 1977-8 were like other chapters in the history of the labour movement where the oppressed have struggled against exploiters."

This is how Cathy Wilson, [Labour's Parliamentary Candidate in the Isle of Wight at the last election] summed up the film 'Look Back at Grunwicks', shown at the recent Trade Union Day School called by Poole LPYS.

The message was not lost on the fifty-three workers present, who will be going back to their fifteen different unions, six Constituency Labour Parties, and five LPYS branches, and carrying forward the message of socialism.

One Union of Communication Workers' member, already furious at the intro-

By Andy Rosser
(ASTMS and Poole LPYS)

duction of the Post Office bosses' Improved Working Methods scheme, looked on in horror as the film explained how Jackson and the Post Office workers' leadership disciplined the Cricklewood postmen for blacking Grunwick's mail.... "How can workers and trade unionists be fined £1,400 for doing what trade unions are designed to do in the first place?"

The Branch Secretary of the local Hotel Workers' pointed out "We look at Grunwick's and see workers sacked for joining a trade union, but it happens day after day in hotels and

restaraunts all over Bournemouth." The film showed the effect that Grunwick's had on the low paid everywhere, by ending with scenes from the strike of Garner's Steak Houses in London.

As Peter Jarvis (London National Graphical Association) explained: "Every struggle of the workers is a victory in the sense that the lessons learnt and the material gains made enable successive struggles to begin at a higher level of class consciousness." The sight of a handful of Asian women in the backstreets of North London struggling for basic workers rights was enough to bring solidarity from South Wales miners, Fleet street printers, Liverpool dockers and Birmingham car workers.

The stirring scenes of mass solidarity epitomised the willingness of workers to make every sacrifice in defence of their organisations. But the role of the 'tops' of the movement in the face of the intimidation of the ruling class, was enough to send every worker back to their union with a determination to fight for an accountable and democratically elected leadership prepared to match those sacrifices.

The struggle at Grunwick's had clearly shown the role of

the police, and the legal system in a class society. The forces of 'law and order' were vividly seen in the form of the Special Patrol Group using military tactics to break the strike. As Peter Jarvis showed in his contribution to 'Trade unions and the Law' it was "necessary for the state forces to intervene on the side of the bosses, not in order to defend democratic rights but in order to maintain the system of capitalism, and the private ownership of property upon which it rested."

But after all the discussion and debate one overriding question remained to be answered. If the protection of capitalism is sufficient to unite under one banner the Tories, the National Association for Freedom, the boys in blue and their allies in the leadership of the labour movement, what then is necessary to unite the working class?

Poole LPYS are now confident that by bringing together so many workers, from engineering, hotels, teaching, agriculture and elsewhere, they are proving in practice that it is the struggle for socialism which provides the common link.

Portsmouth: Fascists Protected

100 National Front members and supporters gathered for a demonstration in Portsmouth on Saturday 4th April. 400 anti-fascists successfully surrounded the march and its police escort forcing it to stop on four or five occasions and drowning out their shouting.

This forced the police to herd the fascists into a tight group and rush them, as best they could, to a rallying point on the sea front. Only half of those that started appeared to be present at the end. After a short inaudible rally, the police quickly escorted them back into town for a hasty getaway.

While the National Front claimed their march was a normal council election event and quite respectable, the real nature of the National Front was shown by the written instructions to their members, asking them to dress respectably, not to wear swastikas, or give Nazi salutes.

Prior Picketed

Recently Jim Prior came to Telford the same day as 1,000 redundancies were announced at GKN Sankey, the main employer in the town. 500 people crowded outside the Charlton Arms and formed a picket. Meanwhile the LPYS led chanting, took a collection for its funds and a petition for an unemployed day centre.

When Prior arrived, few recognised him until a local shop-steward advanced on him with a red flag. The crowd's mood was so angry that the doors were rushed and a police cordon only just stopped what the local press called the 'seething mass' from crashing through. So frightened was Prior that despite his weight problems, he got out of the car so quickly, that he made TV stars Bodie and Doyle look like "The Amateurs".

By Ken Clanfield
(Wrekin LPYS)

Job Swap Shop no Answer

One of the most amazing ways of alleviating the problem of unemployment has surfaced in Neath lately. Amusingly called, "Job Swap Shop", it is the Brain child of local AUEW District secretary and CLV organiser, Frank Evans.

Frank had recently decided to call a meeting in Neath to try and organise some type of centre for the unemployed Frank felt he wanted to do something for the unemployed because whilst he has been district secretary over 2,500 jobs have been lost in the engineering industry in the Neath area. (600 in Metal Box, 700 in Borg Warner, 300 in the steel works etc).

Dissatisfied at the turnout for the meeting, Frank decided then to construct this enterprising new scheme of 'job swap shop'. The scheme consists of unemployed people doing virtually what amounts to 'Hobbies' for each other.

For example a fitter could do an engineering job for an electrician and in return the spark could wire up the engineers house or some other electrical job, all for no cost.

Whilst this may help to alleviate the problems of unemployment for some people one wonders what happens to the people who have no trade or skill. Particularly it offers no promise for youngsters straight from school.

Perhaps we could also speculate as to the feelings of electricians and engineers who are being put out of their jobs after being told there is not enough work around.

This bizarre example shows that the Labour movement cannot just fiddle around hoping to give the unemployed the best of a raw deal. Such tinkering solves nothing and could aggravate the problems in a prejudiced manner.

By Kenneth Smith

Healey laments lost 'friends'

Denis Healey used a fringe meeting at Labour's Southern Regional Annual Conference recently to fire another salvo at the left, and at 'Militant' in particular.

Healey referred to the Social Democrats as "my friends", whose policies he agreed with, his only

By Ray Apps
(Brighton Kemptown Labour Party)

criticism being that they had left the party.

Despite a free buffet lunch however, only 47 turned up to hear Healey's views.

There was a "wide-spread" view in the party, Healey asserted, that we should not spend six months on the election of deputy leader. In other words, Tony Benn should not be standing.

Yet even while Healey was speaking, this idea was crushingly refuted. Three hundred people, including most of the conference delegates, were giving a standing ovation to Tony Benn at a meeting organised by Kemptown Labour Party.

From the platform, Rod Fitch, prospective parliamentary candidate for Kemptown, and Alan Huyton of the LPYS national committee, both gave their support to his candidature.

Tony Benn made it clear

that the deputy-leadership contest was not about personalities, but the need for socialist policies and a collective leadership to carry them through.

Rod Fitch was loudly applauded when he said that the Party needed a leadership democratically answerable to the rank and file. "Whatever the leadership may be," said Rod, "if they try to work within the framework of capitalism, then they will fail—and we will face defeat and a government even more reactionary than Thatcher's."

On the previous evening, 'Militant' held a successful public meeting. There was certainly more support than for Denis Healey's nosh-up, and a collection raised £89 in support of Marxist ideas.

The wishing box

In the cafe which has recently opened specifically for the unemployed youth of East Kilbride, [see Militant Letters page, 10 April] there is a box prominently displayed next to the entrance.

It is not called a suggestion box as such, but is instead described as a "wishing box".

The sign above it says: "Wish in here! If you had one wish, what would it be? More sport? More music? More discos? Or what? We can't promise to make every wish come true, but there's no harm in wishing."

All in all, a very good idea to encourage those whose the cafe to suggest how it should be run.

However, as one of the staff told me, "The 'wishing box' has not been as successful as we hoped.

By Stephen Wright

Rather than wishing for more discos or whatever, most of the replies came in two categories. Firstly those who wish they had a job, and, secondly, the vast majority, who all wished Thatcher and the Tories either death or something even more unpleasant."

Well, there you are. Has there ever been such a detested government? The labour and trade union movement must use all its strength and resources to force an early general election and kick out the Tories.

In that way, we can make the needs of the youth of East Kilbride and the rest of Britain come true in 1981!

End Tory control of London



The shortage of decent housing in London is critical. Yet last week when a public enquiry postponed its hearings on what should be built on the large, valuable Coin Street site until after the local elections, the Tories on the GLC promptly sold off the site to a big business group to try and tie the hands of a future Labour GLC.
Above: a protest outside County Hall demanding houses for Coin Street site.
Photo. Blackfriars Photography Project

The lively campaign which Jake Magee has been conducting in Uxbridge as Labour's candidate in the Greater London Council elections, has had an excellent response.

Jake, a thirty-three year old factory worker and 'Militant' supporter, is fighting for all the reforms in favour of working people which are contained within the GLC Manifesto.

He believes that for them to be fully implemented, the Labour Party and trade union movement must tackle the Tories head on with clear socialist policies:

- *No cuts
- *No rent or rate increases to offset Tory cuts
- *No redundancies
- *A £90 minimum wage and £35 hour week for all workers
- *A massive programme of useful public works for decent housing, health, education and social services
- *Nationalisation of the monopolies with compensation only on the basis of proven need
- *Democratic workers' control and management of the economy.

This is the fighting socialist approach which Jake will press for on the GLC. And during the campaign he will be putting the alternative to Thatcher and Cutler, the Tory's GLC leader at nine public meetings, together with days of action and factory gate meetings.

We aim to build a mass campaigning Labour Party in Uxbridge amongst working class people and trade unionists. In the last year the number of trade union delegates affiliated to the

By Phil Kordun
(POEU and Election
Agent, Uxbridge
Constituency)

General Management Committee has jumped from 2 to 20. The days of the vocal intellectuals, careerists, opportunists and carpet-baggers running this party are numbered!

This has been borne out by the recent defection of several local party officials and Councillors to the Social Democrats.

But now, defeated in argument and unable to maintain their liberal-Tory mask any longer, they've left. They have no policies to offer working people, only the tried, tested, and failed remedies which resulted in cuts in living standards when implemented by the last Labour government.

Yet when thirty LPYS members from West London went out on a canvass in Uxbridge the Sunday before Easter they got an enthusiastic response. Forty three copies of 'Militant' were sold and there were many applications to join the Labour Party and the LPYS. The next major event will be a mass canvass this coming Sunday April 26. Come along and help put a nail in Cutler and Thatcher's coffin.

Mass Canvass Sunday April 26. Meet at Hillingdon station, Metropolitan/Piccadilly line) at 9.30am.

SOCIALIST ADVANCE IN 'SOFT SOUTH'

The developing mood of positive opposition to the Tory government was demonstrated at the recent Southern Region Labour Party conference in Hastings.

The major debate of the conference was on the economy, with only two composites being debated. It demonstrated the weakness of the right wing of the party, that they had not put any economic resolutions on to the agenda.

The two composite resolutions were almost identical but for its own reasons the Regional Executive supported one and opposed the other. The first composite, carried on a show of hands, called for complete support for the action of public sector workers opposing government policy and demanded that a future Labour government adopted an index linked minimum wage of £80 per week and a 35-hour week without loss of pay for all public sector workers.

It stated that the annual meeting would only support a policy for incomes for

public sector workers within the context of a planned socialist economy, where the major monopolies were under public ownership and where socialist planning involved decisions on pay, prices, investment and control of investment.

The second composite moved by Brighton Kemp-ton Labour Party expanded on this, calling for a reversal of all cuts made by the Tory government, a crash programme of useful public works, massive expansion of health and education and social services, and opposition to all closures. The reason the Executive opposed this resolution was that they claimed that the composite was wrong to state that the Labour government had presided over hospital closures and cutbacks in public expenditure.

However, in the debate, speaker after speaker supported the composite and it was only by use of the unions' block vote that it was defeated by 400,000 to 200,000.

One important breakthrough at Conference was the decision to allocate, for the first time, a budget for the Regional Labour Party

Young Socialists. This budget of £250 was obviously only a start, but demonstrated the feeling in the conference that the work of the LPYS was growing and had to be supported.

The Executive Committee asked for remission of this resolution but it was overwhelmingly passed.

The final issue of importance, although many important questions were discussed such as housing, health and social services, and the Tory cuts, was not actually debated on the floor of the conference. At its last meeting, the regional Executive Committee passed a resolution calling on Tony Benn to withdraw from the contest of the deputy leadership of the party in the name of "unity".

Although the Executive is responsible for the annual meeting of the Southern Region Labour Party this resolution was not allowed to be discussed from the floor. This demonstrated the lack of confidence among the majority of the EC members in their ability to defend their resolution.

However, the resolution gave rise to what is probably the most successful fringe meeting at Southern Region

Labour Party Conference where over 300 people spent Sunday lunchtime listening to Tony Benn explain his view on the way forward for the Labour Party at a meeting organised by Brighton Kempton Labour Party (see opposite).

The Annual meeting of the Southern Region Labour Party demonstrated the flow of members into the party with many of the constituency parties increasing their membership in the last year by 10%, 20% and even 30%. This will soon be reflected by increased activity in the party and a move to the left in the Southern Region as a whole with a change in the composition of the Executive Committee.

The Southern Region of the Labour Party is dubbed the weakest of the Labour Party regions, and the one where the Social Democratic Party may believe it can make some headway. However, the evidence of the annual meeting is that with the mood developing in the party and the growth of the Labour Party we will see massive steps forward in the Southern Region in the local and general elections.

By Geoff Jones

Ideas 'you don't hear on tele'

I hope the right wing of the labour and trade union movement is on the doorstep now, canvassing in the GLC elections. I should hate to think they were leaving it to us to bear the brunt of their decision of raising the rents and rates.

Canvassing one block of Council flats, it seemed that every other door was opened by an elderly person

capable of conveying in two minutes flat their disillusionment and disenchantment with "the Party that we fought for" that has let them down so badly.

"Why are they doing this to us?" and "What has happened to them?" were the two most frequent remarks I heard. And people did not seem to realise that they still had other cuts coming in social services and community help, despite the current increases of between £6 and £7 a week. "We always had two good meals a day" said one pensioner with disabled husband. "Now we shall have to make do with one and a snack. As for Supplementary Benefit? I shouldn't have to ask".

"I was at the Battle of Cable Street in 1936," another lady said to me bitterly. "We were real fighters in those days." This was coming from the

old people let alone the younger ones. Yet I have sat at Ward meetings and heard bleatings from Councillors that the community would not support them if they made a stand.

Despite all the complaints, the grumbings and the very real hardships probably eight out of ten spoken to acknowledged that the Labour Party was still 'their' Party. They listened really intently and with obvious relish to accounts of Ward meetings and the fight that is going on within the Party to make Councillors and MPs accountable for their actions. "We don't hear it like that on the tele!"

It isn't all misery canvassing. One man came onto his doorstep and advanced on me aggressively, his forefinger prodding my arm continuously. "Vote Labour? You want me to vote Labour?" he kept say-

ing. "I'll vote Labour all right if you can answer me one question properly!"

Retreating rapidly with an already painful arm I thought to myself that I would have reached the stairs by the time he got his question out and I could make a run for it. "I'll vote Labour" he said "when you tell me why someone, anyone hasn't knocked Maggie Thatcher off by now?"

I breathed again. "It's just not the way" I said. "It still leaves all the rest of them and their policies."

"True, true, but you have to make a start somewhere." I wish some of the Labour leaders would do just that. Not knock Maggie Thatcher off, but make a start somewhere to fight back.

By Myrna Shaw

(Hackney North CLP)

MILITANT READERS MEETINGS

CHESTER-LE-STREET
'Poland—the struggle for a workers' democracy'. Speaker, Dave Cotterill. Chester-Le-Street Labour Club, Sunday 26th April 7.30pm. Further details phone Wally Scott 0385-887603

POOLE
Marxist Discussion Group, Tuesday 28 April, 8.00 pm.

Subject: The Labour Party. Speaker: Jill Hayes (Southampton LP). Further details, telephone Parkstone 733989/732090.

SOUTHERN AREA SCHOOL
Sunday May 3 and Bank Holiday Monday May 4. Three speakers, social and food. Hotel Bed and Breakfast at Danville Hotel (on

sea front), Cliftonville, Margate. Only £7.50 (same as last year). Please book early as capacity limited. Write/phone K Nicholson, 25 Grotto Road, Cliftonville, Margate, Kent (0843 291293). Speakers: Ray Apps 'What is Marxism?', Dudley Edwards '1926 General Strike'. Debate—Militant versus Communist Party, 'Perspectives for Britain'.

By John
Nicholson

(COHSE Branch Sec.)

A TALE OF TWO CLASSES

By Bob
Wade

Olive Wheeler has worked in the health service as a cook for the last ten years, and never did a thing wrong.

She was always on time, and took her work seriously. But things started to go wrong when her husband, a self-employed window cleaner, had to give up work because of a back injury.

This meant Olive had to give up working weekends and had to cut down her hours to nurse her husband.

Making ends meet became a strain; basic pay for a cook is not that good, and her financial situation went from bad to worse. Soon she was on valium for her nerves.

Like many others in her position, the strain became intolerable and her resistance dropped. Temptation came her way in the guise of a chicken; she took it thinking that it would help, providing at least two meals for her and her husband. But she was caught.

Olive was suspended on full pay, pending a disciplinary hearing. At the hearing she was dismissed. The District Catering Manager said she would be used as an example to the rest of the staff. There was no compassion, he wasn't interested in the circumstances.

The management informed the police and Olive was charged with stealing the chicken worth £1.40.

To compound the offence, management stated that Olive stole two bottles of gooseberry juice (which is the juice off gooseberries which is normally thrown away when pies are made).

All this happened in November, and Olive was only called to court in March. She was fined £25 and ordered to pay £25 costs.

Add it all up and she owes

In this insane capitalist society, a well-fed deb whose "skills" include getting into a sports car properly, can expect a life of luxury. But a hospital cook is hounded and driven into the ground.



£50 to the court, £125 to her solicitor. She's lost her job, and to cap it all the local press were there so the case will be in the papers.

At 57 when she was down and at the end of her tether, she's been kicked in the teeth. No money, no job, no future.

Olive is not the only case; everyday workers become desperate and turn to petty theft as a way out.

Low wages (especially in the NHS) is the largest cause of petty theft—only by demanding a living wage will these causes be eliminated and only when socialism is achieved will workers begin to "live" their lives.

While Olive's court case will get a few lines in a local paper, concentrating on her 'crime' rather than the circumstances which led to it, 18 year old debutante Christobel d'Orthez received a centre page feature on her life style in the 'Daily Mirror' (April 7).

D'Orthez, daughter of actress Moira Lister and the Viscountess d'Orthez, a champagne magnate, isn't reduced to stealing frozen chickens to eat—she lives

well.

If some gilded gentleman wished to take her out, he can expect to pay around £160 (equivalent to a hospital worker's pay for three weeks) for the evening. "I suppose a normal night out starting with cocktails, then dinner at a restaurant in Chelsea probably, and then on for dancing at Tramp would probably come to around £150 or £160 including tips and taxis and everything," she says.

When you're a member of the upper classes, you don't have to worry about silly things like unemployment. After a course at the Lucie Clayton secretarial school—

where she learnt such vital skills as "how to get in and out of a sports car properly and how to put on make up"—she has had several glamorous jobs, but moves about because she gets 'bored'.

But then if she worked all the time, she wouldn't be able to do much travelling. She's been to South Africa, Canada, Italy, Spain, France, South America and the Canary Islands.

However, this bright young thing does feel for the unemployed: "I do think it's sad that so many talented people can't get work, just because they've got a Cockney accent or something."

But of course, d'Orthez lives in a different world. There wasn't any question of her tramping the streets of London to find a bed-sit or some other intolerable living quarters with an exorbitant rent, to live in. Oh no. Her mother bought her a flat in Chelsea for a quarter of a million pounds.

"We (Christobel and her sister Chantal) pay mother £25 a week. It's nothing really. I suppose she could get £300-a-week for it.

"It's a lovely flat—she decorated it herself, you know. Not actually papering and painting—we had workmen for that—but she designed it and chose all the colours." You can almost see the sweat glistening on her mother's brow, what with all those decisions to make!

And unlike Olive, d'Orthez's life does not consist of trying to make ends meet and nursing a sick husband. Her's is an endless bout of balls, banquets and jet-setting parties.

She's even met Prince Andrew, and despite her top education at the exclusive St Mary's convent at Ascot, Berkshire, the only words she could find to describe him were "he's really hunky, pant-pant."

But d'Orthez's luxurious life of extravagance, while the rest of the mass of the people suffer the depravation, degradation and misery of capitalism, is not the real crime, no matter how sickening it is to stomach.

The crime is that the privileged ruling class she was born and bred into has control of the levers of society, and they direct it to further their own parasitic role, at the expense of the rest of us, holding back the development of society.

LANCASHIRE - TIME FOR CHANGE

The cuts in Lancashire have damaged service right across the board. Education, social services and fire services have been singled out for special attacks, and the danger is that the worst is not yet over.

Over the past two years, fire services have been decimated to such an extent that the Chief Fire Officer told a recent meeting of the Fire and Protection committee that there was nothing left to cut without falling below the national statutory standards of fire cover.

The Tories' answer has been to start national talks about reducing these standards!—a reminder that the fight is about government even more than it is about local authorities.

Social Service cuts have attacked the needy. A standard £1.20 a week charge for home helps means that those

though, that this item will re-appear if the Tories win after May 7th!

Education is now feeling the brunt of the new round of cuts. Teaching posts have been reduced, capitation allowances for basic books and materials cut by 15%, and new charges have been imposed for swimming and music. The Labour group has challenged the legality, as well as the morality, of these new charges in so-called "free" education.

Milk for infants has been withdrawn, and the school meals service has been severely reduced to the extent that there has been a 30% reduction in uptake and the loss of the equivalent of over 1,000 full-time jobs.

The bankruptcy of the Tory case was exposed when the Chairman of the Education Committee (County Councilor Michael Fitzherbert-Brockholes, who describes his occupation in the Council diary as 'Landowner') alleged that Lancashire school meals had become unpopular because of a "left-wing plot" hatched by the County Labour Group!

At the moment, there are 12 Labour County Councillors out of a total of 96 members. The County elections will be

fought on new gerry-manderred boundaries which were rushed through to accommodate Tory representations without a public enquiry. There will be 99 seats in the new council.

Despite this, Labour will be fighting for control.

The election manifesto was finalised by a special policy conference of the Lancashire County Labour Party, which received and amended reports submitted by working parties which had been operating for the past two years.

There is close liaison with the trade unions through an ongoing liaison committee representing the County Labour Party, County Labour Group, and the Lancs. Association of Trades Councils. The industrial policy document has been agreed by these three sections of the movement.

The Lancs. Labour Party set out to protect the people of Lancashire against the Tory government.

Over a four-year term of office, we would aim to reduce and withdraw the home help charges for those on supplementary benefit, repeal the charges for the disabled travel pass, give priority to teachers, books and essential equipment, and

withdraw charges for swimming and music.

We would act to halt the virtual collapse of the school meals service and improve standards. We want to restore free school milk for infants and we are committed to keeping the threatened day nurseries open.

Need to plan industry

The industrial policy calls for the County Council to take the lead in ensuring proper planning of sites, buildings and infra-structure for industrial growth. It calls on the County council to survey its own landholdings to see whether sites and buildings can be released for industrial development.

Public investment is advocated through the local authorities, the National Enterprise Board and the government on the basis of public accountability, with the criteria being the creation of jobs and prosperity for the community rather than the creation of private profit.

It is suggested the NEB be expanded incorporating trade unions and local authority interests, to form the basis of a democratically accountable North West Development Agency to promote planned and co-ordinated investment for the future. There is support for new forms of public enterprise, including municipal initiatives and co-operatives.

The election campaign will be a continuation and heightening of the attacks that have been made on the Tory cuts and the Tory government for the past two years. We will appeal to all sections of the community that have suffered, exposing the cuts that have affected them. We hope that the trade union movement will expose the decimation of services as well as the loss of jobs.

One point worth noting is that, despite the viciousness of the Lancashire cuts, they have fallen short of government targets. Next year's budget makes cuts of £14 million. Heseltine demanded £34 million!

We suspect the Tories are planning more cuts after the election. Whoever wins the county elections, there will doubtless be changes in Lancashire in 1981!

By Louise Ellman

(Leader, Lancs County Council Labour Group)

previously exempted on grounds of hardship have now to pay. Government interference forbade social security to assist in such cases.

The "free" travel pass for the blind and disabled, introduced after Labour pressure, now costs £15—a good comment on Tory hypocrisy as they pay lip-service to the International Year of the Disabled!

Three-day nurseries are to be shut down, and the Labour Group have managed to stall a decision on increasing day nursery charges. We suspect,

STOP THE DESTRUCTION OF STIRLINGSHIRE

Central Scotland has been devastated by a spate of redundancies and closures pushing the unemployment levels to even more drastic heights.

In the town of Denny, West Stirlingshire, where the local paper and foundry industries have been virtually destroyed through closures, unemployment has leapt by more than 100% in the past year!

But the effects of the recession haven't just been confined to individual communities. The whole of the Central Region is suffering. Closure has hit Glynwed's foundry, Falkirk, and Junior Books in Grangemouth. And there has been a string of redundancies, including: Porters rubber works, Stirling; British Aluminium, Falkirk; United Glass and Jaeger Knitwear in Alloa.

Even in the new "boom" town of Cumbernauld, built in the 1960s to offer an alternative to living in the slums of Glasgow, Burroughs computer factory are making over 300 redundant.

Unemployment in the region now stands at over 14%, but even that figure belies the effects unemployment is having on working class people.

Youth unemployment in particular is hitting hard. Central Region has the highest level in Scotland, and all the opportunities for getting into an apprenticeship have just about dried up. The only work available is on a government scheme like YOP (Youth Opportunities Programme) or community industry where you get a miserable £23.50 for a full 40 hour week. After that, it's back on the dole.

Only one shop has opened up a new shopping precinct in Grangemouth—the Job centre. It's the only place that can guarantee a steady flow of customers.

Central Regional Council's attempt to attract the new Datsun car plant to Grangemouth has been to no avail. The labour movement must rely on its own strength to fight unemployment, stop all redundancies and share out the work.

Six months ago, the Central Federation of Trades Councils launched an unemployment campaign which has successfully raised the whole issue throughout the movement.

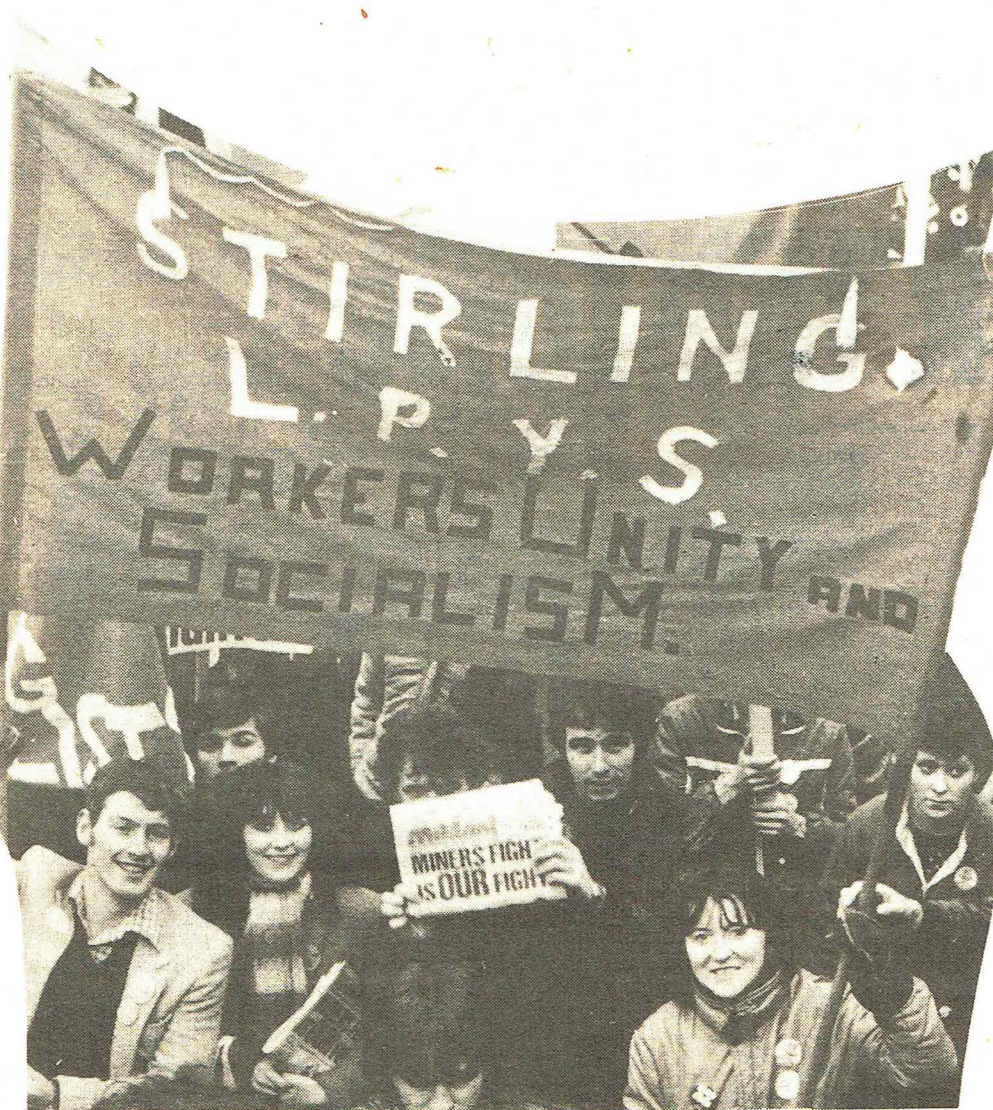
Nearly 2000 people demonstrated their anger at Tory policies in February in Stirling, a large contingent went on the 21 February demo in Glasgow, and an Unemployed Workers Association was recently set up in Stirling.

These all mark great steps forward, but the onslaught of rising unemployment continues and the campaign must develop to take the struggle onto the shop floor. We can't afford to lose another single job in the area.

West Stirlingshire Labour Party are holding a conference on unemployment in order to discuss the enormous problems we face with mass unemployment. The Labour and trade union movement must be prepared to organise the unemployed and the employed in the battle to change society.

By Alastair Wilson

(Trade Union Officer West Stirling CLP)



Stirling Labour Party Young Socialists on Labour Party march in Glasgow, 21 February

Unemployed Workers Association

An Unemployed Workers Association has been set up in Stirling by the local Trades Council. Already it has its own small office and has been out leafletting the dole, recruiting members.

As well as organising the unemployed and building links with the local trades unions and shop stewards' committees, one of its main aims is to start up an Unemployed Centre in the town centre which could be a focal point for its work.

Redundancies at HK Porters rubber works and short-time working at Cape Insulation and Players cigarette factory paint a bleak picture.

A local NALGO official, speaking at a recent public meeting, forecast whole sec-

tions of the Social Services Department being closed down. For the 3100 people officially on the dole in Stirling there are only a miserable handful of jobs at the Job centre, mostly seasonal work in the tourist trade.

As far as permanent work in industry is concerned, there is nothing on offer. The tourist brochures call Stirling "the gateway to the highlands." For the people who live here, Stirling leads to nowhere.

The aims of the UWA point the finger at the bosses, through the Stock Exchange and the Tories, for the misery of unemployment. It pledges its support for the fight against all closures and redundancies,

realising that this can only be effective if its taken up on the shop floor.

Although we are beginning to tackle the task of organising unemployed people, we also see the need to fight for the general workers' unions to open up their ranks to all the unemployed.

Only when both unemployed and employed are united can we really begin to fight the vast problems of mass unemployment.

By Jim Newlands

(Stirling Unemployed Workers Association)

There's a clear socialist alternative

Alistair Gilles was one of those unemployed until he got a job as a gardener on the Youth Opportunities Programme:

"The job is OK because it's better than doing nothing. But the money is rubbish. You do the same work as older men and get less than half the wage. I've another three months on the scheme—then I suppose it'll be back to normal."

"Normal" for the majority of youth like Alistair means the dole queue.

In the summer the ranks of unemployed youth will be swelled with the hundreds of school leavers unable to find a job. In the build up to a recent demonstration on unemployment, the Young Socialists were leafletting the schools. One young girl came up and said: "It doesn't affect me—it's two years before I leave school and have to go on to the dole!"

The job opportunities are so poor that the job centre in Stirling has to put paintings and decorations on the vacancies board to fill up the blank spaces.

It's hardly surprising that the desire to hit back at the system is strong. The Tories realise this and have built a detention centre in the surrounding hills—the only thing they have built for young people in the area.

This anger, however, must be channelled in the right direction. That means joining the Labour Party Young Socialists and fighting for better facilities, a job and a clear socialist alternative.

The inadequacies of this system are clear to everybody. The labour movement must take action to change it.

The Labour Party Young Socialists is at the forefront of the struggle for socialism day in and day out—we want the labour movement to launch a campaign to get rid of the Tories and provide a clear socialist alternative:

- ★ A guaranteed job for every school-leaver.
- ★ Expand Youth Opportunities Programme into a massive scheme of useful public works.
- ★ Trade union control of YOP, training and full pay at 18.
- ★ 35-hour week
- ★ £80 minimum wage for all workers.
- ★ Kick out the Tories.
- ★ Labour to power on a socialist programme.

ALLOA CLAIMANTS UNION

Alloa Claimants Union was set up a year ago to fight for a better deal for the rising number of unemployed in the town. Tam Douglas, an unemployed building worker and one of its organisers, spoke to 'Militant':

Alloa has been hit hard recently with a wave of redundancies. Over 300 jobs have gone in the past few months at one of Alloa's biggest employers. United

Glass, and more are in the pipeline.

Weir Pumps, Jaeger Knitwear, and a host of other firms have also been putting some of their workforce on the dole.

Tam sees a terrible contradiction in the number of redundancies and the amount of overtime being worked in the town:

"United Glass have just got rid of 300 men and now they want to start compulsory overtime for the rest. If the unions fought for a stop to all overtime and a shorter working week, maybe 35 hours, in the glass works

and some of the other big firms a lot of Alloa's unemployment problems could be solved."

Linking with trades council

The Claimants Union itself was set up initially to make sure that unemployed people get their rights when claiming unemployment benefit and social security, and to represent them at tribunals and appeals. But the fight against unemployment can't just stop there.

The union has also taken an important part in the

Trades Council's unemployment campaign. Along with the Giro Club, a local club for unemployed youth, they marched to Alloa to Stirling in the rain, before joining the Trades Council demonstration against unemployment. They also recently picketed the local Tories annual dinner.

Tam sees that more and more the Claimants Union must take the fight against unemployment to the door of the trade union movement. Only with a campaign on the shop-floor can redundancies be halted.

Although prospects for

finding work in Alloa are bleak, the labour movement's campaign is making sure that unemployment in the town isn't going to be passively accepted.

The Central Federation of Trades Councils is holding its annual May Day march in Alloa on May 2.

With the Claimants Union, good prospects for the setting up of an LPYS branch, and more campaigning activities the fight against unemployment in Alloa looks like getting stronger.

W Stirlingshire Labour Party Day School

Saturday 25 April

10.00 am Bannockburn Miners Club

Speakers include: Dennis Canavan MP

Ted Grant (Militant Editorial Board) and Chris Edwards (Newcastle Unemployed Centre)

1981 LPYS CONFERENCE

End unemployment Sack the Tories

LPYS to the forefront at the Liverpool demo on 29 November



“A three foot high midget wanted for a circus. Experience necessary.” This ad was one of the few ‘jobs’ available recently in the Hull Unemployment Centre.

It was in the Professional and Executive section—and five foot off the ground! Anil Singh (Hull Central YS) gave this example in the LPYS conference debate of how workers can no longer depend on the capitalist class to provide employment.

As he said, it is the workers who built the factories, the industries and produced the wealth of society. The problems like

unemployment were caused because we don't also own and control that industry.

Kevin Ramage, LPYS Chairman led off the economy debate by pointing out that youth unemployment was at treble the figure of the great depression in the '30s.

“The unemployed should move.” “Unemployment has nothing to do with the Brixton riots.” These absurd ideas were Thatcher's answer to the dole queues.

The Tories are a horrible reflection of the class-ridden society where Victor Lownes, chairman of Playboy (UK), sacked for ‘irregularities’ in casinos

was ‘punished’ by a £1 million golden handshake. It was up to the LPYS to build its strength to overthrow the Tories and their sick system.

John Golding MP, speaking for the Labour Party NEC was heard in silence as he suggested that the LPYS should forget any idea of being a vanguard of the working class and that we should have no policies of our own.

Eric Clarke, also from Labour's NEC, the Scottish miners' leader, received an enthusiastic response, stressing that youth were the lifeblood of the labour movement, and should be supported financially and allowed to develop their own ideas.

Laurence Coates, who was later elected as LPYS representative on the Labour Party NEC led the debate on the conference document on unemployment. He pointed out that a million young workers would be on the dole by the end of the year.

Mass unemployment is an in-built permanent feature of capitalism. Laurence emphasised the need to mount a campaign of opposition to all redundancies. Jobs must be protected for the future.

There should be no deals with the bosses, the capitalist system must pay for the crisis it has caused. The LPYS demands for £80 for a 35 hour week, for the nationalisation of the major monopolies under workers' control and management have never been more needed!

No to redundancies! That should be the response of every shop steward. The LPYS should explain who owns the means of production and why socialism is the only alternative to the Tories and their capitalist system.

“The fight is on now”, Laurence Coates said, summing up the determined mood of conference “we can't afford another three years of Thatcher's government!”

STOP THE CUTS

In one London hospital surgeons put the names of people who need operations into a hat. People's lives in Tory Britain depend on a lottery!

This was just one example given by Chris Burns, the LPYS National Committee member who summed up the cuts debate.

Over a thousand more DHSS snoopers are employed against so-called ‘fiddlers’. But Inland Revenue workers are threatened with the sack while people like millionaire Lord Vestey pay no tax on their millions! Clearly finance and resources are only

‘scarce’ for the working class.

How can we stop these cuts? Sam Brown of Streatham LPYS reminded delegates that Lambeth's Labour council had refused to make the reduction in services the Tories demanded—but thought they could get round the difficulties by putting up rates.

A huge rate increase had followed, but had failed to stop large and painful cutbacks in services. Only an all-out fight against the Tories could stop the never-ending attacks on our services.

Delegates pointed out that Poplar council in the East End of London had taken on the government in the 1920s, and by mobilising the local population, forced massive

concessions from a Tory government.

What would be the alternative if the labour movement's leaders failed to do this? In the NHS, the Tories looked to the USA where health care financed by insurance schemes left millions unable to insure themselves—and led to half the bankruptcies in the country!

For a real campaign

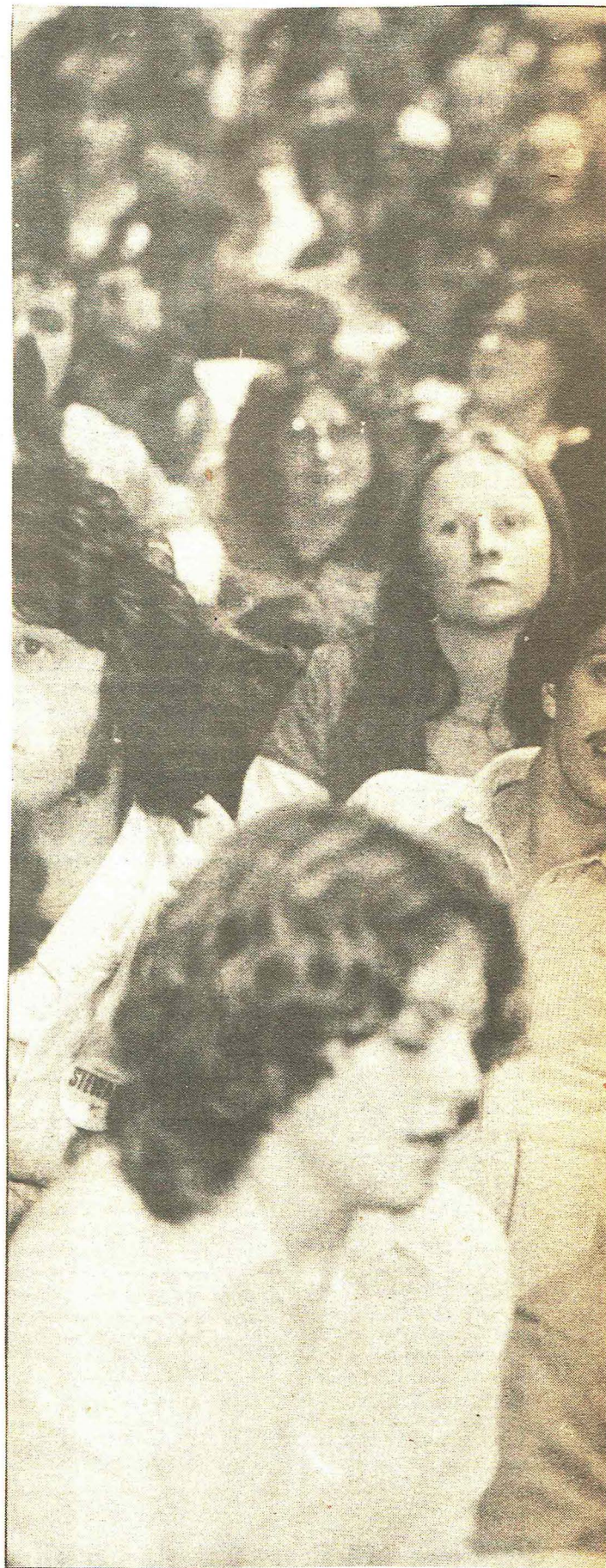
Why should our health service be bled dry by the colossal profits of drug companies? Why should local

authorities like the Greater London Council pay half their income to moneylenders in the banks and financial institutions in interest charges, delegates asked.

Jane Hartley (Hull East LPYS) stressed the responsibility of Labour councillors in fighting cuts. Many on the right of the party expected workers to suffer the effect of cutbacks, but thought they should not be expected to struggle against the Tory laws which made it necessary.

The labour movement must commit itself to fight for the reinstatement of any councillor surcharged by the Tories for defiance of the law, and for a real campaign against the government and its vicious policies.

YOUNG LEAD



More than 2,000 at LPYS conference, a record number of

Ireland-Work

One of the liveliest debates was on Ireland. Delegates clearly showed how capitalism and imperialism had devastated the country.

The grim figures of one in six out of work, the terrible housing were compounded by the horrors of repression

in H-blocks and the sectarianism created by the British bosses in the past to cut across class action by Irish workers.

The debate centred on how to resolve the situation. A few delegates in the YS said that the election of hunger striker Bobby Sands as Fermanagh MP was proof of the mass support for the ‘republicans’ in Northern Ireland.

G SOCIALISTS THE FIGHT

Reports and
interviews by
Ian Harkness
Bob Wade
and Roger Shrivess

Photos by
John Woulfe and
Julian McKittrick

MILITANT READERS MEETING

-The impact of Marxist ideas



legates—and the most lively conference ever

ers' unity - the only solution

However, Manus Maguire, fraternal speaker from the Young Socialists in Northern Ireland, a youth socialist movement set up by the Labour and Trade Union Group, explained the situation.

On the one hand, he stressed, many people voted for Sands on humanitarian grounds, showing their revulsion at the situation in the H-blocks. And at the

same time, not to vote for Sands would have meant the election of the reactionary Unionist candidate, West, for two or three years.

He backed up this statement by pointing out even the Provisional IRA themselves accepted this view. He quoted a section from the Provisionals' own paper, which read, "A vote for Sands is not an endorsement of the policies of the Sinn

Fein or the tactics of the Provisional IRA."

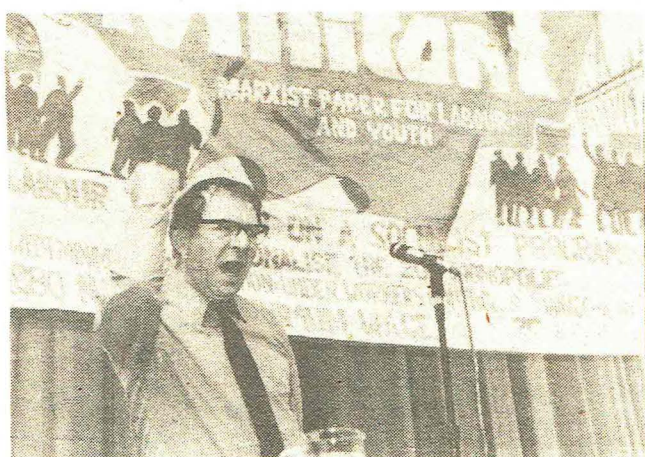
In his summing up of the debate, Tony Saunois, for the LPYS national committee, dealt hammer blows to the small sections of Conference who gave support to the 'republicans'.

Their biggest mistake is to separate the struggle for socialism from the struggle against British imperialism. To do so is to reject the ideas

of Connolly and Larkin.

"To unite Protestant and Catholic on a capitalist basis is impossible. To believe otherwise is un-Marxist and can only split the working class in Northern Ireland further.

"We stand by the programme of Connolly who understood British Imperialism could only be driven out by a united mass working class struggle, and



A hub-bub of comrades discussing and debating surrounded the conference sessions.

Silence descended, though, on the Spa Conference centre when political editor of the *Militant*, Ted Grant, addressed nearly 2,000 delegates and visitors at the annual readers meeting.

"I have been called by some right-wingers as the oldest Young Socialist around. They meant this as an insult!

"But I take it as the greatest compliment! The LPYS, with the influence of *Militant* supporters in its leadership, has the faith and conviction in the working

class to change society."

In an excellent analysis of British society, Ted outlined the causes for the present crisis of capitalism.

Previous to Ted, Kevin Roddy, Broad Left Presidential candidate in the CPSA, told how *Militant* has done 'stirling work' within the civil service union.

"My workplace, the massive DHSS offices in

Newcastle, is a bastion of support for the paper, and the civil service union members there are synonymous with the *Militant*."

From the battlefield of Brixton, Sam Brown of the London regional committee of the LPYS explained the intervention the London Young Socialists and *Militant* supporters made during the explosion of anger there.

The reasons for the riot were clear: "In Railton Road there are houses that were condemned in 1928. They're still there with people living in them.

"People were laughing and cheering as the places went up. One woman was pleading with the kids to burn down her house—she had been waiting to be re-housed for years.

"Coupled to these living conditions, and the high unemployment rate came the police with their 'Operation Swamp'. They saturated the area and arrests went up.

"We had two YS comrades arrested for flyposting on old corrugated fences—these were the sort of 'crimes' the police were building up their arrest rate on."

The clarity of the analysis and programme of Marxism was praised from the floor by Bro. Tyrone O'Sullivan of Tower Colliery NUM, who went on to detail the lessons of this year's strike.

The overwhelming support for Marxism was brilliantly given a material form with a collection of nearly £5,000.

that the struggle for national unity was linked to the need for the socialist transformation of Ireland."

Also during the debate, Mick Martin, fraternal delegate from the Irish Labour Youth outlined the crisis facing workers in the south of Ireland. In 1981, the 65th anniversary of the death of Connolly, 50% of the population were under 26, and they faced mass unemployment and low wages. There was no future for a capitalist Ireland, he said.

E Bob Harker, unemployed, Gateshead. "I've been unemployed since December. Before then I had a part-time job—for 15 months. They kept me part-time

in the job, so when they finally got rid of me they didn't have to pay me redundancy.

"I've always been a socialist really. What opened my eyes was when I was a soldier. I was in West Belfast in 1977.

"The conditions of houses there were terrible and I really felt for the youngsters there, especially the kids. I was the first in my platoon to start filling my pockets with sweets to give the kids—soon others joined me.

"I decided to join the Labour Party last month and there I met the LPYS. My only regret is I wish I'd joined earlier. The issues the YS take up are the issues I agree with."

More conference reports in next week's 'Militant'

Clinton, a young West Indian from Leicester on a YOPs scheme told of the situation facing him. "The course itself isn't so bad—it's better than most. But you only get the standard £23.50.

"I'm living in a hostel and they take £15 board out of that, plus £3 compulsory savings. That leaves me £5.50 a week to spend on my social life and buying clothes.

"How are you meant to manage on that? I've got to do this for another 11 months, as there's not much chance of finding full time work.

"This is my first LPYS conference and I've enjoyed it. The best part was the Militant Readers' Meeting, when the YS member from South London explained what happened at Brixton."

Richard Matz, unemployed, Chelmsford.

"So far I've found it very inspiring. It's been great being together with a couple of thousand like-minded people. It makes you realise you're not alone, you're not isolated—there's other people with the same ideas as you.

"I've talked to people from other areas, like Doncaster and North Wales, and it's amazing how much we've got in common."

Stan Pearce, Wearmouth Lodge NUM.

"I started down the pits in 1946. I've been to many, many meetings—Labour Party, trade union and so on—but I've never heard such a high level of political debate as you hear at this conference.

"I've been before, but this time I brought the family down, even my grandson. Unfortunately, my daughter couldn't come. She works at a café and they said if she took the Saturday off, she'd get the sack."

INTERNATIONAL

EL SALVADOR: THE FIRST SPARK IN THE POWDER KEG

El Salvador is the smallest and most over-crowded country in the Americas.

At present the workers and peasants of this small nation of 4.5 million are going through a nightmare of daily killings and torture.

First of two articles by John Throne

The Catholic Church in El Salvador estimates that 13,000 people have been murdered in the past 15 months alone, and that 80% of these murders have been the work of the so-called security forces.

The police, the army, and the right-wing killer gangs which are attached to them take people from their homes, torture them, shoot them and dump their bodies. The people singled out for this barbarous treatment are anyone suspected of being opposed to the ruling junta, and of course anyone with any connections with the guerrilla forces who are fighting against the present regime.

The daily murders and torture are carried out in an attempt to suppress the rising opposition of the workers and peasants. The economy of the country is dominated by 14 families. Ten percent of the population own 90% of the wealth, and 2% of the population own 60% of the arable land, while the workers and peasants are forced to live in ever increasing poverty.

This whole rotten system has been propped up for the past 50 years by one military dictatorship after another. Throughout the 1970s opposition has been increasing. The fraudulent elections of 1977 were followed by a national strike which was suppressed with 80 strikers being killed.

The victory of the Sandinistas in neighbouring Nicaragua has given a further impetus to the opposition and in particular to the guerrillas who are fighting against the regime.

Since the coming to power of the Reagan administration in the USA the developments in El Salvador have been propelled to the forefront of international events. Reagan's Secretary of State, Alexander Haig, has recently announced he is sending more military advisers and doubling the financial aid to the Junta.

Reagan has boasted of his determination to support sympathetic regimes and he looks to El Salvador as providing an opportunity for him to prove to the world that "the US is strong again". There should not be any confusion however, that this action is only the result of Reagan's approaching senility.

The Carter administration had already decided before it left office to step up aid to the Junta. In order to understand the actions of the Reagan Government and the US ruling class it is necessary to look not only at the events in El Salvador but at Central America as a whole.

"Central America", the "Financial Times" said recently, "is an area which the USA considers of no little strategic importance." The London "Times" was more explicit.

"The US government," they commented, "was explaining the domino effect in Central America, first Nicaragua went, now El Salvador is under attack, Guatemala and Honduras come next with Mexico in line behind them". Undoubtedly, these fears of American imperialism are well founded.

In Honduras and Guatemala the same social and economic powder keg exists. There are great disparities of wealth. In Honduras 3% own 27% of the country's wealth. In Guatemala 20% of the landowners own 75% of the land, and over 50% of the population earn less than £40 per year.

And in Guatemala, according to Amnesty International, 50,000 to 60,000 political murders were carried out over the past ten years. These were overwhelmingly the work of the ruling dictatorship, and the victims were mainly trade union and labour leaders or members and sympathisers of the guerrilla organisations.

In the longer term, however, it is to Mexico that the US ruling class look with greatest fear. Not only does Mexico lie on the border of the USA itself, but the economic developments in Mexico, particularly the discovery of large oil reserves, has now made Mexico a key country as far as US imperialism is concerned.

US imperialism wants to hold on to Mexican oil wealth

Mexico is expected to be the number one trading partner of the USA by 1985 and the number one energy supplier before the 1980s are out. Mexico is already the fifth oil producing country in the world and it has the fastest growing petro-chemical industry in the world.

Along with this, it has all the inequalities and explosive features of its Central American neighbours.

In spite of the pseudo-revolutionary rhetoric of its government, the top 20% of households in Mexico received 57.7% of the total income while the bottom 20% receive

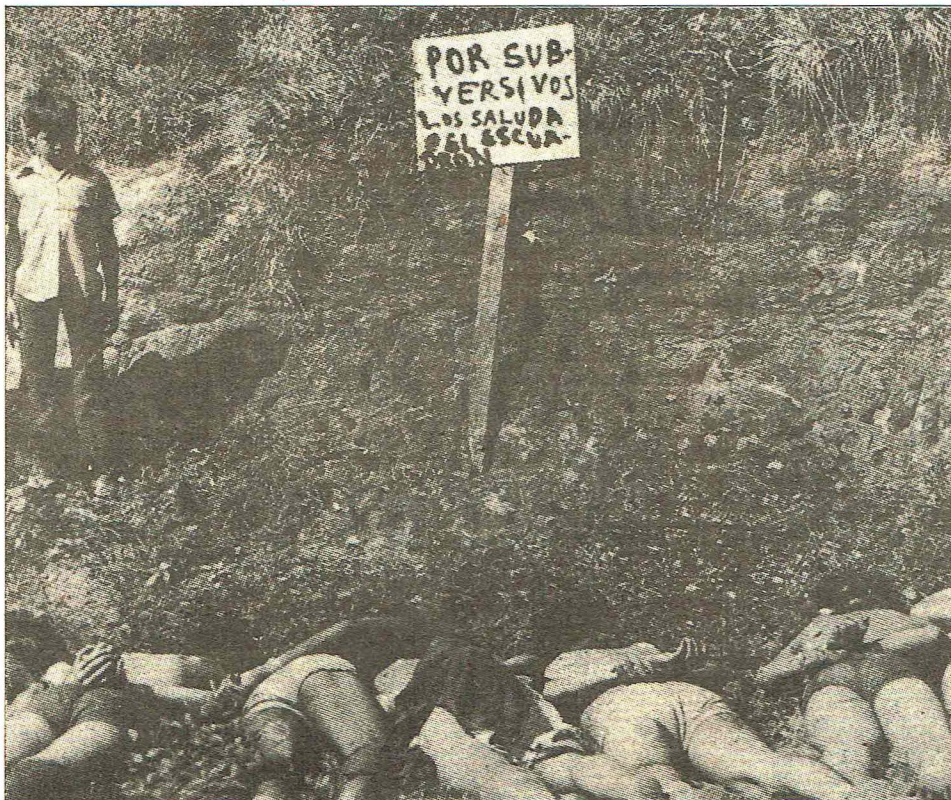


PHOTO Above: An early grave is the fate of many young Salvadorians, labelled subversives by the 'security' forces



PHOTO: Above: Military and police presence is obvious throughout the country.

2.9% (World Bank). Against this background the peasants are agitating for land reforms and are now also locked in battle with the oil industry over the pollution and destruction of their lands.

At the same time, the working class are moving into struggle. At the May Day march in Mexico City in 1980, 1,200,000 workers took part, and Valesquey, the leader of the Mexican Labour Federation (CTM), stated: "the workers will finish the revolution".

Already 40% of the fully employed workforce is unionised and the CTM is stepping up its drive to unionise the rest and also to organise the peasants. On top of this, 50% of Mexico's population is under 15 years of age.

These are some of the factors which must be taken into account when viewing the developments in El Salvador.

These are estimated to be five guerrilla organisations in El Salvador. They are fighting together under the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). The political face of this front is the Democratic Liberation Front (FDR). The determination of

Murders and torture are carried out daily by police, army and right-wing gangs to suppress the rising opposition of the workers and peasants.

these guerrillas and the sympathy they have, especially amongst sections of the peasants, has led to some divisions amongst the ruling class.

This was most clearly obviously in 1980 after the victory of the Sandinistas in Nicaragua the previous year. The dictator, General Romero, was overthrown in a coup which had the support of the US government and replaced by two Colonels—Gutiérrez and Majano.

This new Junta included some civilians, and it announced a programme of land

reform while at the same time stepping up its campaign against the guerrillas and its campaign of murder. This land reform is now grinding to a halt, the President, Duarte, recently announced it would take 5-10 years to carry out the second and most important part of the land reforms.

It is clear that the Junta, backed by the Reagan government have decided, for the present at least, that their approach is to be one of outright repression of the guerrillas and no concessions are to be given.

The second article in the series will outline the perspectives for the struggle in El Salvador.

Reagan and Haig are attempting to cover their tracks by painting a picture of Russian and Cuban aid to the guerrillas. There is little evidence of this. Most of the guerrillas' weapons have been bought in Portugal and the USA with money from kidnappings and robberies, or have been captured from the army and the police.

The Reagan government, on behalf of their big-business backers, are intervening to protect their interests in these countries and to try and prevent the instability spreading. By cloaking their actions in the colours of "self-defence" against "Soviet expansionism", they are trying to base themselves on the temporary mood of chauvinism and nationalism which was aroused in sections of the US population at the time of the hostage crisis in Iran and the invasion of Afghanistan.

However, if the US get drawn further into the conflict in El Salvador in a way that would involve sending large numbers of troops, this mood would quickly dissipate. In fact, there are already signs that this is happening.

Reagan and Haig are beginning to tone down the volume of their statements. The memory of Vietnam, the draft, and American youth dying on foreign soil is rooted more deeply in the consciousness of the American working class and youth than the temporary mood arising from the events of 1980.

As far as the events in El Salvador itself is concerned, the guerrillas' major offensive of a few months ago has been repulsed, but they can still operate with relative freedom in many of the rural areas of the country, into which the government forces can only make temporary sorties. Actions of the government forces create more sympathy for the guerrillas amongst the peasants.

The perspective would appear to be for a prolonged, drawn-out conflict, with the Junta unable to smash completely the guerrillas because of the narrow base of the Junta itself, but with the guerrillas not necessarily being able to deliver a final defeat to the Junta.

JAPAN - Labour harmony sliding out of tune

The media throughout the rest of the capitalist world love to portray the Japanese labour relations scene as one of unruffled harmony.

But it is a 'harmony' maintained by intense discrimination and repression whenever the trade unions struggle for their members' interests.

A very important tactic used by the bosses in Japan has been to split militant unions when they develop and replace them with stooge company unions. A classic example of this occurred in Japan Airlines (JAL).

The union for JAL's ground staff in the mid-fifties was a docile organisation, but dissatisfaction with pay and conditions led to the election of a much more aggressive leadership. Substantial improvements were won.

The management immediately started their efforts to weaken the newly-conscious union. First they proposed revision of the collective agreement won by the union less than a year before.

After this they tried to have one of their puppets elected to the chairmanship of the union. When this manoeuvre was decisively defeated on two occasions, management decided to split the union.

In 1965 they were successful when they threatened that employees who did not cross over to the new union would suffer in terms of jobs, promotion, etc. Unfortunately the overwhelming majority were terrorised into joining the new union, leaving a couple of hundred in the original one.

Then the discrimination began. In 1967, the management introduced a "performance-based" allowance which, to quote a Japanese paper, "resulted in a wide gap in promotions and wages" between the two unions during the subsequent ten years.

For example, a 48-year old former chairman of the minority group, who joined the airline in 1955 is still a chief of the lowest rank whilst his contemporaries belonging to the majority union have mostly been promoted... As a result his monthly wage is 260,000 Yen, compared with 450,000 for those in the majority union.

What the paper did not report, but what Mr Ogura, the former chairman, told me, was that he had virtually been exiled for ten years, sent to manage JAL offices in places like Karachi and Tehran where it was quite impractical for him to take his family, and where, of course, he was isolated from other militants.

The minority union has kept up a continuous struggle against this discrimination. Finally, in February last year, 13 years after a complaint was originally fil-

By Andrew Glyn

ed, the Tokyo District Labour Relations Commission found that JAL had discriminated and should pay over £1 million in back pay to 247 members of the minority union.

So far JAL has refused to comply with this order, but the workers concerned are confident of success and that when they succeed they will be able to win over the majority of their fellow-workers from the rotten company union.

The present leader of the union, Shiro Wakatsuki, explained to me that there is frequently a lot of sympathy amongst members of the company union for those attempting to fight the company.

The example was quoted of the JAL pilots' union which was split in the same way, leaving only 8 out of 1,000 in the original union. Whilst these eight were struggling against the discrimination they were supported by donations secretly given by their colleagues in the company union who were frightened of the consequences of open support.

Management lost the case in the Labour Relations Court and eventually had to reinstate the four strike leaders and the union reunited.

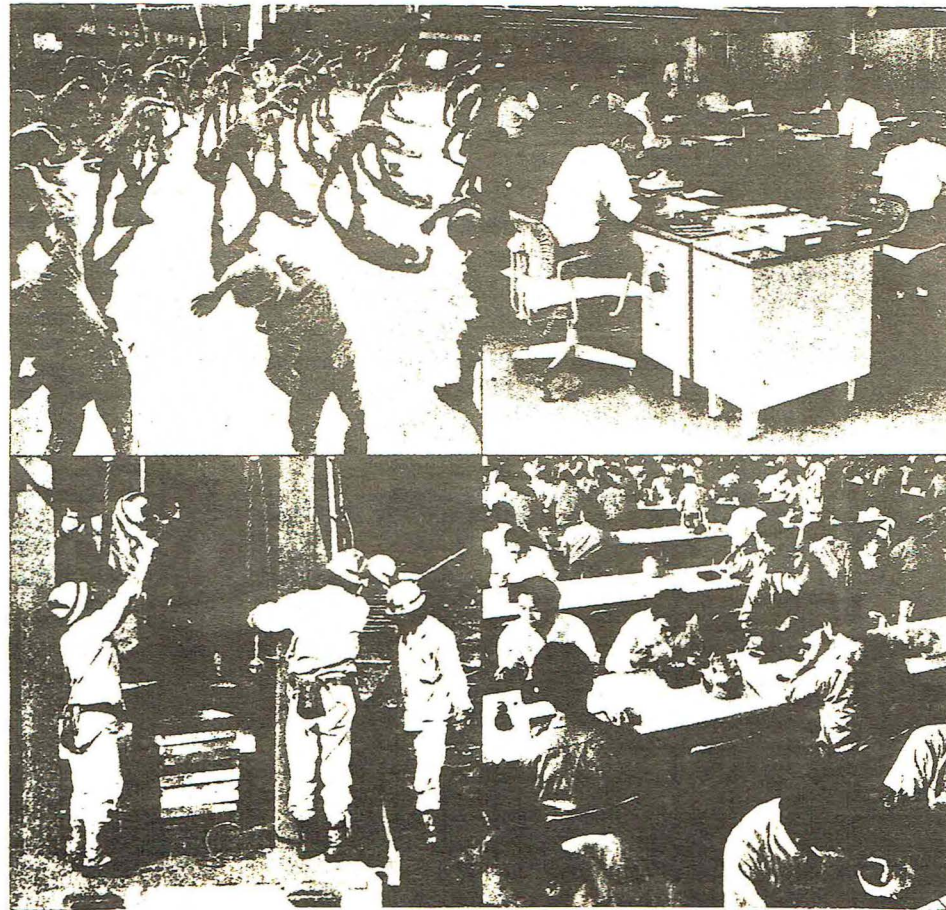
Also in the transport industry, but at the other end of the size spectrum is Kokuro, the Japan National Railway Workers' Union, with over a quarter of a million members.

Punishments for industrial action

In 1948 under orders from the US Occupation all workers in the public sector, including Japan National Railways (JNR) were totally and uniformly banned by law from taking strike action. Since 1953 management has taken punitive measures against literally thousands of Kokuro members for taking part in industrial action in support of wage claims and of the right to strike.

Up to mid-1979 441 workers have been sacked, 4,238 suspended, 72,118 have suffered wagecuts, as well as 306,345 cases of reprimands and warnings which can also result in lost promotion, pensions, etc.

Supporting workers who have suffered loss of job or



The official, paternalistic face of Japanese industry—the adverts don't mention the stooge unions or the victimisation of class fighters

wage cuts has cost Kokuro £40 million over the years; they are also facing a court case from JNR for a similar sum arising from an 8-day strike in 1975 for the right to strike.

The number and severity of punitive actions taken by JNR are related entirely to the political circumstances. In 1970 and 1971 the management carried out a vicious campaign of terror against trade union activists involving third-degree-type

interrogation of, and threats against, militants.

In each of those years 50-60 workers were dismissed for taking industrial action. Since 1976 no workers have been dismissed and in 1979 no measures were taken against strikers in the hope of securing union agreement for redundancies.

But in June last year JNR announced that 304 workers would be suspended for up to one year, 1,491 would

suffer pay cuts of up to 10% for up to one year, 5,399 will be denied wage increases that year, and over 90,000 given written warnings.

Management has taken the offensive again in order to try and force through a reduction of the workforce from 420,000 to 350,000.

So much for labour relations harmony Japanese-style.

INTERNATIONAL PAMPHLET REVIEWS "Lessons of Chile"

"He who does not learn from history is doomed to repeat it". Workers throughout the world were shocked at the terrible defeat of the Chilean working class at the hands of the Pinochet Junta in 1973.

This excellent pamphlet shows how a government which gave new hope to workers and poor peasants

"India—the gathering storm"

What do you know about India? No matter how little or how much you do know, reading Roger Silverman's pamphlet will enrich your knowledge and understanding.

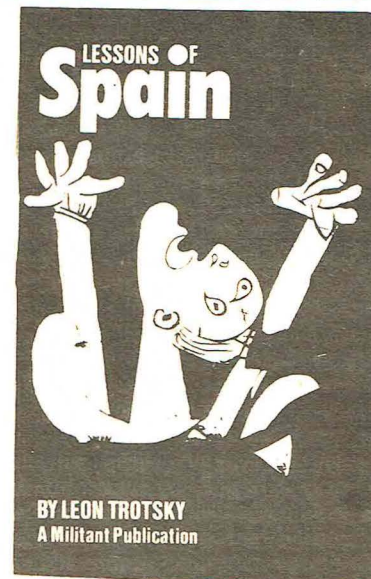
This pamphlet is a must. The final paragraph will be quoted in the annals of Marxist history: "Trotskyism has been buried by bourgeois professors, by fascist dictators, by Stalinist butchers, and by centrist or

could be destroyed. It shows the courage and determination of the working class but also analyses the fatal errors of their leaders, who believed the capitalist state would be neutral in the class struggle, spreading illusions in the Armed Forces who were to crush them.

'Lessons of Chile', price 50p.

sectarian diletantes. "But it has this uncanny habit of returning like a spectre, more and more tangible and formidable. The experience of the Indian workers will enrich the consciousness of the international working class. An Indian October will shake the world as never before"

('India, the gathering storm' by Roger Silverman. Price 60p.



New Militant pamphlet

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Eastern Europe: Bureaucrats quake

The developments in Poland continue to worry all the bureaucratic leaders of the "Communist" parties of Eastern Europe. As well as slandering the growth of independent trade unions as "anti-socialist" they are trying to prove desperately that the old Stalinist state controlled trade unions are effective in fighting for workers' rights.

In Czechoslovakia trade union leaders met government ministers and much publicity was given to promises of "action" on such grievances as shortage of protective clothing, overtime, factory catering difficulties and problems in the health service. In Hungary the papers were filled with details of how poor working conditions for postmen were being taken up by the postmen's union. Similar stories have appeared in the East German press.

Hungarian Stalinist leaders have promised a five day week by 1981-82 instead of 1983, Rumania's bureaucrats have promised a 46 hour week. The Bulgarian bureaucracy have sacked the trade union leader and Rumania's leaders jettisoned their labour minister in the last few weeks.

How effective will these panic measures be in preventing similar movements to those in Poland? With the Eastern European economies snarled up by the inefficiencies of the state bureaucracies, the concessions given are hardly likely to stop workers' independent activity throughout Eastern Europe.



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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

H-Blocks: Sectarianism no answer

Dear Comrades

The delegates to the April session of the Glasgow Trades Council were again subjected to another display of inherent opportunism and sectarianism from the ultra-left sects claiming to be Marxists.

After the suspension of standing orders, an emergency resolution concerning the three month ban on marches imposed by the Scottish Secretary of State, was moved by a member of one of those groups. His real intention was to enlist the support of the GTC to give credence to the H Block Committee's demand to march through the streets of Glasgow. The Trades Council, though, re-affirmed its opposition to blanket bans and restrictions on workers' rights, but also stressed that on no account could it support the demands of the sectarian organisations, whether H Block committee or the Scottish Loyalists, to march through Glasgow, as this could only split the working class.

These myopic sectarians seem either incapable or unwilling to understand that the blanket ban is a direct result of the tit for tat demonstrations which have plagued Glasgow for the past few months. This can only obscure the real problems facing the working class. If this sectarian propaganda continues it will make obvious, that the only possible objective of these groups is to create a flash point between Catholic and Protestant, and to import the Northern Ireland troubles to the West of Scotland.

The plight of the prisoners in Northern Ireland is obviously a cause for grave concern, but the answer must come from the labour and trade union movement whomust investigate further, and campaign for a change in prison conditions encompassing basic human rights.

However, this situation is only a symptom of the continuing troubles in Northern Ireland and the ultimate solution can only be provided by a united working class. I think that it must now be obvious that a major obstacle are these sectarians who are making this task increasingly difficult.

Yours fraternally
John Dobbins
S.G.D. West Branch
SOGAT

Our answer to hooliganism

Comrades

Hooliganism is, as we all know, a by-product of our decaying capitalism society. The causes of hooliganism are bad housing, bad education, a boring job or a life wasted vegetating on the dole and few, if any, leisure facilities.

Is it any wonder that young kids crack up and explode into meaningless violence and destruction of the property of smug middle class people or, more significantly the destruction of the property around where they live.

Locking people up is not the answer. You have to look at the reasons behind the actions and make bold, radical socialist reforms,

give people better housing, return to full employment, put leisure facilities in the reach of everybody, which is a thing a decaying capitalist state is not prepared to do.

Locking up people is not the answer. To deprive someone of the best years of their lives because they vented their rage and frustration against capitalism is a terrible thing to do.

Everybody must have he-

ard the phrase "I went in a young tearaway and came out a hardened criminal."

The only answer to hooliganism is to mobilise youth behind the labour and trade union banners, get them into the YS and let them join with us to fight for the socialist transformation of society.

Fraternally yours
John Fakey
Nottingham West LPYS

Campaigning centre

Dear comrade,

Jeremy Birch in his article (no. 542) claims that the economic recession is having its most devastating effect in the West Midlands, where last year "unemployment shot up by 82.4%..."

However, according to a study published by the Economic and Employment Sub-Committee of Sheffield Trades Council the level of unemployment in the city for "boys and girls" from Dec. 1979 to Dec. 1980 had increased by 202%.

The number on YOP had increased by roughly 80%. Total unemployment rose during 1980 from 5.1% to 9.3%. These figures leave aside the staggering level of short-time working in the engineering firms in the area.

The Sub-Committee referred to was formed as part of the response by the local labour movement. Many of the recommendations given in its report are in line with the demands of the LPYS at national level e.g. free admission for unemployed to football grounds.

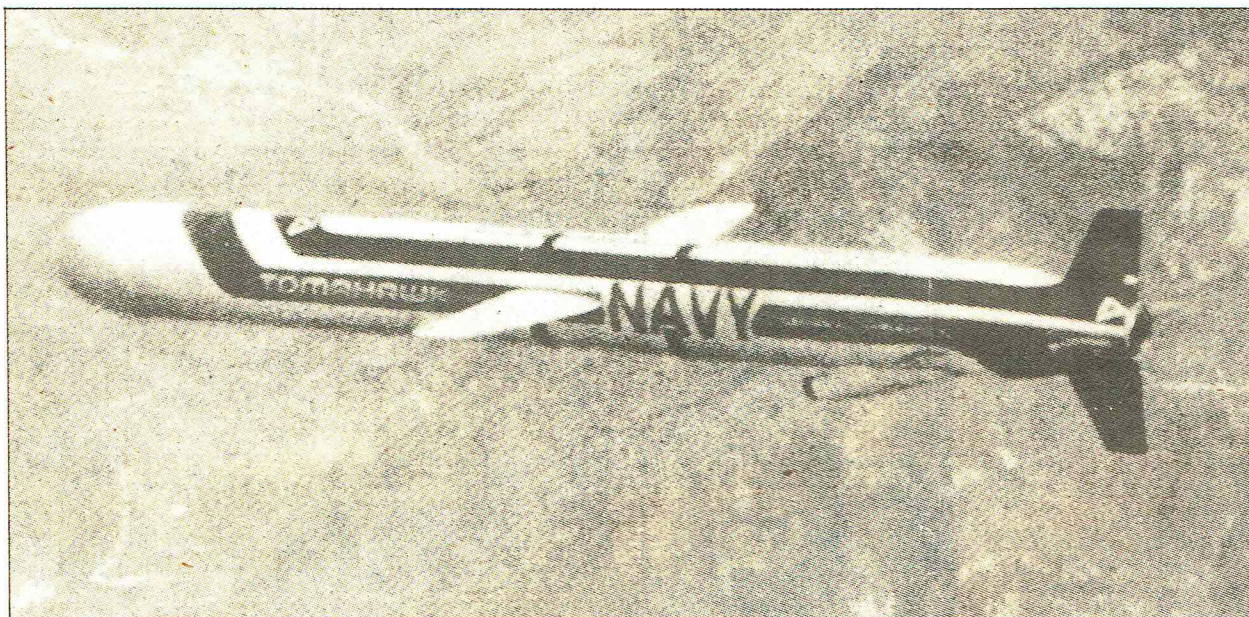
The Sub-Committee carried out a survey of the utilisation of free recreational facilities opened by the controlling Labour group on the City Council to young unemployed (recently extended to all age groups).

Amongst the wide range of suggestions about facilities made by those 16-18 year olds involved in the survey—bus fares (22% of those interviewed); cinema (17%) ice skating (17%) and discos (10%) figured highly amongst those which could be provided free or at reduced cost.

The Sub-Committee will be responsible for the running of the Trades Councils Unemployed Centre, to be opened later this year. Local LPYS representation has been invited at the Sub-Committee meetings.

We must ensure that this new centre is a hub of campaigning activity, not only for a better lot for the unemployed in the area, but also to take the fight back to the reactionary Tory government, and the capitalist policies of which mass unemployment is a key part.

Yours Fraternally
Martin Hill
Sheffield Park YS



No missiles in Sussex

Dear Comrades

Saturday April 11 marked an important step forward for nuclear disarmament campaigners in Sussex, with demonstrations on a scale which no-one could have imagined a year ago.

Marches in Chichester and Brighton attracted good support in the morning, but the climax came in Lewes in the afternoon, where around 2,0-

00 people marched to the East Sussex County Council HQ (also nuclear bunker) to deliver petitions (8,000 signatures, plus a similar number in Chichester that morning to West Sussex HQ) calling on the County Council to keep cruise missiles out of Sussex and to recognise the uselessness of the 'Home Defence' plans they are supposed to implement.

The campaign was co-ordinated by the Sussex Alliance for Nuclear Disarmament (SAND), bringing to-

gether around 30 CND and other peace and anti-nuclear groups. It was supported by Brighton Labour Party, Brighton Trades Council, the local National Union of Teachers branch, Sussex Socialist Workers Party and Communist Party branches, a number of Liberal councillors in their individual capacities, and local trades unionists, academics and others.

All this deep in Tory Sussex (only one constituency here has ever elected a Labour member). The County Coun-

cil will no doubt pretend the whole thing never happened. But every person is going to count if/when they try and bring the missiles in. With such support in such an area, we can begin to feel that the 'consensus' of silence and ignorance which has allowed the NATO powers that be to have their own way so long has *already* been decisively broken.

In solidarity
Kate Soper,
Martin Ryle
Joint Sec. Brighton CND

Citizen's radio—part of the struggle

Dear Comrades

The ruling class is attempting to force ordinary working class people into submission on the issue of Citizen's Band Radio. Mr. William Whitelaw is recommending 927mHz F.M. as opposed to 27mHz A.M., the international wave band.

C.B. radios are at present illegal but have been promised legal status in the Autumn with an accompanying license.

C.B. in the hands of workers is a powerful step forward for communications and organisation. Against the lies of most of the capitalist press who spew the evils of C.B. many fatal

accidents have been avoided and lives have been saved just through communications on the emergency channel.

Potential suicides are often quoted as needing someone to talk to and here we have a potential life saver.

C.B. can assist socialism in its ever forwarding stride. The class struggle will one day end and communications are a vital part of that struggle. The trades unions and labour movement should be seriously looking at the advantages of C.B. on a long term programme, for example:-

Early warning of fascist

attacks on 'Militant' sales people,

Rallies and demonstrations,

Organising the unemployed with the employed,

Organising of strikes and the blacking of goods,

Socials and meetings etc.

These are just a few examples of the invaluable uses to which this form of communication can be put. In a socialist society, C.B. would not have to be used as a class defensive but as a furtherance to social communications.

Yours fraternally
W. Clegg
Shaw LP.

Ducking Nationwide

Dear Comrades

A recent edition of the 'Radio Times' (4-10 April) carried a very interesting feature on the programme 'Nationwide'. The article included an interview with two union leaders—Bill Sirs and Tom Jackson—who were asked their opinion for the programme.

It would have been understandable if they had criticised 'Nationwide' for its

hysterically anti-union reporting of the 'Winter of Discontent' or its almost open support of the Tories at the last election, as two examples that demonstrate that Sue Lawley and Co. are part of the bosses' media.

But no! On the contrary Bill Sirs and Tom Jackson are fans of the programme.

Tom Jackson said, "I think it's absolutely essential viewing...as far as I'm concerned it's a programme I would always appear on if I could."

Whereas Bill Sirs believes: "It is a very influential

programme. There was one time when I thought they did a hatchet job on the industry, so I complained, but I've had no complaints since."

I am sure that all members of the ISTC (Steel Union) must be very reassured in the knowledge that their union leader has no complaints against a programme that regards skateboarding ducks as a news item.

Fraternally
Stephen Wright
East Kilbride LPYS
Scottish LPYS
Regional Committee

The Tory cure

Dear Comrades

£5.45 a week—that's what the Tories consider a fair deal for my sister. Because she has been in hospital for over eight weeks, she is suddenly expected to live just as well on £5.45 as she was on her supplementary benefit of about £17.

My sister has got anorexia nervosa (slimmers

disease) and as part of her treatment, she has to go out of the hospital every day around town. She is expected to buy herself some food—and we all know the price of even a coffee these days.

Other extravagances such as laundry and bus fares have obviously also been carefully considered in her weekly bonanza. It's just

another disgrace, and I would love to see Maggie's spendthrift son survive under the same conditions.

If you're sick, the Tories will make you sicker.

Yours fraternally
Gill Beasley
Totnes

ads

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ROCHDALE

Public debate—
Import Controls

Hear Margaret Creear (Chairman Women's Council) and Jack Brown (National Secretary, Textile Workers' Union). 8pm Monday 27 April, The Two Ships, Hope St, Rochdale.

LIVERPOOL

Labour movement debate: 'Which Road to Socialism' Tony Mulhearn (Pres. Liverpool District LP) for 'Militant'. Jim Mowatt (District Officer, Merseyside TGWU) for AES.

Wednesday 29 April at Central Hall, Renshaw St. Liverpool [opp. Lewis's] at 7.30pm.

Wednesday April 29 'After Brixton—the way forward for the struggle against racism'.

Socialist Action Forum. Speakers: Mike Rodney (Sec. Campaign Against Racist Laws) and Bernie Grant (Labour Party Councillor).

7.30 pm, Roebuck Pub, 108A Tottenham Court Road, W.1. Further info, tel. 769 1160.

MILITANT BACK

NUMBERS Some copies of all issues 30-545 still available. These papers contain material no labour movement activist can do without! Only 25p per issue (including postage). Reductions for bulk orders. Cheques or POs to Dave Brandon, 29 Lime Avenue, Peterborough, Cambs. Tel 67310.

SHEFFIELD PARK LPYS

Public Meeting. Young Workers Against the Tories. Hear Pete Skerrett (Sec. Coventry AUEW Jun. Workers). 7.30 pm, Tuesday 19 May, AEU House, Furnival Gate, Sheffield

SHEFFIELD LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS

Public Debate with Sheffield Young Conservatives. 7.00 pm, Tuesday 2 June, AEU House, Furnival Gate, Sheffield. All welcome.

SIXTH SOUTH WALES MILITANT SUMMER CAMP AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY 1981

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- ★ Fascism in Germany—Jeremy Birch
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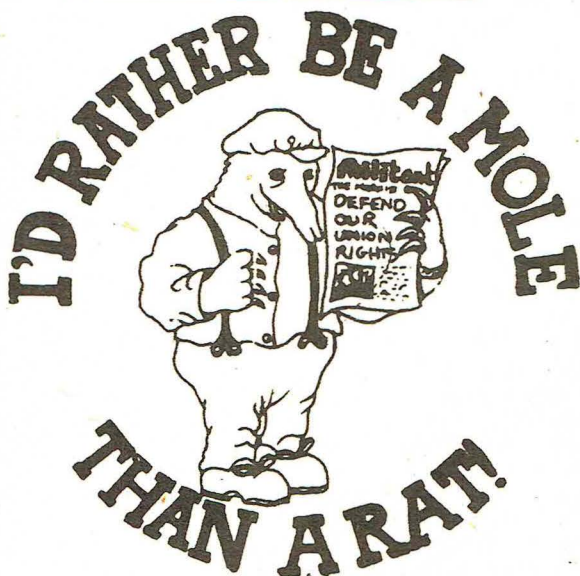
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NEW CHART NEXT WEEK



Photo: MILITANT

NEARLY £10,000 RAISED IN TWO WEEKS!

Photo: Kevin Roddy speaking at LPYS Conference readers' meeting which raised nearly £5,000

Back words with action—the LPYS did just that with their magnificent £4,900 collection for our fighting fund.

By Steve Cawley

THIS WEEK £5,840

Bob Edwards making what proved to be a record financial appeal at LPYS Conference

Photo: MILITANT



£18.60 this week, from donations, union expenses and paper extras. £17 came from Leeds, and £19.09

from Canvey Island, Essex.

'Profit' of £4 on a cabinet sold by a Midlothian supporter shows yet another way to help our funds. Do you have anything another reader wants, or a skill they could put to use?

Individuals contributing this week included Camden reader £50, J Auckland of Sheffield £30, and a tenner from S Wood, Leicester ('unbelievably I have just got a new job so here's £10 to celebrate the event and help towards creating a society where everyone has a job...').

C Cawley (Bridgend), and Anon (Heywood & Royton), M Swan (E Kilbride CPSA) and E Gardner (Leyton LPYS), gave between £2 and £5.

A large number of readers have sent us the regular £1s, without which we couldn't have built our coverage and circulation. Thanks to everyone, including West of Scotland readers L Hart, E Kenny, J Coyle and J Edwards, Chesterfield readers K Brown (GMWU) and P Sanders (AUEW), J Jackson and Mrs Gent (Newcastle), G Arnold (MATSA, Barking) and B Raust (Basildon CLP).

Our running total, over £25,000 so far, is well up on this time last year—but only if all our readers help us will we achieve our half-year target of £60,000.

Many will be delegates to trade union conferences over the summer and if they live like their members (not their general secretaries!) for the duration, will be able to put thousands of pounds' expenses towards causes that serve their members' interests best—such as the 'Militant' Fighting Fund! Your example might persuade fellow-delegates to do the same!

If you support our efforts to circulate ideas and analysis in the labour movement, how about a May Day present to help us continue and improve our service?

Industrial

in brief

Elaine Paterson received a standing ovation at this year's annual Labour Party Young Socialists conference [see pages 8-9] when she explained how she and 240 other women workers were occupying the Lee Jeans factory in Greenock, to save jobs.

The occupation began 12 weeks ago when redundancies were announced, after two months of short time working, and a series of impossible production demands were put on the workers by management; "They were cutting our legs away, then asking us to walk," said Elaine.

Rather than sell their jobs, they occupied the factory. The women are determined; as Elaine said, "If anyone tries to move us, they will find it difficult."

However, the occupation is costing £3,000 a week to run, and she made an appeal for cash. The LPYS conference responded with a collection of £250.

London Central Branch of the EETPU has been suspended by the NEC for its refusal to accept an imposed candidate, J. Lees, as a delegate to the Bermondsey Labour Party, who in turn have not accepted him.

Danny McCarthy, branch secretary, said Lees has not attended the branch for over 14 years. The branch EC believe that the NEC have overstepped their interpretation of the rules and are preparing to fight the ban. In the meantime, the branch will carry on meeting at the Lansbury House, 41 Camberwell Grove, SE5.

The UCATT executive are recommending to its members in the building section of the National Health Service, that they reject the employers' current pay offer. The offer is complex, but UCATT say it is inadequate because it fails to give UCATT members parity with other NHS craftsmen.

The executive of the shop workers union, USDAW, have criticised the leader of the Labour Lords, Lord Peart, who wrote to Tory 'un-Employment' minister, Prior, asking him to abolish the Distributive Industry Training Board. The scrapping of statutory industrial training boards are against Labour policy.

Essex ambulance men, members of the ancillary workers union NUPE, have rejected the latest offer from NHS employers, of 6%. NUPE area officer Dave Smith, said, "The 6% wage offer in no way reflects the skills and responsibility that our ambulance members have and it is quite reasonable that they should be looking for not less than the 18% that the firemen were recently awarded."

A LONG STRUGGLE

The strike at Cannon & Stokes in Leicester, by 80 members of TASS, the white collar engineering union has now reached its ninth week.

The members were originally offered nothing at their annual pay review. This was totally unacceptable, as was the only alternative offer of 5% with certain strings ie. fixed holidays, clocking in and out, scrapping tea trolleys and no tea breaks!

This comes at a time when the company is profitable, having increased its order books by £2m to £8m.

Coupled to this is the threatened redundancies of two of the staff members: Thus the 80 TASS members have been on strike, and have mounted a 24 hour picket line outside the factory.

Mick Griffin was interviewed by Steve Wilson

Unfortunately, engineers on the shop floor (members of the AUEW) have not shown solidarity with TASS in their struggle, mainly due to the attitude of some shop stewards. They voted marginally, 60% to 40%, against blacking work on the shop floor.

The management, have played on this, using the fact to break the picket line.

With this non-cooperation by the AUEW and the slow trickle of work getting through, the TASS strike committee decided to

Cannon & Stokes

arrange a sit-in at one of the major factory units.

Entrance was gained to the building at 2 am. on Monday March 30, and the doors and windows barricaded.

However, as an indication of the length to which they will go, the managing director himself took a sledge hammer to the door and cracked it off its hinges. Then security guards moved in and the men had no alternative but to vacate the building, having occupied it for some six hours.

Although the sit-in didn't achieve its ultimate delaying objective, it did result in security having to be increased from two men to

seven men and two also-tions.

On a lighter note the management have also stopped feeding the company cat since the beginning of this strike; needless to say it is now an honorary TASS member!

The dispute is over basic trade union rights and in the face of what is clearly a very reactionary management could—without AUEW co-operation—continue for a protracted length of time.

Thus any financial donations would be gratefully appreciated. Send to Cannon & Stokes strike fund, TASS, c/o AUEW Centre, Vaughn Way, Leicester.

SNOWS BOSSES' OFFER 'NOT ON'

The dispute at Snows engineering firm in Sheffield is now into its fifth week. On 31 March, the company announced the factory would be 'mothballed' and work transferred to other parts of the B Elliot group (in Peterborough, Halifax and Keighley).

At a meeting with management an offer of "compensation" was made to shopfloor workers. This payment was for us "going quietly" and to ensure a speedy transfer of materials from the plant without any risk of picketing or blacking.

This compensation offer was instead of redundancy payments as the management had stressed that we were all sacked and not entitled to redundancy money.

The shopfloor have rejected management's proposals and are still occupying the canteen and mounting a 24 hour picket outside the factory.

The message is clear—that the "compensation" offer is not on. The men are not going to accept that they are sacked or to be treated in this way.

There are two major factors in this, the sackings, and the "compensation".

The implications of these to the trade union movement have to be looked at very deeply. The employers have used the Employment Act 1971, amended by the Labour government in 1978.

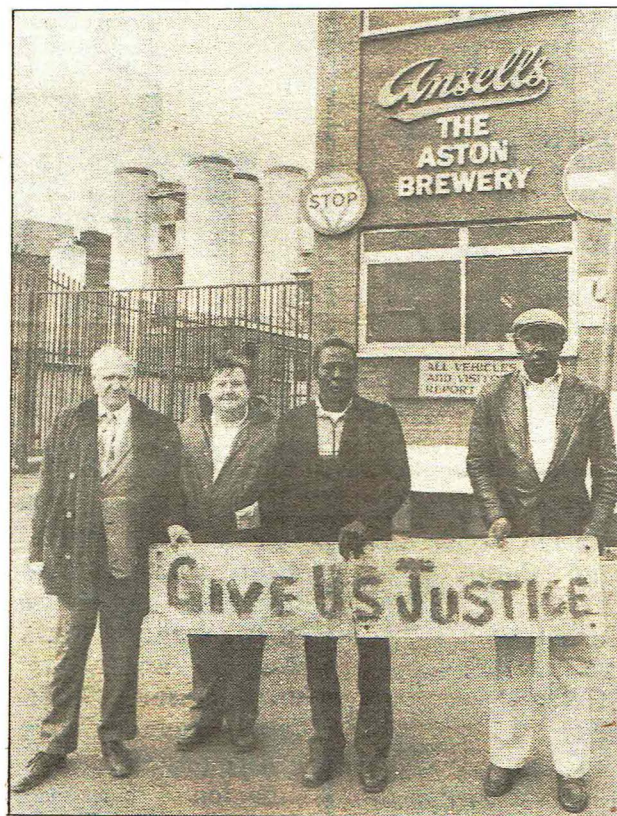
This meant that if a trade union imposed sanctions or

By Dave Hague
(Chairman, Snows Shop Stewards Committee)

withdrew its labour then the employer has the legal right to dismiss the employees, through breach of contract. In simple terms any union opposing redundancies, seeking an improvement in wages and conditions or aligning themselves in solidarity with other workers, are liable to dismissal on taking such action.

Compensation can be termed an ex-gratia payment. Terms of accepting payment are possibly the removal of all pickets; no linking up with any other workers in the group; no 'blacking' of company products; and payments to be in various stages to ensure that there is no interruption in removal of work to other parts.

Compensation as termed could also have complications with unemployment benefit etc. on acceptance.



Pickets at Ansell's in Birmingham. Last Friday, on the same day as the 'Daily Mail' reported the strike was "breaking up", at a mass meeting of the 900 workers involved, only seven workers voted against a resolution calling for the continuation of the strike.

Civil Service

Air traffic controllers, assistant and specialist teleprinter staff employed by the Civil Aviation Authority have voted by 520 to 227 in favour of a programme of industrial action as part of the civil service pay campaign.

The ballot was run by the Civil and Public Services Association, following a week of joint membership meetings at each CAA unit.

The meetings, addressed by a number of full-time officials, were followed by ballots for each of the four unions involved.

Air traffic engineers, represented by the Association of Government Supervisors and Radio Officers [AGSRO] and communication officers, represented by the

Civil Service Union [CSU] have also voted in favour of the common programme of action.

The result of the ballot being run by the Institution of Professional Civil Servants [IPCS] among their air traffic control officer members were known this Wednesday. The pay of CAA employees is directly linked to civil service pay.

The involvement of the CAA trade unions in the campaign will give a tremendous boost to the strike and have a major impact on business and trade. The action would compliment the strike against government revenue.

By Frank Bonner
(CAA Prestwick branch, personal capacity)

Witton-James

This strike at Witton James in London continues in deadlock.

Despite a number of attempts to resolve this situation, the management still persist in attempting to operate on a cheap basis.

This dispute must be made official; indeed this was recommended by the EETPU full time official handling the case, and the national officer.

Despite this, the Executive Council in their wisdom after meeting on the 7th and 8th of April, deemed that this should not be so. No reason was given for their decision.

It would be true to say that all 17 members who have stood by their decision throughout, now feel angry and totally let down.

Indeed it must seriously raise the question that the EETPU itself is not only condoning, but could be encouraging the use of cheap labour within the contracting industry, and if this is so, then the question must be asked, why?

Despite this decision by the executive, the members continue to be strong and are determined to see justice prevail.

The members would also like to extend its gratitude to everyone who supports and continues to support them on this issue. The hospital electricians and plumbers had rejected their 6% offer, with possible industrial action to achieve their claim, which would be about 23% rise, to keep them in line with the contracting industry. Witton-James workers are demanding similar justice.

Finance is urgent and messages of support to Witton-James Strike Fund, c/o Alan Jenkins (Treasurer) 85 Hunters Grove, Kenton, Harrow, Middx.

Findus

As the strike at Findus in Grimsby enters its fifth week attitudes are hardening.

Further negotiations have taken place between management and unions, but have now broken down.

Whilst minor concessions have been made, Findus are still insisting on a commitment to the new working patterns.

Findus have sent individual letters to every craftman in an attempt to appeal over the Stewards' heads and so break the strike.

This has only served to make the workers more determined.

However, none of have as yet made the dispute official. Pressure must be exerted from such a decision is taken.

Pickets are still maintaining a 24 hour presence on all the gates. The strike is still solid.

Indeed local people are now getting behind the men. At last week's football match between Grimsby Town and West Ham, when it was announced the sponsors were Findus, the whole crowd erupted into jeers and boos! Messages of support and donations to:— Mr J Harty, 55 Daubney St. Cleethorpes.

TRADE UNION CONFERENCES

NUT

The National Union of Teachers is moving back towards its origins as a radical union, firmly linked with the working class.

"Conference declares its deep concern at the accelerating increase of expenditure on armaments and the reduction of resources desperately required to meet grave economic and social needs, particularly for education..."

With this resolution, NUT conference committed itself to fight for nuclear disarmament and peace.

How to fight against the cuts was raised in the discussions on the question of Lambeth NUT officers.

Unfortunately this issue was not properly discussed. Lambeth NUT officers have been suspended, technically for disobeying an instruction of the general secretary.

By Felicity Dowling
(Liverpool NUT delegate personal capacity)

by proceeding with a half-day strike and demonstration together with other local authority workers in Lambeth.

This resulted in the suspension from officership of the Lambeth officers and of Dick North, a member of the union's national executive.

Technically, the national disciplinary body is not answerable to conference. But conference registered its displeasure at this by refusing to allow the Executive to move a suspension of standing orders to discuss a resolution congratulating

the Executive on their actions in this matter.

Members throughout the country will continue to discuss the issue after conference. The NUT must be seen to be a democratic body if it is to lead members into major struggles.

The members in Lambeth must be reinstated. Damage is done to the union by inaction and hesitancy, not by fighting against the cuts. A victim of hesitancy was at the conference: Eileen Crosbie, the nursery teacher sacked by her employers in Nottingham for refusing to teach an oversized class.

Conference committed itself to fight for a maximum class size and one-fifth preparation time for all teachers in schools. This must be taken up as a national union campaign.

Labour Party affiliation was on the conference agenda. A fringe meeting organised by the Socialist Education Association on Labour Party affiliation was packed. Speakers likened it to the early fringe meetings that started the campaign for TUC affiliation.

There was confidence that, though a long hard fight, we would finally see affiliation if a major campaign were launched.

USDAW

The crucial question of USDAW's Annual Delegate Meeting in Blackpool this year is jobs.

According to the Executive Council's statement, 'Wages and Economic Policy', over ten thousand full-time jobs disappeared in the second half of 1980.

The need for a 35-hour week has never been greater. This has been supported at ADMs for several years but there has been no noticeable effect.

The EC say negotiations have concentrated on improving wages but point to low settlements "because the companies concerned have been in difficult financial straits and the alternative has meant redundancy or closure." In some cases USDAW members have actually taken wage cuts, but this has not stopped redundancies.

No more jobs must go! A national campaign, actively involving the membership of the union, for a 35-hour week tied to an £80 minimum wage as called for in proposition 100 from London Metropolitan should be our alternative to redundancies and low pay.

APEX

With unemployment the highest since 1935, a crumbling economy and the introduction of new technology, the APEX conference is held at a crucial time.

Membership of APEX has fallen from 152,543 to 150,611, due to unemployment and introduction of new technology. The fight for a 35 hour week must now be waged, especially as the claim by the five staff unions has been rejected by the Engineering Employers Federation.

As resolution 57 from Birmingham Linread points out, if the 200 top major monopolies were taken into public ownership along with those at present nationalised, and were integrated into a socialist plan of production, jobs would be guaranteed for all.

Special concern must be placed on defending the democratic gains of the last Labour Party Conference, especially now the treacherous role played by Shirley Williams and Co. has come to light.

With the labour and trade union movement armed with socialist policies, this reactionary Tory government can be brought down as the first shots fired by the miners has shown.

Tory government policies are disastrous for all workers—massive cuts in living standards and unemployment.

But polite requests for a change of Tory policy are futile. Proposed 'alternatives' such as aid to industry through a National Investment Bank are similarly unrealistic.

USDAW must lend its weight to a TUC campaign to bring down the Tories and return a Labour government committed to a socialist programme.

If such a campaign is to be successful, our organisations must be in fighting order. So it is fitting that Labour Party democracy is again to be discussed.

The amendment by Swansea Smith Food branch to proposition 53 welcomes the decision to elect Labour's leader through an electoral college on the '40-30-30' formula, giving trade unions representing millions of organised workers and local Labour Parties the major say. Swansea also call on USDAW to support Tony Benn as Labour's deputy leader.

Proposition 53, and amendments opposing any attempts to overturn the electoral college decision at Labour's special Wembley conference, should be supported.

Support should also be given to proposition 63 from Newcastle, calling for the establishment of a non-sectarian party of Labour in Northern Ireland, and proposition 38 from Littlewoods Crosby SATA.

Halal Meat

Since 26 March, thirty-four english and asian workers have been picketing the Halal Meat Co. Bishop Street, near Birmingham city centre.

They came out when their shop steward, Peter Tuff, a member of the Transport and General, was sacked over a trumped-up discipline charge the day before.

The bosses' real reason was to stop any union organisation taking off; it was no accident that this started as the workers began asking for their first pay rise in two years.

Mr Yaqoob, the boss, had pleaded poverty while buying a new Rolls for himself and a Mercedes for his son!

Yaqoob has got friends in high places. Jill Knight, Tory MP, was called in by him to complain to the press

This demands the EC organise creche facilities at all levels of the union, which would help the union's many women members play an active role.

This year is also a rules revision year, with several important changes being proposed. These include the election of the general secretary every four years and the election of the deputy general secretary every 2 years.

These changes would be in line with the present regular election of the Executive Council, and increase the accountability of the union leadership.

Demands to fully democratise the union's delegations to the TUC and Labour Party conferences are made by several branches, who propose that delegations be enlarged by fifty percent and that the Executive Council (who at present may appoint additional delegates in excess of those elected by the branches) be empowered to appoint not more than seven additional delegates. These proposals should be fully supported.

By George Williamson

USDAW Militant Readers' Meeting
'USDAW—the socialist way forward'
Speaker: Chris Ridge (Militant)
7.30 pm, Monday 27 April
Kings Arms (opposite railway station)
ALL WELCOME

By Bill Mullins

about so-called union 'intimidation' of the few scabs.

But Yaqoob's police friends are the real intimidators. Stopping pickets parking their cars while ignoring double parking and other traffic infringements by the scabs.

The picketing of the firm has meant the Halal Meat Co. will have to change its name. They are now processing meat as 'halal' (ritually killed) when in fact they are getting 'haram' (ordinary) meat from farms in North Wales.

The strikers' confidence is high. Already production has been cut by 50%. Animal waste products are piling up as outlets are cut off.

Unfortunately the council's meat inspectors, NALGO members, are crossing the picket line. Otherwise production would have to stop completely.

DEFY TORY LAWS

Photo: MILITANT

The president of the Yorkshire miners, Arthur Scargill, received warm applause when he addressed this year's national conference of the Labour Party Young Socialists' in Bridlington on Sunday.

During his speech he highlighted the hypocrisy of the Tories and the powerlessness of their laws, when faced with the labour movement.

He brought laughter from the audience of 2,000 when he told of how was summoned to a select committee when the Tories were drawing up their for Employment Act.

"I received a telegram asking me to give evidence and put my views on the proposed act. I replied I would be delighted.

"Then they realised that by doing this, it would give me a platform—so I was then told I could only answer questions of the committee. So I refused to attend.

"Some official from the House of Commons phoned me and said I couldn't refuse—but I said 'I have!'.

"He then said I would be reported to the 'Privileges Committee' which would instruct me to come. I asked what would happen if I refused. He said I would be automatically reported to the Speaker who would 'summon me to the bar'—not for a drink!—and he would 'berate me'.

I said it sounded painful



Arthur Scargill at LPYS conference at the Easter weekend.

but I still wasn't coming."
"Did I realise this was defiance of the law, I was asked? I replied yes, and if my forefathers had never defied the law we wouldn't have the rights we have today!"

Arthur Scargill added that by some law passed in 1431 he could have been locked in the tower of Big

Ben, but that would have meant 10,000 Yorkshire miners massing outside the place so the Tories didn't bother! He went on, "The Employment Act is now law. If defying that Act—a law which is designed to emasculate the British trade union movement—means going to gaol, then I will as my forefathers did!"

PADDINGTON RAIL STRIKE

Rail services in and out of Paddington were severely disrupted on April 15.

The 24-hour strike called by Paddington

guard and parcel local departmental committees [LOCs] was in support of the Old Oak common carriage cleaners in North Acton, London.

One hundred and thirty cleaners have been locked out without pay since 1

April.

The dispute is over management's new regional job timings. These cut time allowed for cleaning trains, increasing the workload without any increase in pay—£58.95 a week.

Scandalously, the National Union of Railwaymen's leadership at regional and national levels have supported management over the

new timings.

Workers at Paddington and Old Oak Common point out that this is only part of a general attack by British Rail management on the jobs, wages and conditions of all rail workers.

The Old Oak Common cleaners have visited other rail depots in the area for donations and support, getting a very good response.

Their fighting mood should be matched by positive action and support from NUR leaders in this and other struggles with BR.

After three weeks on lock-out, these workers need your support. All donations and messages should be rushed to: Ms Keatings, 18 Bromley Lodge, Lynton Rd, Acton, London W3.

Militant

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John Macreadie, third from left, with civil service union leaders, 22 April Photo: MILITANT

Air traffic controllers and all other Civil Aviation Authority trade unionists have voted to escalate the civil service pay fight.

The historic vote for industrial action by all the CAA trade unions is a tremendous advance in the fight for fair pay.

"The pay of Civil Aviation Authority workers is directly linked to civil service pay. This is very much

our dispute," says Frank Bonner, of the CPSA CAA Group Executive.

"The effects of the escalation will be to cause major disruption. Limiting the action to Monday to Friday will concentrate that disruption and its effects on the business community, which is presently backing Thatcher in her attempts to break the civil service strike."

The CAA unions' deci-

sion, says John Macreadie, CPSA CAA National Officer, "will boost the morale of the strikers in the civil service; it will boost the morale of civil servants generally and it will mean a stepping up in the action to fight the government in this common pay battle."

More civil service dispute reports—
page 15

Northern Ireland-

LABOUR MOVEMENT MUST GIVE THE LEAD

Over the last ten years the people of Derry have suffered their fair share of atrocities. But few have been worse than that committed by the army there last Sunday.

An army vehicle was driven full speed straight into a crowd of stone-throwing youths. Two youths were killed, having been knocked flying by the impact.

The vehicle then reversed away. The soldiers fired plastic bullets at the crowds as they retreated. According to one eye-witness account (reported in the 'Irish Times') they actually reversed back over one of the bodies.

This incident has given Derry its second Bloody Sunday. The police immediately reacted by saying that there had been a 'traffic accident'. This was no such thing.

These deaths have added a new dimension to the second H-Block hunger strike now approaching its climax. Until now, the support for the hunger-strike, because of its association with the Provisional IRA, has been extremely sparse.

Last Wednesday the H-Block Committees called for a half-day strike and protest. The result was a non-event.

In Derry a crowd of less than 2,000 turned out. This compares with an attendance of about 10,000 at a strike protest-meeting called in Derry during the pre-

and vicious repression of both the army and police, than gestures of support for the Provisionals.

Derry youth are on the streets for the same reasons which drove young people in Brixton to violence.

In fact the Brixton trouble undoubtedly had an effect on the North. For the first time for years, petrol bombs are being thrown, with the youth obviously taking the cue from the Brixton events.

If the hunger strike ends in the death of Bobby Sands, there will undoubtedly be a further increase in violence. This could ultimately develop upon sectarian lines, threatening the growing unity of workers now building up through the labour movement.

The labour movement in Britain and Ireland must take up both the issue of repression in general and of H-Block in particular. Only the labour and trade union movement has the power to move the Tories on this question.

The resolution passed by the British Labour Party National Executive on H-Block last year contains the basis for a solution. Demands for decent conditions for all prisoners, including the right to wear civilian clothing and the right to negotiate a choice of work, training and educational facilities, are now the two most contentious issues involved.

On the issue of 'political status', the labour movement has a responsibility to review the cases of those convicted on offences arising out of the Troubles to determine for itself who is a political prisoner.

Many in H-Block are political prisoners, but the

labour movement would not include in this category those, Loyalist or Republican, who have committed deliberate, brutal sectarian murders.

The trade union and labour movement in Northern Ireland must immediately offer the youth an alternative; a class campaign to draw young people into struggle against the policies of the Tories, and for jobs, homes, and decent wages and conditions.

We must oppose all forms of repression. Derry, both in January 1972 and in April 1981 proves that the army provides no answer other than the hammer of repression.

The labour movement should campaign for the withdrawal of troops. In their place it should take into its own hands the responsibility to defend workers from potential sectarian attacks.

Sectarianism is a dead end. So are the methods of the Provos, which only bring further repression. But neither will mass rioting provide young people with an answer.

The youth are today returning to the petrol bombs because they can find no better weapon with which to fight. The labour movement can and must provide them with that weapon.

Only the fighting, class approach can provide a way forward. All recent events underline again and again the urgent need for the building of a Labour Party in Northern Ireland, based on the unions.

Such a party would provide the youth and workers with an organisation through which they could fight back and which they could use finally to eliminate poverty, repression and sectarianism.

By Peter Hadden
(Northern Ireland Labour and Trade Union Group)

Christmas hunger-strike. In Belfast there was simply no strike. A small crowd, little more than 1,200, marched down the Falls Road. They did not have a single workplace banner among them. Last Sunday, the traditional Republican Easter Parades were held all over the North. In Derry the parade attracted only about 1,200, according to press reports.

In Belfast, despite Provo and some press clams, 'Militant' supporters who watched reported that it was the smallest Provisional Easter Parade for years. The later parade of the Official Republican movement, drew less than 500 people.

But the deaths in Derry, and the rising tensions in the province, have sparked off widespread rioting. In Derry there has been rioting for over a week, in the Bogside and in other areas. Riots have taken place on the Falls and Ormeau Road areas of Belfast and in Strabane.

These riots are far more a reaction of the youth to the terrible conditions of high unemployment and poverty,

Kick out Tories

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

"She had a half-hour interview—then, two days later she got a letter saying 'sorry you haven't got a job'. We later found out there was no chance of a job. It was just an exercise in interviewing for the new Personnel Officer, who was being filmed."

Another YOP trainee has taken her place on starvation wages—only about one in four get jobs after their six months—this is no solution to our problems!

But the LPYS don't let the Tories and the bosses trample all over them.

These are just a few examples out of hundreds at the conference: a visitor from Southampton who has just been working 12 hours a week for a magnificent £17 "wage" started up a Youth Campaign Against Unemployment branch, leafletting dole offices, holding days of action; including one outside the Tory club, when the dole figures were announced.

In Harlow, where the dole queues have doubled in length in a year, LPYS members are active in the Unemployed Workers Organisation set up by the Trades Council. They have succeeded in getting the council to give free access to the unemployed to amenities such as the swimming pool, roller-skating rink, etc., and they are now pushing for a Day Centre for the Unemployed similar to the one in Newcastle.

Delegates and visitors were convinced, if they weren't already, of the need to kick out the Tories and their lousy system.

Look at what the bosses are saying. The Economist Intelligence Unit say that the days of full employment are over. Work they think, should be looked at as a "scarce resource" of which nobody can have more than their fair share!

Scarce resource? Don't we need building workers? Have all the slums vanished? Are all the schools and hospitals in sparkling modern buildings?

What this so-called "Intelligence" Unit mean is that it's no longer profitable to give us employment. Profits—that's all their "intelligence" understands. If they're not making a profits we can all rot!

If we don't get rid of the Tories and bosses they will drive us into the ground. Join with the LPYS in the fight for:

- ★ A guaranteed job for every school leaver!
- ★ No redundancies!
- ★ Share out the work—for a 35-hour week without loss of pay!
- ★ For an £80 minimum wage!
- ★ For a programme of public works to build schools, hospitals, and houses!
- ★ Join with us for a fight to bring down the Tories! Join with us in a fight for a Labour government committed to socialist policies to end the rule of big business over our lives!

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26 issues... £9.00	26 issues...£14.00
52 issues...£18.00	52 issues...£28.00

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

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