

After the Peoples March-

GIVE TORIES MARCHING ORDERS!

“At one job centre I went to, I looked at a job put on the board for 16 year olds. They wanted someone with a full driving licence. ‘Experience essential’ it said!

“How the hell is a 16 year old to have a full driving licence let alone ‘experience’?”

This example given by Sean Sproston, one of the young workers on the ‘Peoples march for jobs’, shows the desperate situation facing youth when it comes to finding a job.

Sean, from Sunderland, spoke to ‘Militant’ during a brief stop at Daventry, Northamptonshire, before the Peoples march went to Northampton.

In search for work, Sean took up Mrs Thatcher’s ‘advice’ for the unemployed—that they should be mobile in the search for jobs.

“I’ve thumbed around

most of the country to look for work—Birmingham, Cardiff, North Wales, and London. But it’s the same everywhere—no work.

“At one job centre in Blaenau Ffestiniog, North Wales, they only had three jobs on offer; two for typists and one for a shop assistant. What sort of offer is that?”

“It would be interesting to know from Mrs Thatcher where you are

meant to live when you go on the road looking for work. In some parts of Wales I managed to stay

By Bob
Wade

with friends, and in London they’ve turned ‘Centreport’ into a hostel for people who are

looking for jobs, and you can stay there while you look around for a couple of days.

But at places like Birmingham you have to sleep rough. When you have to doss its hopeless; people think you’re a tramp or something. When they find out you haven’t got a fixed address in the town, then you’ve no hope of them giving you a job.”

Sean has joined a

‘Trainees Council’ in Sunderland which was formed to help the plight of unemployed youth like himself. But the group soon discovered that a ‘non-political’ stance was not enough.

Sean explained: “We tried to be non-political at first, but we soon discovered that we had no other choice but to be political.”

The conclusions that these previously

politically inexperienced unemployed came to, however, seem to have escaped some of those in the trade union leadership.

Mass unemployment is not an unexplainable act of nature, nor is it inflicted on the working class just because the Tories feel like it.

Mass unemployment is a direct result of this out-

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join the fight...

- For a 35 hour week with no loss of pay!
- For an £80 minimum wage!
- For a massive programme of useful public works to provide much needed jobs and services!
- For nationalisation of the 200 top monopolies which control over 80% of the economy under workers’ control and management!
- Kick out the Tories. Labour to power on a socialist programme!

TORIES DIVIDED

The departure of three junior members from the government and the rumours of further possible resignations has brought into the open the deep divisions in the Tory ranks.

The resignations have been on peripheral issues like the windfall tax on bank profits, or in the case of Keith Speed the Navy Minister, over defence cuts.

However, they indicate the rift in the government, in the face of mounting public hostility, as shown by the County Council election results, and growing disquiet at the effects of monetarist economic policies.

Now the Bow Group has demanded the dismissal of the 'wets', and of Sir Keith Joseph, for failing to keep public expenditure down.

The current annual review of public spending has just begun, and whenever further expenditure cuts are discussed, battle commences in the Cabinet. The Tory 'hards', those still convinced that monetarism works, dominate the economic posts. The 'wets' in general head the big spending departments.

The April budget therefore was drawn up by a small coterie of Treasury Ministers acting with Thatcher's approval. It was then sprung on the Cabinet with hardly time for debate. The level of public spending, however, is settled in full Cabinet.

The cuts for this year

were announced last November, and were toned down as a result of a battle in the Cabinet. The Treasury is now asking all departments to prepare figures showing the effects of another 3% and 5% cut next year, and of 5% and 7% for 1983-84, before deciding the options.

The Tories' public expenditure policy is in disarray. Despite all the savage attacks so far, the public sector borrowing requirement (the government's overdraft) will not come down. The recession, the Tories' tight financial controls and the cuts have boosted unemployment, and thereby increased the state's outlay on benefits.

Aid has been given to ailing public industries which with three million on the dole, even Thatcher dare not allow to close. One Tory MP announced that while the 'People's March' has been in progress, £77 million has been paid to BSC and £18 million to Leyland.

Despite election promises, to bridge the deficit, taxes have been increased,

cancelling out the Tories' initial tax cuts. The Chancellor and the 'hard' wing are determined to cut spending again, to allow tax reductions before another general election.

A recent report from the American Chase Econometrics firm shows the impact of these methods. They anticipate a recovery by 1982 but are alarmed that "the shock to which the monetarists have subjected the UK economy is so severe and prolonged, that it has started to alter the whole balance of the economic system, and this is likely to have extremely damaging long-term effects."

This is also the view of the Cabinet 'wets'. They understand that monetarism has turned an international recession, for Britain into the most severe slump since 1930-31. Any more cuts will decimate industry, much of which relies on public sector orders.

Even the 'Times' which applauded the Tories' attacks on state 'extravagance', now urges modest increases. Not in health care, or social security of course, but capital spending to assist industry.

"There is need for more capital investment which has been restrained ex-

cessively for political rather than economic reasons," it argues. "It is a fallacy to suppose that holding back public sector capital investment will make room for more economic growth elsewhere."

What difference with a 'U-turn'?

But if the Tories' do alter their approach (more of a swerve than a 'U-turn'), what fundamental difference would it mean for the enfeebled British economy?

The University of Warwick Manpower Research Group favours a programme of public investment and abolition of the national insurance surcharge. By 1985 this would create 355,000 extra jobs, but at a cost of £6,000 million on to the borrowing requirement. Yet unemployment would still be over 2½ million.

The Cambridge Group of forecasters estimates that just to hold unemployment at its current level, a 3% growth rate would be needed. To achieve it would

push the borrowing requirement up to £20,000 million next year and £30,000 million the year after, with all the implications that would have for inflation.

Alternatively if the pound were to depreciate by 15% a year which would supposedly recapture the competitiveness of 1970 within three years, inflation would be back above 20% and unemployment still 3 million plus!

The world capitalist crisis exacerbated by the decades of neglect and underinvestment by British industrialists, mean that whichever way the Tories turn, fresh obstacles arise. With present policies, Chase Econometrics predict 13.9% inflation by the year's end. If a modest boost is given to spending, they risk rabid inflation, while unemployment would still remain historically high.

While Labour should capitalise on the Tory splits, it must draw the conclusions of the impasse of the privately owned economy. Nothing but the introduction of the conscious planning of production, investment, employment etc. will suffice, and that is only possible within a nationalised and democratically controlled economy.

Deputy Leadership Campaign — Support for Benn grows

Tony Benn's candidature and the campaign for the election of Labour's Deputy Leader has ensured that the programme of the Party and Socialism have been debated throughout the movement, especially at the various union conferences.

This should be enthusiastically welcomed, and should now lead to a vigorous campaign to fully involve union members and their families in the Labour Party at local level.

Despite all the efforts of the media, the election is not about personalities. It is far more important than that. At its root lies the issues of the policy and direction that the Party should adopt.

Labour's ranks have made it abundantly clear that they are looking for a radical alternative to the failed programme pursued between 1974 and 1979.

The effect of this campaign with the radicalisation of the Labour Party and the unions has terrified the capitalist class. They see that should Tony Benn win, it would open up the possibility of him becoming a future Labour leader, intent on following a more left wing line.

They have launched a tirade of abuse against Benn and the left, unfortunately assisted by the right wing in

By Roger Shrives
(Deptford Labour Party)

the Party and the unions.

But even within the unions which have been bastions of the right in the past, Benn has won a large amount of support. At the UCW Conference a third of delegates backed his candidature. USDAW reaffirmed its support for the Wembley conference decision on the electoral college, and 40% of the delegates supported Tony Benn on a show of hands.

Even at the TSSA conference, one hundred and fifty delegates came to listen to him at a fringe meeting. Benn has addressed large enthusiastic meetings at a whole number of union conferences.

Union leaders

Various union leaders have found they have been unable to swing the conferences their way. ASTMS overturned the recommendation of Clive Jenkins, and voted to back Benn.

Some union tops seem afraid even to allow debate on the issue. Tom Jackson wrote to Party General Secretary, Ron Hayward, complaining that Tony Benn was speaking at a Broad Left meeting at the UCW conference, and interfering "with the democratic structures of our Union." Tony Benn

Delegates applaud special conference vote to elect Labour's leadership

Photo: Militant



was previously Postmaster General and Minister of Posts and Telecommunications and was awarded the Union's Gold Badge at its 1965 Conference!

Tony Benn is standing in defence of Party conference decisions on policy and on

democracy. As such he has the overwhelming support of activists in the Labour Party and the unions, and is seen as the candidate who can win the greatest support against the pro-capitalist wing represented by Healey.

Other left wing can-

didates, with the exception of John Silkin, have withdrawn. The only effect of his standing would be to weaken the chance of a left victory.

Indeed statements from him falsely arguing that "we are going into a posi-

tion in the Party where only one view is allowed to prevail," and "where one point of view prevails there is always the danger of it being an authoritarian point of view," only play into the hands of the right, and of Labour's enemies in Fleet Street.

With more union conferences to come, particularly the powerful TGWU, it is vital that all these issues are fully debated. But it must be explained that even the election of a Labour government on a programme of radical reforms is no guarantee that past mistakes will be avoided.

Tony Benn has correctly pointed out that "declining British capitalism can no longer offer full employment, free trade unions, or the welfare state."

A future Labour government could be pressurised to abandon its radical reforms by trying to operate a declining system. Or it could break from the straight-jacket of capitalism through the immediate implementation of Clause Four, which today means the nationalisation of the commanding heights of the economy, and the introduction of a democratic Socialist plan of production.

Tony Benn and his supporters are not prepared to go that far at this stage. But his election to the deputy leadership would help ensure that past gains are consolidated and an impetus given for a further move to the left. This is why his candidature needs to be supported and fought for.

FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT

Wales Mobilises

The July 4th demonstration in Cardiff is only five weeks away. The whole of the labour movement in Wales and nationally should be gearing itself up to make this demonstration as big a success as the Glasgow and Liverpool demonstrations.

Many liaison committees have been set up in Welsh CLPs, mainly at the initiative of the LPYS members. Every LPYS branch in South Wales has booked at least one coach to go to the demonstration and a train has been organised in North Wales by NUPE. More advance publicity has gone in to this event than has ever been seen before in Wales.

Nationally the LPYS has produced 200,000 leaflets for free distribution. In addition the Regional Committee of the LPYS are producing 40,000 free leaflets as part of the build up, with another 10,000 leaflets for the day of the march itself, advertising LPYS m-

By Neil Williams
(Wales LPYS
Regional Committee)

meetings.

South Wales NUM are asking all its lodges to organise coaches for the demo, and the LPYS has sent circulars to trade union branches appealing for the maximum number of young people to be encouraged to attend.

The Welsh working class has had a proud history of class militancy. As early as 1831, Dic Penderric, an early socialist, was executed for "incitement to riot" for



Welsh workers demonstrate against steel closures

leading workers against the appalling and miserable conditions in the iron industry in Merthyr.

In 1839 the Chartists marched from Newport to Monmouth, in what they believed to be the beginning of a national uprising, to demand the release from Monmouth jail of one of their members when they were set upon by the militia.

A rally is held in November every year which attracts nearly a thousand to commemorate the memory of early

socialist pioneers.

Riots also occurred in Tonymandy in 1911 when Churchill ordered the use of police and troops to charge down the striking workers. The Labour Party and Communist Party both found early bases in the valleys of South Wales.

In 1981 in the East Gwent valleys there are 1,700 unemployed with only 4 vacancies—two of these are part-time work at the local dole office.

Even in sunny Tenby (a

holiday town in the constituency of Welsh Secretary of State, Nicholas Edwards) winter unemployment stands at 28% and even in Summer it only goes down to 12—13%. Working people in Wales have no option but to get rid of the Tories.

Let the 4th July demo mark a return to the type of protests experienced by the working class in the past in Wales and proceed to the overthrow of the Tories and their rotten system.

Unemployed Advertise Yourself

The misery of the unemployed and their desperation to get work has yet again been highlighted in South Wales.

When ASDA were recruiting for their new superstore at Swansea, the local Job Centre was swamped by 10,000 telephone enquiries, followed by 8,000 applications for the 300 or so vacancies.

In an area devastated by massive redundancies, employers are now in the position to pick and choose from the thousands of candidates applying for even the most mundane and poorly paid jobs. What a waste of talent, education and skills. Many of those chasing the few available jobs are over-qualified, but after years of unemployment any job is worth trying for.

However, not all is lost for the thousands of unemployed in Wales. BBC Wales Television appears to have hit on a solution for finding us work.

No, they are not demanding the nationalisation of the major monopolies or a programme of useful public works. They intend allowing unemployed workers 30 seconds to appear on the 'Wales Today' job shop slot in order to outline their predicament, skills and job hopes to the programme's 440,000 viewers.

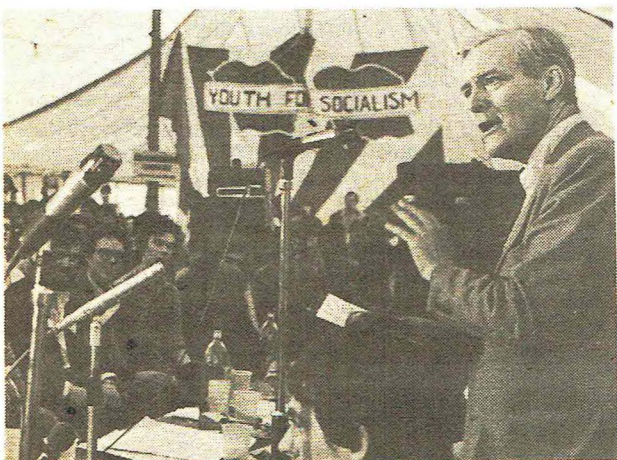
Already, thanks to the efforts of the BBC, two South Wales men are back in the ranks of the employed!

For those of us not fortunate enough to be around when the cameras visit the Job Centres there is always the opportunity of 'selling' ourselves on the Welsh commercial television station HTV. For just £1,600 you can have 30 seconds of peak advertising time to tempt prospective employers to let you work.

If your unemployment benefit won't stretch that far, then do something really constructive. Go out and sell the socialist ideas and programme of *Militant*. That's the only way of securing a decent job and a real future!

By Alec Thraves

Come to the YS Camp



Tony Benn addresses the 1979 Camp

3 Days after Charlie and Di go off for their Caribbean Honeymoon, over 600 Young socialists will be off for a far better holiday—a week at the LPYS Summer Camp, where along with sporting and social activities, we'll be discussing the kind of socialist policies needed to abolish the monarchy and the whole ailing profit system with it.

Both a holiday and a political event, the camp is a must for every young worker, unemployed, student, and school student. At the major rallies, Joe Marino [General Secretary of the Bakers Union] has already agreed to speak on 'A Charter for Youth'; Denis Healey [or another supporter of the 'Solidarity' group of Labour MPs] has been invited to debate 'Which Way for Labour' with Peter Taaffe [editor of *Militant*], and comrades from Ireland will be speaking on socialist policies to end the crisis. As

well as the big rallies, there will be dozens of seminars on issues of interest to everyone.

But it's not all meetings! There's plenty of time to relax. Almost every afternoon will have sporting events organised—or you can just lounge in the [guaranteed!] sun. In the evenings, apart from films, there will be discos, and a couple of club nights.

Got a family? Then bring the kids too! With the full-time creche, they'll have the best holiday of their lives!

Book your holidays now! Make your transport arrangements today! August 1—8th. LPYS Summer camp, Bracelands Campsite, near Coleford Gloucs. Cost: only £40 meals provided or £15 self catering. [Reduced rates for children under 12]. Send your £5 deposit NOW to Andy Bevan, LPYS, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.

Batley—First for 50 Years

The march from Batley to Dewsbury on May 23rd organised by the local Youth Campaign Against Unemployment and Asian Youth Organisation, was probably the first labour movement march in the area for 50 years. 200 mainly young people took part.

Black and white, employed and unemployed, and representatives from the Kirklees tenants action group at present on rent strike.

Yuess Patel of the Asian Youth Organisation said at the rally afterwards: "It is good to see black and white united to fight against the Thatcher government". Yeuss explained how Asian workers were recruited by the Tories when there was a labour shortage in this country. The choice they had was poverty and starvation in their own country, or a job in Britain. They came to provide cheap labour throughout British Industry but in particular, the textile industry, like in Batley.

The rally also heard Terry Fields of the FBU National Executive, John Reaber of the NUM National Executive and John Goodby of the LPYS National Committee.

Terry pointed out: "you can be as strong and as militant a trade unionist as

By Jane McVeigh
(Leeds Labour Party)

you like, but unless the trade unionists and the organised working class of this country are prepared to take over the power then the minor reforms gained would not be lasting reforms. In the crisis of capitalism we will find very quickly that those reforms we have managed to gain will be quickly clawed back".

The mood of the day was summed up best by an unemployed textile worker from the Batley YCAU who said "yes it's stupid to walk with placards and shout, it is embarrassing, I'm embarrassed, especially when you shout Maggie, Maggie, Maggie, and nobody shouts back Out, Out, Out! But what is even more embarrassing is the way that Thatcher's government is affecting working class people and its much better taking part in demos like this than to sit back in your armchairs".

St Helens on the march

Saturday produced yet another step forward in the fight to save jobs in the St. Helens Merseyside area following the occupations and strikes of workers at United Glass and Holman and Mitchells against redundancies.

St. Helens Trades Council called for a demonstration against unemployment on May 23rd.

Despite the short notice of less than a week and only local publicity, the demon-

By Dale Quinlivan
(Wigan Labour Party)

stration gained tremendous support.

This has come at a time when more than ever firm resistance to unemployment is growing more necessary. With unemployment being over 10% in the St. Helens area the future looks grim.

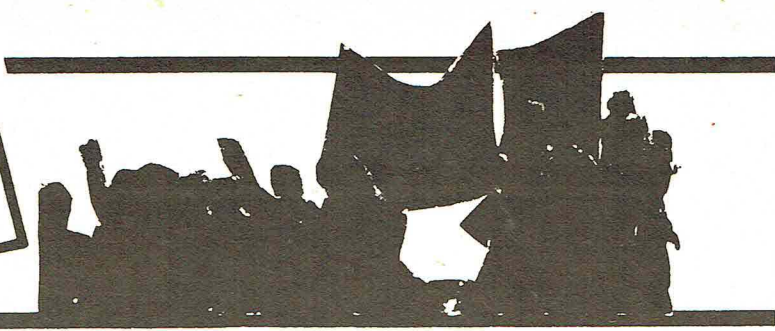
Not only are United Glass and the Mitchell workers faced with redundancy, but Pilkingtons, the main employer in the town have stated their intent to make at least

another 1200 workers redundant over the next year. The position of school leavers is particularly bleak with only 1,000 of this year's 2,500 school leavers expected to find a job, and with youth unemployment already disguised by the 1,200 people on the Youth Opportunities Programmes.

The Trades Council along with the workers from United Glass have set an example that must be followed by the workers of Pilkingtons and anyone else threatened with redundancies.

United Glass Report
See page 14

WORKERS IN ACTION



REAL WAGES - DEMAND YOPS STRIKERS



'Youth want real jobs' demonstration in London in April

Photo: Militant

'Youth on Peanuts', read one banner held up over one hundred young workers taking part in a one-day Youth Opportunities Programme strike in Glasgow on Thursday 14 May.

Their protest outside the City chambers was met by the press and the Lord Provost.

Militant spoke to some of the demonstrators:

Willie Thompson, elected spokesman of YOP trainees at Rolls Royce, explained why they joined the strike—"Our main complaint is the money. We want it put up to apprentice rates (£35-£40); we also want to see shorter hours.

By Willie Griffin
(Bothwell LPYS)

"We used to start at quarter to eight and finish at half past four; we didn't get paid for our dinner hour. The union at Rolls Royce helped us; now we work from eight in the morning till four in the afternoon."

Jim McEwan, elected spokesman of YOPsters at the Glasgow South West Community Service Agency, argued—"Our scheme involves boys on painting and decorating and joinery with the girls in nursery and

office work. We start at 9 o'clock and go on till quarter to five.

"With £23.50, once you take away your bus fares, dinner money and digs money you've got nothing left. I think we should get £35 or £40 per week."

At the demonstration a Labour Party Young Socialist speaker explained our campaign to get YOP trainees organised in the trade union movement through the National Union of Public Employees.

The idea of joining a trade union was warmly received. But this mood could turn to one of cynicism unless the unions nationally take up a serious campaign.

In the West of Scotland NUPE with the help of the

LPYS are organising YOPsters with each group electing a spokesman or woman to co-ordinate demands and future action.

The rest of the country should follow this lead. LPYS branches should approach local officials from NUPE and other unions and arrange meetings with YOPsters in their lunch hour.

Recent events in Glasgow are only the tip of the iceberg. With over 440,000 passing through YOP schemes this year, there will undoubtedly be further protests by YOPsters.

- The LPYS are demanding
- ★ Trade union rights and rates of pay for YOPsters.
 - ★ Real, permanent jobs loss of pay
 - ★ Real jobs not YOPs.

New arrivals at LPYS

East Kilbride LPYS recently had some new members turn up for one meeting: Mrs I.M.A. Moderate, a right wing Labour MP; Sir Will Bleachem-White a textile millionaire, Mr TU Fightback and Freddie Futureless, an unemployed youth. They had all come along to give evidence at a public trial of Thatcher.

On being charged with killing 1½ million jobs, 'Mrs Thatcher' attempted to bribe the audience (who were also the jury) into believing she was innocent by offering them all 'sweeties'. However, no-one was taken in by this act (although they did accept her sweets).

She was found guilty on all charges and sentenced to be thrown off the stage of history by 'Socialist Youth' and 'Mr T.U. Fightback'. The play was highly successful, with over 50 attending, most of whom wanted to find out more about the LPYS.

The Saturday before the mock trial we held a protest rally in the town centre on the general theme of "Two years of Tory rule is two years too many". The day was a huge success with a number of people in the town praising the work the LPYS had done over the last year.

One pensioner came up to the information stall, bought a "Save jobs...Sack the Tories" badge and insisted on making a contribution to YS funds, even though she had little money to spare!

We sold out of 'Militants', sold over 50 badges and distributed about 1,000 leaflets. The most important thing, however, was that people listened to our ideas and shared with us their anger against the Tories.

By Jackie Galbraith

(East Kilbride LPYS)

"Let them have desks"

The last act of the Tory controlled Merseyside County Council was to spend £525,000 on a new police headquarters, whilst proposing to slash bus services by 50% and put up bus fares by 15%.

To ensure the comfort and dignity of the Chief Constable and his assistants £20,000 has been approved for furniture, including a rosewood desk for him. As an 'economy' measure, his immediate underlings have to have mahogany instead.

The spending was approved the week before the election—by four councillors, two of whom declared an interest.

Our newly elected Labour County Council must keep to their promise of an immediate cut of 10% in bus fares, and no cuts in transport or fire services. We're quite moderate in our needs—we're not even asking for mahogany chairs on the buses!

Merseyside LPYS' reply

Merseyside LPYS has fought a long battle against youth unemployment. Ten years ago we demonstrated against the dole. On June 13 we're marching again from Kirkby to Liverpool.

Merseyside has taken a consistent and terrible battering from the bosses over the last ten years; closures and redundancies include Standards, Dunlops, Western Ship Repairs, Meccano's, Courtaulds and Tate and Lyle. Youth as usual are taking the brunt—out of a total workforce of 550,000, 110,000 are unemployed and over 50% of these are under 25.

The march will pass through Norris Green, which has the highest youth unemployment rate in Europe. In Kirkby thousands of young workers are on YOPs schemes with no hope of a proper job at the end of it.

March against unemployment!

June 13th.
Assemble Kirkby Town Centre 10.30am. March through Huyton, Norris Green, Edge Hill to rally at St. George's Hall.

SHORT-LIST OF ONE IGNORES PARTY DEMOCRACY

Reselection is becoming a dead letter for many Labour Party activists. The fear of implementing the spirit of the reselection resolutions at National Conference and allowing any democratic discussion of who should be MP was demonstrated at Royton and Heywood CLP on May 8.

There were four nominations including the sitting MP, Joel Barnett. At the ex-

By a 'Militant' supporter

ecutive meeting it was moved that the MP should be the only one shortlisted. This was carried by the casting vote of the chairman, after the Executive had tied on the issue.

At the General Management Committee there was an amendment to include all four nominations on to the shortlist. Right-wingers opposed this, arguing that Barnett was a good constituency MP who carried a considerable personal vote.

Yet the same people have constantly complained at his flouting of local party policy e.g. his support for the Shah of Iran, his support for Healey and his drawing up of the public expenditure cuts under the last Labour government.

On the question of Party leader he was asked to vote for Benn but was actually Healey's campaign manager. A good constituency MP does not vote for measures which hits his constituents and then runs around sticking plasters on the wounds.

The party contains a wide variety of views which would have been reflected in a

shortlist of four; a shortlist of one was making a mockery of democratic reforms. Such was the dogmatic approach of one delegate that she stated that it would be wrong to listen to the views of other candidates as we couldn't think seriously of any other candidate but Barnett for MP.

The decision to have a shortlist of one was only carried by 20 votes to 15, very close when you consider that the LPYS, the Women's Section and both a post office engineers' and transport workers' branch had been disqualified.

Obituary: Maurice Ludmer

By Bill Mullins

(Birmingham Trades Council personal capacity)

Maurice Ludmer, editor of the anti-racist/anti-fascist magazine 'Searchlight' and for the last two years, president of Birmingham Trades Council, died on Friday May 15.

Those who knew Maurice recognised him as a determined fighter against racism and fascism. He continually alerted the labour movement to new groupings of deranged fascists. Almost with a microscope, he followed the tortuous splits and fusions of these maniacs not just in Britain but throughout the world.

The fact that he became president of the trades council in its major leftward

shift in 1979 was testament to his understanding that only the organised labour movement in struggling for socialism, could eliminate for good the cancer of racism and fascism.

He once explained that after seeing the horrors of the Belsen concentration camp "I took an oath then to dedicate myself to fighting racism." He was determined that such horrors should never re-appear.

A Maurice Ludmer Memorial Fund has been established. Cheques payable to 'Searchlight' can be sent via Anti-Nazi League, P.O. Box 51, London SW10.

Most council tenants vote Labour whenever they're given a choice. They elect Labour MPs, Labour councils and county councils—and they get Tory rent rises.

In Yorkshire the latest rent rises, on top of the backlog of repairs and run-down of services, have brought tenants to the boil.

On the Deighton estate in Huddersfield, eighty tenants are already withholding the extra £3.50 a week. This was the increase dictated by Thatcher's Tories, and implemented by the Labour-controlled Kirklees council.

In Leeds, over sixty estate and housing group delegates have voted unanimously for a rent strike. They will not pay the £2.25 their council is demanding.

At the Leeds meeting, the first speaker from the floor set the tone: "It's all very well the Labour council refusing to sell council houses, but how about fighting for the people who vote for them?"

"They seem happy enough to do what the Tories want when it comes to putting up the rents. Why didn't the councillors get together and refuse to put them up?"

There was anger at councillors' unwillingness to discuss the issue: no councillors were at the public meeting. "If they won't come to us, we'll have to go to them," the meeting agreed, making plans for a tenants' demonstration and publicity, which could be used to expose the appalling condition of some council homes.

On the Middleton estate in Leeds, were ninety families are already on rent strike, a survey by tenants of eighty-eight flats uncovered a total of 865 outstanding repairs!

In Kirklees, the action is spreading. When the Deighton tenants held their first meeting, the outcome of a campaign organised by the Labour Party Young Socialists in Huddersfield, only a handful turned out in the pouring rain.

By Chris Hill

(NW Leeds Labour Party)

and David Michael

(Kirkless NALGO, personal capacity)

But they were determined to fight, with the help of the LPYS and 'Militant' supporters, they established contact with other tenants already withholding the rent rise. A petition and further meetings have put the Kirklees Tenants Action Group on a firm footing.

When planning a rent strike, the practical questions have to be aired thoroughly, so everyone knows where they stand.

Eviction notices, already issued by the Labour council in Leeds, are a hollow threat. More ominously however, at their last meeting, the New Wortley tenants had an unexpected guest: a policeman ("Community policing" in action?).

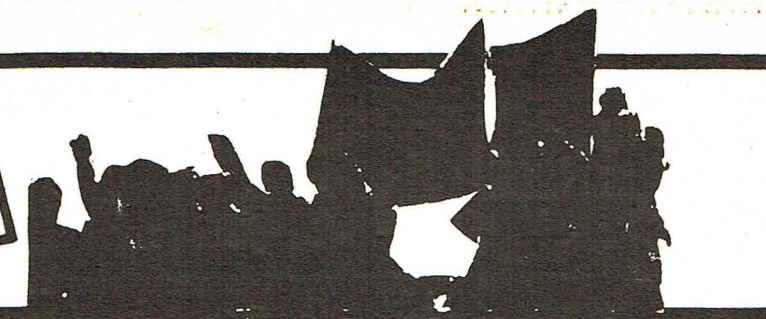
Housing officials, they heard, were prepared to use the debtors court and issue warrants, sending in the bailiffs with as little as twenty-four hours notice. Not surprisingly, such threats were making people think twice about the rent strike.

Jean Donnachie, from a Coventry tenants' federation, guest speaker at the Leeds meeting, was not intimidated: "If one came near me I'd cut his fingers off."

"It's the real test of our solidarity. Associations should form defence committees prepared to fight off the bailiffs. They would mainly consist of women, of course—which is no bad thing because we're the most vicious." No one was arguing!

The message from Yorkshire is clear. Labour cannot continue passing on Tory cuts. Their working class

WORKERS IN ACTION



'We're tired of rising rents along with rising damp'



Throughout the country local authorities are being starved of funds to develop property and continue to pay vast interest charges on council buildings. Above decay in inner-city of Liverpool.

supporters are tired of rising rents along with the rising damp.

As Val Drake from Osmondthorpe, Leeds, put it: "The day when we believed our houses were damp because we fried too many chips and breathed too heavily are over. Tenants are more confident—and we've had enough."

If Labour councils launched a real fight against the Tories, with more than words, they would get the enthusiastic support of their tenants. If the councillors show themselves willing to defy Heseltine and the Tory hatchet-men, they would win enough confidence from tenants to lead national action against the Tories.

Every Labour council should take up the demands of the Kirklees tenants:

- ★ No rent increases
- ★ No implementation of future increases or housing cuts
- ★ No sales of council houses
- ★ Labour councillors to unite nationally to fight for a debt repayment strike.

Three quarter of Kirklees tenants' rent goes to pay off the council debts to the banking and finance sharks. Labour must take these parasites on—and take them over—if we are ever to have decent housing at a price we can afford.

RIGHT-WING HAVE NO ANSWERS

The Welsh Labour Party meets this weekend at a crucial time for the Labour Party as a whole. Which policies can roll back the tide of Tory cuts that have devastated the country?

How can we ensure the coming to power of a Labour government which will end the nightmare of capitalism and not be a pale imitation of the Tories, paving the way to a return to a further, even more vicious Tory government?

on the draft programme for Wales. Many of the policies called for are a welcome step forward e.g. the guarantee of jobs for all school leavers.

But originally the Conference manifesto was ex-

By Ken Smith

remely pessimistic. So much so, that over 100 observations and amendments were sent in by 30 organisations.

The defeatist idea that the next Labour government would not be able to reverse and restore the Tory cuts has now been removed.

This was in direct contradiction with other parts of the manifesto which stated "Our socialist policies seek nothing less than a fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance in wealth and power in favour of working people and their families."

That is the core of the manifesto which has to be taken back to and campaigned for by the mass of Labour Party members.

The right wing at the Wales TUC, in their now infamous "social plan", argued for more wage restraint. This was

rejected by the Wales TUC.

And the annual conference of the Welsh Labour Party should, in its turn, mark a definite turn towards the left in an area that was formerly a tranquil haven for the right. There are more left wing resolutions than before, and a record number of left wing candidates standing for election to the Regional Executive.

A number of these resolutions call for real party democracy and a review of the composition of the Regional Executive.

At present constituency parties only have nine seats on the Executive (for 36 CLPs), whilst the County Association of Trades Councils, County Labour Parties, District Labour Parties, Welsh Counties Committee and Council for the Principality, also have 9 seats between them. Some of these organisations hardly meet and represent only a small minority of party members in Wales, — i.e. councillors.

The current right-wing exe-

cutive statement attacks some of the most active left wingers in the party, the Young Socialists.

Many LPYS members will be sickened by this unfounded kick in the teeth after all the work the LPYS has done. Cardigan CLP acknowledges this in its resolution which states: "Conference welcomes the active campaign against unemployment waged by the Labour Party and especially its youth section in Wales during the last 12 months."

It is the LPYS who have been in the forefront of the fight for socialist policies and against the Tories and will have a big contingent on the national demonstration in Cardiff on July 7 (see report on p 3).

The policies of the right-wing have failed. The message for socialists in Wales is clear. Only a democratic party fighting with a bold socialist programme offers a realistic alternative to Thatcher's capitalism.

MILITANT READERS MEETINGS

WEST LONDON: 'The Tories and the trade unions'. Speaker: Peter Taaffe. Venue: The Tabernacle, Powis Square, London W11. (Westbourne Park, nearest tube). Date: Tuesday 16 June. Time: 8.00pm.

GOSPORT: 'Ireland—Socialism or Sectarianism? 8.00pm Wednesday 3 June. Gosport Labour Club 145 Brockhurst Road.

ELLESMERE PORT: 'A socialist programme for Ireland' Speaker: Richard Venton (Birkenhead Labour Party). 7.30pm. Tuesday 2 June 1981 at Ellesmere Port Labour Hall, Heathfield Road.

SOUTH HERTS: 'The leadership of the Labour Party'. Speaker: Steve Amor (Stevenage CLP). Thursday 11 June 8.00pm. Venue: Room 2, Allum Hall, (opposite Elstree station).

HARLOW: 'The role of 'Militant' in the Labour Party'. Speaker: Brian Ingham ('Militant' Editorial Board). At Harlow Town Hall, Friday 29 May 8pm.

SOUTH LONDON: 'Tories must go—socialist policies for Labour' Speaker: Ted Grant (Political Editor, Militant). Jake Magee (Labour GLC candidate for Uxbridge, May 1981). Bob Lee (PNP Youth). Wednesday 17 June 7.45pm. At Lambeth Town Hall, Lower Hall, Acre Lane, Brixton SW2.



No wonder the National Health Service is under attack. With friends like Simon Schanschieff, Chairman of the Northamptonshire Area Health Authority, who needs enemies. He is a member of the private health scheme BUPA, and both his sons were born in private clinics. "Everybody who can afford it, ought to seek private health care," he says. Soon in Northants there may not be much alternative, for under his chairmanship a number of local hospitals have been closed and cash for chiropody and dental services heavily cut back. But then as the head of his own company Mr Schanschieff can afford the choice. For the rest of us defending the NHS could be a matter of life or death. And defending it includes placing the health service under trade union control, and taking it away from those who clearly have no commitment to free health care.

As Labour's Deputy Leadership contest heats up, in the right corner we have Dennis Healey who is involved in another battle of his own. He is fighting to join a trade union. Not usually much of a struggle 12 million workers might say. But Dennis wants to join the National Union of Journalists, having been a member of the non-TUC Institute of Journalists up to now. And to comply with NUJ rules he has to prove that he really is a journalist and that two thirds of his income comes from writing. Dennis maintains, according to the 'Times', that it does, and that he earns £500 a week from the 'New Standard' and 'Financial Weekly'. But as ordinary trade unionists consider who to support as Labour's Number Two, no doubt they will wonder what one of the contenders was ever doing in a so-called 'Union' like the IOJ, whose members acted as strike breakers during the official NUJ provincial journalists' strike, and who have on occasions been excluded from covering conferences of real trade unions. And whether anyone holding down two highly paid jobs really understands the problems of Labour voters.

Membership of the Labour Party continues to grow. 358,950 were recorded for 1980, an increase of 74,000 over 'Labour Weekly's' estimate for 1978. Far from splitting the ranks it seems then that democratisation of the Party—reselection of MPs and the election of the leader etc.—and a more radical programme, have actually attracted workers to join. As for the Social Democrats, whoever are attracting it does not seem to be Labour supporters. In the North East, just one Party member has resigned from Bill Rogers' constituency, while no-one has deserted along with their MPs in Thornaby-on-Tees or Gateshead West. In Newcastle East home of SDP MP Mike Thomas, just four Labour Party members have resigned. Most Labour activists will probably think that to lose a dozen or so [MPs included] while recruiting in the tens of thousands, makes it all worthwhile.

Thinking of buying a new coat? Then why not take some advice from the fashion magazine 'Super-Style' [27/1/81]; "since we gave away the Empire, a new mood of fashion awareness has dawned amongst the male population of the British Isles. Freed from the responsibility of managing the world, British chaps have re-discovered the joys of clothing, of fashion, of wearing styles other than regulation classics that bespoke a suitably reliable character... on the left—a black glama mink coat.... which retails at £4,375. On the right, a coat in female lunaraine mink, £3,200." Really chaps, a bargain at the price for next winter! It might keep you warm when your electric is cut off!



The Agricultural workers' union, NUAAW, are organising the Peasants Revolt commemoration. Their members still suffer from the feudal attitudes of their bosses. Photo: Militant

THE PEASANTS REVOLT: 'Let's finish the job'

"When Adam delved and Eve span, who was then the gentleman? Ah, ye good people the matter goes not well to pass in England, nor shall not till everything be common, and that there be no villeins or gentlemen, but that we may be all united together and the lords be no greater masters than we."

These were the words of the preacher John Ball to an estimated 60,000 people on Blackheath Common on June 12th, 1381. This was the Peasants' Revolt.

From Blackheath the rebels marched on to Southwark where they opened the gates of the Marshalsea Prison, and destroyed the brothel owned by Walworth, Lord Mayor of London. They crossed London Bridge where the gates were held open by the common people of the city.

Passing through the City the men of Kent, Essex and of London went down the Strand and burned down the Duke of Lancaster's Palace. They killed the government ministers, Hales and Sudbury.

The Peasants' Revolt involved not only peasants, but small craftsmen and poor priests. In fact all the underprivileged sections of 14th. Century society. At that time there were various classes of peasants according to their degrees of servitude. Freemen could buy and sell land. Below them were the serfs who had to work on the lord's domain, and pay various dues to him.

By Peter Redfarn

(Lewisham East Labour Party)

Beneath them were the cottagers or landless labourers. The Peasants' Revolt united all these sections in a struggle for equality and social justice.

What were the events which created this great movement? In 1349 Europe was attacked by the plague known as the Black Death, which resulted in the death of up to a third of the population. There was then a shortage of labour, but the gentry still had the same acreage of land. So workers demanded higher wages.

In retaliation the lords revived many manorial rights over the serfs that had fallen into disuse, or invented new ones. The Lords in Parliament in 1351 passed the Statute of Labourers, which froze wages at their 1346 level making it illegal to ask for more. A kind of medieval Social Contract!

It imposed on labourers and small holders a duty to

serve their lords. When labourers hired themselves out for wages, they had to do so for at least a year. The Justices of the Peace Act empowered the local gentry to imprison those who they considered agitators. This Act is still on the statute book. It was invoked against Tom Mann in the thirties, and was last used in the 1960's.

Finally higher taxes were levied, mainly to finance war with France. Where the Government thought that not enough taxes had come from a particular area, they sent in commissioners to investigate and seize property, to make up the difference. Presumably this is Michael Heseltine's model for dealing with local councils that spend too much, and can expect a visit from the 1981 commissioners.

The Poll Tax of 1381 was one shilling, amounting to three day's wages, for each person over 15. It was the actions of these commissioners that sparked off the revolt in Kent and Essex.

Peasants' Revolt Commemoration Rally, Sunday 31st. May. Assemble St. Peter's Church, St. Albans, Herts. 2pm. Speakers include - Michael Foot.

Wat Tyler, at the head of the revolt, met the King at Mile End on 14th. June and at Smithfield on the 15th. The King said he would accept their demands. These were the abolition of serfdom, the execution of the King's advisors, an end to outlawry and that monks and priests should not hold property, but receive only their subsistence. The King himself was only 14 years of age, and having served the purpose was thrown out by the great lords in 1399.

The rebels were in a dilemma. The sincerity of the King in agreeing to their demands could only be tested in their native villages. If they dispersed, however, they lost their bargaining power. There were of

course the workers of London, but they were barely beginning to get organised. The whole population of London was less than forty thousand and masters only employed a few workers.

After the second meeting with the King they began to disperse and Walworth took the opportunity to kill Wat Tyler. But this was not the end of the revolt, which went on for most of June, and in isolated areas in to July.

If the development of industry had enabled a more strongly organised working class to emerge, the rising would have been much harder to put down. The revolt in Flanders in the 1320's for example had the backing of the journeymen's guilds (the first Unions) of the cloth workers, and lasted five years.

Six hundred years on serfdom has disappeared, but many of the institutions of feudalism survive. They are not retained as mere ornaments, but as obstacles to the working class movement. The monarchy remains, still with the power officially to summon and dissolve Parliament and to withhold assent to any legislation.

The House of Lords is still there, and magistrates are still appointed by the Crown, and still largely from men of property.

We still suffer sporadic wage freezes too. The modern struggle for socialism must finish off the job started six centuries ago, and banish those institutions to the history books.

The commemoration of the Peasants' Revolt confirms again that the Tory theories of British history of slow peaceful development, with the lower classes knowing their place, unlike the upheavals and revolutions of 'those continentals', is entirely false.

The peasants of 1381 fit into that rich history of revolt, along with the Levellers, the Chartists and the strikers in 1926. That is the tradition of struggle that the labour movement of today should draw on, to finally fulfill the emancipation of the exploited.

NORTHERN IRELAND ELECTIONS

The local government elections in Northern Ireland on 20 May were dominated by the issue of H-Blocks.

The polarisation and sectarian nature of the voting pattern must be seen against the background of rioting, barricades and petrol bombs, since Bobby Sands the first hunger striker died three weeks ago.

Since Bobby Sands' death, three other hunger strikers have died. The response of the armed might of British imperialism to the protests within the Catholic ghettos of Belfast and Derry has been the use of plastic bullets which have already killed innocent citizens while others have received serious brain injuries as a result of plastic bullets being aimed deliberately at head height.

The voting on the Unionist side reflected a vicious power struggle between Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and the official Unionist Party of James Moynihan. On the Catholic, nationalist side, the SDLP and the Irish Independent party fought on an exclusively sectarian platform to capture Catholic votes.

Gains made by the Irish Independence Party are no doubt due to using the five demands of the republican prisoners as the major plank in their platform while the SDLP ignored this issue.

The results show a clear polarisation. The official unionists lost 28 seats compared with 1977, while Paisley's DUP gained 104 seats.

The SDLP lost nine seats while the Irish Independence Party won an overall total of 21 seats (They did not compete in 1977).

The middle class Alliance Party lost 32 seats.

The Northern Ireland Labour Party kept its one seat in the Ards area mainly on the basis of a personal vote but they failed miserably to capture any seat in Belfast, for instance in Castlereagh their 3 candidates polled a total vote of 169 votes.

Gerry Fitt former leader of the SDLP only polled 504 votes and lost the Belfast City Council seat he had held for 21 years. Paddy Devlin polled just over 1000 votes a drop of 6,000 from 1977. Fitt and Devlin both no doubt suffered because of their attitude to the H-block issue.

Paddy Devlin has since been forced to leave his home in Andersonstown area due to the harassment of his family.

Despite the overall sectarian nature of the voting and

By Bill Webster
(Derry Trades Council candidate)

the objective situation, nevertheless independent labour and trade union candidates stood in a number of areas.

The conditions in which these candidates stood could not have been more difficult for socialists, yet in Co. Down, Malachy Curran was elected for independent labour on 655 first preference vote receiving the fifth highest vote of any candidate standing in the area.

In Antrim, Sean Gibbons, a member of the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union stood under the banner of the Antrim Labour League who included in his manifesto the demand for the building of a mass party of labour in the North, polled 562 first preference votes and only narrowly missed being elected.

Most of his votes when he was finally eliminated were found to be non transferable, they were thrown away rather than be cast for sectarian candidates.

The Fermanagh Labour League fielded Thomas Campbell, secretary of Fermanagh Trades Council who polled 352 first preference votes. In Craigavon two independent socialists, both trade union activists in between them polled 606 votes.

In Derry, the candidates standing in the name of Derry Trades Council on an uncompromising class programme polled a total of 439 first preference votes. In the Creggan and Bogside the trades council candidates stayed in until the third count. Ann Donnelly in the Creggan received 75 first preference votes compared to 61 votes received by a well known independent republican.

In the Bogside Colm Fox received 4 votes less than the IRSP candidate and 5 less than the IIP candidate. In area E John Duffy polled 165 first preference votes and Bill Webster polled 72 first preference votes.

Those workers who voted for socialist policies did so consciously and frequently refused to transfer votes to sectarian parties. In Derry, Antrim and Down, the independent and trade union candidates picked up important votes from the Protestant working class.

Derry was the most difficult area for a labour candidate in the May elections. Despite the barricades and rioting etc, the campaign went ahead including a meeting in the Bogside area on 6 May on the question of apartheid in South Africa and a day of action on 16

May at which 85 trade unionists and socialists from Belfast, Ballymena, Dublin, Galway, and Glasgow came to Derry in solidarity with our campaign.

The support we received exceeded all expectations. On 16 May the trades council and its supporters toured all the cities despite the burned out cars and barricades in order to get our socialist programme across.

Only the trades council conducted any form of activity on the streets during the election campaign — 40,000 election manifestoes were distributed. 850 posters were put up, 6,000 youth leaflets were given out outside dole offices, youth opportunities programmes, etc.

A meeting in the Guildhall square on 16 May was attended by over 150 workers while rioting was taking place in Bogside, Shantallow and other Catholic areas. Our gains include the establishment of a Young Socialists branch in the city and a list of names for not only the Young Socialists but also for the organised trade union movement.

Although the North is out of gear with political developments in Britain and Southern Ireland, this can only be temporary. The labour movement has suffered from a lack of leadership. But the class issues will quickly come to the fore in the coming months.

For example, the largest civil service union, PSA, begins its conference in Belfast next week, where a call will be made for an all out strike against Tory attacks.

Youth in particular in the Catholic areas through rioting are seeking a quick means of fighting back against the policies of imperialism and capitalism. As socialists we pledge to push the trade union movement forward to build on the experiences we have gained in Fermanagh, Antrim, Derry and Down. We will redouble our campaign for the convening of a conference of labour to force the trade union leadership to act in accordance with the wishes of the rank and file of the labour and trade union movement.

The effect of the campaign was cut across partly by the objective situation. But also the labour movement candidates were hampered by fighting just in individual areas.

The results show above all that a party of labour clearly supported by Northern Ireland's trade unions would have enormous impact on political developments in the area.

The formation of such a party is a first priority for the labour movement.



Growing need for a mass party of labour

Photos: J McKittrick (Militant)
Above: Workers at May Day rally in Derry
Below: The candidates of Derry Trades Council



FIGHT REPRESSION!

Four prisoners have now died on hunger strike in Northern Ireland. The Tories have callously sat through the deaths of Raymond McCreech and Patsy O'Hara just as they sat unmoved while Bobby Sands and Francis Hughes starved to death.

The army has responded to the mounting street violence in Catholic areas with the most vicious methods. Indiscriminate use of the obviously lethal plastic bullet which has left two more people dead in the last week alone.

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

Yet at any time the Tories could have resolved the hunger strike with the simplest of concessions. Had they been prepared to allow all prisoners in Northern Ireland the right to wear their own clothes and to negotiate a choice of work, education and training as the British Labour Party NEC has demanded, the hunger strike could have

been settled.

The Labour Party and unions must apply pressure now on the Tories to grant these concessions while making quite clear its opposition to sectarianism and the methods of the Provisional IRA and INLA.

Only the labour movement can end repression in the streets or in the prisons. The campaigns of the H-Block support groups in Northern Ireland with their sectarian nature and their association with the Provisionals have failed.

The labour movement must fight to resolve the H-Block deadlock before there are more deaths and an escalation of sectarianism in Northern Ireland.

Peoples march

for jobs

MARCHING FOR FUTURE

Reports by Bob Wade,
Michael Harkness, John
Fahey
Photos: John Woulfe

The link up of the two legs of the 'Peoples March for Jobs' in Northampton was truly dramatic.

As the two contingents, one having marched from Liverpool and the other from Huddersfield, caught sight of each other a tremendous cheer went up.

The chant of "The workers united will never be defeated" thundered across the town centre.

The marchers on the Liverpool leg broke through the police cordons to greet their comrades on the eastern leg.

Everybody was embracing each other as the two groups of marchers mingled together.

There was a sense of euphoria as the air rang with "Maggie, Maggie, Maggie, Out, Out, Out", and a feeling that now the marchers were united it was far stronger. Despite the total lack of coverage of the march by the capitalist press and TV the march is having a fantastic effect in every town passed through.

On the way to Northampton it got the boost that Prior will meet the marchers when they arrive in London. As George Allen, a marcher sponsored by the building workers union, UCATT explained: "It's not that we particularly want to see him, or that by doing so it will do anything for us."

"But when" it was first asked to meet Thatcher, the Tories just laughed it off. Now, because of the support we have received, the Tories have been forced into this action."

The reception at Northampton from the local people was typical of the response received throughout the long trek. Even in the remotest country areas, the one or two people the march passes give shouts of encouragement and donations.

Julia Chapman from Manchester, unemployed for 8 months and a member of Gorton Young Socialists, told of one incident. "We were in a pub in Halewood on the first day of the march, when a man came around selling fish foods. They cost 50p and we explained to him we couldn't afford it.

"We told him we were all unemployed and about the peoples march. He told us



Julia Chapman, unemployed for 8 months

he'd been unemployed for some time, and was now just about scratching a living selling these fish foods.

"But then he said he would take 20p off the price for us, which was his commission. There were about 50 of us there, so he lost a fair bit of money. It was a fine gesture."

When the eastern leg entered the redundancy ravaged town of Corby, it seemed as if most of the folk came out. As the march went past a school an old aged pensioner was overheard saying to a young boy "It's not only their jobs they are marching for, but for your future as well!"

A mass rally of steel workers and a contingent of marchers joined the march in the city centre. The sense of comradeship between the steel workers, marchers, spectators was marvellous. Everyone was united in hatred for Thatcher and the Tories.

As one of the speakers at Corby said, the marchers are only 500 but out there are millions of workers who could be sacked, who want to go on this march and it represented those millions.

When it reached Coventry on 20 May, the town saw its biggest demonstration since the battle against the Industrial Relations Act in the early

1970s.

Around a thousand workers joined the march at the city boundary and on the way the ranks were swelled by hundreds of others including workers from Massey Ferguson, GEC Talbot and three and a half thousand from Rolls Royce Parkside who had walked out in support.

The shop stewards of the night shift at Rolls Royce, who were unable to join the march, held a levy of £2 per head which raised over £1200 for the marchers and even the foremen had a levy of £1 per head.

When the march reached the city centre, over 8000 people packed the precinct and gave it a thunderous 15 minute applause before any of the speakers could even start.

The march has received a great response, especially from older people. Marcher Paula Leigh, a 17 year old from Wigan, said "When we marched through Stoke one woman with tears running down her cheeks rushed up and gave us a £10 note. She explained her husband had been on the Jarrow march."

The reason these workers, young and old, are prepared to walk hundreds of miles in protest is clear: most of them have their own personal horror story of being unemployed under this reactionary Tory regime.

If the life faced by Sean Sposton was not bad enough (see front page) consider the situation that Les Harbison from Newcastle has suffered:

"I've been unemployed 2 years. Well, I have had one job in that time—it lasted for an hour! I'd been out of work for some time after breaking both arms in an industrial accident, when I got this job.



George Allen, marcher sponsored by building workers union, UCATT

"I started at 8am, but by 9am I was told the company had collapsed and all the workers were sacked. After being out of work for so long, something like that is pretty soul destroying."

The organisers of the march claim it is 'non-political'—this is nonsense. The chants taken up by the marchers, and the comments of the thousands of workers lining the route, are clear: Kick the Tories out!

Whenever the march passes a Tory club a barrage of jeers goes up from the ranks. Even some Liberal clubs have come in for this treatment. On the western leg, the marchers voted not to allow Tories to address the march.

And as the march rolls on it has increasingly become a focus point for the working class against unemployment and the Tories.

All along the first joint leg from Northampton to Bedford marchers sang anti-Tory songs.

It so annoyed one Tory that he started foaming at the mouth and seemed to be on the edge of a fit. He kept screaming: "Why don't you get a job you bunch of wasters", but he just made the singing louder.

A couple of miles outside Bedford the Welsh and South East contingent joined the march. Everybody was tired having just walked 23 miles but the strength came back and "the workers united will never be defeated" was roared out over and over again.

Everywhere the marchers have been amazed at their wonderful reception. Even in Tory strongholds like Market Harborough the working class has been right behind them.

They might be small in numbers in those places, but they still recognise the fight against the class enemy, the Tories and the bosses.

This angry mood must be tapped by the trade union and labour movement. As two of the marchers, George Allen and Les Harbison explained:

George: "Before I came on the march I was a bit sceptical of the trade unions. But the march has changed my outlook. I can see the working class are prepared to struggle.

"But at the same time I've seen the disunity amongst the left which can be detrimental in waging this fight. This march cannot be non-political.

"The response we have received from ordinary people has been fantastic, but it's very much an emotional response. It must be given political direction.

"When I return to Liverpool I'm going to get involved in the Transport and General workers union 612 branch, which is organising the unemployed in the area.

Les: "As a Labour Party member, for me this march doesn't just have a message for Thatcher. The other message is that it is clear that if we are to get out of this mess the next Labour government must be a socialist one."



Marchers from Eastern and Western legs meet in Northampton

ORGANISING FOR OUR FUTURE

ORGANISE TO END UNEMPLOYMENT

UNEMPLOYED MOVEMENT

Phil Widdop (aged 22) has been on the eastern leg of the People's March since Rotherham. He is a leading member of the Rotherham Unemployed Movement (RUM).

He is on the March not only to show his hatred of the Tories, but to try to help form an organisation on a national level to look after the rights of unemployed people.

Phil feels it's vital to get

such an organisation off the ground. "Let's face it, there's going to be plenty of unemployment around for a bit, and people need this sort of thing." Phil is in the middle of negotiations with Rotherham Council to set up an Unemployed Workers Centre.

RUM is already right in the middle of the fight against the Tories and the bosses. RUM has pledged its total support for the

By John Fahey

labour and trade union movement, and joins in activities with the local Labour Party and Young Socialists.

RUM members have also received very high praise from members of the Plan-

see Strike Committee on the march (a Rotherham tool firm), not only for manning pickets, but also for printing and distributing leaflets asking for support for the strikers.

Just think how much more power the working class would have against the Tories and their system if the unemployed, as well as those in work, were organised behind a bold socialist programme.

LINK STRUGGLE

By Mick Hogan

(TGWU 612 branch, Liverpool personal capacity)

T&GWU branch 612 on Liverpool is unique as most of its active members are unemployed.

Originally the factory branch Standards No 2, it was closed during Edwards onslaught on car jobs in 1978. Shop stewards and activists decided to keep the branch open and since then it has helped organise those who've lost their jobs in the unemployment tidal wave that's hit Merseyside.

The branch utilise the talents developed on the shop floor. Courses are organised to train members to sort through the labyrinth of social security legislation, so that we can become virtual shop stewards at the dole fighting for the unemployed to get their full rights to benefits.

But we don't limit ourselves to that. We are fighting to end unemployment once and for all, which is why we are

involved in the Peoples march. On Liverpool much of the organisation for the march was done by 612 branch.

A vital part of 612's success has been that it links, within the branch, both workers and unemployed. Bob Owen, a member of the branch, is the regional chairman of the T&GWU. "Unemployed and employed unite and fight" is the unofficial slogan of the branch.

A big boost was given to our work by the T&GWU regional committee's decision to organise straight off the dole. This was no hollow resolution; we have produced 6,000 leaflets to distribute on the dole queues.

The T&GWU should follow nationally the example set by the North-West. Open up the union to the unemployed and help branches organise those on the dole. In this way the unemployed will not

remain isolated as they did in the 1930's.

These branches, uniting workers and the jobless, could campaign within the labour movement for socialist policies to end the dole queues.

Fighting for demands such as the 35 hour week could lay the basis for unity between the employed and unemployed in the struggle against the Tories.

SOCIALIST POLICIES

The tremendous support and sympathy the Peoples March has received in every town along its route has overwhelmingly been a demonstration not only against unemployment, but also of hatred towards the Tory Government.

The Labour Party Young Socialists, the biggest political youth organisation in Britain, are fighting in the Labour Party and Trade Unions for socialist policies—to throw the Tories

out, and to get rid of the decaying profit system of the bosses which has thrown millions onto the scrapheap.

If you want to see the Tories out, if you want to see an end to unemployment—then join the LPYS to-day and join the fight for socialism.

Write to: Andy Bevan, National Youth Officer Labour Party, 150 Walworth Road, London SE 17.

NO ANSWERS CHURCH

By Mike Kennard (Maidstone CLP)

BOSSES

By Bob, Steve and Robert Edwards (Harlow CLP)

The Peoples March organisers' belief that their fight against unemployment has the support of the bosses was cruelly dashed in Harlow. On Friday 22 May the police broke up a meeting called by the engineers union, AUEW on the main industrial site at Temple Fields.

The meeting was the response of the local AUEW to the TUC initiative on unemployment. Organised at 2pm outside Johnson Matthey, one of Harlow's biggest engineering works, over 100 people gathered in the midst of the cloudburst.

Ernie French the District Organiser set up the public address system at the opposite side of the road. The rain

stopped and the meeting started.

Within minutes, up rolled a squad car with its yellow stripe. Accompanied by cat-calls and jeering, the representatives of the law ripped out the speaker connections and ended the meeting abruptly.

The assembled workers quickly came to the only conclusion possible. A bosses representative from the factory had phoned up to get the boys in blue down immediately. So much for the broad front against unemployment, especially as only a few weeks before, completely unannounced, the National Front marched with full police protection to hold a meeting in the town.

Has the Church Militant finally decided to overthrow the capitalist system?

This impression, possibly gained from reading some of the left press (especially the 'Morning Star') on the march doesn't fit in with a circular sent out by Maidstone Council of Churches, entitled "an alternative to unemployment."

Their 'alternative' plan is to take advantage of the Youth Opportunities Programme to get maintenance and repair work done. These marvellous opportunities for youth comprise, amongst other things, "repairing hassocks, cassocks, surplises and other vestments" and "cleaning, polishing and dusting the Church".

Len Powell, 85-year-old veteran socialist and member of the Unitarian Church, told me what he thought of their plan: "It's one of the palliatives of the 1930s. It's

playing with the dole figures and getting cheap labour.

"In the mid-30s the corporation decided to clear a graveyard and the unemployed were directed there to move the gravestones back. They got a few shillings more than the dole, which was pitiful at that time.

Len is scathing about the organised Churches: "They should come out politically on the side of the unemployed. Before the Second World War, the Unitarian Church was full when the minister was supporting social change".

Marxists are not opposed to uniting in struggle with believers of different religions or of none. But this can only be on the basis of a clear socialist programme to end the exploitation of man by man and not by compromising with apologists for the capitalist class.



AUSTRIA

No to social partnership! Yes to socialism!

“This was the first demonstration and it was quiet, but it could be different—more radical if we want it.”

A steelworkers' leader in the small Austrian town of Judenburg was speaking recently after a protest by 10,000 workers against large scale redundancies at the local steelworks.

The old consensus politics which was predominant in the years since the war throughout Europe is in the process of disappearing—even in the countries which have had the strongest economies.

Last year, Sweden seen as the model for many social democratic parties in the past, saw the biggest wave of industrial struggle since 1909, including a general strike.

Austria too has had a reputation as a 'stable' economy. In the '70s while other capitalist economies began to slow down, the Austrian economy boasted a growth rate of 4.3% a year, a figure surpassed only by Japan. Austria's GNP grew fourfold between 1939 and 1973. But these days are in the past.

The large growth rates of these economies in the '50s, '60s, and '70s were linked to the massive upswing in the capitalist system worldwide. On top of this, one third of the economy which was nationalised in the 1950s and the large state holdings in other firms were used to channel in state finance, cheap raw materials etc in order to boost the profit system.

In addition Austrian capitalism gained the benefit of the growth in tourism which provided a massive source of income to cover budget deficits and therefore helped to prevent an explosion of inflation.

But these ideas and methods of 'Keynesian Economics', while they may have appeared to work in the period of capitalist upswing, have been shown in countries such as Britain to offer no alternative to the crisis, and in the long term helped to fuel the fires of inflation.

The crisis of 1974-75 marked the end of the post war upswing, and the return

By Kevin Ramage
LPYS National
Chairman

to a 'normal' period of capitalist decline, of deeper and deeper recessions, interrupted by ever more feeble 'booms'.

This in turn is bringing a slow down in world trade, alongside mass unemployment, and inflation. All of these increasingly affect even 'strong' economies such as Austria.

Austria's Gross National Product, which grew by 5.3% in 1979, and 3.5% in 1980, is not expected to increase at all in 1981, and may even decline slightly.

Likewise the 'sound money' policy is under attack, as the National Debt has doubled from 12% of GNP to 24% during the 1970s. Servicing the National Debt alone absorbs 15% of public spending. Inflation, has not yet reached the 20% plus figures of other countries, but still has nearly doubled from 3.37% in 1979 to 6.4% in 1980.

The tourist boom of the post war years was based on rising living standards, especially in Germany. This is predicted to stagnate this year, after reaching a record level in 1980, as the economic crisis and unemployment hit German workers harder. Similarly, exports, which account for 35% of GNP will be increasingly hit by the stagnation and decline in world trade.

The effects of the crisis are already being felt by Austrian workers. De-industrialisation, which has seen the industrial labour force decline from 670,000 since 1974, has led to unemployment rising from 1% in the past to 2.5% now. Winter unemployment reached 3.9% in January 1979, and in some areas such as Burgenland hit 9.8%.

Predictably, as the crisis develops, the capitalists are demanding that the working class be made to suffer, through cutbacks in public spending, wage restraint, and now, as in the VEW steel plant in Judenburg, redundancies.

Some trade union, and

Socialist Party leaders have responded in the same way as the right wing in other countries, with calls on the workers for 'restraint' and 'responsibility'.

Anton Benga, leader of the Trade Union federation, has already said that there is 'no scope for real wage increases of greater than 1 or 2%.' In reality this will mean a cut in living standards for many workers.

But the experience of right wing, pro-capitalist policies put forward by labour leaders in other countries has shown that no amount of sacrifice by the working class will put the capitalist system back onto its feet.

The British 'Financial Times' (15.5.81) has predicted that while Austria's "strike record is the best (ie. the lowest—KR) in Europe (except Switzerland)" nevertheless the "1980s will be more difficult."

This increase in the class struggle will have an enormous effect on the labour movement, especially the members of the Socialist Party (SPO).

The SPO has been in power for most of the post war period and for the last ten years continuously. The capitalist system has been left intact, despite a number of reforms. But when capitalism itself reaches a crisis, how can a party leadership staying within the bounds of the system continue to grant reforms?

As in Britain and other countries, the policies of reformism will be found wanting. Already cuts have been seen in public spending, alongside price rises in post, road and rail fares aimed at reducing the budget deficit.

Increasingly, the activities and policies of right wingers such as Androsch, the Vice Chancellor and Finance Minister, who was forced to resign last December, following allegations of improprieties involving his private business interests, will be scrutinised by the workers.

Searching for alternative policies to those of the right wing, many sections of the Austrian labour movement will turn back to their rich traditions of class struggle.

Tradition of class struggle

Following the example of the Russian Revolution of 1917, workers in many parts of Europe rose up in struggle against the 1914-18 war between rival imperialist powers and against the capitalist system.

In 1918, defeat in the war led to the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, and a revolutionary movement of the workers pushed state power into the hands of the Social Democrats. Instead of mobilising the working class to sweep aside the remnants of capitalism, the leadership proceeded, like the German Social Democracy, to hand power back to the capitalists.

Several times in the 1920s and 1930s the same picture emerged—of the Austrian workers valiantly prepared to struggle, but the leadership holding back the struggle.

When three fascists were acquitted of the murder of two socialists in 1927, the workers responded, with an uprising in Vienna and a



Workers in the steel town of Judenburg protest at the devastation of jobs in their town.

3-day general strike. Once more, though, it was a movement from below which the 'leadership' failed to respond to.

In the Autumn of 1929, the fascists began a campaign for 'reform' of the constitution—aimed at curtailing the rights of the working class and concentrating more power into the hands of the civil service bureaucracy.

Once again holding back the workers' struggle to prove their 'respectability', the SDP leaders opened up 'negotiations' with the Chancellor, Dolfuss, and ended up making more concessions. As in Italy, this only served to embolden the fascists to push further forwards.

Within 2 days of coming to power in March 1933, Dolfuss suspended the constitution, and abolished Parliament. The SDP, at its 1927 congress had adopted a call for workers to seize power if the class enemy crushed democracy and they had a military wing, the Schutzbund.

No call for action came from the SDP leadership who considered Dolfuss a 'lesser evil' to the Nazis. Not until 1934, when the Heimwehr (Home Guard) attacked the party headquarters in Linz was a call for action launched.

By then it was too late. Years of appeals from their leaders not to act had confused the majority of workers. Despite heroic uprisings in the working class districts of Vienna, Linz, and Steiermark, these areas remained isolated, and were eventually crushed.

The defeat of 1934 was born out of the false policies of the leadership. Under Otto Bauer they had developed a policy known as 'Austro-Marxism', which was later characterised by Lenin's co-thinker in the

revolution, Leon Trotsky, as 'Centrism'.

This refers to a tendency which veers between reformism and revolution, using revolutionary language to maintain its support among the mass of workers, while always stopping short of leading the mass movement to the overthrow of capitalism.

The years since the war have mainly been years of growth in capitalism, and the reformist ideas of the leadership of the SPO have seemed to most workers to be sufficient.

But there is an opposite side to the post-war developments. Decades of economic growth has strengthened the working class, both numerically, and in its aspirations for the future. The wounds of despair caused by pre-war defeats have healed.

Now the boom has ended, the working class, and especially the youth, will be a strong and confident class, renewing its old tradition of struggle.

The Socialist Youth of Austria (SJO), the youth

section of the SPO indicate the changes which will occur in the SPO. They have adopted policies which can form part of an overall class programme to head these struggles.

They include demands for a 35-hour week, equal rights for men and women, 5 weeks holiday for apprentices, for a struggle against the menace of the neo-fascists. Their programme also calls for opposition to the 'social partnership' (the Austrian version of the 'social contract').

If these demands are linked to a clear socialist programme for the nationalisation of the commanding heights of the economy under workers' control and management with the establishment of a socialist plan of production, the SJO will be able to play a great role.

The fighting spirit of the Austrian working class linked to the clear ideas of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky, can lead to the successful transformation of society in Austria and throughout the world.

WORLD BOOKS

Engels: Revolution and counter-revolution in Germany 70p.

Lenin: The proletarian revolution and the Renegade Kautsky 45p.

Trotsky: Struggle against fascism in Germany £4.50.

Abendroth: A short history of the European working class £2.50.

All prices quoted include postage and packing. All these and many other books are available from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. Free booklist available on request.

Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN



NALGO workers have been forced into action by government attacks—they need a political voice.

NALGO and the Labour Party

Dear Comrade

This year's conference of the white-collar union NALGO, the fourth largest in the UK, will debate the issue of balloting its membership on affiliation to the Labour Party.

The Campaign for NALGO Affiliation to the Labour Party (CNALP), an organisation of NALGO members who are also ordinary members of the Party see this issue as one of paramount importance not only to the labour movement but to working people as a whole.

NALGO has fully participated in every major struggle of the TUC since joining several years ago. The union had adopted many of the policies put

forward by the General Council and in common with others unions actively supported and on many occasions promoted demonstrations against the present Tory government policies.

NALGO members face, along with other trade unionists, attacks on their jobs, living standards and the services they provide. The CNALP calls upon every Labour Party member who is in NALGO to actively support through their respective branches of the union the amendment to this year's conference calling for a ballot.

We fully realise that if conference decides to ballot the membership and a vigorous campaign is carried out within the union then it is clearly possible that this

important step will be taken to affiliate.

We would ask you to consider organising CNALP meetings, sponsored where possible by branches of the union. Already the Scottish District Council of the union are committed to calling a fringe meeting at this year's conference to discuss the issue. The NEC of the party have agreed in principle to support the idea of entering into discussion with all non-affiliated unions on this question.

CNALP speakers are available to address meetings and to provide literature. Contact: D Purton, 9 Willowfield, Harlow, Essex.

Yours fraternally,
David Churchley
Treasurer, CNALP

The salvation of capitalism?

Dear comrades

A glittering future for all lies just around the corner if we are to believe Tory ministers. From the ashes of bankrupt companies—casualties of Tory economic policies—new small businesses will arise. These, so it is said, will offer the employment opportunities of the future.

Is the following what the Tories have in mind? It's

taken from the *Sunday Times* 29 March:

"Eight old age pensioners in a back room are producing the answer to a sticky problem worth more than £1m a year. They are fixing strips of magnetic rubber to L-plates.

"The man who employs them, Graham Griev hopes to sell the plates to most of the 1.5m learners who take to the road every year.

"Griev has not tried to patent the idea because he is confident that with pensioner labour and a profit of

less than 8p a pair, he can undersell any likely rival."

The government has launched a £500,000 promotional effort to encourage the setting up and growth of small business. If this example is anything to go by, it may be 'good news' for pensioners that they can be so shamelessly exploited, but hard luck on the millions of young workers without jobs.

Yours fraternally
Terry Adams
Balham Labour Party

Students reject racism

Dear Comrades

Students at University College, Cardiff, showed their determination to uphold the policy of no platform for racists and fascists last week by preventing Sir Ronald Bell, chairman of the Monday Club, supporter of repatriation and the only Tory MP to march with the NF, from speaking.

Bell had been invited to speak on the subject of 'Britain and the Common Market' by the Politics Society, an invitation which is totally opposed to union policy. A students' union general meeting decided to freeze the Politics Society's grant and to picket the meeting.

About 70 people turned up to demonstrate whilst

only five people wanted to listen to Bell. Bell struggled in vain to deliver his lecture against a background of constant heckling.

It was then explained to him that he would not be able to speak until he could convince us that he was not a racist. After refusing to answer the question "Are you in favour of repatriation?" he finally gave up and left, attempting in the process to run his car into some of the demonstrators and then reversing, on the wrong side of the road, at about 50mph!

This totally peaceful demonstration showed that racists, even "respectable" Tory racists are not welcome in Cardiff.

Yours fraternally
Martin Davies
UCC Labour Club
Brixton campaign committee

Profits or lives

Dear comrades

I have been a scaffolder for seven years. We are currently on strike, to try and stop a construction firm that is working on a major oil refinery project putting workers' lives at risk. By working at heights up to and over 50 feet on scaffolding, with no boards and in some cases on no scaffolding at all!

It is cheaper for the firm to put workers' lives at risk to get the contract out on time and make more profit.

When we are going to make this capitalist system understand that workers' lives must come before profit?

Fraternally
Keith Phillips
Basildon Labour Party
& AUEW (Cons. Sec.)



'We were plundered long ago mate'

Deadly nightshade

Dear comrades

Militant's articles on import controls have given socialists great encouragement. It's quite possible that most people at the moment would be in favour of import controls, but I don't think most people honestly think the whole idea will work. It's more like an experiment, an act of desperation like taking deadly nightshade to cure a bellyache!

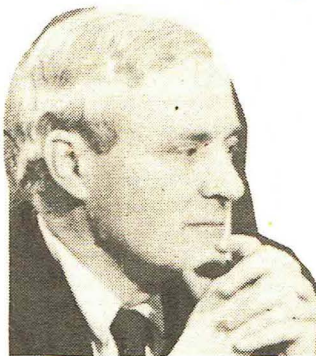
Apart from the question of retaliation many more jobs would be lost than would be 'saved'. The few remaining jobs in the docks would go along with other jobs on the coast, customs and excise, clerical jobs and

also lorry driving for imports and exports would be affected.

And who suffers from the effect of import controls? In June 1980 a small ban was put on cheap Spanish and Greek new potatoes which were cutting into the profits of British producers. Of course, us mugs had to pay more for food.

I'm in no way defending the capitalist wastage and disorganisation that exists. But anyone thinking import controls are the answer should think over the articles in *Militant* and join in the fight for socialism, the only real solution, before it is too late.

Fraternally
Lee Waker
Dagenham LPYS



Benn and the left—insulted by Healey and press.

Who are the "stooges"?

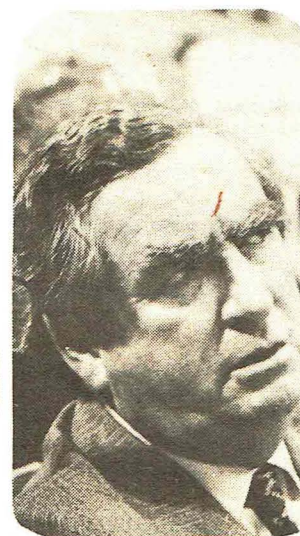
Dear comrades

In his address to the conference of the electricians' union, Mr Denis Healey accused the Left of "packing meetings with paid stooges."

It is of course, extremely unlikely that Healey will take up *Militant's* challenge to debate policies in public or to write articles for the paper. Therefore I suggest that all readers of *Militant* should write to Mr Healey at the House of Commons, challenging him to name some of the "paid stooges"—and those who pay them—or publicly retract!

Those who are fighting Healey should lose no opportunity of reminding workers that he has attended meetings of the Bilderberg Organisation, along with Maggie Thatcher.

Yours fraternally
Jim Parkes
Walsall



Old hat Healey

Dear Comrades

Denis Healey's attack on Tony Benn and the 'extremist' left—is 'old hat', it is well worn and is not succeeding.

The French Conservatives have used it to keep the right in power for years and at last the people have seen through it, the Tories used it during these last County Council elections, and failed.

Denis Healey's vulgar tongue does himself or our party no good. We will go our own democratic sweet way to the emancipation of our working class.

Fred P Bailey
The Mayor of Bideford

Every little helps

Dear Comrades

Evidence of the effect that Tory policy is having on all classes of society came in last week's [May 16th] enthralling episode of the Bob Monkhouse quiz show, "Family Fortunes". This featured representatives from the families of Lord Montagu [of Beaulieu fame] and Lord Bath [from Longleat].

It was touching to see the joy on the faces of these simple folk when they discovered they had won such luxuries as a giant teddy bear and an electric train set—things they would never be able to buy for themselves. What is more the Bath family won a lawn mower which will make life for the gardener so much easier.

Perhaps the difficulty the families had in answering the questions was due [as Bob Monkhouse himself sympathetically suggested] to these paragons of the aristocracy finding it hard to think down to the level of the average person.

And of course the Bath family's cock-up at the end was not due to their ineptitude, but was the result of a left-wing plot to make the questions harder [for example: "Give a girls name that begins with the letter N"].

Lord Bath's final haul was a measly £504, instead of the expected £2,000. The question the rest of us were left asking was, "How on earth can he afford to feed the servants on such a pittance—not to mention the lions?"

Yours fraternally
Sharon Cure
Poole LPYS

British justice

Dear Comrade

A letter to *Militant* (15 May) pointed to the case of a Chief Inspector being cleared of shoplifting goods and drew the conclusion of a 'Tale of Two Classes', the Inspector being awarded costs.

Under the heading 'Starving Man Stole Cabbages' Sheffield's 'Star' (13/5) gave the other side of the picture. An unemployed 22 year old went for two days without food when his benefit money failed to arrive on time.

He was caught with vegetables from a field in the early hours of the morning. He pleaded guilty to stealing the vegetables worth 10p. The defence said his client, "found the prospective nutritional value quite irresistible, as he had not eaten for two days."

He added "but before he had the opportunity to make inroads into them the vegetables were recovered intact by the police."

Magistrates at Chesterfield fined him £5 and ordered him to pay £5 court costs. So much for British justice.

Yours fraternally
Martin Hill
Sheffield Park LPYS

ads

CLASSIFIED: 5p per word, minimum ten words SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per 2 column centimetres.

All advertisement copy should reach this office by **SATURDAY**

Labour Committee for Defence of Brixton dance: Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton SW2. Saturday 30 May. 8 till late. Admission £1.50 (75p for unemployed). Proceeds for those arrested at Brixton.

D.R.I.B. MILITANT supporters dance with the Tea Boys Band. Saturday 6th June at 8.00pm. St Margarets Hall, Ripple Road, Barking Town Centre, near tube.

ENFIELD North LPYS social. Saturday 30 May 7.30pm at SCOPE Community Centre, High St. Ponders End. £1 admission (50p unwaged and school students).

CONGRATULATIONS to Derek and Sue McMillan, on the birth on 11th May of their son Paul James. Best wishes to you all from the Militant Editorial Board. Comrades, the Socialist future is even more imperative.

LIVERPOOL Youth March for Jobs Rally, St George's Hall, Liverpool 2.00pm national labour movement speakers to great LPYS marchers. Assemble 10.00am flags near post office Kirby town centre.

MILITANT supporters on the 'People's March' would like to congratulate Mick Hogan and Paula Leigh on the announcement of their engagement on the 'People's March'.

OUT NOW!

'A fighting programme for the NUR'

Price 25p [+ 10p postage] from World Books,

1 Mentmore Terrace London E8 3PN

JUST OUT! 1981 SUPPLEMENT TO PROFITEERING FROM CHEAP LABOUR

In April 1981 the British Department of Trade released the latest reports by British companies with subsidiaries in South Africa in terms of the EEC 'Code of Conduct' on wages and other conditions affecting black workers.

SALEP's pamphlet 'Profiteering from Cheap Labour—Wages paid by British companies in South Africa', published in August 1980, gave data from last year's reports to the Department of Trade. The new supplement updates the pamphlet with the latest figures obtained. The wage rates given in the supplement are those which applied (according to the companies) in June 1980. Price: 15p (plus postage) 10% reduction on orders of 10 or more. Order from: SALEP, 6 Westgate Street, London E8. Please make cheques and postal orders payable to SALEP.

POOLE LPYS/TRADE UNION DAY SCHOOL "Workers' Internationalism"

Sunday 31 May at the Retreat Hotel, 311 Ashley Road, Parkstone, Poole.
11.00 am-1 pm. Film: "Controlling Interests" on the role of US multinationals. Speaker: Nick Brooks (Militant)
1.00 pm-2 pm. Lunch.
2.00 pm-4 pm. "The Workers Struggle in South Africa" Speaker: from the South African Labour Education Project. All welcome—creche provided.
Further details contact Parkstone 733989/732090

BIRMINGHAM MILITANT RALLY

Saturday 6 June. Doors open 12 noon
Stalls, Crêche, Refreshments, entertainment at 1pm: The Banner Theatre Group present their play on BL
2.30pm: 'The Socialist Way Forward'

SPEAKERS:

Ted Grant [Militant Political Editor]
Les Kuriata [LPYS National Committee] at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham

Tickets £1

Tickets available from M Spence, 22 Milstead Road, Yardley, Birmingham.

MILITANT MARXIST WEEKEND SCHOOL Friday 26 June-Sunday 28 June

Courses on:

Introduction to Marxism; Ireland; France; History of the British Labour Movement; South Africa. Debates: The Future for the Labour Party; How to achieve peace and disarmament.

Also: Meeting on Poland—The struggle for workers' democracy.

At Goldsmith's College Students' Union, Lewisham Way, London S.E.14. Cost: £4.00 whole weekend, £2.00 Friday evening and Saturday or Sunday only. Half price school students and unemployed. Food for weekend (lunch Saturday and Sunday, sandwiches for Sunday breakfast) £2.00 (no half price). (Cheques payable to Militant).

This weekend school is open to all workers and activists in the labour movement. There is full debate and discussion in each session. Come along and put your point of view.

BOOK NOW! Send bookings to, or for further information write to: Militant Marxist Weekend School, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

Build

Militant

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 11 July	Target for year
Eastern	1835		3550	7100
East Midlands	1457		2750	5500
Hants & Dorset	1126		2600	5200
Humberside	658		1750	3500
London East	2155		3800	7600
London West	1322		2400	4800
London South	1373		2750	5500
Manchester & Lancs	1642		2900	5800
Merseyside	1534		3300	6600
Northern	1854		4300	8600
Scotland East	1064		2200	4400
Scotland West	1752		3750	7500
Southern	2096		3550	7100
South West	949		1750	3500
Wales East	705		1300	2600
Wales West	938		2300	4600
West Midlands	1593		4300	8600
Yorkshire	2278		4500	9000
Others	7242		6250	12500
Total received	33573		60,000	120,000

Target for July 11th £60,000

Target for year £120,000

HELP US TO GROW

THIS WEEK £1,657

These days economic growth is considered to be a bit of a luxury by the worried men and women who try to run capitalism.

By Steve Cawley

The last cabinet meeting of the Giscard government got a report from that supposed financial wizard—the then Prime Minister Barre. He proudly announced that the French economy would grow by 0.5% this year.

The unemployment figures had grown to 1¼ million and inflation to 12.5% a year, but a half per cent economic growth rate was a miracle.

The Militant fighting fund on the other hand, grew by a full 3% last week, compared to our previous average. However, good as that is, (and especially in relation to anything the capitalists can do), we must improve on it in each of the next six weeks to reach £60,000 by 11th July.

In fact we need to double this week's figure of £1657 each week now, till then!

The Trade Union conferences still support us: delegates and visitors to the TSSA Conference netted over £75 and £72 was raised at the Scottish TUC, with cash from at least one more delegate to come.

Individual trade unionists also sent us their 'extras' which came their way. We had £30 expenses from a S.London steward, and £16.40 donation and expenses from NGA members S.Sibley and B.Tuck (Dorset). £22.40 came from Merseyside NALGO and NGA supporters, including £10 from A.Mulhearn.

Readers meetings with collections for the Fighting Fund this week included

those in Swindon, Bristol Hull and East London, and over £200 was raised, with £155 of this coming from the East London meeting. A very successful weekend school in Kent left us over £85 better off and a Croydon supporter donated £50!

The first of what we hope will be many donations from S.Herts LPYS came in this week, but are there any other LPYS branches that are prepared to support our ideas with cash? Donations from readers ranged from £15 from M.Campbell (Leeds and tenners from M.Bron (Liverpool), M. Averell (Blantyre), K.Sharp (Borehamwood LPYS) and K.Bevan (Swansea) to £6.80 from J.Blemings (Tyneside) to fivers from B.Hansen (Birmingham—prize re-donated), the McCartney family (Glasgow), S.Bidwell MP and A.Alberry (Bolsover CLP).

Smaller but still welcome amounts came from M.Smith, Neath (£3), E.Hawley, Rotherham (£2.80), P.McGee (TGWU Teesside) £2, D.Brown, W.Lewisham LPYS (£2.00), R.Williams, Walsall (£1) and A.Warner, unemployed, Ashton, 50p.

Some of our readers have been cheered up by the recent election results: B.Short (West Rainton) sent us £10 on the strength of them! Other comrades have been persuaded to part with money in the good cause of enjoying themselves, such as the Rotherham readers, whose social raised £44, and K & T.Snape (Cardiff S.E. CLP) who organised

another profitable social evening.

One of the easiest ways of raising money for us is assisting in the sale of raffle tickets for the £500 holiday we're giving away — see your Militant seller about it! At 10p or only £1 per book

of 10 tickets they could help you to win either the holiday or one of the nine other prizes, and they also boost our funds as well. What more could you want?

Plan for the growth of Militant—support the Fighting Fund!

WIN A SUMMER HOLIDAY FOR 10p

£500 holiday in resort of your choice is the first prize in our Grand Draw other prizes of music centre, radios etc.

Tickets available now from your Militant Seller—books of 10 tickets for £1. all proceeds to Militant Fighting Fund.

Militant Supporters Association. Registered promoters:

D Smith 73 Armond Road, Witham, Essex.

or Tickets by post from "Summer Draw",

1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

SUPPORT MILITANT

SIXTH SOUTH WALES MILITANT SUMMER CAMP AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY 1981

POLITICAL PROGRAMME:

- ★ The Russian Revolution—Ted Grant
- ★ Fascism in Germany—Jeremy Birch
- ★ The Spanish Revolution—Ted Grant
- ★ The Hungarian Revolution—Pat Wall
- ★ Marxism & the Labour Party—Ted Grant

Cost: £8.00 per camper Bookings to R Sewell,

99 Penderry Road, Penlan, Swansea [Cheques payable to R Sewell]

Any family interested in hiring a caravan for the period please get in touch with Howell Bithell [0792] 464013.

TRADE UNION CONFERENCES

BAKERS UNION Defend jobs, defeat the Tories

There are two important themes which run through resolutions at this year's conference of our union, the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union.

Firstly, the resolutions on wages and conditions show that we still have a lot of work to do to ensure the very best living and working standards for all our members.

Secondly, and linked completely to the first, is the depth of feelings against the present Tory government and the desire of our members to see its downfall.

The resolution from the Midland District Board sums up those feelings: 'That Conference agrees that the BFAWU join forces with other unions to remove this present Tory government from office as soon as possible'.

Of particular importance this year are the issues of grading and hours.

The present grading system discriminates against female members. In the majority of cases there is a difference in the grades, which affect rates of pay in the industry, between men and women.

The top four grades are overwhelmingly male grades, whilst the bottom two overwhelmingly female grades. We intend to stop the employers using women as cheap labour.

The other issue we urgently want to address ourselves to is the long hours that our members spend inside Bakeries.

By Joe Marino

(General Secretary, Bakers Union)

Our union policy is for a 35 hour week. But we recognise that the big bread bakers work a six day week and although in the next National Joint Council claim we will put in for the 35 hour week, in the meantime we are looking for ways of reducing time our members spend in the plants so that they can enjoy more leisure time with their families.

We are looking at two ways of doing this at the present time, whereby days would be 'banked' or saved up to be used at a later date.

But I want to stress that this is in no way detrimental to our campaign for the 35 hour week, but rather a first step to alleviate the long time our members spend at work.

One resolution on the agenda demands that 'when a Labour Government is returned to office they will repeal all anti-trade union and anti-working class laws.' This is a very important resolution and I believe it ties up with developments inside the Labour Party.

I do not believe that the right wing in the Labour Party would carry out genuine socialist policies if

they led the next Labour government. They showed that when in power in the past they actually laid the groundwork for the present Tory governments, eg. the 'diluted' monetarist policies of Denis Healey, £8,000m cuts, and the 5% pay policy.

I feel Tony Benn's candidature for the Deputy Leader position should be supported as Tony Benn is identified with the recent advances in policy and democracy in the party.

The press have tried to present this as a question of personalities, but really it is an attempt to cloud the issue.

The present crisis of capitalism will not be solved by tinkering with it. We need a real socialist alternative. The resolution from the *Ideal Branch* expresses clearly what I believe we need; "that this conference recognises the vicious attempts of the Tory government to make the workers pay for the capitalist crisis. This conference demands the TUC mount a campaign jointly with the Labour Party against the cuts in social spending and the anti-union legislation

"This campaign should clearly aim to bring down the Tory government and bring to power a Labour government pledged to socialist policies contained in Clause 4, Part 4 of the Labour Party constitution."

The miners showed the way to defeat the Tories, through resolute national action. The leaders of our movement should now mobilise the tremendous power and strength that the working class has accumulated.

The Tories could then be driven out of office and replaced by a Labour government on clear socialist policies.



Joe Marino, General Secretary of the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers union, speaking at the 1980 TUC.

Photo: Militant

POEU Wages claim

The annual conference of the Post Office Engineers Union will have placed before it a recommendation from its executive for the settlement of its 1981 Wage Claim.

It is based on an offer of 10% increase on 1 July 1981 rates, which includes an extra 1% consolidated from the 1980 Bonus payments. This is on top of the 1%

already agreed for consolidation on 30 June 1981, also resulting from the 1980 wage settlement. This 1981 recommended offer is being claimed as an 11% increase in pay over 1 July 1980 wages rate, which do not include any consolidation of the 3% Bonus payment obtained in that settlement.

In addition a minimum 2% productivity bonus has been obtained but again with only 1% being consolidated on 30 June 1982. A number of other issues have also been resolved in the recommended offer, notable among them being the ending of the 40% limit on staff in an area working a 9 day fortnight. This is a hang over from the 1978 'shorter working week' settlement. If the offer is accepted at conference it will rest with branches to negotiate any increase on the 40% limits.

In recommending the settlement at the executive the case was put that the Post Office was under financial pressure, outside comparisons were not favourable, the offer maintained members purchasing powers, and that it was the best deal that could be obtained.

The left on the executive however did not support these views and pointed out that the financial difficulties of the P.O. were a consequence of the Tory governments policies. POEU members deserved to be in the forefront of wage settlements—not near the bottom.

The settlement was in effect closer to 9% than the 11% claimed, in that 2% was consolidation of the 1980 bonus payments and

that 1% of that had been agreed in the 1980 settlement. Finally, it in no way maintained the members purchasing powers.

It was pointed out that if the membership had been involved from an early date, of the progress and amount of the claim, there would have been pressure on the PO to have made an offer closer to their aspirations.

The recommendation for a settlement also flew in the face of the executive's failure to consolidate all bonus payments from 1 July 1981—this will not be missed by members.

This settlement does not contain any payment for the modernisation programme, nor the continued co-operation in the introduction of new systems.

Following on from the discussion on the wage claim, the issue of the breaking of the PO monopoly was considered. In spite of repeated appeals from the right and some of the left on the executive, to remit the proposition which detailed a campaign of action to defend the interests of the membership against the attacks from the Tories [see Militant 545], the proposition was eventually voted down 15-8. No executive member was able to object to any item in the proposition, which did not however prevent them voting against it!

One prominent 'moderate' considered it was too much for new EC members to want to move propositions on the executive in order to make policy, lamenting that it did not happen like that in the old days!

It will now rest with the executive to face the conference having turned down a proposition which is in line with POEU conference policy.

POEU Conference

Despite the huge potential in new technology that could be utilised for the benefit of society, the policies of the Tories are turning this promise of progress into nightmare.

British Telecoms, if properly planned in conjunction with manufacturing industry and adequately financed, could open up new developments and the benefits for all.

Instead, it will mean redundancies, cuts in living standards and the wrecking of the British telecommunication industry. Also by breaking the monopoly and opening up the market to imported goods, jobs are at stake.

Cash limits have kept down our wages and resulted in the annual BT budget in most regions being slashed. The North West is to be cut by £5 million yet we are told that compared with others our cut is mild!

With a falling market

By Phil Holt

(Liverpool Internal POEU)

caused by other government policies large scale unemployment is now looming. The introduction of the new technology will only exacerbate the problem.

In this light, the need for the POEU to take a determined stance in deeds not just words is vital.

However, the present right-wing leadership of the union has a poor record in mobilising the union members for a fight back.

A typical argument is that "in the present industrial climate it would not be in the best interests of the membership to embark on a course of industrial action in pursuit of the claim" (SOC 36 on annual leave).

For the right wing the time is never right! But it is precisely because of the 'present climate' that an organised stand on issues is vital.

The government has shown that it is prepared to press its claims to the limit

on those who refuse to fight.

Yet the miners, water-workers and others have demonstrated that success is possible. The media recently described the POEU as the single most vital union in the country with an ability to create chaos.

Amid the clamour of some members that we should use the media by taking out space to present the POEU case to the public, the right wing have responded by using the gutter press against the left and anti-block branches.

Following on a disgraceful attack by the Daily Mail on telephone engineers the right wing had no compunction in talking to this rag about the threatened "Communist" take-over.

This was taken up by others. The membership have been told to vote against the left and to vote for the Daily Mail's candidates. Given the Mail's attitude to our industry, they obviously want a NEC that will give the least trouble to their plans for the industry.

Fortunately through conference the members have

the opportunity to put matters right. The resolutions reflect the growing need to fight back. They also reflect the growing influence of politics.

All the fundamental issues affecting our members are now absolutely clearly of a political nature. At this conference we have the opportunity to fight for the programme advanced by the Broad Left which 'Militant' supports.

Only this programme—which includes the need for a 35 hr week; pay to cover the cost of living; rewards for new technology; increased annual leave; support for Tony Benn, and the present LP electoral college—can bring about the changes our members need.

'POEU—the way forward'. A Militant pamphlet for Post Office engineers. Price 45p (including postage) from 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

Industrial

in brief

A mass meeting of Ansell workers on Tuesday voted overwhelmingly to continue the dispute. The struggle is in its 19th week, but still the workers are fighting—at the mass meeting, over 600 workers attended.

Extensive picketing will now take place at the Gravelly Park and Aldridge depots to ensure that any workers offered jobs at these depots do not take the option of working there. Management may attempt to re-open these works on Thursday or Monday.

One shop steward told 'Militant', "We were upset by the staff at Aston Cross depot being interviewed for jobs which were ours. Now we are defending what we have left. The workers are still confident of victory. "We were given a deadline of January 30th for a return to work. We've had several deadlines since then. Deadlines seem more important to management than us."

"We can only get more in debt by staying out. To us it is pounds and pence. To Allied it is millions. If anyone is going to have problems it is them not us."

The executive of UCATT, the building workers union, met the union's regional secretaries on May 12 to discuss the issues raised by the Building and Civil Engineering employers' latest offer on wages and conditions. The view was expressed unanimously that the current offer was completely unacceptable. As a consequence, the union's representatives on the Building and Civil Engineering Joint Board were urged to return to the negotiating table to seek an improved offer. In the meantime the regional machinery of the union, including the union's six thousand shop and job stewards in the industry are being geared to organise effective industrial action in the event of a dispute arising.

Ford Halewood workers have returned to work after the company agreed to drop its harsh new disciplinary code. The strike was provoked when 2 workers were victimised under the code, losing pay not only for the shift on which they took unofficial action, but a further shift as well. Production throughout Ford UK is now back to normal. (See future issue for a detailed report).

SAVE JOBS IN ST HELENS



Workers at Hollman and Michell, during the occupation before they were evicted

Photo: John Smith (IFL)

"We have just taken part in the biggest demonstration this town has ever seen." So said Alan Jackson, chairman of St Helens Trades Council, addressing a rally of marchers at Queens Park St Helens, last Saturday (23 May).

The success of the demonstration, almost 1,500 strong, and led by a Peoples March for Jobs delegation, was generated by an ascending fury over job losses among the local labour movement.

Organised by the local trades council around the theme "NO TO MORE

By Steve Higham
(Bootle LPYS)

REDUNDANCIES IN ST HELENS", the march highlighted the struggle at the United Glass plant, Peasley Cross.

Here nearly 600 workers, members of the GMWU, are on strike to force management's hand over the announcement of compulsory redundancies.

Entering its fifth week, the action has mass support locally, shown for instance in the weekly collection amounting to £1,000 at Peasley's sister plant, Raventree—this is an example

to be followed!

The march was praised and cheered by pickets on duty as we passed the plant, and was reported to have raised the morale and determination of those on strike.

The potential for victory is favourable, because the seeds of success will have been sown. However, this is insufficient; seeds need careful cultivation. Shamefully, the national leadership of the GMWU have not provided the necessary leadership as yet to take this struggle forward.

They have confined the wrestle for jobs solely to St. Helens. In reality they have isolated the glass workers in St. Helens, preventing the action from spreading. This has embitt-

ered the workers at Peasley, producing suspicion and uncertainty amongst the rank and file strikers. Yet on the other hand, it has increased the determination of the strikers to win.

The isolation of the dispute must be ended. It is extremely important that the action is stepped up in real terms. This will link them up with GMWU and other trade union activists and branches in the glass industry, the length and breadth of Britain. In this way, the G&M national leadership will be pressured to a position where they have no choice but to escalate the action as sketched out in recent issues of 'Militant'. This is the way forward for the workers at Peasley.

SMITHS

By Ed Bober

At the Smiths factory in Cricklewood, a butchers van pulls up outside the works canteen. "They coming for us," joked one of the workers, referring to the management's recent announcement of redundancies.

Several hundred redundancies over the next few months have been announced at the factory, which produces vehicle instruments. At the moment there is

plenty of work—management are even asking for overtime! Parts of the factory, mainly non-production sections, are on a four day week.

The workforce has already dropped by 500 in the last couple of years. The feeling that people can keep their future by co-operating with management is now being proved false. The only way that people can keep their jobs is by fighting for them.

About 6 weeks ago some workers in the automatic section were asked by man-

agement to go onto other sections in the machine shop, because their own shops were short of work. They went on strike, refusing this transfer, and management backed down.

This just shows that when a stand is taken against this brand of management they back down. If firm action were taken now about the proposed redundancies while orders are high then jobs could be saved.

The firm say they are transferring work to South Wales, but is not creating new jobs. They claim they

are not able to put up prices and therefore are losing money. So according to management the only way over this is to try and get more work out of fewer workers at lower costs.

Workers in Cricklewood must link up with the workers at the sister plant in Yspradpyndais in Wales and fight to save jobs on a national basis. The company must not be allowed to play the workers in Wales off against the workers in Cricklewood.

At 1am in the morning 61 un-numbered police officers and 15 bailiffs, plus dogs, and fully armed with pick-axe handles, hatchets and hammers, threw out the 10 workers on the night shift of the occupation at the Holman and Michell factory in St. Helens.

The occupation was over management's plan to make 15 "selective redundancies out of the 50 strong work force."

The breaking of the occupation has only reinforced the determination of the workers to fight back.

Attempts by a handful of scabs to cross the picket line [and even to try and form a breakaway TGWU branch!] have now been thwarted.

Holman and Michell is a lead refinery and a subsidiary of Shell. Support is urgently required for these men. Send donations to Holman and Michell Strike Fund, TGWU 6/697 52 Terret Croft, Cantril Farm, Liverpool.

By Richard Knights

ASTMS

Perhaps the major excitement at this year's conference of ASTMS, the white collar union, was the debate on support for the deputy leadership of the Labour Party.

The union's National Executive Committee had apparently originally wished to support the status quo, with Healey as deputy. However in the light of many resolutions calling for support for Tony Benn, the NEC laid before conference an emergency motion calling for consultation at branch and district level so that the delegation could be informed of the views of the members.

This would have meant that the delegation [which consists of 14 NEC members and 16 elected members] would not have been mandated and would have been open to the sort of behind the scenes horse trading which has happened at other conferences.

However conference rejected the NEC's view and supported Benn's candidature, to the evident annoyance of the NEC. This marks a major step forward in the control by the union over its delegations.

MOTHERS PRIDE

Factory workers at Mothers Pride, Salford, have forced management to back down in their attempt to sack 47 of the 186 workers employed there.

On May 6, management presented the workforce with a list of workers they planned to make redundant plus proposals to change the shift programmes without any previous consultation with the Bakers Union. The union responded with

a work to rule and counter-acted management proposals with their own. These included work sharing and new shifts with better social hours. As the work to rule began to bite, Mothers Pride management (part of the Rank-Hovis-MacDougal group) suspended some of the workforce for not carrying out "normal duties". Immediately the bakers escalated their action and

occupied the plant.

Very worried by the sit-in, management met the union three days later, and, on the proviso the occupation ended, made a number of concessions. These included the union demands on shift working, the right to voluntary redundancies to be under the control of the union, and 11 threatened jobs were saved outright. More jobs were saved for the

time being, as they were referred to the national disciplinary procedure. The workers accepted this and have returned to work while negotiations take place to obtain further concessions.

At every stage in the dispute the bakers were fully involved through mass meetings and gave unanimous support to the convenor and shop stewards. Despite their disappointment at lack of support from other unions in blacking of goods coming

in, the bakery workers through their solidarity were non the less able to gain important concessions from Mothers Pride management.

Although the bakers union has not been able to save every job at Mothers Pride, it has made a major step forward for all workers in the Rank-Hovis-MacDougal Group. Management can no longer arbitrarily sack any worker they want.

Reports

Civil Servants strike-

DECISIVE ACTION NEEDED

The civil service strike is now in its twelfth week. The cynical idea that civil servants would meekly cave in and accept drastic cuts in their living standards has blown up in the Tories' faces.

Civil servants, in particular the lower paid workers, are incensed at the repetition of the insulting 7% offer.

An unprecedented unity has been forged amongst members of all civil service unions as a result of the government's contemptuous attitude.

Rank and file members of all unions, want to see a stepping up of the action after all these weeks of struggle to secure the original 15% claim.

This is confirmed by the burning anger and resentment at the government's treatment shown by delegates at all the conferences of the civil service trade unions held over the last few weeks. Those conferences reaffirmed the backing of the civil servants for the full claim.

They also all expressed the view that the current limited action had to be intensified in order to force the government to retreat.

It was the CPSA conference which spelt out in detail a worked out programme for stepping up the industrial action. This included:

- ★ Closure of all ports, airports and immigration services;
- ★ A full 5-day service strike coupled with a massive demonstration and lobby of Parliament.

A five-day strike would be a major show of strength behind the claim, answering the jibes and taunts of the government that the claim has little support.

It would also give a massive boost to the confidence of the selective strikers at a time when the mass media is working assiduously to frighten them, undermine their resolve and isolate them from other civil servants.

Moreover, a certain frustration has begun to develop among all civil servants, especially those not involved in the action so far, at the lack of progress in the dispute.

The selective strikes have had a real impact on the government. The action in the Inland Revenue and VAT has denied the government billions of pounds revenue. In the Ministry of Defence the strikes have brought howls of anguish from naval chiefs, and the action by CAA and Customs members has had an enormous effect on international trade and business as well as ensuring that the dispute receives

By Kevin Roddy
(DHSS Section Organiser,
personal capacity)

regular and full publicity.

However, the government has been prepared to withstand the pressures of this action at all cost. They are determined to make an example of civil servants.

The members of the civil service unions therefore want to see new decisive action capable of shifting the government and making them concede to the civil service unions' 15% claim.

The CPSA conference recognised that even these measures may not be enough to shift the government. It therefore called for discussions to begin among members of all unions to prepare the members, if necessary, for an indefinite all out strike.

Following the conferences, civil servants in all unions looked to the union leaders at the Council of Civil Service Unions to translate the conference decisions and debates into a bold programme of intensified action.

The feeling was widespread that not to go forward would in effect mean a step backwards in the dispute. Yet when the civil service union leaders announced the new programme of action there were few areas where positive immediate steps were being taken to step up the campaign.

The COCSU leaders have announced:

- ★ Some escalation in the Customs and Excise;
- ★ Action in Atomic Energy Authority;
- ★ Action at the MOD Royal Ordnance factories.

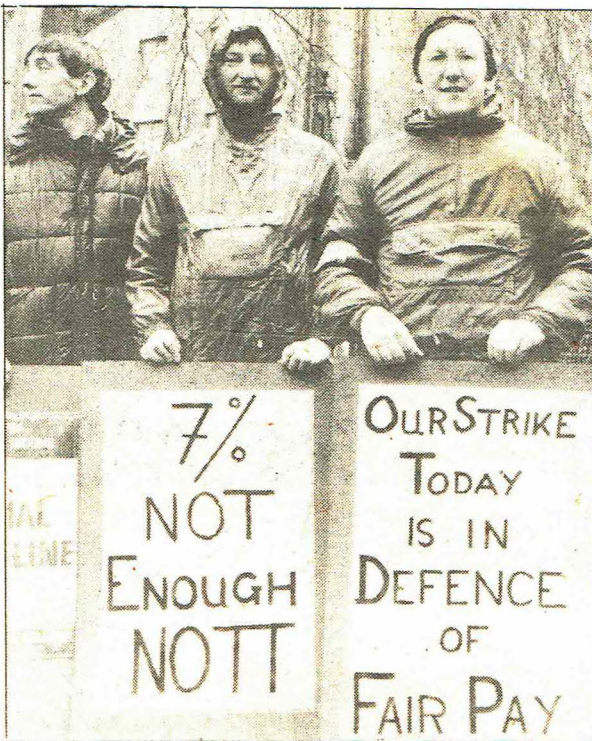
Bill Kendall, speaking after the COCSU meeting said that an all-out strike "was still on the agenda" but that it had been postponed. The union leaders have said that the next step will be to bring out the DE and DHSS computers but again they say this is being delayed until 8 June to give the government a further period to agree to negotiate or to go to arbitration and also to give the unions time to consider steps for implementing an emergency service and to talk with other unions in the TUC to gain their support.

This programme has been greeted by activists in all unions with a feeling of deep disappointment and anger. Particularly, this programme has been coupled with a call to the govern-



Our country is on the way forward to prosperity—to be shared fairly as in a family

From Thatcher's 1980 New Year message to the nation



Civil servants on the picket line. Photo: Militant

ment to take part in open-ended negotiations. The leaders have completely failed to live up to the needs of the hour or match the mood of their members who were prepared for more intense action for the full claim.

This has now been delayed another two weeks and the government and employers like the Civil Aviation Authority will try and take heart from this decision. The Tories meanwhile might well argue that failure to escalate indicates lack of support.

Civil servants and CAA members should therefore work with renewed determination to throw back such taunts. This enforced two weeks' breathing space in the dispute should be used to prepare all members thoroughly for mass all out action.

The union leaders are already under great pressure to go forward. This pressure must be increased so that there is no repetition of militant sounding words followed by hesitant action.

The government has shown that it will not be moved by rhetoric alone or by the force of reason. The force of action is the only language to which they respond.

Resolutions should

therefore flood into all civil service union executives both to reaffirm the 15% claim and for the implementation of the programme spelt out in the CPSA resolution.

Moreover, a joint meeting of all civil service trade union executives should be held to review the action and agree a programme of major intensification.

Five thousand workers cannot continue to carry the burden of industrial action indefinitely on behalf of 500,000. If this strike is to be won then the programme outlined at the CPSA conference must be implemented.

Victory in this dispute will leave civil servants well prepared for the other key battles with the government which they face. On the other hand failure will increase the determination of the government in its attacks on fringe benefits and working conditions.

Union facility agreements could well come under attack. And the government would feel confident to press ahead with its plans for the introduction of job cutting new technology.

Civil servants can achieve a significant victory. They cannot afford to lose.

Alright for Soames

As the civil service pay dispute enters into yet another week many union members are starting to realise the need for the so-called pressure areas of the Department of Health and Social Security and the Department of Employment to be brought to the fore of the campaign.

Throughout the twelve weeks of the dispute the civil service has been subjected to slanderous attacks in the press and on television.

The press—propaganda mouth piece for the Tory Party demagogues—has sought through its venomous attacks, to alienate civil servants from fellow workers in outside industries.

The civil service has been accused of such drivel as "putting personal gain before the defence of the realm" and of being "parasitical and without public conscience."

This gibberish is uttered by the self same cabinet ministers who without public let alone moral conscience awarded themselves 18.7% pay increases, and who allowed three million people to be put in the stranglehold of poverty!

As the civil service pay campaign is escalated, the need for the DHSS and DE to become involved is a must, but in doing so no doubt our friendly neighbourhood MPs along with that bastion of the empire, Lord Soames, will try and have a field day. In order to counter the rubbish which

By S. Swan
CPSA

will be aimed at the general public—which will tell them of the greedy civil servants beefing for an unthinkable £10 a week minimum rise while forgetting to mention Lord Soames himself has his £4,000 a year increase—the civil servants through the channels of the trade union movement and papers such as 'Militant' must state the true case.

Two thirds of all civil servants are below the national average wage. In asking for 15%, this is in keeping with the rises in similar industries. The civil servants' unions are willing to go to arbitration, yet the Tories threw out the old pay agreement and in doing so refused to negotiate with our unions.

The Tories are once again attempting the old divide and rule tactic, setting workers against the civil servants through biased attacks in the press and media, hoping to weaken and demoralise us into accepting a poultry wage increase. But we will struggle for what is rightly ours.

Buy 'Unity' the voice of the 'Militant' in the CPSA. Out quarterly. Price 25p (including postage) from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

COVENTRY- EXPOSE RACIST LIES

Over 12,000 workers demonstrated in Coventry last Saturday 23 May, against the recent increase in racist attacks in the city.

By Darrall Cozens
(Coventry SE
Labour Party)

The worst incident in this barrage of attacks resulted in the murder of a young Asian student Satnam Singh Gill five weeks previously.

The marchers represented every black and Asian workers' and religious organisation locally with delegations from Southall and also from other midlands towns and cities in the North and North East.

About a third of the demonstration was made up by trade unionists, Labour Party members and students unions. 20 members of the Peoples March for Jobs returned to Coventry for the demonstration.

The mile long march made an impressive sight through its three miles to the city centre where a small counter demonstration of 150 racists including the notorious Robert Relf shouted slogans.

The end of the demonstration was marred by the decision to hold the rally in Coventry Cathedral square, and then the refusal of the police to allow all the



Asian workers protest at racist murders and attacks 23 May

marchers to attend. Adventurist tactics by one or two small ultra-left groups provoked 300 or so Asian youths into attacking the police. The response of the police chiefs, who intervened with mounted police and snatch squads ended an otherwise peaceful

march with an hours' battle where 30 or 40 marchers were arrested. Speakers at the rally included local Asian organisation leaders, Dave Nellist, chairman of Coventry South East CLP and Richard Evans, Birmingham LPYS member on

behalf of the Peoples March for Jobs. The anger and feeling was shown by the fact that together with the Peoples March for Jobs demo three days before, this was the largest march through Coventry for ten years. It once again shows the

need for the leadership of the trade union and labour movement to expose the lies of racialism and capitalism for a socialist society to end the conditions of unemployment and slum housing which allow the ideas of racism to breed.

Tories up in arms!

The Tory die-hards threw their hands up in horror. Some of them looked on the verge of pegging out. The Tory government were going to make cuts! No, of course, the Tory hardliners were not upset about slashing the education budget or the failure to increase child benefits—but suggestions that naval spending might be cut by their own government was different.

The backwoodsmen cheered the Navy Minister who was dismissed for publicly criticising government policy. Defence cuts just could not be tolerated.

None of these people threatened resignation over Geoffrey Howe's savage budget. He took £5 per week from everyone on an average wage, and condemned another half a million to the dole queue.

Yet defence is not facing any real cuts. The first three years of Tory

rule will see an 8% growth in defence spending in real terms, a figure only surpassed within NATO by the USA. Then there will be a further 3% rise in each of the following two years.

By Jeremy Birch

The Tory leaders really have delusions of grandeur believing that Britain is still a major power. It too must have the most up to date equipment, never mind the expense.

As for the crippling burden this imposes on the productive parts of the economy, the Tories think it is worth bearing. And even then what Britain can afford in nuclear weaponry amounts to little more than bows and arrows compared to the resources of the super powers.

But perhaps the Cabinet has been brought down to earth a bit. Defence Secretary John Nott explained to the Commons that there has been an "explosion in defence technology," dramatically increasing costs.

To pay for all the sophisticated gadgetry, and especially to foot the £6000m bill for the Trident missile as a replacement for Polaris, he is forced to reduce spending on conventional weapons, apparently starting with the navy.

£11,000m a year is wasted on defence. Pressure must be maintained on the Labour leadership to keep them to their commitments to scrap Trident and to cut down defence spending.

But also to argue for the nationalisation of the arms industry, so that every worker involved can be guaranteed employment, making useful and necessary products!

Peoples march

for jobs



Sean Sproston

CONTINUED FROM
PAGE ONE

dated, decrepit capitalist system moving further into crisis, this reactionary Tory government is carrying out the system's dictates.

"The workers united will never be defeated" was the chant which heralded the historic meeting of the two legs of the 'People's March' in Northampton last Friday, 22 May.

The enthusiasm and support for the 'People's March' has proved that armed with a clear programme and demands, the TUC could easily mobilise the labour movement of Britain to kick the Tories out of office.

Thatcher has spread misery and fear throughout Britain but a united movement creates confidence and changes that fear to anger.

The hatred for Thatcher and her policies has been shouted loud and clear by the people in the vicinity of the march. "We are the Tory haters" and "Maggie out!" have been heard from primary school kids to old aged pensioners who have come to meet the march.

The TUC should fight now for a 35 hour week linked to an £80 minimum wage. These demands would gain support from all workers, and linked with work-sharing, at least another 800,000 jobs could be created.

The leaders of the trades unions must give full backing to all workers involved in struggles against redundancies. A successful struggle on this basis could bring down the Tories and get a Labour government elected, committed to socialist policies.

MILITANT SALES, 'PEOPLE'S MARCH' Saturday 30 May, Brockwell Park, Herne Hill. 'Militant' supporters and LPYS members to meet from 1.00pm onwards at the LPYS stall. Sunday 31 May, papers available from under the 'Militant' banner from 11.00am onwards at the railings, Hyde Park, Speakers Corner (Near Marble Arch tube station).

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