

Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

ISSUE 559
3 July 1981

20p

'Sweep the Tories out'

Hear Peter Taaffe (Editor of *Militant*) on Thursday 16 July, 7.30pm, Students Union, Cardiff University

CONSETT YOPS WORKERS STRIKE

YOUTH STRIKES BACK!

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The Youth Opportunities Programme is a rip-off! One YOPs poster aimed at the bosses in Birmingham showing an attractive young girl, just about sums it up: "Do you want Jane to work in your office for nothing?" it says.

For the bosses YOPs courses mean free labour, at the taxpayers' expense. For the unemployed youth it means cheap labour, working 40 hours a week for next to nothing—£23.50!

But the fight-back has begun. YOPs workers held a strike at a works experience scheme at Annfield Plain, near to Consett.

Within hours, the 200 young workers organised representatives to visit other schemes to call for

solidarity action and were in touch with the local and national press and TV.

Steve Stonehouse gave the background to the dispute: "Until recently we were transported to work free of charge. On Wednesday morning we were told that we had to

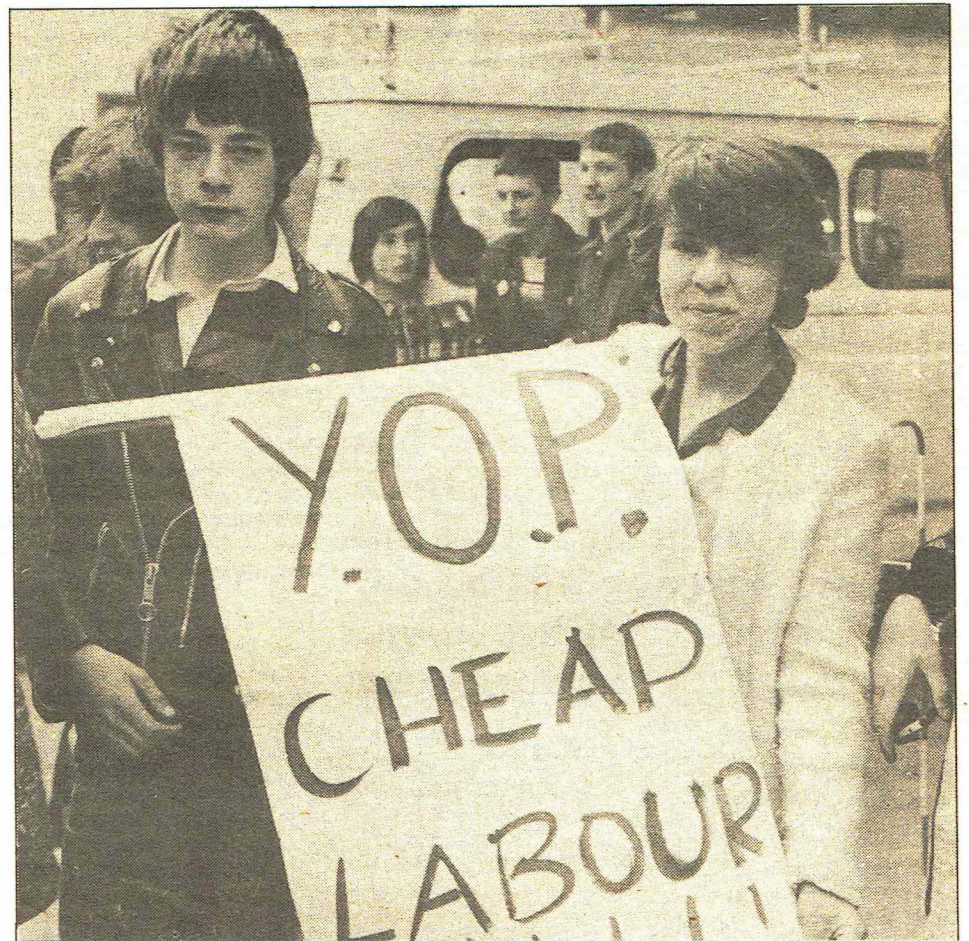
make our own way. The lads were reckoning it up how much they were going to have to pay. There's one lad who was going to have to pay £14 per week!"

Steve explained, "If I had to pay the £4 for transport after I paid my board, which is £12, and after I'd put some money away for clothes, I'd only be left with £3 for the week. I don't smoke, but I like to go out for a drink. On three pounds you can't manage—it's nowt really. You are 50p better off on the dole!"

"The dole went up three times since 1978, the youth opportunities hasn't gone up once!"

"Someone said why don't we go on strike. So we phoned the union up and some of the lads went round other schemes to see if they would back us up. Some of the lads said, 'Let's set up picket lines', to stop other trainees coming in and taking our places."

"There were only 40



YOPS strikers in Consett 26 June

Photo: D. Doran

Cardiff shouts Tories OUT

It looks like being the biggest post-war demonstration in South Wales.

This Saturday, Cardiff will see tens of thousands protesting against unemployment and the Tories.

There's no doubt what people here think of this Tory government.

By Dave Bartlett

For weeks *Militant* supporters, and Labour Party Young Socialist members all over South Wales have taken a lead in building support for this demonstration. The response has been overwhelming. Just mention the name

Thatcher and some faces turn purple with rage!

For example, an elderly bloke in Newport who said this was the worst government he had ever known. He refused to join the Labour Party. He thought it too right wing. Yet it was only a couple of years ago that he resigned as a Tory councillor!

The same day another bloke told us our anti-Thatcher placards were insulting: "When I say in-

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WE STAND FOR

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

CONTINUED ON
BACK PAGE

Militant

Sid Weighell's latest attack on Militant

Sid Weighell, General Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, has launched a disgraceful attack upon the 'Militant' through his annual report to the annual conference of his union.

The general tone of the report was taken up by last Monday's 'Daily Express' in the most blatant scare-mongering fashion.

Millions of copies of this paper will have gone around the country with the banner headline "Railroad the Reds" and "Weighell warns of fighting in the streets".

The paper quoted the report as warning of "physical confrontation in the streets" if the supporters of 'Militant' were a majority in the Labour Party. Weighell went on, "I want an enquiry into whether they are financed separately and if they have a separate organisation—and if all this is established then they ought not to be in the party".

The purpose of Weighell's attack is quite clear as the 'Express' reports: he is "launching a campaign to drive the communists from Labour's ranks."

The insinuations about finance and organisation have been made before and have been answered adequately. Every single penny that 'Militant' gets is from ordinary Labour Party and trade union members and there is not one single shred of evidence to the contrary.

But on the other hand there is ample evidence that the right wing of the labour movement, including right wing trade union leaders, have had associations with groupings financed by the CIA and NATO, bodies which in other words are wholly opposed to the interests of the Labour Party and the working class in general.

There is the example of the 'Labour Committee for TransAtlantic Understanding' whose sponsors included, Bill Rodgers, David Owen and...Sid Weighell. This group campaigned within the labour movement against the Labour NEC and party conference decisions and it is a matter of public record that it was financed to the tune of tens of thousands of pounds by NATO.

As far as Weighell's other accusations are concerned, they are a poor attempt to avoid any serious debate with the ideas of 'Militant'

Militant Pamphlet

OUT NOW!

'A fighting programme for the NUR'

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

by their deliberate distortion. Weighell said that "the extreme Left", implying 'Militant', "latched onto violence" and "exploited" situations like Brixton.

Marxists have always taken the view that the violence in our society is not the creation of the labour movement, as the gutter press always tries to imply, but a product of the conflicts and contradictions of the capitalist system itself. The capitalist system is responsible for the unemployment, the poor wages, the bad housing and so on in the Brixton area, not Labour Party members.

And as a matter of fact it is the duty of the Labour Party to "latch onto" situations like Brixton precisely in order to point workers in the direction of solutions; to bring workers around from aimless and frustrating violence to an organised struggle for socialism through the labour movement.

The old bogey of violence is always used to try to discredit those who seek a fundamental change in society: the same hysterical accusations were levelled against the founders of the Labour Party by the gutter media then. But despite these red scares, the support for real socialist ideas will gain more and more ground inside the Labour Party.

Marxist ideas—in essence the ideas of Clause 4 part 4 of the party constitution—are gaining support because they are rooted in the actual experiences of the workers

themselves, struggling to exist in the teeth of a growing capitalist crisis.

One of the declared objects of the National Union of Railwaymen is "to work for the supersession of the capitalist system by a socialist order of society." NUR members will be no doubt amazed at the way Sid Weighell is attacking those who are fighting for that very object themselves.

Railwaymen will want to know why their General Secretary supported the traitors in the Party right up to the time they stabbed the movement in the back and formed the SDP and why now he is spending so much of his time attacking those in the Party who are seeking to build and strengthen it.

Labour Party members will also be interested to learn that the author of the hysterical article on the front page of the 'Express', Peter Hitchens, is himself a former member of the International Socialists [now the Socialist Workers Party] and is now an active member of the Solidarity Group of the Labour Party. It is a further indication of the way this new right wing group is prepared to use the rabid anti-Labour press to attack the socialists in the Party.

Marxists are no more in favour of violence than they are in favour of the Bubonic Plague. But as George Brown once remarked, "No ruling class ever leaves the scene of history without putting up a fight."

In the struggle for socialism it will not be the labour movement but the extreme right wing who will be prepared to use violence to protect their privileges and interests even against the wishes of the majority of the population. But if the enormous power of the working class was mobilised properly and effectively led, then even the extreme right wing would pose very little threat to the socialist movement.

A peaceful transformation of society would be possible on this basis. It would then only be the prevarication and vacillation of leaders like Weighell who would actually increase the possibility of violence by introducing splits, confusion and weakness into the ranks of the labour movement.

It is the case that the threat of violence comes from the right, but that threat is magnified by labour leaders who hobnob with NATO propagandists and who spend much of their time attacking members of the labour movement itself.

WARRINGTON BY-ELECTION WORKERS WILL DUMP JENKINS... AND OTHER TORIES

By Richard Venton

The working class of Warrington are giving short shrift to the Tories and their blood-brothers in the SDP. One rumour is that the Tory candidate—a token Tory bus driver who is keen on hanging—has not been seen because no bus driver will pick him up. Thatcher is very reluctant to appear in the town—she knows the reception she would get from the local working class, the women especially.

We've suffered 8,737 unemployed including 1,100 youth, bad housing and rocketing prices. Roy Jenkins is trying to pose as a true representative of the working class. The SDP are peddling the myth that they represent the true traditions of the "old Labour Party."

What can Jenkins have in common with shift workers at the local brewery?

How could working class housewives vote for a part-time merchant banker when we see the banks profiteering at the expense of rents, rates and mortgage rises?

Jenkins doesn't seem very comfortable amongst working people. In the local market he asked a shopper if she lived in Warrington and when she replied 'Yes' all he could find to say to her was 'Good, very good.'

The SDP must be remembered for the traitors they are. They are a party of businessmen backed by businessmen. When they claim to represent the "Old Labour Party" this is a complete distortion. They have nothing in common

with the working class socialist principles on which the Labour Party was built. They stand for the old and bankrupt policies of the so-called mixed economy.

The socialist principles of the Labour Party summed up in Clause IV, Part IV which calls for public ownership of industry are the basis on which to end the nightmare of mass unemployment, slums and inflation. The decisive defeat for the Tories and SDP in Warrington should be the launching pad to organise a one-day general strike, force a general election and bring to power a socialist Labour government.

Workers and youth in Warrington have that opportunity. They should join the Labour Party and the Labour Party Young Socialists for a socialist Britain.

Canvassers to contact Central Headquarters, 54 Orford Lane, Warrington. Phone 33459.

All YSs in the northern area should support the mass canvass on 11 July.

MILITANT RALLY

July 18th

Anyone from the newest reader to the oldest Labour Party member will find things to interest, amuse and entertain them at the 'Militant' London Rally on 18 July. In addition to the films and musical entertainment, outlined in last week's paper, there will be a number of exhibitions and stalls.

There will be photographic and visual displays on: Brixton, the history of the 'Militant' paper, the history of the Newcastle Unemployed Workers Union, the Youth Opportunity Programme, a history of the LPYS, and a slide-show with commentary on the history of the labour movement.

There will be stalls from trade unions, the London branch of the Sri Lanka NSSP party, the 'Militant' Irish Monthly and a children's bookstall. Fresh from their success in the East End, Barking and Dagenham LPYS will be performing their "trial of Thatcher".

In addition there will be an 'Any Questions' political session. The highlight of the day will undoubtedly be the main political meeting.

Something for Everyone

AT FRIENDS HOUSE, EUSTON RD., LONDON

WHAT'S ON-

The event will include—a big meeting, films, folk, food and theatre, bookstalls, badges, banners, cartoons, exhibitions, discussions, seminars on major questions, multitudes of side stalls including literature and posters; creche facilities are available, all day snacks too.



ENTRANCE £1.00 (includes refreshments)
START ORGANISING IN YOUR AREA NOW!
TRAINS, COACHES...

AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED

Which in addition to Peter Taaffe and Ted Grant from the 'Militant' Editorial Board, will also be addressed by Joe Marino, General Secretary of the Baker's Union and Rod Fitch, Labour's prospective Parliamentary candidate for Brighton Kempdown.

There will be a creche provided all day. So come along and bring the family.

For anyone unwaged entrance admission is only 30p, others £1.

Buy your tickets from your local 'Militant' seller or write, enclosing cash and whether you will be wanting to use the creche, to:

Rally Organiser, Militant, 1 Mentmore terrace, London E8 3PN.

SUPPORT LONDON TRANSPORT WORKERS

The refusal of the new Labour Greater London Council to support London Transport Underground workers' pay claim has been seen by many LT workers as a slap in the face.

The majority of the Labour Group, while formally rejecting the government's 6% wage guidelines, are refusing to support the Underground workers' unions' claim for an increase in line with the cost of living, thereby asking them to accept a cut in living standards.

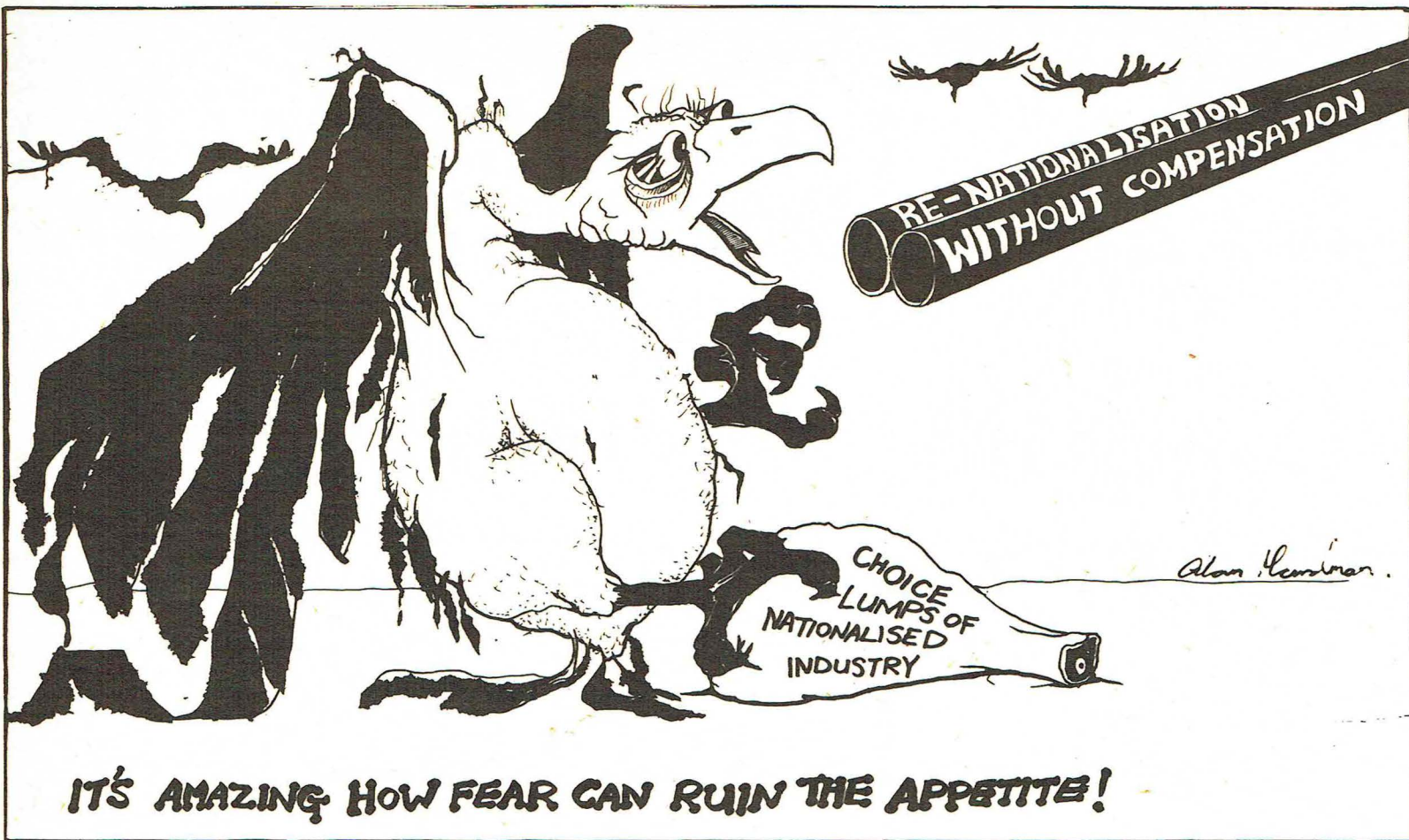
The last offer made by LT, and said to be final, was for an increase of 8½%, if tied to guarantees by the unions not to pursue the issue of a shorter working week or additional annual leave during the next two years.

This position of the GLC Labour leadership has not only led it, within weeks of being elected, into a battle with a section of the trade unions, but it has also allowed Sid Weighell, the right-wing leader of the NUR, to opportunistically use this dispute to further his witch-hunting attacks against the left in the Labour Party.

But the fact that Weighell is a right winger is no justification whatsoever for opposing the Underground workers' claim. Some GLC councillors are using Weighell's attacks on the new radical GLC leadership as a way of avoiding the issue of what should be the GLC's policy to its direct and indirect employees.

At the very least the Labour GLC must ensure that none of them should suffer a cut in their living standards. This would be an issue on which it would be possible to get wide support.

The entire Greater London labour and trade union movement must put pressure on the GLC to ensure that it gives a living wage to all its workers.



IT'S AMAZING HOW FEAR CAN RUIN THE APPETITE!

Young Blacks Boycott Scarman

Despite press claims to the contrary, the Scarman enquiry set up by the Tories into the upheavals of mid-April, has no real support in Brixton. Only a few state-funded local groups are represented, as well as the Borough Council.

"I wonder when I will see a black teenager in the witness box giving evidence," mused Lord Scarman during the enquiry.

By Kevin Fernandes
(London LPYS
Committee)

The black youth, most black organisations, and the local labour movement, have no confidence in Scarman despite his attempts to appear "liberal" and "impartial".

"Aggressive policing brings its own dangers," said Scarman as he questioned the police's readiness to use dogs and bring out riot shields during the Brixton events. Perhaps local "home-beat" officers should have been brought in to calm things down?

This is the message Scarman and some of the community groups have been pushing. However, this line of argument ignores the years of police harassment meted out to the youth and especially to blacks. It ignores the conscious policy of the police and the courts to intimidate and isolate the most oppressed and potentially militant sections of the working class—to prevent them fighting back against the system.

This policy of intimidation is what lies behind the facts of 'Swamp '81'. In the

weeks before 10 April, 110 plain-clothes police were drafted into Brixton. They stopped and questioned over 1,000 people (60% of whom were under the age of 21).

No doubt Scarman in his findings, will make minor criticisms of police tactics—since the more far-sighted spokesmen of the ruling class fear new explosions and upheavals in major cities in Britain.

They would like the local "bobby on the beat" using low-key, diplomatic methods to be the first line of control—with shock troops, like the SPG, held in reserve to use as a last resort.

Scarman and the press lament the fact that no black youth have appeared to give evidence. Scarman now intends to visit youth clubs to hear what young blacks have to say.

Perhaps the learned Lord has forgotten that while young people are not appearing before his tribunal, many (around 300 or so) are appearing in long-drawn-out cases in various local magistrates' courts.

The Labour Committee for the Defence of Brixton is continuing its own work—meeting with Brix-

ton defendants, seeking to assist them legally, and building up the defendants' hardship fund.

However much Scarman enquires into the social conditions in Brixton, the Tories and their big-business backers have no intentions of ending police harassment or improving the living standards of workers and youth in Brixton and other inner-city areas.

The Labour Committee for the Defence of Brixton has been attempting to build an alternative People's Enquiry made up of the labour movement, black organisations and defendants and "front line" youth.

Such an enquiry is still badly needed though the two key bodies, Lambeth Trades Council and Norwood Labour Party, have so far failed to respond to the LCDB's initiative and have taken no action of their own.

An enquiry based on the labour movement would provide a real alternative to Scarman to which the black organisations and front line youth would respond. And it could be a launching pad for a mass campaign to fight against appalling conditions imposed on the working people of Brixton.



Brixton, weekend 10-12 April.

Photo: Militant

Community policing no answer!

There are some people [in the Home Office, the judiciary, and even in some corners of the police hierarchy] who would like to see more reliance on "community policing".

Lord Scarman clearly inclines to this point of view.

Couldn't the police use a bit of "persuasion, diplomacy, the direct approach?" he asked a senior officer at the inquiry [23 June].

Couldn't a disturbance be quelled by "attempting persuasion, and, if that fails, resorting to force?" he remonstrated.

But most policemen, especially Brixton policemen, don't think much of "community policing". A number of top-ranking police offi-

cers have made this clear enough.

It's not that they don't go through the motions. Railton Road, the Brixton "Front Line", does have a "home-beat officer", constable John Brown. He's the one who is supposed to keep in touch with the people, use a bit of diplomacy, "the direct approach".

But where was he on 10 April, when Railton Road exploded? Why didn't Inspector Scotchford, the officer who organised the police during the conflict of 10-12 April, call in John Brown, Lord Scarman asked.

"I never thought about it," replied the inspector.

It was this candid answer which prompted Lord Scarman's comments about the need for more diplomacy.

Later, Scarman intervened when one of the Legal

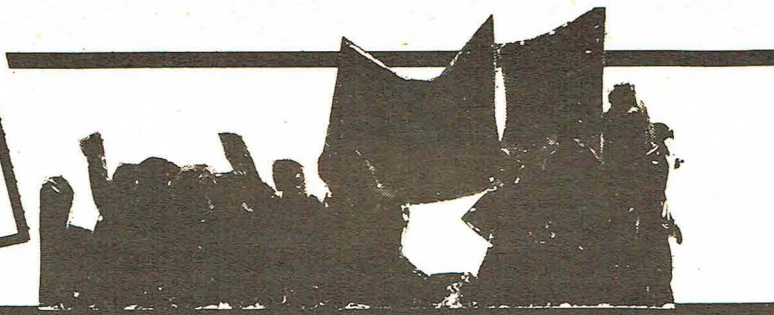
Defence Committee lawyers questioned Inspector Scotchford about the use of dogs. The inspector agreed that the object was to persuade people to move away by fear and that this method could increase tension.

Didn't the police appreciate, asked Lord Scarman, "that some people react with fear and hostility towards dogs?"

But there were only two dogs there, replied the Inspector. They were on a short lead—and were not called in deliberately. Clearly, the Inspector couldn't see what Lord Scarman was complaining about.

No, everything in Brixton was quite "normal" on the 9 April. Dogs, like other "aggressive policing methods", are used as a matter of course in Brixton.

WORKERS IN ACTION



LPYS CURES THE ROYAL TORY BLUES

Whilst the bosses' media has been spending vast sums to get us all interested in watching two unemployed kids get married in July, the LPYS has been active in a different way—fighting against unemployment and all the ills it produces.

Throughout the country it has been involved in rallies, leafletting and arranging pop concerts, and even debating with young Tories.

Speaking in Liverpool, to two hundred Merseyside youth, who had marched the seventeen miles from Kirkby, Mick Hogan said that 1981 would probably be remembered for two events: the 'People's March' and the Royal Wedding. He contrasted the different conditions of the people involved in both events. On the one hand Prince Charles with his millions of pounds and array of houses and the other a young couple, facing unemployment and a massive queue for a council house.

In the whole of the Merseyside area, Mick said, there were only nine new jobs available for youth. On the way to Liverpool the marchers had passed through Norris Green, which had the worst youth unemployment in Western Europe.

If anyone needed convincing about the Tories, all you had to do was attend Wednesday's debate between the London LPYS and the Young Conservatives. Over 300 people packed into a Committee Room at the House of Commons to hear Ann Beales (Chairman of the London LPYS) and Phil Petely (Vice-Chairman of the Young Conservatives) debate on "Which way forward for society—socialism or private enterprise".

All the Tories could offer was "concern" for the unemployed, in accents that made Prince Charles sound poor. But the Tories did get worked up about one subject though—they were worried about the Labour Party. They accused the Marxists of "ruining it" but these attacks only provoked a great cheer from LPYS members who waved copies of 'Militant' in the air.

The Tories are right to fear growing unrest and



Photo: Militant

One of our would-be leaders, a 'young' Tory speaking in the debate at the House of Commons last week (report below).

Reports by: M. Douglas, L. Harrison (Wavertree LPYS), S. Kohn (LPYS National Committee), N. Handel (Ardwick LPYS), M. Hill (Sheffield Park LPYS) and N. Shaw (W. Midlands LPYS Committee).

radicalisation of youth. On the day of the debate, figures showed a 100% rise in the number of unemployed school leavers.

The Tories answer was 'democracy and freedom'. LPYS members pointed out that Tories believed in a limited freedom.

Who has the freedom to decide whether to go to a public or a state school, to get private health care, or to go on the NHS, to live in a cottage in Chelsea or a home in the country—only the rich have that freedom. What freedom does this year's school leaver have when he can't find a job and has no money to spend.

The Young Conservatives raised the question of Russia and Poland which the LPYS picked up and threw back at them. "There is no democracy in Russia or in Poland". The LPYS agreed and stated that was why it supported the magnificent struggle of the Polish workers for democratic rights.

But why was this Tory, "freedom-loving" government, giving full support to the Polish bureaucracy with huge financial hand-outs? As LPYS members pointed

out, the Tories were worried about the struggles of workers spreading across the national boundaries.

At the end the 'Internationale' echoed through the Houses of Parliament while Thatcher was in the debating chamber speaking on unemployment.

But this was not the last sight of Tories in action that night. As some LPYS members left they argued with a few more Tory supporters dressed in their tuxedo jackets.

Their replies weren't coherent however, due to an excess of drink at the House of Commons bar. One stumbled when reaching for the door of his Jaguar and fell into the gutter—just where the Tories and the ideas belong!

UB40

There was entertainment of a different kind in Ardwick, Manchester when the band UB40 played at the Apollo. The local LPYS distributed 900 leaflets at the concert of the reggae band, whose name comes from the card unemployed

people receive when they sign on the dole.

Entitled 'Give the Tories UB40s, not the youth' the leaflets explained the LPYS programme and socialist alternative and were extremely well received.

Skinheads

In Sheffield the LPYS took up another aspect, amplified by growing unemployment—police harassment. Sheffield LPYS teamed up with 400 skinheads to march into the city centre on 20 June.

The skinheads distributed leaflets that stated "we accept that the police have a job to do, we are not claiming that the police are violent with us, but the situation has reached a stage where it can only get worse. More and more of us have little or no money, nowhere to go and nothing to do."

The skinheads had sent a representative to the District Labour Party and at the rally on the Saturday speakers from the local Bow Social Centre got the best reception when they talked about problems facing

DON'T MISS 'THE EVENT OF THE YEAR'

This year's Labour Party Young Socialists Summer Camp will not only have over 600 young workers and working class youth from all over Britain, but will also be an international camp!

Among the speakers will be a Jamaican young socialist, John Throne, editor of the 'Militant Irish Monthly' as well as Peter Taaffe and Brian Ingham from the 'Militant' Editorial Board.

20 comrades will be coming from the Austrian Socialist Youth after the recent International mass meeting of socialist youth in Vienna. More than 50 comrades will be coming

over from Ireland, North and South.

In addition comrades will have the opportunity to meet, discuss, and exchange ideas with comrades from Sweden, Belgium and Germany.

Don't be left out of the best political event, and the best holiday of the year! Book now! All you need is a tent. Everything else [including a properly organised creche] is provided!

By Kevin Ramage

LPYS SUMMER CAMP AUGUST 1st-8th

Bracelands Campsite, Coleford, Gloucs.
£15 self catering, £40 meals provided.
Send £5 deposit to A. Bevan, LPYS, 150
Walworth Road, London SE17

STOP RACIST ATTACKS IN CHAPELTOWN

Right in the heart of Keith Joseph's Leeds constituency lies Chapeltown. It's an area of run down housing and high unemployment.

Many of those who live there are black. One of those living in a Council house in Chapeltown is John Richards, nineteen years old, black and unemployed. One night recently whilst John was walking into town with two friends to visit a night club they were attacked by a dozen fascists and viciously kicked whilst on the ground. Only the intervention of a couple of guys driving past in a van prevented John from getting a worse beating and enabled the fascists to be caught.

This was just one among

many incidents involving racist attacks in recent months. In the last two months alone nine black youths have been stabbed.

Young girls especially are afraid to venture into town and the feeling of being caged in is adding to the black community's frustration and anger. In early June the racists even drove into Chapeltown and stabbed a couple in broad daylight.

The whole area is now a powder keg and it is essential that all the resources of the labour movement are mobilised to end racist violence, drive the fascists off the streets and fight for real social change to end the appalling conditions in Chapeltown.

young people. The LPYS produced hundreds of leaflets and are following up their activity by organising an open air 'Rock Against Royalism' on wedding day, July 29.

In the lead-up to a demonstration against unemployment on Saturday July 25, Stafford and Stone LPYS have pointed out the contrast between the treatment the Tory press are giving to the wedding with that given to last year's TUC Day of Action.

Hypocrisy

For weeks and months then, the gutter press screamed that if workers supported the day of action and came out on a 24-hour general strike, it would cripple the economy.

The Stafford demo has been called to show how much the ruling class and monarchy care about unemployment—they are spending millions of pounds on the royal pantomime.

Stafford LPYS will be out on the streets for their event, leafletting schools, colleges, factories, housing estates, holding days of action and

street meetings. A petition has been drawn up and will be presented at the next council meeting, with a lobby and a march through the town with a coffin.

The petition demands free or cheap bus passes, free access to all council recreation facilities, and that the council finances the running of the day centre for the unemployed.

The LPYS is in the forefront of the struggle against unemployment. Join us in the fight.

STAFFORD & STONE LPYS
March against Unemployment. Assemble Highfield Social Club, Barnes Road, Saturday 25 July, 12.30 pm.

SHEFFIELD LPYS "Rock Against Royalism". Open air concert in Weston Park, Sheffield. 2-6 pm. Wednesday 29 July. Bands, disco, stalls, etc.

SHEFFIELD LPYS and AUEW JUNIOR WORKERS Public joint meeting. 'Apprenticeships—what are our demands?' Thursday 16 July, 7 pm, AUE House, Furlong Gate, Sheffield.

WORKERS IN ACTION

LONDON LABOUR MUST ORGANISE BATTLE AGAINST HESELTINE

Central to the struggle of Labour local authorities against Heseltine's attacks is the role to be played by the Greater London Council, the largest local authority in the country.

In its Manifesto for the May elections the Labour Party recognised that they would be in confrontation with the Tories from the first day if they were to implement their radical programme. And that is exactly what has happened.

The government is going ahead with its policy of stripping the GLC of its housing management role. Heseltine is continuing the previous Tory GLC policy of transferring council housing from the GLC to the local London Borough Councils. This will enable the Tory Boroughs to sell off more council houses in their areas and prevent tenants from easily transferring within the Greater London area.

To decide the tactics in this first confrontation with the Tory government, the Greater London Labour Party Executive held a special meeting this Monday, June 29, to debate the issue in the light of a "full discussion on GLC strategy in the face of government attacks."

However, at the special Executive meeting the only report presented was one signed by Ken Livingstone (GLC leader) and local Labour Council leaders Ted Knight, Andy Hawkins and John Kotz.

This explained that it was necessary to prepare now if the transfer was to take place smoothly next April 1. It was explained that it was legally impossible to



Photo: M. Rusher (JFL)

fight the transfer and that this was not a popular issue to fight the government on, as most council tenants would prefer local control of their estates.

Asked why no-one had spoken in favour of accepting transfer when the GLLP's last Annual Meeting in March had voted to "refuse to process the transfer" John Kotz explained that the "situation has moved on since then."

He said that the legal advice which had earlier been given to the Labour GLC leaders that it was possible to evade the transfer had now been proved to be wrong. David Nicholas, the GLLP Vice-Chairman, added that when he wrote the Housing section of the Manifesto he was very careful to ensure that "we did not say that we would refuse to process transfers, only to resist transfer."

Ken Livingstone said that the Executive must recognise that this was a "major defeat" and that we can only fight battles where we can get support. "The whole Labour Group" he added "is deeply apologetic...but

our problem is our legal advice."

The right wing on the GLLP Executive sought to use this first retreat on a Manifesto pledge, as a means of discrediting the new radical GLC leadership which took over after the elections.

The right declared that they defended the Manifesto but refused to put forward any policy for the GLC Labour Group to follow. So anxious were the right to attack the new GLC leaders that they opportunistically tried to support the criticism of the GLC tactics put forward by the 'Militant' supporters on the GLLP Executive.

The 'Militant' supporters on the Executive, along with others like Harry Barker of NUPE, argued that the issue had to be seen as linked to the other battles which the Labour GLC will be fighting. It was important that a precedent of making retreats was not set and therefore the housing transfers should still be opposed.

Against this view it was said that not to proceed with the transfers would cause

The 'Lambeth option' of increasing rates to stop cuts has been prevented by new Tory legislation. Below: Lambeth Council Workers protest in 1979.

chaos for tens of thousands of council tenants next April when the GLC ceased to have legal responsibility for them because of the measures which Heseltine has pushed through Parliament.

Bob Labi, a 'Militant' supporter, said that if you looked at the arguments of the GLC leadership regarding the housing transfers, in isolation from the wider issues, it appeared that there was no way in which Heseltine could be defeated. But the issue could not be seen in narrow terms.

The Manifesto had clearly spelt out that a Labour GLC would be in conflict with the government. The choice before the GLLP Executive, Bob Labi added, was either retreating on this issue or firmly making course for the inevitable confrontation with the government by refusing to make any concessions to it and acting now to mobilise support from the labour movement, as outlined in section 1.11 of the Manifesto's Finance chapter.

Ken Livingstone replied that this was the wrong issue to fight on. Later this year,

he said, we would have to fight against the new powers which Heseltine had given himself. These would pose before the Labour Councils the choice of making cuts or the "bankruptcy option".

"I want to make it perfectly clear" Livingstone stated "that I am in favour, in that situation, of the 'bankruptcy option'."

But the 'bankruptcy option' is not a real strategy to fight the Tories. The labour movement does not want the Tories simply to dismiss Councils and appoint Commissioners who then carry out Tory policies.

We must stand for a fight against the implementation of Tory policies. By just posing the alternative to making cuts as being the 'bankruptcy option', which means Labour losing control of Councils, the 'left' councillors are opening the way for the right and 'centre' councillors to say that 'we don't like cuts, but Labour must remain in control of the Councils so we must make cuts.'

This would lead to the defeat of the radical GLC leadership.

The key question is one of building mass support for the Labour Councils to confront the government, which must form part of the wider campaign to force an immediate general election. But this issue was sidestepped at the special GLLP EC meeting.

The right-wing supported a motion "reaffirming the Manifesto pledge", which was a way of absolving the EC from any responsibility for breaking an election promise while avoiding the issue of fighting the government. This motion was carried overwhelmingly, with 'Militant' supporters abstaining, and the Vice-Chairman ruled that the other motions moved by Ken Livingstone and Bob Labi fell.

However the next GLLP EC meeting will be discussing the central question of what strategy the GLC and Inner London Education Authority should adopt. The Greater London Labour Parties and trade unions must act to ensure that a mass movement is built up to support the Labour GLC and ILEA in carrying out their Manifesto programme and in the coming battle with the government.

By 'Militant'
reporter

MILITANT READERS' MEETINGS

WEST HULL 'Socialism or World Annihilation?' Speaker: Keith Narey (Bradford LP), at The Blue Bell, Market Place, on Wednesday 8 July, 7.30 pm.

HARTLEPOOL 'Poland'. Room 2, Town Hall, Hartlepool, Thursday 16 July, 7.30 pm.

TEESSIDE 'Benn or Healey? Which way forward for Labour?' Room 9, Stockton YMCA. Thursday 9 July, 7.30 pm.

STIRLING 'What is Marxism?' Thursday 2 July, 7.30 pm. 'The State', 23 July, 7.30 pm. 'Poland—what is happening?' 13 August, 7.30 pm. 'Which way for the Labour Party?' 3 September, 7.30 pm. Cowane Centre, Stirling.

NEWCASTLE 'Prepare one-day general strike to bring down Tories'. Speakers from CPSA, Railways and Ambulancemen. Monday 6 July, 7.30 pm. Bridge Hotel, Newcastle.

BLACKPOOL 'Labour's Deputy Leadership'. Speaker: Peter Harris (Blackburn CLP). Wednesday 8 July, 7.30 pm. Vrevres Arms, Cookson Street, Blackpool.

MERSEYSIDE Social. Saturday 11 July, 8 till late. Chaucers Tavern, Hardman Street. £1.50. Tickets contact L Holt, 260 8929, or your local 'Militant' seller.

BLYTH. All meetings start 7.30pm. Wed 15 July—Import Control and the Textile Industry. Wed 29 July—Brixton—What happened and the lessons for the labour movement. Venue: 148 Disreali St. Blyth.

BARROW: 'Militant—What we stand for'. For further details contact Ray Physick, Sunderland 653994.

CANVEY ISLAND: 'Ireland—after the elections: prospects for Labour. Speaker: Eddie McParland (Greater London Labour Party Executive Member). On: Thursday 9 July at Labour Hall, Lionel Road, Canvey.

TYNESIDE Marxist Sunday School Sunday 5 July The Russian Revolution. Sunday 12 July: 7.00pm History of the Communist International. Sunday 19 July 7.00pm The rise of fascism in Germany 1919-1933. Sunday 26 July 7.00pm The Chinese Revolution 1925-27. Sunday 2 August 7.00pm The Spanish Revolution 1931-1939. Sunday 9 August 7.00pm Popular Fronts and France. Venue from your local Militant seller.

Right-wing can't stop shift to left

The radicalisation of the Labour Party continues as workers search for a way out of the recession that is destroying their future. Throughout the country, the demands for fundamental socialist change have been raised at party meetings.

But not all Labour MPs have accepted the need for a clear socialist alternative. In Nottingham Labour MP William Whitlock made an hysterical attack upon Militant supporters in his constituency. Significantly enough he chose the anti-trade union Nottingham

Evening Post to launch his attack.

The Post sacked twenty eight journalists during the 1978 strike and ever since has been blacked by the local labour movement. The Labour County Council refuses to speak to the Post, and as recently as March, Whitlock's own constituency Labour Party reaffirmed its boycott of the Post.

Not surprisingly a 'Post' editorial gave full support to Whitlock and called for Militant supporters to be expelled from the Labour Party. 'Militant' supporters have challenged Whitlock to debate on how to build

up the party and how to defeat the Tories.

Even in right-wing strongholds, such as Berwick and East Lothian there have been significant moves to the left. At its last General Management Committee the party voted to back Tony Benn as deputy leader.

But the move towards the left is uneven. At the annual general meeting the month before, the party confirmed its ban on the sale of Militant in the party club, but by a far narrower majority than the previous decision two years before. The LPYS had raised the issue as there were now over twenty people

regularly attending LPYS meetings.

A growing support for socialist ideas is reflected in other Labour Parties. In Blyth, LPYS secretary and Militant supporter, Joe Cox was chosen as conference delegate on the first ballot.

It was also decided to send to Conference a resolution on Northern Ireland which supported the call "for an Irish Congress of Trade Union convened conference of the labour movement". It instructed the National Executive to contact the ICTU and take other action to help build a mass Labour Party based on

the trade unions.

The inability of the right wing in the party to convince people of their ideas was shown at the recent Eastern Region Labour Party conference, previously a bastion of the right. Only fifty people turned up to hear Peter Shore address a lunchtime 'Solidarity' meeting and most of those were Young Socialists and trade unionists keen to argue socialist ideas with him. At the conference there was unanimous support for a motion supporting CND and opposing the installation of cruise missiles in any European country.



"Move to find work" suggests Thatcher. The 'Daily Mirror' reported what happened to one person who did. Unemployed van driver George Wood hitched a lift from his home in Tamworth, Staffs, to Sussex where after three nights sleeping rough, he got a job as a fork lift driver.

He then had to return to his home town to face a charge of failing to report a £4 a week rise in his wife's income when he was on £19 a week supplementary benefit. Remanded on bail for a month, he went back to Sussex, started work and returned to Tamworth for the court appearance.

In court, the chairman of the magistrates Victor Cunnington, a local Tory, asked where his job was. Mr Wood told him it was in Sussex, that he had been hitchhiking there and sleeping rough. The magistrate didn't share his party leader's enthusiasm for travelling. He said that they couldn't have a man roaming the country with no fixed address. This Tory upholder of 'justice' sent Mr Wood to prison for three months as an 'example'. Mr Wood has now lost his new job.

The Grand old Duke of York, later George VI had a grand idea in the middle of a recession in 1921. Get chaps from all backgrounds, sons of miners and sons of bankers to go camping together, sit round campfires singing jolly songs. Chaps, he reasoned, would then forget that some chaps were on the dole or slaving down the pits while other chaps were living in luxury, they were all just chaps together.

Now, just in time for another recession, the upper crust chaps are having a reunion to celebrate the diamond jubilee of this scheme, which collapsed in 1939. One of them, Lord Shackleton, chairman of Rio Tinto Zinc remembers those days well "What really broke down the class barriers with me was when I found that head hunters in Borneo were human, and from that I deduced that the English working classes were human."

Okay, chaps, anyone for head hunting? Starting with Lord Shackleton?

Have you ever suspected that the Tory cabinet weren't one hundred per cent representative of working people? A lot less intelligent for a start. And possibly a bit richer. Sir Keith Joseph, for instance, has just inherited £500,000 from his late mother. But that nice Mrs Thatcher—surely she's just a grocer's daughter who fought her way up from selling marmalade to Downing Street?

Well not quite. The *Sunday Mirror* informs us that Denis Thatcher's old paint business Atlas, was taken over by Castrol in 1965 for £560,000. The *Mirror* reckons that it is now worth about £2.8 million. Denis has a pension of £5,000 a year and three directorships to help him along. She gets £27,825 salary, plus 10 Downing Street, Chequers, a £250,000 house in Chelsea and a flat in a castle in Kent hired for £16 a week, from the National Trust!

Just the kind of people to understand the problems of the unemployed.

Not that wealth automatically stops you having a genuine concern for ordinary people. Take John Lee Tory MP for Nelson and Colne. He's not poor. He is secretary of the Conservative Industry Committee, and a director of Midshires Building Society and Highton Houses Ltd. He has been a director of numerous firms and he is still parliamentary consultant to the National Bedding Federation and a chartered accountant with his own consultancy firm.

Yet, despite all this, he still finds time to become President of the North West Conservative Trade Unionists Association! All out of the goodness of his heart because he doesn't actually belong to a trade union. He just passionately believes in 'sensible' trade unions, not affiliated to the Labour Party. The kind who let bedding manufacturers and housing directors get on with running the country.

Anyone who suggest he is a Tory TU chairman because there aren't any Tory trade unionists in the North West is just a cynic.

HOUSING

Stopping the cuts

By Dennis McCracken
(EETPU, Convenor,
Haringey Local Joint
Craft Union Committee)

Of all public expenditure cuts, the vast majority have been in housing, a trend which started under the last Labour government.

In 1974/75, 10% of the gross domestic product was devoted to housing. By 1983/84 it will have fallen to 4% a direct reduction in housing subsidies of £934 million.

At present we are building 150,000 houses less than we need annually. We are heading for a deficit of half a million houses by the mid 1980s. No local authority, including the one where I work, can escape forever the cuts in housing expenditure without the threat of mass red-

undancies and cuts in living standards.

In Haringey Direct Labour Public Works Department we have not as yet experienced any redundancies, but we have been forced to early retirements, natural wastage, redeployment and the transfer of labour from building maintenance revenue to the capitalised and new build sites.

At the end of the 1980 financial year the council said that maintenance revenue was overspent by £135 million, and its budget in 1981 indicated a cut of £½ million. With increased wages, such as they were, and increased costs and materials etc. it became clear that Haringey council were willing to obey the central government direction.

The craft unions insisted that they would never consider redundancies while money was being made available from the Housing Improvement Programme allocation to private contractors.

We insisted that a coordinator be appointed in the Borough Architects department to work with the craft unions to investigate allocation of housing finance. We soon established that senior housing officers were more committed to private contractors than their own DLO.

Over the past 18 months it has been a hard slog but the craft union side were able to present the necessary facts before the council who acted immediately to redress the situation to favour the DLO.

This year we have negotiated with the Borough Architects department twice the normal turnover of work for the capitalised section and in doing so made the way open to saving jobs for our members who were working on the maintenance section and have now transferred over.

Naturally, not all maintenance people were happy at transfer, mainly because bonus earnings were restricted. Resentment is building up now Tory policies are becoming apparent but we are persuading our members to channel this into a positive socialist perspective, to think the whole thing through and respond when the time is right. In Haringey our craft committee has been dedicated to doing just this and we have been successful.

But if national leadership is not forthcoming soon, shop floor activists may have to organise themselves and their members nationally to start their own attack on capitalism. To sit back and not fight would result in the death of all major DLO's as we know them.



Cuts mean no new housing, no improvements to old estates and no job for building workers

'Like snowflakes in hell'

At the site I work at near the Tower of London, the owners have put up a bill board which reads 'Taylor Woodrow investing in London's future'.

In actual fact all Taylor Woodrow are doing is building more offices! Given the various speculation deals that go on in the city, no doubt the bosses will make a huge profit. But given the chronic housing shortage, there is no greater example of the waste of resources, labour, material, and land.

And as far as the men on the site are concerned, there is no investment in their future; nine labourers were given their redundancy notices this week.

One labourer facing the sack said "It's silly. They're going to sack me and give me £63 to sit in the house and do nothing." This man

By Jim McGuinness
(UCATT)

is married with 3 kids.

His job is to clean the toilets and collect the urinal buckets around the site, a very necessary and useful job given the conditions on building sites. Although is not the most interesting of jobs, this man prefers this to the prospect of the dole.

The future for the rest of the workers in the industry is as promising as snow flakes in hell.

The 'New Standard' on Friday May 15 under building and constructions, listed one job for bricklayers, eight for joiners, six for painters, and one for labourers.

When I first worked in London ten years ago there

were hundreds of jobs advertised, just for bricklayers alone.

Several weeks ago a bricklayer in Essex, just outside London, committed suicide after seven months unemployed, and unable to get any kind of job. Previously he had been of good humour and full of life, was about to get married and had a mortgage.

I know personally, one man who after being unemployed in Glasgow for 1½ years became melancholy and went out one Sunday morning and hanged himself.

If this is not enough, the building companies are trying to pay pitiful wages. Their latest offer amounts to 4.7%. After increases in national insurance, and rising prices this means absolutely nothing.

The struggle for decent wages and conditions has to be linked to the political

demands of the next Labour government to nationalise the small number of companies who control the industry.

Two companies share 86% of the cement market, one company 60% of the bricks, and five major contractors dominate construction.

The argument for free enterprise does not hold much water. With a national building corporation directly under the control of the labour movement we could draw up a plan to eradicate the homelessness and slum conditions which exist at present.

A programme to end unemployment

“The conventional wisdom that workers are prepared to be militant only about the pay packet has been rapidly re-appraised.”

So the *Financial Times* laments, as the shorter working week takes on a new importance for the labour movement.

By Bob Wade

you space out your work over the day, to ease the fatigue and boredom.

A shorter working day would increase productivity and efficiency. Workers would be fresher, physically and mentally.

During Heath's three-day week in 1974, production was at eighty per cent of normal levels. The logical conclusion is that a four-day week would have meant well over normal rates of production!

Levels of productivity do not depend solely on workers' performance, however. They also depend on the quality and condition of the tools—and the management.

Create 1,800,000 jobs

The capitalist class in Britain have for decades refused to invest adequately in retooling in modern equipment and in research. They have fallen behind more efficient competitors, leaving British manufacturing the 'sick man of Europe'.

Only the vested interests of the multi-millionaire profiteers stand in the way of rational economic planning, putting all these resources to

work to provide for society's needs.

The struggle for a thirty-five hour week provides a perfect platform to explain why industry should be taken over and run by working people, guaranteeing shorter hours, a minimum wage and adequate provision for the sick, old and disabled.

Instead, some right-wing trade union and labour leaders shuffle their feet. They argue that the 35-hour week would make 'our' economy suffer. Therefore we should wait until the stronger capitalist countries: West Germany, the USA, have implemented it, so that industry can compete on equal terms.

No doubt the British bosses would agree! Some labour leaders may be prepared to wait for the bosses to sanction shorter working hours. Workers are ready for a fight now!

The demand for a 35-hour week, creating new jobs, could arouse mass support. If the campaign was taken up, new layers of workers and the unemployed could be drawn enthusiastically into struggle. The capitalist class could be forced to concede by the strength of the labour movement.

There is a danger, however. As long as capitalism exists, all reforms that are forced from bosses now can be taken back at a later stage.

The experience of the French workers in the fight for shorter hours is a lesson, and a warning.

The Popular Front government of 1936 legislated for a 40-hour week—a cynical compromise by the ruling class in a bid to head off the workers' revolutionary



Post Office Engineers campaigning for a thirty-five hour week

- THE CASE FOR THE 35 hr WEEK

anger. But because the French labour movement did not carry out the transformation of society, introducing a socialist plan of production to underwrite their advances, the gain was eaten away.

As soon as it was possible, the French workers were pushed back to a 42-hour week.

Such is the sickness of British capitalism that if it were introduced tomorrow the 35-hour week would leave over a million workers unemployed. That is why we link the call for shorter

hours—without loss of pay—to a programme to provide jobs for all: a massive national scheme of useful public works, extending the social services, building new homes, rebuilding the transport network.

But the bosses are loathe to tolerate any threat to their profits. A shorter working week will only be guaranteed — and unemployment eliminated — when the working class take over the running of industry and society.

Then, exploiting the full

benefits of the micro-chip and other new technological developments, with industrial production planned to serve society, a twenty-hour week—and even less—would be perfectly feasible.

Then workers would no longer have to spend the majority of their waking hours toiling for the bosses; they would be freed to play their full part in the planning and running of a socialist society.

WALES - stop a return to the 30's

Half a million workers left Wales in search of work following the 1926 general strike, the lock out and later slump. Today unemployment in Wales stands officially at 14% — nearly 150,000 people. It is expected to rise to over 20%.

The Tories and their system have devastated Wales. They are trying to turn the clock back to the 'twenties and 'thirties and hope to destroy the fighting organisations of the working class. In the last year alone unemployment has almost doubled in Wales. Now you retire at sixteen, directly you leave school.

With 56,000 on Temporary Employment Subsidy, 15,000 young people on YOP schemes, short-time working and unregistered unemployed the shadow of the 30s returns. In July 1936 unemployment was 28.5%. Then the Labour Party

By Rob Sewell

emerged as the champion of the Welsh workers. From 1935 (until 1974) Labour won a majority of parliamentary seats and from 1945 (until 1970) an absolute majority of the votes.

With the post-war world upswing and rising living standards active participation in the workers' organisations began to tail off.

New conditions produced new participants. In 1970, twenty-one of Labour's MPs had attended university or college while only one had had an elementary school education. The dominant professions were lawyers/solicitors and teachers/lecturers.

Of Wales' twenty-five Labour MPs in 1945, fourteen had an elementary school education and six had gone through university. Almost half had been miners. By 1970 there were no ex-miner MPs.

The solid basis of mass support—in the Rhondda Labour's majority is over

30,000—paradoxically has gone hand in hand with domination by the right-wing.

A notable exception to this has been the miners. Almost exactly 60 years ago the South Wales Miners Federation, representing more than one hundred thousand miners, voted to affiliate to the Communist International.

Triple Alliance

After 1926 CP membership rose from 1,500 to 2,300 in South Wales. Mardy in the Rhondda Valley—the greatest coal-producing area in the world—became known as 'Little Moscow'.

The twists and turns of official Communist Party policy, geared to the national interests of the bureaucratic elite in Russia, which took control after the death of Lenin, misled and confused its supporters.

Today the CP in Wales and Britain generally is a shadow of its former self.

A bleak indicator of its

decay is the fact that the Young Communist League has no branches in Wales.

But many workers are beginning to look for answers to the appalling crisis which faces us in Wales.

The crippling blows to the coal and steel industries, out of which the Welsh labour movement was created, have revealed the bankruptcy of the capitalist system. The reforms and economic progress, upon which Labour's right-wing rested in recent years, have been almost destroyed.

These attacks have resulted in the formation of the Triple Alliance of steel, rail and mine workers. It was action by Welsh miners in February which began the movement that forced the Tories to suspend their planned pit closures. Despite all that the Tories have inflicted on the area over the last two years, the power and determination of the Welsh workers has not been broken.

The reservoirs of bitterness against the Tories just need a slight crack to flow into action. In the most recent period there has been

the beginnings of a radicalisation within the Labour Party itself.

Last year eighteen of Wales's twenty-two MPs voted for Healey against Michael Foot in the leadership election. But in last month's Welsh Labour Party conference the composition of the Regional executive was pushed to the left.

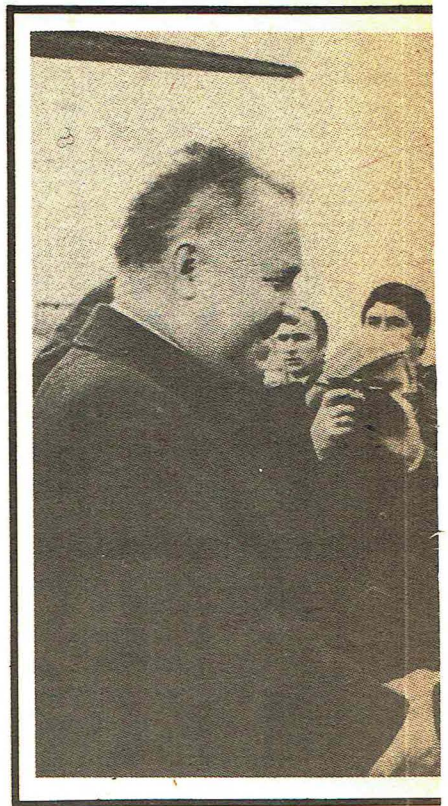
Socialist policies

The right wing have nothing to offer the working people of Wales. More and more young people are playing an active part within the labour and trade union movement and they are seeing the necessity for a radical shift away from the old policies and towards a fighting socialist alternative.

That is the only way to stop the devastation of the Tories, prevent the lengthy repetition of the 'twenties and 'thirties and ensure a decent life for all.

SOLIDARITY SPEAKERS FROM POLAND

'Our fight is also yours'



Delegates from Solidarity, the independent Polish trade union movement, visited Britain in June to bring fraternal greetings to the General and Municipal Workers Union and National and Local Government Officers Association conferences.

'Militant' reporters spoke to them about the crucial issues facing the Polish workers' movement.

Extracts from the interviews are printed below.

The Polish comrades decisively refute the slander, often used by the Soviet leadership, that the movement in Poland is "counter-revolutionary". On the contrary, it is made clear that the struggle of the Polish workers is to break the tyrannical power of the bureaucracy, which is holding society back, and establish genuine workers' democracy on the basis of the planned economy.

"This struggle," as Mieczyslaw Kukulu correctly told the NALGO conference, "is also yours"—it is a struggle of the working-class movement internationally.

How can its aims be achieved against the immense odds, not only of the Polish and Russian bureaucracies, but also of Western imperialism which is desperately trying to prop up the régime in Poland?

The experience of the movement since July 1980 has shown over and over again that there can be no stable compromise between Poland's bureaucratic rulers and a working class determined to gain democratic control over their own lives and over society as a whole.

The great task facing the Polish workers' movement is to harness its enormous power around a programme and a leadership based on the principles of workers' democracy outlined by Lenin in 1917:

- ★ all officials to be democratically elected, subject immediate recall;
- ★ no official to receive more

than the wage of a skilled worker;

- ★ administrative positions to be rotated—"when everyone is a bureaucrat then no-one is a bureaucrat";
- ★ no standing army but an armed people.

To Lenin's principles, we must add a further demand in the light of the experience of Stalinism: an end to the one-party state—for freedom of all political parties except fascists, freedom of the press, speech and assembly, and the right to organise independent trade unions and to strike.

There can be no doubt that a clear lead by the workers' movement to defeat the hated bureaucracy once and for all would draw behind it the vast majority of the Polish people.

Even the police, M Kukulu told 'Militant', show more and more sympathy to the workers: "They (the police) want to cease being tools of the state."

In answer to another question, comrade Kukulu showed clearly the impotence of the bureaucracy in the face of the workers' independent movement: "Although the new leadership seems to be hard-line, they would waver if the union stands firm. There is much pressure at the moment because Solidarity is so strong."

The Polish workers have demonstrated a magnificent resilience and tenacity in the struggle to transform the state and the Polish régime has been forced to grant unprecedented concessions in recent months.

But it is a dangerous illusion to imagine that the bureaucracy can be reformed out of existence. Concessions have been granted only in the face of the overwhelming pressure from the workers,

youth and farmers—precisely in the effort to avert a head-on collision with the working people in which the bureaucracy would almost certainly have suffered a crushing defeat.

Nevertheless, while the bureaucracy continues to control the state apparatus, the party machine, the police and the army, they will still have the means at a later stage to re-establish their power.

For the workers to trim grotesque privileges of the bureaucrats and curb their arbitrary powers is not enough. Until the workers take over all control of the economy and take planning into their own hands, the bureaucracy will still be able to undermine the concessions which they have been forced to grant under pressure.

What the bureaucracy cannot at the moment prevent by force, they will later attempt to take back with manoeuvres, deception and step-by-step repression. Already, the "liberal" wing of the leadership under Kania are playing a cat-and-mouse game, making concessions, attempting to buy off a section of the workers' leaders and bring them into the bureaucracy itself, while testing the workers' response to the arrests and other administrative measures against 'dissident' intellectuals.

The momentum and energy of the workers' movement cannot be sustained indefinitely. The gains of recent months will not be preserved through a policy of "moderation" on the part of the workers' leaders. Only by carrying through the workers' political and economic demands to their real conclusion, with the overthrow of the parasitic

bureaucracy and the establishment of genuine workers' democracy, can the gains of the last year be preserved and extended.

Nor will the threat of a Russian invasion be removed by a policy of "moderation". What has prevented invasion so far has been the Russian bureaucracy's fear of the enormous repercussions such a step would have.

While attacking the demands of the workers as "counter-revolutionary" and denouncing the concessions granted by the Kania leadership, clearly using the threat of invasion to intimidate the Polish workers, the Russian bureaucracy has in fact backed the policy of the liberal wing of the Polish leadership, and it will continue to support them so long as the Kremlin considers that they can hold the line for the bureaucracy in Poland.

If the Russian bureaucracy invades, not only would they be saddled with Poland's massive international debt which the Polish régime is incapable of meeting; they would need to feed the population and run the economy which even under present conditions is in a state of serious decline.

An army of occupation would have to be maintained in Poland, no doubt faced with stubborn resistance and exposed to the political pressure of the Polish working class. In the longer run, any military invasion of Poland could become the vehicle by which political tremors and instability would be transferred to the other Warsaw Pact countries.

Despite these formidable problems, however, the Soviet bureaucracy will have no option but to invade Poland if they see power slip-

ping irreversibly from the hands of the Polish bureaucracy.

Nothing will be achieved for the Polish workers on the basis of a policy of "moderation". If the workers hold back and allow the Polish bureaucracy to re-establish its power, the Russian leadership will exert more and more pressure for the Polish leaders to withdraw their concessions and stiffen the régime once again.

The fundamental issues must be posed squarely before the Polish workers. To leave power in the hands of the bureaucracy is to open the door to creeping counter-revolution. The alternative is a resolute struggle to break the power of the Polish bureaucracy—and draw the necessary international conclusions.

The threat of the Russian invasion can only be met if the Polish workers win the support of their brothers and sisters in Russia. Opposition to invasion on the basis of a clear internationalist and socialist programme would have enormous appeal for the working class, not only in Eastern Europe but throughout the world.

Without a clear Marxist leadership there is the real danger that resistance to Russian invasion would be along nationalist lines. This would greatly blunt the impact on the working class abroad and play into the hands of the Russian bureaucracy.

The way forward lies through building revolutionary links with the working people of Russia and Eastern Europe, who face the same struggle for workers' democracy in their own countries. This would turn the struggle in defence of the Polish workers' gains into a struggle for the overthrow of the Stalinist bureaucracies throughout Eastern Europe.

A movement of the working class transcending the borders of Poland, fighting on the basis of Lenin's programme, would sweep aside the bureaucracy in one country after another and establish healthy workers' democracies. It would act as a beacon for the working class of the West and the former colonial countries and provide a mighty impulse for the struggle for the socialist transformation of society world-wide.

From speech by M. Kukulu to NALGO conference.

Interview with

Bronislaw Sliwinski is a member of the National Co-ordinating Committee of Solidarity. He is also a leader of a Regional Committee, the Inter-Factory Founding Committee. He is a lawyer by education. **Adam Krakowiak** is a voluntary worker of Solidarity. His full-time job is electrician. He comes from the Santonic region of Solidarity—where he is a leader of a watch committee. The job of the watch committee is to make sure the Executive Committee carries out the wishes of the membership. He is also a deputy member of the National Executive.

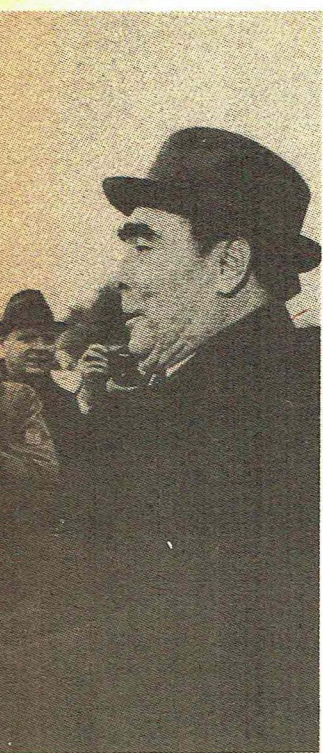
What is the background to Solidarity?

Usually a union forms and then the union recruits workers. In Poland the opposite happened, there was a broadly based social movement, and it created the union.

One hears references to the movement trying to change the system back into a capitalist system. Frankly it amuses us to hear that, we believe statements like that are words that people try to put into our mouths.

Great changes are taking place in our country, but a

The way forward lies through building revolutionary links with the working people of Russia and Eastern Europe, who face the same struggle for workers' democracy as in Poland.



Polish CP leader Kania with Brezhnev in Moscow (left); Solidarity's membership show their strength on the streets of Warsaw.

rs'

"If we turn back we will have failed our people, we will have failed socialism."

The Polish Solidarity movement, after some nine months of existence, already boasts ten million member-

ship out of fifteen million working men and women, and it is growing bigger and stronger every day.

It is growing stronger because it is the voice of protest against tyranny, corruption, and the progressive destruction of the ideology of socialism.

The former state-controlled Polish trade unions did

not represent the masses of Polish working people. Only since the emergence of Solidarity can the Polish people look towards the future with some degree of hope.

We are accused of assuming too big a political power. All we say is: There is no freedom without bread, there is no freedom without

social justice, there is no freedom without a free, independent and democratic trade union movement.

We know that there is still a long way to go and that the going will be rough. We shall overcome these difficulties. We shall continue to work together with the Polish government and try to resolve our differences and

problems, but at the same time we would like to say: we will not tolerate any outside interference in our domestic affairs.

We shall have to make sacrifices, but we cannot turn back—for if we do we will have failed our people, we will have failed socialism. Ours is the fight of all freedom loving people. We

need your support and we know we can count on you—for our fight is also yours.

We would like to thank you for the solidarity you have shown with Polish Solidarity.

I conclude:
Long live socialism
Long live international trade union movement.

B Sliwinsky and A Krakowiak of Solidarity

return to capitalism simply isn't on in Poland and how does anybody imagine it? Am I going to buy a coal mine?

The press often write about Solidarity as if the whole thing was designed to annoy the Soviet Union. This does a lot of damage, because frankly what we are doing is carrying out the wishes of our membership, and the membership want to establish a system which will not fall into the sort of pitfalls that our country has fallen into again and again.

If this causes some soul-searching and some disquiet in various quarters in our bloc it is just too bad. It is a by-product of what we are doing and not the aim of our activities.

To answer your question [about the origins of Solidarity] we have to go back to 1956, 1958, 1970, 1976. All these years saw explosions of desperation and anger in Poland. Each time a settlement was reached temporarily—a dishonest settlement, the people who signed it on behalf of the authorities had no intention of sticking to it.

During the last ten years, from 1970 until now, the frustration and the accumulation of wrong doings have led to pressures inside society that became virtually unbearable.

In the last few years, people in Poland—party members and non party members—spoke quite openly about the "club of the owners of Poland"—people who acted as if they owned the entire country.

In the entire system there was no mechanism which could check and balance the wrong doings.

The strikes of July and

August last year spread all over the country. The biggest strike, in Gdansk, was sparked off by the sacking of one employee, it was as simple as that. You will realise that there must have been enormous pent-up frustration and anger for the sacking of one employee to have such repercussions.

What was the situation before the setting up of Solidarity?

There were trade unions in Poland but they were dependent on the 'Club'. If there had been genuine trade unions in Poland there would have been no 'Club', because the trade unions would not have allowed it to exist.

You ask if the 'Club' and Solidarity can co-exist. The answer is simple—no way! No way at all.

What is the perspective for ridding Poland of the 'Club'—we call it bureaucracy?

By the "Club of the owners of Poland", we mean the people—and there are many of them—who by virtue of their power and position are not accountable to anyone. They have accumulated all the goods that our land could offer, far in excess of ordinary human needs.

These people have fine villas, yachts, fleets of luxurious automobiles, you name it...including private whores! Including the whole lot—on salary!

In comparison with those notables, the workers in Poland have social and working conditions virtually equivalent to those of slaves. Workers are exploited beyond the limits of human decency.

The health and safety regulations in theory are among the most advanced in the world. In practice they

are ignored to a criminal extent.

Health conditions are generally speaking among the lowest in any so-called advanced country. An example is the steel works where Adam works.

The steel works employs 25,000 men. 70% of them commute to work. The average time for travel is two hours each way, which adds another four hours on the working day!

That does not leave much time for family life, social life, cultural life or politics for that matter.

There is no way the bureaucracy can co-exist with a free trade union movement.

The 'Club of the owners of Poland' ceases to exist now. We are simply having a mopping up action. What we need now is a statute making sure it doesn't happen again.

Some leftovers of the 'Club' are still holding positions and they are trying to fight us but they have no success.

What democratic control do the members of Solidarity have over the running of the union?

Officials in Solidarity are elected, although the election process is in its infancy at the present stage. Regional elections are now virtually completed. On the first anniversary of the creation of Solidarity, that is, 31 August, we intend to hold the first Congress of Solidarity at which the highest authorities will be elected,

this time by the representatives of the entire Solidarity movement.

Officials are appointed and indeed recalled by the members, there are examples of it in practice.

The earnings of full-time Solidarity officials are determined by a general meeting of delegates. There is general agreement that there must be a ceiling on earnings. Solidarity may be faced with a number of dangers, but nobody talks for a minute of a danger of the appointed officials of Solidarity being overpaid.

Do you have shop stewards? The answer is quite simple—Yes! In addition to what I would broadly describe as a shop steward, there are union committees and at this stage of the ladder in very large factories there are departmental committees and then overall workplace committees.

So wherever people work, in their place of work, there is a committee. Then there are inter-workplace committees, and deputies from each workplace who constitute the regional committee.

Deputies appointed by the regional committee constitute the national co-ordinating committee which is the highest body.

If I may give an example from my own personal experience. I went to a very large lorry producing plant in Lublin. The entire factory committee met with me and we had a question-and-answer session. There were present at it workers from every level—mechanics, electricians, painters, designers and professional engineers and clerks—all working together under the leadership of a mechanic. He was the chairman of the

entire committee.

What kind of control do these committees have over management?

This is something that is still in the melting pot. It differs widely from one establishment to another.

Broadly speaking the first right that the workplace committee claims is the right to approve the directors of their particular factory.

The main reason for this was that a great many directors and managers recently were losing their jobs. Solidarity wanted to make sure that people who were totally discredited for incompetence and dishonesty in one place weren't transferred to another place and continue where they left off.

Some factories are much more active, aware and more tightly organised than others. In those that are more aware and active, the committee claims the right to share the responsibility for running the work with management, to decide about production, about money, about virtually all the aspects of management.

Do they decide about the income of managers as well? Officially the managers' salaries are governed by agreements negotiated through collective bargaining. But you need to understand certain things. Under this system the official earnings of the management in Poland are quite modest. There is nothing to argue with.

However, the system was such that with the post went various unwritten privileges and ways of making considerable additional income. It is what went on unofficially that Solidarity is trying to sort out.

The side benefits that were attached to various jobs, very often exceeded the official salary many times over. For many managers or officials, the salary was pocket money.

What is the reason for the attacks on Communist Party premises that we have heard about?

There were many instances where offices allocated to the Party exceeded by far the needs of the local party, while there was a desperate need for hospitals, for creches, for all sorts of social amenities.

It is not a question of some sort of concentrated or even sporadic attacks against Party headquarters, not on this occasion. This is in contrast to the events of the previous explosions when people took to the streets and burned down Party headquarters. Nothing of that kind happened during the course of the last ten months.

And what is the perspective for democratising the Communist Party along the lines of the democracy that exists inside Solidarity?

At the moment the entire Party seems to be talking about nothing else but the democratisation of the Party.

What lessons do we learn from the past and most recent events in Poland?

They made one mistake in the past, and that mistake was very simple. They did not form an independent union. This is why today at the top of the list of each and every agreement there is the demand for a free, independent, self-governing trade union. We think this is a valuable lesson for everyone.

SRI LANKA- Anti-Tamil violence Government retreats

By Kusal Perera
(Central Committee,
NSSP)

We publish here a report from Sri Lanka vividly describing the recent events in Jaffna, in the Tamil-speaking north, when the police went on an anti-Tamil rampage.

The police violence was a direct result of the anti-Tamil chauvinism being deliberately stirred up by JR Jayawardene's UNP

government.

With its bankrupt anti-working class policies, Jayawardene's government can only hope to win the 1983 elections by provoking a wave of Sinhalese communalist hysteria. The recent events are a foretaste of what is likely to be tried as the election campaign gets under way.

Yet the signs are that the Sri Lankan people are seeing through Jayawardene's reactionary tactics and refuse to be provoked. In a clear retreat, the government has been forced to lift the state of emergency which it had clamped down in the north.

But the festering sore of national oppression, and the

social problems it feeds on will only be finally removed when the working class overthrows the whole rotten system of capitalism and establishes workers' democracy with the right of self-determination for the Tamil minority, as called for by the Nava Sama Samaja Party.

The city of Jaffna was almost dead on the morning of 1 June after the police took to mob violence the previous night, burning down shops, market-places, vehicles, and also the residence of the MP for Jaffna Mr V Yogeswaran, of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF).

The violence erupted after a constable was shot dead and two others seriously wounded when unidentified persons opened fire at a TULF meeting held close to Jaffna on 31 May.

Immediately after news of the shooting reached the

police station, a party of police constables in civvies rushed to the spot and broke up the meeting, set fire to the neighbouring Nachimai Hindu Temple and some shops in the vicinity.

The police then walked into Jaffna and demolished a row of shops right in the heart of the city.

In a few hours they left behind a trail of burnt-out shops, burnt-out vehicles and a few half-erect pillars of the Old Market Building and some rubble and smouldering wood of the TULF party office.

Next they smashed their way into the house of the Jaffna MP and set fire to the house along with a brand-new Peugeot car. The MP and his wife had to flee for their lives.

Thus ended the first day of police violence, which

brought the secretary of Defence and senior military and police officers to Jaffna. Despite the presence of this top brass, police violence continued.

The next day, 2 June, saw the burning down of the public library, and the 'Eelanadu' Tamil language newspaper office and print shop. Some more shops and stores were broken or burnt down.

By mid-afternoon the entire city of Jaffna was dead, with parts of it going up in smoke and army trucks and jeeps patrolling the streets.

This spread to other towns in the Jaffna peninsula where shops have been burned or looted by the police.

But all efforts of the uniformed men to turn this into communal violence have failed. No incidents

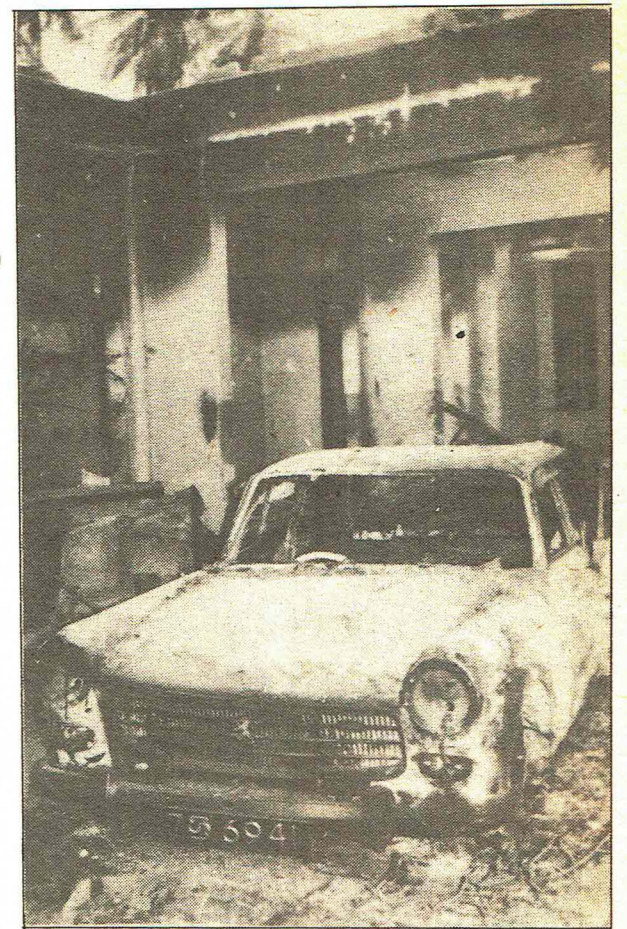
have taken place as yet in other parts of the Island and all hopes of the police have fallen apart.

Disorganised

The anti-working class policies of the Jayawardene government have in one way helped the people to rid themselves of communalist trends and rally against the government.

Jayawardene's master-plan to contain the opposition parties within the constitutional framework has been shattered by his own forces. The District Development Council elections on 4 June were totally disorganised.

Unable to rely on the police, the army was brought in, only to show



Jaffna MP Yokeswaran's house after police attack

that it too was either unable to handle the situation or was collaborating with the police in causing mass destruction. Two days of army rule and no easing of the situation, proved beyond doubt the indiscipline of Jayawardene's army.

Jayawardene has lost credibility both in the national and in the international political arena. Only the timid and naive

parliamentary opposition could give him breathing space. His District Development Council elections were a failure.

In the capital Colombo, for instance, out of 911,251 registered voters, only 357,722 turned out at the polls. The campaign to boycott the elections, spearheaded by the Nava Sama Samaja Party, has had a considerable effect.

New turning point in the Iranian Revolution

By George
Collins

The bomb blast in Tehran last Sunday which killed 72 Islamic Republican Party leaders, is a result of the murderous factional struggle within Iran's ruling elite.

The explosion was no doubt in retaliation against the ousting of President Bani-Sadr by the IRP and the wholesale killing of Bani-Sadr supporters which followed. But desperate acts of this kind can inflict no lasting damage on the Muslim clergy and the forces backing them.

In fact, Bani-Sadr's defeat by the IRP has marked a new turning point in Iranian revolution which no amount of bomb blasts can alter.

The prolonged struggle between the fundamentalist IRP and the 'moderate' Bani-Sadr has been a symptom of the unresolved crisis in Iran.

The overthrow of the Shah's regime in January 1979 was the result of an enormous mass movement, spearheaded by the working class.

Under pressure of the masses, sweeping reforms were carried out and large parts of the economy, including the banks and the oil

industry, were nationalised.

Yet the 'revolutionary' governments that followed have failed to break decisively with capitalism and establish a planned economy. As a result the gains of the revolution have been eroded by the ongoing ravages of capitalist crisis.

Inflation is over 50% and unemployment totals some 3.5 million—the same number as the entire urban working class! National oppression of the Kurds and other minorities continues.

The mass of the urban and rural poor continue to support the 'Islamic Revolution'. In their eyes, Khomeini still symbolises the movement which swept away the Shah's pro-imperialist regime. Their support has subsequently been cemented by a series of reforms.

But in reality, on the basis of capitalism, no section of the 'Islamic' leadership can solve the problems of society. In this impasse lie the roots of the political instability and factional struggles in Iran.

The battle between Khomeini and Bani-Sadr is a struggle between two factions

of the ruling elite both contending for leadership of the revolution.

The IRP rests mainly on the rural middle class, the mullahs, the merchants and rich peasants, together with a section of the urban poor who have gained from the revolution.

Bani-Sadr, on the other hand, had begun to reflect the interests of Iran's fragmented and battered capitalist class, who are attempting to push for a state which would create the conditions for the growth of capitalist production.

Bani-Sadr also drew on the support of pro-capitalist elements within the state apparatus, and remnants of the old office corps who have so far survived successive purges. Radical groups like the Mujahidin and the Fedayeen had also turned to Bani-Sadr as an alternative to Khomeini.

In true bonapartist fashion, Khomeini has attempted to balance between the contending social groups and political factions. Faced with a possible grab for power by the Bani-Sadr forces, however, Khomeini has been pushed into striking back, pre-empting a possible coup with a decisive blow against the now-deposed president.

Long before the struggle with Bani-Sadr, the mullahs (clergy), fearing any loosening of their hold on the masses, had ruthlessly stifled all opposition.

In June last year, the IRP's street gangs were sent onto

the campuses to drive out the left-wing student groups. These murderous attacks were praised by Bani Sadr as marking "a great day in our history". Precisely a year later, it was to be his turn to experience the same treatment.

The present crisis was brought to a head by the repercussions of the war with Iraq. The war, and the army's early successes in halting the Iraqi advance, had strengthened the position of the officer caste and reinforced Bani-Sadr's own position as head of the armed forces.

This increased the likelihood of a section of the officer caste with the backing of capitalist interests, moving against Khomeini, and the possibility of a military coup. This could have tipped the balance in favour of pro-capitalist measures, at least for a time, and threatened the position of the IRP.

Against this background, the mullahs have set out to mobilise the masses against Bani-Sadr and the "anti-Islamic" forces which he represents. The stalemate of the war and the army's failure to march on Baghdad, combined with the worsening economic crisis, created a climate in which Bani-Sadr could be turned into a scapegoat for all the problems of the revolution.

Early in June, Khomeini came down on the side of the mullahs and dismissed Bani-Sadr as chief of the armed forces. The "Party of God"

gangs, backed by the Revolutionary Guards, drove Bani-Sadr's supporters from the streets of Tehran.

In the following week Bani-Sadr—by now in hiding or possibly in exile in Cairo—was formally impeached by the clergy-controlled parliament and dismissed from office. An order has been issued for his arrest. At the time of writing, at least 34 members of the Mujahidin and Fedayeen, including leading activists from the struggle against the Shah, have been put before firing squads.

The overthrow of Bani-Sadr undoubtedly represents a further setback for Iran's enfeebled capitalist class and will be seen as a triumph for the poor who continue to look to Khomeini as their leader. Yet the reactionary power of the mullahs, who now find themselves at the head of the state, can offer no way forward out of the crisis.

Under the pressure of the masses, it is possible that the IRP may be forced to go further, and carry through the complete abolition of landlordism and capitalism in Iran.

In the hands of a ruling elite under Khomeini, however, the elimination of capitalism would inevitably result in a grotesquely deformed workers' state. Centrally planned production would be a step forward economically, but "Islamic socialism" of the Khomeini brand would mean a military-police dictatorship reinforced with the

most reactionary religious ideas.

The brutality of the mullahs' rule is reflected in the admission by Ayatollah Gilani, the judge responsible for the latest executions, that teenagers as young as 17 have been among those killed.

"On the basis of Islam," he said, "a 9-year-old girl is considered mature. So there is no difference for us between a 9-year-old girl and a 40-year-old man, and it does not prohibit us from issuing any kind of sentences."

With the clergy in control, vicious action against the left and repression of the national minorities will continue. The bombing of the IRP headquarters last Sunday will undoubtedly add to the ferocity of the clerical reaction and lead to even greater slaughter among opponents of the regime—regardless of their involvement with terrorist attacks.

Along this road the possibility of civil war cannot be excluded, leading either to a new reign of terror from Tehran or the tearing apart of the country, as the oppressed national groups fought for independence.

Inevitably the working class will come into conflict against the mullahs' barbaric rule. Only the working class, organised as an independent force on a programme for the socialist transformation of society, can present an alternative to religious obscurantism and rally the mass of the people for a genuine solution to their problems.

The building of a Marxist leadership in the workers' movement in the period ahead will be essential in preparing the working class for its tasks and taking the revolution forward out of its present dangerous impasse.

Violence Against Women

The sensational treatment of the Yorkshire Ripper case has highlighted increased violence against women.

Symptom of a Sick Society

The mass media has sickened and angered many women with its hypocrisy—sanc-timoniously condemning brutal attacks on women while grubbing over all the details.

Newspapers, magazines, television and films all make huge profits for big business by urging women to buy their products and make themselves sexually provocative—and then they blame the victims of violence for “asking for trouble”.

The labour movement must make it clear that it utterly condemns violence against women, and all forms of the abuse and denigration of women. There is no way it can be tolerated or excused.

This violence, however, arises from society's attitude towards women and their position in society.

Women are exploited by the bosses at work. In the home, despite the fact that many men are taking more responsibility for bringing up children and sharing more in household tasks, it is still women who generally look after the children and bear the main burden of domestic chores.

The dependancy and subordination of women, with the exception of a few cases, is upheld by the law and the courts, which usually regard married women as their husband's property—and view “independent” women as at best “abnormal” and at worst “irresponsible” or “immoral”.

Women are kept in “their place” or restricted by traditional ideas, religion, old-fashioned “morality”, and male prejudice. Worst of all, the subjection of women is in all too many cases enforced by



Films vie with each other in their glorification of violence adding fuel to the growing tensions in society

violence—actual violence for some women and for many more the fear of violence.

In the boom years, when better living standards were gained by the working class, women generally improved their position, both at work and in the home.

Against this, however, there is now an alarming increase in violence against women, reflecting the social tensions created by the crisis in capitalism.

As the economic situation worsens, with fewer jobs, greater poverty for families, unemployed men sitting around the house, bored, frustrated and demoralised, the increased social pressures mean more wife and baby batterings.

Already, more than 10,000 wives and 17,000 children pass through refuges for battered women each year. A refuge is a last desperate resort. Many more women stay at home because there is no prospect of escape.

With the rapid rise in women's unemployment, and the lowest number of council house starts for decades, there is

even less possibility of some sort of financial independence.

Women's escape routes are being cut off. A third of all textile jobs have disappeared, traditionally a source of jobs for women in areas like West Yorkshire and Lancashire.

Cuts in hospitals, the health service, residential care, youth centres, alcoholic centres and other social services not only increases social pressure but also the physical danger to women.

Even the right of a woman to defend herself has been denied by the law, with the prosecution of women by the police for carrying defensive sprays and dyes.

Cuts in transport and maintenance of street lighting can mean in effect a curfew for many women. Women are increasingly afraid to go out at night. Thousands of women were frightened off the streets during the Ripper hunt.

The labour movement must defend the right of women to walk alone in the streets in safety and their right to protect themselves.

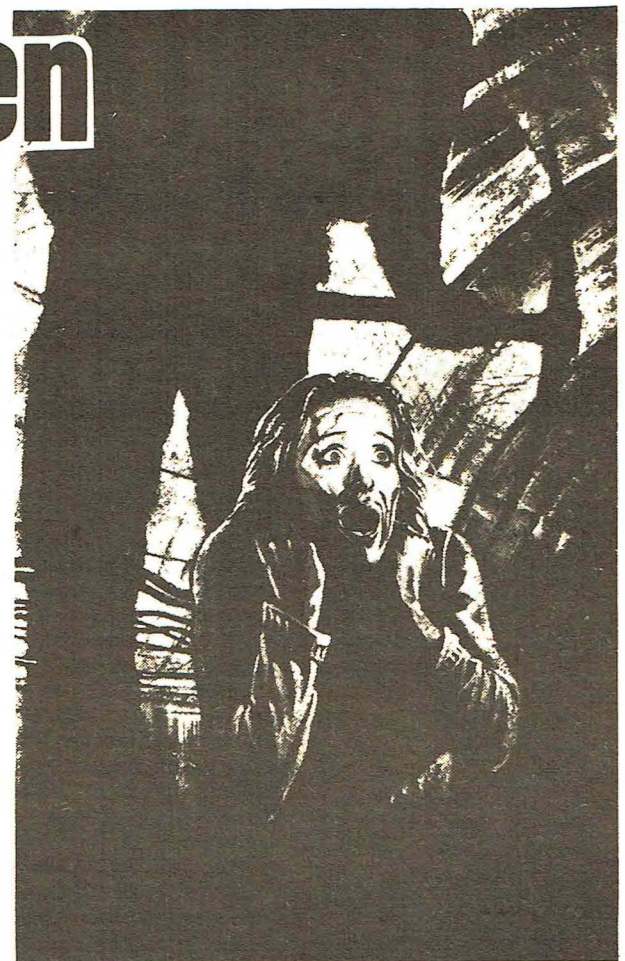
Arranging lifts and escorts to meetings is important, as is campaigning for improved street lighting and public transport.

The labour movement must reject curfews on women or men, whether legally established or imposed unofficially by the police. This would only increase police powers of search and harassment which have already reached an intolerable level in areas like Brixton. More police on the streets have not solved any problems there!

The £2 million spent by the police on the Yorkshire Ripper investigations did not prevent 13 murders and seven attempts. Apparently the Ripper was finally caught by chance!

Police intervention, more legal remedies or more severe punishment by the courts will not prevent violence. Most violence occurs in the home anyway.

Most murdered women, according to some research, are the victims of someone they have been living with. It is probably also true that the majority of injured women are hurt by a man who is their husband, their



MY BLOODY VALENTINE

lover, or a relation, though so far the authorities have not bothered to keep any statistics on this. Increased police powers will not stop this, and punishment, however severe, comes too late.

Limited measures—like better transport, and street lighting—though they must be fought for, will not themselves tackle the underlying reasons for violence. The spread of vicious, anti-social behaviour is a symptom of a sick society.

A system which produces brutalised individuals who feel they must lash out at people weaker than themselves, whether it is against women, children, the handicapped, the aged, or simply people smaller than themselves, needs changing.

We have nothing in common with moralising reactionaries like Mrs Whitehouse. But we must oppose the big business interests whose films, comics

and other media cultivate the “cult of violence”, especially among young people, and glamourises the twisted morality which encourages violence.

The labour movement has the job of counteracting demoralisation and despair, which can give rise to brutal behaviour. We must make special efforts to reach the unemployed and the most exploited groups of workers and raise their sights to the possibility of a much better life in a socialist society.

This will only be done if the movement demonstrates in action that it has the power and determination to achieve such a society.

Only by taking a clear stand on this issue will the movement be able to win the confidence of millions of working-class women, and involve them fully in the struggle for a socialist future.

By Leslie Holt
(Kirkdale Labour Party)

N.IRELAND: TURN TO THE WORKERS

By Roger Shrivess

The House of Commons, “in all its wisdom” discussed Northern Ireland on 18 June.

Anyone listening to the lengthy excerpts broadcast on BBC Radio will have realised that all parliament's wisdom doesn't amount to very much.

Humphrey Atkins, Tory secretary of state for NI, claimed that Maze prisoners' conditions were among the best in Europe. H-Block protests were no more than IRA propaganda.

Some Tory MPs went further, demanding ‘tougher action’ against ‘terrorism’. Nicholas Winterton MP called for martial law in the North. You may wonder what has been in existence

for the past twelve years of army occupation.

And what has been gained from it? H-Blocks, the non-jury Diplock courts, army attacks on civilians, army searches, continued sectarianism, and the waste of lives of Irish workers and British workers in uniform.

Winterton was gently rebuffed by Atkins, who preferred ‘low key’ operations. But Winterton's reactionary views met with silence.

But when Ron Brown, Labour MP for Edinburgh, Leith, spoke, all hell was let loose. The airwaves reverberated with the jeering and stage laughter of Westminster's professional performers.

This parliamentary outburst was triggered off by Ron Brown's call for the withdrawal of British troops



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from NI and the setting up of a People's Militia.

If MPs, Tory or Labour, think this is so funny, what is their solution?

From the moment troops went into Northern Ireland in 1969, *Militant* opposed their use. We warned that, far from protecting the Catholics, they would be

turned against Catholic workers and workers generally and could not provide any solution.

Together with the call for the withdrawal of the troops *Militant* has consistently called for the formation of a Trade Union Defence Force, the form we consider a people's militia must take.

By itself the withdrawal of troops could lead to a full-scale civil war on sectarian lines. Clearly, workers whether Catholic or Protestant, need an organisation to defend themselves and their families against sectarian attacks, violent clashes and from the security forces themselves.

Such protection cannot be provided by the sectarian para-military organisations, which only perpetuate the conflict.

It is through the trade unions that sectarianism will be overcome. On the industrial level, the unions already bridge the sectarian divide. This unity must be extended to the fundamental political issues facing NI. The formation of a party of labour would be an enormous step forward in this respect, and there have recently been a number of significant moves in this direction.

It is only through the trade unions that effective defence of the working class can be organised. That is why we stand for formation of a trade union defence force, uniting Catholic and Protestant workers, and democratically controlled by the workers through their own class organisations.

Most of the Labour MPs who spoke in parliament last

week supported Tory policies, in line with the tradition of “bi-partisanship” on NI. Were Labour MPs jeering Ron Brown's suggestion? If so, what is their alternative?

Some Labour MPs may think that they are fighting terrorism. *Militant* has always implacably opposed the terrorist policies of groups like the Provisional IRA. But it is Tory policies and the decay of big business in Northern Ireland which breeds sectarian conflict and provides the recruits for terrorist organisations.

The labour movement must fight for an alternative, mobilising support for socialist solutions—including withdrawal of troops and the setting up of a Trade Union Defence Force.

Build

Militant

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Humberside	879		1750	3500
London East	2568		3800	7600
London West	1775		2400	4800
London South	1998		2750	5500
Manchester & Lancs	1873		2900	5800
Merseyside	1922		3300	6600
Northern	2139		4300	8600
Scotland East	1264		2200	4400
Scotland West	2131		3750	7500
Southern	2594		3550	7100
South West	1232		1750	3500
Wales East	861		1300	2600
Wales West	1128		2300	4600
West Midlands	2263		4300	8600
Yorkshire	2641		4500	9000
Others	8545		6250	12500
Total received	41398		60,000	120,000

Target for July 11th £60,000 Target for year £120,000

"In the week that a witch hunt has been launched in the local and national press against us, *Militant* supporters in Bradford are pleased to send the following donations."

A donation from redundant engineering worker £60, profit from 'Book Club' £3, proceeds from party night £13.65, one comrade won a cigarette contest and donated his prize 22 pence, 'extras' and donations from supporters £12. Total £89.

"Our response to witch hunts in Bradford North is to fight for our paper and to fight for socialism and to make sure we pass our half year's total..." This letter from Yorkshire shows what needs to be done in every area.

One place where the need for our paper to build its finances was clearly appreciated was the T&GWU Conference at Brighton, where the collection at the 'Militant' meeting raised over £40. A further sum, of over £150, was collected during the Conference from delegates and visitors.

Elsewhere, a similar determination to see us achieve our target was shown by Poole supporters whose jumble sale netted £103! And other areas sent in large sums too. From Hull, B Fee and A Harrison (EETPU) sent us £8 and £2 respectively, and S Branton's £35 donation when added to over £20 in 'extras' meant that we had nearly £100!

Amongst the many amounts that put West London into the lead on our chart this week were the £52 jumble sale surplus, and donations of £10 and £5 from readers J Ginelli and P Trainer. But South London are not far behind, with £30 and £20 TU expenses from supporters, badge profits, fares donated, Irish social profits, and very many individual contributions including M Rees (Bexleyheath, CLP) and J Irvine (CPSA).

Over £10 as well came into our funds from the Militant Readers Meeting held in London on the Civil Servants' dispute. When

THE TARGET IS SOCIALISM

By Steve
Cawley

you consider that all those present were contributing to the strike fund as well, the sum is bigger than it looks!

Elsewhere, 'Militant' meetings in Manchester and Leicester, where there's also been a May Day social of benefit to us, raised nearly £40, whilst from the large number of individual donations here are a few only: thanks to P Sweeney (Sheffield) sponsored non-smoke, £16; J Bell, Nottingham Portland LP £10; G&L Scott, regular contributors from Springburn, Glasgow; J Clark, Maidenhead; and Liverpool W Derby LPYS members J Jennings and D Hallwood £8 and £1.50 respectively.

Northern reader K Walker won a bet that Huddersfield Town wouldn't go up, and sent us £5, which arrived together with a donation from Gosforth LPYS of £10!

By the time you read this column, there'll be just over a week to go before the end of our first half-year. We appeal to every reader to send us a generous donation this week, even if you haven't done so before, as it's the only way we'll be able to catch up with our £60,000 target by July 12th.

Think how much the paper is worth to you, and to those in your union branch, shop stewards committee, LPYS, ward and women's section. Think how much it's worth to your neighbours and workmates.

If you support our ideas, send us a donation. If you've been attacked in the press, you'll know how we feel, so send us a gift. If you haven't been attacked, send us something to celebrate!

Get us on target for the fighting fund, and on target for socialism!

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Introduction to Marxism: Method of Marxism—Jeremy Birch; Marxist Economics—Ed Bober; Marxism and Internationalism—Jeremy Birch.

Ireland: The 1916 Uprising; Partition and the Civil War; Perspectives for Northern Ireland. All by Manus Maguire.

France: Popular Front Government of 1936—Lynn Walsh; 1968—Clare Doyle; Mitterrand's victory: the future for France—Peter Taaffe.

History of the British labour movement: Chartists and early trade unions—Brian Ingham; Unemployed struggles of 1920s and 1930s—Brian Ingham; Poplarism: Lessons for today—Tony Saunois.

South Africa: History of South African labour movement; Prospects for the future.

Poland: The struggle for Workers' Democracy—Lynn Walsh. Debates: The future of the Labour Party—Tony Saunois and Alan Whitehead (LCC); How to achieve peace and disarmament—Peter Taaffe and Harry Robertson (Labour Action for Peace).

1980 Weekend School

China: 1925-7 Revolution—Peter Taaffe; 1944-49 Revolution—Peter Taaffe; Perspectives for Today—Lynn Walsh.

Economics: Wage, Labour & Capital—Bryan Beckingham; Will there be a slump?—Rob Jones; Alternative Economic Strategy—Rob Jones.

Life of Trotsky: Rise of Bolshevism—Alan Woods; Struggle against Stalinism—Alan Woods; 1930s—Ted Grant.

Marxism & the Trade Unions: General Strike—Brian Ingham; Role of Marxist as shop steward—Bob Faulkes.

Debate: Lessons of Chile 1970-73—Lynn Walsh & Mike Gatehouse (CPGB).

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Industrial

in brief

The London Jewish Hospital in North East London is to be sold off for private use. The Tower Hamlets health district joint shop stewards' committee have demanded the hospital be re-opened under National Health Service control. They have called on the Regional and Area Health Authorities to join them in this demand, saying that "every effort should be made to recruit staff from the pool of some 5,000 nurses and 650 doctors unemployed at present. If the private sector can do it, why can't the NHS?"

The Greater London Association of Trades Councils say they are 'concerned at allegations' that the organisers of the official labour and trade union May Day rally in London colluded with the police to get people removed from the march. As the march was about to set off, a few supporters of the 'H-Block committees' and a marcher protesting about the events in Brixton, were hauled out of the crowd, and then encircled by police, who detained them until the march moved off. The trades council said, "We condemn the dangerous and sinister precedent which the police have tried to establish, allowing them to decide who can and cannot participate in a broad labour and trade union movement rally."

In response to the Scottish Secretary of State's threat to cut £53 million from Lothian Region's budget, the council white-collar union NALGO called out its 6,000 members on one-day strike recently. Over two thousand took part in a demonstration in support of the Labour-controlled authority.

Following a mass meeting of workers at St Mary's Hospital, London, a "work-in" was initiated, supported by all the hospital's trade unions. The hospital authorities are planning to close 109 acute medical and surgical beds and 11 rehabilitation and rheumatology beds. They also plan to restrict the casualty service to the "walking wounded" only. All ambulance cases will be transferred to other hospitals. The staff have tremendous support in the local community. Earlier this year a petition was presented to the Minister of Health containing the signatures of some 20,000 people who are totally opposed to cuts in beds and services at this hospital.

National USDAW Broad Left conference to be held in Manchester, Sunday 12 July, at 2pm. Venue: 'Star and Garter' pub (behind Piccadilly station). All BL supporters should try to attend.

RISING ANGER IN NUR

The mood of anger within the National Union of Railwaymen is rising.

Two issues have brought this about; the annual pay negotiations and the threat of redundancy.

Yet on neither issue has the union leadership been prepared to fight.

In spite of a Low Pay Unit report, putting railwaymen near the bottom of the pay league, the leadership have submitted a vaguely worded claim for "substantial increases" and other benefits.

This is in spite of the fact that since the Beeching cuts in the 1960s BR staff have had no real increase in living standards.

This claim remains on the

By
Mike Cleverly
(Leyton No. 2, NUR)

table. Management have made an insulting offer of 7% and the matter is in the hands of an "independent" arbitrator. The delay is causing real frustration.

The railways have been starved of investment since the war. Three thousand miles of line are in imminent danger of closure due to lack of maintenance.

Unfortunately the union has been drawn into making a joint approach to the

government for funds, as though the interests of worker and management were the same.

We are now seeing the result of this joint approach. The government is holding out the promise of cash provided none of it is 'squandered' on wages!

They claim the job is over-manned although the railwayman still works an average 54½-hour week.

A 35-hour week would create 23,000 extra jobs, according to the assistant general secretary, Russell Tuck. But railwaymen cannot live on money for 40 hours, let alone 35! For that reason the Minimum Earnings Level should be scrapped and a basic minimum of £90 be introduced.

British Rail Engineering Ltd (BREL), where I work, seems to be bearing the brunt of the redundancy

threat, but in reality no area is safe.

Altogether 3,800 jobs are under threat by 1985.

Support Ashford resolution

Only a real fight back can succeed against the determination of the Tories to cut our living standards. Yet the circulars to branches show no sign of such a fight, although the BREL management have said they will close the Ashford Depot this year.

The resolution from Ashford demanding that the union executive use the full strength of the NUR to resist closure or any other threat to jobs is being welcomed. Leyton No 2 branch unanimously passed

a similar resolution on 22 June.

At the same meeting we were told that although our yard (Temple Mills) is not under threat it had been calculated that a four-day week would save £206,000 in seven weeks. Some yards would save over £1 million.

This threat of redundancies and a 4-day week, as well as the closure of at least one and possibly more engineering yards is being held over our heads.

The time for talking is coming to an end. Every branch should take up the Ashford resolution and show the union leadership that we do not intend to watch our job and the industry we have created thrown out of the window.

As one of our brothers put it, "The miners showed the way. We must prepare for a right punch-up."

No to the witch-hunts!

The Grantham branch of the NUR has passed a resolution condemning attempts by some labour leaders to whip up a witch hunt against the left; "This branch strongly opposes the recent attacks against the 'Militant'. These attacks are an obvious attempt to witch-hunt all those within the labour movement who are arguing

for the movement to take up radical socialist policies in the important fight against the Conservatives.

"We urge that the NEC member of the Labour Party representing the NUR opposes vehemently all witch-hunts within the party and the attempts to prevent necessary discussions on socialist ideas within the movement.

"This branch notes with dismay the mild criticisms which the recent traitors received, who, riding to positions of power and trust on the backs of hard working Labour members and supporters, stabbed the party in the back and formed a new party.

"Furthermore, this branch demands an immediate investigation into links

reported to have been made between bankers, industrialists, NATO, CIA and others, and a section of the right wing of the Labour Party. We feel that these links, if found to be true, pose an obvious threat to the effectiveness of the labour movement, particularly in its present battle with the Tory government and all others opposed to

the Labour Party.

"In view of this we ask the NUR to withdraw from the Labour Party's annual conference the resolution seeking the introduction of the controversial proscribed list. Any such move would only hinder the fight for the implementation of socialist policies and the fight for the defeat of the present Tory government.

'THE GRUNWICK OF THE NORTH'

By Dave Power
(SOGAT)

Roach Bridge Paper Mill, near Preston, is currently the scene of a long and bitter dispute.

The Roach Bridge workers have now been fighting for trade union recognition since November 1980 and have maintained a 24-hour picket at the plant since then in all weather.

The dispute began when Frank Brown commenced working at the mill and was appalled at the conditions "enjoyed" by the workforce; 67p per hour for

a 6-day, 3-shift week, no canteen facilities or recognised meal breaks and no health and safety regulations of any consequence (the safety rep was a company director).

Frank was an active trade unionist and immediately set to the task of organising his fellow workers into SOGAT. 80% of the process workers joined and the newly formed chapel (branch) sought recognition from the company.

Within 24 hours Frank Brown was sacked for bad timekeeping. The chapel

walked out in sympathy and have been out since then.

The pickets have conducted the sort of grim struggle against seemingly overwhelming adversity that should serve as an example to all trade unionists.

Frank Brown is currently serving a three month sentence after being found guilty of criminal damage (breaking a window after extreme provocation from the scabs within).

The makeshift shelter erected by the strikers was demolished by the company, using a fork-lift truck.

Ambulancemen

Barry Lane, a steward at Hackney ambulance station, and deputy steward Paul Curtis told Bob Faulkes and Alan Watson of Hackney Central Labour Party of the mood of the ambulancemen during their present dispute.

January 1 was the anniversary of our wage agreements. Six months later we are having to take strike action for a decent wage.

The government's 6% wage norm is not acceptable to our membership and the intransigence of the Tories has only further angered the members. This is a struggle against the government hence the need for industrial action.

The Tory media proclaim we get wages of £160-£170 per week. We would need to

work about 78 hours to take home approx. £120—two weeks' work in a week!

To get a living wage now we need to work seven days a week.

We should be classified as an emergency service, after all we answer double the calls of the fire brigade. In our station we deal with an average of 7 calls per ambulance every shift.

For shift work we get the princely sum of about £6 per week and that's including a 10-hour night shift and taking in all bank holidays!

We are classified as an "essential service" yet our union leaders tell us they cannot sanction all-out strike action because of an agreement with the TUC on "emergency services".

The recent total stoppage gave a tremendous boost to our morale. It has also had the effect of the government putting the troops on continuous stand-by. That must be costing them a fortune.

Future 24-hour stoppages

will be taken without warning.

We received the general sympathy of the public on our last stoppage and we hope to retain that even though the Tory gutter press, doing everything to attack us.

This is a struggle against the Tory government and we believe that in the final analysis only a total stoppage will be effective in defeating them. We need the full backing of our unions and the labour movement in this struggle.

Raine Mill

Since the 22 week dispute in the steel industry last year, the ISTC branch at Raine Rolling, Blayden, on the Tyne, has been under constant attack from management.

Bit by bit, management have tried to chip away at the trade union organisation. Redundancies and re-organisation seem not only

to have been directed at reducing manning levels and increasing profits, but also at the trade union officials as well.

In February the 50 redundancies that went through included the ISTC staff's branch chairman.

This time, one of the staff reps has also been included in the redundancies. Brian Nixon the works rep, has been with Raine for 6½ years and is a shift manager. When management decided to reduce working from two shifts to one, it was Brian who was served with a redundancy notice, despite the fact that the other shift manager had only been there five months.

When this was announced, an immediate meeting of all workers was called and they decided unanimously to walk out. Brian told me that what amazed him was that in spite of the fact that he was staff, the manual grades were 100% behind him, and they realised that once the staff side had been brought into line, it would be their turn next.

The ISTC have said they will make the dispute official.

At a meeting on Saturday, the vote to decide whether to continue the action was unanimous. The steelmen are determined to make a stand. One worker said, "Either we must win, or we might as well close the company down." Others demanded that the time had come to take on the company and bring it to heel.

Pickets were out in force on Monday morning, many sporting stickers from the last steel strike. With the experience they gained then, they have already contacted other ISTC branches in the area and appeal sheets have been issued and a hardship fund set up.

Please send message of support and donations to: Jimmy Reilly, 94 Keith Crescent, Scotswood, Newcastle Upon Tyne.

By Jeff Price

T&GWU CONFERENCE

Leaders 'fudge' Benn issue

The T&GWU meets at its Biennial Conference in Brighton last week.
Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

Many delegates at the national conference of the Transport and General Workers Union held last week in Brighton were angered by the manoeuvring of the union's leadership on the question of the deputy leadership elections of the Labour Party.

Many rank and file delegates had attempted to get the conference to decide on who the union should vote for as a whole in these elections.

Throughout the conference delegate after delegate, no matter what issue was under discussion, invariably concluded their remarks by referring to the need for Tony Benn to be elected, as a way of getting union policy implemented.

Yet such was the leadership's desperation to stop the issue coming before conference they even withdrew one of their own resolutions, so that an amendment which supported Benn's candidature, automatically fell.

Other resolutions that had amendments calling for support for Benn were also withdrawn after the branch delegates had been approached by members of the Standing Orders Committee.

This left the field clear for the chairman, Stan Pember-ton, to rule out of order any emergency resolutions about Benn on the grounds that "to qualify for an emergency, an issue had to be of sufficient urgency that it could not have been submitted as a resolution or amendment before the expiry dates."

These remarks from the chairman came after Alan Quinn, Merseyside delegate and *Militant* supporter, on behalf of the Broad Left had moved reference back to the decision not to allow the many emergency resolutions.

Alan said "we must talk about politics at this conference, and therefore our political wing, the Labour Party, should have a leadership that begins to reflect the rank and file. We have to stop fudging the issue and make a decision."

The decision on who to commit the union's vote for will now be left to the 40-man delegation (19 lay members and 21 full-time officials) at the Labour Party conference itself.

The way is now clear for the leadership to support its sponsored MP John Silkin.

It remains to be seen whether Silkin is eliminated in the first ballot, and therefore the union will have to vote for Benn or Healey, unless yet another 'spoiler' candidate comes forward.

Deputy general secretary of the T&G, Alex Kitson, in his summing up to the debate, made it clear that he still opposed Benn standing, for "causing disunity" etc.

Unfortunately many on the left were taken in by his rhetoric when he said that the

By Bill Mullins

union stood by its position of support for the 40-30-30 formula on party democracy. This was the most important item, he said, not the question of "personalities".

But any faltering in the momentum of the movement to the left in the union and the Labour Party will be used by the right wing to try and regain lost ground.

It is highly unlikely, and would not be tolerated by the TGWU members, for the LP delegation to vote for Healey, not Benn.

The general executive will no doubt be flooded with resolutions from branches, district committees and regional committees demanding that the LP delegation votes for Benn from the start.

However, the issue of Benn should not be allowed to cloud over the fact that the conference itself represented a further swing to the left. As reported in last week's issue, the conference overwhelmingly rejected any moves to an incomes policy and wage restraint.

It also rejected "joint-control" industrial democracy, in favour of workers' control.

Without a doubt the most important resolution carried was on the question of how to fight the cuts. Against the opposition of the platform, the conference voted to support "that this conference is totally opposed to cuts in the public services and supports direct action against the cuts."

"Where workers take direct action and occupy to defend jobs and services the TGWU will call for strike action to support such occupations to create the best conditions for success."

"In addition the TGWU will support Labour councils who refuse to implement the cuts, put up rates, or refuse interest debts to the banks."

This must be the first major union to come out on a policy of calling on Labour councils to confront the Tory government over cuts, rather than dodging the issue and "balancing the books".

Many Labour councillors are sponsored by TGWU branches. The union's position on fighting cuts must be brought home to these councillors as soon as possible.

The discussion on import controls was another major debate. The union over the past two years has spent tens



of thousands of pounds campaigning in the labour movement in favour of import controls. Yet in spite of this, for the first time real arguments were heard by conference against this.

Roger Gow, Tilbury dock worker and *Militant* supporter, speaking in support of resolution 51 which opposed import controls, explained that import controls "invite retaliation, switching unemployment from the production line making goods for the home market, to the production line making goods for the export market."

Many delegates were plainly discomfited by the nationalist comments from some delegates on the

rostrum ("slant-eyed, Jap gentlemen" etc.).

But while this debate was going on, the leadership circulated a petition for support for import controls to go to the government. This aroused the fury of some delegates who ripped up the petition sheets.

Kitson in the reply never attempted to answer the arguments, but concentrated on explaining how import controls would not damage the third world, a point that nobody had raised! The vote was 150 for to 200 against, and resolution 51 was lost.

On the question of Northern Ireland, the leadership again seemed afraid of a real debate. The TGWU is the

biggest union in Northern Ireland as well as having members in the south.

It was because of this that resolution 284 called for Region 11 (Ireland) to organise a conference of labour as a launching pad for the building of a mass party of labour.

But the platform stopped that resolution being put by reading out a prepared statement which, if accepted, would automatically take off the agenda all resolutions. By carefully selecting speakers, no opposition was heard to the executive's bland statement which was consequently carried.

Unfortunately the programme of *Militant*, contain-

ed within resolution 189 on the crisis of the economy was not debated because of lack of time.

Nevertheless the ideas of Marxism were heard both inside conference and outside, at a meeting on Ireland, organised by the Labour and Trade Union Group, addressed by Bill Webster, secretary of Derry Trades Council, and at a *Militant* Readers' Meeting with Rod Fitch, Labour parliamentary candidate, and Alan Quinn delegate speaking.

Nearly 200 copies of *Militant* were sold as well as 75 *Militant* TGWU pamphlets, and £218 was raised for the Fighting Fund.

CIVIL SERVICE - All out strike needed

The civil servants' dispute has reached another crucially important moment with the meeting of the civil service trade union leaders on 2 July.

The action mounted by the unions undoubtedly has an effect. Evidence of the growing pressure is the recent move by 50 Tory MPs to try to bring in RAF Air Traffic Controllers to do black leg work during the selective industrial action of the civilian Controllers.

Such a move would almost certainly provoke massive solidarity strike action throughout the civil service.

Other trade unionists outside the civil service should also take action as a warning to the Tories that this type of strike breaking will not be permitted.

Following the levy collection appeal it seems certain

By Brian Ingham
(Industrial Correspondent)

that a big increase in contributions will be announced, sufficient to sustain the action for a further period.

It is also clear that the general secretaries have scope for intensifying this action still further.

Nevertheless, in our opinion, it is clear that at that stage of the dispute the government will not shift without the pressure of an all-out civil servants' strike.

Overall, in the recent ballots civil servants voted against all-out strike action although IRSF came near and CPSA members did vote in favour. But further selective action has not shifted the government.

Executive members in different unions wishing to push forward now towards all-out strike action have been told that their autonomy has been surrendered

to the Council of Civil Service Unions.

In other words—to a handful of general secretaries!

Yet when the ballots were conducted by each union separately, often posing completely different questions. If the ballots had taken place in joint meetings after joint discussions, and with all civil servants voting on the same questions, then it is highly likely that an overall majority would have been recorded for all out action.

At the time of writing (on the eve of the July 2nd meeting) we do not know whether a call has been made for an all out strike.

If the general secretaries have failed to make this move, then the initiative

may well have to come from one or two individual unions.

At its last meeting the CPSA executive had a motion before it calling upon CPSA to organise all-out strike action, with appeals to other unions to follow.

If there is no all-out strike call, then the ranks of CPSA should demand action along these lines. Rank and file members of other unions should demand that their executives also give a lead in calling for and organising all-out action.

The government is determined to make a scapegoat of civil servants, only bold all-out strike action can bring victory at this stage of the dispute.

UNITY: voice of the Militant in the CPSA

Price 10p (+ 10p postage) from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

CHATHAM DOCKYARD TORIES HAVE NO SOLUTIONS



Demonstration outside office in Chatham Dockyard

The axe has finally fallen on Chatham dockyard after weeks of speculation and rumour. It was announced last Thursday (25 July) that the yard is to close by March 1984, although the run down is expected to start almost immediately.

The announcement left the workforce stunned and bitter. Intense anger is felt against this Tory government and their local MPs who owe their seats to promises over the years to their constituents of a

By a Chatham dockyard shop steward

secure future for the naval base.

We demand their resignation immediately. The

coachloads of the representatives of the combined unions in the dockyard went to the House of Commons on Thursday 25 June to lobby their MPs.

They spoke to Peggy Fenner, Tory MP for Chatham and Rochester, but Freddie Burden wasn't available—he rarely is. It was obvious from her comments that she had very little knowledge of what actually goes on in the dockyard.

The workers must not be deceived by the apparent eagerness of the MPs to save the yard and involve themselves in campaigns to save the yard. In truth their prime motive is to save their own skins at the next general election.

They're not interested in unemployment, they just want it moved elsewhere so

even experienced trade union officials.

The YOPs workers returned to work, but intend to launch a national campaign. The main demands are for either free transport or for an allowance to cover their fares and for an increase on the basic rate of £23.50

As we go to press, free transport has been put back on, but it is unclear how long this will last.

it doesn't embarrass them. We must organise through the unions, local Labour Parties and trades councils a massive campaign to save the jobs of the 7,000 workers.

We cannot accept any redundancies, we must demand alternative useful work to keep this establishment open. The effects of a closure for the Medway towns and the surrounding area will be devastating.

All sections of the community must be made aware of this and encouraged to join the fight to avoid the massive redundancies; get active in their unions and join their local Labour Parties.

A socialist society would be able to use our skills for peaceful purposes. That is what we have to fight for.

Labour Party members and trade union members must support the fight of the YOPs workers. The labour movement must demand an end to unemployment. But that does not mean sweated labour for the benefit of the bosses!
★ Full trade union rights for YOPs workers!
★ Full union rates of pay!
★ Permanent jobs for the unemployed!

TORIES OUT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

sulting I mean having to see her face. It's bad enough having to put up with her on the telly today. Get her out!"

Newport is a town with 15% unemployed (that's just official figures). The threatened closure of steel plants and all its dependent industries hangs over the town like a sword of Damocles.

Most young people in particular have no hope of proper lasting jobs, and here this hatred of the Tory government and their system was most bitterly expressed.

In the LPYS day of action in Newport, practically all the youth responded to our leaflets with real enthusiasm. Many committed themselves to coming down to Cardiff on July 4th, others joined the YS on the spot.

We got 32 names for the YS that day; and some stayed behind to help us hand out leaflets.

Some remarks about the Tories are unprintable but one comment was "I don't believe in hanging, but there's an exception to every rule isn't there?"

Determination

It's the same in every town we have visited. On the Saturday days of action, we've sold over 100 papers on every occasion, 110 in Ebbw Vale, 200 in Pontypridd and Caerphilly, 400 at the Miners' Gala, 140 in Newport, 190 in Cardiff. Names and addresses for the YS and Labour Party too are pouring in.

The response amongst shop stewards, and in the factories, has shown growing respect for the ideas of the LPYS and the *Militant*.

One G&MWU shop steward responded to us with open arms; grateful to take leaflets, but complaining bitterly that his union had only sent him two leaflets about the demonstration for the whole of his factory.

When LPYS members

have spoken at different union branches on the question of the demonstration, we've stressed the need to join the Labour Party and especially appealing to the youth in those factories to join the ranks of the LPYS.

The message of the build up to this demo is a clear determination to get rid of the Tories as soon as possible.

This demonstration must be a vital first stage in that process. The leaders of the trade union and labour movement must organise a 24-hour general strike to involve all workers, in the factories and offices, on the dole queues and on the estates in a campaign to use our full strength and bring down the Tories.

24-hour general strike

The miners showed the spirit last February when they forced the Tories to back down over pit closures. Get the Tories out and get Labour in, committed to socialist policies.

We must channel people's frustration into a political struggle in the labour and trade union movement to hammer out the socialist policies we need to meet the aspirations, and interests of working people and their families.

As one woman put to us when buying a paper in Cardiff "Don't you worry I'll be there on the demo, let's get rid of Thatcher now. But I only hope that in five years' time we're not back to square one, on the streets, marching against the Tories because Labour failed to deliver the goods."

Join us in our fight! Join the Labour Party Young Socialists in the struggle for an end to Toryism—for ever!

Extra supplies of 'Militant' will be available on museum steps, Cathavs Park.

YOUTH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

lads in the workshop, so it stopped work, but the other representatives went around to tell sites and workshops what was going on and if we didn't get a satisfactory answer everyone was to come out."

As one trade union of-

ficial pointed out, it is the people without real jobs who are leading the fight against this Tory government. The swiftness with which things were organised, the fact that the girls were out in the streets with banners demanding an improvement in wages, startled

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