

# Militant

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## Queen's Speech NEW TORY OFFENSIVE

### More measures to savage workers' living standards and rights

By Roger Shriver

'My government will further tighten the screws on the working class, the unemployed and the poor.'

This was the real message behind the bland wording of this year's Queen's speech, which traditionally outlines the government's programme for the next session of parliament.

The measures briefly outlined add up to a new offensive against workers' jobs, living standards, vital services, housing, and unemployment, social security, and pension payments.

All the gains won by the labour movement in the past are threatened by this new offensive by the bosses' party.

This is the Tories' quack plan for the 'rejuvenation' of senile British capitalism.

Thatcher's govern-



Determined Longbridge pickets stop strike-breaker's car on Monday morning (2 November)

ment expresses its 'concern' for the unemployed. This is just so much eyewash.

The speech promised to carry on the 'fight against inflation.' Previous monetary policies led to million more on the dole—and a record level of public spending to finance unemployment pay.

The Tories' bright solution to sever the link between unemployment pay and the rate of inflation means a savage cut in real pay for the workless, especially as earnings related payments will end

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## BL... Next time!

"I'm not surprised," said one bitter BL worker, "I'm not surprised at being sold down the line—but not in 48 hours!"

The vote by a small majority at Longbridge against continuing the strike is a kick in the teeth for the most advanced workers. But in the strike headquarters shop stewards were feeling bloodied but unbowed.

On Monday the BL Longbridge workforce

Reports from  
Steve Morgan in  
Oxford and  
Les Kuriata  
in Longbridge

showed their mettle on the picket line. Over a thousand workers were involved, with

a hundred or more on several of the gates.

Dozens proclaimed: "I am the 7th picket" in defiance of the Tory law limiting picketing at any one entrance. Scores of police were unable to clear a path for management scabs.

In 24 hours pickets have been politicised through discussions, confrontations, media reports and anger at the TU leaders' feet of clay.

Tory stooge Sir Michael Edwardes is vilified by most workers as being responsible for 70,000 jobs lost and drastic wage cuts. "I voted to go back," said one worker, "but the thing that has made me sick is think-

ing Edwardes has won."

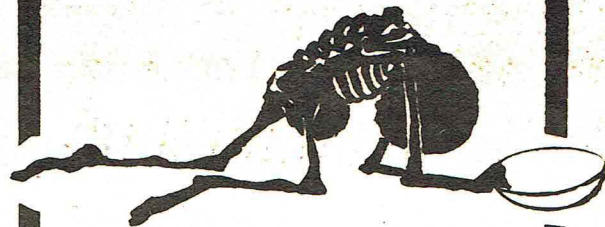
In this dispute Edwardes played his ace card of threatening total liquidation. But for the fact that the AUEW leadership bottled out this threat would have been pushed down the pan.

Having used it once, however, Edwardes will not be able to play this card again so easily.

At the meeting on Monday of the National Officers and the Senior Stewards, 200 workers lobbied and occupied the AUEW building in Birmingham demanding rejection of the company

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Photo: Militant

# Militant

# BL SETBACK...

Throughout the whole country, trade unionists were hoping that Michael Edwardes would have a hammering. His policy of massive redundancies in BL, combined with the squeeze on the living standards and the trade union rights of the workers, had come to personify the same Tory policies that have affected all workers.

So the decision of the Leyland workers to accept the second offer is as much a setback to workers in general as it is to BL workers themselves. But while Edwardes has won the battle, he is beginning to lose the war.

For the fourth year running, Leyland workers will suffer a decline in their living standards. The campaign of the media and Edwardes' intimidatory threats had some effect. But the central question, the decisive factor in the final vote was the complete absence of a positive lead from the trade union tops.

The whole question of the trade union leadership will now be raised in the minds of thousands of BL workers.

The Oxford district secretary of the TGWU remarked bitterly; "We have seen from some trade union leaders treachery dressed up as leadership." That remark will be echoed the length and breadth of British Leyland.

The role of Duffy and Boyd of the AUEW will be questioned in particular. Going over the heads of the shop stewards committee to recommend a return to work had a demoralising effect on the workers. They must have felt like soldiers entering a battle in the full knowledge that their



The mass pickets outside the Leyland plants—the biggest ever—were evidence of the willingness of the workers to fight. Unfortunately the leadership did not match up to the workers' enthusiasm

Photo: Militant

generals were plotting to betray them.

Even the TGWU leadership equivocated over whether or not to accept.

It has to be said quite clearly that 'leadership' of this kind is an enormous handicap to the workers. Their anxieties and fears are whipped up by the management and by the media. In this situation it is essential that the union leaders give a determined and decisive lead so the workers have a perspective for a successful struggle. In fact, the weakness and vacillations of the union leaders only

aggravated the workers' fears.

But there are always two sides to a coin. The weakness of the AUEW leadership will rebound a hundredfold against them in the future.

Early in October, Derek Robinson, the sacked Longbridge convenor, was able to muster a factory gate meeting of 2,500 in his campaign to be elected

district secretary of the AUEW. He is seen more and more by BL workers as a martyr created by the national AUEW leadership. The events of the last few weeks will probably ensure his election and will certainly have repercussions in the union nationally.

When all the dust settles, it will be seen that the workers have suffered a setback, but by no means a

disaster. In fact, it will be seen as the beginning of a fightback. The cocky and confident Edwardes of the past—loudly praised by all the press—has been sobered somewhat by the first national strike in British Leyland.

In just two days of striking there was no mistaking the overwhelming bitterness of the BL workers towards management and Edwardes

especially.

Even the Tory press were moved to comment on Edwardes' blind brinkmanship. They could see that if the strike had gone ahead and if Edwardes had moved to liquidate the company, there would have been an explosion of anger that would have assumed almost general strike proportions.

The agreed deal accepts that future management methods will have to be changed, and there can be no doubt that the workers in BL will assert their rights on the shop floor far more confidently than at any time in the last few years.

The further closures and speed-ups that are part of the so-called 'Edwardes Plan' will not be taken by the workers lying down. The dent in his own prestige may even mean that Edwardes himself is eased out in the next few months.

The Leyland workers have come out of their brief strike far more determined than ever before. They will be more willing to fight to defend their jobs and living standards the next time round. Even before next year, there may be a 'war of attrition' on the shop-floor as the workers fight to regain rights taken away from them in the last years.

But the key question that now faces workers is that of trade union democracy and representation.

The workers will demand that in future their conditions and wages are negotiated by a democratic and representative negotiating body, reporting only to the members, rather than a cabal of general secretaries meeting in secret.

Next time, with leadership to match their own fighting spirit, BL workers will not go down to such a defeat.

## ... but new fight begins

# GREEK WORKERS GO INTO ACTION



PASOK leaders under pressure

PASOK's magnificent victory in the Greek elections was greeted by more than dancing in the streets, wild parties and mock funerals of the Right.

Within hours, workers had moved into action to avenge the defeats of the past—particularly the last two years' vicious reprisals against trade union militants.

Workers are not prepared to wait passively for the new government to introduce legislation from above. They are already implementing its programme in the factories.

By Roger Silverman

The very day after the election, a leaflet was published by the biggest union in the Greek Electricity Corporation (DEI).

"We greet the victory of the working people in the elections...and we ask you to carry out the tasks of CHANGE...The people who supported our struggles in the past have con-

demned the government of autocracy, of victimisation and sackings, and decided with a tremendous majority that the public utility companies like DEI should from now on serve the interests of society.

"So, starting from today, we, the workers of DEI, begin to put into practice the decisions of the Greek people. Real power within our company is now transferred to the hands of our workers and other representatives of popular power, who will implement the slogans that the Greek people were shouting in the streets: the people and PASOK in power!..."

"All DEI workers must be in the forefront of struggle to firmly establish a

change and guarantee the implementation of the will of the people...Our Federation calls upon all our colleagues who in the past were sacked for trade union activity to return to the Corporation and start work in the next few days.

"Also we ask all our brothers who were victimised by being transferred to other parts of the country to return to their original workplaces...Fight for the decisive participation of workers in the running of our company, which must serve the interests of the Greek people..."

On the following day, 350 out of the 1000 workers sacked two years ago after a bitter six-month struggle in the Pitsos electrical equip-

ment factory besieged the new Minister of Labour demanding reinstatement in the same jobs to begin afresh the fight for union recognition.

It was not only workers who saw the election as a green light to move into action. A hundred prisoners in Nafplio prison barricaded themselves into one part of their prison the day after the election and demanded to speak to the new Justice Minister on the demands: fire the Governor, better conditions, stop warders' terrorisation, and no victimisation.

After a week they called off the occupation, having been assured that the Governor had already been sacked and that all their

demands would be sympathetically considered.

At the other end of the spectrum, PASOK activists in Arta were astonished on election night to have three policemen fling their arms around them in jubilation, at PASOK's victory, asking: "Is Papandreu going to give us trade union rights at last?"

They then insisted: "The new government must move fast, while the Generals and police chiefs are stunned."

These incidents, and hundreds more, all taking place in the first two days after the election—before the government was even sworn in!—demonstrate the revolutionary upheavals that will be shaking Greece from now on.

# DEFEAT MOVES FOR WITCH-HUNT

By a 'Militant' reporter

The election of its new sub-committees was the most important business at the National Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday 25 October, the first meeting since Party Conference.

Labour's right wing claim they stand for "unity" in the party. But their intentions in voting

a number of additional right-wingers on to key sub-committees are clear.

Backing up the statements leaked to the Tory press beforehand, the right made it clear that they hope to launch a witch-hunt against the left in the party, and in particular against *Militant* and its supporters.

Betty Boothroyd MP and David Williams (COHSE) were put on to the crucial Organisation Committee, which now gives the right eight members. This strengthened position could be used to mount an attack on *Militant*.

Already, representatives of the right-wing 'Manifesto Group' of MPs have called on the new committee to block the selection of *Militant* supporter Pat Wall who replaces the discredited Manifesto MP Ben Ford as the Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Bradford North.

The Party's youth movement, the Labour Party Young Socialists, are also under fire.

The addition of John Golding MP and Sid Tierney (USDAW) to the

Youth Committee increases the right's representation to six. Moves may well be afoot to unseat Joan Maynard as Chairman of this committee. A right-wing chairman with a casting vote would give the right a majority.

Many obstacles could be placed in the path of the LPYS, which is clearly one of the most active, campaigning sections of the whole labour movement—and overwhelmingly committed to bold socialist policies.

However, the socialist campaigning of the Young Socialists has met with enormous support and sympathy from Labour's ranks, and moves against the party's youth will be met with a storm of protest from Labour Parties and trade unions.

On a number of occasions, Michael Foot has declared his opposition to a return to the witch-hunting of the Gaitskellite period and said he will oppose expulsions. Labour Party members will now be wondering why he voted to strengthen the hand of the right on the organisation

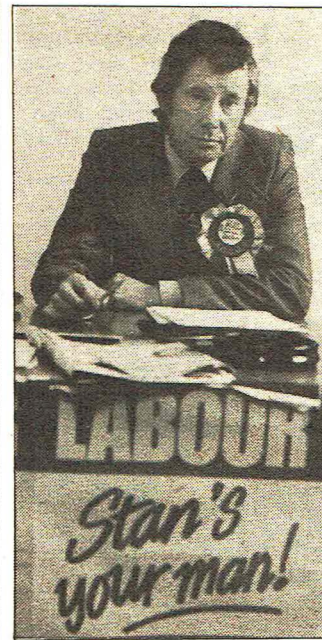
and the youth sub-committees, when the right is clearly trying to prepare the ground for both witch-hunting and expulsions.

What do the right really mean by "unity", the catch phrase behind which they hide their policies? Clearly, they mean "unity" on their own terms—the undemocratic domination of the right of the Parliamentary Labour Party, a form of "unity" which can only split the party.

They want the unity of the graveyard—a return to the dark days of Gaitskellite manoeuvres against the left.

Their aims should be made transparently clear to all Labour Party members. An attempted purge of *Militant* supporters would just be the first shot in a campaign to scrap the advances over recent years on party democracy, and to reverse the shift to the left.

The right should be warned. Labour's ranks will not accept a return to the past, as will no doubt be shown by a flood of resolutions to the NEC rallying to the defence of the LPYS and *Militant*.



Stan Boden (left), Labour's defeated candidate in the recent Croydon NW by-election received the commiserations of the London Labour Party Executive. The campaign was fought under difficult circumstances, says the Executive in a resolution, but it criticised the campaign's "moderate" "non-political" approach and the refusal to allow left-wing speakers like Tony Benn and Ken Livingstone to come in to answer Labour's enemies with "positive socialist policies".

Photo: NICK OAKES

## HESELTINE MUST BE STOPPED!

The executive of the Greater London Labour Party met on 2 November to decide what strategy it should recommend to the labour movement in the face of the Tory government's onslaught against local government.

By Nick Bradley (London LP Executive, personal capacity)

all-out confrontation with the government, backed up with a mobilisation of the wider labour movement through a 24-hour general strike throughout London.

Bob Labi argued that Labour councils were faced with a clear choice: to fight or to knuckle under to the Tories. He reminded the Executive that some members had from the start opposed the strategy of rate rises. The recent adverse election results in London had shown the disastrous effects of that policy.

The right wing was utterly silent. Not one of them suggested what Labour councils should do.

Militant supporters proposals were strongly criticised by Ted Knight, leader of Lambeth council. Ted Knight said the "call for a 24-hour strike is not a winnable proposition."

Ted Knight's call for a struggle against the Tory government has received enthusiastic applause throughout the Labour Party. But his proposal to fight through a referendum (where chances of victory would already be undermined by repeated rate rises) reflects a lack of confidence in potential mass support of the working class to a determined call for action.

It is a dangerous illusion to think that a referendum could be relied on to check Heseltine's attack. The lack of any decisive proposal for the mobilisation of the labour movement can only open the left on the GLC and the Borough councils to further attacks from the right.

The Executive rejected Bob Labi's motion by 17 votes to 7. It then rejected by 16 to 10 the proposal, tentatively agreed at the previous meeting, that the minority on the Executive could also present their statement to the delegate meeting.

These decisions represent a step back from the policy adopted in September. But we can be sure that at the 12 December delegate meeting there will be resolutions and amendments seeking to spell out a clear strategy for the labour movement to follow if it is to defeat the Tory attacks.

Heseltine is taking new legal powers to force through cuts in council services and manpower, along with higher charges for housing, transport etc.

Camden is considering a 20% cut in spending with an average £2.80 a week rent rise. Lewisham has already asked its workers to accept a local wage deal below the national agreement. When this was rejected some Lewisham leaders suggested putting their council on a four-day week.

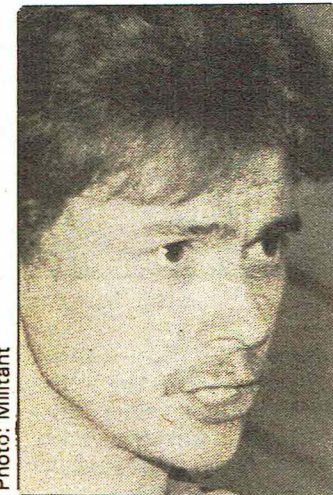
Since the Tories came to power they have intensified the cash-limits methods of cuts begun by the last Labour government. Hampered by Labour authorities, and under pressure from big-business over higher commercial rates, Heseltine is introducing new legislation to bring local authorities under central-government control.

September's GLLP Executive meeting decided on a special full delegate meeting of the London Party in December. November's Executive meeting had to decide on the policy to be presented to delegates.

Unfortunately, this Executive meeting was unsatisfactory in a number of ways. Because of a GLC Labour Group meeting an hour before the Executive none of the GLC leaders actually spoke at the Executive.

Apart from Militant supporter Bob Labi, no one had prepared any comments on the Chairman's initial draft statement, which contained no clear direction for Labour councils.

Militant supporters' stand was based on the resolution passed by the Executive at its previous meeting ("Militant" 3 October). Basically Bob Labi's resolution called on Labour councils to refuse to make any cuts or raise the rates and instead prepare for an



Lawrence Coates, the new LPYS rep on the NEC

## Brixton raid cover-up

Whitelaw last week in effect declared that it was justified to smash your way into eleven houses, destroy furniture, rip up household goods, set dogs upon people and throw a five month old baby out of bed—as long as it is the police who do it.

He accepted the findings of the police enquiry into their raid on eleven houses in Brixton on the 15 July. This report, by Geoffrey Dear, deputy assistant Commissioner of Police, completely whitewashes the police's orgy of destruction.

Ostensibly looking for petrol bombs, the police in reality went on a rampage. Gladstone McKenzie told 'Militant' (24 July) what happened when the police raided his off-licence.

"They didn't look in crates, wine cases or boxes. They ripped up stair carpets, pulled out gas fire, broke beds, cleared everything out of drawers.

"They used crow bars and 14lb sledge hammers and put bars through the plate glass windows after they were let in. They deliberately destroyed the place and we've never been in any trouble. And who knows when they'll be back"

Whitelaw's barbarous

by Jim Chrystie

claim that such actions were "for the most part unavoidable" shows they could be back any time.

The enquiry reported that the 176 police officers on the raid (with 391 more on standby) had failed to find any petrol bombs. But all it recommended about the police's behaviour was that next time they should be more secretive in their preparations.

Dear claims that the police failed to find bombs in Railton Road because the squad assembled too near it, so they lost the element of surprise.

Clearly the authorities would like to be able to terrorise at will. But the furious response of the people of Brixton who immediately took to the streets again in protest about the raid has made some of the ruling class draw back.

They are apprehensive of sparking off new explosions. It is probable that the Scarman enquiry into the April events in Brixton may call for an independent element into complaints about the police.

But this will change nothing; the police force would still stay firmly under the control of the ruling class.

After the July raids the London Labour Party Ex-



A wrecked guitar and ruined furniture after Railton Road raid

Photo: Carlos Augusto (IFL)

ecutive unanimously called for the naming and suspension of all those who ordered and carried out the raid, and full compensation without delay for those who suffered from police actions.

None of this has happened. Instead only about half the amount claimed has been paid. Two people are to be prosecuted allegedly for 'criminal deception' in exaggerating the amount damaged.

It is essential that the control of London's police force is removed from the Home Secretary. The Labour Greater London Council must mount a campaign to carry out its manifesto commitment to

establish a police authority of elected members who would appoint all officers, scrutinise day to day affairs, establish an independent complaints procedure and disband the Special Patrol Group, the Special Branch, and the Illegal Immigration Intelligence Unit.

After Whitelaw's statement last week, Henry Young Chin, one of the businessmen whose property was damaged declared 'I am appalled. He (Whitelaw) has made no apology for all the damage caused. He has taken the side of the police completely and he has given them carte blanche to come in and do the same thing again.'



### True to life...

'Brideshead Revisited', ITV's lavish production of privilege before the Second World War, is perhaps even truer to the novel's conception than generally realised. For its author, Evelyn Waugh, was only able to write the book because of class privilege. In 1944 he found that serving in the armed forces was getting a bit tiresome; he thought that he needed a rest. So he contacted a friend of both himself and Churchill, Brendan Bracken, to ask for a few months leave to write a novel.

This was granted, so that while the rest of the armed forces finally opened the Second Front against the Fascists, Evelyn Waugh devoted his time to writing a novel about the upper class. No records are available to say how many ordinary soldiers, sailors and airmen, during this time, had applications for leave to see their families turned down.

### Problems for rich...

Privileged they may be, but who says the rich have no problems? Actress Farah Fawcett was upset when she lost her engagement ring. She was even more upset than most of our readers would be: hers was worth £125,000. It was no Woolies bauble.

She asked the management of the Munich hotel she was staying in to close down her suite and look for it. They did, and lost £200 in the process (it wasn't a guest house in Southend after all). The management were even more peeved when Farah found her ring — under the seat of her private jet, after it had transported her back to the USA.

Ms Fawcett was red-faced about it, but it's quite understandable really. Us ordinary folk aren't troubled by having so many places to lose things. I hope this tale of woe takes readers' minds off their own trivial problems.

### But not for us!

More news to cheer you up. An economics professor, Edgar Feige, has told British people that unemployment and declining living standards aren't such a problem after all. He lists window cleaners, minicab drivers, pub staff and cleaners as likely either to be moonlighting or finding other ways of getting extra cash through the so-called black economy. The *Daily Express* headlined his report as "workers on the fiddle could be hiding a British mini-boom."

Well, some people seem to be having their own private little 'boom'. Prof Feige himself has a chair in economics at Wisconsin University and moonlights as an economics professor at Leiden University in Holland. George Gale, who reported the 'news' in the *Express* has been known to work frequently as a commentator on local radio stations. And doubtless the people happiest to see the news are Tory MPs who are well known to have no interests whatsoever apart from representing their constituents in parliament.

### Democracy rules?

Researchers in science and medicine often worry about who decides on the priorities for research. By what logic, for example, are half the world's scientists working on research of military importance? The North London Medical branch of ASTMS invited a speaker to a meeting at the National Institute for Medical Research to talk on 'science policy and democracy'. As if to prove a point, the director of the institute, Sir Arnold Burgen, told the union he could not allow political rallies on his premises and they would have to meet elsewhere. After all, who needs democracy?

# TRADE UNIONS AND LPYS CAMPAIGN ON YOPS

By Joanne Coyle  
East Renfrewshire  
LPYS

I have been shocked and disgusted by what is coming to light about the terrible conditions and general exploitation of young people on YOPs schemes.

I was myself on a YOP scheme about a year ago. Instead of the clerical training and general office duties I was supposed to be given, I ended up in the stores packing tea and stacking up shelves. I spent out £7.00 a week in bus fares.

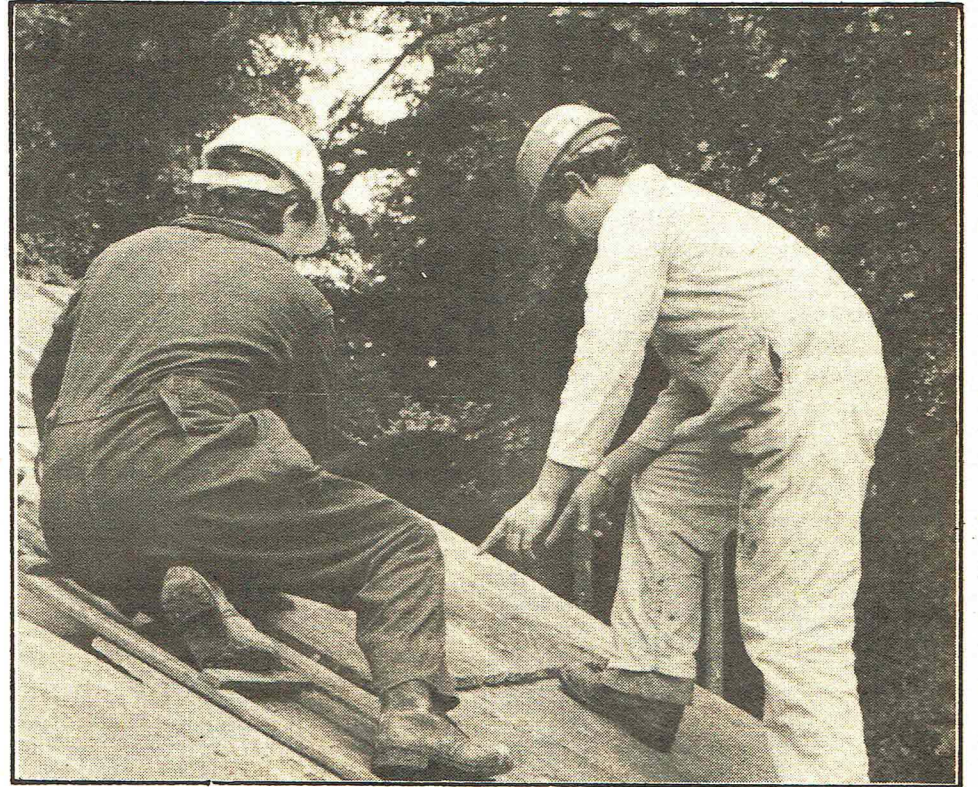
No one bothered telling me I could claim back £3.00.

Actually, I would have been better off on the dole, which doesn't say a lot for these schemes. I have never went through such a period of demoralisation and despair as I did during those six months.

And as with most YOPs there was no job waiting at the end. It was back on the dole queue, and I've been there ever since.

Frustration and anger is steadily building up about YOPs and about the level of youth unemployment. We are not prepared to live under a system that offers

\* There was a young girl working in a factory in Paisley. She was told by the bosses that she had to work night-shift. She was only 16 years old and of course they didn't tell her it was illegal for her to work night shift. On her second night she slipped on the floor (which was in a dangerous state, covered in water) and fell into a vat of boiling hot toffee. Her hand was burned through to the bone and she is now permanently disfigured. Because YOP workers are not covered by the Health and Safety at Work Act, she received no compensation.



YOPS workers in Northumberland

Photo: Denis Doran

us absolutely nothing. We need socialism, and we're going to fight for it, and the only way to fight is to get organised.

The Labour Party Young Socialists have established a campaign nationally to recruit YOP workers into trade unions.

Flowing from that it is taking up the fight for decent conditions and a living wage.

This is called the YOP Trainees Union Rights Campaign and has widespread backing from the trade union movement.

In both Renfrewshire and Glasgow there has been a tremendous response from the Transport & General Workers Union.

In the Renfrewshire area we have set up a Youth Committee in the T&GWU, comprising unemployed LPYS members, who will plan out the campaign to visit every single work-shop in the area with squads of LPYS members and T&GWU officials.

It is hoped from there we

Every month hundreds of youth are badly injured while working on YOP schemes. According to the Manpower Services Commission, more than 2,000 youth are injured every year while working on the programme. In the year up to June, these injuries included five deaths and 25 amputations.

can build a mass youth wing of the T&GWU (both Yoppers and unemployed) with all the YOP shop stewards, The T&GWU in the area have also set up a central fund to help us financially, i.e. expenses, and leaflets, posters etc.

The District Committee has also arranged that all their branches get regular copies of "Get Organised" (the monthly bulletin of YOP Trainees Unions Rights Campaign).

The initiative of the T&GWU in Renfrewshire is

now spreading and being taken up in Glasgow and throughout the West of Scotland.

\* YOP people are being sent to work in Riding stables, doing menial and demoralising tasks. They were made to clean out the barns and stables using dangerous chemicals and were given no protective clothing. In many cases they were told to work six days a week—all for the pittance of £23.50!

## FIGHTING CHEAP LABOUR IN ST HELENS

"These kids have got to improve their conditions. We're not just interested in boosting our membership figures. Shop stewards and Convenors should be elected. Through a union they will fight cheap labour. Above all they need political education. They must not be left as prey for Nazi groups."

This was the welcome reception St. Helens LPYS received to our call for trade union recruitment of YOPs from one full time GMWU District Official on Merseyside. How enthused we were!!

Arising from discussions with Eddie Bannion the District Official concerned, the GMWU has agreed to circulate the introductory LPYS 'YOPs Trainees Union Rights Campaign' letter to all its Merseyside branches reaching some

60,000 members. The policies of the LPYS on YOPs will penetrate every GMWU branch in the area!

The District Official has also agreed to send out a 'covering letter' offering LPYS speakers at GMWU branch meetings. This will prove invaluable particularly in St. Helens where the GMWU is the most prominent and potentially strongest union due to the glass industry.

In addition, an attractive recruitment brochure is being produced. These developments represent a tremendous step forward for both YOPs workers and the LPYS and proves just what can be achieved with a bold approach to the trade union movement.

By Tony Harvey  
(St. Helens CLP personal capacity)

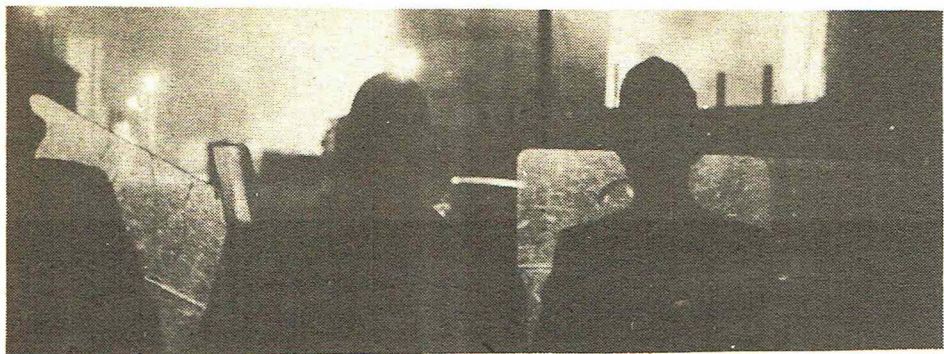
## ORGANISE YOPS! Come to our Conference

Last week another YOP worker was maimed, losing two fingers in an accident using dangerous machinery. One more reason why every YOP worker should join the fight to get organised to build trade unions among YOP workers, to end cheap labour and bad conditions.

The YOP Trainees Union Rights Campaign founding conference in Liverpool on 21 November will be a focus for the campaign to build trade union rights for YOPs. Every YOP worker should be there and every trade union branch organising YOPs should send delegates. But there is only two weeks to go! Make sure every scheme in your area is visited, transport is arranged and every trade union branch sends a delegate.

YOPS TRAINEES UNION RIGHTS  
CAMPAIGN FOUNDING CONFERENCE  
AUEW Hall, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool 3 (5 mins. Lime Street Station). Saturday 21 November, 11am-5pm. For further details, write to YTURC, c/o LPYS, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.

By Kevin Ramage (LPYS National Chairman)



# WHICH WAY TO FIGHT THE SYSTEM?

## BATH **By Matt Reed** (Bath LPYS)

The press may have tried to forget the summer's riots in the streets, but for socialists they can not be so easily swept aside.

The causes of rioting, the response of the Tories and the police and the need for an active political alternative for youth are still vital questions.

On 13 October in Bath, 70 people turned out to hear Clare Doyle of the Labour Committee for the Defence of Brixton outline graphically the social and

economic crises which racked Britain and illustrate with personal experience the causes of the rioting.

Clare pinpointed the police's Swamp '81 operation as the spark that ignited the plentiful explosive material that capitalism has stored up in areas like Brixton.

Unemployment, bad housing and schooling, poor health and a viciously under-financed health service were added to by police brutality and racism. In a 'police riot' children of 13 were held for up to five days by the police.

Nobody disagreed with Clare's analysis that the culprits in Brixton and other areas like Toxteth were the Tories and their system, aggravated by the behaviour of the police.

One black comrade said "we can't fight fire with fire" and asked Clare to outline what solution she saw to the problem. Clare put forward the programme of the LPYS and Militant, leading to the socialist transformation of society, and she sketched the demands for the democratisation of the police.

The discussions carried on for a long time after the end of this meeting which was very optimistic in tone and raised £37 for Bath YS's limited funds.

## LONDON

**By Kevin Fernandes**

In London, too, the lessons are being hammered out. At a Labour Committee for the Defence of Brixton public meeting, Stuart Holland (MP for Vauxhall) emphasised that it was social problems, including unemployment, which caused the recent upheavals in Brixton.

There was 18% male unemployment in Lambeth, which had been a particular target for cuts in spending. He didn't believe that the Scarman report fundamentally changed anything, and this was why he didn't give evidence to it.

He called for the Metropolitan Police to be "under the control of Londoners." At the moment it was supposedly under the control of the Home Secretary—though day-to-day control was just in the hands of leading officers.

Stuart Holland concluded his remarks by congratulating the LCDB for being the only group to consistently take up issues and problems as they were taking place in Brixton.

Pauline Dunlop, a Labour Councillor in Liverpool, pointed out that the troubles in Toxteth had been the result of years of

social suffering: with 50% of the black youth there unemployed.

On top of the housing shortage (no new council houses have been built last year or this)—there is police brutality, and the use of an old Liverpool bye-law to carry out arbitrary stopping and searching.

The fighting in Toxteth saw the introduction of new police tactics: CS Gas was used for the first time in mainland Britain. 'Intensifiers' were used to single out individuals, in crowds, in the dark.

Police vehicles were driven at high speed into crowds—this resulted in breaking one youth's back, and the murder of David Moore.

Sam Brown, a London LPYS Regional Committee member, also outlined the dire social conditions in Brixton. In Lambeth over half of the black youth under 19 are jobless. This rate is even higher in central Brixton. Twelve thousand households in Lambeth (11%) lack sufficient bedrooms—the worst level in Britain. One in six households, are single-parent families.

The incidence of mental health problems, is higher in Lambeth than in any other London borough. Lambeth's infant mortality rate is among the highest in Europe. It was those conditions, plus police harassment, which led to the

social explosion.

Sam gave an account of the work of the LCDB in assisting those unjustly arrested, and campaigning for lasting changes in the social conditions in the area. He pointed out that mass politicisation which took place in April, had ebbed.

There is now a temporary lull in activity, amongst those who had newly been involving themselves in politics. But this was bound to change.

New upheavals would take place, so long as the evils of capitalism remained. Sam outlined the policies and programme of the LPYS, and pointed to the need to give youth a political direction. Youth can play a major part in kicking out the Tories, and bringing in a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

The discussion from the floor centred around making sure that the labour movement took up the issues of unemployment, racism and police harassment.

The Labour Committee for the Defence of Brixton will be continuing its work, in assisting defendants, and fighting to make sure the labour movement campaigns to implement the policies of the London Labour Party, and the decisions of the Labour Party National Conference, for democratic control over the police.



**Brixton April 1981: Six months later, the labour movement must offer youth a political alternative to the Tories**

# YOU CAN'T OBSTRUCT SOCIALISM!

**Paper selling can get exciting nowadays with your friendly neighbourhood bobby. With three other Young Socialists, I was selling "Militant" and "Socialist Youth" on Stockton High Street.**

Young and old people were attracted to the posters "Dump the Tories" and "Danger this woman must be stopped," and discussion ranged from Northern Ireland to CND.

The discussion suddenly changed to harassment, with a practical example, when an Inspector Mason, and Sergeant 320 decided that I was obstructing the highway. I realise that I am fat, but to say I was big enough to obstruct a 30 foot wide pavement is just ridiculous!

The sergeant asked me to move on. I did not object. But asked if he and the Inspector thought it was democratic to stop Labour Party members from recruiting young people to

**Andy Fenwick**  
(Stockton CLP)

the LPYS the 'Fraternal' answer was to grab me and tell me I was under arrest. This little set back, however, did not stop the march of socialism. As I was waiting for the police van to arrive, I made a speech on so-called freedom, and the need to join the Labour Party, and on police accountability etc.

This speech helped our paper sales even more, and the name of the Labour Party was well and truly heard on Stockton High Street.

After being put into the police van, the comrades who were left on the high street were the centre of attention, one comrade approached two other police constables and asked why they did not arrest the seller of the local rag. "That's right love, you tell them." shouted a middle-aged passer-by. "You were only doing the same thing as he is."

Again we were told that we were obstructing the

highway and that we would be arrested if we did not move. However, as there were 40 or 50 people around us, they thought better of it.

We then told them (the police constables) that we were going to lodge an official complaint, and then we moved on. The people around us began to disperse, but as they did so, a few asked to buy "Dump the Tories" posters, and more papers were sold.

Meanwhile, back at the station, the police had a lesson in what happens when the labour movement acts. Older members of the Labour Party also complained about their actions, and the police backed down, by not charging me.

They cautioned me that I may be summonsed and sent me on my way, after myself and two other comrades had made official complaints to the police about their actions.

We realise that to fight this harassment, we will need to mobilise the local labour and trade union movement, so that the ideals of socialism will not be gagged in Stockton.



Only between 600 and 700 now work at those Upper Clyde shipyards which employed 4,500 ten years ago. (Above and below) workers leaving former UCS shipyards this year. Photos: Julian McKittrick

# SHIPBUILDING

## UCS TEN YEARS ON....

### 'Industrial militancy not enough'

Ten years after the massive campaign to save shipbuilding jobs on the Upper Clyde (UCS) shipyard workers are now engaged in a similar battle to keep open the Robb Caledon yard in Dundee.

It is essential for all workers to draw up a balance sheet on the success and shortcomings of the UCS struggle.

In 1971 the Tories announced the closure of UCS. The workers' response shook the government. After a period of fruitless negotiation they took over the yards and staged a work-in. They got enormous support from all over Britain. One mass demonstration in Clydeside totalled over 100,000.

But the leadership of the UCS work-in refused to broaden the campaign and call for the nationalisation, under workers' control and management, of all shipbuilding yards and that the labour movement fight to take over the banks whose demands for cash were prompting the closure.

Instead they remained within the boundaries of capitalism. Massive pressure from the workers forced the Tories into a humiliating retreat. The yard was kept open and mostly sold to the American company, Marathon.

But now only between 600 and 700 work there compared to 4,500 ten years before. Over the past decade the area has also seen many of its industries decay at a tremendous rate.

The fighting spirit of West of Scotland workers has not been crushed, as the battle of Lee Jeans workers has shown. But clear socialist leadership is essential as well as industrial militancy.

At first there was an air of hopelessness, virtually everyone had felt as if the whole world had collapsed round about them. The closure of the yards would have meant so many people being thrown on to the dole queue that the consequences would have been disastrous for the area.

It was this which led to the inevitable fight back being staged by the most determined layers of the workers.

Firstly a committee was set up to organise the running of the yard to control the manning of the gates and ensure a strict control of discipline; alcohol was strictly prohibited.

A treasurer was in charge of all donations that came in from all corners of the globe. Delegates were also sent throughout Britain to ask for financial aid. After just a short while the fighting fund had reached something like £750,000.

We then paid for a working group of auditors to make a critique of the bosses' report which had clearly stated that the yards were non-profitable.

The auditors came up with an entirely different package. They found that, together with the skill and technique of the workforce, the yards could be viable. This was a great impetus for the struggle.

We were still managing to pay wages and keep the work going. Things were beginning to turn in our favour.

When we heard there was a possible offer coming from an American company we felt that we were beginning to get somewhere. We

Rab Moloneux, assistant shop steward UCS 1971, interviewed by K Baldassera

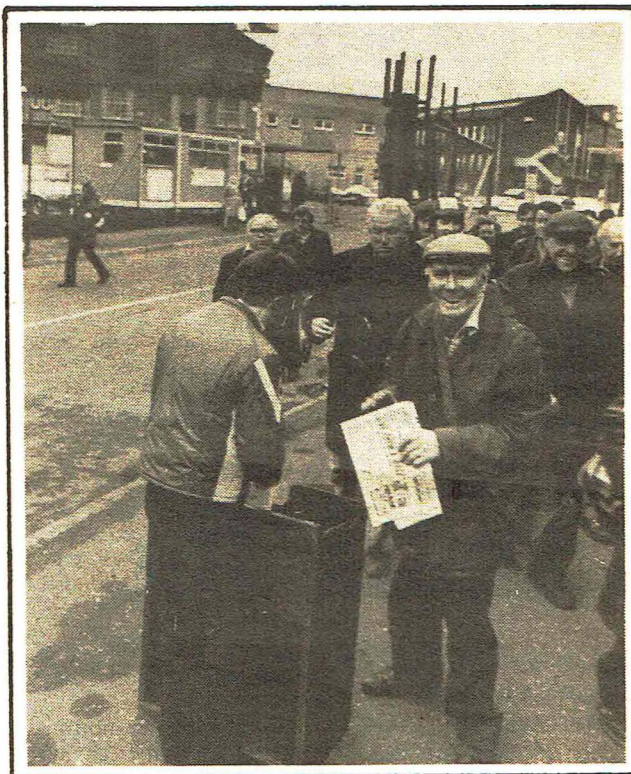
looked on it as a great victory then.

But if one examines the terms of the agreement there were many strings attached e.g. the amalgamation of trades. Here you would find engineers being trained as caulker burners and vice versa.

When I was laid off in 1974 I was doing caulker burners. Originally I had served my time as an engineer on the Q.E.2. and travelled all over the world with her. But the reason for my being laid off was a surplus of caulker burners.

There was also a transition period from shipbuilding to oil-related work. Marathon has now left the yard and UIE now own it. But nearly 4,000 jobs have been lost in one decade.

Looking back on it now I think we could have got a better deal. We had tremendous support throughout the country—there was a 50p levy from workers in the local industries and as



time went on solidarity grew stronger.

There were genuine fears about being moved from the yards by force, but (if the Tories had tried it) it would have been a direct confrontation with the very foundations of the labour and trade union movement. Yes, I am sure we could

have come out with a higher degree of success.

There was talk of a workers' co-operative but it is impossible for workers to control industry while the banks and the finance institutions control the means of production and distribution.

# WORKERS MANAGEMENT NEEDED

The potential in British Shipbuilders is enormous yet it is being wasted by inept management and planning procedures. As one fellow worker remarked, "a trained monkey could do better."

Roll on the day when we will have democratic control and radically change the industry so it produces social goods not war machines. Until then this is my typical day working for

British Shipbuilders in the South of England.

Clock on at 7.25 am and have a cup of tea in the amenity block. Turfed out a quarter of an hour later and off to the workshop to be issued with a job.

Most of the work is in confined space. The management 'organise' it so that 4 or 5 trades are all working together in one compartment. The average size of these compartments is 10ft by 8ft by 7ft with electronic equipment taking up one third of the area; here ten men try to work with no

ventilation and temporary lights.

After a couple of hours a tea-break. Then you might find you need a new part. You get an order from the foreman and trundle off to the metalwork stores with the chit.

'Sorry haven't got it, go somewhere else.' Somewhere else is outside the gate so I have to find my foreman to get a pass out.

Look for the rest of the morning but cannot find him. Finally locate him after lunch and get a pass out to the stores. No one there so

wait for 45 minutes.

Storeman hunts for part. 'Sorry out of stock.' With patience exhausted go to ship's manager, give him the chit and 'advise' him to .....find it himself.

Back to amenity to wait for my foreman. 30 minutes later he arrives with the part so it's back to the ship. By this time I've lost interest in the job. But soon it's time to clock off and go home.

This is a typical day for all trades. It is even worse for a number ticket for the equipment store if you need a part (fitting, valve, bolt, etc) and

your number comes up 'out of stock' or 'not available'.

You then have to wait while they play about with their computer which eventually finds you need another number. Even the shortest times for this is three hours.

By a British Shipbuilders worker

# Private Medicine

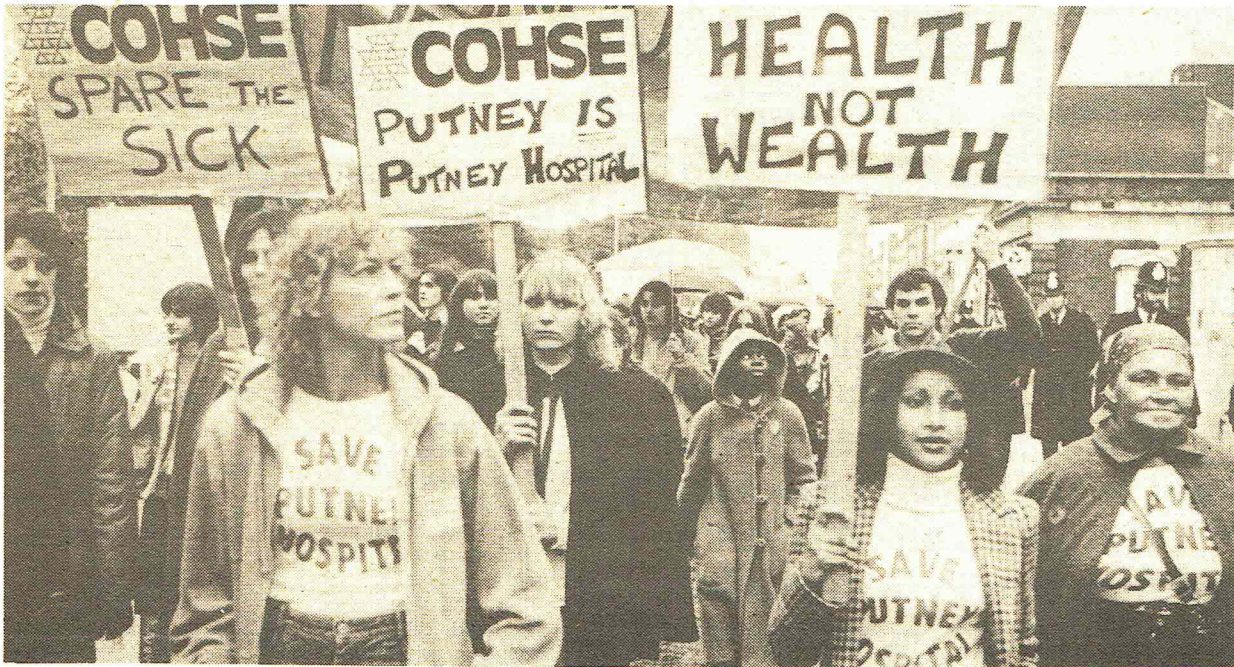


Photo: M. Rusher (IFL2)

Whilst £100m is being invested in private hospitals, 300 NHS hospitals have been closed by Tory and Labour governments in the last 8 years (Above) Lambeth anti-cuts demo, 1979

## If you're sick see the bank manager

**John Dale**  
(Bolsover CLP)  
in second of two part  
article on private health

US private health companies whose bank balances are swollen as a result of profits to be made from sickness are now spreading their tentacles to open hospitals in Europe. They see it as a growth market, and in Britain the Tory

government is encouraging these parasites.

£100 million is being invested in seventy new hospitals in Britain. In the past eight years, under both Labour and Tory governments, three hundred NHS hospitals have been closed. Over a million people are either waiting to see a hospital consultant or waiting for an operation. It's not surprising that

most who can afford to, "go private".

The Tories are encouraging this by selling NHS land for private building and exempting medical insurance from tax. They plan to pay private hospitals to clear NHS waiting lists and offer them NHS laboratory services. 'Hiving off' patients to these profiteers rather than put money into the NHS—that's their priorities.

Severe staff shortages

have developed in some areas as a result of this private sector. In the Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster Area Health Authority there is a 22% nursing shortage and up to 50% in certain wards and departments. In neighbouring Camden and Islington the shortfall is 20%. Some wards have been closed as a result.

A new circular from Health Minister, Dr. Gerard Vaughan, demands that Health Authorities use private contractors far more for cleaning, laundry, transport and other services. Trade unionists in the NHS must make his plans a dead duck. If necessary, industrial action must be used to defend the service the NHS can offer and the jobs of those who work in it.

The whole trade union movement must resist plans to develop a private medical industry along USA lines. The next Labour government must be committed to abolishing all private practice, as part of a socialist policy for health. Otherwise an illness could mean a visit to the bank manager as well as a visit to the doctor.

## A matter of life or dole

**Phil Rees**  
(Sheffield Park CLP)

"Every time unemployment increases by one per cent during a recession (in the USA) approximately 37,000 directly linked deaths will occur over the following six years."

These are the findings of American Professor, Harvey Brenner, reported in the health food newspaper, 'Health Now'.

The majority of these deaths (some 28,000) are caused by heart problems brought on by stress and poor diet. Infant mortality also increases as pregnant women are often unable to afford proper nutritionally balanced food.

Although Brenner's research has been solely in America the same is true for Britain. 'Health Now' points out "whatever else must go in order to cut down we should not try to economise on food".

But why should we have to give up anything for the sake of a system that squanders our talents and resources. There is a basic contradiction between human need and the private ownership of the means of production.

'Health Now' reports that in America "if a worker loses a job it often means the loss of company-paid health insurance and there is likely to be a noticeable decline in hospital admissions as a result."

In blunt terms that means the unemployed cannot afford to be sick. The health

of a bank balance is more a criterion for medical care than the health of a needy patient.

But the US private 'health industry' is only interested in profits. Drugs manufacturers push their products onto the market without proper research.

Recently the American Food and Drugs Administration banned over 4,000 medicines, which are readily prescribed by doctors, but whose effectiveness has not been proved. Ten of these were amongst the most widely 100 prescribed drugs in America.

Given the multi-national character of drug companies the same marketing practises are undoubtedly used in Britain. The Tories want to give private health a free rein.

Socialists must resist the advance of profiteering medicine, defend the NHS and link that battle with the struggle for a caring socialist society. A socialist plan of production could utilise all the resources left idle by capitalism.

It could plan for human needs, not private profit. Retirement would no longer be a pause before death and research into disease and disability would not depend upon the vigour of tin-rattlers in competition with the RSPCA and sports clubs. Capitalism is sick. Only when it is deceased can we described its conditions as satisfactory.

## Sacked by tannoy

I worked at the Burton Group in Leeds for three years. During that time I saw things that changed my whole political outlook on life. I saw just how ruthless the top management of the company were in their pursuit of profit.

Due to heavy trading losses the management embarked on a policy of "rationalisation" (or another word for making workers redundant). They reduced the workforce producing suits at Leeds, and moved into more profitable areas such as the selling and buying of women's clothes in the Top Shop Chain.

The management reduced the workforce at the Leeds factory from approximately

By 'Militant' reporter

3,500 to 50 in four years.

Most of the redundancies were carried out in the most callous and contemptible way that could be envisaged. Instead of allowing the workers to leave with their dignity, the management extracted their pound of flesh by telling the workers over the Tannoy system to collect their things and final pay packets and leave the premises within 15 minutes.

This was all the warning that the women were given. Some who had worked there for up to 40 years, not surprisingly, wept at this callous treatment.

Whilst this was happening, I was in the position to see the way that the so called 'management' operated and lived.

One top executive arranged a company car, a £7,000 Jaguar, for his wife. When this arrangement was questioned by an employee, who suggested it might be contrary to the Companies Act, the issue was brushed under the carpet.

This was just one of the "fiddles", probably with the help of accountants and lawyers, all quite normal and legal, used to provide perks for top executives.

Senior accountants from the company used to take one of the senior partners of a big firm of international accountants who audited the Group's books out to lunch in one of Leeds' most expensive restaurants. They would squander on one meal the equivalent of a month's wages for two workers. But for them it was no doubt worth it.

Examples of the waste and extravagance of the management abounded.

Directors had unlimited expense accounts at a West End Wine bar, while workers in Leeds, mainly women, could not even afford to buy lunch in the staff canteen. Their wages were very low and were in some cases an essential supplement to the husband's income, and often the only wage coming into the household.

The inefficiency of the Burton management was one of the major reasons for the losses during the late 1970s. Women are more capable of running factories under democratic workers' control than anything this so-called "management" was able to do.

The capitalists and their representatives have only one interest: profit at any price. Only through democratic workers control of industry can the scandal and corruption of capitalism be eliminated.

## WORKERS

### NOTEBOOK

In 1979 Tory Social Services Secretary Prentice announced plans to investigate 'fraud and abuse' by social security claimants. 1,000 staff were to be taken on with the stated aim of 'saving' £50 million by increased harassment of claimants. In fact many times the quoted savings (themselves a gross over-estimate) are lost by claimants who should receive benefit but do not claim it. A Leicestershire paper last year reckoned that there was a shortfall of £8 million in that one county alone.

The Australian government also launched a so-called 'anti-scronger campaign' in the late '70s. Staff enrolled in the Benefit Control Units increased from 15

in 1977 to 106 in 1978 and field officers increased to 320. The cost trebled to 6 billion dollars.

Yet only 433 were convicted for dole abuse in 1977, 600 in 1978, meaning that each officer had a conviction rate of 1.87 per employee per year. As in Britain the main aim was to stop 'abuse' but to make claimants less likely to apply.

'1926 General Strike' by Trotsky, Ted Grant, Peter Taaffe Price 45p [including postage]

World Books,  
1 Mentmore Terrace,  
London E8 3PN.

# Capitalism promises the Third World...

# HORROR

**“There is a real danger that in the year 2000 a large part of the world’s population will still be living in poverty. Mass starvation and the dangers of destruction may be growing steadily... We face, therefore, not merely one but several crises: the crisis of relentless inflation and increasing energy costs, the crisis of dwindling energy availability, the crisis resulting from mounting financial requirements, and the crisis posed by constraints on world trade and on the growth of export earnings, to meet increased debt commitments.”**

Two years ago these were the dire warnings of the independent commission on International Development issues, chaired by Willy Brandt. Finally on 22 October 1981 world leaders met in Cancun, Mexico for the summit conference urged upon them in the Brandt report to consider the North/South Dilemma and “a programme for survival.”

**Facing them is a crisis of staggering proportions. Can any of the solutions they arrive at begin to tackle the desperate problems confronting two thirds of humanity?**

In the South, the underdeveloped world, barbarism still survives especially in the poverty belts of sub-Saharan Africa and East and South Asia. Two out of three in absolute poverty live in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia. Here a quarter of children die before the age of 5.

15 million children die each year in the South, the equivalent of an Hiroshima bomb every three days. Only half of the people will ever write more than their own name, while still less will ever attend a school. 800 million of them are absolutely destitute, unable to secure the basic necessities of life. **The World Bank can only offer, with “fairly optimistic assumptions about economic growth” a prospect of 600 million absolute poor by the end of the century.**

What can the international summit suggest to allow these millions the right to live and not merely

**By Jeremy Birch**

a daily battle to even exist?

Safely cocooned in a luxury holiday resort the world leaders were spared the sight of the victims of poverty—the 50% of the Mexican population who have to survive at subsistence level. Here, in the second oil power in the world, malnutrition is worse than 20 years ago.

What can the world leaders do for the 3 million inhabitants of the world’s largest slum that is to be found in Mexico City?

What can they propose to stem the inexorable population explosion? The world population, growing by 1 million every 5 days, will reach 6,000 million by the end of the century. What hope is there for civilised existence amongst the 31 million who will be crushed in the human jungle of Mexico City by the year 2000?

But in a vicious circle population growth comes back to the basic problem—poverty. For in most countries of the world the birth rate has been falling, except in Africa and in the poorest Asian countries—the poverty belts themselves. The ageing peasant with no pension prospects is forced to rely on his large family or starve; also to the peasant, no matter how small his holding, extra children mean extra labour.

The Brandt report expressed the dire predicament of the third world very clearly: For the South it is a question not just of stability but survival.”

Life for the rural masses of the developing world has hardly changed over centuries except that it has become even harsher. The Brandt report paints a grim picture of these impoverished lands: “They exist in a fragile economic tropical environment which has been upset by the growing pressure of people. Without irrigation and water management, they are afflicted by droughts, floods, soil erosion and creeping deserts, which reduce the long-term fertility of the land. Disasters such as droughts intensify the malnutrition and ill-health of their people and they are all affected by endemic diseases which undermine their vitality.”

Granada Television’s three part investigation ‘Rich World, Poor World’ interviewed a landless labourer in Bangladesh, who tries to keep his family of 10 on earnings of 21p per day. His children and millions more go to sleep hungry each night, not because sufficient food cannot be grown but because **the hungry simply cannot afford to buy the food already produced.**

So while 10 million starve to death each year, an investigation covering the 20 years up to 1972 showed that 86% of the world’s undernourished lived where at the very least food production kept pace with population growth. But each year hunger has become more intense. In India’s most prosperous state, the “wheat bowl” of the Punjab, living standards fell even during the 1960’s, the number below the poverty line rising from 18% to 23%.

So the “pauperisation of the masses” discussed by Marx over a century ago and sneered at by every modern day intellectual apologist for capital, is there for all to see. This

was the case during what the Brandt Report correctly depicted as ‘the biggest boom in human history’. What hope for the ‘wretched of the earth’ now that the world has been engulfed by crisis and recession?

But let it not be forgotten that when the world’s annual arms bill tops \$450 billion the arms expenditure of just half a day could fund the World Health Organisation’s malaria eradication programme. 0.25% of the world’s military spending could pay for the immunisation of every child on the planet. Yet the South itself imports \$14 billion of arms each year to protect the privileged rulers against the desperation of the needy.

## Political independence has not altered economic subservience

What development there has been in the poorest countries has only served to dislocate their economies, and to physically impair their attempts to feed their hungry. These nations have no means of self-development, so foreign finance from the advanced countries call the tune within their borders. **Political independence from the colonial masters has not altered the relationship of economic subservience.**

For the benefit of capitalism and the division of labour imposed on the international economy, the poorer countries have been transformed into producers of single commodities—cash crops and minerals—that are vital to the metropolitan world. Three quarters of third world ex-

ports are primary products, and individual countries are entirely dependant on the one commodity to which they have been forced to gear their entire economies.

While their children cry out in hunger, the developing countries send their produce abroad to earn hard currency. How else can they repay their debts and meet their food bills? So in the Caribbean, where 70% of the children are undernourished, half the arable land is devoted to cash crop production or cattle for the export markets of the North.

To these very poorest countries which are least attractive to the banks and multinationals for loans and investment, aid is crucial. But aid is not pure benevolence. Not all aid is in the form of grants, much of it is still made up of loans requiring eventual repayment. Most aid is tied to the purchase of goods from the ‘company stores’ in the donor country and linked to a particular capital project for which the donor’s approval has first to be sought.

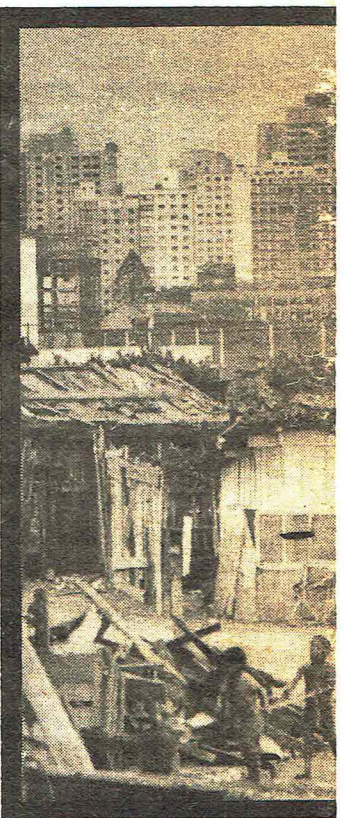
60% of aid in 1975 and 48% in 1976 were tied to particular purchases from the North. **Merely campaigning for more aid would actually tighten the economic stranglehold in which imperialism grips the developing world.** And when aid is a commercial transaction, the largest amount of aid per head—\$11.60—in 1975 went to the richer developing countries with per capita incomes above 1,000 dollars.

For all the heavy sighs and the crocodile tears, the North pumps finance into those third world nations where the quickest rate of return can be expected. Direct private investment in the South by the multinationals “tends not to move to the countries or sectors which most need aid”, complains the Brandt Report. So 70% of this investment is in only 15 of the richer semi-industrialised countries—and 20% goes to the ‘rapid developers’ of Brazil and Mexico.

Two decades of increased finance to the South have not served to alleviate hunger and poverty, but to give to those who are already rich, with the prospect of maximising profit.

The world bank too operates on the same tough business terms. In 1978 one quarter of its new loans went to four countries—Indonesia, Brazil, the Philippines and South Korea. Of

	Population in millions	Population projection by year 2000	In Millions
Kuwait	1.1	2.8	
Sweden	8.3	9.2	
USA	218.4	260.4	
West Germany	61.3	65.6	
East Germany	16.7	17.4	
UK	56.0	61.6	
Spain	36.8	45.3	
Brazil	115.4	205.2	
Sri Lanka	14.2	20.4	
India	634.7	1,017.7	
Upper Volta	6.5	11.1	
Ethiopia	30.2	53.9	
Bhutan	1.3	2.1	



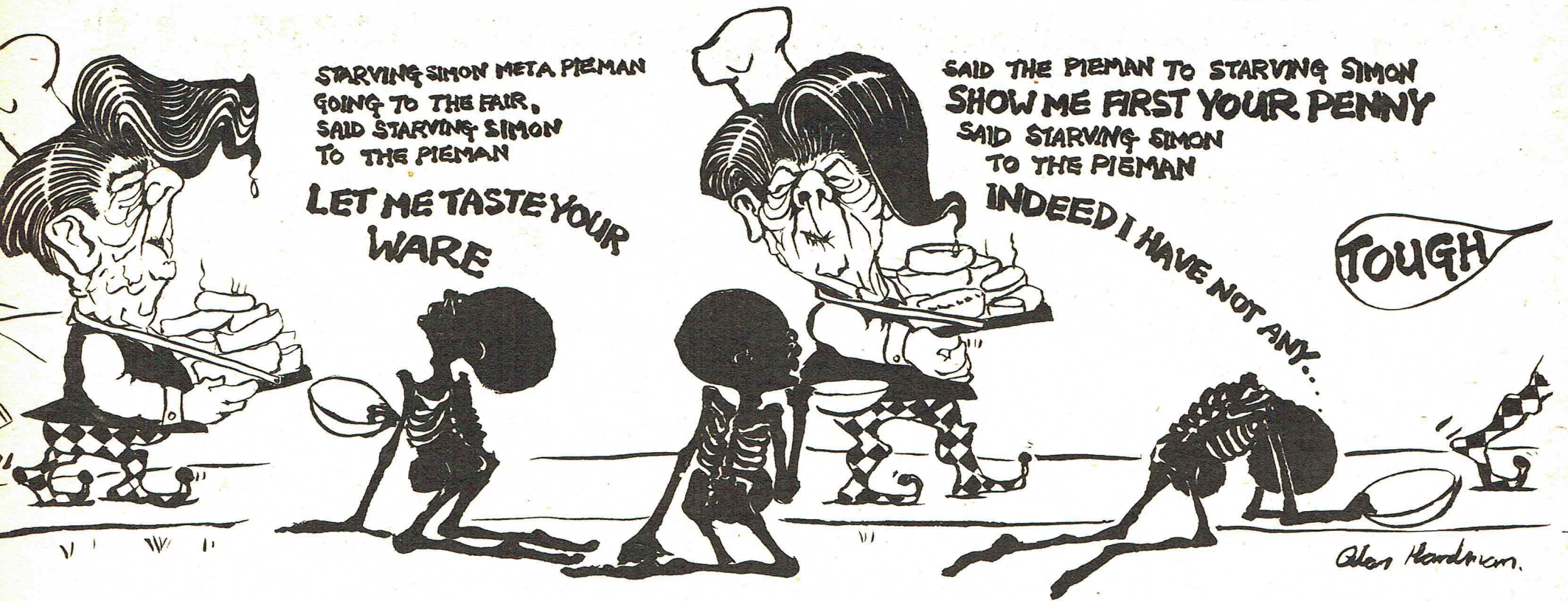
Sao Paulo, Brazil: after 3

course these institutions try to excuse themselves, spinning the yarn that industry increased urbanisation and faster economic growth for third world countries means that in the end the poorest peasant and slum dweller will see a brighter future. Speaking on a Granada TV programme Shridath Ramal, Secretary General of the Commonwealth and a Brandt Commission member, exposed this ‘trickle down theory’ as “really an alibi...let the rich get richer and some will trickle down to the poor”.

Mass poverty means that in Brazil only 4% of the

# WITHOUT





Year	Expectancy Life at birth in years	Urban Population as %	Per capita GDP in US\$
1944	69	56	15,480
1949	75	83	8,760
1955	73	74	7,890
1977	71	92	7,380
1984	72	76	4,220
1985	72	76	4,020
1986	72	61	2,920
1987	61	60	1,140
1988	68	22	200
1989	49	21	150
1990	38	4	110
1991	42	12	100
1992	44	3	70



years of capitalist boom

people can afford even the cheapest car—yet its motor manufacturing capacity now outstrips Britain. The newly industrialised countries are entirely at the mercy of the export market and the health of world trade. **Economic problems in the North and contracting markets spell disaster for these fragile economies.** They borrowed when Western money was readily available, overextended themselves, amassed colossal debts, and now, with exports more difficult to sell, lack foreign exchange to meet their debt burden. Combined Third World

debts more than quadrupled during the 70's to \$300 billion by 1980. The Brandt Report talked of another \$300 to \$500 billion being added to the debts of the Third World countries by 1985 to meet their financial needs. The Report is aware of the symptoms of a debilitating and incurable affliction, but it prescribes just heavier doses of aid and loans to which the South has become immune.

Altogether Brandt called for a further \$30 billion in aid for the least developed, while private sources would need to advance \$155 billion by 1985, and \$270 billion by 1990 to the semi-developed countries. The Commission argues that "the coexistence of the great needs in the South and the under-used capacity in the North suggests the scope for large-scale transfer of resources based on mutuality of interests".

Brandt's prescription is the application of inflationary Keynesian methods on a grand scale. But if the way out of recession is merely to artificially boost demand, why have those he is appealing to, the leaders of the industrialised world, not made a start in their own countries?

The North under recession suffers 22 million unemployed and a loss of output equivalent to \$200 billion dollars a year. But the leaders of world capitalism are not prepared to reflate their home economies or to raise the wages of their own workers just to create a market. Their fear of hyperinflation and recognition that when profit is merely the unpaid labour of the working class, any increase in wages will endanger their rate of return, prevents anything but the most rigidly restricted inflation.

There is no possibility of international agreement on these lines. Whatever Brandt's appealing logic, wealthy capitalist governments and financial institutions will not be keen to lend out more, especially for the poorer developing countries.

Even the idea of recycling Arab oil funds to boost de-

mand for Northern goods in the South, comes up against the same obstacle—the desire for profit, which after all is the mainspring of capitalism. The oil exporters are already some of the most generous providers of aid. But if petro-dollars find their way into the North it is because of the prospect of richer pickings. And it should not be forgotten that the jacking up of oil prices since 1973 has hit the Third World economies hardest of all. Half of Brazil's export earnings now go to pay the oil bills.

Of course Brandt argues for the dismantling of tariff walls against Third World goods to set their exporting industries free again.

### The pious pleas of Brandt cannot change the ways of the capitalist world

But is it too late. Brandt assumes a unity of purpose between the metropolitan countries that the drift towards protectionism demonstrates has vanished in the midst of recession. In crisis it is every country for itself, and while world trade declines, the most efficient look to their salvation by crowding out the less productive exporters. The pious pleas of Brandt cannot change the way of the capitalist world.

More control over multinationals is also part of the Brandt Plan. And the report exposes the colossal power that these corporates have accumulated. They are responsible for over a quarter of total world production, and 30% of world trade. In 1976 their total sales, adding up to \$830 billion equalled the combined gross national product of the entire South excluding the oil producers. The weak economies of individual Third World countries are completely at the mercy of these industrial 'conquistadors'.

The Brandt Commission asks for "a substantial increase in the transfer of

resources to developing countries"—but admits that the amount transferred by multinationals depends on "tax incentives, large markets and cheap labour." **To expect multinationals to invest more of their surplus in the Third World, but then to implore them to operate within some moral code, and to attempt to control transfer pricing etc., all of which would jeopardise the surplus, is utterly utopian.**

Equally utopian is the scheme for commodity price stabilisation, again to the 'mutual interest' of all concerned. The commodity markets are liable to wild price fluctuation. But all the while the cost to the third world countries of manufactured imports from the North, steadily increases.

Only the oil exporters have been able in the last 7 years to fight back. But this was only possible because of the absolute dependence of the Northern economies on petroleum, which does not apply to the same extent to any other commodity.

Brandt wants a 'fair deal' for the commodity producers. But is not just the uncertainty of fluctuating prices, but the deliberate stacking of the terms of trade in favour of the developed world.

Between 1870 and 1950 the quantity of imports that a Third World country could purchase with a given quantity of exports rose by 50%. But by 1970 the quantity that could be bought was 11% below the 1950 level. The 1973 oil price rise altered the North/South balance, but for the non-aid developing countries, they could purchase by 1975 21% less than in 1950. For the very poorest nations it was 32% less.

The Brandt Commission demands "remunerative prices" for commodity exports, thus enabling the South to invest more in exploration for new mineral deposits etc. But faced with economic crisis no such helping hand will be held out to pull up the sinking South, nor will governments donate the \$1.4 billion needed for an international commodities fund to stabilise prices.

The disastrous harvest and droughts of 1972 led to a fourfold increase in wheat prices, mass starvation and deaths. It underlined the world's dependence on Canada and USA which supply 80% of the world's trade in wheat. An interna-

tional emergency food reserve was agreed with a stock of 500,000 tons. But that is pitifully inadequate, and only 300,000 tons up to now have been raised.

All that the Brandt Report is left with is that North and South have "an interest in the preservation of hope." In reality the best laid plans of Brandt and his Commission will remain between the glossy covers of an extremely successful reference book.

However compelling the facts, figures and conclusions, the North/South Summit could not take them up. Reagan and Thatcher's policies make that clear. Not just they, but the "community of nations" that Brandt believes in has been irrevocably split assunder. Even if they accepted the Brandt proposals, gripped by world depression it is impossible for the industrialised world to recreate the international co-operation and co-ordination necessary to carry them out.

### Fear of social revolution

Brandt wants a different economic order and new international institutions to replace the system set at Bretton Woods in 1944, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Then a certain supra-national view could be taken on the eve of sustained economic upswing.

American capitalism—the keystone of the system—was absolutely pre-eminant with 60% of OECD production located within its shores in 1945. From 1974/5 permanent world economic instability and the reassertion of the differing interest of the various nation states have provided an impenetrable obstacle to any solution of the Third World disaster. As long as the capitalist order persists, life for 2½ to 3 billion people will be "horror without end".

The members of the Brandt Commission may themselves not be unaware of the dim prospects of their policies being implemented, but they forewarn the North that something must be done for "there are material reasons for trying to end this state of affairs—international political stability". Perpetual poverty, mass

misery and the super exploitation of their countries has pushed the people of the developing world into revolt. Every day, over 3½ decades of Northern progress, wars, upheavals and coups struck the nations of the South.

There are now 10 million refugees in the world, mainly from the South, and daily 2-3,000 more are forced to flee their native land. 125 wars and revolutions broke out between 1945 and 1979. And Brandt discusses the 'prospect' of instability!

What chills the heart of the capitalist politicians is an international 'domino theory' starting with the 'poorest of the poor', some of which have already broken the shackles binding them to profit system. Ethiopia, Afghanistan, South Yemen and others trapped in the dead end of capitalism, have followed the road of China and Cuba. But without a developed working class to take the helm and without socialism to turn to in the developed world, the new regimes are inevitably authoritarian and bureaucratised. The masses must pay the price with a subsequent revolution before genuine socialist democracy can be ushered in.

Fear of spreading social revolution has compelled the Brandt Commissioners to search for some new initiative that can hold the line in the South. But they are inescapably handicapped by their very attachment to the maintainance of the economic status quo.

The Report has grasped that "mankind already faces basic problems which cannot be solved purely at the national or even regional levels." But only the advent of socialism could allow for genuine international action.

The marrying of the technique and scientific expertise of the North to the raw materials of the Third world, with the aim of raising the standard of life of mankind, would then be possible. Full employment and adequate rewards could be the lot of all. Hunger could be abolished by breaking down medieval land ownership along with the application of modern production methods.

With socialism in the developed world, as Lenin explained, the most backward and neglected parts of the globe could leap straight from tribalism to the socialist transformation of society.

# END

# FRANCE-CLASS STRUGGLE SHARPENS

Despite the overwhelming mandate for change that was given to the Socialist Government, the French ruling class has been conducting a bitter rearguard action against the industrial reforms now being put forward.

There has been a furious campaign in the press particularly over the terms of the Nationalisation Bill for taking over 5 industrial groups, 36 banks and 2 major finance groups. The Act was finally passed through the National Assembly by more than a two to one vote last week, but not without long obstructing tactics by the right-wing opposition.

More than 600 amendments to the bill were moved by the opposition and the final Act was watered down even by the government itself to undercut some opposition; but the obstruction does not end there. The Act must now be referred to the French Senate, which, because its members are elected at nine year intervals, is still in the hands of the conservative parties.

The Senate cannot block the nationalisations completely, but like the British House of Lords can slow down their implementation.

By John Pickard

Once through the Senate, the Act can be referred to the Constitutional Court, promising more delays.

The rank and file of the Socialist Party have been justifiably incensed by the opposition of the capitalist class and the press. What angered them especially was the so-called 'Paribas' scandal. Paribas, one of the financial institutions due to be taken over, managed to sell off its lucrative Swiss subsidiary to foreign investors, thus placing that part of the business beyond the range of the nationalisation measures.

Even the 'Financial Times' was moved to describe the recent Socialist Party Congress as an "explosion of anger" where the delegates fumed against the

manipulations and manoeuvres of the ruling class. The Socialist Party has seen a big increase in its membership in the recent months—to 200,000—and at the same time the conference showed an unmistakable shift to the left.

## "Explosion"

Time after time, it was the more radical speeches that were cheered loudest by the delegates and the elections to the Party executive committee showed a decline by the right wing Rocard group and a strengthening of the left wing CERES group.

But in the Party there

must also be a growing suspicion about the direction of the government's policies. The Finance Minister recently commented that "a Socialist administration would have more success in running a wage restraint policy than its predecessor." At the conference itself, apparently oblivious to the vicious campaign of the capitalists against the government, Prime Minister Mauroy commented that they must do nothing "to undermine our national community."

The latent tensions that already exist in the party will grow into wider splits in the future on the basis of the policies being followed by Mitterrand and Mauroy. Despite the nationalisations, the overwhelming majority

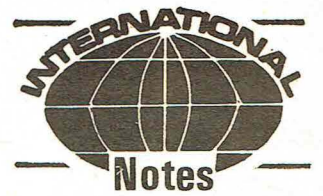
of the French economy remains in the hands of the capitalists and all the reforms granted to the workers will be thwarted by the workings of the capitalist system itself.

What has been given in wage and benefit rises with one hand will be taken away by inflation with the other hand. Yet the unemployment level of 1.75 million is likely to continue to rise.

The right wing of the Socialist Party will move in the direction of wage restraint and counter-reforms, but the rank and file of the party and especially the trade unions will oppose them. Inevitably the more serious sections of the party roots will draw the correct conclusions and move in the direction of Marxism.



Mauroy and Mitterrand: moving towards wage restraint and counter-reforms.



## Iran

The slaughter of opponents to the Islamic Republican Party regime in Iran is continuing. According to opposition sources more than 2,000 people have been executed since 20 June and the gaols are crammed with over 15,000 political prisoners.

Torture is widespread; distributing an opposition leaflet carries the risk of execution. Women are subjected to medieval repression and degradation.

A prosecutor, Lajavardi, is quoted as saying: "Anyone taking a public position against the Islamic Republic and the Imam (Khomeini) must be killed. Those captured must be killed. Those wounded must be afflicted with more wounds so that they will die."

This reign of terror reflects the desperate state of capitalism in Iran. Unemployment is estimated at 5 million out of a total population of 36 million; inflation is said to be running at over 100%. There are 2 million refugees from the war with Iraq.

But none of these problems can be solved on the basis of the decaying capitalist system. Guerrilla struggle against the regime, despite some spectacular assassinations and bombings, cannot defeat it but will provoke even more barbarous repression. Only the working class, organised on a socialist programme, can make an end to the nightmarish death throes of the present system.

# Sri Lankan army on rampage against Tamils

By our correspondent in Jaffna

"Sri Lanka opens its heart to greet the Queen" announced the London 'Times' last week. Meanwhile the hearts of young Tamils in the town of Jaffna were being opened up by army bullets.

Against a background of brutal repression blatantly carried out by the armed

forces of the right-wing racist UNP regime, the Tamil minority community in the North and East of Sri Lanka have a burning anger against the uniformed arsonists, rapists and mass murderers. Unfortunately, some of the Tamil youth have turned to the dead-end methods of individual terrorism.

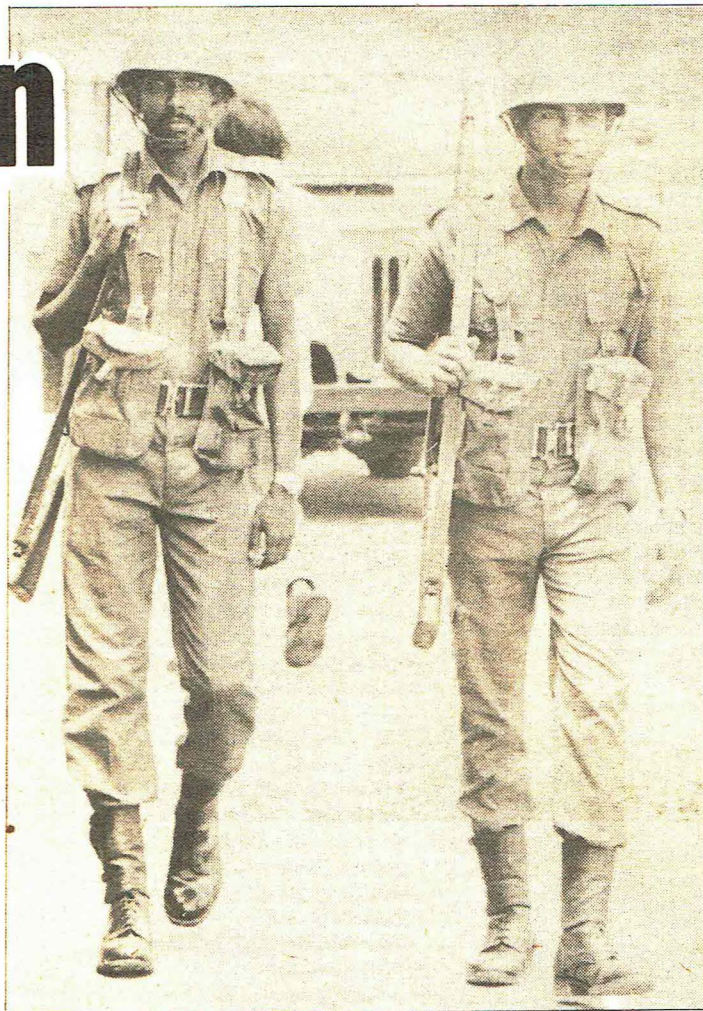
Recently two Tamil youths shot and killed two

Sinhalese soldiers and a civilian in the centre of Jaffna. They had snatched a rifle from the army and vanished.

On hearing the news of the killing the people in the town panicked in fear of retribution and there was chaos. Immediately a group of soldiers drove up in a jeep and just opened fire indiscriminately at the public. Two by-passers were shot

and wounded: George, aged 35, from Vassavillan and Raviraj, aged 25.

Raviraj is a member of the socialist Nava Sama Samaja Party, the mass trade union based party which is fighting for the class unity of the Sinhala and Tamil workers and peasants and for the right of self determination for the minority. They are both undergoing treatment in



hospital.

Within hours all the town was deserted, but not before the army had gone on the rampage. They stopped vehicles on the roads, smashed them up and beat up anyone they could find.

This was then spread systematically across the whole Jaffna Peninsula. Even in the Elephant Pass barrier the soldiers smashed vehicles and attacked the passengers.

The next day I went to the NSSP offices. At 9.30am, as I was passing St John's College on my bicycle, an army truck overtook me and a soldier hit me on the head with an iron bar. All along the road they went hitting people and throwing stones at the shops.

I am now receiving treatment in hospital. I am still under medical supervision because the doctor suspects that my skull has been cracked.

Hundreds of people have now been admitted to hospital as a result of army attacks and several have been killed.

Meanwhile, as the Queen and Prince Philip enjoy the dancing and flag-waving of traditionally-dressed schoolchildren on their state visit to this tropical "paradise island", the workers and peasants still suffer repression under the State of Emergency.

Due to severe press censorship by the racist, anti-trade union regime the NSSP newspaper was even prevented from publishing its own view of the visit by the Queen of British Imperialism. So much for "democracy"!

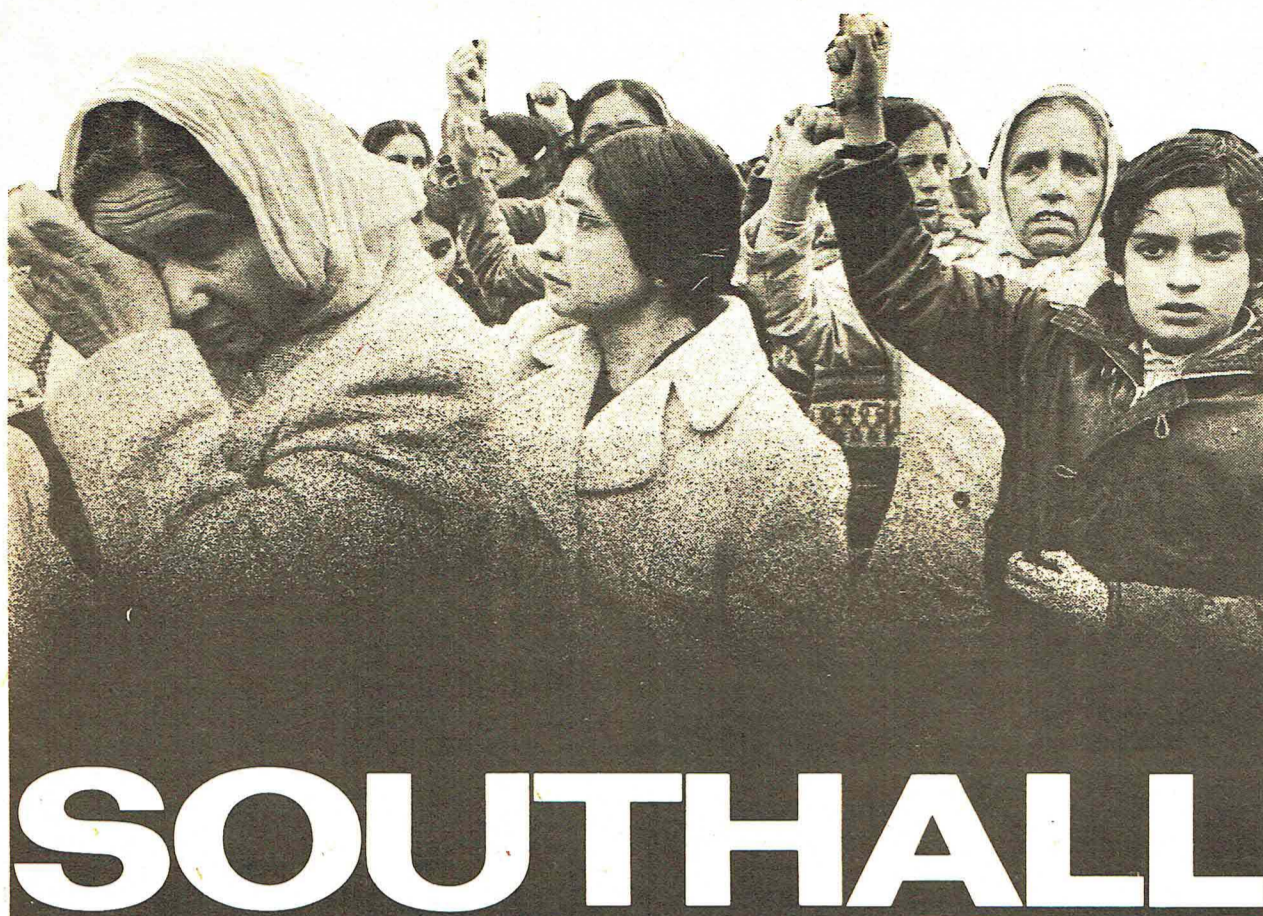
## Romania

In Romania if you have got more than a month's supply of food at home you can go to jail for up to five years. That's the new law announced by President Ceausescu in a desperate attempt to prevent unrest about food shortages.

The Stalinist dictatorship in Romania is clearly worried that the example of workers struggling against the bureaucracy might spill over the border from Poland. And they are right to be scared. In 1977, 45,000 miners occupied the coalfields in the Jiu valley. Two government ministers flew in and one demonstrator told the 'Washington Post' [4 December 1977] what happened: "In all my life, I have never seen such a scene. The crowd stretched as far as the eye can see. When the Ministers arrived, they were seized by the leaders. We took the food that we have to eat and threw it in their faces, saying 'you eat that food'."

Ceausescu had to fly in to rescue the two Ministerial hostages, and facing a hostile crowd promised reforms. For a time these were granted but after a couple of months 2,000 troops were moved in, the independent miners' union broken up and the leaders arrested.

Romania is second only to Poland in its economic links with inflation-racked Western Europe. And its leadership is scared that it could soon go the same way.



# SOUTHALL

**“Southall: The Birth of a Black Community”** describes the struggle of the Asian community in Southall from the 1950's to the events of 23 April 1979, when the local population turned out to demonstrate against the use of the Town Hall by the National Front.

During the years of the post-war boom, British capitalism, short of unskilled labour, recruited workers from the ex-colonies. The community in Southall originated from the Punjab in India.

Due to the pressure on land, which resulted from the partition of India, peasants, fearful of becoming landless, were encouraged to come to work in the factories of Southall and surrounding areas. They were super-exploited, often working seven days a week, 60 hours a week, difficult shifts and low-paid.

They took jobs which the 'native workers' were not prepared to do. British capitalists had the advantage of using shift work to keep their machinery in 24-hour operation.

They also used it to try to separate black and white workers. This resulted in the initial indifference of the trade unions to the problems of immigrant workers.

Nevertheless immigrant workers found their way to the trades union movement. In the 1960's there were prolonged strikes of Asian workers at the Woolf's Rubber Company, Perivale Guttermans, the Wyhuna Corset Company and at Heathrow airport.

There were delays in getting official support for these strikes but the community itself responded, offering credit and free food to the strikers. In 1957 the Indian Workers Association was set up to represent Asian workers.

Whilst British capitalism made super profits out of immigrant workers, they were unwilling to provide

for the needs of their families in terms of housing or education. This led to problems of overcrowding. An influx of people into a working class area already deprived of amenities aroused a hostile response from local people.

The pamphlet blames this hostility squarely on the shoulders of governments for failing to provide decent facilities. It was capitalism that made the profits and the working class that faced all the problems!

There was virtually no housebuilding in Southall, and yet land was sold off to commercial concerns. The council's response to overcrowding was to prosecute the offenders!

The pamphlet describes the racist attacks to which the black community have been subjected. In the early 1960s the fascists attempted to gain support amongst the white working class in Southall, using the Southall Residents Association as a "Racist front organisation!" In 1963 the British National Party polled 27% of the vote in one ward at a local election.

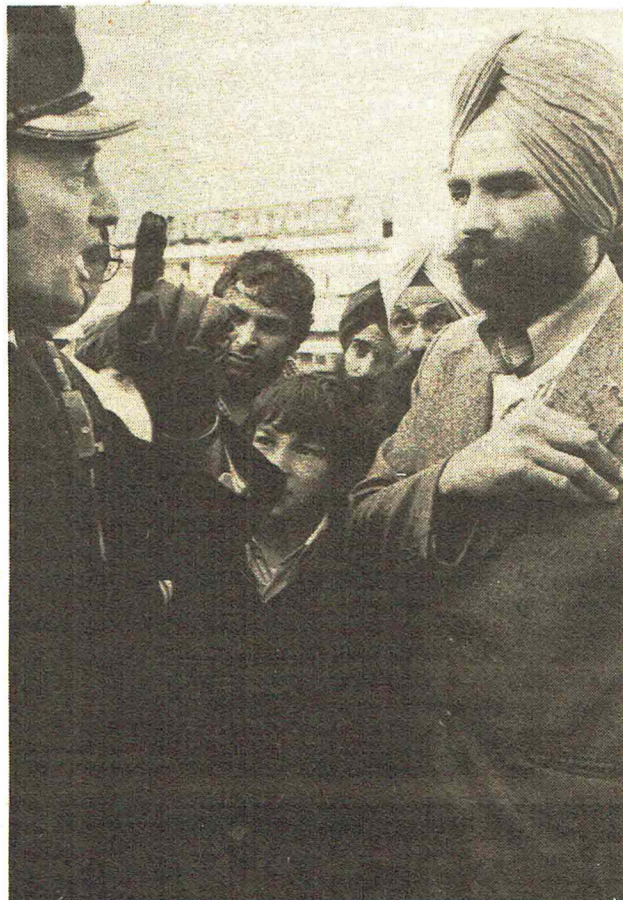
The fascists also attempted to infiltrate the local factories. The Greenford Branch of the T&GWU called for a ban on immigration. Two stewards at AEC (Southall) organised a meeting to 'protect white native workers'.

Tories on Ealing Council called for a 15 year residential qualification for black families to qualify for a council house (it was five years for white families); five Labour Councillors who supported this were later expelled from the party.

Black workers also faced violence from white racials and harassment from the police.

Barbara Humphries reviews *Southall: birth of a black community* by the Campaign Against Racism and Fascism/Southall Rights, published by the Institute of Race Relations and Southall Rights, price £1.30

## Fighting on two Fronts



Confrontation when National Front held rally in Southall, April 1979. Photo: Militant

After Powell's "rivers of blood" speech in 1968, white youths used iron bars to beat up Asians outside a school. After the murder of Gurdip Singh Chagger in 1976, the Southall Youth Movement (SYM) was established.

This reflected the anger of the youth and determination to fight back against racialism. One of the activities of the SYM was to picket the Harbrough Tavern, which was operating a 'colour bar' in 1978!

This pamphlet is an impressive account of the problems of black workers in Britain, and of their militancy in fighting employers and fascism. It clearly shows the economic basis of racialism and the problems that it poses for the working class as a whole.

Workers' unity in a time of growing unemployment is essential. The defence of the black community in Southall is the responsibility of the whole labour movement.

## CONVEYOR BELT THINKING



Whilst researching into VDU (Visual Display Units) and their possible effect on my members, I came across an article by Mike Cooley (recently sacked employee of Lucas Aerospace) on Computer Aided Design (CAD).

It had long been the "privilege" of engineers to be able to work at their own reasonable pace, with the satisfaction of seeing their work right through to the end. This may no longer be the case.

Howard C. Carlson, a psychologist employed by General Motors, once said: "The computer may be to middle management what the assembly line is to the hourly worker".

Capitalism needs to intensify the exploitation of its workforce if it is to make more profits. The capitalist usually employs work study people to analyse the working methods of the employees.

In the case of assembly line workers, the actions of the workers are reduced to the most basic movements called THERBLIGS (!!). An action like welding or assembly will be made up of so many Therbligs. The secret to extra profitability then is to cut out "surplus" therbligs i.e. spend more time on essential working.

Many battles are fought on the shop-floor over therbligs.

The office worker seemed to have something of an advantage. When an engineer is standing next to a drawing board it is not immediately noticeable whether or not he is actually doing what he's paid to do—i.e. think.

Well work study can now quantify thinking!! YALKS are the white collar therbligs.

Yalks are basic subdivisions of mental operations. the principal is the same—cut out Yalks (or therbligs) and wallop! up goes the profits!

Computers are used to help cut out Yalks. CAD is used to cut out the calculations engineers have to do

By Mike Waddington

(AUEW/TASS site rep Fords Basildon & Basildon LPYS)

and reduces designing to decision-making. One particular system boosts the needs for decisions by 1600%!

Many studies on stress show that this pace cannot be maintained. Experiments have shown that engineers on VDU's experience a 30-40% fall in efficiency after an hour and by as much as 70-80% in the second hour!

CAD systems are now obsolete within three years and obviously are expensive to install. So where they are employed companies require that they be used continuously i.e. bring in shifts to ensure maximum exploitation of the equipment, in exactly the same way computer programmers now have to work shifts.

Surveys in West Germany demonstrated that workers on rotating shifts experienced an ulcer rate eight times as high as other workers. The divorce rate was 50% higher and the juvenile delinquency rate of their children can often be 80% higher!

What I believe all this illustrates is that there are fundamentally no privileged groups of workers. Exploitation is more open than in others but even white-collar workers, from the designers/engineers to us lowly pen-pushers, are now threatened with an uncertain future.

Here in Fords we have just gone through a voluntary redundancy programme, with still more to follow given the rumours of huge losses that Fords will make this year. Never has the need for workers' unity been more apparent than it is now.

White collar unions like my own should make the first moves to show an unequivocal desire to seek a workers' united front against the management to fight for our jobs.



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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## Labour traitors join the SDP

Dear Comrades

It appears that Joe Ashton's predictions at past Labour Party conferences, that if mandatory re-selection was carried, at least 25 Labour MPs would "cross the house," is being fulfilled.

The total of Labour MP traitors having joined the SDP now has almost reached that figure. Mabon, Mitchell, Dunn and McNally's appearance at the SDP 'rolling conference' just a week after Labour's proves at least one thing. They always intended to go! They picked their time so as to inflict the greatest public damage. But not before one last cynical task. They voted for Denis Healey.

It was inevitable that Mabon would eventually join the party that was tailor made for him. His constituency in Greenock and Port Glasgow has been moving leftwards due to the high unemployment in that area. Mabon has as a Labour MP treated workers, and Party activists in particular, with the contempt he thought they deserved. Now that he's gone to sample claret with his chum, Roy, maybe Greenock and Port Glasgow will get a socialist to represent them.

This year's Labour Party conference represents nothing but a small hiccup in the constant leftward move in the workers' movement. The right-wing MPs know that nothing can halt this movement and the ones under greatest threat must now be looking longingly at developments in the SDP. I can give them the advice they are looking for, in the words of the old music hall song: "We don't want to lose you, but we think you ought to go."

The Labour Party was created by socialists. It must now be the party for socialists. Workers join us now!

Fraternally  
Eddie Phillips  
Glasgow Provan CLP

## Socialist policies will stop illusions caused by LSD!

Dear Comrades

If we are to believe the capitalist press, the Labour victory at Warrington was a victory for the LSD alliance and the Tory defeat in Croydon North West was a blow to Labour.

If Tony Benn had won the deputy leadership contest, the bosses' press would have been quick to blame Labour's result in Croydon on Benn's victory. In fact, Healey's narrow victory can be attributed to the votes of the Social Democrats' "fifth column" in the Labour Party. This suggests that Healey's victory was a factor in this by-election.

Leon Trotsky said of the middle classes that they can

## Who are the sane ones?

Dear Comrades

I was watching television on Thursday night—a programme in the '40 minutes' series—on the battle by 618 patients at Calderstone mental-handicap hospital to gain the right to vote.

One of the objections put forward to the patients voting was that the political situation didn't affect them. But with the Tories attacking all sides of the National Health Service, mental pa-

tients face problems along with all of us.

A hospital mock election showed a big swing to Labour. The two patients who in the programme expressed political views wanted 'the Tories out'.

One man claimed they'd done "nothing for the poor or the working class."

Meanwhile, there are a few people about who still want to vote for a government that cuts public spending, destroys industry, causes mass unemployment and cuts living standards.

Who's sane?  
Fraternally  
Martin Glozier  
Sparkbrook LPYS

## Leyland fight is our fight

Dear Comrades

It makes me sick when my fellow workers say that the Leyland workers should be sacked because they are being greedy with not accepting a 3.8% rise.

When we look at it, Michael Edwardes accepted a 35% wage increase (£500 per week). The workers, on the other hand, have had wage cuts for the last three years—that's accepting rises less than the rate of inflation.

When I pointed out the

differential and inequality of the rises between boss and workers, when I was arguing the case (as usual) in the works canteen, one of the bosses piped up that "if Edwardes didn't get that rise he would go to America." "Why?" I asked, "is it because he can't manage on his money?"

The answer I got was that nearly all Edwardes' increase would go on tax. I replied the workers wouldn't mind paying that tax if they had Edwardes' wages.

When the manager asked, "who stirred me up?" I knew I had won! I replied the only way forward for

the workers is socialism, to do away with this system, for all to have decent living standards and decent wages.

The best of luck to the Leyland workers! Don't give in to industrial blackmail.

They need all our support, their fight is our fight. We must fight back or lose everything that our forefathers fought so hard for.

We can win and will win.  
Yours fraternally  
Mike Wright  
Leigham, Devon



Youth demonstrate against cuts in youth facilities

## Cuts at work in Dagenham

Dear Comrades

We in Dagenham are lucky to have a Labour council! But under the pressure of the Tory government (without any fight-back) they have been forced to make cuts.

Latest in the line are possible closure of public libraries in the winter months because of staff shortages through lack of funds. This is only one of many

local facilities affected, especially for youth.

In many ways it is worse in the 1980s than in the 1930s. For example, an open-air swimming pool was opened in 1935 and now in 1981 has been closed for the last two years! Members of the council have argued that this saving is necessary for more urgent things like helping the sick and old.

But closing the pool and vandalising other facilities will eventually lead to vandalism by the youth with

nothing better to do. This will cancel out the money supposedly saved by the council.

Nearby Romford was recently voted the most boring town in Greater London, and most people in Dagenham go to Romford for a night out!

What is needed is an urgent campaign nationally by the labour and trade union movement to stop the cuts and kick the Tories out.

Yours fraternally  
Gus Cousins  
Dagenham LPYS

change their politics as easily as a man changes his shirt. It is to this layer of society that the election of the 'Pitts' of this world can be attributed.

These "floating voters" were given the impression that a new "radical force", represented by Pitt the Younger, was confronting the old policies of Healey, the old policies which had laid the groundwork for Thatcher's more savage version—cuts in public spending, deflationary control of the money supply, taxation policies favouring businesses and the forcing up of nationalised industry prices.

Another factor which influenced this section of the electorate was the old illusion that you can get one Tory out—by voting for

another! In old Tory constituencies like Croydon North West, the Liberals have always tried to present themselves as the lesser evil, and this time, with the aid of the mass media, the trick worked.

In a general election, the tactic of using the LSD as a counterweight to Labour will be far more difficult for the capitalist press. Unless they start urging their readers to vote Tory in some constituencies and LSD in others, they will have to make a choice between the old Tory Party and the new. In the final analysis, this division in the ruling class could be turned to advantage by the organisations of the working class.

However, Labour can only profit from this division if it presents a hard cut-

ting edge—an uncompromising socialist programme. The remnants of the Social Democratic fifth column must be driven from our ranks.

Yours fraternally  
Derek McMillan  
East Grinstead,  
West Sussex

## Hazards at work

Dear Comrades

We are organising a national conference on the Social Causes of Women's Ill-health on 28 November.

The conference will be held at Islington Green School, Prebend Street, London N.1. (nearest tube is Angel), from 9.30 am to 6.00 pm.

The morning workshop

## Why Labour didn't win Croydon NW

Dear Comrades

The Croydon NW by-election must not be seen as a defeat for the Labour Party, but as a defeat for the LP candidate's policies.

The main slogan was 'Stan's your man'. To the ordinary working-class voter that means absolutely nothing. He took the attitude that he had to water down the policies so that he could keep the votes from going to the Liberal/SDP candidate who was getting all of the backing from the Tory media.

Leading Labour MPs were brought along to help in the campaign, with the notable exception of Tony Benn, who was not asked to help as he has been labelled as an extremist. Stan wanted to be seen as having nothing to do with him.

The right wing of the LP will blame Tony Benn for the defeat. Peter Shore on the BBC TV coverage of the election was asked if he thought Tony Benn had

anything to do with the defeat. His answer was simply "it did not help."

The truth of the matter is that the working class of this country are looking for a way out, they don't know where to turn to. The only answer is a massive campaign on bold socialist policies, policies that the working class people in this country can relate to like an immediate reduction of the working week to 35 hours without loss of pay, as a first step to reduce unemployment, and a minimum rate of pay of at least £80 a week including pensioners, unemployed, disabled etc.

A massive programme of useful public works, such as housing for the homeless and families who live in sub-standard homes, much needed hospitals, schools, etc.

Then we will win support. If "our man Stan" stood on that platform, not only would he have won, but the Labour Party would have massive queues wanting to join up!

Yours fraternally  
Tom Estella  
North Nottingham LPYS

## A day in the life of the bosses' press

Dear Comrades

The capitalist press ran true to form in Scotland on Monday 19 October when in Greece the Socialist Party was elected to power by a greater majority than the French socialists, and when

a new hard-line Stalinist leader was put in charge in Poland. Front page news of the *Daily Record* was "Did she or didn't she?" The story was on whether or not Lady Di killed Bambi, the kind of story working class people, we are told, like to hear!

Yours fraternally  
R Sharp  
Provan LPYS

topics will focus on 'what makes us ill?' and include Smoking, Alcohol, Work and Unemployment, Medical Causes on Ill-health, Racism and Ageism.

In the afternoon the focus will be on more general aspects of health and ill-health from a feminist perspective. Topics include Mental Health, Disability, Reproduction, Obesity and Anorexia. The final plenary session will focus primarily on strategies for change both inside and outside the NHS.

There will be entertainment during lunch time, including a play by "Spare Tyre".

The conference is for women only and the charges are: Free for unwaged, £2.00 for students and low-paid and £4.00 for others. A

creche will be available (advance notice appreciated).

For more information, contact Women and Health Conference, c/o BSSRS, 9 Poland Street, London W1.

We are hoping to interest women from outside London and there will be limited assistance with travel costs.

The conference co-ordinators are members of the Women & Work Hazards group, the Politics of Health Group and the Women and Medical Practice Group. If you need any more information please give us a ring at work (486 7071) or at home (892 0238 or 737 1110).

Many thanks  
Jennie Popay  
and Chris Rossiter  
Women & Work  
Hazards Group

# YOUR MONEY CAN BUILD Militant



Militant collection at LPYS Conference 1981

According to the press, the Tories are considering bringing forward the date of the Crosby by-election.

For once the Tories are likely to be deserted by the media as likely losers even in this seat. The Tories want to minimise the time that the smooth public relations machine of Saint Shirley Williams and her capitalist second eleven get in the area.

All their attempts are likely to be in vain. The bosses press will strive might and main to ensure that disaffected Tories don't switch their votes to Labour. Croydon shows that Labour will have to fight a bold campaign—a socialist campaign to make any headway at all.

The media have started pushing Williams already—we are in for a marathon of lies and distortions, particularly if Labour has a socialist candidate.

By Steve Cawley

But at least Militant supporters in Crosby are used to marathons. One of them, J Scully has donated £66.98 to Militant's fighting fund after running a sponsored marathon at £2.50 a mile! Well done!

This marathon won't help the Tory press. The proceeds will help Militant, the workers' paper that tells the truth about what's happening in the Labour Party and the trade unions.

If you appreciate our reports and analysis of the vital issues affecting workers throughout the world, please help us. Whether or not you're fit enough to run 26 miles, you

can get your area's line moving up to our £120,000 target for 1981. Help make ours a bigger better and more frequent paper.

The biggest contribution this week has been the £3,700 [+ IOUs] from our very successful rally. On top of this supporters in some areas have made great efforts to get on target.

Supporters in Wandsworth collected £107. An appeal sheet at a LPYS disco in Glasgow collected £61 and readers in Edge Hill, Liverpool gave £34.

Meetings with Militant speakers are a regular source of income. This week meetings in Swansea raised £77, Uxbridge £56 (including £10 from K Langley) Coventry £22 (including a fiver from C Town of Lanchester Poly Labour Club). Ipswich £16.80 and one in Gillingham £10. Smaller sums came from ward meetings in Wavertree, LPYS branches in Stockton, Clydebank and Bothwell.

Badges sold by supporters from Hampshire at the CND huge demo profited us by £17. A lunch time social in Ealing raised £30 an October revolution social in Rochester £10 and a social in Peterborough

£13. Jumble sales in Harlow (nearly £70) and Bracknell (£26) are a fairly painless way of raising money for the best good cause going—socialism.

But we rely most on individual donations. A sad feature of the last few Militants has been the obituaries for life long socialists George Peake and John Wobey. M Connolly in Slough has sent us £5 in memory of George and A and L Watson £10 to carry on John's fight.

Thanks to L Stenson (Uxbridge) £20 M Cullum (Birmingham) K Pearson (Southall Labour Party) C Glover (Bootle YS) V Blackett (Sunderland) and J Williamson (Glasgow) who each gave £5. The McCartney's of Glasgow gave £6.50 and P Tebbitt in Birmingham £15. J Doyle (Newham) gave £3 and J Leeward (Leeds) and N Westscot (St Katherine's ward E London) both £2.

Whether you win the pools and give it all to us, or like the miners at several collieries in Notts give extra money for your copy of Militant, you'll be helping to build our paper and give a real shot in the arm to the prospects for socialism.

## 'SOCIALISM THE GOAL'

The public are constantly beguiled by Labour's right wing and their backers in the capitalist press to believe that the Labour Party's move to the left is the work of "trendy polytechnic bed-sit infiltrators" and completely against the party's traditions.

Such claims, of course, are not based on evidence but on myths. The right suggest that the commitment to transform capitalism rather than patch it up is the invention of "infiltrators" who "if they stood on their own platforms would get nowhere".

Let history put the record straight.

By Peter Greatrex  
(Penistone Labour Party).

In the lead-up to the 1929 general election, the Labour Party produced a little booklet entitled "50 points for Labour." The foreword was by Ramsey MacDonald, the Labour Party leader, who wrote that it was "an admirable little handbook which should be in the pocket of every candidate and speaker during the election".

The 42nd point for Labour was this: "Socialism the goal".

"Labour is not content with more patchwork reforms" (it said) "it fights for better wages, shorter

hours, justice to the out-of-work, and healthier conditions, but it also fights to change the present system of society which produces sweeping unemployment, and the slums.

"In this it is quite different from the other two parties which accept society as it is and only seek to make changes within its framework.

"The Labour Party is a socialist party. It believes that the things which are socially necessary should be socially owned, and that those who work by hand or by brain should be equitably rewarded.

"It believes that those who do the work of society should have an active share in its control. Democracy should be extended to every department of social life."

Ramsey MacDonald, although he recommended the official Labour Booklet,

went on to do exactly the opposite in government, leading Labour to the 1931 defeat. MacDonald then deserted Labour and went over to the 'National' government, the Tory-dominated coalition of "reasonable, responsible" men which presided over a decade of poverty and prepared the way for the mass murder and 'extremism' of World War II.

In the coming period, the Labour Party can be built only by returning to its real traditions—that of a socialist party clearly exposing the role of the two or three capitalist parties.

If there are other Ramsey MacDonalds in the Labour Party let them leave now. The idea of transforming society was put forward in 1929, however inadequately, and won the support of the electorate.

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

# ads

Denny Labour Party Young Socialists Demonstration against unemployment Saturday 21st November. Assemble 11.00am Denny Town House. Rally in Denny Community Centre 12.00pm. Speakers: Denis Canavan MP, Ron Curran NUPE, Francis Curran LPYS.

HALIFAX Militant Readers Meeting. 'A fighting programme for Labour'. Hear Pete Watson on Tuesday 17 November, 7.30 pm, AUEW Club, St James St, Halifax (near bus station)

Manchester University Militant Supporters Society.

Monday, Nov 9 "Poland—which way forward?" Speaker: Ewa Durant (Hungarian socialist and member of Rossendale Labour Party).

Monday, Nov 16 "Northern Ireland: Common Misery, Common Struggle" Speaker: Richard Venton (Birkenhead Labour Party, and North West representative of the Campaign for a Socialist Solution in Ireland).

Monday, Nov 23 "Students and the labour movement" Speaker: Clive Heemskirk (Education Correspondent of the Militant).

All meetings at 12.45pm in Meeting Room 4, of Owen's Student Union, Oxford Road.

CHESTER-LE-STREET supporters' Limited Raffle drawn 11 October 1981. 1st prize: No 200, Bob Knight; 2nd prize: No 84, L Cameron. Both prizes claimed. Apologies for delay in duplication.

LEYTON LPYS Benefit for Staffa dispute. Friday 13 November, 8.00 pm, at Leyton Assembly Rooms (in Town Hall) £1.50 a ticket or pay at door. Further details—J Dale, 108 Vansittart Road, E.7.

Essential for all supporters. 1982 'Militant' Year Planner, 60p each; 50p 10 and over. Orders M Tansey, 10 Westbourne Gardens, Folkestone, Kent. Phone 0303 55514

12" Disco 45 record, Brixton Riot, £2 each. Orders LCDB, c/o M Boyle, 167 Railton Road, London SE24

S WALES Bulletin of Marxist Studies. New edition: 'Marxist Economics'. 35p (+ 15p postage etc.). B Lewis, 10 Page Street, Swansea, W Glamorgan.

NORTH EAST Readers' Meetings. 'The Struggle Against Unemployment'. Hear Kath Hardisty (Gateshead LPYS) at Chester-le-Street Labour Club, Sunday 15 November 1981, 7.30pm, and Sunderland Supporters Club, Wednesday 18 November, 7.30 pm. For further details phone Sunderland 653999 or Washington 470706.

BASILDON LPYS Public Meeting. 'How Labour can stop the Tories'. Speaker Joan Maynard MP. Friday 6 November, 8.00 pm. Pitsea Leisure Centre, Basildon.

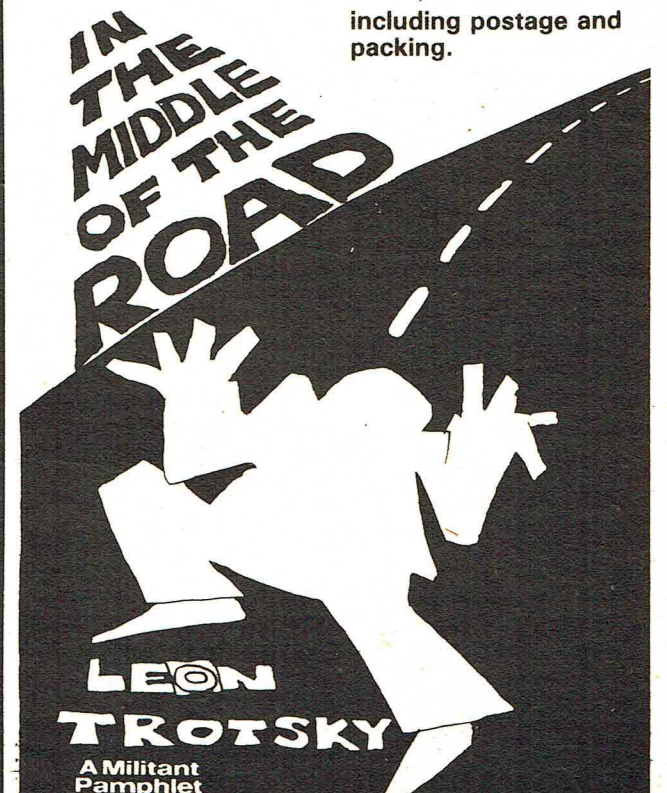
EX-STAMP COLLECTORS: We can use your collections in the fight for socialism. Please telephone Steve Cawley at the Militant Offices (01-986 3828) with details. Do NOT send collections through the post. Any comrade with knowledge of stamps, or willing to learn, please also contact Steve Cawley.

ORDER FOR CHRISTMAS Karl Marx T-shirts and sweatshirts. LAST DATE FOR ORDERS to ensure delivery by Christmas—6 November. Sizes and colours for both. Small—32-34; medium—34-36; large—38-40; extra large—42-44. Red motif on white, yellow, sky blue, bottle green, navy black (+ for sweatshirt grey and mid-blue). Cost: T-shirts £3.25; sweatshirts £6.75 (both prices include postage and packing). Plain T-shirts and sweatshirts also available—deduct 25p from price. Send cheques and postal orders to R Harris, 35 Westminster Court, Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 1UR.

### NEW MILITANT PAMPHLET

Available from Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. Price 65p

including postage and packing.



# Industrial Reports

## BR JOBS LOSS MUST BE STOPPED NOW!

"The block on discussing redundancy plans is off," that is how the secretary of my NUR branch summed up the current situation as far as British Rail Engineering Ltd. is concerned.

Many Railway workers think that the last AGM of the union committed the NUR to national action if any redundancies are demanded by British Rail.

However, it is clear that the union's negotiators interpret the AGM decision as only being a commitment to fight compulsory job losses.

At Temple Mills Wagon Works in Leyton, East London, where I work, management is demanding 13 voluntary redundancies among the painters, wagon repairers and saw-mill workers. Four other workers are 'surplus to requirements' but will be carried into 1982.

The management will decide which departments the redundancies are to come from, and if there are no redundancies in those areas management want to distribute the sackings as they like.

This is only the beginning, and sackings will not be confined to Temple Mills. At Derby works 200 jobs are to go!

In answer to members' questions the secretary thought that if the workforce dropped below 300 the works will not be viable. These 13 losses bring the total down to 310. The NUR leadership seems to have completely ignored the lessons of the Ashford fiasco, where in the absence of a fighting lead from the union, men queued up for their redundancies.

Union activists know that if the leadership fails to lead a fight workers cannot be expected to fight alone. After all, most workers have families to support and cannot afford to take action if they see no chance of a victory.

On the other hand, as the Staffa struggle on our own doorstep shows, when a lead is given, when workers see their own strength, even the doubters are capable of acts of real sacrifice in solidarity with fellow workers.

The first step must be to demand that the NEC of the union mount a campaign throughout our union to fight on the basis of "No jobs for sale!" The full, mobilised strength of the

By Mike Cleverley  
(NUR Leyton No 2 branch, personal capacity)

union would force the management to back down.

We now have a federation of the footplaten's union, ASLEF, and NUR. Is this historic step just to be a talking shop for the General Secretaries?

Railwaymen have high hopes that the Federation and the reactivated Triple Alliance of Railmen, Steelmen and Miners are evidence of a new willingness to struggle. If our leadership won't led then members will see the need to forge a new leadership.

Unfortunately, the General Secretary seems more concerned fighting the battles of the right wing in the Labour Party and attacking the newly formed Broad Left in the union than fighting our battles and attacking the Tories.

Resolutions demanding a fighting campaign against redundancies should flood into the NUR head office. The fate of BREL will be a pointer to the future of the whole industry.

Even without waiting for the leadership to move, individual branches should be forging links with ASLEF branches in every area. Where appropriate the Triple Alliance must be built at rank-and-file level, with joint meetings between NUR, ASLEF, ISTC and NUM branches.

United action on this scale would force the Tories to shelve their plans to destroy our industries. Such action is the only way to protect our jobs.

The present, apparently cosy relationship between the NUR leadership and the BRB management has nothing to do with protecting the jobs of railway workers.

Fortunately, there are encouraging signs as far as the mood of the membership in the building of the Broad Left in the union is concerned.

The publication of the Broad Left journal "Left Lines" and its enthusiastic reception by many railmen throughout the industry is a historic step forward in the process of transforming our union into a fighting organisation again.



Hosiery workers demonstrate in Leicester, November 1980. The union leadership's nationalistic 'Buy British' campaign received the backing of the bosses. The same bosses are now attempting to cut workers' wages.

Photo: Militant

## WORKERS BREAK WITH BOSSES

A wave of indignation led to a spontaneous demonstration of 800 hosiery workers outside their bosses' headquarters in Nottingham last week.

Earlier in the year, their union had led them in a joint demonstration with these same bosses—behind the demand for import controls.

Then, the threat of unemployment forced most of these workers on the march for the first time. They were misled into believing that jobs could be saved by a joint battle with

their bosses against workers and bosses abroad.

Now the bosses have shown just how much employers and employee have in common. They've "offered" a 5% wage cut! The union's claim of 15%, say the bosses, would mean closures, short-time, job losses and everything else short of holocaust. Not that the industry has been exactly free of them over the last year!

Now, surprised by the bitterness of their mainly female workforce, the

employers have discovered "their loyalty and value to each employer" and have magnanimously declared "we will be discussing whether in spite of the difficulties it would be possible to increase the gross pay."

The demand for import controls spreads the illusion that workers and capitalists can fight unemployment together. The hosiery workers experience shows that if your boss thinks you suffer from this illusion, he will take you for a sucker and give you a hearty kick

in the teeth at the next opportunity.

The hosiery unions must fight for a living wage for their members whatever the bosses say they can afford. If they can't run industry without wage cuts and redundancies, their firms should be nationalised under workers' control and management—with compensation paid only to those who can prove they need it.

It's not the workers who've destroyed the industry, it's the bosses—let them pay!

By Tony Cross  
(East Nottingham CLP)

## BSA

120 workers at Birmingham Small Arms, Small Heath, have been occupying their factory since 8 October in protest at the steadily escalating dirty tricks of their management.

Dennis Pore, well known asset stripper of BSA, NVT, Manganese Bronze and other Midland factories in the '70s, has declared war on unions in what is left of these firms. In an effort to force down wages the company have, for the past year, been contracting out some of the work done at the BSA factory.

Finally the patience of the workforce ran out and they blacked the contact work. The response of management was to reduce the wages of some workers as a means of splitting them.

When this failed they began to lay off some sections in a completely arbitrary way.

The workers answered management by taking over the factory and continuing to run production with one vital difference—that no finished products are reaching the customers. With the Christmas rush rapidly approaching (the main product is sports guns) this puts the cards in the workers' hands.

Management have tried many dirty tricks to break the workers' stand, including closure and sacking

threats, but the workers have remained solid.

The crunch for the unions is likely to come this Thursday (29 October) by which time BSA's customers are likely to look elsewhere for their Christmas stocks.

Messages of support to Peter Macdonald, 16 Brook Road, Rubery, Birmingham.

## HOOVER

The recent history of Hoovers plant at Perivale is one of a world famous company being slowly sucked down the drain.

The cleaners made at Perivale have made Hoover a household name. But the early lead set by the company has been eroded by European competition. Hoovers share of the market has been taken because, unlike their competitors, they have made no massive investments in new machinery.

Hoover lost £6 million in the first 6 months of this year. The problems at Hoovers have existed for a long time, with management doing nothing worthwhile except place the blame on the shoulders of the workers.

Last year 2,000 workers at Perivale started a period of working only three weeks in four and 50 were made redundant. In January the government announced new

measures to help companies like Hoover, but this was followed by an announcement that 200 workers were to go. The unions challenged this and management backed down.

Management even up to a few months ago denied that the plant was to close down. In fact plant managers asked for 90 more workers because of a £4.4 million contract with the Libyan Army.

At this stage Hoovers had 40% of the market in cleaners and 25% in washers. Now comes the announcement that Perivale is to close with the loss of 1,100 jobs. The mood amongst the workers however is to fight the closure.

Send money and messages of support to; Nobby Clark, 428 Lansbury Drive, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 85P.

By John Gibbs  
and Brian Blake  
(Ealing North CLP  
personal capacity)

## PLESSEY

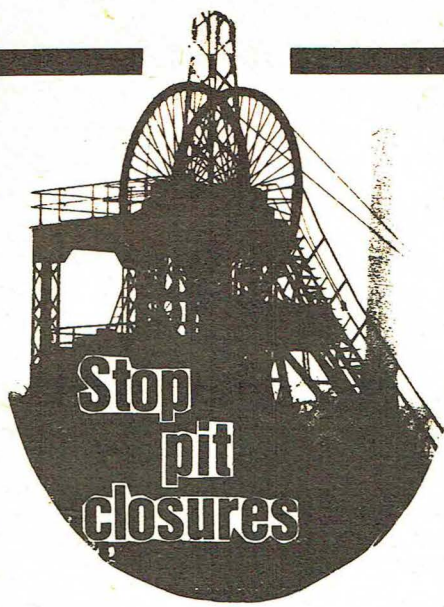
This Monday hourly paid workers at Plessey, Beeston in Nottinghamshire, took part in a one day strike in support of their pay claim.

Dave Delacy, work's convenor, explained the background; "we submitted our claim in July. Nine weeks later the company responded with an offer of 4%, two weeks before the normal annual settlement date. Shop stewards Committee met and agreed a ban on overtime would be implemented if there was no agreement by October 1st. No meetings took place so the stewards met again on the first and proposed a series of one day strikes. The membership are fully behind us.

"Last week management sent every hourly paid worker a letter calling on them not to strike—most of these were sent back or ended in the bin! We believe that the company can well afford a rise in line with inflation. There are less and less of us producing more and more for the company. Every quarter they announce bigger profits."

Two weeks ago Plessey announced 250 redundancies. At a mass meeting 1,400 workers voted for an all out strike and an occupation of the factories if there are any compulsory redundancies—with only six voting against.

By Chris Ridge  
(West Nottingham LP)



# VOTE SCARGILL

## Fighting mood at Sulzer

## NOTTS

**"If the price of winning the presidency is compromising my principles or prostituting my views, they can keep the job."**

So proclaimed Arthur Scargill to 150 miners and Labour Party members at a meeting organised by Cotgrave Labour Party in Nottinghamshire.

Having won the nomination of this so-called right wing area for the president of the NUM, nearly half the branches voting for him against Ray Chadburn, the Nottingham Area President, Scargill was giving local miners the chance to hear why he was standing.

The previous night he spoke to a meeting of about 300 at Bilsthorpe, where the local branch of the NUM have invited all the can-

didates in the election to address them; a clear answer to the Tories and others who rant about the lack of union democracy!

In his speech, Scargill attacked the Coal Board's apparent plan to reduce the industry to "a hundred super pits with 100,000 men and annual output of about 100 million tons. There must be no more closures." He demanded the opening of 40 new pits, together with a big improvement in the pay and conditions of miners.

"With a background of 3 million unemployed, it is time we fulfilled our aim, accepted by the Sankey Commission in 1919, of a four-day week with no loss of pay." He also called for retirement at 55 and a rate protection scheme, where miners forced to change jobs because of disease or injury would not lose any wages.

With fighting demands like these, Arthur Scargill will undoubtedly get the vote of many Notts miners.

**Nearly 400 Northumberland miners crowded into the Ashington Miners' Welfare recently to hear Arthur Scargill, the President of the Yorkshire NUM.**

**The previous week, only about 60 turned up at the same venue to hear Trevor Bell, the main right-wing candidate for the NUM Presidency. In his speech, he heavily criticised the 'Militant', the democratisation of the Labour Party, and the Labour Party left in general.**

However, contrary to the lukewarm response given to Trevor Bell, in a meeting with a completely different atmosphere the 'moderate' miners of Northumberland gave Arthur Scargill two standing ovations. They keenly applauded his views on unilateral nuclear disarmament, withdrawal from the Common Market and democratisation of the National Union of Mine-workers.

He outlined how governments abroad heavily subsidise their coal industries,

been President of the Yorkshire Area there has never once been a Yorkshire coalfield strike.

Yet at the same time many benefits have been won for the Yorkshire miners that other miners throughout the country do not yet enjoy. A minimum of £1.35 wet money per shift, negotiable to £5, 9 tons of free coal per year and 5 tons for retired members.

He opposed bonus schemes because it puts "men against men, pit against pit, and area against area."

but drew from this the conclusion that import controls are necessary to protect the jobs of British miners.

Although this panacea of import controls was applauded, his biggest cheer came when he related his views on opposition to pit closures, incomes policies, and in particular on his attitude to trade union unity and working class solidarity against the Tory government.

He spelled out how the Tories held the purse strings of the Coal Board, and how politics and trade unionism were intertwined by a million different threads.

He also attacked his critics who claim that if he is elected, then the miners will be on strike every day. He pointed out that in the past ten years that he has

By John Cunningham  
(Militant supporter,  
Ellington NUM,  
Northumberland)

## Support growing for John Macreadie

By Tony Church  
(Sec., CPSA DHSS  
Leicestershire,  
personal capacity)



John Macreadie

A meeting open to all members of the civil service union, the CPSA, called by the union's Broad Left, in Leicester last week heard Pat Byrne a DHSS executive member and 'Militant' supporter outline the reasons why members should support John Macreadie in the election for General Secretary.

Pat pointed to the past record of the right wing majority on the union national executive and their candidate for General Secretary: Alistair Graham, the present Deputy General Secretary.

Members needed to support Macreadie to safeguard their living standards, Pat explained.

The tactics employed by the right wing in the election build up was illustrated by Pat. Directives issued from the national executive now made it more difficult for John Macreadie to address union members personally. Yet John is clearly winning the support of the overwhelming majority of union activists.

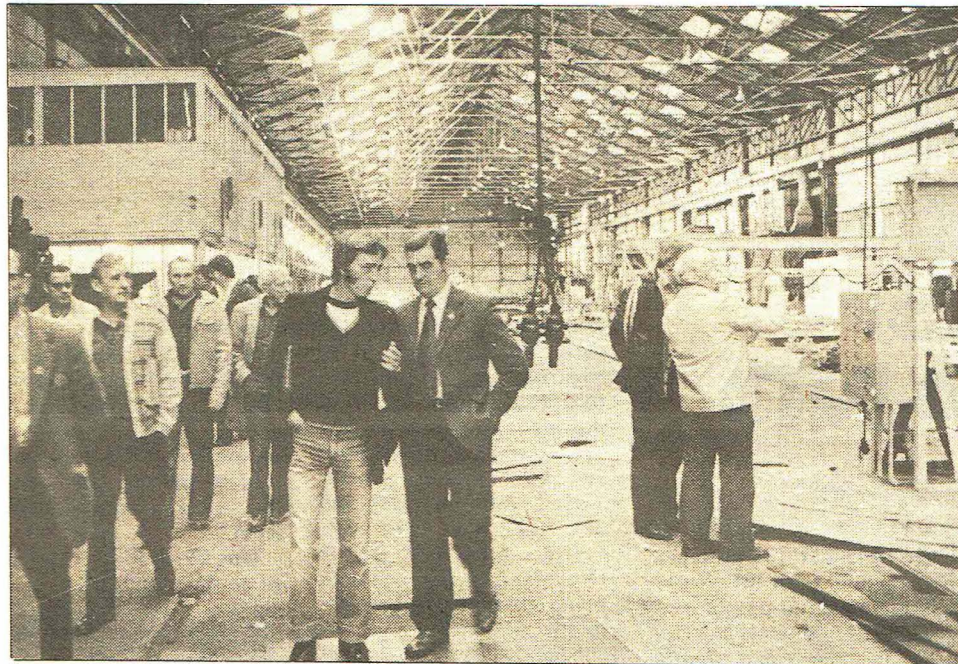
Quite apart from hearing John Macreadie's policies on the way forward for the union, many activists would also like to ask Alistair Graham: 'Why did the union lose the recent pay battle?' Mr Graham seconded the motion on the Civil Service executive committee which put out the 1981 pay 'offer' to the membership, without recommendation, during the recent dispute.

Yet the CPSA national executive are now issuing a recommendation to the membership on who they should support in this election! Such a move is unprecedented in this union; indeed no-one in the meeting could remember a time when even right wing unions like the AUEW had stooped to such measures.

As a result of these moves by the national executive, many union branches are now also making recommendations on the vote to their members. The majority of these recommendations it seems have been in the favour of John Macreadie!

After the Broad Left meeting, a collection of £25 was raised for the Broad Left's funds.

## Robb Caledon



Workers from the Swan Hunter shipyard in Tyneside, also faced with redundancies, visit the Robb Caledon occupation in September, in an act of solidarity. If Robb Caledon passes into private ownership it could hinder future national action to save the yard by unions at British Shipbuilders' yards. Photo: Militant

An important meeting is being held as we go to press, as the struggle at the Robb Caledon shipyard in Dundee goes on.

This Thursday, the Yard's occupation committee meets with local MPs and councillors in the town's City Chambers, to discuss the latest developments.

British Shipbuilders

are intending to give the lease for the yard to the Scottish Development Agency, which would no doubt mean the yard being taken over by the adjacent Kestral shipyard. However, the Harbour Board have said they wish to keep the east end of the yard, which includes the important jetty area, which Kestral want. Now Kestral say

they will pull out if they do not get the jetty area. Mass meetings have met to discuss the situation, but the workers must be clear that if the yard leaves the hands of British Shipbuilders, a nationalised body, and transfers to private ownership, there will be even less guarantee of jobs.

**It was 8.00 am Friday morning and it looked like Leeds United had just finished a home match. Elland Road was packed. However the mood was more optimistic than at Leeds United recently!**

About 150 engineers were picketing Sulzers as a strike on wages was entering its second week.

Nearly 300 workers have struck for an across the board claim for £19 a week.

Management's original offer was one of 'zero' increase, only changing bonuses. Their 'final' offer stands as 5½%. That is £6 skilled to £4.50 unskilled.

The national AUEW are working to an 80% differential. Yet Sulzers management seem determined to maintain a 73% ratio in an attempt to split the workforce. That is why the shopfloor mass meetings have drawn up a unifying claim for 'cash' across the board.

No moves have been made by management to negotiate a settlement. They sit in a brand new factory costing £22 million. Home-made placards explain how millions have been spent on the factory, but there's only pennies for the workers.

The new factory has given confidence to the workers. Orders in the first 8 months of 1981 are already 17% higher than the whole of 1980.

Even the buildings themselves are designed to take extensions. Together with a trickle of new jobs, the new factory has lifted the fighting morale.

For the last two years wage claims have been called irresponsible. In reply the stewards have called for an opening of the books. Not one sheet of paper, but opening the accounts and the order books to project the future of the factory.

Local employers in the West Riding use the argument that wage rises cost jobs. The truth is that with almost no strike activity last year, engineers were crucified. 9,500 engineering jobs were lost in Leeds and Bradford.

Sulzers has a largely young workforce. The company takes on 15-20 apprentices a year with a good training programme, which the union is determined to protect.

The strike now has official backing from the local district committee with a unanimous vote. With full support the aim is for a speedy settlement.

By Tommy Wake (AUEW  
Convenor, Sulzer) and  
John Ingham (West Leeds LP  
and No 6 AUEW)

## ST MARY'S

Photo:  
Nick Oakes

Without warning, administrators and senior nurses at St Mary's, Harrow Road, moved in (evening, Friday 30 October) to remove remaining patients from the occupied No2 ward. Some patients were very distressed, particularly especially one very old and ill woman who refused to be moved. Two staff were summarily suspended for refusing to move here. In response, occupation staff took over the office of the administrator responsible. Nursing staff are supporting the suspended and considering further action. Several other wards are still under immediate closure threat. Occupation staff are particularly watching the still full No5 ward which they believe to be next in line for management axe action.

Occupation staff (right) discuss further action, 2 November.



# Chamberlain Phipps WE'LL FIGHT TO THE FINISH

**'The battle lines are drawn, and we will pull in for a long struggle and hope for victory.'**

These words from Matty Smith, the secretary of the Chamberlain Phipps strike committee show the determination of the workers who the local papers have dubbed the 'wallpaper warriors.'

The strikers won a small

**By Ben Hardacre**

victory this week.

The Department of Employment have granted the locked-out workers the dubious privilege of registering unemployed and receiving full dole money from 23 October.

This was of course, under the threat of an adjourn-

ment debate in the House of Commons, scheduled for 29 October, about the dispute, brought by local MP Derek Foster

As far as the strike committee are concerned, this changes nothing. Matty Smith, and Tom Turner, chairman of the strike committee told me they intend to fight "till hell freezes over" for reinstatement.

"Even if we now have to sign on as available for work, where are we going to get jobs from in this area?" they asked.

The workers fully realise the wider implications of this dispute. Tom Turner's comment was "it's us today, it might be Leyland or

you tomorrow. We must make a stand somewhere against these Edwardes-type tactics, and the system which creates this sort of intolerable situation."

They are still committed to this stand. So far the entire strike committee and others have joined the Labour Party.

"Win or lose this dispute, they said, "we want to keep the fight going for workers' rights."

The campaign will continue with support from local unions and Labour Parties, trades councils etc.

A rally and march is planned for 7 November, to be followed by a public meeting at the Two Blues pub, on the Woodhouse Close Estate, Bishop Auckland (near the factory) at 7.00 pm on the same night.

Please support the Chamberlain Phipps workers in any way you can; rush donations and messages of support to Matty Smith, 26 Howard Close, Woodhouse Close Estate, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham.

## NEW TORY OFFENSIVE

Continued from page one  
next January.

Tory 'concern' for unemployed youth was shown by the ministers' pre-Queen's speech dinner which cost them £23.50 each. That is precisely how much YOPS trainees get to 'live' on a week!

The Tories say the unemployed and the poor must sacrifice as much as the rest of us.

The 'rest of us' does not include the parasites of the stock exchange. They have been promised rich pickings from new private investment in the British National Oil Corporation and British Gas oil fields with offers of reducing the government's role in transport.

These rich entrepreneurs, according to Tory myth, are the 'saviours' of British industry! What kind of dream world are Thatcher and her cronies living in?

They drone on about efficiency. What are the bosses efficient at? Demolition squads? Undertakers?

Haven't they noticed a 20% slump in both manufacturing production and investment since 1979?

The stock exchange, even

before the promised oil bonanza, has had one of the highest rates of return in the western world. The money lines the pockets of the bosses and lies idle in the world's banks.

It has not halted the biggest decline ever in British industry.

The speech called for lower wage settlements for workers whose wages are already about the lowest in Europe. They have already been reduced savagely over the last year or so.

We are expected to pay in lost jobs and lost wages. The government want to stop workers fighting back by putting crippling restrictions on trade union rights.

Tebbit's proposed Trade Union Bill is likely for instance to try to make unions pay for financial losses caused by strikes through civil court actions.

The Queen's speech is a feudal spectacular which tries to hide reality behind the 'splendour and magnificence' of a royal parade. The pomp was reintroduced 70 years ago when socialist ideas were growing—to try to overawe the population with feudal pageantry.

This time it will need more than diamond tiaras and TV windbags to stop the growing demand for socialist solutions to the problems of the working class.

## BRITISH LEYLAND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

offer and no sell-out.

Earlier a spontaneous demonstration of mainly young workers developed and walked down the middle of Low Hill Lane chanting "Reject! Reject! Reject!" One placard, referring to Crossroads "star" Meg Richardson, was not that complimentary to the AUEW President. "Save Meg, burn Duffy," it read.

A number of factors led to the return to work.

The AUEW and EETPU leadership acted more as public relations men for Edwardes' management team than TU leaders, calling for a return to work over the shop stewards' heads.

There was a continuous barrage of material in the press, which concluded on Tuesday morning with the national papers carrying

front-page stories of impending doom for BL. Inside there were full-page adverts from BL's management.

The neutral Pontius Pilate attitude of the Transport and General Workers Union leadership, of leaving it up to the members, was also inexcusable when a firm, decisive lead was necessary!

At the Longbridge meeting, 14,000 leaflets had been prepared. But they were uninspiring and contained little convincing argument—one side being devoted entirely to the management's proposals!

With what can only be described as a bland presentation of the facts by Conventor, Jack Adams, it is perhaps no surprise that large sections of the workforce reluctantly voted to end the dispute.

But the battle is really only beginning. Having tested their strength on the picket line, sporadic battles will now undoubtedly unfold throughout Leyland in the coming months.

Concessions will be dragged out of management. And Leyland workers will also take up with more urgency than even before the fight to replace bankrupt leaders like Duffy.

There will be a next time. Next time Leyland workers will win!

At Cowley on Tuesday mass meetings were held following the news of Edwardes' insulting offer and the recommendation of acceptance.

True to the rich fighting traditions at Cowley, they slung out the offer and overwhelmingly voted to continue the strike.

In the body plant only 200 out of 2,500 voted for the offer and the overwhelming majority at the assembly plant (which produces the Acclaim, the Princess and the Ital) threw out the offer.

However, following the voting at Longbridge,

another mass meeting held on Wednesday reluctantly decided to return to work.

As the lads went into the meeting on Wednesday the mood was predominantly one of anger, bitterness and frustration. "We have been sold down the line," was the most frequent comment.

One black worker summed up the mood: "I just feel pig sick walking back into this place this morning."

Everything has been ripe for a real battle. Cowley was solid as a rock. Workers were ready, confident and determined.

Today, however, as they went back into the factory, many workers looked like they had been physically winded by the outcome of events. Some seemed despondent and temporarily demoralised.

But what also overwhelmingly came out from the mass meetings was that thing would never be the same again at the plant.

Workers had just got a sniff of the blood this time, but the gloves are off. Management won't be able to get away with anything like they did before.

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