

Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

ISSUE 563
31 July 1981

20p



**South
Africa-
On the
Road to
Revolution**
SEE CENTRE PAGES

Tory Policies Have Created

INNER CITY HELL

Millionaire Heseltine's visit insults workers

Heseltine's visit to Liverpool is a farce! It is designed as a public relations exercise to cover up the fact that the Tories have no answers.

How are the Tories 'helping' workers facing the deprivation of the inner cities? On the contrary! The policies of Heseltine himself and the Tories are making life daily more difficult for workers everywhere.

While Heseltine can afford to spend £10,000 on food and drink at a lavish party for his daughter, public expenditure cuts in cities like

By
Tony Aitman
(Liverpool Kirkdale
Labour Party)

Liverpool are destroying the very fabric of local community.

Heseltine's visit has been greeted without the least bit of enthusiasm by local workers.

Last time he was in Liverpool 8 he was pelted with eggs and tomatoes.

The Tories understand nothing about the conditions of workers in areas like Liverpool 8.

Neither will they ever find out by whizzing around the city ring roads as Thatcher did a few weeks ago, or living it up in a 5-star hotel as Heseltine is doing now!

At one well publicised meeting with the Minister, Toxteth community leaders walked out.

Heseltine and Co went for a trip on the Mersey ferry while the council was promoting a bill through Parliament to get it closed down!

They visited a school, also being closed down by the Liberal council. Heseltine even had the cheek to venture into a

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PHOTO: Above the dereliction of Toxteth
Below: Police raid a council estate in Birkenhead, July 11th
Photos: MILITANT

LIVERPOOL POLICE OUT OF CONTROL

"No one can control the police. The chief constable is in full operational command and nobody can say 'lay off'." Mrs Margaret Simey, chairman of Merseyside Police Committee, was speaking after what amounted to a police riot on the streets of Liverpool this week.

On the night of Tuesday-Wednesday [28-29 July], a young man aged 22 was killed by a police vehicle. A 'Militant' supporter who is a city councillor was in the vicinity and witnessed the incident.

As she is also a nurse she

gave first aid until the ambulance service arrived.

'The Guardian' confirmed that the police were trying to clear the streets by driving their Land Rovers indiscriminately at the crowd. It was inevitable that

By Militant
reporters

someone would be killed or injured.

The police have made much of the fact that real bullets are not used during disturbances. But what is the difference between being mown down by a gun or a police jeep? The police were also using gas from a canister they could release and shut up again.

The riots on that night were caused not only by the dreadful conditions of this

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Militant

LABOUR MUST MEET SDP HEAD ON

Fight with Socialist Policies

It would be wrong to overestimate or to underestimate the threat that the SDP poses to the Labour party in the next election. Warrington must be put in the right perspective.

The result, and the council by-elections following, showed more than anything a complete rejection of the policies of Thatcher, putting in doubt her ability to lead the Tories into the next election.

At the same time, the press always try to build up support for the 'third parties' during a Tory government to divert opposition from the Labour Party. Thus from 1970-74, the press built up the Liberals and the SNP in Scotland so that, for example, in the normally safe Labour seat of Chester-le-Street, the Liberal vote increased to 38.6 per cent in the 1973 by-election, without a nationally known candidate.

The Tory press is filled daily with muck about the so-called 'extremism' of the Labour Party, contrasting it with the 'moderation' and 'sanity' of the Social Democrats. This massive press campaign went a long way to explaining the vote in Warrington.

But the capitalists and their kept press are playing a dangerous game: in their haste to stop the Labour Party they are risking the complete eclipse of the Tory Party! By the time of the next general election, it is therefore likely that the press support for the SDP will be much more muted.

But the right wing and to a certain extent the lefts of the Labour Party have drawn completely wrong conclusions from Warrington. Some extreme right wingers may be already preparing to split to the SDP in the hope that they would be in a better position to preserve their careers. Good riddance to them—it would be far better that they split now, rather than later when there was a Labour government in office.

But others on the right have drawn the conclusion that voters want 'centre' policies. Roy Hattersley has said, "If we go on being daft, then the Social Democrats will prosper." All the moves demoralising the Party and the policy decisions of the last two years are simply 'being daft' to the right wing.

Their answer to the SDP is virtually to take over their

policies, and in reality the SDP and Labour right have fundamentally the same ideas. They both hark back to the diluted monetarism of 1974-79, which lost the last election so disastrously for Labour.

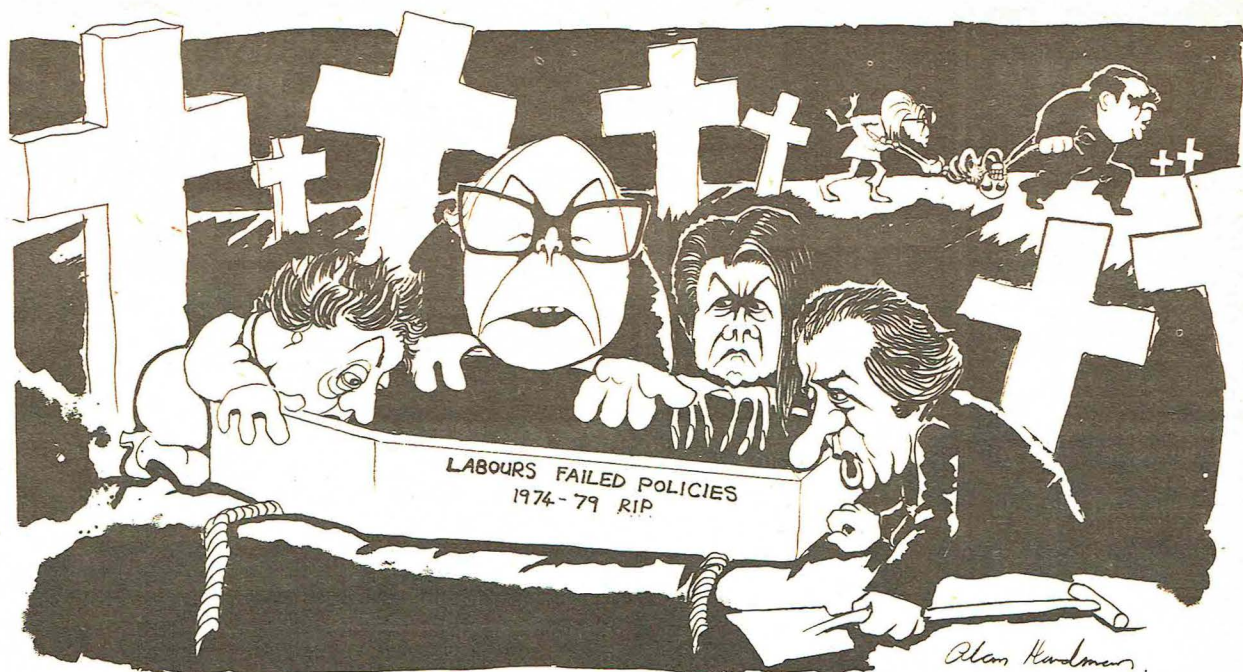
But as the right wing of the Labour Party campaign for the dropping of many of the Labour Party's radical policies, there is also a danger that some of the lefts will give in to the pressure, in the same way that Doug Hoyle in Warrington played down his own left-wing ideas. To do this would be disastrous. It would play into the hands of the SDP and lose many Labour seats.

The Labour Party will not defeat the threat of the SDP by chasing the tail of the SDP and trying to out-moderate the moderates. On the contrary, the Party must meet the SDP head-on, explaining that they are only another variant of Toryism.

The policies of Williams, Jenkins, Owen and Co. offer no more solution to unemployment, low wages, bad housing etc. than does Thatcher herself. The Labour Party must campaign for a real socialist alternative, that will tackle the economic problems faced by workers. Labour must fight for the 35-hour week, to help overcome unemployment, they must fight for an £80 national minimum wage, for a scheme of public works, for the restoration of public expenditure cuts.

They must explain that these policies can be made possible with a Labour government committed to the nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies, and the introduction of a democratic plan of production. Workers would rally to this programme if the Labour leaders were to campaign for it and explain it. Bold socialist policies are the answer to the SDP, not weak-kneed accommodation to the Tory media.

The increasing membership and activity of the Labour Party in Brighton Kempton (see report on page 7) is an indicator of what is possible when the Labour Party takes socialist policies to the workers and actively campaigns. That kind of campaign on a national level would sweep the Tories from office and would demolish any threat from the SDP.



SOME WOTTERS BEATEN US TO IT

NEWCASTLE-LABOUR LOSE SEAT

By Russell Dawson
(Newcastle LPYS)

Coming hard on the heels of the SDP 'achievement' in Warrington, the press are making a big fuss over SDP victories in council by-elections, like the one in Walkergate, Newcastle, where the SDP won by one vote. But the loss of a seat in Newcastle, at least, can be put down to the attempt by the Labour candidate to 'out-moderate' the moderates.

The candidate for

Labour, a local businessman, carried on his election address a reproduction of an article from the local press under the headline "Labour Moderate to fight by-election" and the whole campaign was designed to show how moderate a chap he was. When the result was

announced, he declared that the voters in Newcastle had voted for 'centre' politics.

But Labour will continue to lose seats to the SDP if they merely echo the policies and criticisms of the SDP, without campaigning on socialist policies. Voters

can be forgiven for being confused when all the candidates are declared 'moderates' and when the Labour Party put up a businessman and the SDP puts up a shop steward against him!

CAMDEN DEFECTION

By Bob Labi
(Hampstead CLP)

Six months after Labour's Special Conference at Wembley and four months after the formal launching of the Social Democratic Party, ex-Fabian Society chairman and current Camden councillor Nick Bosanquet finally announced he was quitting the Labour Party.

Giving as one of his reasons for leaving the Labour Party the "increasing power given to block

votes", Bosanquet explained that "his resolve to join the SDP was made after the outcome of the January Labour Party conference on constitutional reform." Labour's special conference was held on 24 January, but Bosanquet only told his

Labour Party branch of his decision on 20 July. This clearly means that for the last six months Bosanquet was in the Labour Party he was, in reality, a Social Democratic agent. All this time Bosanquet remained in the Labour Group on Camden Council.

Labour Party members throughout the country should draw the lesson from this latest defection that

there may be Social Democratic sympathisers and fellow travellers in leading positions within the Party only biding their time until they openly go over to the SDP. The entire labour movement must take action now to ensure that these Social Democratic fifth columnists are immediately removed from any positions they have in the Labour Party and trade unions.

Another traitor stabs Labour in the back

On 4 July our Labour MP Jim Wellbeloved, former junior minister for defence (RAF) defected to the SDP. He had not informed anyone in the local Labour Party what his intentions were, and first thing we heard was on News at Ten on the Friday evening.

He'd probably announced it in such a manner to give the Warrington SDP campaign a boost.

Wellbeloved had recently carried out a campaign of attacks on the 'Militant' supporters in the Labour Party giving an interview two weeks before he defected to commercial radio station LBC followed by a report in 'The Times'. At a General Management Committee meeting a few months ago when the LPYS had a resolution condemning the SDP he refused to support the resolution saying that if he condemned anybody it would be the 'Militant' in the Labour

By Claire Bradley
(Erith & Crayford CLP and LPYS)

Party. At the same meeting ironically enough he had said he would stay within the Labour Party and fight but he didn't stay to fight for long.

The local newspaper called him 'honest' for doing what he thought was best, but we see it as stepping on the faces of the Labour Party members who've cam-



DON'T GO! DON'T GO!
YOUR PARTY NEEDS YOU

paign for him for years and the local electorate who voted Labour and for Labour Party policies.

Wellbeloved claims that he will stand by the manifesto he got elected on. But of course he is not accountable to anyone and left the LP just at a time when the democratic changes might make him accoun-

table to the Labour Party. Wellbeloved should be condemned for stabbing the Labour Party in the back. The LP must attack these characters for their selfish use of the LP.

But it is also important that we have a programme to offer to working people in Britain. If the Labour Party cowers behind the gutter press we won't convince anybody that we have the ability to tackle the social and economic problems that face workers.

Now with re-selection, it is more important than ever that we choose a candidate who will stand on a socialist programme—who will be prepared to fight for it and will be accountable to the local LP.

The neighbouring constituency of Woolwich West, fed up with losing its MP to the SDP and Tories, recently selected left winger Audrey Wise as its prospective parliamentary candidate.

LOTHIAN- Strike to stop cuts

No rate rises, but preparation for an all-out strike of council workers and the wider trade union movement.

That was the programme of action hammered out by delegates from Labour Parties, trade unions and voluntary bodies at last weekend's Lothian recall conference. Delegates saw that there could be no compromise in the fight to stop the Tories cutting £47m from this year's budget.

The Lothian Region Action Committee are now committed to wage a vigorous campaign amongst workers to ensure that no jobs are lost. And whereas at an earlier conference in February there had been overwhelming support for rate rises to combat the cuts, last weekend *Militant* supporter Pat Craven successfully moved a motion which rejected further rate rises and pointed out the

hardship already caused by this year's 49% increase.

Underlying the serious mood of delegates was the recognition that national action was needed and conference called for the Labour Party and TUC to link the battle of Lothian council with those of other threatened councils in Dundee, Stirling, Sheffield and the Greater London Council.

The council will shortly be meeting Younger, the Tory Secretary of State for Scotland. It is vital that all Labour councillors stand firm behind the policy agreed at last weekend's conference and that the Lothian Regional Action Committee Campaign campaigns within the workplaces now with leaflets and visits so that when the Tories begin their attempted cuts they are met by strike action.

By Tam Burke
(C Edinburgh Labour Party)



Lothian Day of Action, 30 June

Photo: M Tate

LPYS supported

The following resolution was put forward by East Edinburgh Constituency Executive Committee to the general management committee.

"This GMC congratulates the Labour Party Young Socialists for the élan and initiative shown by them during the recent riots throughout Britain. The CLP recognises the importance of stressing, as the LPYS literature said, that the blame for the riots lies squarely on the shoulders of the Tories and the system

that they represent; that rioting in itself is no way forward and that the only way to guarantee eradication of mass unemployment and conditions of squalor is a political fight for a socialist future by joining the Labour Party and the LPYS.

"We therefore condemn the malicious lies spread by

the media and unfortunately some leading figures in the Labour Party who have tried to discredit the YS by totally distorting the role played by our youth comrades during these events."

The resolution was passed unanimously by the GMC.

Labour's Executive agrees radical policies

The major policy documents agreed last week by Labour's National Executive reflect the growing demands from the labour movement for more radical policies.

The right wing-dominated Shadow Cabinet, led by Denis Healey, tried to prevent a decision being taken on the defence document. But nonetheless, last year's conference decisions supporting unilateral disarmament and opposition to Cruise missiles were both included.

In fact the right wing's attempts to reject these demands mustered a mere three votes.

In the economic policy document Dennis Skinner strengthened the call for a 35-hour week from "a progressive move" to calling for its implementation "without a decrease in living standards." This will be enthusiastically welcomed by Labour's ranks.

So will the move led by LPYS representative, Tony Saunois to support full trade union rights, including the negotiation of pay, for all those on the YOP's schemes.

On Northern Ireland, a decisive change in party policy occurred, making it the most significant development in official par-

ty policy for over 50 years. The NEC document goes some way towards accepting a socialist alternative and calling for workers' unity.

The programme declares that "At the heart of this programme is the long and deeply held belief in the Labour Party that Ireland should, by peaceful means, and on the basis of consent be united, and a recognition that will be achieved with the introduction of socialist policies."

It also accepts the necessity for the industrial unity of the working class to be extended to the political level.

Having considered the options of extending a region of the British Labour Party into Northern Ireland or calling a conference of the trade union movement to form a Labour Party, the document concludes, "We recognise the need for a class based party of Labour in Northern Ireland, in order to give a clear political lead on social and economic issues which unite Catholic and Protestant workers.

"The formation of such a party however must be rooted in the trade unions in Northern Ireland. We therefore believe that the interested trade unions, trades councils, shop stewards committees and other labour movement organisations in Northern Ireland discuss the possibility of the

formation of such a Labour Party."

Both these additions were the results of initiatives led by Tony Saunois. The document however fails to deal sufficiently with the role of the army and repressive legislation.

It also side-tracks away from an independent class stance into a discussion on the failed options of "power sharing" and talks with leaders of various sectarian parties on both sides.

The document is nevertheless a significant change in party policy in a non-sectarian socialist direction.

The NEC also agreed to table some important constitutional changes which, if carried, will strengthen the effectiveness of the LPYS.

Amongst those agreed were that the LPYS National Chairman should be ex-officio delegate to party conference, that LPYS branches should be established without GMC's being able to prevent them, and that LPYS branches in future affiliate with full rights to regional Labour Parties.

In addition to this the NEC also agreed to accept the NOLS conference decision, long campaigned for by *Militant* supporters to allow Labour Clubs to be established in colleges of further education (see page 5).

END H-BLOCK DEATHS

By Joe Higgins

(Administrative Council, Irish Labour Party, personal capacity)

The H-Block crisis continues. The outright intransigence of the Tories and especially of Thatcher will lead to more deaths within the prisons in Northern Ireland.

At the time of writing Kieran Doherty, elected to represent Cavan Monghan constituency in the recent election in the South of Ireland, and his colleague Kevin Lynch are within an inch of death. The Tories have set out in a calculated way to smash the morale of the prisoners in the Maze and in Armagh gaol.

In the South there is a good deal of sympathy, in the ranks of the trade unions and the youth, for the plight of the prisoners. For the majority this sympathy does not in any way mean support for the Provisional IRA whose tactics have divided the working class in Northern Ireland.

The National H-Block committee, which coordinates the campaign North and South on behalf of the prisoners has nevertheless proved unable to tap the reservoir of potential support in a sustained way. Marches and demonstrations are now very small compared to those called during the days of Bobby Sands' hunger strike earlier this year.

The main reason why the

H-Block committee has failed to defeat the Tory government is because it is incapable of mobilising the power of the united labour movement on the issue of repression and prison conditions. Their appeal has been on a sectarian basis with leading Provisional spokesmen decorating its platforms and out-and-out nationalist reactionaries such as Neil Blaney, member of the Dail (Parliament) for Donegal. This whole approach has in particular repelled Protestant workers and trade unionists.

It is because of the continued failure of the H-Block committee to break the stalemate that the rioting took place in Dublin on Saturday 18 July. A section of the H-Block march to the British Embassy moved by frustration was clearly prepared in advance to attack the police. They failed to break through however, and provoked a vicious counter-attack by the police who acted with extreme brutality in many cases.

These tactics do nothing to help the prisoners or to resolve the issue of repression. The main struggle must be to get the labour movement to raise the issue of repression. The main struggle must be to get the labour movement to raise the issues, North and South, and in Britain.

By explaining the issues as being vital to the interests of the working class as a whole

and approaching the crisis in this non sectarian way, decent conditions can be won for all prisoners.

The issue of who is a political prisoner has also to be resolved by the labour organisations who should be charged with investigating the cases of all those imprisoned because of the troubles and deciding who was framed in the courts, who was tortured into making confessions, who is a political prisoner as distinct from a sectarian killer.

These demands on prison conditions and against repression should be linked to a socialist programme which would end unemployment, poverty, and bad housing as it is these evils of capitalism which drive many youths into the false methods of the paramilitaries and thus end up in prison. The labour and trade union movement by taking up this issue in this way would have the power to bring about a successful conclusion to the crisis in the prisons.

This approach would also ensure that working class unity was maintained and strengthened. It is only on the basis of a united working class that all the major problems facing society can be solved.

It is also on this basis that a successful struggle can be waged against the Tories and their system.

Great welcome for Militant Rally

By Trefor Lewis

"I picked up a copy of the *Militant* on the train, saw the details of the rally and came along. Having heard the ideas, I now want to join the LPYS and be active on the basis of *Militant's* policies."

That was what one young railwayman told Tony Saunois, after Tony had chaired the political meeting which ended the recent rally.

Virtually no one who attended the rally could have gone away unimpressed by the enthusiastic way that *Militant's* ideas were being taken up by activists in the labour movement. The growing influence of the paper was shown when the meeting was addressed by Rod Fitch, a Labour Party prospective parliamentary candidate, and Joe Marino, general secretary of the Bakers' Union, both *Militant* supporters.

Rod Fitch told of the impact that socialist campaigning has already had in his constituency of Brighton Kemp Town. Only seven people had left the Labour Party since he had become candidate, but over four hundred people had joined and at this May's local election the swing to Labour in Kemp Town had been the greatest in the whole country.

The way that Marxists had responded to recent events was clearly shown at the rally. A display on Brixton showed the LPYS leaflets produced whilst the events of April were still going on and there were photos of subsequent days of action and mass

meetings. A video on Brixton attracted a steady stream of people all day. At the meeting Clare Doyle, from the Labour Committee for the Defence of Brixton, explained how the immediate intervention of Marxists was able to give a clear lead to young people desperately looking for a solution to their problems.

The way that *Militant* was now able to respond quickly to events was illustrated in the contribution of the paper's Editor, Peter Taaffe. He told of how over 40,000 leaflets were being distributed that weekend in Liverpool to answer the lies of the Liberals against the work of the *Militant*.

The widespread enthusiasm generated at the rally, shown in the collection of over a thousand pounds, was not limited to the political meeting. Earlier in the day an excellent selection of folk songs from Peggy Seeger and Ewan McColl had brought two encores. In addition there were blues sung by Martin Perce and songs from the 'comperes', Keith Narey.

The first 'West End' showing of Dagenham and Barking LPYS play of 'The Trial of Thatcher' proved highly successful. And outside the main hall there were a whole variety of stalls. Alan Hardman sold over 200 of his cartoons in poster form and there was much activity on the badge stall

Photo: Militant



Ewan McColl and Peggy Seeger at the Rally

and those providing information on workers' struggles in Ireland and South Africa.

The films on the 1905 Russian revolution, Grunwicks and nuclear war proved if anything too popular, such was the crush to get in.

The development of *Militant* from a four-page black and white monthly when it began, to today's sixteen-page weekly was shown in one display. And what stood out here was the consistency of *Militant's* fight for Marxist ideas in the labour movement. This was shown in Ted Grant's contribution at the political meeting analysing the crisis gripping British capitalism.

It is that consistency, allied to the bold enthusiasm shown at the rally,

which provides the key to why *Militant's* influence can only continue to grow.

Excellent crèche

Having just returned from the Build Militant Rally, I would like to say thanks to those involved in running the crèche, the atmosphere of which was busy and happy. This meant that I was free to concentrate on the Rally itself while my 8 year-old made friends and let off steam with the other kids.

What a pity the Labour Party doesn't provide the same sort of thing for GMCs, ward meetings etc. as many women must find

themselves barred from politics just because they have kids. What hope has the mother of a one-parent family on Social Security got of being able to afford a babysitter?

What hope has the wife of a man already himself involved got, in some cases, of convincing her husband that her attendance at meetings is important enough for him to stay at home every other meeting so as she can get involved. Women's Councils are a start, but women must be able to take an active part on all levels of the labour movement.

Male and female, we should all raise the question of better crèche facilities so that all workers can take part in getting rid of this

reactionary and callous Tory government. '

By Liz Brown

Carnival

"The Rally had a carnival spirit. 11.00am and people were spilling out over the pavement outside Friends House.

Inside. Made for the tea room. Sipping the tea gives you time to get your bearings. Should I go here or there? Now hold on; get your programme out and plot your itinerary.

First port of call: Alan Hardman cartoon stall. I liked the one showing the small boy asking his father holding a redundancy payment outside the closed factory gate, 'will I be able to buy it back again when I grow up?' I felt myself saying 'not bloody likely son'.

Out to room 9 to see the film *The War Game*. I really must spend one of these weekends building a nuclear fall-out shelter. You'd have quite a squeeze getting under our stairs with the ironing board and vacuum cleaner.

What would you do in four minutes! My mum always said make sure your underwear's clean.

Must eat. Thanks for the salad, boiled egg, tomato and rolls girls. Don't forget the claret next year. (Woy may pop in for a snifter on his way from Warrington or Croydon).

The highlight of my visit to the rally was sitting back and listening to the folk songs of Peggy Seeger and Ewan McColl. Going by the shouts for more, lots of other people enjoyed their songs as well. My favourite was *My Old Man*. I'm now busy learning the words.

So see you all next year; by that time I should know the melody and the words."

By John Winters

Readers meeting in Warrington

By Dave Clark

"Labour activists should be on the doorsteps showing working people that the Social Democratic Party have no viable alternative. They are a capitalist party."

Peter Taaffe, editor of *Militant*, was speaking to an audience of 60 at a post-election meeting in Warrington. He warned that sections of the Labour Party, even on the left, could wrongly conclude that

the defection of some Labour voters to Jenkins meant that socialist policies are not accepted by workers.

Far from it. If we explain socialist policies, we can rally working people to get a new Labour government.

But Peter Taaffe warned that if that government was to avoid going down the same road as the 1974-79 government, workers would have to fight for a government committed to a 35-hour week, a massive programme of public works and the nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies, banks

and insurance companies.

Mike Wheeler a local trade unionist and Labour Party member pointed out that unfortunately, the Labour campaign in Warrington, had played down the policies largely at the instigation of regional party officials. This had allowed the SDP to mount a smear campaign which had confused Labour voters.

Some right wingers in the Labour Party not only refused to allow canvassers but had even said they would not vote Labour in the elections.

Peter Taaffe stressed that Jenkins and his SDP friends were leaders of the Labour government in 1974-79, and had been responsible for the watered-down Thatcherism they had peddled. They had cleared the way for the real thing in 1979. Now they were benefitting in elections from the very crimes they had committed! If the Labour Party did not fight their ideas there was a danger that the SDP could win more votes.

The overall mood was one of optimism. Despite the refusal of the campaign

organisers to allow youth leaflets and a youth rally in the election, the work of the LPYS had ensured a new LPYS branch in Warrington.

On top of that, despite the Labour Party official who had phoned possible venues for the readers' meeting asking them to refuse bookings, the chairman announced that a Marxist discussion group was to be started in Warrington after the success of this readers' meeting.

**LAST CHANCE
FOR LPYS
SUMMER CAMP**

Last chance to go to this year's LPYS Summer Camp! Come along to Bracelands Campsite near Coleford, Gloucester, in the beautiful Forest of Dean, and join over 600 young socialists from Britain and Europe. The camp starts 1 August, and costs just £40 for the week with food, or £15 self catering—pay at the camp itself.

Bring the whole family for a great week of politics and leisure. A full time crèche has been organised—and so has seven days of sunshine! Grab a tent and come to the summer camp—no need to book!

London coach leaves 9 am from Embankment Station, cost £9.00 return, Saturday 1 August.

YOPs: Union 'Day of Action'



National Rally on YOPs organised by youth clubs earlier this year. Photo: Militant

On Friday 28 August the National Union Of Public Employees in Northern region have called a day of action against the low wages and poor conditions at work that face youngsters on the Youth Opportunities Programme (YOP).

That's just the kind of action we want! Just think of it. You get £23.50 a week on YOPs, but have to pay the first £4 of your travel to work, and you only get two weeks holiday a year.

The trade union movement has always fought to stop such gross exploitation. What trade union would accept that today?

But that is the "deal" for hundreds of thousands of youth on various government sponsored 'temporary employment schemes'. And it's an offer that you can't refuse!

In many areas young people have had supplementary benefits cut or withdrawn for refusing slave labour YOP schemes.

Add to that the increasing use of YOPs as a substitute for trade union labour, and it's no wonder that a number of trade unions, including NUPE in the Northern Region, Scotland, and the East Midlands, and the Transport and General Workers Union on Merseyside, and the General and Municipal Workers Union in Kirkby have begun to try and organise YOP workers.

At the same time, recent strikes by 'Yoppers' in Glasgow and Consett show the growing mood of anger among the youth. They are determined to struggle for better pay, conditions, and such basic rights as free travel to work. It was these strikes which led to NUPE's initiative in the northern region. This should be spread to every area of the

country!

The Labour Party Young Socialists are calling on unions in other areas to back the action by organis-

By Kevin Ramage
(LPYS National Chairman)

ing local YOP strikes on the same day, and backing this up with visits to YOP schemes to mobilise support.

On 28 August every area should turn to activities such as demonstrations, rallies, pickets of the Manpower Services Commission offices and workplaces

where YOP is used as cheap labour.

To aid this work, and the organising of local public meetings, the officers of the Labour Party Young Socialists have produced a special leaflet calling for action on the 28th, with half a side left blank for local activities to be advertised.

Order yours now! Only £2.50 per 1,000 through Andy Bevan (150 Walworth Road, London SE17) or pick them up at the LPYS Summer Camp.

End cheap labour! Decent jobs and training for all youth! Build support for action on 28 August!

Organise YOPs

'With all the Tory publicity for their concern with young people on the dole, I am writing the real truth about what young people face on the YOPs scheme.'

In my place of work, we agreed to take fifty young people for a period of six months on the condition that they would be treated fairly by management. But after a few weeks, workers complained management were taking advantage of these inexperienced young workers.

At our branch union meeting we took the decision to ask the YOPs to join the T&GWU and explained the need of the

protection of the union. We also asked them to select a spokesman of their own, to tell the shop stewards of any mistreatment by management.

I think any worker who sympathises with the youth of today and the conditions they face, with the prospect of not holding down a full time job, and fading social activities, should go out of their way to convince them of the need to organise themselves in the trade union movement and in the LPYS to fight for a real wage and a real future for themselves and generations to come.'

Brian Muller
T&GWU 4/226 Carrefour
Caerphilly

11,000 YOUTH CHASE SEVEN JOBS

The Tories have greeted the new miserable unemployment figures with meaningless speeches about "solving inflation" and "there is no other way".

The horror of these statistics is shown by youth unemployment in County Cleveland. On 9 July 1981, according to the Careers Centre, there were 6,549 young people unemployed and a further 5,145 on YOP and other schemes.

For this total of 11,694 young people looking for work there was the total of only seven notified permanent jobs. There are around 2,000 school leavers from

1979 and 1980 still looking for work, so what hope for the 1981 leavers?

The only 'hope' offered is YOP schemes which take advantage of youths desperate need for work. But, contrary to Tory lies, only 10-15% of YOP workers get a permanent job at the end of the 6 months. The present school leavers aren't allowed to sign on until September so YOPs is their only hope of money.

The employers get cheap labour and use the fear of the dole queue to try and keep down YOP workers. The Tories claim they are doing something about

unemployment by YOP schemes and that it keeps unemployment down.

Unfortunately some in the labour movement argue that these schemes are better than doing nothing.

We must keep on fighting until we get something a lot better than "better than nothing"! Join our fight.

By Bill Hopwood
(Thornaby Labour Party)

Part-time students can now join NOLS

By Clive Heemskerck
(Militant supporter on NOLS NC)

The Labour Party NEC meeting on 22 July has finally confirmed that part time students will be able to join the National Organisation of Labour Students (NOLS) as full members.

This essential reform was won despite years of opposition by the Clause Four leadership of NOLS.

It opens the way to transforming NOLS into an organisation rooted among working-class students. This has been consistently fought for by 'Militant' supporters in NOLS for many years and has been supported at successive NOLS conferences.

Part-time students, particularly in the Further Education (FE) sector, face enormous problems. Apprenticeships have been squeezed out as the bosses' profits fall.

As a result, the number of young workers released from work for part-time study during the day has been cut: there was a drastic fall of 30,000 between 1973 and 1977. With collapsing demand as a result of the capitalist crisis, "wasting" money on workers' training and education is an "expensive luxury".

In addition, with the Tories' public spending cuts transmitted even through Labour-controlled councils, many Local Education Authorities no longer pay tuition or exam fees for part-time students.

This leaves many young workers having to finance their own education. In some instances, tight-fisted

employers make part-time students lose a day's pay when they to attend college on day release.

Even at college conditions for these students are far from ideal! There are growing restrictions on the type of courses day and block release students are permitted to study; 12 hour days at college with breaks; these all add to the problems of trying to squeeze an "education" into the spare time around a full-time job.

Part-time students undoubtedly face problems both as workers and as students. It is a tragedy that the 'Clause Four' leadership have been able bureaucratically to block previous attempts by Labour Students to organise in this sector.

But now all their attempts have been defeated!

Every Labour Club should approach the local Labour Party Young Socialists branches to organise a joint intervention into the local FE and Tech colleges in September. They should also seek to involve those trade unions who have members who are part-time students.

If Labour clubs can offer socialist answers to the problems part-time students face, thousands of youth can be won to the Labour Party and the LPYS.

At the same time this is a golden opportunity to build a Labour Student organisation rooted among working class youth!

- "ASCOT'S on the telly and me Mam says, 'Oh look at them all—don't they look lovely?', meaning all the right layabout bastards dressed up like Lord and Lady Muck.
- "I went mad. I flung my spoon against the wall, and shouted at her not to be so f— stupid and what a sick country it was when people like that can spend thousands of pounds in a day going to the races when we are struggling just to get enough to eat.
- "It is the first time I have ever sworn at me Mam, and I'm 18 years old. She started crying. I put my arm around her and said I was sorry. But deep down I knew I was right."

—Quotes from *Sunday Mirror* 12 July

Militant Readers' Meetings

TYNESIDE Marxist Sunday School. Sunday 2 August, 7.00 pm. 'The Spanish Revolution 1931-39'. Sunday 9 August, 7.00 pm. 'Popular Fronts and France'. Venue from your local 'Militant' seller.

STIRLING 'Poland—what is happening?' 13 August, 7.30 pm. 'Which way for the Labour Party?' 3 September, 7.30 pm, Cowane Centre, Stirling.

ROCHDALE: Tuesday 4 August—France; Tuesday 18 August—History of Labour Party at 8 pm, Two Ships Hotel, Hope Street.

BLYTH: Wednesday 12 August—Women and the fight against the Tories. Wednesday 26 August—Viva Portugal—a film about the events in Portugal during 1974. Wednesday 9 September—France today. All at 7.30 pm, at the Masons Arms (upstairs), Plessey Road, Blyth. For further details contact Peter D Marsden, 148 Disraeli Street, Blyth.



Greed, say the Tories, that's what causes riots. You may wonder why then you don't get riots at Bournemouth, Sandringham, or in Tory Party conferences. Could it be that when avarice strikes the rich they can afford to indulge it? Perhaps, unlike the 'Mindless Mass' top people have a natural dignity due to having gained their money honestly, through raising the cultural level of society and contributing so much to its welfare.

Take the young lady interviewed by the 'New Standard' in a humble £250 a day West End clinic where she had given birth to a baby daughter. She, poor thing, had to miss Royal Ascot this year, but she didn't riot about it. Stockbroker's daughter Tineka made her money as a nude model and yearly used to attend Royal Ascot dressed in a see-through dress.

Wonderful sense of responsibility too. No desertion of her child because of going to work. She's "hired a wonderful Scottish nannie" to look after her daughter. The baby's daddy is rich too, having made a mint out of property in Chelsea [very useful to society]. If everybody had their 'moral standards', the world would be a different place.

While the Tories are sacking naval dockyard workers, the New Zealand government is launching "a modernisation programme on frigates of the Royal New Zealand Navy". So reads the advert in—would you have guessed?—the 'Portsmouth News'. Emigrating to New Zealand will undoubtedly be the salvation of dockyard workers: so long as they are fully trained and qualified, are under 45, have less than four children and "substantial capital"—over £12,000. Apart from that, it's plain sailing.

Worried about The Bomb? Well, before you rush out and buy your very own fall out shelter—hold steady. The Labour council in Humberside has discovered that there's no set safety standards for the privately built nuclear shelters now offered by many building companies. The council has refused to recommend any particular type of shelter to the people.

As Labour councillor Bill Haughey said, "Who can guarantee one? The only way you can test the thing is when it goes bang." One way you may be able to tell if a shelter is any good was pointed to by another councillor, Harold Whatling: "If you look at booklets there is a price range. I imagine you get what you pay for." That's true.

Seeing as shelter prices are around the £50,000 to £100,000 mark, most workers willve to make do with the Home Office's advice of hiding in cupboards. But if the bomb does fall, spare a thought for the poor chap who's paid out thousands of pounds to build his own shelter, only to find he gets fried like the rest of us. Never mind, he can write to the Consumers Advisory Council and complain.

The Tory Fleet Street press took great delight in Roy Hattersley's call for 'excluding' what he considers the 'far left' from the ranks of the Labour Party. The 'Daily Mail' (24 July), renowned for its concern for the labour movement, gave Roy Hattersley's comments front page coverage under the headline 'Purge the Parasites'. During the People's March for Jobs, when thousands took to the streets to protest at the Tories, the 'Mail' gave the event minimal coverage, let alone front page news.

But the meeting Roy Hattersley spoke at was obviously more important than such mammoth events as the People's March. It was a Labour Party cheese and wine party in the rural outback of Great Bardfield in Essex. Still, it is significant that even in areas such as these the labour movement is active. And what the 'Mail' forgot to mention was that ten 'Militants' were sold during the party!

... the day we went to Cardiff!

The day started for Reading and Newbury LPYS members much the same as for other comrades setting out to the Cardiff July 4 demonstration.

Up at 7am to get the banners to the coach. Comrades allocated to be in charge of selling papers, badges, raffle tickets and getting signatures for the YS campaign against unemployment. One minute out of the car park and the coach has been blitzed by the sellers.

An hour later doing 70 along the M4 and "it's raining in" says a comrade. But it wasn't rain coming in through the roof, it was diesel coming up through the floor. So it was everybody out. A relief bus is sent for.

Whilst attaching the Reading YS banner to a bridge over the Motorway, a comrade spots a pub. First time in Burton, Wiltshire, for most of us, but the locals made us welcome. Even the remotest parts of the countryside aren't immune to anti-Tory feeling.

A couple of pints and 1½ hours later the replacement bus arrives. It's a 'J' registration; someone suggests we run a sweep on how

near Cardiff we'll get!

15 miles later we're at the M4/M5 junction; that whiff of diesel is back in the air. Relief bus number two is sent for but won't be here till three hours later, so it's Goodnight Cardiff.

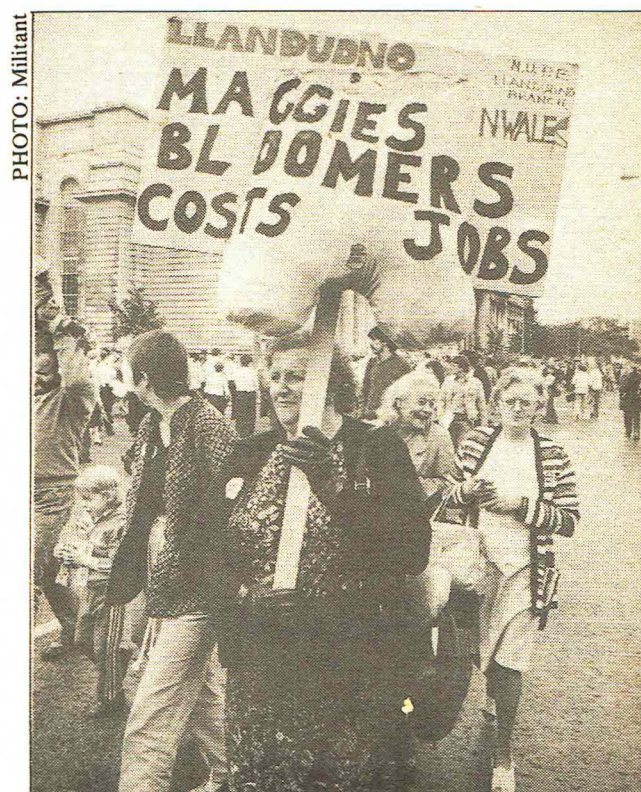
The passengers take off on their three mile march to the pub. The march took on the character of military manoeuvres as we braved the motorway embankments and the highway police. One patrol car faced with the impossibility of getting all 50 of us in the back of the Panda wisely decided to direct us to the nearest pub.

Three hours of drink and political discussion later we trek back to the coach now looking steadily more like a team of Cuban guerrillas. But no relief coach had yet left Reading so it's the police who decide to send out a breakdown truck to us.

The driver, a T&G member whose heart was with the demonstration, was disappointed as well, but said philosophically that trouble always comes in threes.

The coach was repaired and we set out back to Reading. Then came the familiar smell of diesel, this time reinforced by a cloud of black smoke. Everybody out—quick.

And we might still have



What Reading LPYS missed—the demo in Cardiff

been stood on the grass verge had not a coach belonging to a rival firm travelling back empty to London stopped and picked us up.

By now most comrades had ground to a halt: eight hours on a motorway in a succession of diesel filled coaches was not what we had had in mind at the start of the day. Fortunately one comrade had realised the significance of the breakdown—that is, we had a coachful of people expecting their money back, who were now waiting for the chance to do something useful with the cash!

Most of the coach passengers were not regular readers of 'Militant' but the comrade taking round the appeal sheet raised a magnificent £70 for the Fighting Fund.

Our disaster trip also yielded a good collection

for the CPSA Strike Fund, and 25 papers were sold—not a bad return on a washout.

By a Reading LPYS member

The right to abortion

The Brook Advisory Centre in Edinburgh announced recently that it's figure for abortion referrals had increased in the last year by 72%. Cutbacks, social crisis, uncertainty about the future—all are contributory factors.

For those women not faced with the hurdle of unsympathetic GPs there can still be a two or three month wait for a NHS bed!

Less than half the abortions carried out in Britain are in fact carried out on the NHS. In 1968 the figure was 63% but by 1978 it had fallen to 41-9%.

Increasing attacks on NHA expenditure aggravate the position. Cuts in family planning services for example, obviously add to the number of women seeking an abortion.

Because of the harsh realities of society in crisis, many cannot choose to have a child. The money simply isn't there. Many women could not afford to give up what is in many cases the only wage—or an essential second wage, but with Tory attacks on maternity leave and the right of women to work then a pregnancy can mean exactly that.

In the USA at present, a campaign is being waged against the right to abortion. Reactionaries are climbing into their saddles to join Sherriff Reagan's posse to "clean up" America. But the right to abortion is not a moral question.

Women who so choose must have the right to free abortion on demand. This is a basic class demand and an essential part of a programme that takes up women's rights in a socialist context.

Anti-abortionists are obviously free to argue their case but they should not be allowed to impose their beliefs on other women through state measures.

The present figure of ten terminations per thousand is likely to grow as the problems of life intensify. The rights of women must be defended.

EDINBURGH CURFEW

By Mike Harkness

Returning from a party on Saturday morning, me and my mate decided to go down the fish market and get some fresh fish and hot rolls for our breakfast.

Being a bit early, we sat at the side of the Firth of Forth watching the tide come in. After reflecting on the greater things in life for an hour or two, we were in a very contented frame of mind.

We sauntered along towards the fish market, when suddenly a car pulled in beside us and a man jumped out saying he was the police. The car was unmarked and he had no uniform so we asked to see his credentials.

He whipped them out and struck them about two centimetres from my nose. I only caught a glimpse before he put them back in his pocket.

He went on to question us. "Where have you been? Where are you going?" We answered him very politely, but met with "Most normal people are in bed at this time; funny place to have a party."

He asked if we were wanted: had we committed any crimes recently? Fairly stupid, I thought—I mean "Yes, Officer, I've just robbed a bank and mur-

dered my mother-in-law." It seemed as though they were just filling in time.

Then, quite out of the blue he told my mate to get into the back of the car. We were amazed and protested that they couldn't do this, but according to him, under the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act, he could.

I was very angry as it meant that Willy would be taken away and there would be no witnesses to any further questioning by the police. I tried to stop them, and open the car door.

Willy told me to stop it and I did. The car drove off and Willy waved me to follow on. About a quarter of a mile up the road the car parked.

They had radioed in and found that Willy was a COR—Criminal On Record.

By this time I was just as angry but I had collected my thoughts—I told the officer we were in the Labour Party, that we knew councillors and leading Party members who were representatives on the police board and that their procedure this morning would come under question. I said it would be very easy to find out who the officers were.

He didn't like that very much and jumped out of his car again, told me not to

threaten him. I told him to arrest me.

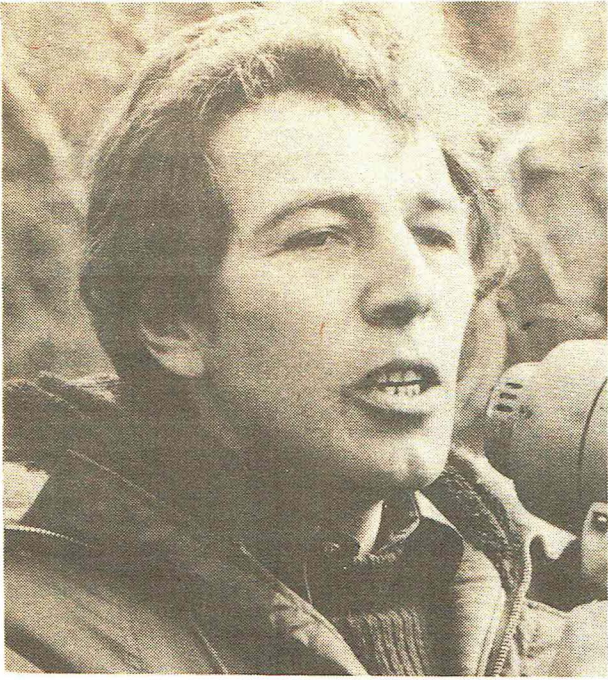
The other policeman said because my mate was a COR it was perfectly legitimate to lift him. But they didn't know that until after they had lifted him. Anyway, does it mean that once you've committed a crime you can be dragged off the streets for no reason for the rest of your life?

'It seems the police can do just what they want'

I know very little about law but there isn't any curfew in Edinburgh yet—though it seems that laws like the Scottish Criminal Justice Act or whatever it's called gives the police the power to do just about any damn thing they want to.

Well, Willy got released straight away and although no real damage was done we are going to take it up further with the Labour Party members on the police board.

The labour movement must be made aware of the type of harassment young people are receiving on the streets and provide a constructive way of fighting back.



Rod Fitch

Photo: Militant

This article by Rod Fitch, Labour's Prospective Parliamentary candidate for Brighton Kemp Town and a supporter of *Militant* was printed in the *Brighton Evening Argus* in reply to a previous article claiming that the Labour Party was "tearing itself" apart and that Marxist ideas had no mass appeal.

But as Rod shows in his article, the local party are putting forward clear socialist policies and rapidly growing in membership and support. At the local elections, candidates in his constituency got the highest swing to Labour since the general election of any in the country!

I have been accused of being an 'extremist'.

I believe extremists are those who support the lunacy of stockpiling weapons of mass destruction for a mad race for nuclear supremacy.

Extremists put consultants in a position where they have the omnipotent role of making life-or-death decisions because there are insufficient kidney machines for patients when all the machines required could be produced easily.

Extremists deny our children educational opportunities when there are unemployed teachers who need a job.

Extremists put 300,000 building workers on the dole when there is a desperate housing shortage—locally there are more than 40,000 people in housing need including 1,300 on waiting lists.

I believe a plan of production would fully utilise human and material resources which could satisfy all society's needs, enabling proper care for our sick, disabled and elderly.

A programme of useful public works, including a mass building programme, would house the homeless and the overcrowded. We could also introduce a 35-hour week with no loss of pay and an £80 minimum wage for all, including pensioners, one-parent families and disabled.

Small businesses would form a vital part of the plan of production outlined, particularly the 'corner shops' which provide a useful service.

Expanding university and college places, and implementing a programme of training in skills, would enable young people to use them for their own and society's benefit.

Democratic socialism, with regular free elections and the right to recall all officials and representatives would mean, for the first time in history, ordinary people controlling their own environment.

I have outlined my contribution to the debate on policies currently being

discussed in the Labour Party. Wherever I go, I have found increasing support for socialist policies.

Kemp Town Labour Party is growing by leaps and bounds and we are confident that the Kemp Town constituency will return to Labour at the next general election.

The Tories came to power on a con-trick. Despite Mrs Thatcher's promise to slash taxes, she has done the opposite. By the end of April, taxation was a massive 48 per cent of gross domestic product, eight per cent more than after Labour's defeat.

Additionally, the tax threshold is now 39 per cent of average male earnings. When the Tories came to power, the threshold was 45 per cent.

"We will give assistance to small businesses," the Tories claimed, and this featured predominantly in Andrew Bowden's election address. Instead, high interest rates have crippled small businesses with 6,876 firms becoming bankrupt last year.

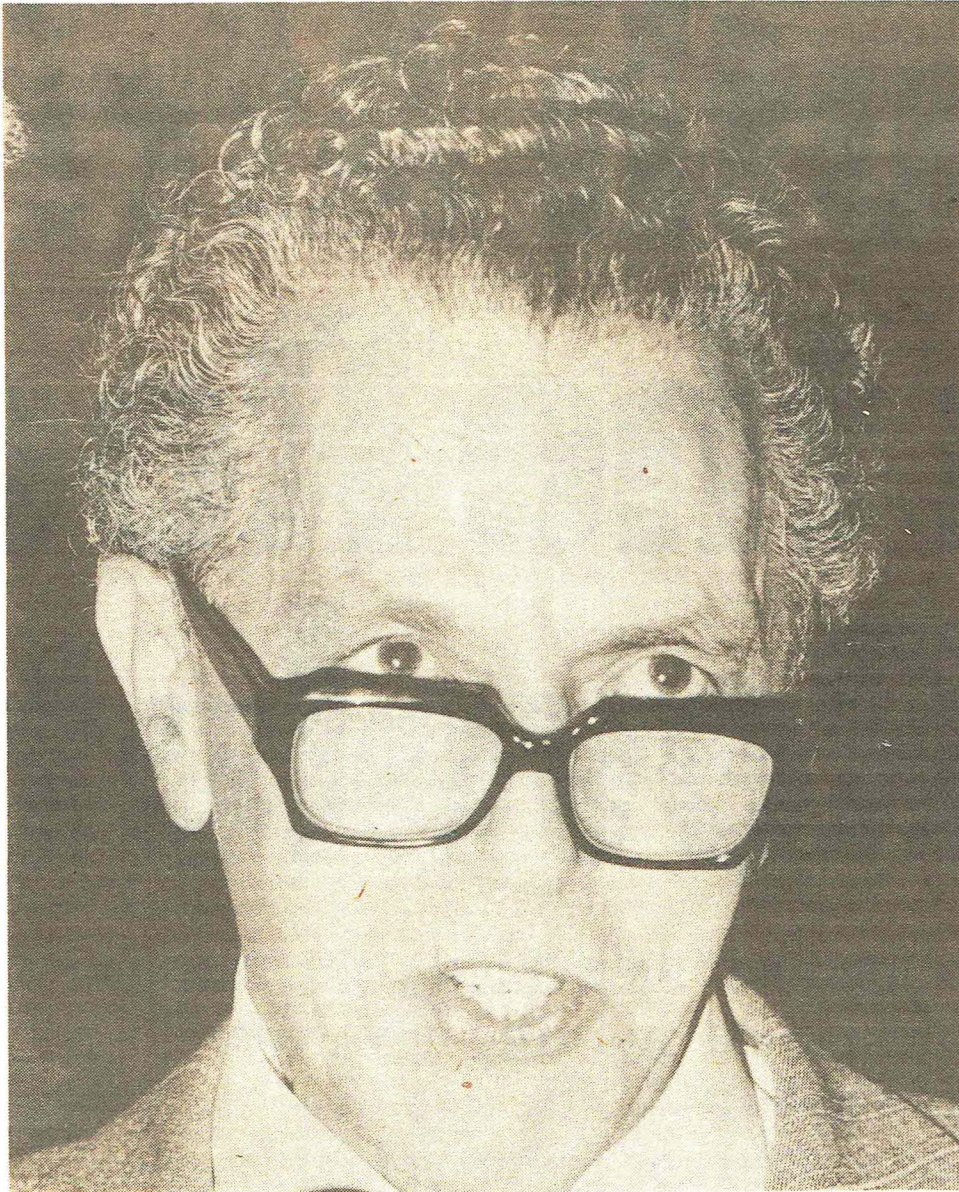
The Tories have destroyed our industrial base, savaged our social services, created mass unemployment—all supposedly to conquer inflation.

But inflation remains higher than when Labour left office and, after a slight decrease, will rise again thanks to the fall in the value of the £.

The future vain hope that industry will rise like a phoenix out of the ashes, replenished, is false. Lack of investment will further diminish British industry's competitiveness.

Private investment in manufacturing fell by eight per cent in 1980, with an anticipated fall of another 15 per cent this year. Lack of investment is the primary cause of low productivity, not "high wages" and "lazy workers".

Sir Keith Joseph bragged in Washington last year that the British worker earns the lowest wages in the Western world. British monopoly capitalism has failed to invest in manufacturing industry, preferring to invest in land,



THE REAL EXTREMISTS

PHOTOS: Above and below: Joseph and Thatcher: the real extremists.

PHOTOS: Militant



property, abroad—everywhere and anywhere for a quick buck.

Even now, while delivering daily sermons about the national interest, while industry is bleeding to death, investment abroad by the big institutions increased from £10.7 billion in 1979, to £15.5 billion in 1980.

The crisis is insurmountable within the existing economic system based on profit not need and controlled by a handful of monopolies, banks and financial institutions.

Whole communities are decimated by factory closures when those industries cease to provide profit for the owners. The directors of approximately 200 monopolies control 85 per cent of the economy, having more power over our lives than any elected government.

That is why I advocate public ownership—not nationalisation as formerly with industries dominated by remote bureaucrats but under workers' control and management.

I have been accused of advocating Russian totalitarian-

ism: I am implacably opposed to a one-party state. I defend all democratic rights won by workers and believe that a highly educated working class with historical democratic traditions would oppose totalitarianism.

The Polish workers are currently fighting for a democratic socialist society—we should applaud them.

Capitalism's continuation and its decline may in future create totalitarianism but this threat is from the right and not the left.

Involving women workers in the unions

How do women get involved? How do we get more women active in leading positions in the unions, when some unions, like the Civil and Public Services Association and the National Union of Teachers, have seventy per cent female membership, but only a handful of women executive members and officers?

Do we need "positive discrimination"?

The teachers' union in Sweden has made real headway in involving its seventy per cent women members—not through reserving seats, but by a conscious policy of taking practical steps to secure women's involvement at all levels in the union.

Marianne Ehrlin, Executive member of the Swedish teachers' union and fraternal delegate to NUT conference, explained their success to 'Militant's' reporter:

"We started a working committee, which members of the executive, men too, were in favour of. We found that women were not confident, because of their upbringing etc., and because of the issues affecting all young teachers, child-care.

"The first step to change things was very simple: Everyone who goes to a meeting, course or conference and pays for child care gets their money back, even if it's granny who baby-sits.

"The other thing is to give women confidence to be able to take a position. Training is the only time we had positive discrimination.

"We had a great deal of competition for our courses. Each local branch sends nominations, and all branches were asked to nominate at least one woman, as well as a man. We looked at the needs of areas, and then directed that 70% to 80% of the people on our courses were women.

"This took place for two to three years but it is not done any more, and we now have a group of women with confidence, who stand for elections in branches and for the executive.

"Now 70% of the executive are women. Every conference elects every seat, including the president. The attitude of the union has also helped many single fathers.

"The other key is being able to do the union job during the day. Obviously, courses can't just be during the day, but those elected to positions in the union must be given the opportunity to do the job between 8 am and 5 pm. Shop stewards by law have to be allowed to do union work in working hours.

"In this way, you have a wider range of people willing to stand, especially women."

South Africa - On the Road to Revolution



By Gillian Moodie

“This revolt against apartheid will happen again next week, next month, next year”—a Soweto school student. “The age of slavery is over”—a woman worker from Saldanha Bay.

The spirit of defiance in these words reflects the tremendous movement of the workers and the youth in South Africa over the past months. Strikes, school boycotts, struggles against rent and bus fare hikes and police

brutality show the increased tempo of the class struggle and the fury which is building up in the oppressed layers of society.

In 1980, 175,000 working days were lost as a result of strike action in 207 strikes. Since March of last year, 200,000 students have been

involved in protests and demonstrations. The figures for 1981 will reach new heights.

Compared with the great upheaval of the workers and youth in 1976, the struggles today are more intense, more widespread, more conscious, and above all, more confident. And the more confident and persistent this pressure from below

becomes, the more indecisive and nervous is the response of the ruling class.

The pounding of its defences by the oppressed masses has widened the divisions in the ruling class. The election results showed the widening polarisation between reaction and “reform”. Far from papering over the cracks which Botha hoped for, the elec-

tion served only to heighten the conflicts within the National Party and the ruling class as a whole.

The intensifying class struggle and the splits within the ruling class reflect the maturing pre-revolutionary situation in South Africa. The ruling class is increasingly unable to rule in the old way; less and less is it able to impose its will confidently on society. The masses are less and less willing to tolerate their miserable conditions of life.

This deepening social crisis shows the complete bankruptcy of capitalism in South Africa and internationally. In no way is this more graphically illustrated than by the fact that during last year’s economic upswing in South Africa, the conditions

of life of the masses deteriorated absolutely.

1980 was a year of very rapid growth in South Africa. Fuelled by the increase in the price of gold, the economy grew by 8%. Real fixed investment in the domestic economy picked up from 1% growth in 1979 to 12.5% in 1980. Private manufacturing investment was up by 33% over the past year. All sectors of the economy showed increased capacity utilisation and output.

Yet right from the outset this upswing was shot through with contradictions.

Inflation rates have continued to increase at around 22% per annum. Food prices alone rose at an annual rate of 50% towards



Soweto pupils boycott examinations and burn books February 1977

Ronnie Kweyi

the end of last year. The revenues from gold and the rapid extension of credit to finance business activity resulted in dramatic increases in the money supply of 27% last year and at an annual rate of 46% in the first quarter of this year.

This has forced the government to impose stringent controls. Interest rates have been raised three times this year alone, which will slow down growth this year and next.

Last year, export growth began to fall off because of the recession in the advanced industrial countries, while at the same time imports have rocketed.

South Africa's exports consist predominantly of primary commodities from mining and agriculture—gold alone made up 48% of export earnings.

Imports on the other hand comprise mainly machinery and capital equipment which South Africa is unable to produce locally because of the smallness of the domestic market.

The weakness of the South African economy in this respect, its inability to reap the "economies of scale" associated with large-scale production, can be illustrated in relation to imports of so-called "white goods" (fridges, washing machines, etc.)

The annual sale of fridges in South Africa is in the region of 180,000 per year while that in the USA is around 8 million. The small domestic market, based almost exclusively on the whites, means that these consumer durables as well as capital equipment in general, cannot be profitably produced in South Africa.

So in spite of the "white goods" market increasing 35% in the space of 8 months last year, the local industry was operating at 70% capacity and the imports of washing machines alone tripled in one year.

As a result of the imbalance between the growth of imports (45% in 1980) and exports (34% in 1980), the current account of the balance of payments will move into deficit this year. This imbalance will be worsened by the recent fall in the value of the Rand, brought about by the strong upward movement of the dollar and US interest rates. The Rand has now depreciated 50% in five years!

The imbalance of payments will also be affected by the volatile movements in the price of gold, which recently sank to its lowest level in 18 months. Political tensions, the fall in the Rand and the gold price have taken their toll on the frayed nerves of the capitalist class. That barometer of their confidence, the stock exchange, experienced a bloodbath in the first two weeks of July. R5,000,000,000 was wiped from the value of shares in a fortnight; since September last year, the fall has been R23,000,000,000!

After a dramatic three year surge, profit growth is now beginning to slow down, as will business activity in the economy as a whole. Most bourgeois commentators expect the growth rate to be at most 4% this year, and 3% next year. It is unlikely that a new upturn in the economy will come inside of 3 to 4 years, and this

will depend on the tempo of developments in advanced countries.

With the economic downturn, new horrors of poverty and unemployment are in store for the working class. The past year or two were a period of upswing, yet what has been the impact on the conditions of life of the masses?

Even the capitalists are forced to admit that the upturn made no significant dent on unemployment, now standing at around 2.5 million, or 25%. Simon Brand, economic adviser to Botha, said late last year that unemployment was likely to continue to rise over the next 10 years even under favourable circumstances.

To keep pace with population growth, 300,000 jobs would have to be created each year this decade and 400,000 per year the next. This is entirely ruled out in present conditions. The perspective is for unemployment to continue to increase, most acutely

whites were R1,000 p.m.—those of Africans, R220 p.m.



This inability of capitalism to take society forward, the barrier which private property places on the development of the productive forces, forms the cornerstone of the Marxist approach to South Africa. It underlies the enormous battles taking place between

time. Its manoeuvrings are now becoming a familiar and predictable pattern. The government makes announcements and promises; the employers, the white workers and the black workers all object—from their respective positions; the government retracts and then tries again. And again and again.

The black workers, however, have taken the matter into their own hands and are working it out in their own way. Trade unions have grown dramatically. African trade union membership increased by 50,000 in 1980 alone to 161,700—a tiny proportion of the workforce, but a magnificent achievement in the face of persistent and intensifying police raids, detentions, and bannings of trade union organisers. The fastest growing unions, and those singled out for particularly vicious state attention, are those who have vigorously asserted their independence from the state and the employers, and built

be forced to back down, and it is in the interests of all Leyland workers in Britain and South Africa to make very sure they do.

Every day new factory struggles are revealed in the press, too numerous to mention. What they show is a new confidence, a new determination, and a greater shrewdness in dealing with the class enemy.

Take, for example, the 1,600 black miners who stayed underground for 24 hours, preventing new workers coming down and thereby halting production in protest against long shifts. Or the 2,000 workers at Salcast foundry who, having failed to gain satisfaction on wage increases, walked out leaving hot metal in the furnaces!

They also show the increasing pressure of the workers for control over production; over wages, hours, hiring and firing, pensions and training. The boom of the last few years has increased their confidence; the ups and downs

situation demands a concerted organisational effort inside the country, in the factories and townships. Yet, from the acts of sabotage organised over the past months, it appears that the leadership's emphasis remains on the organisation of guerrilla struggle.

Marxists have always argued against the tactic of armed actions by small groups, not because we are pacifists, but because of the effect of this tactic on the consciousness of the masses. It is much more difficult to organise a strike or demonstration than to blow up a stretch of railway line. For the latter, you need explosives and a few trained people. For the former, you need the masses, organised and conscious.

The impact of both tactics is different. While bomb blasts have undoubtedly raised morale temporarily, they are quickly forgotten. In fact, under certain conditions, they can act to erode the morale of the masses. Guerrillaism demands of the masses that they place their confidence and the solution to their problems in forces outside of themselves. When these forces fail—as inevitably they must in isolation from the working class—the masses in turn lose faith in their ability to succeed.

Mass action, on the other hand, educates both in its successes and failures. The workers learn from their experiences and equip themselves for further struggle.

The ANC leadership faces the challenge of decisively orientating the energies and efforts of the organisation for the development of mass action in South Africa, around a programme for the total transformation of society. It is only on this basis that true liberation can be achieved.

The question of the orientation of the ANC will become increasingly the subject of debate amongst the youth and workers, just as at present the youth are grappling with the differences between the ANC and the Black Consciousness Movement.

The raw material of the South African revolution is there: the battle-hardened youth, burning with anger and indignation and prepared to struggle and sacrifice to the very end; the working class beginning to flex its muscles, struggling gloriously under the most difficult conditions.

A revolutionary leadership could weld all these elements into an invincible force which would completely transform the face of Southern Africa. In the period that lies ahead, it is the development of this leadership that will become decisive in determining the tempo of events.



Leyland workers at the company's Blackheath factory near Cape Town, during the second week of their strike.

among the youth.

Prices of food, transport and other essentials continue to rocket, and the black people have been forced to cut back on food—this during two years of boom!

Malnutrition is rampant, both in the urban and rural areas. Homelessness, along with low wages, is a major grievance and area of struggle.

Efforts by the government to limit the money supply have limited still further the provision of desperately needed facilities for the black workers.

Over the past decade, the state has financed only one in eight of the houses needed for blacks. The housing backlog is now in the region of 160,000 units in the urban areas. On average, in Soweto, 10 people live in each box-like house—2 to 3 per room including the kitchen.

In spite of increasing rents, in spite of bulging state coffers, the government refuses to embark on a programme of housing, just as it refuses to improve educational and health facilities.

The growth rate in South Africa last year was the highest in post-war history. Yet the conditions of the masses deteriorated in absolute terms. Even though real wages increased under the pressure of the workers, the weight of unemployment has wiped out the advantages of this. The boom allowed the rich to get richer, and the poor to get poorer, which can be shown roughly by the fact that in March, average earnings for

the classes at the present time.

In every area the regime is finding its rule coming under furious opposition. It is becoming increasingly uncertain of how to deal with this rebellion. Police violence in the recent period, for example, has not been on the scale of Soweto 1976. Maybe the ruling class is learning that neither more violence nor less violence is going to make a decisive difference at this stage of developments!

In the face of tenacious strike action, the employers can't seem to decide on the best tactic. Some have resorted to mass dismissals (15,000 workers have been dismissed this year in disputes) such as Leyland, Dorbyl and others; others have backed down (e.g. Ford, Salcast, Colgate).

From all sections of the employers (Anglo American, Assocom, FCI) loud clamours are being heard for the government to please come in and straighten out the trade union registration issue before the situation gets totally out of hand.

The latest Anglo American report, taking note of the large number of strikes and the fact that only 500,000 of a workforce of 7m are unionised, says: "The rationalisation of trade unions into collective bargaining units through the industrial council system is, therefore, imperative."

The state has tried for five years to find an answer to its dilemma over black trade unions—how to use and strangle them at the same

themselves in the factories and the communities.

The trade union struggles in the recent period, led by the motor workers of the Eastern and Western Cape, have broken new ground in the history of the working class in South Africa. For three weeks earlier this year, 3,000 workers were on strike in the Eastern Cape, crippling the motor industry in the area. The issue—that management at Firestone had sacked workers in a dispute over pensions.



The whole of the motor industry came out on a solidarity strike for their reinstatement—a magnificent and unprecedented step in the history of the South African working class. Management was forced to back down.

In Cape Town, Leyland management sacked 2,000 workers who struck for higher pay. The strike has now been in progress for two months. Community and trade union support for the struggle is mounting. Leyland will in all likelihood

in the economy in the years ahead will increase their fury and deepen their understanding of the need to destroy the system of capitalism that enslaves them.

Fundamental to this process, however, is not simply the movement of the economy and the increasing polarisation and struggle of the classes. The subjective factor—the question of leadership and programme—is decisive in building the consciousness, confidence and combativity of the masses for the conquest of power.

In the recent period we have seen the very significant development of the influence of the African National Congress in South Africa. In the protests surrounding Republic Day, 16 June and 26 June, The ANC undoubtedly placed its stamp on events, in terms of form, timing and slogans. The ANC flag was flown in many areas, and speakers at public meetings proudly identified themselves with the ANC, a banned organisation.

This is an enormously positive development. As Marxists have always understood, it is towards their traditional organisations of struggle that the masses turn in periods of social turmoil and crisis. While it was from the youth that the most vocal identification with the ANC comes, they reflect the basic orientation of their parents.

The leadership of the ANC faces historic responsibilities in the period that lies ahead. Objectively, the

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SRI LANKA-

WORKERS FIGHT BACK

The defeat of the Sri Lankan General Strike in August 1980 has failed to crush the workers' movement. On the contrary, it has increased the determination of the active layers to fight back against the reactionary policies of President JR Jayawardene and his United National Party government.

By A Sri Lankan correspondent

Today the Marxist Nava Sama Samaja Party and the trade unions which support it are in the forefront of the workers' fightback. The Communist Party and Lanka Sama Samaja Party leaders have refused to organise action in support of the victimised strikers, despite a big demand from the rank and file.

The present campaign was set in motion by the national conference on 1 November 1980 which was attended by 1,135 delegates of trade unions, strikers and of 52 solidarity committees that had been formed to support the strike.

The aims agreed by the conference were: reinstatement of all strikers; defence of trade union rights; and winning the 23 demands of the strike for improvements in the conditions of the working class.

It was decided to launch an island wide campaign around these demands involving the victimised strikers themselves. A committee, known as the National Committee of the Delegates of Strikers and Solidarity Committees, was elected to co-ordinate the work.

The first task was to bring together the strikers who had been forced back to their villages by the defeat. To maintain them while campaigning an economic plan was set up.

Supplies of fish, cereals etc. were obtained for the strikers to sell from door to door. This raises money and also enables them to meet people and discuss the aims of the struggle.

The next phase in the campaign will be concerted action by the strike support committees in the island's

12 main cities. Intensive campaigning will take place around the following demands:

- reinstatement of the strikers;
- drop all charges against those workers' leaders arrested in the general strike;
- release Dharmasekera (a left wing politician still in prison);
- bring down the cost of living;

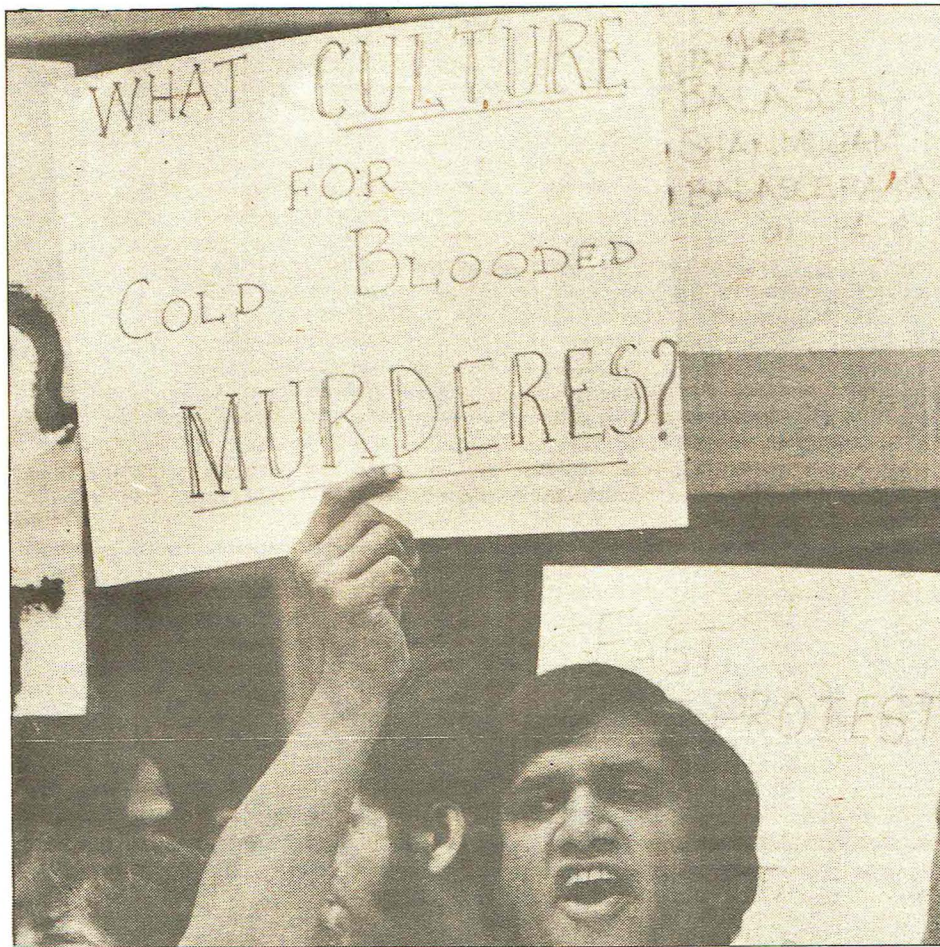
—for a national conference called by the trade union leaders to elect a 'democratic centre' (i.e. a body representing the workers at shop-floor level as well as the Tamil national minority, students and other people in struggle, under overall leadership of the workers).

The previous co-ordinating body of trade unions, the Joint Trade Union Action Committee, represented 'unity at the top' without the involvement of the rank and file. The refusal by many trade union leaders to commit their organisations to action in the general strike led to the collapse of the JTUAC and left the working class without a rallying point for united struggle.

The unions supporting the NSSP have taken a lead in fighting to unite the workers' movement on a democratic basis. They have formed a Committee for Workers' Unity with the aim of building a General Council, elected from the workplace, to represent the active rank and file.

The campaign in Negombo, one of the major cities, during Easter has shown the enormous potential for building a mass anti-government movement around the workers' struggle.

100 strikers plus 50 sup-



London, 16 July: picket against the bloody anti-Tamil violence unleashed by the UNP government in June. 200 Sri Lankans and British labour movement members turned out.

porters were involved, visiting 3,000 homes.

Many of the families, including UNP supporters, agreed to write letters of protest to the President.

The campaign found an immediate echo in the local catholic church. 58 priests from the area held a meeting to work out a programme of support for the strikers. A big procession in the coastal belt was plan-

ned. Similar campaigns, on an even larger scale, have been planned for all the major towns, involving 200 strikers at a time and culminating in mass meetings to elect a People's Assembly that will take the struggle further.

These actions show the enormous stamina and resourcefulness of the working class in fighting its

way out of apparent defeat towards a position of new strength. Much experience and support is being gained. Links are being built between working class militants and broader sections of working people which in future can form the basis for a massive movement against Jayawardene's regime.

But the most critical element in the struggle will be

that of leadership and programme. Only the NSSP has clearly laid the link between the day-to-day struggles of the working people and the need to transform society.

The NSSP and the unions which support it have been fully involved in the campaign to reinstate the strikers. They have explained that this struggle cannot be separated from the struggle to oust the UNP government and bring to power a revolutionary government of the left parties committed to the socialist transformation of society.

The NSSP demands:

- ★ liberation of the people from imperialist exploitation by nationalising industry, banking and trade under workers' control and management.
- ★ a solution to the agrarian problem: land to the cultivators!
- ★ national harmony with the Tamil people by recognising their right to self-determination.
- ★ democratisation at all levels of society.

The struggle of the Sri Lankan workers is taking place under extremely difficult conditions. Support from the trade union and labour movement internationally for the strikers is more vital than ever at this stage.

Messages of support and donations can be sent to: Linus Jayatilake, Co-ordinating Secretary, National Committee of the Delegates of Strikers and Solidarity Committees, 5th Floor, GCSU Building, 90 Sir Chittampalam A. Gardiner Mawatha, Colombo 2, Sri Lanka.

Israel after the elections

A new period of instability in Israel is the only clear outcome of the recent election.

Prime Minister Begin's right-wing Likud alliance has been able to form a new coalition government with support from the small religious parties. But the new government only has a majority of 2, so new elections are likely within a year.

Begin's campaign was dominated by whipping up right-wing nationalist fervour. Now re-elected, he has carried out this policy with the recent air raids on Beirut, which have seen 300 killed and hundreds injured.

Begin claims that these raids are aimed at PLO bases, but it has been the civilians who have borne the brunt of the Israeli attacks. A Beirut suburb was described as "a vision of the apocalypse" with "bodies piled in mounds on the sidewalks" after the Israeli raids.

In retaliation, the PLO have attacked border towns

By Peter Lush

in northern Israel. The Israeli attacks can only lead to further retaliation against Israel. The present truce has removed none of the causes of the conflict and is likely to be shortlived.

Neither Jewish nationalism, nor the nationalism of the PLO leaders, offers any solution to the masses of the Middle East

The main reason for Labour's failure to win the election was their failure to put forward any clear alternative to Likud. Instead they only echoed the right-wing nationalism of Begin's government.

A recent article in the *Jerusalem Post* accurately painted Labour's "defensive attitude" towards Likud: "anything the Likud

could do, it could do better".

Although Labour increased their number of MPs by 50%, they failed to break the support for Begin by the oriental Jews—the poorer section of Israeli Jews who for years were treated as second class citizens by a succession of Labour governments.

The election has left Israel more polarised than ever. This election result shows that the 1977 victory by Likud was not a 'one off' victory, but that there are ever-widening divisions in Israel.

The new government faces an economic disaster—even by Israeli standards! The Finance Minister has already overspent by £1,000 million—a deficit of 10%. Prices artificially held down for the election campaign will be raised. Inflation could reach 15-20% a month by the Autumn unless 'drastic' measures are taken.

The social and economic

problems facing the Jewish and Arab working people will not be solved by raids and counter-raids. Neither Jewish nationalism, nor the nationalism of the PLO leaders offer any solution to the masses of the Middle East. While capitalism and semi-feudal monarchies dominate the area, continual conflict and instability will remain. Only through the overthrow of capitalism and landlordism could the resources of the area be developed to ensure a decent future for all in the Middle East.



Begin and the cost of his election win, as seen by an American newspaper



FORDS: PROFITS COME FIRST

By Mike Waddington (AUEW TASS Site rep. Basildon, Basildon LPYS)

"Ford is about to mount an offensive against its huge British operation—not a total withdrawal from this country, but certainly running down its five assembly plants and the long string of components factories" (The Engineer, 14 May 1981).

The above quote is just one of many that do the rounds in Ford's about redundancies.

Our fears are added to by the announcement that Ford's plant in Amsterdam is to close on 30 September. The fight workers there are putting up is vital for all Ford's workers throughout the world.



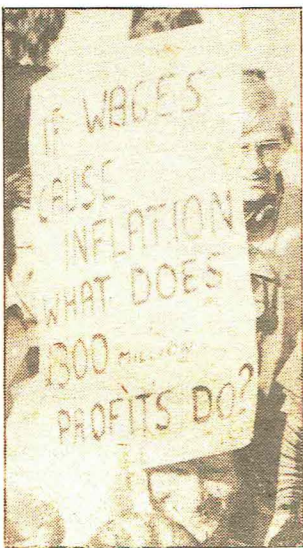
smashed their way into the record books.

Now Ford, internationally, are banking all on "re-organisation". In Europe, as we have seen, Fords plan to close their Antwerp and Amsterdam plants. There is to be a transference of Escort production away from Britain to Spain and Brazil.

Ford also have a 25% stake in Toyo Kogyo (TK) of Japan, (Mazda) who already produce a truck for sale in America (under Ford labels) and supply Far Eastern markets including Australia where Mazda 323 is marketed as the Ford Laser.

Ford hopes that this worldwide reorganisation will boost profits. But what of the workers? The future looks none too bright even where the FMC carry on—"Ford will invest more than £100 million at Dagenham for production

Photo: MILITANT



of the Tauri (Corina). It will represent Ford's greatest use of robots for welding so far... the emphasis may well be placed on assembly only at Dagenham." (The Engineer 14 May 1981).

The future offered is one of reduction in the workforce by closures or through new technology.

What can the workers do then? First we need a national combine committee for all Ford plants in Britain

to collect information and co-ordinate a fightback. This could then co-operate with Ford workers in the rest of the world.

Ford's workers need to meet to plan for the future, to ensure that no overtime is worked, that all vacancies are filled and plans made for action when closure is threatened. The occupation by Ford's Amsterdam workers is an example for us.

Instead of waiting for disaster to strike, the unions must begin a campaign for the nationalisation of the company and to hold onto the plant and equipment.

The stewards should begin plans for the alternative products the existing plant could supply—to get away from the crazy situation that production for profit has got the world into. By capitalist "logic", the Ford tractor plant in Basildon is "overproducing" for the demands of the market.

Yet in India, 100 million acres of arable land lie fallow! We lose our jobs—Indians die of starvation—all because bosses can't make profits out of any of us.



The situation was made perfectly clear to me within weeks of starting at Fords, when I was handed my own copy of the "Handbook for salaried employees".

The company made its position crystal clear with a "statement of corporate purpose". "Within the area and scope in which it operates, the FMC Ltd seeks (to make cars etc.) and in the process to create profits on the basis of sound and competitive economic principles."

In other words profits come first. No profit—no jobs! On the other hand, my union rule book states: "5. The objects of the union shall be... (b) to increase members' control of their industry, to co-operate in every possible way with all organised workers in the transformation of industry from private ownership to socialist and co-operative ownership for the common welfare of the people."

Our forerunners knew all along that we were heading for trouble. Production for private profit means exactly the medicine we are being prescribed now—unemployment.

Socialism is the only way forward! As a friend of mine at work said when I told him it was now "illegal" to picket an entrance with more than six pickets, "Well, we're prisoners of Ford's anyway!"



Striking Ford workers protest in 1978. When times are good, the bosses try to hog profits—when they're bad, they try to sack us. Photo: Militant

Today's Competition Tomorrow's Monopoly

Capitalism = competition = efficiency and value. That is the gospel according to the Tories.

The truth is less rosy. Competition exists, sometimes ruthless particularly on the international scale. In times of boom, however, even this competition tends to be less fierce.

When sales are high, firms in many industries ask why bother reducing prices and profits when all that happens is that your competitors do the same?

A multitude of devices has arisen from direct collusion to 'price leadership' parallel pricing etc. to ensure high profits, and to hell with 'value' for the consumer.

Of course some cad may come in from outside and spoil the arrangement but the real upsets come when markets start to shrink. Then the knives come-out again, and all firms and giant supermarkets start to boast that they are cutting prices in price wars, the very "competitive" process that is supposed to be going on all the time.

But such frenetic battles are short lived. Competition between capitalists has always had the end result of

putting some firms out of business and concentrating productive capacity in fewer and fewer hands. Competition produces monopoly.

In 1950 the top 100 companies produced 20% of Britain's output. By 1973 this had reached 46% as a result of mergers and takeovers, often encouraged by successive governments as well as a record level of bankruptcies in the last few years.

In America, an anti-monopoly clause in the constitution has not stopped active government support for takeovers. "Bigness doesn't necessarily mean badness" says Attorney General William French Smith.

Despite record interest rates, giant oil companies and others have jumped headlong into the takeover market. Du Pont's \$7.3 billion offer for Conoco, the biggest bid ever, would give the new conglomerate a bigger yearly turnover than Finland and far bigger than many third world countries. Meanwhile, Nabisco has made a deal with Standard Brands and American Express has taken over McGraw Hill.

This has enormous implications. The fact that companies can raise such sums makes the control of the money supply so beloved of Reagan and Thatcher impossible. In addition, in

Britain, one third of all imports result from internal movements of goods within companies allowing them to flout exchange controls, disregard imports restrictions and declare profits in whichever country suits them best.

Funds going overseas went up last year from £600 million in 1979 to £2 billion in 1980 and will rise again this year, GEC, apart from its fortune "invested" in the vaults of the banks, sent £68 million abroad.

The "efficient" capitalist system only failed to invest in manufacturing industry in Britain.

For a future Labour government to try to 'control' these firms while they remain in private hands would be like trying to carry water in a sieve.

Capitalist competition has not produced efficiency and value for workers or for society as a whole, only super profits for an ever smaller number of monopolies. Efficiency and value we will get only through public ownership under workers' control and management.

By Dale Quinlivan (FBU and Wigan Labour Party)

We are all working for a huge multi-national and our interests are completely interlinked.

W Hayden (Vice President of Manufacturing) has said "either we employ fewer and be efficient, or we will be inefficient and the Japanese will kill us".

But why the liberal helpings of 'we' in Hayden's speech? Anybody would think Ford Motor Company was a workers' co-operative! Nothing could be further from the truth.

Essex is Fordland. The comparative prosperity of this area of South East England was based largely on Ford's factories and office blocks which dominate the four towns they occupy. They employ about 40,000 directly, and many more workers—in component manufacturers and suppliers are dependent on this industry. The threats of closure illustrate that the South East is no longer a haven of job security.



In Basildon, the Ford radiator plant has been on a two-day week. The foundry at Dagenham is on a 3-day week and facing closure. Hayden is apparently "convinced the foundry cannot be made profitable because of the high value of the pound and still high interest rates."

Profits are the key of course. "High pounds" or high interest rates only cause problems for Ford's because they eat into profits.

Profits in 1979-80 were down 41% to £226 million.

Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Riots: Parents, Press, Police and Politics

Comrades

The latest outbreaks of rioting have, predictably, brought cries of 'Blame the parents', 'parents must be held responsible', from the Tories.

They hand their own offspring over to nannies, nursemaids and au pairs at birth, until the kids are old enough to be packed off to boarding schools.

Most parents cannot afford to pass the buck in this way. Most parents would not subject their children to this form of civilised neglect, even if they could.

We are all aware that parents are responsible for their children—but on the other hand, children are affected by what happens to their parents. If they see parents suffering poverty and degradation as a result of unemployment and are given no hope for the future but to grow up in the same appalling conditions, one can hardly expect them to retain the good-natured innocence of a child the same age who has a pony and a swimming pool in the back garden.

It's all very well gasping with open-mouthed amazement and horror when a young child throws a bottle or a brick, but the child is as aware of the conditions around it as anyone else.

To suggest parental discipline: smacked bottoms and sent to bed early, will prevent further riots is a joke. Improved conditions, better education, adequate housing and jobs for the unemployed might, if it's not left until too late.

Yours fraternally
Sal Barnett
Isle of Wight

Dear Comrades,

Tory vandals are smashing up the welfare state! The Tories kicked young people out onto the streets, slashing the number of youths and leisure facilities.

Faced with financial hardship, boredom, increasing family tensions and social frustrations, many young kids have been driven to finding excitement in street gangs and petty crime. Eventually, the result is savage riots in the areas where Tory cuts have been most successful.

The Tories have used the riots, not to reveal the ap-



Merseyside protest during Heseltine's visit

Photo: Militant

alling conditions existing in many inner-city areas, but as an excuse to train and "arm" riot police.

All this comes along with a renewed attack on the rights of the trade unions.

What they are most worried about, is the organisation and power of the trade union movement. An active and aware trade union movement, campaigning for more jobs, homes and social services, is the real threat to the Tories and the big-businessmen they represent.

Therefore, all attempts to "arm" the police must be resisted by the labour movement, and a campaign must be organised to bring down this cruel government and elect a Labour government committed to socialist policies to end the miseries of Tory Britain.

Yours sincerely,
Ramon Duffill
Central Hull LPYS.

Dear Militant,

Oh what joy it is to live in a society where "freedom of expression" is protected. Who dare deny the fact that we have an unbiased press.

Was it not openly reported on the BBC news that the police raided a number of houses in Brixton on Wednesday night?

However, it inadvertently slipped the editor's attention that during the raid

Hi-Fi equipment and other possessions were thrown on the floor, paint was splashed over the walls and doors and furniture were smashed.

Yours fraternally
R.T. Flaig
Brighton NUPE

Dear Comrade,

Massive attacks on working class living standards has led to bad housing, high unemployment and enormous cuts in the NHS and public services. As in the 1930s, all these attacks have been carried out because of the collapse of the profit system—capitalism.

It is no surprise that many activists in the labour movement are reading material either written in the 1930s or describing the struggles and lessons of the time. Books such as 'Unemployed Struggles' by Wal Hannington and 'Poplarism' by Noreen Branson have taken on great significance. Only two weeks ago *Militant* printed a review of 'Out of the Ghetto' describing the battle against the fascists at the time.

Most of these books describe the heroic struggles of the Communist Party and the Young Communist League. Factory gate paper sales were organised, meetings held outside plants and on the streets.

In the 1980s it is the Marxists in the Labour Party and the Labour Party

Young Socialists who have taken the fight for socialism onto the streets. Many LPYS branches are now organising factory gate sales of *Militant* and *Socialist Youth*, street corner meetings and demonstrations.

On a larger scale it was the LPYS, much to the horror of the Tories and national press, that made an excellent political intervention in the Toxteth riots. We were the only youth organisation capable of producing a leaflet at such short notice and being able to point to the strongest way to fight bad conditions and police harassment—with the labour movement.

The 1980s open up tremendous opportunities for Marxism. The LPYS is the only youth section capable of showing a way forward. The correctness of our ideas must be married with the campaigning traditions of the labour movement.

Fraternally,
Simon Swinnerton
Chester LPYS
LPYS North West
Regional Chairman

Dear Comrades

The events of Southall and Toxteth, and their aftermath, graphically show that the labour movement will ignore Northern Ireland at its peril.

In Toxteth the police used CS gas to clear the streets, for the first time in

Britain. CS gas is held by police in most large urban areas.

Conservative (and some Labour) MPs see the solution in more power to the police, and a House of Commons motion has been tabled to introduce a Riot Act (last repealed in 1967). Under such a law, if a riot is declared anyone not dispersing is automatically guilty of an offence.

On rubber bullets, Merseyside's deputy police chief said, "Whether we decide to use them on Merseyside is a judgement which might have to be taken eventually."

It is only a short step from from there to non-jury Diplock-type courts, H-blocks and wide-ranging powers of the army in Northern Ireland. All these will be used, not only against frustrated unemployed youth turning out on the streets in desperation and anger, but also against the labour movement, when workers take action to throw out the profiteering parasites.

Events in Toxteth show the absolute necessity for the labour movement, not to ignore the situation in Northern Ireland, but to widen the discussion and take action to end the Diplock courts and campaign for the release of those prisoners the labour movement considers are political prisoners.

The real criminals are the Tories and their big-business backers. Just as the Tories have driven the youth to desperation, the policies of the British bosses in Ireland, using religion to divide and rule, compounded by the absence of a Labour Party, have left a number of workers to resort to the methods of individual terrorism.

Marxists, while recognising the futility of rioting and individual terrorism, must be clear about who is really responsible, and must therefore call on the Labour Party and trade unions to campaign for the release of those arrested at Toxteth and Southall, as well as political prisoners, as determined by the labour movement. It is only the strength of the organised labour movement that can achieve these aims.

Fraternally
Keith McIntyre
Glasgow

Kinnock and South Wales miners

Dear Comrade

Merion Davies was less than honest in his description of the reception Neil Kinnock received at the South Wales Miners' Gala (Letters, 10 July).

Since Comrade Davies attached such importance to applause, is important to point out that Comrade Kinnock's speech was interspersed with applause, and following the heckling he received loud applause for his warning that the labour movement in Britain should not fall into the trap which has weakened so many other socialist movements, of agreeing on policies and then "shattering itself into fragments" over tactics and personalities.

At the end of his speech, Comrade Kinnock received applause and praise from South Wales miners' president Emlyn Williams.

Some of the hecklers were undoubtedly miners—but very few, as Comrade Davies should be truthful enough to admit. And if he doesn't "recall a speaker being heckled" at the South Wales Miners' Gala he doesn't recall much.

Bill Paynter, one of the miners' greatest ever leaders, was heckled long and loud when he spoke to the Gala as national general secretary of the NUM back in the 1960s.

The shouting was long and loud. The shouters were wrong—as they were this year.

Yours sincerely
John G Goleman
Newbridge, Gwent

Royal fireworks

Dear Comrades,

I recently read about a baby girl whose life was saved by an Oxymeter machine. This costs £9,000; the money to buy it was raised by the contributions of ordinary people to the Queen Mother's hospitals charity.

Why was it left to charity to buy such a vital life-saving machine?

We hear that soon-to-be-wed Charles and Diana will have a firework display costing £80,000. This could buy nine oxymeters and save many babies' lives.

Needless to say, the firework display will be a mere drop in the ocean of the Royal wedding expenses. But what matter. We're only talking about working class people's babies.

Yours fraternally,
Helen McCreery
Glasgow Garscadden
LPYS

Not so civil

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
In the same week that the civil service unions (CPSA and SCPS) in my office collected over £400 for the special levy to fund our pay campaign, the sum of £1.38 (one pound 38 pence) was raised for the Royal Wedding Appeal.

Enough said....?
Fraternal greetings
Harriet Stevens
CPSA DHSS, Bristol

N Ireland — ignore at your peril

Dear Comrade,

When you consider that Ma Thatcher has got away with vicious cuts in workers' living standards, public services and almost three million unemployed; it is highly significant that she admits the riots by working class youth have been the "most worrying of her premierships," (*Guardian*, 14/7/81).

Marxists have always stressed the explosive potential of youth, and if this burning anger and frustration can be

politicised, its revolutionary elan and enthusiasm can set the labour movement on the road to socialism. Thatcher's comment is an admission of this perspective.

Secondly, when "Six senior police officers are in Belfast for intensive briefings on anti-riot techniques by the RUC" (*Guardian*, 15/7/81), the argument of the Marxists in the Labour Party that N.Ireland is the training-ground for the police and army to deal with the British labour movement in future struggles, becomes unanswerable.

Finally, during a national one-day strike by gas workers on 13/7/81, a number

of pickets discussing the riots were prepared to believe they were "organised by extremists", etc. However, at the strike committee meeting that evening those same pickets, considering how to prevent bosses driving through picket-lines and endangering the lives of pickets, suggested barricades, broken glass, stakes, etc.

Such action would be equated by the Tory press and media with the "mindless violence of rioters." On the contrary, such defensive action indicates that workers do not adopt a pacifist attitude in struggle.

Just as John Reid's *Ten*

Days that Shook the World illustrated how the struggles of the Russian workers and peasantry were a confirmation of Bolshevism; so the past ten days have rubber-stamped the struggles of the British working class with the imprint of Marxism.

Yours comradely
John Merrell
Vice-chairman, NALGO
Leicester Gas branch,
personal capacity



The streets of Belfast

Build **Militant**

ads

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London East	3396		5320	7600
London West	1929		3360	4800
London South	2946		3850	5500
Manchester & Lancs	2018		4060	5800
Merseyside	2301		4620	6600
Northern	2565		6020	8600
Scotland East	1445		3080	4400
Scotland West	2342		5250	7500
Southern	3457		4970	7100
South West	1598		2450	3500
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Wales West	1435		3220	4600
West Midlands	3125		6020	8600
Yorkshire	3361		6300	9000
Others	8998		8750	12500
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TARGET FOR YEAR-£120,000

EVERY PENNY COUNTS

THIS WEEK: £1492

By Steve Cawley

The Tory press are indulging in a regal wallow at present, with deeper piles of trivia than they usually manage, even in the summer silly season.

Our readers, though, are showing their appreciation for our serious socialist coverage of all the important issues for working people.

Despite holidays and the 'glitter' of royal pageantry, our readers have sent in £1,492 this week to help consolidate our financial position. As usual the donations come from Labour Party, LPYS and trade union members throughout the country.

A leading group of trade union officials, 16 members of the CPSA DHSS Section EC, sent us a cheque for £36, "in appreciation of the coverage of the Civil Service dispute by 'Militant'." And they say you can't measure things like enthusiasm!

Just over £400 surplus for our fighting fund has been raised so far from the Build Militant Rally, after all expenses, but there's more to come, we calculate! East Wales readers collected £101 in Cardiff at a recent meeting, whilst £60 has come in from West Yorkshire readers in Wakefield and Dewsbury.

The successful LPYS weekend school in Barrow boosted the 'Northern' line on our chart to the tune of £53.50, whilst £42 came from Stevenage's Militant

Meeting. Thanks also to supporters in Wythenshawe, Hartlepool and Littlehampton LPYS for collections at meetings.

As usual, hundreds of individual donations made up the bulk of our funds. Thanks to everyone who's contributed but who we don't have space to mention, and also the following 'representative' sample: B Kelly (Dulwich POEU) £30, C Doyle (Brixton, TV fees) £20, Anon. Newcastle £10, S Laing (Midlothian) £10, R Clarke, J Clarke, E O'Donovan, J Morgan and J Holland (all Merseyside NGA) £5, R Turner (Telford) £5, T Ryan (NUT Birmingham) £5, K Connoghan (London CPSA) £5 and R Chesterman (London NUR) £5.

Amounts of between £1 and £5 came from M Burbridge (York LPYS), S Graham, A Tweddle and R Dawson (Newcastle), P Dormand (Cramlington LPYS) and 'Edith' and J Wilson from Sunderland. £1s were from L Lock and C White (Southend), N Balderstone (Telford), T Walsh (Wolverhampton), D Perry (Wigan), C Till and J Jones (Notts), T Bulley (London) and P Moore (Reading).

Although you've done well to get to the £50,000 mark a couple of weeks earlier than 1980, we are still about £3,100 per week short of our October 10th target. £500 per week would come in 'automatically' if just 10,000 of our readers put in an extra 5p per week in change. If 10,000 readers put in 20p per week on average, or 20,000 put in 10p, that would mean £2,000 every week for us!

We're confident many sellers will be pointing this out to readers who could easily afford these sums but didn't think they were worthwhile. Every penny counts now as never before.

The bosses, their press, their Tory Party, their SDP may have the few large donations from the wealthy, but we have the potential to collect millions of workers' pennies.

Spread the good news...

A lot of workers will be looking forward to a hard-earned holiday at the moment. The Tories may be off on a long ill-deserved rest themselves, but unfortunately, they won't stay away, so we can't slack in the drive to build the sales of 'Militant'.

Sellers with time on their hands should see if they can sell outside dole offices, or sell to the hard-pressed civil servants who are fighting the Tories over their pay claim. Estate sales must be our biggest growth area, with over 230 sold on one estate in Nottingham. Any group of sellers want to try and beat this?

Another growth area for sales are rail and coach depots, this is well worth a try, give the workers something to read whilst going on holiday. Many of our sellers are fighting the Tories (and their SDP/Liberal friends) on the doorsteps and on the streets. Make sure 'Militant' is your main weapon in the fight against the bosses and their system.

With our ever rising growth in sales, many who read this will be doing so for



Photo: Militant

Part of a wall in Glasgow spreading the good news about 'Militant'

the first time, if you agree with us, spread the good news and sell the 'Militant'. Bulk supplies (5 or more) will be supplied at no cost, sale or return, on a weekly basis.

Join the growing red army of 'Militant' sellers, and get the message to your workmates, union members, Labour Party members and neighbours. Contact Circulation Dept., 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN, or ring 01-986 3828.

Militant sellers will be in Crawley Town Centre on Saturday mornings. If you would like a regular copy or further information, phone Ray Apps, daytime Brighton 601481, or write 216 Wiston Road, Brighton.

Congratulations to Paul and Amanda on the birth of their son Owen, from Teesside Militant supporters and members of Stockton Labour Party.

Stockport Militant Supporters GRAND RAFFLE Lenin's Collected Works. Tickets £1, limited to 200 tickets. Tickets from Maggie Harbour, 30 Albert Road, Heaton Moor, Stockport SK4 4EG. Must be drawn soon! Last few tickets.

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STUFF THE WEDDING—WEDDING Brighton 'Militant' supporters are pleased to announce the real wedding of the year. Maureen Boyd and Andreas Bonfiglioli are getting married on 31 July.

Congratulations from Eastleigh LPYS to Maggie and Steve on the birth of their son. We will continue the fight to make his world better than ours.

NEW MILITANT PAMPHLET Leon Trotsky on 'The Communist Manifesto today'

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Industrial

RAILWAYS-

Firm stand will win claim

Following the London tube pay claim, where the London Transport executive upped their offer to an 11% increase without productivity strings, the major battle is now emerging on the National Union of Railwaymen annual wage claim.

The British Rail Board (BRB) will not honour the findings of the Railway Staff national tribunal decision, which recommended 8% from April with a further 3% from August, representing an annual increase of 10%.

The union leadership have indicated that they are prepared to accept the tribunal findings as a settlement. Yet the BRB cry they have no money and therefore can only pay the first stage increase.

The remaining 3% they say, must be paid for by more productivity. This means more sweat and blood for less money! Job losses and speed-ups are now a familiar yell and must be firmly resisted by the

By Dave
Dodson

(Paddington No 1 NUR)

NUR national executive committee. There must be not one element of compromise, especially in the area of productivity ties on this wage claim.

The demand, that has been echoed by the union leadership over the last few months, of 'No trading jobs for cash' and 'the days of the cheap railwaymen are over,' must be applied in meaningful terms. The rank and file must organise around these demands to ensure real action to win the claim and protect jobs. There is no time to spare.

My branch in common with many throughout the

country were totally opposed to taking the claim to the tribunal from the start. The only real strategy to win is the complete mobilisation of our union by way of national strike action by all sections of the membership. The mood is clearly there.

The NUR are now apparently examining a productivity document issued by the BRB, although they stress 'without commitment.'

No further discussions are being held between the three main rail unions and the BRB until August 10, but the fact that productivity measures are even being considered is an absolute scandal and must be instantly challenged. Branches and District Councils up and down the country should send emergency resolutions to the NUR head office for the attention of the executive committee to this effect.

The membership cannot afford any further delay in the fight over wages. The executives of the major rail unions, NUR and ASLEF should immediately give the BRB a clear undertaking that unless they recognise the tribunal's offer without strings of any kind, the industry will be brought to a complete shutdown, and war will be declared on the collusive policies of the heads of British Rail and Thatcher.

Euston

During a period of ten years, management and staff at Euston station catering, have worked reasonably harmoniously.

However, with Thatcher's onslaught upon working class living standards this situation has rapidly deteriorated.

The management, faced with falling receipts, are dealing with the situation in the only way they know—cutting the wage bill.

Wages, including lower management, are poor—about £65 per week for a senior catering assistant and many are paid much less.

The staff have meals on duty and are entitled to free and privilege travel facilities, and in the past considerable overtime was paid which helped maintain the harmony. Now overtime is minimal and wages are basic.

Using the excuse of 'stock shrinkage' the management issued a letter threatening disciplinary procedure to all the staff if there was not an immediate improvement.

This letter was issued to a

girl just returned from maternity leave, and another girl who had been with the company for only a month.

The letters were all personally addressed, and referred to a 4% wastage over 6 months; a time when the cellars had been completely re-organised, new pipe runs installed and a changeover from cans to bottles—to increase profits of course.

The entire bar staff struck—middle and lower management were forced to man the bars—after management refused a union request to withdraw the letter. After the threat of involving all catering staff at Kings Cross, St Pancras and Euston, management withdrew the letter and normal working resumed.

A management rep then claimed the letter was in fact only a circular, claiming it was never intended to be attached to staff files. This remains to be proven.

Evidence suggests this confrontation was directly provoked on instruction from higher-up in British Transport Hotels management, in an effort to depress pay, through breaking the union.

This episode however has given great confidence to the

staff. Importantly, it shows that a determined effort by NUR could halt the hiving off of our industry by big business, and stopping the threats of job losses inflicted on us by Thatcher and her henchmen.

By M. Waldheim

(Euston No 1 NUR)

Laurence Scott

For the past 13 weeks the workforce of Laurence Scott, Manchester, have given overwhelming support for the sit-in that followed the attempted closure of the factory.

At the last mass meeting the vote was 500 to 20 in favour of continuing the occupation.

Support for the dispute in the area has been gathering momentum. In addition to factory collections, the AUEW membership in north Manchester voted by 3 to 1 in favour of a district



There is a clear mood among railwaymen to put up a determined struggle against BR management and their Tory backers, to win the claim with no strings attached.

Glasgow

The growing anger and frustration of railway workers was shown at an open meeting to discuss new working arrangements, called by the South Glasgow Local District Council of the NUR.

The area consists of about 36 suburban and main line stations which are manned by leading railmen. Over the years they have seen a deterioration in their working conditions.

Clerical assistance has been whittled away to such an extent that in some stations it is virtually non-existent. More and more responsibility has been placed upon the leading railmen for which he sees nothing in return.

Management have the right under the existing machinery to introduce items for discussion "under consultation," regardless of the feelings of the men. The LDC view this procedure

with contempt, and a stifling of the membership's aspirations.

Despite the obstacles placed upon them, the membership feel that there must be changes if their living standards are to be defended.

A number of resolutions were unanimously carried which will now be taken to the next branch meeting. The first resolution, reflecting the undemocratic nature of the NUR's annual general

meeting, called for at least one delegate from each branch to attend with votes according to the numerical strength of that branch.

Another resolution called for the election of all officials, subject to recall by the membership, and to receive the average wage plus the necessary expenses.

By John Herron

(Glasgow No.5 NUR)

The following resolution was passed by Glasgow No 5 branch of the NUR;

"This branch condemns the recent attacks, made by prominent members of the Labour Party and trade unions, on members of the Left in general, and in particular supporters of the newspaper the 'Militant.'

"This conduct is totally against the democratic trad-

itions of the movement of free and unfettered debate of opposing ideas, and can only play into the hands of the capitalist press and media.

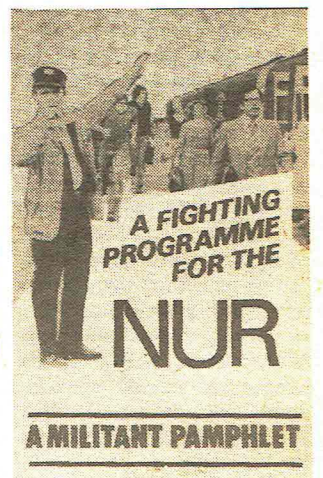
"We further support fully the right of Tony Benn to stand as a candidate for deputy leader of the Labour Party as all the democratic gains made must be welcomed and defended fully."

The only 'guarantee' is that the situation would be reviewed in three months!

Faced with the total withdrawal of support by the AUEW executive, the Manchester North district committee felt that it had no option but recommend a return to work and for the struggle to be carried on from inside the factory.

However, when these proposals were put to the AUEW membership (over half the factory workforce) there were only 12 votes in favour.

The successful outcome of this dispute now greatly depends on the full restoration of official support by the AUEW. There must be an immediate campaign to demand the restoration of official backing and for the strike to defend jobs.



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CIVIL SERVICE

Struggle ended — or just beginning?

Voting on the government's pay offer to try and end the civil servants' 20-week dispute ends as we go to press.

Already it is clear that there will be a majority vote to accept 7% plus £30 for 1981 and a promise of arbitration [heavily qualified] for 1982: a deal that was put together nearly two weeks ago in secret talks between union leaders and government spokesmen.

Despite the trend towards accepting the offer it is by no means overwhelming. In fact when account is taken of the leadership's refusal in most unions to give a recommendation, let alone campaign actively for rejection, the results so far bear remarkable testimony to the new found willingness to

struggle in the civil service trade unions.

For the first time in its entire history the Inland Revenue Staff Federation membership has voted by a clear majority for all-out strike action. With all the votes counted there were 19,344 to reject the government's offer and to go on all out strike action, and 17,501 to accept the offer.

Yet the IRSF leadership refused to put a recommendation to its members in the face of a government threat to withdraw the offer if they did so. The 1981 pay campaign constitutes a milestone for the IRSF in its development. Not only has it voted for all out strike action but, and the two things are most certainly linked, the government's own figures indicate that 72% of the workers in the Inland Revenue have taken strike action in the course of

By Pat Byrne

(CPSA)

this dispute.

Although incomplete, the Society of Civil and Public Servants voting figures also give an indication of the feelings which have been aroused by this campaign. The SCPS executive campaigned for a rejection of the offer. They look like getting a good vote against the offer, the vote on Tuesday July 28 being evenly split.

The decision of the CPSA leadership, backed up by the right wing majority on the executive, was to adopt a neutral attitude. In view of the issues at stake this was a criminal act. Members around the country had been incredulous at this act of cowardice. However, even though faced with a bankrupt leadership, by Tuesday over 25,000 CPSA members had voted for all out strike action.

The overall position, however, favoured acceptance

by a two to one majority and this is unlikely to change in the hours that remain for voting.

The Institute of Professional Civil Servants' leadership formally adopted a neutral position but their propaganda clearly favoured a settlement. Even here a substantial minority wanted strike action.

What do these voting figures reveal? They show first and foremost that had the Council for Civil Service Unions recommended rejection of the government's offer, and had gone out to all members' meetings campaigning for this, a massive majority in favour of rejecting the offer would have been certain.

Instead we've been treated to the spectacle of council spokesmen making statements to the press and media—days before some members had a chance to vote—predicting an early return to work and an end to the strike. An act of folly or an act of sabotage?

The substantial number of votes for all out action without strike pay marks also the coming of age of Civil Service trade unionism. It bodes well for the future and should be well marked by the Tories (and perhaps also the trade union leadership).

From Glasgow to Brighton local strike committees were as one in rejecting the offer and campaigning for all out strike action. Having gained experience of working together in this campaign, these local committees will be the forerunner of future combined activities and will almost certainly lay the basis for future amalgamations.

But it is no accident or coincidence that these local strike committees have filled the vacuum created by the lack of leadership at national level, exposed as they have been to the aspirations of members and spurred on by the accumulated pressure from members during this campaign. For these local committees there was only one course to adopt—all out strike action and perhaps if more time had been available their campaigning might even have produced an overall majority in favour of strike action.

The national leadership during the strike, and particularly after the limited selective strike action strategy had been seen to have failed, became increasingly estranged from the campaign. They have been forced to the precipice, as they viewed it, of a national civil service strike and had recoiled in horror.

But the matter will not end here. In many ways this is just the start of the awakening of civil service trade unionism and many campaigns to come.

USDAW

The fear of right-wing trade union officials of the active participation by members in union affairs was highlighted in Swansea recently.

An USDAW steward in the Smith's Crisps factory here was disciplined for producing a leaflet outlining the latest developments in the wage negotiations and arguing for a struggle to get the full 15% claim.

The leaflet was well received by the members, yet with just 24 hours notice, our steward was summoned to London by the Negotiating Committee to explain his actions.

He was ticked off not just because of his attempt to inform his members of what was happening in the Smith's negotiations, but also because of his activities in the S. Wales USDAW Broad Left.

The 25 man committee had copies of the recent newsletter 'Left Activist'

produced by Broad Left members in the area. It advocated more democracy in the union and gave reports from various factories and shops (including Smith's).

The fact that three Broad Left members have already been confronted by the right-wing shows the fear they have of members starting to play an active role within USDAW.

These attacks have made us more determined than ever to build an active rank and file Broad Left so that we can ensure more democracy within the union and assist with the political tasks of returning to power a Labour government prepared to implement the policies determined at annual conference.

**By an USDAW
Broad Left
member**

Smurfit

Although in this year's shareholders report Smurfit & Co revealed that after-tax profits has risen by £½ million to £14.5 million, the situation is a lot grimmer for the workers throughout their empire.

Last weekend the workers at the Barnes Flex paper packaging plant in Manchester moved into action in an attempt to save jobs. A picket was placed on the factory to prevent the removal of machinery and materials.

After the loss of 50 jobs at the neighbouring factory of James Barnes, the waterproof paper converter, it was revealed that 236 jobs at Barnes Flex were to be axed.

Contrary to press reports in the 'Manchester Evening News,' the workers do not blame the so called intransigence of the NGA but place the blame fairly and squarely on the shoulders of Smurfit and Co, the owners of both factories. In the article, Martin Cooper, chief executive of Smurfits,

cynically claimed "the decision of closure is totally that of the NGA."

Arthur Perrin, Manchester Secretary of the NGA, explained however, "We believe this has been a deliberate attempt by the management from the outset to close this plant. Indeed, while union representatives were negotiating with management in London, redundancy notices were delivered to their homes."

For the 170 SOGAT members at the factory, the management 'survival' plan would have meant the loss of 11 jobs. Of the 14 proposals put forward, the NGA accepted 13 but could not accept the de-manning proposals, which would have meant a loss of earnings of up to £30 per week.

While investing throughout the world Smurfits have next to no investment outlined for the UK. The workforce see this closure, together with that of James Barnes, as the opening round of attacks and closures throughout the world.

Evershed

170 trade unionists are now into their second week of a strike against victimisation and redundancy at Evershed and Vignoles, Chiswick, part of the Thorn-EMI Engineering Company.

Out of 59 redundancies demanded by the company, 57 have been found by voluntary methods. The remaining two are being enforced by the company, despite 17 others volunteering to leave.

One of the two is Fred Curtis, a senior TASS shop steward. This is despite the existence of a volunteer doing a similar job in his own department who would like an early retirement due to ill-health.

Since the dispute started, a third compulsory redundancy has been announced—a trade union member who was sent her redundan-

cy notice whilst in hospital.

For months the workforce at Evershed and Vignoles, which supplies specialised equipment to the armed forces, have taken the brunt of a falling workload through redundancies, natural wastage and short-time working.

The management have not sacrificed one minute of their time or a penny of their pay. They have also accepted voluntary redundancies in areas where none were required.

Now trade unionists are not prepared to see compulsory redundancies or the victimisation of one of their representatives.

Messages of support and donations to Mr Ron Templar, 98 Barwick House, Stafford Road, Acton W.3.

Picket line in March at the start of the dispute

Photo: MILITANT



Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR AND YOUTH

Editor: Peter Taaffe. Published by Militant,
1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. Telephone: 01-986 3828
Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office
Printed by Cambridge Heath Press Ltd [TU] ISSN 0144-9257



Photo: D Doran (Militant)

POLICE

CONTINUED FROM
PAGE ONE

area of Liverpool and the heavy police harassment but by an incident the previous night. Then similar tactics by the police had resulted in another young man receiving a broken back. An eye witness told 'Militant' reporters:

"I saw trouble, real trouble, with hand to hand fighting. Some jeeps came along. There was a lot of confusion. One person was run over three times and very badly injured.

"There was blood everywhere. He looked dead, and when he was taken away a few minutes after, the rumour came back that he was dead." It was later confirmed that he was in a serious condition with a broken back in a Liverpool hospital.

"The place went up, there was an eruption of anger. The police used tear gas but nobody cared. This big white bloke went up to the police and screamed, 'Which of you is brave enough to put his shield down and tell his mother?'

"Someone else started shouting, 'He was white'. The police started banging their shields and chanting. In the middle of the fighting a woman came out on to the balcony and screamed, 'They've smashed my baby's cot.' They seem to have gone into a flat in riot gear and were smashing the place up—the cot with the baby inside was smashed up too. 'They're going to kill my baby', she cried. Local rastas climbed up to the flat and were trying to protect it."

The witness herself was bruised in a tug of war between the police and her friends. The police were saying "get back to the jungle" to black and white people.

"The Guardian" confirmed this report. Paul Conroy was running towards a row of houses for safety when a "landrover mounted the pavement and pinned him against the wall" [29 July 1981]. Witnesses claimed the vehicle backed off three times and rammed him. One local youngster said that when the landrover backed off, "the riot police beat him about the body before arresting him."

The police have said they were determined they would not be deterred from preserving 'law and order' from a 'criminal element'. 'Militant' does not support rioting as a means of solving the problems of working class areas. But as Margaret Simey has pointed out, such outbreaks are inevitable given the social conditions and police behaviour.

But it must be made clear there is no justification whatsoever for the vicious brutality of the police. The labour movement must campaign to ensure that the police are accountable, and come under full democratic control. They must also lead the fight to change society so that the unemployment, the slums, the police harassment and the capitalist class that created them become just a nightmarish memory.

On the Breadline 1981

Question. What is 50 yards long and eats potatoes? Answer. A queue outside a Polish butchers.

This was one of the jokes told by Polish workers during the recent crisis. Queues, however, are not confined to the Stalinist countries.

This queue forms every morning, and

sometimes as many as 70 to 80 people stretch in a long line down the road.

They can wait up to an hour to be served and the entire contents of the shop are sold out by lunch time.

Over the past two years the queue has got longer as unemployment has risen in the area.

In the past, it was

mainly old age pensioners who stood outside. Now all ages and every creed and colour stand together in the hope of saving a few pence by buying Greggs 'Seconds'.

What are Greggs 'Seconds'? The answer is bread. The shop is a dump for flat, misshapen, under- and over-

cooked bread. At one time it all went in the bin, now it is sold to the eager queue of people desperate to save a few pennies of their weekly shopping bill.

The place is Newcastle where unemployment in June was a record 11,430. The CBI tell us that we have to accept further cuts in our living stand-

ards to make Britain 'Great' again.

People who buy Greggs 'Seconds' would like to know when it was ever 'great' for them.

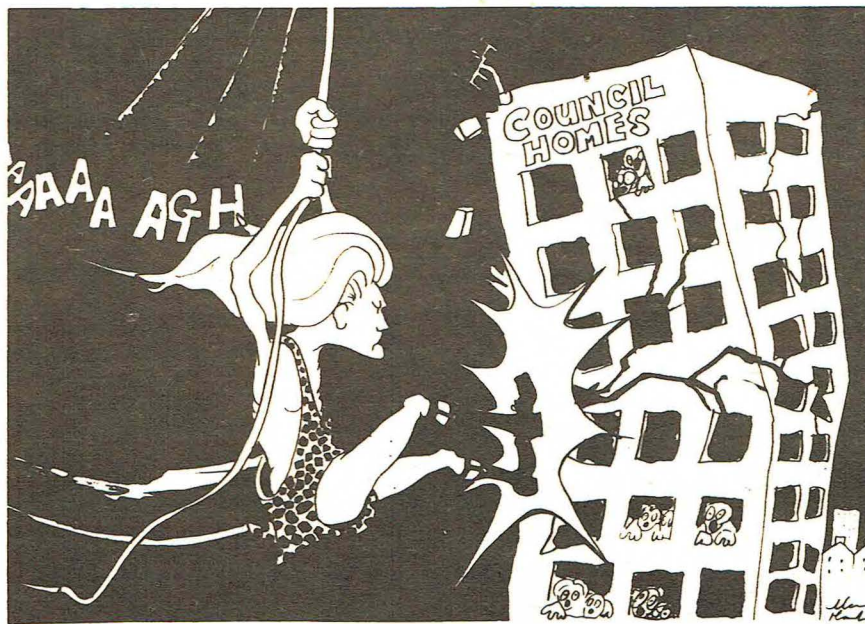
By Jeff Price
(Newcastle)

AUGUST MILITANTS

During the August holiday period, 'Militant' will be published with a reduced number of pages (i.e. the issues of 7, 14 and 21 August). There will be no paper on 28 August, Bank Holiday weekend.

The normal 16-page paper will return for issue 567 on 4 September which will cover the 1981 Trades Union Congress.

INNER CITY HELL



"Michael has worked for our wealth and now he is working for the good of the country. At least that's the way he sees it."

—Mrs Anne Heseltine

CONTINUED FROM
PAGE ONE

job centre where 50 jobs were on offer to over 1,000 signing on.

No wonder there have been empty seats and cat-calls to greet him. Local trade union leaders have also refused to meet him.

The cynicism of the workers of Liverpool is born of bitter experience and it is hypocrisy for this person to come here and talk about the problems of Liverpool 8.

He goes on about unem-

ployment. Well, he ought to know about that, he has chopped apprenticeships in his property services agency from 500 to 36 over two years.

What answers can they come up with? The Tory government's new £500m plan mainly consists of giving the bosses a £15 subsidy for every youngster they employ at under £40 per week!

The wages of youth are too high, say the likes of Heseltine. Try telling that to Toxteth families "for-

tunate" enough to have young people working!

It is an insult to the Liverpool workers to send him here. He may think his visit an act of great wisdom on the part of the prime minister.

What's so great about having the brains of a toothbrush? What Merseyside needs is not the faked sympathy of millionaires but the mass action of the labour and trade union movement to sweep the Tories out.

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