

Militant

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TORIES OUT CHANGE THE SYSTEM

The Tory government could be brought down if the labour movement steps up action! That is the real message of the 'People's March for Jobs'.

All along the route, tens of thousands of people came out to greet the march — workers, working-class housewives, school students, and old age pensioners.

There were massive rallies around the March even in areas like the West Midlands and Bedfordshire, where some workers voted Tory in the last general election, and are now bitterly regretting it.

The long line of angry slogans and chants had a single chorus: Maggie Out! Tories Out!

Last Sunday between 150,000 and 200,000 joined the demonstration through London to conclude the march.

The most enthusiastic response was for those speakers like Tony Benn, Dennis Skinner and Arthur Scargill, who called

By Lynn Walsh

for radical policies and direct action to bring down the Tories.

"We are not prepared to see our children deprived of the right to work", said Arthur Scargill, leader of the Yorkshire Miners. "If that means direct action on the part of the trade union movement then that's the consideration that our movement will have to give."

It was this bold call, and similar demands for action, which were really in tune with the mood of the demonstrators.

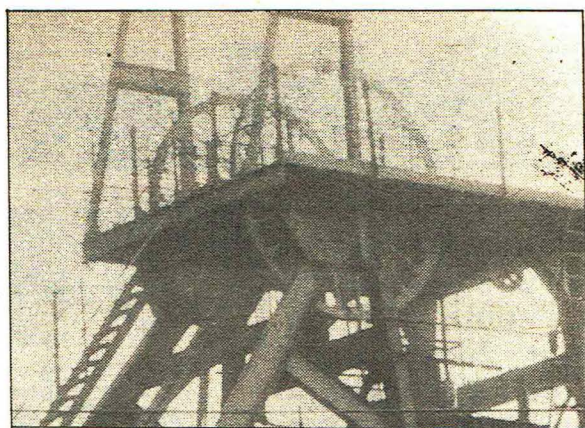
The People's March for Jobs has given us just a glimpse of the enor-

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Photo: MILITANT

Part of the enormous crowd as Sunday's demonstration reached Trafalgar Square



NOTTS MINERS NO RETURN TO THE PAST

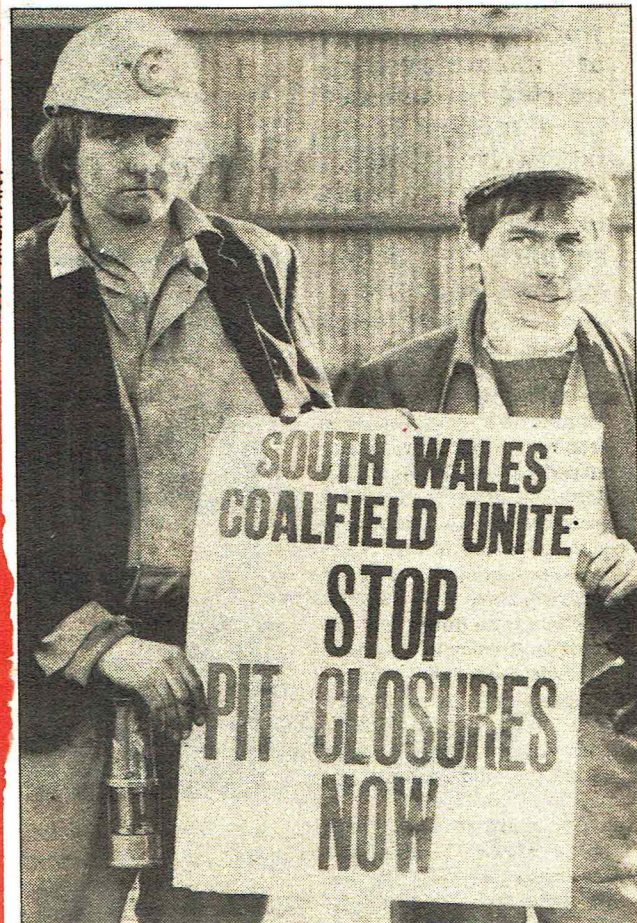


Photo: MILITANT

Miners showed their anger at pit closures in February — and made the government retreat

This Saturday, 6 June, miners in Nottingham will be celebrating one hundred years of trade unionism.

A century after the Nottingham Miners Federation was founded, great advances have been won by the actions of miners and other workers throughout the country.

The miners are far, far stronger now than they were then. But huge problems still remain, in particular the continued threat of closures and loss of jobs.

The miners showed the way to fight threatened redundancies this winter when they made the Thatcher government back down at least for the time being, on closing pits.

Miners in this area can see the need for a fight. They can no longer be seen as the bastion of the NUM right-wing. They are looking to a genuine alternative to the misery and chaos of Toryism and capitalism.

A few weeks ago at a meeting in Mansfield where Tony Benn and Arthur Scargill spoke, seven hundred people turned out to hear them — while another 200 had to be turned away because the hall was overcrowded.

An older miner summed up the mood when he said he wanted to see Benn lead the Labour Party and Scargill lead the NUM.

He was enthusiastically applauded as was Arthur Scargill when he

By John Dale

(Bolsover Labour Party)

See *A Socialist Strategy to Save the Pits* pages 8-9.

supported Benn for deputy leader of the Labour Party.

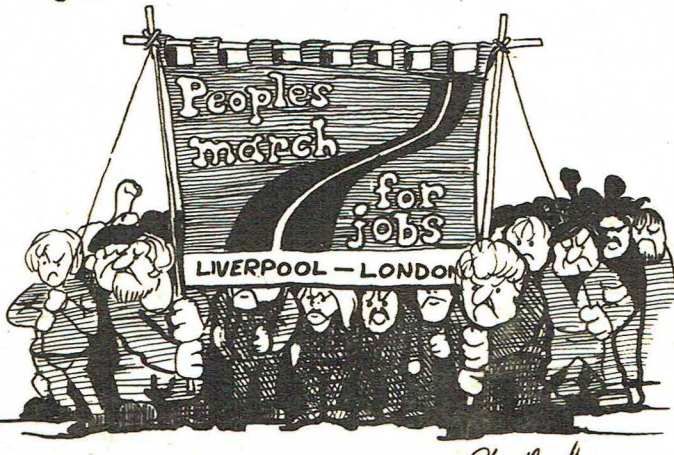
Scargill's call at the recent Derbyshire NUM conference for a 4 day week, a £100 minimum wage for all, no loss of wages due to illness or accident forcing workers on to lower paid jobs, and retirement at 55 for underground workers with no loss of pay, has also got an enthusiastic response.

Mineworkers have suffered danger and terrible conditions to produce the wealth of society.

They are determined they will not let their industry be pulled under by the lunacy of Thatcherism and the chaos of the capitalist system.



PEOPLE MUST BE PREPARED
TO STAY AT HOME
TO FIND WORK



Militant

1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

The tremendous support for the 'People's March for Jobs' shows the potential support for an all-out movement to bring down the Tories.

The enthusiastic reception of the marchers, even in the Midlands and the South East, indicates workers' deep anger at unemployment, which has increased by a million in the last twelve months.

Workers are ready to give enthusiastic support to action against the Tories

Sunday's march through London, the culmination of the 'People's March', brought out the biggest number of demonstrators seen for several years. Many attending their first big demonstration were overwhelmed by the numbers, and felt some of the enormous potential power of the working class.

There is no doubt that the most enthusiastic response in Hyde Park and Trafalgar Square was for speakers like Tony Benn, Dennis Skinner and Arthur Scargill, who called for bold action to bring down the Tories.

In marked contrast, Denis Healey, spokesman of the right-wing of the Parliamentary Labour Party, was greeted by hissing and booing. The Liberal's representative Richard Holme, was heard with even less enthusiasm, his speech interrupted by good-humoured jeering.

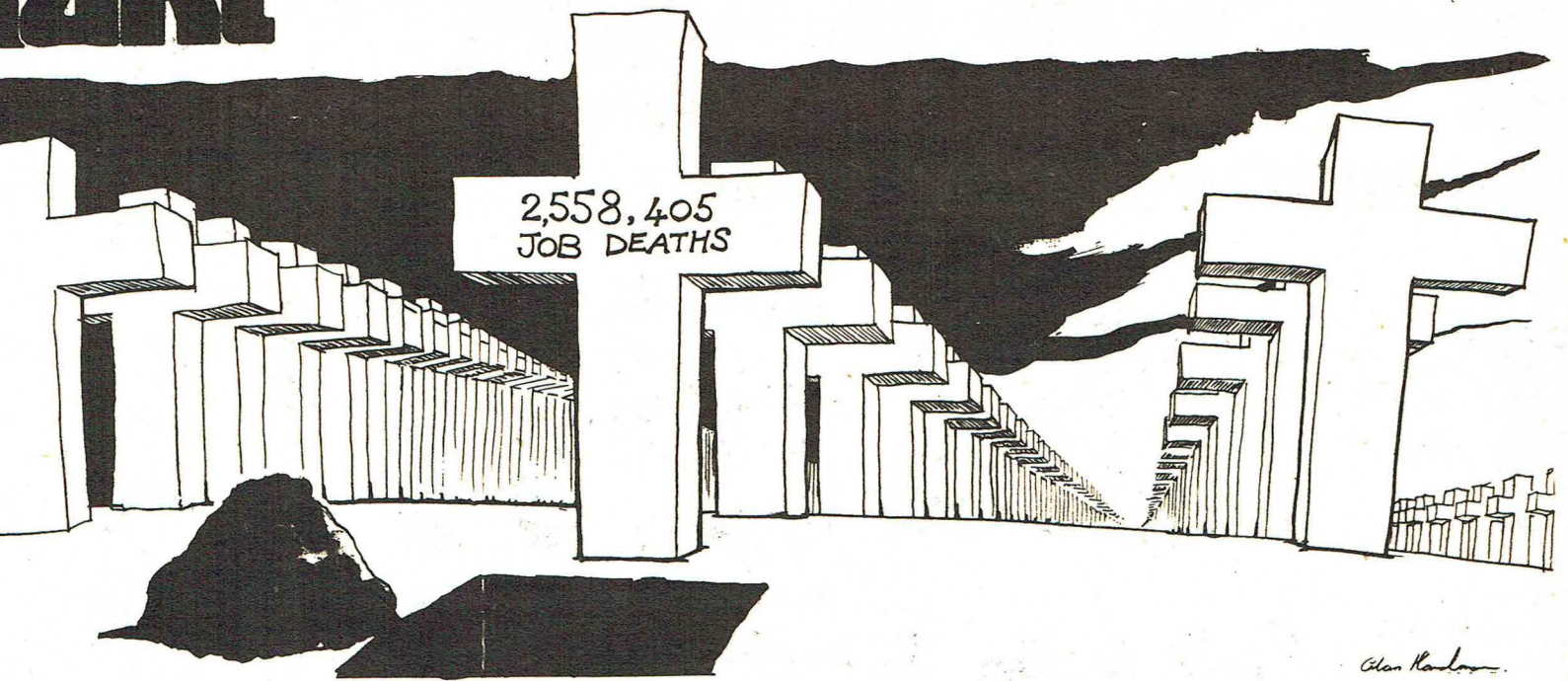
The unmistakable mood of the demonstrators was the answer to some of the 'People's March' organisers, particularly the Communist Party, who attempted to make it a 'non-political' march, anti-Thatcher but not clearly anti-Tory, let alone anti-capitalist.

Their conception of a 'People's March' was not a class appeal by the workers to other sections of the population on the basis of socialist policies, but the subordination of class and socialist policies to a 'green' policy supposedly appealing to middle-class liberals and churchmen, enlightened non-monetarist businessmen, and even (it seems) anti-Thatcher Tories.

The leaders of the Communist Party have clearly forgotten the ABCs of Marxism. Even in countries with overwhelmingly peasant populations, Marx and Lenin regarded the industrial working class as the most vital, leading section of the people.

It is almost incredible that in a country like Britain, where the working class has an enormous numerical and social preponderance, that a so-called 'communist' party should try and dissolve the working class into an amorphous 'people'!

Who can deny that it is the workers, particularly industrial workers, who are suffering the most from factory closures and redundancies? What socialist,



HOW MANY MORE MUST FALL SO THAT PROFITS MAY RISE!

AFTER PEOPLES MARCH..

Prepare 24 hr General Strike

moreover, can be blind to the fact that it is the workers, particularly the organised industrial workers, who must inevitably provide the heavy battalions in any movement to bring down the Tories?

The labour movement should, of course, set out to win the support of sections of the middle class, including liberals, members of the churches, and even misguided Tory voters. But this can only be done by demonstrating the power of the working class and its determination to change society.

Labour will only keep the support of the middle class if it proves that it has a programme capable of solving the crisis and laying the foundation of a better society.

It is a fatal mistake, as history has repeatedly shown, to try to win the middle-class layers with a watered-down programme which attempts to accommodate all their worst prejudices.

To win jobs for the 3 million or more unemployed means not only ousting Thatcher but bringing down the Tories. The splits in the Tory leadership, and the opposition of the 'wets', does not at all mean that there are Tories with a real alternative to Thatcher.

The Tories are the party of big business, and whatever their differences on tactics, they have a common aim: to restore the profitability of big business at the expense of the workers.

Within the framework of a diseased capitalism there is no way out for the working class.

It is totally false, therefore, to imply that the

success of the March can be judged according to the criteria of how many jobs it can produce. Even if the workers, through mass action, forced the implementation of the 35-hour week and reflation through increased public spending, this could provide only a temporary respite so long as the economy is confined within the present crisis-ridden framework. While capitalism remains, unemployment will continue to rise.

The only real criterion of success can be the effect of marches and demonstrations in bringing it home to

slogans! They appear to believe that this is as far as they can go at the moment, and the workers are "not ready" for clear socialist policies.

But the tens of thousands of workers who greeted the march along the route, as well as the marchers themselves, demonstrated the incorrectness of this approach.

The truth is, that some of the 'leaders' on the 'People's March' are lagging way behind the people themselves. The aim of such marches should be to raise the level of political consciousness of those taking

false approach.

However, it has to be said that the development and activity of the politically conscious young workers on the march was severely hampered by the mistaken outlook and organisational methods of some of the organisers. Some of the stewards—with the help of members of the ultra-left groups, who went along with the CP's approach—attempted to impose rigid discipline on the marchers in the name of 'unity'.

Unity of action is vital. Workers instinctively understand the need for solidarity and united action in strikes, demonstrations, and campaigns to return Labour candidates.

But unity can be achieved only on a clear class basis, and democracy is also vital. Effective, lasting unity can only be achieved on the basis of a full and free discussion within the ranks, in a democratic and fraternal manner, on policies, programmes, and perspectives.

Yet on occasions the People's March was marred by an attempt, in the name of "unity", to impose a "non-political" line and prevent full discussion between the marchers and local activists. Some members of the Labour Party Young Socialists were even threatened with expulsion from the march for participating in local LPYS meetings en route.

Numerous supporters of 'Militant' selling on the streets as the 'People's March' passed through their areas were warned not to sell by some of the 'People's March' stewards.

In some cases, this included threats to call in the police (who were themselves often sympathetic and tolerant of demonstrators and paper sellers on this occasion)!

These methods go completely against the democratic traditions of the labour movement. We can only conclude that these heavy-handed methods reflect a poverty of ideas and a profound lack of political self-confidence on the part of those adopting them.

It is a pity that the People's March was marred in this way, as it has shown the enormous potential for action if a bold lead were given to the leadership of the labour movement.

There will be more rallies, lobbies and demonstrations throughout the summer. But it would be wrong to give the impression that this form of action in itself will force a change on the part of the Tories, let alone produce an industrial revival and create millions of jobs.

Lobbies and demonstrations must be part of the preparation for a stepping up of the action by the labour movement, to pit the full force of the organised working class against the Tory government and big business.

The next step should be preparation for a 24-hour general strike. This should be the opening shot of a campaign of industrial and class action, to mobilise mass support against the Tories.

The aim must be to force a general election as soon as possible, to kick out the Tories, and return a Labour government committed to rounded-out socialist policies.

Jim Prior says: "Mass unemployment is a direct result of the British workers being uncompetitive in the world market." Yet the US Bureau of Labor Statistics recently reported that out of the top ten industrial economies, Britain came ninth as far as industrial workers' pay is concerned.

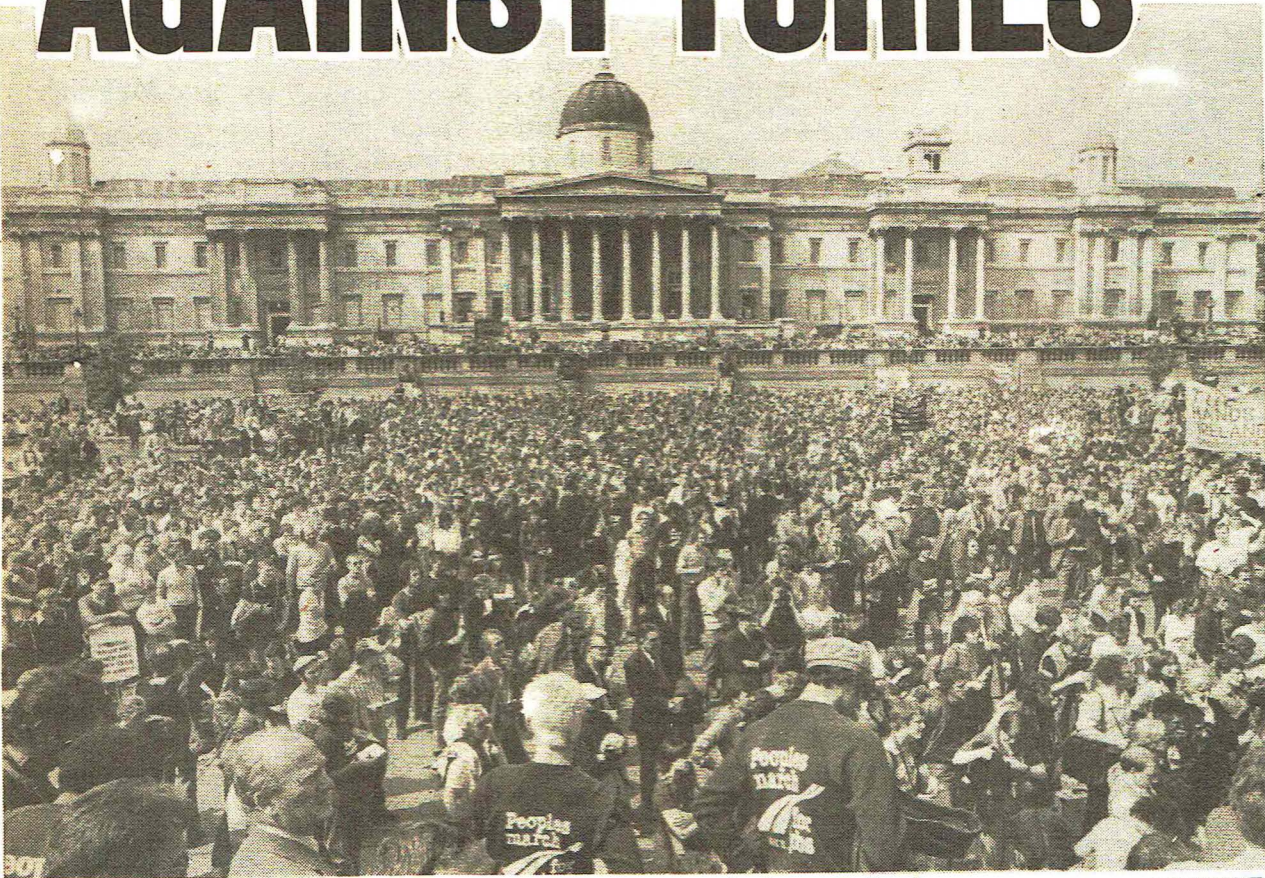
millions of workers that the crisis can be resolved only through the abolition of capitalism and the socialist transformation of society.

Yet some of the march organisers, including members of the Communist Party, argued that the marchers should shout anti-Thatcher but not anti-Tory

part and those affected by the march.

Yet some of the organisers set out to limit its political thinking to the level of some of the unorganised, previously unpolitical people at the beginning of the march. As the march proceeded, the youth increasingly rejected this

MASSIVE MARCH AGAINST TORIES



Trafalgar Square (above) was packed to overflowing last Sunday as over 150,000 demonstrated against unemployment.

Photo: MILITANT

You knew it was going to be big when you saw the white tape stretched across the road to keep the march from spreading out over the whole street. They only normally do that for royalty or state occasions.

But this was a far more serious demonstration than those junkets, and had a different kind of class solidarity. The centre of attention was not some unemployed prince or princess eking out a living on a few hundred thousand pounds a year.

This was probably the largest demonstration of working people and their families since the end of the second world war. Over 150,000 packed into Trafalgar Square or marched from Hyde Park to protest against unemployment.

At their head were the 500 marchers who had come down the long road from Liverpool, Yorkshire and South Wales to demand jobs. So large was the march that it took over two and a half hours to leave Hyde Park.

Yet according to the *Sunday Express* "The month-long People's March ended in disillusionment in London yesterday." Of course that prediction came before the demonstration.

On the great London march were all the sections of the working class, from the most traditionally militant to those new to struggle. There were Yorkshire miners, with brass bands, and fresh from their battles with Tory and Labour governments firemen in uniform who are now an established presence on labour movement demonstrations.

And sections such as civil service unions who previously thought themselves immune from such battles had their largest ever representation on a national

Below. On Saturday the March entered Central London. Although it got no welcome from the Tory government across the river in County Hall it got a great welcome, food and accommodation from the newly-elected Labour Greater London Council.



labour movement march.

Noticeable on this demonstration were the large numbers of youth and women. Some young people had never had a job and their ranks will be swelled by 500,000 school leavers in the next two months.

The women present were determined not to be forced back into the home by Thatcher. As a number of female speakers declared, in answer to the question of whether they were pleased to see a woman at No. 10, "Thatcher's no sister, she's a Tory."

Throughout the march, the familiar chants of "the

workers, united, will never be defeated" and "the rich, the rich, we've got to get rid of the rich" echoed down Park Lane and the mansions of Picadilly.

There was humour too. One demonstrator had brought along a goat, bedecked with the placard: "Maggie stop acting the goat. I could do a better job than you. Signed Old Bill."

This was a united march—united in its class hatred of the Tories. All those organisers who wished to keep unemployment as "non-political" and "non-controversial" were just ignored by the mass of

demonstrators.

To preserve a "broad democratic front" a representative from the Liberal Party had been invited to speak at Trafalgar Square. But he couldn't be heard as he was drowned out by booing and yells of "this is a labour rally".

But this demonstration by working people was one which had learnt by the experiences of the last Labour government. They were not prepared to accept glib, vague professions of socialism from right-wing Labour leaders. When Denis Healey stood up to speak at Hyde Park, he was heckled so strongly the chairman had to interrupt and ask that Healey be allowed to continue. This contrasted strongly with the almost ecstatic welcome given to Tony Benn a few minutes before.

And throughout the rally, at Hyde Park and Trafalgar Square, it was the speakers who demanded action to bring down the Tories who drew the largest applause. Arthur Scargill called for the TUC leadership to consider 'direct action' and Dennis Skinner got a great reception when he called for a new Labour government, this time one committed to carrying out socialist policies.

"There's no recession for the rich," declared Skinner, "there'll be no recession at St Pauls on 29 July. The royalty got 21% in their last pay round—that should be the going rate for all trade union negotiators."

The rally ended with a worker from Lee Jeans, who have occupied their factory to save jobs.

The anger against the Tory crime of creating mass unemployment must now be channelled in building up a mass movement to end their rule. This march aroused massive support wherever it went and showed that the rank and file are determined—all that is really lacking is a leadership which is prepared to wage a fight to bring down Thatcher.

Brixton Labour's Defence Committee Gains Support

Seven weeks after the upheaval, Brixton remains one of the most heavily policed areas in the country. The policy of "saturation policing" adopted over the weekend 11/12 April has been scaled down, but the number of police in the area is still high.

Every day people have put up with the constant echo of sirens, police vans speeding by, and coaches full of police crawling around the back streets. Many people still complain of being indiscriminately stopped and other harassment tactics. The police are still carrying out dawn raids and random stopping of cars.

The Labour Committee for the Defence of Brixton (LCDB) received a report that 150 policemen raided Railton Road last week. There are also reports of defendants arrested over 11/12 April being re-arrested on various trumped-up charges.

The LCDB has continued to monitor this activity, working alongside other defence groups to arrange legal support for the 400 plus defendants.

Over half of those charged are having their cases co-ordinated by legal defence workers. However, last week LCDB observers in the courts found two defendants with whom no one had yet been in contact. It is urgent to make sure that all defendants are legally represented, and are themselves drawn into the campaign.

The LCDB is circulating a new leaflet calling for the

dropping of all charges and warning about the role of Scarman. This has gone out to local factories, hospitals, bus garages and other work places, and has been distributed on the streets.

We are working to build support for the labour movement to initiate a local People's Enquiry. Preparations are under way for a mass picket of the Tory enquiry under Lord Scarman, when it opens at Lambeth Town Hall on 15 June. All labour movement bodies should rally support for this event. Workers and youth in Brixton are increasingly being drawn to the campaign, and support is also coming in from other areas.

At the People's March rally at Brockwell Park, many came to the Brixton tent to see a video film of the events, sign petitions, and give donations to the defendants hardship fund.

The enthusiastic response in the Park was followed by a highly successful Reggae benefit concert attended by 700 to 800. The highlight was the highly acclaimed Aswad group and the fabulous Front Line International Sound System, who were supported by two excellent local bands the "Kushitez" and "Just Elegant".

After expenses were paid (hall, bands, disco, publicity, etc) there was £200 for the hardship fund. Local support for the LCDB is still growing, with Lambeth Central and Vauxhall constituency Parties now sponsoring the committee and sending delegates to its meetings.

Send letters of support and donations to LCDB, c/o M. Boyle, 167 Railton road, London SE24.

LABOUR'S EXECUTIVE BACKS DEMOCRATIC RE-SELECTION

The Labour Party's National Executive last week effectively defended the mandatory re-selection of MPs, carried at last year's annual conference.

By 15 votes to 9, the NEC decided to recommend that a short-list of one should not be encouraged. The attempt to establish a single-name short-list as a "norm" in constituencies with a sitting Labour MP was a bid by the right-wing to water down re-selection.

The NEC's decision means that delegates to constituency parties' general management committees will now be assured the democratic right of hearing the case of candidates of various viewpoints at a selection meeting.

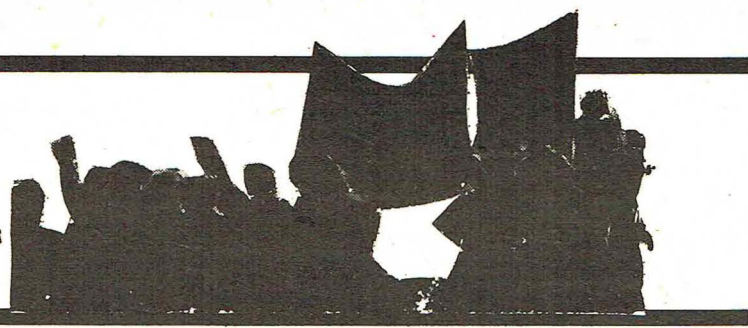
It is a decision, however, which has enraged Labour's right wing. Michael Foot

apparently argued at the meeting that if it was agreed, the effect would be possibly to push a further layer of the Parliamentary Labour Party over to the Social Democrats. Tony Saunois, Labour Party Young Socialists representative on the NEC, commented: "If that's the only basis they are in the party, then we will be strengthened without them."

The NEC decision should now ensure that a constitutional amendment giving effect to this is presented to annual conference.

The issue of re-selection conferences having a full short-list clearly demonstrates the need for Labour's ranks to be on their guard against attempts by the right-wing to reverse or weaken conference gains made on party democracy.

WORKERS IN ACTION



TRADE UNION CONFERENCES REFLECT SHIFT TO THE LEFT



Firemen on Labour Party demonstration in Liverpool last year

Photo: Militant

Three recent Union conferences saw significant advances in the struggle against the Tories and their policies.

At the National Society of Metal Mechanics a resolution, from its youth Conference, was passed by the full Conference, committing the union to fight against unemployment by: "work sharing with no loss of pay, a 35-hour week, and the opening up of all company books."

The need for a socialist alternative to the Tories dominated the Conference. There was unanimous support for a resolution which described "the policy of reflation at present being advanced by the TUC as entirely inadequate" and stated that "the crisis of

By **Simon Smith** (NSSM), **Mick Cotter**, **John Allington** (Chairman FBU, Merseyside) and **Brian Beckingham**

investment will not be cured as long as the economy remains in the hands of private profiteers and speculators."

At the Fire Brigades Union the growing militancy of the union was reflected in the first debate on pay and cuts in the fire service. Delegates were unanimous in their determination to only accept their pay agreement in full.

Labour's victory in the local elections was welcomed as were the new councils' promises to implement the pay agreement. But it was agreed that the union would judge these promises by the outcome of the negotiations with

the new National Joint Council.

If there were any attempt to renege on that agreement, then a recall Conference would be called to ratify the Executive Committee's proposal for a series of one day strikes. Summing up the debate, General Secretary Ken Cameron said that the only way firemen or any other section of workers could guarantee a higher standard of living was by the election of a socialist Labour government.

When Tony Benn addressed a lunch-time meeting, he explained that the battle for the deputy leadership of the party was not about personalities but about policies and that irrespective of which party was in power if the capitalist system remained intact the workers would be forced to pay for the crisis. This meeting, attended by the majority of the delegates,

gave overwhelming support to his ideas and was in marked contrast to Dennis Healey's meeting the following day.

The audience was only about half the size, and most of them had been at the Benn meeting. Healey just attacked the Tories and the left within the party without explaining his alternative. Conference decided that each branch would be balloted on who the union would vote for.

Earlier in the week there had been an excellent Militant Readers Meeting, where Terry Fields (speaking in a personal capacity from the FBU executive) outlined the issues facing members and Richard Venton ('Militant') illustrated how the crisis of capitalism could only be understood on a world scale and overcome by a united struggle of workers.

This theme of workers unity was touched on by Alex Kitson when he gave the fraternal address from the Labour Party. He mentioned the study the party was doing on Northern Ireland and said that after talking to twenty seven groups on all sides in Northern Ireland in the last year, the only one he could trust was the Labour and Trade Union Group.

Conference also unanimously passed an emergency resolution on Brixton. This called for a labour and trade union enquiry into the events and reports of unauthorised weapons being used by the police.

At the Conference of Communication Workers unemployment was the underlying theme. The postal officers grade threw out a productivity deal. No-one spoke in its support and the final vote was overwhelmingly to reject the Executive Committee's proposals.

This means that two of the union's sections, which together comprise a third of the membership, have now thrown out productivity deals.

This year's UCW conference marks a watershed for the union. New technology and massive staff cuts means increasing pressure on members. This pressure will mean rapid growth in support for the Broad Left.

The process of radicalisation which is well underway in the Metal Mechanics and Firemen is beginning to take place within the UCW.

Any Militant reader who wants copies of 'Communique'—UCW Broad Left Journal, Issue 1, should contact: Mick Wheeler, 9 Birkdale Road, Penketh, Warrington, WA5 2DT.

KEEP COMMUNITY CENTRE OPEN

When an old woman who had been dead for three weeks was found in her flat, local papers proclaimed that it was 'the shame of Leeds'. Yet Leeds Labour council is now considering closing a community centre—an action which will only increase the sense of isolation felt by old people.

Hall Lane community centre is threatened with closure in July because of lack of funds. Their application for an increased grant is being passed from department to department. All they are asking is for funds to guarantee one full time worker. They have already had their staff cut from six to two in just 12 months.

As Jean Richards, one of the local tenants on the centre's management committee, explained: "You can't keep passing the buck when its people's lives.

"The centre is essential for the area. There was nowhere for the old people to go until we started a club here.

"We were first with the mums' and tots' group. We started a summer play scheme in this area.

"We have to raise money locally and every little helps but in the end they cannot afford it if, like me, they are out of work. Some of them have only got two rooms downstairs.

"If they have got kids and this place closes they will have their kids about them all the time. There are other play groups in the area, but they are too expensive, sometimes over £1 for one hour.

By **Jane McVeigh**

(Armley Labour Party)

"We are cheap and friendly and we give them a say in the running of the play groups. We treat it as our own."

Steve Page, a full time worker at the centre, explained that a number of the local people have their own keys to the centre and can just drop in at any time even if it is just for a chat or a cup of coffee.

Unemployed teenagers particularly use the centre during the day for pool, table tennis etc. There hasn't been any vandalism in the centre for two years now.

The centre provides many other services: youth groups, toy library for handicapped children, keep fit, citizens' advice bureau. But as Jean pointed out, it is the services it provides for local people with their local problems that is the key to success for the Hall Lane centre.

"They don't say come back next week when we are open, they don't put a sign up saying closed for business, there is always someone here.

"So what is going to happen if it closes? They will be gambling with other people's lives."

As Steve said, the people who are making the cuts won't be faced with kids being battered, with more women being depressed and on the verge of breakdown and pensioners sitting at home completely missing company and suffering from hypothermia.

Leeds City Council must keep Hall Lane open. They must not carry out Tory cuts.

Messages of support should be sent from the local labour movement to Steve Page, Hall Lane Community Centre, Leeds 12.

MP NOT RE-SELECTED

The new democratic procedures for the re-selection of Labour MPs have for the first time resulted in the failure of a sitting MP to be reelected.

John Sever, the right-wing MP for Birmingham, Ladywood, will not be the Labour candidate at the next election. He was very much the heir apparent to Brian Walden whose position he took when Walden left Parliament to pursue a television career.

Albert Bore, a left-wing Birmingham Councillor was adopted instead.

Each delegate was able to choose between the differing viewpoints of the five candidates nominated.

Party members nationally will welcome the democratic decision of the delegates representing the Ladywood Labour Party membership, and see it as part of Labour's shift to the left.

But it is reported that various Labour MPs rushed to Sever's aid, apparently contacting delegates to urge support for him. It is even reported that Michael Foot's office was involved.

But as in Newham North East where a whole list of MPs intervened, nothing can stop the will of the ordinary members to hold their representatives to account, and to transform their party into a real force for Socialism.

Silkin's candidacy helps right-wing

By 'Militant' reporter

Most Labour Party members see the victories on party democracy over the last two years as a real chance to ensure that a future Labour government acts in the interest of the working class.

The contest for deputy leadership is seen as an opportunity to elect a candidate who will represent the views of the overwhelming majority of members.

At their General Management Committee on 27 May, Deptford Labour Party

agreed that the candidate who would be supported by the constituency Party would not be decided until there had been a full discussion at all levels of the local party. As it was the first time that the rank and file could participate in the election of leader and deputy leader, members of the Party felt regret that John Silkin, Deptford's MP should have announced his candidature without consulting the GMC.

The 'Daily Mirror' (27 May) described Silkin's can-

didature as ideal "for Labour MPs who don't want Benn to be their deputy leader but don't want to be voting for Denis Healey" when voting will, for the first time, be publicly recorded. Silkin is

Left Dictatorship

merely the latest in a line of MPs who have been approached as 'third' candidates.

In 'Tribune', (29 May) John Silkin says "years ago,

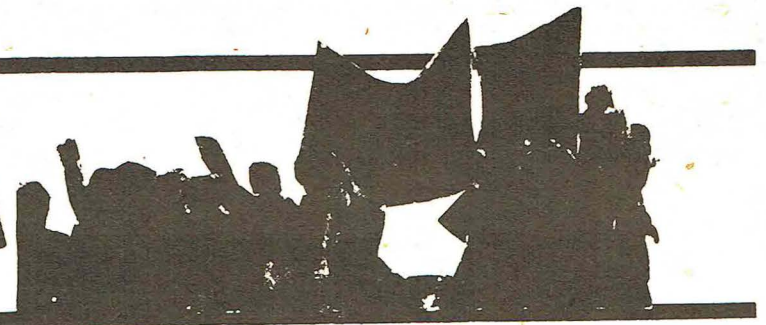
the extreme right of the Labour Party tried to force its will with an iron discipline on the rest of the movement. It would be a tragedy if the left, which suffered in those days, were to emulate that system today."

This statement plays straight into the hands of the Tory press who doubtless take this as an attack on Benn and his supporters, who are regularly accused of "dictatorship" for demanding the carrying out of party policies.

Similarly his statement that "we must have sanity in our

LABOUR MP FAILS IN WITCH-HUNT

WORKERS IN ACTION



Right-wing Labour MPs who attempt a witch-hunt will not succeed.

However hard they try to keep socialist policies out of the discussion, they somehow keep creeping back in. Rank and file members of the party are not interested in expulsions.

By a
'Militant'
Reporter

They want to discuss how we are going to get a Labour government in this country which will end this capitalist system.

That's what Frank Field found when he tried to launch a witch-hunt against *Militant* supporters in his Birkenhead constituency.

He wrote to the General Secretary of the Labour Party, Ron Hayward, asking for "discussion on whether the Militant Tendency as a group can remain within the party" as "they do not have the right to organise a party within a party."

He called for the National Executive to "summon up the courage to act on this issue".

Capitalist journals like the *Times* and *Daily Telegraph* found particular joy in Frank Field's attack on *Militant*, because he is not only on the steering committee of the Labour Solidarity Campaign but is also a member of the Tribune group of MPs.

Since his initial letter, Field was quoted glowingly by Blake Baker in the *Daily Telegraph* (31 March) where he spoke of *Militant* supporters in Birkenhead:

"They come to meetings almost as if a magnet has gone over their brains, they all speak the same, have a set line. Nothing you say is relevant. They are totally closed to reason.."

Richard Venton, a member of Birkenhead party and *Militant* supporter, challenged Field to a debate and the result must have worried the MP.

Over 90 people packed into the labour club in the biggest Labour Party meeting for years. If Field thought he was going to be able to carry his proposal for a witch-hunt he was in for a shock.

Even members of the Party who did not support *Militant* had no time for the MP's approach. During the discussion Mary Sawyer told the meeting:

**Militant's policy
clear**

"I didn't think I'd find myself defending *Militant* but both from what I was thinking before I came tonight, and from what's been said here, I come more and more to defend *Militant* in some ways.

"For one thing I take great exception to seeing articles in the *Daily Telegraph* obviously pointed at people in this constituency suggesting that *Militant* members don't work in their wards...If I want to know what *Militant* thinks about something I can read the *Militant*.

"Very often I don't agree with what *Militant* thinks but they have got a policy and it is a worked out policy, and I've no objection to groups of people getting together to

work out a policy...

"I was interested that Frank said that *Militant* didn't have a policy on race or sex. I think *Militant* does have a policy. I could argue a lot about whether I agree with it, but at least I know what it is.

"And I'd like to hear from Frank what Solidarity's stand on racism or sexism is. Do they stand by Shirley Summerskill's record at the Home Office, or Alex Lyons' record, who was sacked by Callaghan?

"Do they stand by the 1968 Immigration Act?...I'm certainly not voting for a motion which suggests that we spend more time discussing *Militant* as an organisation. Let's discuss their policies."

In his lead-off Field had accused *Militant* of being "vulgar Marxists", whose sectarian policies prevented the party from growing. This carried no weight amongst Birkenhead Labour Party members.

Tony Green of the Post Office Engineers Union told of how, as an ordinary trade unionist, he used to look on on Labour and Tory politicians as basically the same.

It was only after patient explanation by a *Militant* supporter that he joined the LP. Tony also reminded the meeting that when others had ridiculed *Militant's* policies of nationalising the shipyards as "too extreme", 650 workers at Western Shiprepairers thought it was a realistic policy and had voted for it, almost unanimously.

Kevin Bean pointed out that people learned by experience not just from a correct programme. "It's a well known Marxist dogma, vulgar or otherwise, that conditions determine consciousness. The conditions we face of slum housing, mass unemployment provides the background to this debate.

"*Militant's* programme recognises that we've had a series of post war Labour governments which have failed—failed for for one fundamental reason—failed to take on the private ownership of wealth in society..."

In his contribution Field had accused *Militant* of being an undemocratic group. He claimed to have secret documents, which he was going to give to the Political Education Officer, and that



It is the inability of capitalism to develop society which has resulted in the shift to the left amongst the working class, not conspiracies. Above, Merseyside workers on the march for jobs in last year's Labour Party demonstration in Liverpool.

at a suitable time during the meeting he was going to move a motion about *Militant*. These threats aroused great opposition from the audience.

Alan Runswick declared: "Criticism of the Militant tendency as an undemocratic group within the Labour Party comes very strange from members of the Solidarity group who are against all the measures to democratise the Labour Party.

"In their period as members of the Labour cabinets they refused to implement them, but publicly ridiculed and spat at these democratic decisions."

In his first contribution and summing up Richard Venton concentrated on the

political programme advocated by *Militant* but he threw down a challenge to Field: "we share comrades' concern about having a right atmosphere for fraternal debate. But does Solidarity want to return to the methods of Callaghan and Co. in the 1950s when they tried to expel the Bevanites?"

Debate policy

"We want debates on policy. Police methods do not become members of the Labour Party. Frank should turn his investigative talents to looking at links between the right wing and secret intelligence agencies, as documented in the book 'CIA and the labour

movement'.

In his reply Field did not take up any of the points raised at the meeting; in fact he didn't even fully use up his allocated time.

And his proposed resolution?—an appropriate point obviously hadn't arisen. After consulting the chairman, it was announced by the chairman that there were "no resolutions on the table that could add to the debate."

Despite the battering he received, Field will probably not drop his attempt at a witch-hunt, but he will find that despite his best endeavours he will not be able to escape discussing his right-wing policies and why he disagrees with the socialist alternative.

MILITANT READERS MEETINGS

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).

SUNDERLAND: 'Ireland: which way forward?' Sunderland Supporters Club on Wednesday 17 June 7.30 pm. Further details phone Sunderland 653994.

CHESTER-LE-STREET: 'Ireland: which way forward?' Chester-le-Street Labour Club, Sunday 14 June, 7.30pm. Further details phone Chester-le-Street 887603.

EAST KILBRIDE: 'Ireland—the fight for a socialist solution'. Hear Billy Lynn (Belfast Trades Council executive member). Wednesday 17 June 7.30pm at Kirkton Holme Hall, West Mains, East Kilbride.

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.

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.

Militant Labour Women's Rally 12 June 7.30pm. 'Fight Tory Attack'. Speakers: Felicity Dowling (NUT Liverpool); Valerie Broome (PPC, Rochdale) and a striker from Royal Pride. Basement Theatre, Town Hall Annexe, Manchester.

STOP TORY PROFITEERS PLAN FOR CITY CENTRE

Labour Party members in Southampton have helped set up an Action Committee to stop the Tory council's plan to turn empty land in the city centre into a developers' paradise.

With the city crying out for houses this plan would not add one new home. More money can be made from building offices, ware-

houses, shops and a bus station. Yet the 50 acres comprising the Western Esplanade site could be of enormous benefit for working people in Southampton.

Council housing building has virtually come to a full stop, despite over 3,500 on the waiting list. For the Tories profits come first.

Yet why build more offices, when Southampton has over 160,000 square feet of vacant office space? More shops? But there are already empty shops in the city

centre.

Indeed the plan involves knocking down existing shops and building new ones because rents on new shops will be double the old charges. And the few jobs in warehouses will hardly make a dent on Southampton's rising unemployment.

The Action Committee, which involves small businessmen who are threatened with demolition of their shops, held a packed public meeting recently. They gave the Tories and developers a

rough ride and opposition will continue up till and beyond the public enquiry planned to start in July.

It is vital that the local Labour Party and group on the Council give a firm undertaking that they will cancel the scheme if they win next year's local elections and introduce a scheme that would meet the needs of the people of Southampton.

By Nick Brooks
(Southampton LP)



Northants was recently graced by a visit from Baroness Young. As Under Secretary of State for Education she is part of a team that relieved local authorities of their duty to provide school meals, thereby in one fell swoop depriving children of much needed nourishment and kitchen staff of their jobs. Small wonder then that NUPE members at a Daventry comprehensive refused to lay a special table with tablecloths and all the trimmings for the good lady when she deigned to take lunch in the school canteen. Unfortunately some of the domestic science pupils were ordered to set it out. What she thought of the food put in front of her is not known, but she was certainly not asked for the 55p that hard pressed Northamptonshire parents have to fork out each day for their kids' meals. Do Tory Ministers now on £15,100 plus their parliamentary salary still qualify for free dinners?

The 'Daily Mail' recently celebrated 10 years of going into its 'tabloid' form. Its owners probably thought at the time it would make it easier for workers to swallow. But among the hob-knobs at the champagne anniversary celebration of this rabid Tory rag was Sir Harold Wilson. The fact that a former Labour Prime Minister can toast the 'Daily Mail' will stick in many a worker's throat.

The South African legal system had a sudden fit of liberalism recently. When a black detainee, Albert Moloto, complained of police torture, the magistrates didn't hand him straight back to the police, their usual trick. Instead they ordered an inspection of the Pietersburg police station. There they found a fully equipped torture chamber, complete with a concrete bench, handcuffs hanging from the wall, and an old radio with bare wires hanging out of it.

The Divisional Inspector was horrified that anyone should think that this implied maltreatment. The Sergeant in charge of the enquiry, he said, was "a gentle person who would not harm a fly". There was a perfectly innocent explanation. The concrete bench was used by police vehicles as rear end ballast, and the handcuffs were in the room by "coincidence". The radio? Well that had been brought in by an officer who wanted it fixed.

Fifty political prisoners at least are known to have been murdered by the police while in detention. Presumably the officer with the radio wanted to listen to the children's programmes—their fairy stories could definitely do with improvement.

At a royal reception given recently by the Queen, there were a few raised eyebrows among the 'select' crowd, when Bill Whatley, general secretary of USDAW, [the shop and distributive workers union] walked in. According to the 'Daily Express' [22 May] there was some 'surprise' at his appearance. Why was he invited? "Perhaps the Queen wishes to keep on good terms with the staff at her favourite shop", suggested the 'Express'. "Yes, well we do have a few members at Harrods," mused Bill Whatley.

This was the same man, who at the recent USDAW conference, during the summing up on a debate of electing one of the leading officials, launched into an attack on 'Militant's' USDAW pamphlet, and in particular, the demand for right of recall, and election of officials. Many delegates wondered what his comments had to do with the subject under debate, after all, what had Bill to worry about? Surely he didn't feel that his position was threatened? Surely he wasn't doing anything that would undermine his members' confidence in him? Now we know.

There will be no doubt, a few more raised eyebrows, among the Harrods workers, and USDAW members in general, at the strange company the general secretary is keeping.

BOSSSES' PRESS ATTACKS PEOPLES' MARCH

Peoples
march

The Tory press of Fleet Street weren't quite sure what to do about the 'People's March for Jobs.'

At first they ignored it, perhaps hoping it would go away, and stop reminding people of the mass unemployment which now ravishes the country.

But as the march gained massive support en route to London, so some comment had to be made, amid the gruesome horror stories of the Ripper trials, and the wonderful world of the royal wedding. And surprise, surprise the coverage was far from sympathetic.

A lengthy report which appeared in the 'Daily Express' (May 27) gave the

By Bob Wade
and Angela
Anderson

general line the Fleet Street papers took. Perhaps taking the 'Express' as an example is unfair on the rest of Fleet Street, as the 'Express' is somewhat immature when it attempts to discredit the left.

Its article was titled 'How the spirit of Jarrow is being trampled shamelessly underfoot today', which ensured the reader this was obviously a piece of unbi-

ased, objective reporting.

As far as the 'Express' was concerned, the march had been "turned into a rolling recruitment centre for the Communist Party." And to prove the point, out of 500 possible marchers to be interviewed, the two the 'Express' chose happened to be members of the Communist Party.

For those who took part in the march, and activists in the labour movement in general, this will be laughable. The 'Communist' Party, aiding the right wing trade union bureaucrats, did everything possible to attempt to make sure the 'People's March' remained 'non-political', to the point of attempting to expel socialist paper sellers from the march, and trying to stop anti-Tory chants.

And while the poor old 'Express' reporter couldn't actually find anyone who would say 'We want a totalitarian system like they've got in Russia and China', he did his best, with silly insinuations. On the applause the marchers received from workers on the roadsides he wrote "The marchers return the applause—Russian style..." Or "A marcher called Isobel Cook, keeping the rain off Chinese style in a coolie hat..." Sinister stuff, eh.

Support for the march was minimal according to the 'Express'. Why, as it pointed out, "the turnout to see them in most places has been thin."

Did 'Express' report Jarrow?

Well, 10,000 turned out in Birmingham, Stafford 7,000, Coventry 8,000, Watford 5,000, Bedford 1,400, to give just a few examples. Most of these were the biggest demonstrations these areas have ever seen, and like most of the 'Peoples March,' took place in

torrential rain.

The 'Express' couldn't resist raising the red herring of the money being spent by the Greater London Council on the 'People's March'—minimal compared to the thousands wasted on receptions for royalty and other inflated dignitaries.

And somehow, the case of the Surrey British Rail worker who supplemented his meagre wages through window cleaning found its way into the report. A criticism of this worker is absolute hypocrisy when it comes from the mouths of the likes of Fleet Street journalists on £300 a week plus.

But the main concern of the 'Express' was that the march had "blurred the magnificent memory of the Jarrow 'hunger' marchers of 1936." It went on to nostalgically recall how the Jarrow march was a 'milestone in social history.' We can be sure of course the 'Daily Express' editorials heaped similar praises on the Jarrow marchers in 1936 itself, can't we?

In fact the Express at the time virtually ignored the Jarrow march. As the Morning Star (May 29) pointed out, when they looked through issues of the Daily Express for 1936, they could only find three short reports on the Jarrow march, one of which urged the then Prime Minister, Baldwin, not to meet the marchers. A far cry from 'a milestone in social history'!

But while the present day marchers may not be sufficiently starved enough to twinge the consciences of the little Englanders of the 'Daily Express', their concern is not for the plight of the unemployed.

They fear the workers drawing parallels between the grim thirties and the crisis situation today, as this realisation would be an extra spur to working people towards the need to transform society.

Protecting the public

Reports about the "Peoples March for Jobs" in the capitalist media have not been altogether deafening. This, of course, is hardly a surprise, because it is in the interests of the bosses to play down the mounting anger of the working class.

It is also very much according to precedent.

In 1932 and 1934, the Metropolitan Police made a special point of asking the newsreel companies not to film hunger marchers when they arrived in London. Apparently the Metropolitan Police Commissioner was "convinced that the showing of such pictures either in this country or abroad would be contrary to public interest."

I assume that by "public interest" he means the interests of the bosses, whose interests the police ultimately represent in a capitalist society.

Evidence of this is to be

found in the Public Record Office, in Document 3 of the file number 'Mepol 2/3071', which was opened for public inspection, under the 30 year rule law in 1968.

This, along with other files, was removed from public view in February 1977, on the orders of the Labour Lord Chancellor Elwyn-Jones, with instructions to keep them private until 2010, but following an appeal by a prominent historian, this decision was reversed in late 1978, as reported in the 'Guardian' [4 December 1978].

I wonder what sound socialist motive prompted the actions of Lord Elwyn-Jones? I do not wonder what sound capitalist motive prompts the bosses' media.

A HOME FROM HOME?

It is not necessary to search Theresa's face for very long before you realise she is evidently thrilled at the prospect of having her baby.

Eight months pregnant, she gives a broad grin when asked what she would like. A baby boy she replies cheerfully!

Unfortunately, facial expressions tell only half of the story. For the past three months Theresa Murphy, 20, and her family have been haunted by thousands of cockroaches.

Theresa's mother explained: "D'y'know of a morning I've got to wash all the plates, all the cups and wash down the units and table before I can cook. They were even in the grill."

The Housing Department of Tory controlled Sefton Council (North Merseyside)

By Steve Higham

rehoused the Murphys' at 171, Hornby Road, Bootle, whilst their home at 183 was being renovated. What the Council didn't say was that No. 171 was swarming with cockroaches.

Mrs Murphy insists that they must have known because the house was fumigated (as it is now) by the council when the previous occupier was resident. "We'd only been here a week before we discovered them in our beds."

As a result, the family will have to discard their furniture (and quite possibly a new living room carpet still wrapped up) through fear of taking the parasites when they move back into 183 in several weeks time.

The additional expendi-

ture on furniture comes on top of higher electricity bills as a result of having to leave lights on during the night.

Moreover, a social worker, having visited Theresa has informed her that she cannot take her baby when

born into the existing premises. This is entirely understandable but will provide little comfort for Theresa.

Never mind, on the subject of parasites, I wonder how Princess Anne and her baby are getting on?

MILITANT TEACHER WEEKEND SCHOOL

Saturday 13 June 1981-Sunday 14 June 1981

New Town Community Centre, New Town Shopping Centre, Walsall Road, Birmingham (M34 Walsall Road, one mile from Birmingham City Centre)

Sessions on: *How to fight school closures; *The history of the Labour Party and the struggle for socialism; *How to fight redundancies.

Speakers include: *Militant supporters in the NUT; *A Labour councillor; *Parents involved in the fight against closures.

A good creche will be available, lunch will be provided, and there will be a social in the evening. There are shops near for vital weekend shopping. Accommodation also available. Cost £2. Applications, with money, to: Jane McVeigh, 53 Bayswater Road, Leeds 8. Phone: 0532 496129.

DEFEND EDUCATION

The experiences of teachers in Barking and Dagenham illustrates how a Labour council inevitably begins to act like a Tory one when they begin to implement Tory cuts.

Our experiences also show that a backward trade union leadership can end up fighting the members instead of fighting for jobs.

In the area we in the National Union of Teachers have been fighting a vigorous campaign against the cuts.

In February 600 teachers marched to Barking town hall to protest at a cut of £1.5 million in the education budget. In one comprehensive school a science department has a budget of only £2,000—half of that goes on exercise books and paper alone!

We can no longer afford to provide pencils and pens; students have to buy their own. And examination students can only be issued with a text book for the second half of their course.

In Barking and Dagenham labour activists have consistently argued with councillors that this policy of cuts must stop. But despite this, in April the

By Anne Tanner
(President, Barking NUT, personal capacity)

Labour group reversed its policy of no redundancies and we received formal notice that up to 60 teachers were to be made redundant.

The anger of NUT members at this decision was reflected in a massive 90% vote in favour of strike action should a member be made redundant.

This militant action by teachers has moved an otherwise intransigent council. They have 'found' another £19,000 so that they do not have to make teachers redundant and can now wait longer for 'natural wastage' to take place.

But as can be seen this is a hollow victory for the NUT. We shall still lose 80 teaching jobs which is bad news for the thousands of teachers at present on the dole.

One school in the area is fighting the cuts. Six teachers at Dagenham

Priory school refused to take on extra work when a teacher was not replaced. The action was backed nationally.

But local education officers began a campaign of victimisation against these teachers. An emergency governors' meeting was called on 6 May. Despite the short notice (only one day at school to organise) nearly all parents were leafleted and twenty parents along with nearly fifty teachers lobbied the meeting. A great response in an area where many parents work in the evenings, and at 24 hours' notice!

At this governors' meeting the education officers misled the governors, alleging that we were taking unofficial action! This fine collection of Labour trades unionists and councillors then voted to call another governors' meeting, the purpose of this meeting being to suspend the six teachers for 'refusing a

lawful request of the headmaster' (a contractual obligation on all teachers).

The action committee of the NUT instructed the six teachers to refuse to attend. The council should negotiate with the NUT as the action was official, and the governors had been 'misinformed' (we would use stronger language!)

The union locally called for a lobby of the meeting. Neighbouring NUT branches were invited to support us. Members from the school spoke at meetings in all local comprehensives, and received massive support.

However, at this point our national union leadership stepped in. They did not wish the lobby to proceed and, giving us only four days (including the weekend) to do so, instructed us to withdraw our invitations to other local NUT branches.

On the night of the governors' meeting a massive

meeting of Barking NUT resolved unanimously to lobby it and nearly two hundred people assembled outside Priory school.

At the governors' meeting itself, the mood was quite different from that shown at the last meeting. Local pressure must have had some effect! The governors were now anxious to resolve the situation amicably!

Yet having assured local union officers that the Priory School teachers would only be instructed to stop the action if the disciplinary procedures were totally withdrawn with no victimisation, the national officials then said the action would be stopped with a view to further negotiations!

However, as yet the six teachers have not been suspended, and it is hoped to resolve the situation. But the teachers at this school had to make a complete climb down.

The national leadership of our union should not need reminding that one of the aims of the NUT is that we shall secure: 'adequate financial and other resources for the full development of the publicly provided education services and satisfactory working conditions and adequate facilities in all educational establishments'.

The Tories don't want this! The labour movement as a whole, unions, Labour Parties and Labour councils, must fight the Tories' cuts and not help to implement them.

★ Education is a right not a privilege!

★ No cuts!

★ No job losses!

★ Defend education!

Send resolutions of support from wards, constituencies and union branches to Secretary, Barking NUT, 25 John Campbell Road, London N.16.

Barking teachers demonstrate outside Barking Town Hall against cuts. Photo: S McGraw



NORTHERN IRELAND

SURVIVING IN THE JUNGLE

Life in the Divis Flats complex at the bottom of Belfast's Falls Road is a nightmare at the best of times. Divis is an ill-designed concrete jungle.

"It's only fit for demolition" is the view of the people who have to live in it. These terrible conditions together with mass unemployment and repression has led to the recent rioting.

Kids have come on to the streets with bricks and petrol bombs, angry at a

system which offers them nothing and answers any protests with lethal plastic bullets.

Unfortunately these activities only make the conditions of life in their area even less tolerable.

"I never go to the flats from the Falls Road but always from the back because then you can see if there is any rioting. If there is a riot there is nowhere to go. If you go onto your balcony the army are liable to get you with a plastic bullet". This was the comment of one worker from the area.

At the time of Bobby Sands' death young kids involved in the rioting lifted the bins in the area to use as a barricade. When the army

stormed these 'barracks' there were of course no bins for the tenants.

The chute used for collective waste disposal soon filled up because the council and Housing Executive were told to ... off by the rioters.

After a few days things got so bad with rotting refuse bunting up the chutes that an epidemic was possible. Also lack of action on such basic problems as plumbing repairs was making some flats almost uninhabitable. The barricades erected at entrances to the flats and on stairs were making people virtually prisoners in their own homes.

Eventually the situation was resolved by a movement mainly of women from the

area.

A meeting of about 50 and later of almost 200 women decided to go to the council and Housing Executive and guarantee the protection of workmen and services. This put a temporary halt to the fighting.

Many youth are expressing their rage at poverty and repression through futile rioting. In many parts of Belfast there is a feeling of opposition and indignation at the violence, which has come to the surface in some areas like Divis.

It would be equally futile just to stand back and reproach the young workers and unemployed of Belfast. The labour movement by building a fighting Labour Party and Young Socialist organisation in Northern Ireland must give them a positive means of fighting back.

WORKERS' CHOICE

In most areas in last week's local elections, the people of Northern Ireland had no other choice than the Orange and Green Tories and bigots.

Not so in Derry. There the Trades Council stood five candidates in the City's four main wards. These included the mainly Catholic areas of Bogside and Creggan and the predominately Protestant estates of the Waterside.

The election showed the need for a Labour Party in the North. The doorstep response has also shown the potential for such a party. Obviously, the overall tension in the province, especially with the 'H-block' deaths, affected the poll return (see last week's 'Militant').

But even the small vote for the Trades Council only added to the arguments for a mass Labour party. It would show the bigots and the Tories can only be finally crushed if they are challenged in every area.

Their decision to stand on a socialist programme to cut unemployment, reverse the cuts, increase public spending, end sectarianism and repression, has been widely acclaimed by the labour movement. Financial and other support has come from Britain, the South and elsewhere. Last month the Belfast Trades Council unanimously voted a £25

donation.

Saturday 16 May saw a day of action in Derry supported by over 70 people from Derry, other trades councils, the Labour and Trade Union group in Northern Ireland, members of the Irish Labour party and Labour Youth, and members of the British Labour Party Young Socialists.

A cavalcade of cars travelled over all parts of the city and was followed by a rally in the Guildhall Square. A door to door canvas reinforced the growing awareness of workers in Derry of the bankruptcy of the local Tories.

One local worker in his early 20s told a canvasser how he had been made redundant three times and would vote for the Trades Council to stop the callous loss of jobs.

In Derry the lack of an active base for the other parties is shown by the fact that only Trades Council election posters were on display. No other party or candidate had been out canvassing.

The bold lead of Derry Trades Council, and of Antrim and Fermanagh Trades Councils and Labour Leagues, must be followed by other trade union organisations in the North and the seed sown by this campaign reaped in the form of a fighting mass party of labour.

"THERE'S A LOT MORE CURSING NOW"

The Creggan in Derry has suffered greatly from the violence of recent years. The residents had to face harassment and troubles in the estate. Many young people have been killed, jailed, forced to go "on the run" or injured in these years.

Anton McCabe and Julian McKittrick spoke to the mother of a local youth who is in the H-Blocks. Mrs Elizabeth Magowan of Linsfort Drive spoke to them during rioting in the area.

"He was an apprentice painter. He was just a young lad. He got very bitter against the establishment and the 'security forces'. He is not bitter against Protestants.

"He was 18 when he was arrested. My family was brought up never to do anything which would bring a policeman to the door. The policeman came in here and said to me, 'I'd say looking at that young fellow and his parents that, given different times, he'd never

have been across the table from us.'

"He's been in 5 years. He is on the blanket all that time. They're not dirtying their cells any more, but they've got beds with no bed-clothes.

"I don't think he would have got that sentence—12 years—but there was three policemen shot in Bellaghy that morning. Some court officials said they thought it was far too stiff a sentence. "My son's clothes went to the forensic place and got

burnt—and we never got a penny for them. We used to get a lot of harassment—most of it before he was lifted. He also got 3 months and a £50 fine for a protest in the court. I told them they could pick their nose for the £50.

"I'm cursing a lot now. I talked to the priest about it. He says there are people cursing now who never cursed before."

A SOCIALIST STRATEGY T

By determined industrial action, the miners forced the Tories to retreat on their plans to cut back the coal industry. But the pits still face a serious threat of closure and massive job losses.

One demand that has been put forward and been widely echoed is that a ban on coal imports would stop closures and save jobs.

Superficially, coal import controls may appear to be an answer. In reality, if all the implications are gone into, such a policy will be seen to be dangerously mistaken.

Controls on imported coal would not guarantee the future of British mining. If implemented their effects would rebound, not only on the miners but on other major industries, where even more jobs would be threatened.

Above all, support for import controls implies that miners can find a solution within the narrow national boundaries of capitalism, and such a policy cuts across the vital need for international solidarity.

The demand for import controls, moreover, is part of a growing propaganda campaign by a section of the trade union leadership for general import controls. It is claimed that this is part and parcel of an alternative socialist economic policy.

But import controls can never be a socialist demand. In a socialist planned economy, run under democratic workers' control and management, there would certainly be the planning of foreign trade. But so long as the commanding heights of the economy remain in the hands of big business, import controls can be nothing more than a desperate attempt to shore up a diseased capitalist economy.

In the crisis period of the 1920s and 1930s, the floundering British manufacturers clamoured for a wall of protective tariffs. Once again, more and more of the sick giants of British industry are demanding import controls—to feather-bed their backwardness and leave them free to exploit their 'own' working class undisturbed by foreign rivals.

This is the reality, and in the light of this the call for import controls cannot be accepted as a socialist demand. In practice, the policy is put forward as an alternative to a campaign to win support for a fighting socialist programme.

Rather than maintaining a secure market in Britain for coal and protecting pit jobs, as the advocates of controls claim, import restrictions on coal could actually lead to a further contraction of the available market for British coal that would mean renewed attempts to close pits and throw miners on the dole.

A recent TUC discussion document on energy called

for import controls on coal, and then went on to demand "that every effort should be made where appropriate, to boost coal exports." These two demands are blatantly inconsistent.

The authors of this pamphlet have clearly not realised that if foreign firms which now sell coal in Britain find the British market closed to them, they will only compete all the more strongly in markets abroad which the National Coal Board tries to capture. If Britain placed import controls on coal, especially if this were done as part of a general policy of import controls including other industries such as shoes, textiles and electronics, then retaliation would inevitably take place. This in turn could have a crippling effect on British manufacturing exporters.

In other words, rather than protecting the home markets for coal, import controls on coal from abroad could well lead on to controls being placed on exports from the very manufacturing companies which are among the major buyers of NCB coal.

Inevitable retaliation would make it impossible to boost coal exports while banning coal imports.

But apart from any economic consequences, this demand carries potential dangers for the unity of miners with other workers both in Britain and abroad, at a time when unity and solidarity are once again becoming indispensable for the working class.

The 1980 miners' strike ended quickly, following the panic of the Tories. But at some stage in the future—either in desperation, or after carefully laid preparations—the Tories will again try to test the strength of the miners in all-out national industrial action.

Should such a confrontation be provoked, then the final outcome may well be decided by the degree of international solidarity and support extended to British miners. Bitter experiences have demonstrated over and over again that internationalism is not an abstract question for the labour movement. It is a vital necessity.

International solidarity can decide victory or defeat in key struggles. It can be a matter of life or death for the labour movement here and abroad. Miners have a long and rich history of internationalism, they should ensure that this tradition remains intact.

If the Tories provoke another miners' strike a total ban on coal should be applied, including coal from

**By
Brian Ingham**

British coal-fields and coal from abroad. But the future success of such blacking could be seriously jeopardised by the continued demand by British miners for controls on foreign coal.

The use of this slogan could well assist the efforts of employers and right-wing trade union leaders abroad to drive a wedge between their own miners and British miners. The idea will be spread that British miners are trying to shut foreign mining companies out of established British markets, thus threatening the jobs of foreign miners.

Miners abroad will be urged to retaliate by denying British miners solidarity during key disputes. Should such a call ever find an echo a major blow will have been struck, not just against the British National Union of Mineworkers, but against the whole international working class movement.

Rather than risking division with miners and other workers abroad by championing the slogan coal import controls, miners here should strive to forge the closest links with their brothers and sisters abroad.

It is not only international working class unity which is threatened by the use of this slogan. The unprecedented unity being forged between miners, steel workers and railwaymen within the triple alliance could also be endangered.

If the British Steel Corporation were made to stop importing foreign coal and instead buy only much dearer British coal, then the BSC management would undoubtedly try to sow divisions between miners and steel workers by saying that fuel costs forced upon the BSC by the mine workers made new closures of steel workers and mass redundancies in the steel industry unavoidable.

Internationalism is not a sentimental question. It is a vital necessity.

If any steel workers were taken in by such propaganda as a result of coal import controls, then a serious threat could be posed to a united struggle for miners, steel workers and railwaymen against the common threat of closures and redundancies.

What programme, then, should the National Union of Mineworkers advance in their campaign to protect the mining industry from being run down further at the hands of the NCB management, the Tories and big business?

The problems of the coal industry have been caused by the deadweight of bureaucratic mis-management, by decades of under-investment followed by a helter-skelter investment programme at exorbitant costs. The industry has suffered from the stranglehold of debt repayments to the banks and finance houses, and from the general problems of the

decline and collapse of the British economy.

The programme advocated by supporters of 'Militant' in the mining industry includes the demand for full and adequate financing. It is one thing for British miners to be seen by miners abroad to be fighting for the future security and viability of the British mining industry, it is quite another to demand import controls which would be seen by miners abroad as undermining their jobs.

After generations of neglect, decay and serious under-investment, a programme of investment was agreed in 1974 following the oil crisis and the displays of industrial power by miners in 1972 and 1973/4.

The crippling Coal Industry Act must be scrapped: the movement must fight for a full and adequate programme of financing the industry.

This long overdue programme of investment has been placed in serious jeopardy by the Tories, who are squeezing the NCB's finances by high interest rates, on the one hand, and tight cash limits (through the Coal Industry Act 1980) on the other hand.

Under the Coal Industry Act all operating grants to the NCB are to cease by the end of the financial year 1982/3. This Act must be scrapped! The blatant bias of this government against the nationalised industries (including coal) must be brought to an end.

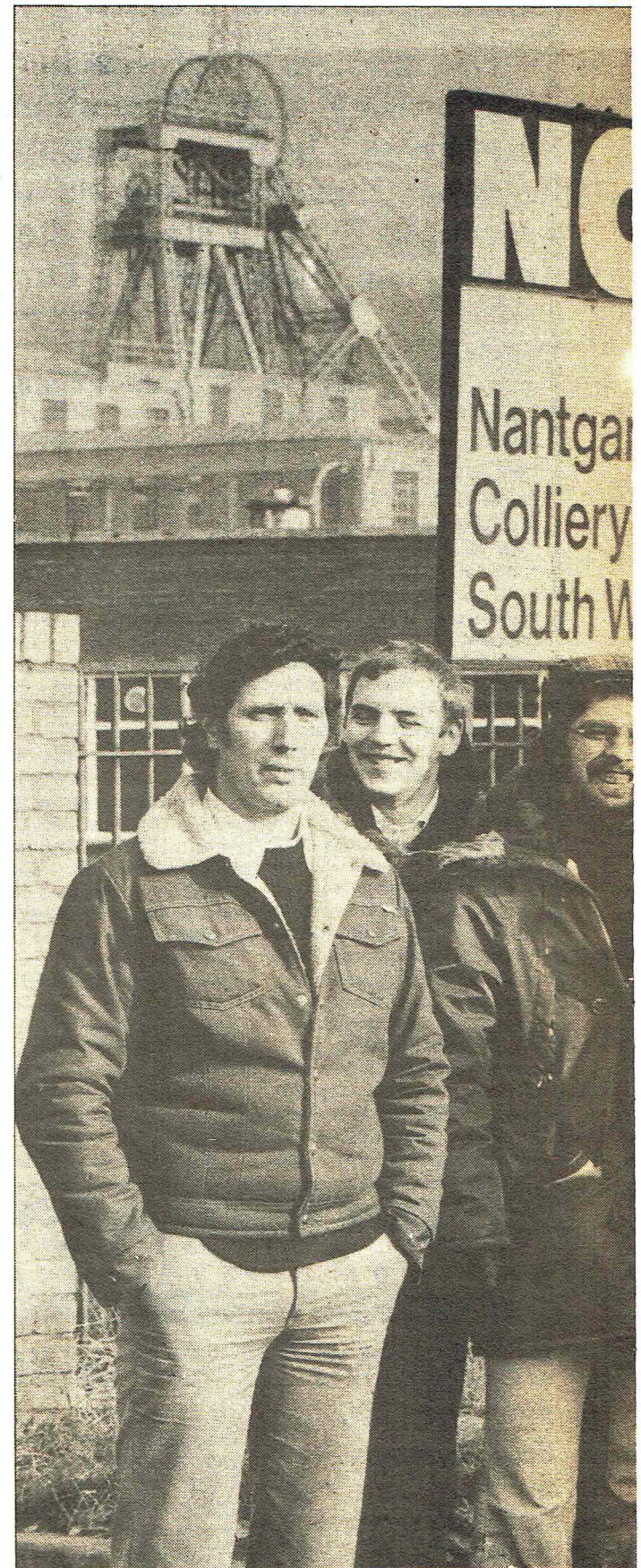
For two generations the nationalised industries have been cynically used to provide cheap services and fuel to private industry. In the coal industry, even before the Coal Industry Act was passed, the British coal field fared badly for financial aid compared to the coal industry abroad.

The NUM has produced figures which show the meagre assistance given to the coal industry by the British government in comparison to governments of other major European countries. This is at a time of a major programme of investment!

In Belgium £207.7 million was given in 1979 in direct aid to the coal industry, £34.05 per tonne; in France £334.1 million, £17.96 per tonne; and in West Germany £1,385.7 million, £14.85 per tonne. A mere £195.4 million was given in assistance to the British coal industry, £1.62 per tonne.

'Militant' has supported the demand for subsidies at least equivalent to those paid to the coal industries abroad. But we believe that the labour movement should go further. The demand should be for **full and adequate financing in order to allow for safe conditions, adequate investment and a living wage.**

The call for 'subsidies' invariably leads to the Tories and the millionaires' press de-



nouncing 'hand-outs' to miners. But who is really being subsidised? It is not the miners, who have always had to fight hard for a living wage and decent conditions, but the bankers who are extracting massive interest repayments, and the suppliers, distributors and contracting companies who are all taking rich pickings from their trade with the NCB.

Miners have always had to fight hard for a living wage: it is the banks, financiers and the firms profiting from NCB contracts who are being subsidised.

These constraints on the functioning of the NCB must also be ended. The NCB paid out last year around £200 million in interest charges, £100 million to the government and the rest to the finance houses. The debts of the NCB should be cancelled in order to remove this albatross from the industry's neck.

All profiteering at the expense of the NCB should be

stopped. Companies like Dowty who are the main suppliers to the NCB have—in practically every case—recorded a massive increase in profits in recent years.

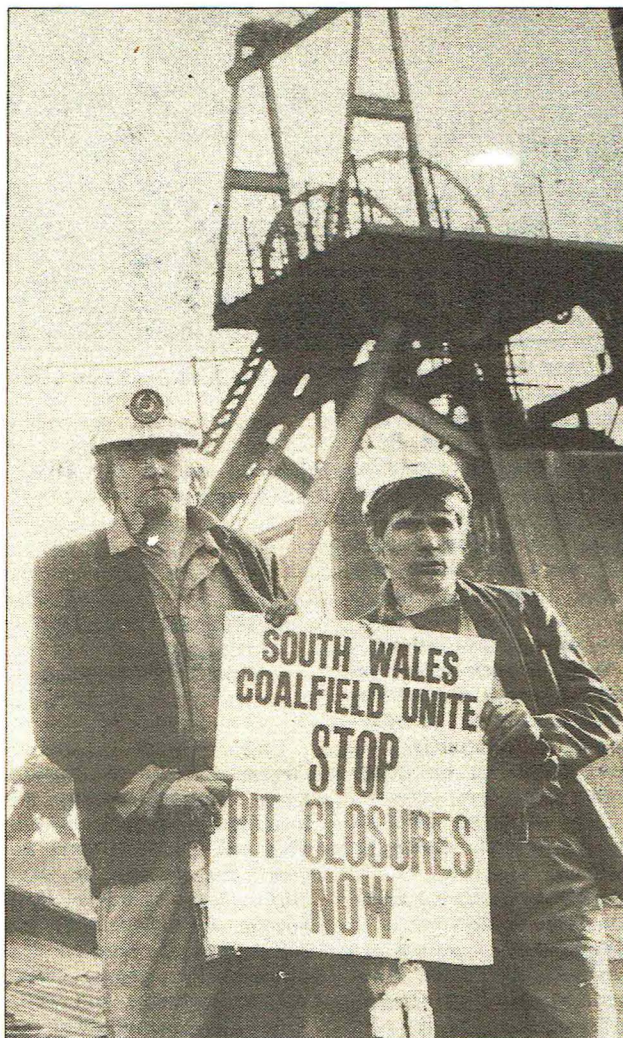
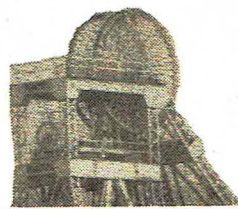
Last year, Dowty Mining Equipment made £10.7 millions in pre-tax profits, Anderson Strathclyde (makers of coal-shearing equipment) £5.9 millions and Ruston-Bucyrus £4.7 millions. The directors of these companies pay themselves lavishly. The top directors of these three companies last year earned £478, £673 and £500 a week respectively.

All supply and distribution firms should be nationalised and integrated into the NCB. Existing contract labour should be recruited to the NCB on NUM rates of pay.

At present the mines and other nationalised industries are forced to operate as completely separate competing entities. They are even allowed to adopt a policy of pricing, marketing and the buying of raw materials which can threaten the future prospects of another nationalised industry.

It is the British Steel Cor-

TO SAVE THE PITS



Above and right, miners picketing Nantgarw/Windsor colliery on 17 February this year, during the NUM action against Tory cuts in the coal industry. Photos: Julian McKittrick.

Yorkshire miners call for action against the Tories

The Yorkshire miners look set to show the way in the fight-back against mass unemployment, which went up another 33,000 this month.

John Weaver of the Yorkshire Council of the National Union of Miners, told a Youth Campaign Against Unemployment Rally in Batley (Saturday, 23rd May): "Well, we have got miners' sons who can't get jobs because of government policy, so we're giving Maggie an ultimatum, and it's this: We are recommending to all our members that if there isn't a change of government policy regarding recruitment in the mining industry that we will impose a complete ban on overtime followed by a ballot for strike action".

This is the recommendation of the Yorkshire Council of the NUM, now being put to the branches.

Miners are feeling the effects of the loss of jobs. In January this year, the "Lady" (Maggie Thatcher) was not for turning. She told the NCB bosses to go ahead and slash 20,000 jobs in the mining industry.

In February, the lady turned when the miners showed by their action up and down the country that there's no way they are going to accept that. Many miners felt, however, that

they should have carried through with industrial action until cast-iron guarantees had been given.

Despite the miners' victory on pit closures, recruitment in the industry is at a standstill. Jobs are being lost through so-called "natural wastage", as the NCB refuses to replace men leaving the pits for health reasons, retirement, etc.

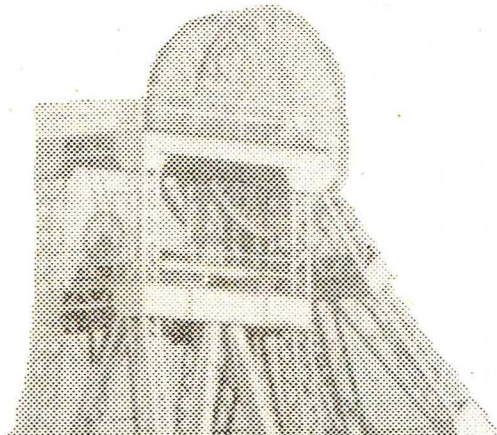
Nine hundred jobs in the Yorkshire coalfields have gone in the last year. At Park Hill colliery in Wakefield only three school-leavers have been taken on, while approximately 35 men have left.

If the Yorkshire miners take this proposed action, they will be a beacon to the whole of the labour and trade union movement in the battle against unemployment. As the dole queues gallop to a figure of 3 million it is without doubt the organised strength of the trade unions which embodies the power either to force this Tory government to do a U-turn, or —better still— to bring it down.

The 60,000 Yorkshire miners must not stand alone. Their initiative must be applauded, but the whole of the trade union movement, under the banner of the TUC, must take this up with co-ordinated action for jobs.

A FIGHTING PROGRAMME FOR THE NUM

- Maintain every mining job. No redundancies. No selling jobs. No manning losses.
- Share out the work round the pits. A 4-day week for all miners with no loss of pay.
- NUM veto on all pit closures. Scrap the Coal Industry Act.
- An end to the incentive scheme.
- A living basic wage for all miners with automatic increases to compensate for all increases in the cost of living.
- Full and proper financing of the NCB. Maintain and expand the investment programme.
- Open NCB books to trade union inspection.



- Workers' control and management of the NCB. The board should consist of one third elected by the workers in the industry through the unions, one third elected through the TUC to represent the working class at large, and one third to be appointed by the government.

- Cancellation of NCB debts.
- Nationalisation under workers' control and management of the mining industry suppliers and distributors.

- An integrated plan for all nationalised industries.
- Nationalisation of the banks and finance houses.
- Nationalisation under democratic workers' control and management of the top 200 monopolies with compensation based upon proven need.
- Drive out the Tories.
- Full and active support for the bringing to power at the earliest possible moment of a Labour government committed to socialism.

poration and the Central Electricity Generating Board which have in particular begun to import huge quantities of foreign coal. But again, the answer does not lie in the demand for import controls.

Miners, railway workers, electricity workers, gas, steel and water workers, and workers in all other nationalised industries, should join together in a campaign to force a rational integrated plan of production covering all nationalised industries, under the democratic control and management of the working class.

The Rule Book commits the NUM "to join with other organisations for the purpose of, and with a view to, the complete abolition of capitalism."

But the fate of the mining industry is not tied to the existing nationalised industries alone, it is tied to the economy as a whole. Through Clause 'S' of the

'Objects' in its rule book, the NUM shows the way forward..

The NUM is committed "to join with other organisations for the purpose of, and with a view to, the complete abolition of capitalism."

Miners can give a lead to the entire labour movement by campaigning boldly for the implementation of that clause.

Often in the past, due to their history of struggle and long socialist tradition, it has been to the miners that other workers have looked for inspiration and guidance. The miners have already shown that this Tory government can be beaten.

The need now is for miners to adopt clear, bold socialist policies and then campaign for active fighting unity on the basis of these policies. In this way the miners could lead the whole labour movement in a drive to throw the Tories out of office and secure the election instead of a Labour government fully committed to the fighting ideas of socialism.

SRI LANKA:

POLICE STATE METHODS AGAINST TAMILS

The Jayawardene regime in Sri Lanka has once again stepped up police and army repression in the Jaffna peninsula after a recent bank robbery.

Using the excuse of the robbery, special squads have been sent from Colombo to suppress the democratic rights of the Tamil speaking people under the pretext of being "for further investigation".

Every capitalist government in Sri Lanka had its own excuses to let loose this type of police and army repression. So it was during the era of Bandaranaike of the Sri Lankan Freedom party (SLFP). Now the tempo is being increased by Jayawardene as President of the so-called "Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka".

JR Jayawardene who

By a
Sri Lanka
correspondent

came to power in 1977 with the promise that he will remedy the grievances of the Tamil speaking people in such fields as "Colonisation, use of Tamil language etc." even promised in his party's (UNP) election Manifesto, an all party conference whose "decisions would be included in the constitution".

Alas! The rut the capitalist economy has got into and the bankrupt socio-economic policies of this frustrated government has only pushed them to axe every democratic and trade union right of the people in

general and the working class in particular.

The Jayawardene government has started on cutting living standards in the most inhuman way on the dictates of the World Bank and the IMF. The recent increases in bus and train fares, and prices of essential foods—including infant milk food, petroleum products, agricultural inputs etc. has led to anti-government mass agitation.

With his back to the wall and no room for retreat Jayawardene the "constitutional bonapartist" is now depending on army-police repression.

His so-called District Development Councils (DDC) which were originated to trap the Tamil bourgeois leaders seems to have lost the purpose it was meant to serve. The Nava Sama Samaja Party (NSSP) which declared that it would boycott the DDC elections is being followed by almost all the anti-government parties, including the SLFP.

Only the petit bourgeois Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP—People's Liberation Front) led by Rohana Wijeweera has

investment, prices and imports. In April only 40% of imports and exports was under the control of the Ministry of Foreign Trade.

Coal production for the first quarter of 1981 was at a rate of 164 million tonnes per year instead of the 188 million tonnes planned. Exports to the West were down by one-third compared with the first quarter of 1980.

Total investment is being cut by 25% over the next five years—the clearest admission of the dead end created by bureaucratic mismanagement of the planned economy.

The West German Institute of Economic Research has blamed the Polish bureaucracy for the country's economic decline.

The crisis has been caused, it said, by faulty decisions at the top and not by the "social renewal" brought about by the workers struggles.

The Polish working class has proved over and over again that it has the power and determination to end bureaucratic misrule and establish workers' democracy. At present it is being held back by the policies of the Solidarity leadership. It is vital in the coming period that the workers discard these policies.

On the basis of an internationalist orientation to workers of the Soviet Union and other Eastern European states, they can move forward to build genuine socialism based on the rule of the working class, not a parasitical bureaucracy.



The Marxist Nava Sama Samaja Party on this year's May Day rally in Colombo

jumped on to the DDC bandwagon.

Early morning arrests

The Tamil Youth Organisations in the North have campaigned for a boycott of DDC elections. This will probably gain a great momentum in the North, with of course the youths playing a militant role. This movement, if allowed to grow, will definitely throw out the Tamil bourgeois leaders who are now acting as a brake to the growth of the Tamil mass movement. Hence the necessity to start the repression in the North.

So far over 30 persons have been arrested within a space of about 2 weeks and no one knows of their

whereabouts. These special squads from Colombo operating in Jaffna mostly move about in civilian clothes and armed to the teeth. They are nocturnal in habit and it is reported that all arrests are being made in the early hours of the morning.

One, Sivasubramaniam Arunagirinathan, an employee of the Jaffna Post Office, had been arrested in his sleep at about 5am on the 19th April. A participant of the July 1980 general strike, he was reinstated about 2 months ago.

His closest relations including his wife had not been able to gather any information about his whereabouts, not even with the Jaffna MP intervening.

So it is with the Jaffna University students, Vimalaraj Appulingam arrested on 24th April again in the wee hours of the morning. Even MPs had been

told by Jaffna's Deputy Inspector General of Police that he is not aware of this student's whereabouts.

Another, a retired Divisional Superintendent of Post Offices, Jaffna allegedly assaulted by these special squads is reported to have been hospitalised and died.

Numerous reports of this nature are circulating in the Jaffna area but the government has kept a deaf ear and the legalised terrorism by the police and the army is on the increase. Pedestrians, cyclists and passengers are subjected to abuse and intimidation at their check-points. The Jaffna Peninsula is more or less a police state now and no one dare speak against it.

The Tamil Youth Organisations should now join hands with the left political parties to launch a massive campaign forcing the government to withdraw all its oppressive forces.

Polish crisis deepens

The recent suicides by two former leading bureaucrats in Poland have underlined the deep crisis of Polish society. Ex-ministers J Olzewski and E Barszcz killed themselves sooner than face exposure of their activities while in office.

Olzewski, who hanged himself at his country house near Warsaw, had been involved in a financial scandal concerning chemical exports. Barszcz had been under investigation for property abuses, including the building of a luxury villa near Cracow.

Scapgoats such as these are being used by the ruling bureaucracy to divert the workers' anger against itself. Yet the removal of individual bureaucrats can bring no relief to the crisis of the Polish economy.

Reports from Poland speak of 1.5 million unemployed next year—an unem-

By George
Collins



Workers on strike in Gdansk last year. Only workers' power can solve the Polish crisis.

ployment rate of nearly 10%. This is absolutely staggering in an economy that is supposedly 'socialist' and planned.

The government's latest "economic stabilisation programme" has been rejected and sent back for re-drafting. A policy of decentralisation is expected, although one major cause of the present crisis has been the lack of central control over

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

South Africa

Nowhere does the international nature of the workers' struggle become clearer than in the fight for jobs.

Multinational companies, laying off workers in Britain and Europe, continue to invest in cheap labour in the former colonial countries. South Africa with its apartheid regime forcing black workers' wages down to starvation level is a burning case in point.

Workers in Britain can increasingly appreciate the need as well as the possibility of building links between British workers and their brothers and sisters in South Africa struggling against the same employers. 35 British trade unions are affiliated to the Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM) and support the demand for sanctions against the South African regime.

So far, unfortunately, the leaders of the trade unions and the AAM have done little to harness this potential. The *Financial Times* hopefully writes that "the point at which a British union would, for example, refuse to handle goods to and from South Africa seems a long way off" (26 May)

Mike Terry, an AAM spokesman, is quoted as saying pessimistically that with 2.5 million

unemployed in Britain, the unions have more pressing issues to handle.

Yet precisely because of mass unemployment in Britain, the activities of British companies in countries such as South Africa are too pressing to be ignored.

In these companies and in the labour movement generally the bosses' policies of 'divide and rule' need to be thoroughly exposed. Action must be organised against every aspect of the bosses' attacks—in Britain and internationally.

For full details of the starvation levels of black workers employed by British companies in South Africa, read the 1981 supplement to 'Profiteering from cheap labour'. 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.

Cyprus

The results of the Cypriot elections of May 24 show the growing polarisation bet-

ween the classes that has been brought about by the crisis of capitalism (see Militant 553). The elections were the first to be held under proportional representation.

The Communist Party (AKEL) and the right-wing capitalist "Democratic Rally" party emerged as the biggest parties with 12 seats each in the 35-seat parliament. The party of the "progressive" capitalists, the Democratic Party of President Kyprianou, was reduced to 8 seats. The remainder of the working-class vote gave the Socialist Party (EDEK) 3 seats.

Only an independent socialist lead by the workers' parties can unite the workers and peasants of both the Greek and Turkish speaking sections of the island and provide an alternative to the festering sores of economic stagnation and national division. A compromise in programme between AKEL and the Democratic Party to reach a "progressive" majority in parliament, however, will mean a dilution of the workers' demands that will leave the problems of society unsolved.

Yet the advances made by the working-class parties will increase the confidence of the workers and create favourable conditions for the struggle for socialist policies in the ranks of AKEL as well as EDEK.

NETHERLANDS-



PvdA leader Joop den Uyl at the last party conference, happy after having forced through decisions reversing policy on wages, nuclear arms, abortion, etc.

Tory policies lose votes for Dutch Labour

For the last four years the conservative coalition of CDA (Christian Democrats) and VVD (right-wing "Liberals") have launched more and more vicious attacks on the living standards of working people in Holland.

They completed their period of government with a pre-election assault called Operation '81.

This included 3½-6% cuts in social benefits and cuts in wages of 3-5%. They also slashed public spending on education, health etc.

There are now more than 350,000 officially unemployed—about 6% of the working population, with at least the same number hidden unemployed—those registered as unfit to work, or the women and young people who don't register. It was recently estimated that 16% of the population are living below the official minimum wage.

This was the horrifying background to the Dutch elections on 26 May.

But the biggest losers in the elections were not the parties of the ruling coalition—although they lost their majority, but the PvdA (Labour Party). In the elections of 1977, the PvdA gained ten seats (becoming the largest party), but failed to form a government. In this election they lost 9 of those 10 seats.

The reason lies in the failure of the party leadership to provide any real alternative to the ruling

By Jo Hoffman
(Offensief, Dutch Marxist paper; member PvdA Amsterdam)

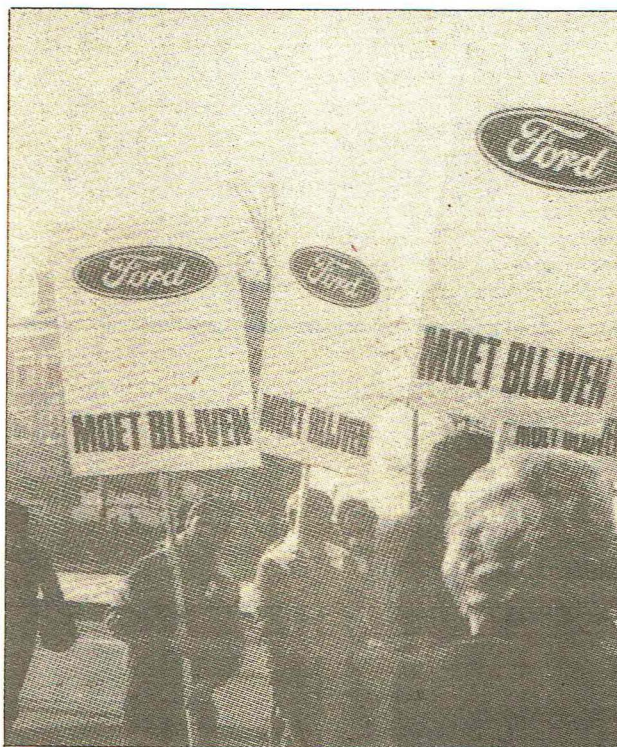
coalition—either inside or outside parliament.

Their alternative has always been a lower level of cuts, a bit less wage restraint. This, coupled with the damping down by the trade union leaders of any fight back against the government has led to a temporary period of demoralisation.

Three times the leaders of the labour movement called days of action in a badly organised way. Three times the rank and file responded, showing their desire to fight, on the last occasion 100,000 workers gathered in Amsterdam. The fight was taken no further by the leadership and workers trying to fight faced a wall of bureaucracy.

But not satisfied with the mood of demoralisation they had already spread, the right-wing of the party, the so-called expert economists, issued a statement (flagrant) ignoring conference decisions) saying that minimum wages would have to be cut in order to pay for the programme of reforms!

The overall winners in the election were D66



The workers are prepared to fight. Ford workers demonstrate against closures early this year.

(Liberals), which appeared to many, disappointed in the PvdA, the only viable alternative (not in its programme—it has no programme except compromise—but as a participant in the coalition)—it now has 17 seats, most of the other small parties have between 1 and 3.

But this party will burst like a bubble as soon as it is tested because it has no roots in society. But the PvdA lost a lot of its votes, particularly in the big cities, where many workers stayed home.

The fight back must now begin against the conservative policies of the right-wing in the party and trade unions.

The horse dealing for the formation of a new coalition government has begun with the right-wing of the party trying to manoeuvre

into a coalition with the CDA.

But we have to be clear that such a coalition would not lead to "less vicious" attacks on the working class, but would simply lead to confusion and demoralisation, and tie the workers' hands in their attempts to defend their living standards.

Already a manifesto has been launched inside the PvdA to begin the fight back, which 'Offensief', the Marxist paper, is supporting.

Properly organised this manifesto could enthuse the rank and file, and act as a springboard to a real campaign by the trade unions to defend living standards, to ensure the end of a bourgeois coalition and a government of the PvdA offering a real socialist alternative.

AUSTRALIA- Workers push for 35 hr week

"The thirty five hour week will be the death knell to private enterprise" intoned the Prime Minister of the Australian state Victoria, facing a wave of strikes for shorter hours.

Australian workers could well reply that given the very favourable conditions Australian industry operates under, big business are making a very poor attempt at survival.

The mineral wealth, largely untapped, of Australia is enormous—oil, coal, gas, uranium, bauxite, and many other metal ores are there in abundance. This country the size of Western Europe, has a population of only fourteen million.

Yet nearly half a million of these workers are out of a job—and there are only about 30,000 vacancies. Economic growth may reach 2% this year but too rapid development is feared by economic "experts" because of the possibility of inflation going above its present level of 10%.

Fifty thousand unemployed under 18s whose weekly dole money was frozen at 36 dollars for five years have now been threatened with losing their money altogether. The government complains that this huge sum has encouraged youngsters not to stay at school where they are off the dole figures.

But the power of the unions is the biggest worry to Australia's rulers, concerned only to protect the profits of the monopolies. Laws have been made to curb the unions only to be broken by the power of the working class. Anti-union marches of around 2,000 earlier this year, stirred up by the bosses are well publicised but outweighed by the size of the workers' counter-demos.

The transport workers are vigorously resisting attacks on their jobs and industry. The road deficit of A\$671 million last year was four times the amount of the total public transport deficit, but the latter sector is being made into a scapegoat by the ruling class.

Both in Victoria and New South Wales, railwaymen have been involved in bitter action against cuts. In Melbourne the management tried to break their agreements with the unions. But the railwaymen took over one of the offices and locked the management out until all agreements were guaranteed!

Australian workers have most actively taken the bull by the horns over the 35-hour week. The central and state governments are strongly resisting the workers' demand and all financial aid is to be cut off to any firm that gives in.

In 1978 Toohey Breweries in Sydney, after continuous industrial confrontations, locked out their workers. The response was an all-out strike. Brewery lorries from other states were turned back—Sydney was rapidly drying up, and it was Christmas, the middle of Australia's summer! They got their 35 hour week.

Bob Young of Bridlington NUR, who recently visited Australia, shows the way workers have been fighting the growing dole queues

In 1979 Queensland Prime Minister Bjelke-Petersen was brought to his knees and his anti-trade union laws left in tatters by the power workers. A 37½ hour week was conceded, to be reduced to 35 hours in 1981.

At Goodrich Petrochemicals in Altona, the carbide workers occupied the premises for 51 days in 1979. As a result, sacked workers were re-instated and a 35-hour week was won.

Since then the metal workers, miners, railwaymen and car workers have been determined to win the 35 hour week. With support from the civil servants, the government bodies opposing them have become isolated.

Furious resistance from employers

Unfortunately the workers' magnificent fight has not been matched by the leadership of the Australian Labour Party (ALP) and the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU). Bob Hawke, ACTU leader, has given the struggle no active support and the ALP leader, Bill Hayden, has declared: "It is not time for the 35 hour week."

In the metal industry this has temporarily led to setbacks in the struggle. Metal workers (the biggest industrial group in the country) were fighting for a 35 hour agreement which would have been the signal for a nationwide movement on this issue.

The bosses resisted furiously, and won a decision of the Arbitration Commission to freeze working hours at 40 hours for the next two years. The capitalist class claimed it would raise costs by 21%, but workers know it would give many jobs for Australian workers and human working hours.

Australian workers will ask the Labour party leader, what could be a better time for a 35 hour week campaign than when the country faces mass unemployment?

And what could be a better time to fight to bring down the capitalist Liberal government than when it is split as it is now—racked by the resignation of the Industrial Relations Minister, Peacock? A campaign around a shorter working week and early retirement on full pay could sweep the country for Labour.

If the bosses can't use the rich resources of the country for the benefit of its people; if they can't grant a 35 hour week without dying, capitalism should be sentenced to death, by nationalising the top 100 or so monopolies which dominate Australia, under workers' control and management.

As in the rest of the world, the death knell of capitalism would be a new life for the people of Australia.

Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Plunder woman hits schools

Dear Militant

I am writing to show the cuts that Maggie inflicts on our schools. Two years ago, before Maggie came to power the provision to our art department in my secondary school was £700. As soon as she came to power this was reduced to £300.

For £700, the art department could buy anything that was needed at a pinch. Now it is down to very basics such as paper, paint and clay for over 300 pupils.

These supplies last for a short time, they are just not enough, we miss out on a lot of painting and pottery as most of the supplies are kept for the CSE and GCE classes.

Over 70% of the time is spent pencil drawing. We would rather have paints and other craft materials than Cruise missiles.

You may not think this is very important but this is happening all over the country. Not just art materials but books, teachers and dinner ladies are being cut. I dread to think what will happen to our schools and the students who go to them as the educational levels get lower and lower.

I do not understand Maggie's policies as this will not help to find jobs if we cannot get a good education. When I leave school I hope to get a good job and bring up a family but if the cuts carry on, what hope!

Yours sincerely
Steven Blatch
Southampton
(age 13 years)

Short time subsidy?...Sorry!

Dear Colleague

Further evidence of Toryism at work is a situation that is arising when companies apply for a second period of the Short Time Working Subsidy. It seems that the new criteria is being applied by the Employment Department since 1st April, 1981 which is as follows:

"When making a second (or subsequent) application, the employer must demonstrate:

a) that there are jobs in the establishment that have not previously been supported;
b) that the threat causing the second application is clearly affecting different jobs from those covered by previous applications."

This would seem to debar further compensation because most firms involved most of their workforce in the first period of short time working subsidy.

The new criteria states that they may not be used in the next period and this in effect will only increase unemployment further and cause more small companies to close down. This has taken place without anyone knowing until they apply for the subsidy!

What next will the Tories get up to, secretly!
Yours fraternally
V.S. Northmore
Northern
District Organiser
National Society
of Metal Mechanics

Sir James—journalist

Dear Comrade Editor

Press freedom under capitalism has once again proved to be just an illusion. Olivier Todd, editor of *L'Express* a French political journal was sacked by its owner Sir James Goldsmith for printing what he considered an insult to "my friend Giscard".

Sir James, owner of the defunct *Now!* magazine and obviously an arch-democrat—having bought *L'Express* to counter pro-Mitterrand publicity—was far from pleased when it began to propagandise against the policies of Giscard D'Estaing!

Prompted by French big financiers, Goldsmith used the election results as the excuse to replace Todd, installing himself as Editor-in-Chief. He may now actually get printed views he can agree with!

The right-wing bias of press reporting is a direct result of its ownership by a handful of press magnates. While occasionally (accidentally) an 'honest' editor may be appointed, his or her ability to last will depend solely on giving the bosses what they want us, the public, to read. As soon as a fragment of the unpalatable truth, exposing capitalist hypocrisy reaches print, their days as editors are finished.

SOGAT are now pledged to the nationalisation under workers' control and management of the press monopolies. This can be the only real way of once and for all ending the ability of the papers to launch hysterical attacks on our movement.

We would of course be quite prepared to give the likes of Sir James Goldsmith press space proportionate to the support his views have in society. I doubt however if he'd be very pleased with the three or four column inches of space!

Fraternally
Eddie Phillips
Youth Officer
Glasgow Provan CLP

Who are they 'defending'? [1]

Dear Comrades

At this moment world military expenditure is half a million pounds per minute, while one quarter of the world's children lack the basic necessities of life.

Today's stockpiles of nuclear weapons is sufficient to kill every human being several times over, when, correct me if I'm wrong, one can only die once.

There are twice as many people in military occupation as there are doctors, nurses and teachers. Doctors, nurses and teachers are a fundamental asset to our survival but people in military occupation can only add to our destruction.

These formidable facts above only make me want to ask, are we "human" beings, or some weird mechanical creatures, hell bent on suffering and destruction? If you are one

of the 'human' variety, I ask you are you interested in being killed?

You are not! Good—then it is up to us all to say so and loudly. Do not forget it is your life these lunatics are dealing with.

Yesterday I signed a World Disarmament Campaign petition, however, that is not enough comrades! The political situation is such that our voices must be heard on a political level, which we can do firstly in our own country, before it is too late and our voices are removed from us forever.

Fraternally yours
Janet Homer
Coogee
New South Wales
Australia

Who are they 'defending'? [2]

Comrades

On Radio 4's 'World at One' on May 18th, Alan Clark MP, chairman of the

Tory backbenchers' defence committee, was wailing about the proposed defence cuts.

After attacking various nationalised industries for using up government revenue he went on to say, and this was the crunch line, that to talk about cutting the size of the army at a time of high unemployment was unthinkable.

Now either this representative of capital is concerned for working class youth being driven into the armed forces by the policies of Thatcher & Co and the crisis of capitalism, or concerned that the army will be needed to protect his class and its property from the vengeance of the proletarian masses.

I leave this for you to judge. One thing is for sure—the armed forces will not remain long isolated from the class struggle that is taking place.

Fraternally
Alan Alberry
Bolsover CLP

Tory publicity stunt

Dear Comrades

This month for perhaps the first time in history, the Tory Mayor elect of Brighton wrote a letter to the local Trades Council, inviting a representative to a civic church service for the International Year of the Disabled.

Tucked away at the end was a notice that toilet facilities for the disabled

Millions for submarines...

Comrades

Thousands of millions of pounds are to be poured into developing the Coulport submarine base on Loch Long in order to facilitate Trident. Calls for a Public Inquiry are receiving a cool response from the Tory Secretary of State George Younger. Public scrutiny of the proposals is obviously unwelcome.

For only a fraction of the proposed expenditure the 5,000 jobs at Talbot, Linwood, could have been saved.

Or if the money was directed to local authorities then tenants wouldn't be suffering from costly rent and rate increases. But the

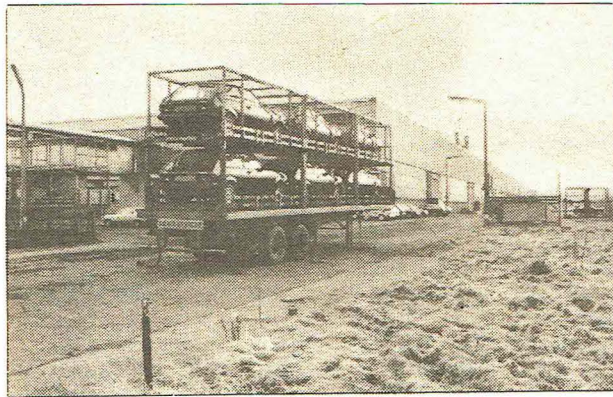
would not be available! This sums up the Tories' attitude—face saving publicity stunts in the middle of public spending cuts.

The Trades Council rightly decided not to send anyone. Like the Year of the Child in 1979, the Year of the Disabled is an act of hypocrisy dreamed up by the United Nations. The majority of the countries involved have done nothing to help the disabled in their history. Come 1st January 1982, the United Nations

will mysteriously forget the disabled.

Church services won't help the disabled—or instil a conscience in the Tories! The labour movement must take up the cause of the disabled and other disadvantaged sections of society. Only a socialist society could allow the disabled to lead normal lives—and make cynical gestures like this a thing of the past.

Fraternally
Clive Walder
Hove LPYS



...while Talbot, Linwood just sinks...

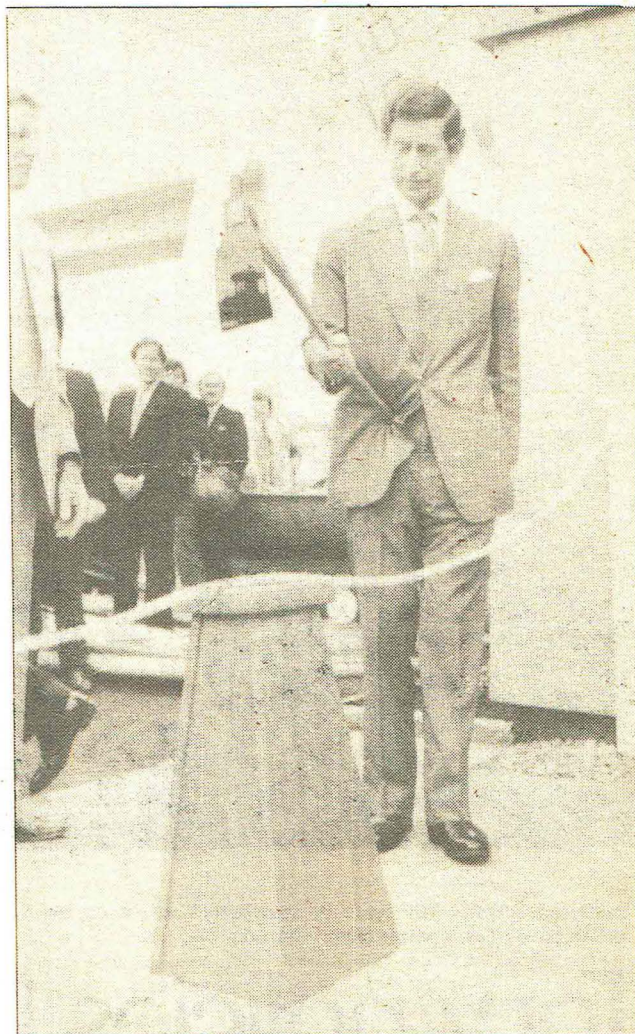
Tories prefer to build bombs.

The Tories publicised the fact that 1,500 to 2,000 jobs will be created but for workers in the West of Scotland it is a cruel jibe. It can be compared to someone having their legs and arms cut off and then being

given a sweet to take your mind off things.

The Tories are prepared to pour millions of pounds into defence but it is a defence of their own system not of working people.

Fraternally
Larry Flanagan
Rutherglen LPYS



Opportunity knocks for Prince Charles on a Royal YOPs scheme in Southampton!

The queen has a nice day....

Dear Comrades

Local Tories and their friends in the local press were over the moon about a recent visit by the Queen to the small Essex 'new town' of South Woodham Ferrers.

As usual, all was made bright and clean. No expense was too great to make sure that the poor Queen would not be expected to cast her eyes on the dirt and rubbish the rest of us see every day.

There was just a chance that she might cast her eye across the River Crouch to Hullbridge, where, over the years, the river banks had become an eyesore, but you've got to hand it to the Tories, they know how to deal with problems like this.

With unemployment in this area above the national average, the obvious solution was to send a team of YOPsters to clean the place up.

In some of the wettest weather for months, without proper facilities for shelter, food or drying clothes and with the nearest toilets a long walk away, the YOP-

sters were made to work up to their knees in mud and in constant danger of ending up in the river which, due to tides and an eight knot current is quite dangerous at this point.

Meanwhile, Southend East Tory MP Teddy Taylor was kicking up a fuss over the mock execution of royalty in the current 'Cast' production of "Sedition '81" and calling for the ending of the Arts Council grant to this theatre company. About a week before he was making favourable noises about compulsory youth service with military style discipline.

Young people, consigned to the dole queue by the crisis of capitalism, are beginning to draw the conclusion that the only way out is to replace the whole rotten system. Taylor, who is actually quite intelligent, by local Tory standards, obviously realises this, hence his remarks.

The Queen, apparently, had a nice day, which is not too difficult when no trouble is spared, nor danger avoided to make it so.

Angela Anderson
Southend West CLP

Exploitation is the key

Dear Comrades

The slump is over. The *Sunday Times* is proud to announce that the bottom of the slump has been reached and we are now on the "road to recovery."

An article "Wages still hold the key", (*Sunday Times* 24/5/81) forecasts increased profit for the bosses and increased private housing starts—up 25% in the first four months of the year.

These benefits of the bosses will not depend on increased investment or increased employment but

will depend on those of us still in work accepting wage settlements below the rate of inflation.

Therefore comrades wages do hold the key.

When the workers, the producers of wealth, rise to power and smash the capitalist system, re-distribute the wealth of this country among the workers, nationalise the banks and the top 200 monopolies and institute a national minimum wage, then, and only then can we say we have achieved the beginning of the Marxist transformation of society.

Yours fraternally
Andy Martin
Garscadden CLP

ads

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

Liverpool Trades Council say— Build on the 'People's March'! Bring down the Tories! Fight for jobs, peace and socialism!

Liverpool District Labour Party/Northern Ireland Labour and Trade Union Group meeting. "Northern Ireland—for workers' unity and socialism." Speakers: Peter Hadden (LTUG); Richard Venton (Birkenhead Labour Party) and a national Labour Party speaker. Wednesday 17 June, 7.30 pm, Central Hall, Renshaw Street, Liverpool.

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.

OUT NOW!

'A fighting programme for the NUR'

Price 25p [+ 10p postage] from **World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace London E8 3PN**

GREATER MANCHESTER LPYS Public Meeting 'Fight Racist Laws'. Speakers: Nasira Begum, Sheila Woodhead (Rochdale Women's Council). Tuesday, 9 June, 7.45pm. Manchester Town Hall.



Starry Plough Badges 20p each, or 10p each for 20 or more. p&p add 25p for the first 20 badges and 12½p for every extra 10 badges. Order from V Seal, 15 Thornbury Road, London SW2 4DL.

BIRMINGHAM MILITANT RALLY

Saturday 6 June. Doors open 12 noon
 Stalls, Crèche, 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.

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 and 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.

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.

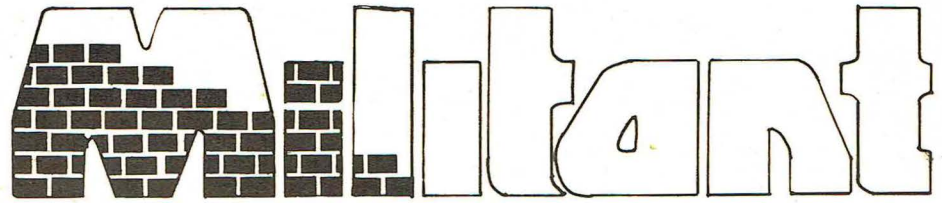
Also: Meeting on Poland—The struggle for workers' democracy.

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



Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 11 July	Target for year
Eastern	1906		3550	7100
East Midlands	1559		2750	5500
Hants & Dorset	1142		2600	5200
Humberside	700		1750	3500
London East	2193		3800	7600
London West	1457		2400	4800
London South	1388		2750	5500
Manchester & Lancs	1674		2900	5800
Merseyside	1666		3300	6600
Northern	1860		4300	8600
Scotland East	1098		2200	4400
Scotland West	1791		3750	7500
Southern	2131		3550	7100
South West	1017		1750	3500
Wales East	707		1300	2600
Wales West	940		2300	4600
West Midlands	1625		4300	8600
Yorkshire	2366		4500	9000
Others	7614		6250	12500
Total received	34834		60,000	120,000

Target for July 11th £60,000

Target for year £120,000

SHOW SOME ENTERPRISE

THIS WEEK £1260

The latest unemployment statistics show another rise in unemployment. Yet May is usually a month when the dole figures go down!

What an indictment of the failure of the so-called private 'enterprise' system when it can't even provide workers with a job!

The People's March for jobs showed the way workers throughout the country responded to a bit of 'enterprise' from the organised labour movement. But if we want to get rid of private enterprise (or private inertia) and its horrors permanently, we need to build the resources of *Militant*, the paper that fights consistently for a socialist solution to our problems.

We need you, our readers and supporters, to show some 'socialist enterprise' in getting cash for the fighting fund!

A good example of such enterprise is the West London supporter who used back copies of the *Militant* door-to-door as an introduction to the paper, and asked for donations for the copies, coming back with £5!

Another West London seller obtained over £23 from readers towards our funds, whilst £47.50 was collected at a meeting in Uxbridge. Thanks also to K Langley (£10), A Gomery (Ealing) £5, R Jones (NUPE steward), Hillingdon Parks readers (£6.23), and the comrade who made £14.64 for posters at the ASTMS conference!

It's this sort of effort made by a large number of our supporters in the West London area that's put their line in front on our chart.

By Steve Cawley

Has a *Militant* Readers Meeting been arranged in your area to discuss the current issues in the labour movement nationally and internationally? Ask your local seller! Successful meetings in Leicester (£47) and at the UCW, FBU and NSMM conferences left us £190 better off! Many thanks, brothers and sisters!

Other trade unionists to send us donations this week were the Bristol brother who sent his £50 Honorarium, Birmingham print (SOGAT and NGA) workers, £135 more in IOUs redeemed from CPSA delegates and visitors and £3.30 from Knowsley N.A.G.O Supporters Drinks Fund. This week we've also had £26 TU expenses passed on by a member of Dunfermline LPYS, and £10 from B Buchanan, a comrade in New South Wales. Other courses included £25 from a Bracknell football sweep, £16 Clive's social (Barnsley), £5 from N Smith (Hull UCW) and from D Dobson (NUR), £1 from County Councillor P Bahia (Southampton), and £1.30 from Nottingham readers M Griffith and M Sharif (Kashmir Workers Assoc.)

The summer season sometimes means that the labour movement takes things more easily. This year, however, we're asking all our readers not to ease up at all before July 11th, which is our dead-line for £60,000.

or two drinks or 20 cigarettes every week or two between now and then, we shall manage to get £60,000. A special appeal this week to those of our readers (and there's quite a few!) who have intended to make us a donation in the last couple of weeks but haven't quite got round to it?

Okay times are hard—the point is how are things going to be put right? We need your help, political as well as financial, to make sure that socialist ideas are debated in the movement, so send off your cheque or Postal Order to-day!

Finally, for comrades who

haven't thought about a holiday yet and for those who have work-mates who haven't, there's the summer holiday draw. Win a £500 holiday for only 10 pence! Again, if every reader of *MILITANT* in an area bought just ten tickets the line on our chart would shoot across!

Send in the stubs and cash raised so far as quickly as possible. In some towns £30 worth have been sold already. So if you want to increase the chances of someone local winning the first prize, you know what you can do! Show some enterprise!

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.

"I'D RATHER BE A MOLE THAN A RAT"

Summer T-shirts. Colours—white, yellow, sky blue, dark green, navy and black. All with red motif. Round neck and short sleeves.

Sizes—children's: 24, 26, 28, 28 and 30 inch chest. £2.80 each. Adults: small—32-34; medium—34-36; large—38-40; extra large (no dark green)—42-44. £3.25 each. Both costs include postage and packing. Please indicate colour, and size preferred. **ALL PROCEEDS TO THE FIGHTING FUND:**

Cheques and postal orders made out to R Harris. Send orders with payment to: R Harris, 35 Westminster Court, Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 1UR.

Industrial in brief

GMWU- Fight for jobs

Warren Bates [T&GWU branch chairman, Hyde Rd, Bus depot.] spoke to John Hunt and Leon Kaplan [Manchester LPYS].

"We managed to save 9 out of 23 threatened buses, and we're very pleased about that."

"The services involved served overspill working class estates, where people have been promised cheap transport in the past."

"But there's more cuts planned. What's the answer? We need to cut the fares. It's no use talking about monthly 'Saver Sevens' or other schemes. We need to halve the fares to bring back the passengers."

"The full time officials didn't want to know about our dispute, but we've had great support from Queens Road depot. They collected £250 for us and came out in support on the Wednesday night."

"The pressure put by the LPYS and CLP, on Ken Hickman [the new Labour Chairman of the Passenger Transport Committee] has been helpful too."

"I've got to encourage busmen to get involved in the Labour Party and sort it out so that councillors start representing our interests."

Last week's announcement by Burmah Oil that 1,000 jobs were to be axed at the Ellesmere Port plant came as a complete surprise to the town.

The redundancies will also have a knock on effect with a further 500 jobs likely to go. The Manchester Ship Canal who are already cutting their work force by 10% are likely to be particularly hard hit.

Burmah tankers use the lower section of the canal to bring in crude oil and ship out refined products. They described Burmah as a "substantial customer." An Action Committee has been set up in the plant by shop stewards to save the jobs which are due to be lost over an 18 month period beginning in December.

Stan Davis, the T&GWU District Organiser has already promised the LPYS speakers to their meetings as soon as a programme of action has been determined.

Ellesmere Port has seen more than its fair share of redundancies in the recent past. Both Vauxhall's and Bowaters have made massive redundancies along with a number of small companies closing altogether. The town has over 4,000 workers on the dole [17%]. It is vital that no more jobs are lost in the area.

Delegates and visitors to this year's GMWU Congress are urged to attend the Brighton Kempton Labour Party Rally at 2.30 pm on Sunday 7 June in the Madeira Hotel, Marine Parade. Speakers include Rod Fitch (PPC Kempton) and Bill Webster (GMWU Derry).

As delegates prepare for the 66th Congress of the General and Municipal Workers Union, the key issue on most people's minds is the fight for jobs.

During the past 12 months the union has lost almost 70,000 members; already workers at United Glass in St Helens are on official strike fighting redundancies. On Merseyside alone, over 8,000 members have been lost in this time, a thousand of them at one factory, Tate & Lyles.

Almost 280 motions have been submitted for this year's agenda. Several motions which call for unemployed persons to join the union reflect growing concern in the movement about the isolation of unemployed people away from the trade unions.

The Executive have prepared a report on 'Services for the Unemployed', arising out of motions referred back from last year's Congress. The EC are asking for all the motions concerning the unemployed to be withdrawn in favour of their report.

But the EC report only talks of opportunities for existing GMWU members, who are made redundant or become unemployed, to retain membership, a facility that already exists.

The EC report gives no opportunity for unemployed persons who are not members to join the union.

For this reason, *motion 13* from London Region should be supported, instead of the EC report.

Our union has a large membership in the public sector and therefore has a major role to play in the fight for decent wages, set against a rigidly imposed wages policy through the arbitrary setting of cash limits. *Motion 30*, again from London Region, sets out the formula for a public sector alliance which would draw together all public sector unions in a fight against the government's incomes policy.

On the question of public spending cuts *Motions 61* and *62* from Liverpool Region offer the only solution to the fight against cuts. *Motion 61* pledges full support to any Labour Council which refuses to cut jobs and services, adding that no cuts, no rate rises to offset cuts is the correct

platform for a Labour Council to adopt.

Motion 62 calls on the executive to give official backing to any members who take industrial action in order to protect services and jobs being threatened by cuts.

The executive are opposing both these motions, yet other motions which only condemn cuts but do not commit the executive to any positive action are supported. We must make the executive aware that members who are prepared to take industrial action demand official backing.

The economic debate will probably consist of the EC's special motion, similar to the alternative economic strategy adopted by the TUC, versus *motion 115*, which calls for a socialist plan of production, based on the nationalisation of the banks, insurance companies, financial institutions, and top 200 monopolies.

For a union whose members have suffered more than most at the hands of capitalism, the leadership still fail to see that the system cannot provide the things that are necessary to improve the quality of life for its members.

What use is it to pass motions calling on the next Labour government to expand services, build more houses, schools and hospitals, introduce a 35-hour week and a minimum wage, yet vote against the only motion which would provide the next Labour government with the means to do all this?

The anger felt at the defection of William Rodgers, a GMWU sponsored MP, is expressed by a number of motions calling for more involvement from the regions in choosing sponsored MPs, at the moment exclusively done by the executive.

Also the lack of consultation with the members over the formula for electing the leader of the Labour Party, has prompted a number of motions calling for consultation with the branches on all Labour Party matters. Remember it was our union which called for the special conference in order to have time to consult the members. Yet consultation did not take place with the branches, except in the Liverpool region.

The decision taken at Wembley must be upheld. There are two motions



Local authority workers protest at job losses in London August 1979.

calling for a reversal of the Wembley Conference, to be replaced, with a formula of 50% for the PLP, 25% trade unions, 25% CLPs, which are being supported by the EC.

There are also several motions on disarmament, opposing Cruise and Trident missiles.

It is quite clear that although the general secretary claims that the members through Congress make policy, the executive in fact direct the delegates on which policies to make the acceptance of blanket mot-

ions, covering all major items. It is a tactic which keeps the leadership firmly in control.

The practice of mandating delegates at pre-Congress regional delegates' meetings ensures that the conference goes the way that the EC wishes. Some regions have made a breakthrough and secured a free vote on motions from other regions. This gives delegates a chance to hear the arguments for and against and then decide.

Unfortunately the majority of regions are mandated

before the conference and vote the way the EC wish.

However, the growing mood of anger and frustration at rank and file level will increasingly force the leadership to move away from its present position.

With the coming struggles the union will be shifted towards the left as workers through bitter experience see the failures of capitalism to provide answers, and the failures of the leadership to provide a defence for members whose jobs, and living standards, are being attacked as a result of the crisis.

OLD OAK COMMON

The 150 carriage cleaners at Old Oak Common on British Rail's Western Region have been forced back to work on terms that they have been opposing throughout.

Following five weeks of lock out by an intransigent management, who imposed the rejected 'blood and sweat' amended timings for carriage cleaning operations.

The members were left isolated by the union leadership. The only effective support they received was through solidarity action called by the Joint Old Oak/Paddington local departmental committees when a 24 hour token strike was held. But whilst such a tremendous rank and file response was extremely encouraging, this was not sufficient.

Despite daily organised lobbying at NUR head office by the carriage cleaners' representatives, demanding that the union declare its position on the terms of the

By Geoff Hensby
(Sec. Paddington No 1
Branch NUR)

National Agreement that the carriage cleaners were attempting to defend, no such action was forthcoming.

The union's National Officers were hiding behind a Sectional Council Agreement (higher stage of the industry's negotiating procedure) which accepted the management's right to introduce the discredited timings: despite the fact that this very Sectional Council Agreement was in breach of the National Agreement!

The LDCs were given an instruction by the union leadership that they must return to work and operate under the 'instructions of the supervisors' whilst the disputed areas of the timings were investigated. This was merely a cosmetic tactic and cover up allowing the management to apply whatever working conditions they wished.

Whilst certain members

of the NUR Traffic Sub Committee showed support for the struggle the matter was never considered by the National Executive Committee, which was a disgrace. Lack of support at this level has subjected the carriage cleaners to an existence of misery as since their return to work many of them have been the victims of harassment and vindictiveness.

The fundamental principle in this dispute has wide implications for all groups of railway workers. Management have ridden roughshod over negotiated agreements and have imposed arbitrary productivity speed ups by increasing work loads, beyond acceptable levels with no additional staff or payments.

Nevertheless the fight has in no way been in vain. A new phase of industrial strength has been established amongst all railway workers in the Old Oak Common/Paddington area by new links being forged between the different grades. This unity in action can and must be built upon in the future.

WITTON JAMES

The strike at Witton James [see recent issues] has drawn to a close and a return to work was instituted on Tuesday 26 May.

After 15 weeks of bitter struggle with GEC, the parent company, a result was achieved to the satisfaction of the 17 lads involved.

Reflecting over the past 15 weeks certain things

stand out. The first is the tremendous comradeship that does in fact exist between the union members when put to the test.

Secondly that a justifiable doubt exists about the attitude that the executive of the EETPU has towards its own members, and thirdly that even a giant like GEC can be taken on by a few, with a satisfactory result, providing the cause is a just one.

Our deepest thanks are extended to everyone who supported us through this

difficult time, and our thanks to this newspaper which has reported accurately the developments and problems of this dispute.

By Witton James
EETPU Committee

Reports

UNITED GLASS - Every job must stay

When the struggle at United Glass broke out six weeks ago, the 600 workers taking action promised to give a serious lead in the struggle against redundancies and unemployment in the St Helens area.

This was particularly important in view of the job losses at Pilkingtons, the world glass empire, and the accelerating rate of unemployment reached locally.

A 24-hour picket is being maintained and strikers have put their case to many trade union branches. Traditionally the need for flying pickets which was correctly regarded as a measure to strengthen the action, has been a priority for the strike committee.

Over the past three days the strike has been escalated with the withdrawal of the GMWU members providing safety cover for furnaces. This will hit AUEW members who are scandalously still crossing the picket line. The audacious and bold approach to the action throughout the six weeks

By Steve Higham
(Bootle LPYS)

has paid off. This is why morale is still high.

However, the degree to which the strike has been extended is still very far from sufficient. The GMWU national leadership have isolated the St Helens strikers. This must cease immediately! The need for a national strike embracing all United Glass workers is a vital necessity if these vicious bosses are to be beaten.

This step would mean GMWU and other trade union branches immediately linking up to pressurise the national G&M leadership in support of calling an official national strike.

All trade union activists in the glass industry, partic-



Glass workers from St Helens protest at unemployment, 29 November. They are ready to fight for all jobs

ularly G&M members are urged to table resolutions to the necessary bodies calling for an escalation of the strike.

Every job must stay! If United Glass claim they are 'broke', let us demand they open their books, to the

inspection of the glass industry trade unions, and let us find out how they have squandered the wealth the workers produced.

Messages of support to Alan Adlison, 106 Marshall's Cross Road, St. Helens, Merseyside.

Photo: MILITANT

UCATT

A blatant case of victimisation has taken place at 'International Houses' a Taylor Woodrow building site near Tower Hill, London.

'Militant' supporter Jim McGuinness, a shop steward for the builders union UCATT, has been dismissed from the site by his employers, Carter Tiling. His workmates walked off the site when they found out, and they are now on strike for Jim's reinstatement.

Jim helped organise UCATT on the site, and after a dispute lasting for several weeks the workers won better conditions. Since then, the management knives were out for Jim.

Recently, a registered letter was delivered to his home from management, giving him a 'final warning' over 'bad time keeping'. Jim said, "This was complete fabrication. I've worked here 11 months, and I've always kept good time. The only time off I can think of is two days sick leave, which was what management pointed to in its letter. We

must presume it is a crime to be off sick."

Added to this Jim came in for some harassment from the charge-hand at the site. This came to a head last Friday.

Jim alleges the chargehand, after returning from a farewell drink for a worker who was retiring, acted in an aggressive manner towards him, and at one point lifted a shovel threateningly. Jim moved to defend himself, but no blows were struck.

But as far as management were concerned, Jim had attacked the chargehand and without any consultation, he was giving notice of instant dismissal on Monday.

Given the past history of these employers, workers will know which side of the story to believe. As we go to press, UCATT full time officials are on the site discussing the situation. This is a clear case of victimisation—this strike must be won, with full support from all building workers.

CIVIL SERVICE

The decision of the leaderships of the civil service unions to get into negotiations at any cost was greeted with disbelief and anger by members in Scotland.

On Wednesday (the day after the announcement) the four Scottish local strike centres met in Glasgow. It was decided that a telegram should be immediately sent, condemning the dropping of the pre-condition to negotiations.

A letter was also sent setting out in greater detail the opposition to what was proposed by the Council of Civil Servants Unions' negotiators, and included the following points.

A major escalation of the dispute had been expected. The programme involving just a few more selective strikes was 'clearly insufficient' and the two weeks

By Bill Boyle
(CPSA)

deferment of a major escalation could 'only be seen as a sign of weakness.'

The failure even to outline a programme of action after June 8 made the deadline seem like so much 'posturing.'

The dropping of pre-conditions was rejected as were reports that squeezing 1% from the 6% cash limit was all we were after; "Our claim stands and must be an integral part of any negotiations with the government."

The negotiators were obviously not aware of membership feeling—"an urgent meeting (before 8 June) with representation from local strike committees was called for.

Negotiations 'at any cost' were rejected. A bold lead was necessary if a mood of

pessimism in the membership was to be avoided.

The views of the Scottish strike committee were subsequently confirmed by several membership meetings in Glasgow. Typical comments from strikers at the Clyde submarine base and Customs and Excise were "it's time we stopped

messing about" and "they had better not come back with the same garbage as in 1979."

It's now clearly of paramount importance to communicate membership reaction to the leadership. The council and individual union HQs should be bombarded with telegrams and letters giving support to the 15%/£10 pay claim and to the major escalation of action which can no longer be avoided.

LEICESTER CCSU

The Leicester Council of Civil Service Unions' committee unanimously reaffirmed its determination to win the justified claim of 15% increase with £10 underpinning minimum.

The committee issued a statement to the national CCSU and to members locally stating the belief that the claim can be won through planned escalation, as debated and agreed at all union conferences.

The committee demanded

that our leadership re-affirm their commitment to the full claim publicly and especially to members.

Such escalation should include action in ports, airports, immigration service and passport offices.

If this strategy fails to move the government in our favour, then we should prepare amongst members for longer term industrial action involving all civil servants.

By Brian Debus

ANSELLS

Ansell's divide and rule ploy failed last week, even though the lads are broke after their five month fight for jobs.

Management wrote to 750 of the workforce offering them jobs, which excluded 250 of them from the prospect of a job. Then management offered 300 a job, trying to create a three-way split.

In one instance, two brothers, one a deck-hand, one a driver, applied and

the deck-hand was offered the driver's job and the driver nothing!

Management however, have been pushed back by the decision of the 5/377 branch to fight for more jobs and better conditions. At the meeting on Saturday, the 600 in attendance voted overwhelmingly for the NEC of the T&GWU to intervene, and negotiate a more favourable outcome to the dispute, and the depots will be picketed to ensure that

no one does return to work in the meantime.

The workers from Ansell's have shown an enormous capacity to fight which has only been exceeded by two of the regional officials intent to stab the dispute in the back.

Resolutions have already been passed, calling for Mathers, the regional secretary, to resign and an enquiry into the handling of the dispute.

On Tuesday 2 June, only

31 union members went through their own picket lines, due to management intimidation and the failure of the union leadership to give positive guidance to the dispute. The vast majority of the 300 offered work by management have honoured the picket line.

Management have encouraged workers to cross the lines, to form their own union or to join a clerical branch.

NALGO CONFERENCE

Redundancies, cut-backs, and a wage freeze set the scene for this year's conference of NALGO, the local government union.

Undoubtedly, many NALGO members and certainly conference delegates, have the opportunity this year in taking a decisive step in the direction of affiliation to the Labour Party. This crucial issue will clearly focus as the major conference debate.

The executive and their policy statement 'NALGO into the 80s' have stated that no useful purpose would be served by affiliating at this time. And yet in that statement, reference is made to clause 4 part 4 of the Labour Party constitution which offers the basis of a way forward both politically and economically for the union and its membership!

The growing support for a ballot on the issue has indicated with four district councils of the union supporting an amendment to that effect.

If this ballot attempt is lost then there is no question of the campaign losing momentum, as NALGO's protracted debate about affiliating to the TUC indicates.

The more specific tactics for the fightback are clearly set out in a resolution from Suffolk branch. Generalised opposition is all very well, but as the Suffolk resolution indicates, a clear lead with concrete proposals is vital for any campaign.

The question of stepping outside the law is taken up in a resolution from Scottish District Council. Congratulating local authorities in resisting cuts, the resolution instructs the executive to give full and official support to members taking indus-



trial action.

The NEC after a decisive defeat last year have proposed to conference a greatly improved approach to industrial action. Despite criticisms taken out by some branches, the changes do represent a significant improvement on picketing and also on how to get advice and instructions to the membership involved in disputes.

The important element contained in this report is the acceptance by the executive that national action at times is vital.

Organising the unemployed will quite correctly take up a significant amount of conference time.

The executive, however, want to bring proposals for this issue to the 1982 conference, under several rule changes. Yet the urgent need to take up this issue now is stressed by branches such as West Glamorgan, Liverpool and Norfolk. These offer excellent suggestions for organising, both locally and nationally, unemployed sections of NALGO, and an unemployed workers' section in the T&G.

By Jim Cameron
(Strathclyde NALGO)

NO DEPORTATIONS

NO TO RACIST LAWS

Once again, the Manchester area is seeing a mobilisation against the effects of the racist immigration laws.

This Saturday the labour movement, along with black and Asian organisations are demonstrating to stop the deportation of Nasira Begum and other Asian women.

Nasira has been fighting a deportation order for over two years. She came to Britain in 1976 from Pakistan and married a British citizen.

Her husband applied to the Home Office for permission for her to have permanent residence, but three months after the marriage Nasira's husband deserted her. Meanwhile, it was to take two years for the Home Office to answer Nasira's application, and when they did, they refused it and began deportation

By Javed Iqbal
(Moss Side LPYS)

proceedings.

The 'charges' were: that Nasira and her husband had contracted the marriage for 'convenience'; that her husband did not intend to live with her; and that the marriage was in any case invalid because her husband was already married.

The police stated that there was insufficient evidence to charge her husband with bigamy, but however flimsy the Home Office were prepared to try and deport Nasira with it. Nasira had been totally unaware of any former marriage, but this was held

to be irrelevant.

At the Immigration Appeals 'court' in June 1980 Nasira was able to clearly show that she had not married for 'convenience' and that her husband was free to marry her, although he had, without Nasira knowing it at the time of her own marriage, been married and divorced from a woman in Pakistan.

The Adjudicator, appointed by the Home Office, accepted Nasira's right to remain in this country and it appeared that she had finally won her case.

The Home Office did not give up, however, and have appealed to a higher Tribunal. The hearing will be in London at Thanet House, The Strand, on 15 June 1981, at 2 pm.

Even before the notorious Nationality Bill becomes law, immigration legislation carries dangers for all trade unionists and all workers.

Assemble Saturday 6 June, 12.30 pm, corner of Princess Road and Moss Side East, Moss Side, Manchester.

Photo: MILITANT



A previous demonstration in Manchester on 14 February against the Nationality Bill. The labour movement must back up the fight of immigrant workers

TORIES OUT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

mous anger of working people at Thatcher's government, of the burning discontent that is building up in all areas of the country, and of the demand for a real alternative from the labour movement.

It is time for the mass organisations of the labour movement to take determined action, mobilising the full strength of the working class to topple the Tories.

The trade union leaders, through the Trade Union Congress and in conjunction with the Labour Party, must

now prepare the ground for a massive 24-hour general strike against the Tories.

This would crystalize the anger of workers, and draw millions and millions into action to strike a devastating blow against this big-business government.

This summer nearly a million school-leavers will leave school. At the moment, the Careers Service has a total of 6,700 vacancies for young people—a 70% drop from the 23,700 available last May.

Less than half of the young people leaving school at the end of this term will get a job. By 1982 the Manpower Services Commission estimates that only one in three will work.

In other words, despite the Youth Opportunities Programme (YOPs), which this year will take about half a million school-leavers off the official dole figures for a few months, there will soon be a million unemployed young people in Britain.

What could make it

clearer? There is no future for the working class under the rotten system being propped up by vicious Tory policies.

The TUC general council is now planning a mass lobby of Parliament by young unemployed, probably for the late summer. This must be given active support in every area of the country, to demonstrate the anger of young people with a massive turn-out.

But the youth will want to know where the marches and lobbies are leading. It would be misleading to tell young people that marches and lobbies will in themselves produce jobs or topple the Tories.

Marches and lobbies will only be effective if they boldly hammer home the need for a fundamental, socialist change of society, and if they are used to prepare the way for mass action by the labour and trade union movement to kick the Tories out and return a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

The campaign must offer a clear alternative: it must

have bold socialist aims.

The General Secretary of the Scottish TUC, Jimmy Milne, received loud applause at Trafalgar Square when he called for the return of a Labour government, "but not one of the kind we have had in the past, not one dedicated to running capitalism."

The next Labour government must set out to transform the whole rotten system through the nationalisation, under workers' control and management of the big monopolies, banks and finance houses. Compensation should be paid only on the basis of proven need.

Such a policy—and no other—would allow the rapid implementation of the reforms urgently needed by workers hit by the present crisis.

It would mean a job for every worker, a 35-hour week, a minimum wage of at least £80 per week, the reversal of the Tory spending cuts, and a programme of useful public works to provide the houses, hospitals, schools and other vital facilities we need.

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