

# Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

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20p

# THATCHER'S MADHOUSE

Thatcher's monetarist policies have boomeranged disastrously. They have destroyed the jobs of millions of workers.

But far from keeping down public spending, as the Tories hoped, their savage deflation has actually pushed up government spending.

Every unemployed worker is now costing the government £4,380 a year. This is the shocking figure published by the Manpower Services Commission last week.

On the basis of 2.84 million unemployed—that is, slightly under the present official figure of 2.98 million—this adds up to a monstrous loss of £12,447 million a year.

That is the cost in money terms of the Tories' policies of industrial sabotage.

It represents the MSC's calculation of the cost of unemployment and supplementary benefits, together with the loss of income tax, national insurance contributions and indirect taxes (like VAT).

In reality, the real figures must be even higher. If unregistered workers (particularly women and young people) and those on special "job saving" schemes like YOPS are included, the real unemployment figure would be well over 4 million.

But these are only figures. The statistics

## Every lost job costs us £84 per week

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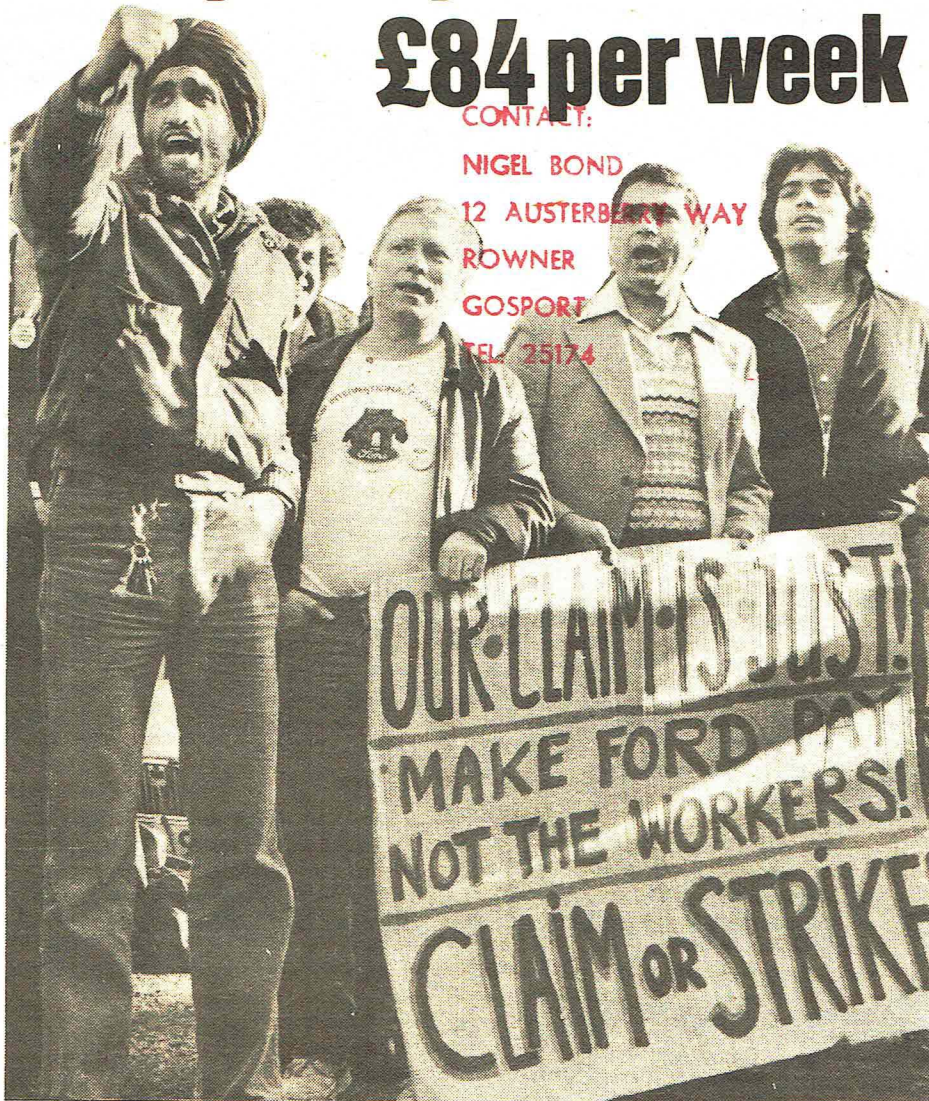
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Ford workers demand an end to sacrifices

Photo: Carlos Augusto (IFL)

## 4.5 million workers earn less than £90 per week

cannot measure the suffering of workers: increased tension and sickness; additional suicide cases; the broken marriages; and the suffering of children.

The insanity of Tory policies is clear. The total cost of keeping

each extra worker unemployed is estimated by MSC to be £84 a week. Yet about 8% of employed men and 40% of employed women workers earn less than this!

Thatcher, on behalf of the bosses, has presided

over the catastrophic decline of British industry. Thatcher's ministers are continually calling for more sacrifices from the workers.

Every day the Tory

Continued on back page



Denning about twenty years ago. Whereas most people retire at sixty-five, he has gone on...and on...and on...

## DENNING OVERRULES ELECTORATE

In yet another blatantly political judgement, Lord Denning has thrown into question the whole basis of local government democracy, and has challenged the right of Labour authorities to carry out their policy mandates.

Lord Denning and the two other Appeals Court Judges have declared the subsidised transport policy of the Labour-controlled Greater London Council to be illegal.

In the House of Commons, Thatcher congratulated the Tory-controlled Bromley council for bringing the action against the GLC, but workers will be outraged at the decision, which only reinforces their generally-held view that the judiciary are always hostile to the labour movement, and that they represent the ruling class no less than the Tory Party itself.

Denning described the action of the GLC as "arbitrary and unfair" and the implication of the decision is that all public transport should be run on business lines, ie without subsidies. But if that were implemented, London Transport fares would rise by 200 or 300 per cent, and the same rises would follow in many of the other Metropolitan areas where a similar public transport system operates.

In fact the present GLC transport subsidies are no greater in real terms than they were in 1975. The press have also speculated on the possibility of bankruptcy and surcharge proceedings being taken against the Labour councillors.

The labour movement must protest against this

Establishment stonewalling of a Labour mandate, and the GLC should stand firm on their policy. The Labour Party fought the May election with their transport policy as the main plank in their manifesto.

Hundreds of thousands of workers voted for Labour on the strength of that. The transport unions, TGWU, NUR and ASLEF enthusiastically supported the Labour campaign in the election. They should also add their weight to the protests.

Lord Denning has taken it upon himself to decide what part of a manifesto can be implemented and what part cannot: "A manifesto issued by a political party in order to get votes has not to be regarded as a gospel. It was not a covenant. Many electors did not vote for the manifesto, they voted for the party. When a party was returned to power it should consider what it was best to do what was practical and fair."

So there you have it! It is not the electorate, but the whim of eighty-year-old judges that should decide what an elected authority

By John  
Pickard

CONTINUED  
ON BACK PAGE

# KICK THE TORIES OUT!

# RIGHT-WING TRY NEW WITCH-HUNT

The right wing of the Labour Party have begun a frenzied attack upon the left and upon the 'Militant' in particular.

The Manifesto Group of MPs wrote to the NEC calling for the candidature of Pat Wall in Bradford North to be rejected and for the expulsion of 'Militant' supporters. Their frenzy reached new heights last week when at the first hurdle, the

organisation sub-committee, these proposals were defeated.

A flood of letters, resolutions and telegrams from Labour Parties, Trade Unions and Shop Stewards Committees had deluged Walworth Road before the meeting, protesting about the Manifesto letter. This gives just a glimpse of the rank and file hostility to a purge.

Now the right have turned their attention to Michael Foot. In perfect chorus with almost the entire Tory Press, they are baying for his blood, not because of his dress, but

because the party leader seems to have responded to the overwhelming wishes of the rank and file in setting his face against expulsions.

It is clear from the manner of the attack, that the expulsion of 'Militant' would have been a prelude for a general attack upon all the gains made by the party rank and file. At the same NEC meeting that threw out the witch-hunt proposals, the right wing also unsuccessfully tried to resurrect their own rejected formula for the election of the party leader.

They would have gone on further, if they had won

that, to reverse the reselection and other changes fought for and won over the years. In the end, it would not just have been 'Militant' supporters who were denied their democratic rights, but thousands of other lefts who would have been ejected from the party.

What has infuriated the right wing is the dawning realisation that times have changed in the Labour Party. They are no longer like the Roman generals who could punish mutinous armies by taking out every tenth man for summary execution. They no longer have automatic sway over the entire party: the ranks of the Labour Party have won the right to elect their own 'officers' and it is a right they will not give up.

However the issue is not dead yet. It has been reported that the right are preparing for a show-down at the full NEC and the candidature of Pat Wall remains to be endorsed.

Right-wing MPs are still threatening defection and there has been such a steady

stream of backstabbers over the last few weeks—leaving at intervals with almost military precision—that it is clear that many 'Labour' MPs have already taken the decision to betray the party.

There should be no mistake about it—many on the right would rather destroy the Labour Party than allow it to move permanently to the left and have already laid their plans accordingly.

Many on the right would rather destroy the Labour Party than allow it to move permanently to the left

The policies of the right have failed. They drove thousands of party members away in the 1960s and 1970s, and they paved

the way for Thatcher between 1974 and 1979. To the right-wing, every critical factory worker who now joins the party is an 'infiltrator', every housewife with a point of view is a 'Trot' with a hit-list.

It is precisely because of their complete incapacity to stand up to serious debate and criticism that the right are trying to resort to manoeuvres, expulsions and splits to overcome the move to the left.

The rank and file of the Labour Party must remain vigilant, and ready to oppose any new witch-hunts with the utmost vigour. No doubt trade unions, wards, women's sections, young socialist branches and constituencies will raise their voices through resolutions, letters and so on, against any threat of expulsions or threats to debar 'Militant' supporters from being Parliamentary candidates.

The ranks of the Labour Party have had enough of McCarthyism. There will be no going back to the purges of the 1950s.

## NEC—Young Socialists under attack

The meetings of Labour's NEC sub-committees, have clearly shown that the right wing are preparing an all-out assault on the party's youth wing, the Labour Party Young Socialists.

At the first meeting of the youth committee there was an attempt to unseat Joan Maynard, a well respected left winger, as chairman. Joan Maynard won by just one vote. There was then heated discussion on the recommended budget for the LPYS in 1982.

Labour's youth have a proud record on the left of the party, consistently fighting for socialist policies, and the right are enraged at their political stand.

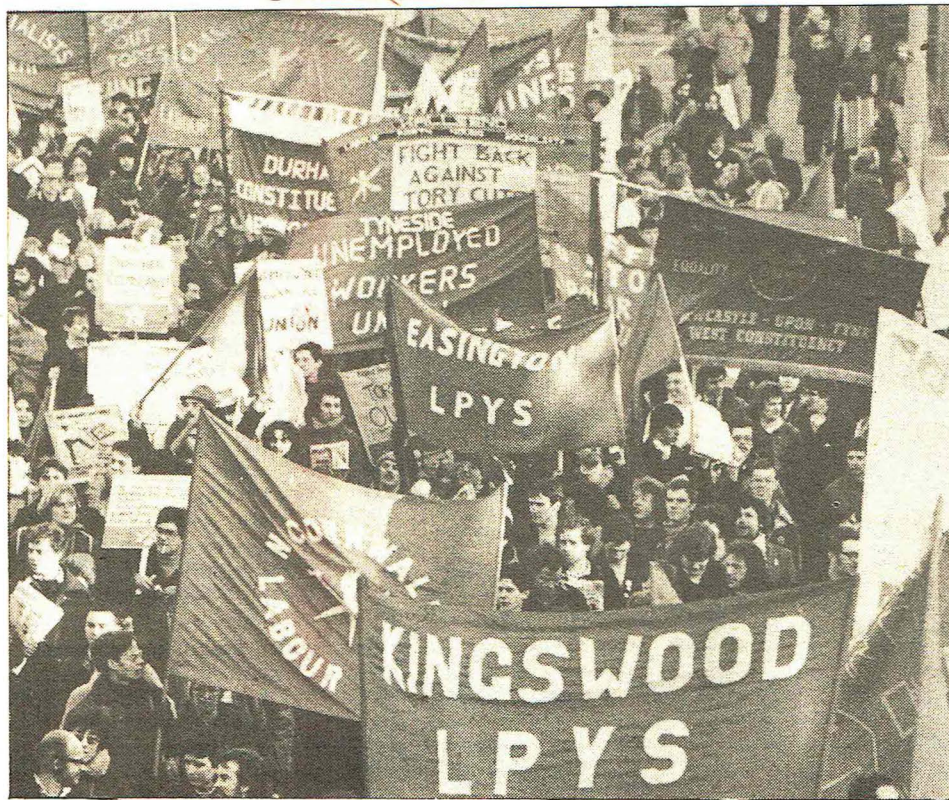
Unable to win any support for their own right wing policies in the LPYS they are intent on using every organisational trick in the book to chain down the youth movement.

It is this blatant political reasoning rather than any bogus economic considerations that lies behind the attempt of the right wing to cut the budget allocation for next year. As Frank Allaun put it, the arguments of the right showed that they wanted to smash the Young Socialists.

John Golding MP, made this clear when he accused the youth organisation of being a vehicle for the Militant tendency.

Springing to the defence of the party's youth, Dennis Skinner said that he, too, was unhappy with the budget proposals—he thought they were a paltry sum when you considered the appalling level of youth unemployment and the job that the LPYS had to do in recruiting young people to Labour.

Although the budget proposals were approved by the youth committee, the right



The Young Socialists have played a very prominent part in Labour's recent demonstrations. At Glasgow and Liverpool, over 10,000 marched behind the LPYS banners. At a local level, the YS branches are often the most energetic and active recruiting agents for the Party.

wing have made it clear that they will fight it every inch of the way. They will undoubtedly mount a new attack when the Finance and General Purposes Committee meets to ratify the proposals on November 23rd.

The tremendous campaigning work undertaken by Labour's youth movement over the last ten years has produced an enormous fund of support and goodwill in the wider movement, and any attacks will meet fierce resistance. The NEC and its Finance and General Purposes committee will undoubtedly be bombarded with resolutions defending the LPYS and pressing for endorsement of the budget proposals.

■ The right-wing offensive against the left was also

carried into the Press and Publicity Committee. Frank Allaun, the previous Chairman, was opposed by the right wing's nominee Alan Hadden from the Boilermakers union. The vote was tied at 8 votes for each candidate.

All the right-wing members of the Committee had turned up and if Neil Kinnock from the left had appeared at the meeting Frank Allaun would surely have survived the challenge. Now it will be decided by the full NEC meeting.

The rank and file of the Party should be alerted. The Right want to establish a total grip on the Party's press and publicity. This would be disastrous, because the Labour Party's political broadcasts, leaflets and so on would probably be

indistinguishable from the SDP.

The hostility towards the left was even extended to take in 'Labour Weekly', which John Golding described as not a Party paper, but a "faction of the party paper." It is clear that the Right Wing wish to cease the publication of Labour Weekly because it reflects Party policy rather than slavishly echoing their policies.

The right after all, would not lose out. Their mouthpiece is the Tory Fleet Street press. But it is a scandal nevertheless that a mighty party like the Labour Party should not have an organ of its own. Party members must be mobilised to resist the wrecking activities of the Right Wing on this and other issues.

## LABOUR'S RANKS OPPOSED TO PURGE

At a meeting of the executive committee of Ebbw Vale CLP last week delegates overwhelmingly rejected the attempt of the right wing to launch a witch-hunt within the movement.

The issue was raised by the YS delegate, Mike Markey, who explained that great concern had been expressed in the YS branch over the attempt of the Manifesto Group to launch a witch-hunt, in particular calling for the expulsion of 'Militant' supporters and calling for the NEC not to endorse the candidature of Pat Wall in Bradford.

Mike pointed out that those Manifesto MPs had the cheek to question the loyalty of 'Militant' supporters while threatening in the next breath to leave the party and go to the SDP!

### Resolutions shower NEC

In the days leading up to the NEC organisation sub-committee that considered the letter from the Manifesto Group, many sections of the movement discussed the letter and the expulsions that it proposed. Overwhelmingly, the mood of the Party was to oppose new bans and proscriptions.

Brighton Labour Party, comprising the Pavilion and Kempton Constituencies passed a resolution opposing a witch-hunt. Similar motions were passed at Newcastle Central CLP, at Sunderland South and Sunderland North, the latter two also agreeing to invite a speaker to put the

views of Militant to the constituency.

Without any votes against, the CLP EC agreed to send a letter to the National Executive containing the following points:

- condemning the undemocratic attitudes expressed by the Manifesto Group in their letter to the NEC.
- demanding that the NEC oppose all bans, proscriptions and expulsions from the party.
- defending the right of CLPs to choose their own parliamentary candidate.
- defending the right of 'Militant' supporters and others to put their views forward in a democratic fashion in the movement.

Before it had been agreed to send this letter, the meeting had been angered by remarks made by one of the Labour Party regional organisers about "bedsitters, trots, neo-communists" and so on, which he was forced to withdraw.

Many telegrams were sent to Walworth Road protesting against the Manifesto group, over forty, we understand, from Scotland alone.

But trade union branches and shop stewards committees also took a stand on the issue. For example, a delegation of Boilermakers from the Sunderland district went to see their national officials in Newcastle to state their objection to any right wing hounding of Labour Party members.

By Militant Reporters

## Crosby By-Election

By Frances Murphy, Crosby LPYS

# WILLIAMS' WASHED-OUT POLICIES

Butcher by name and nature, the Tory candidate in Crosby follows proudly in the tradition of Graham Page who supported whipping girl offenders and sending immigrants out of the country. He is in favour of capital punishment and an ardent supporter of Thatcher. He can be proud of Sefton Tory controlled council which has enthusiastically chopped education presumably to help the nine public schools already in

existence in Crosby alone.

By contrast, "Shirley Temple of Crosby", darling of the media, appears to be the candidate of sweet light and reasonableness, compared to the extremists of left and right as she calls them, heralded onto the streets of Crosby to the cheering and fanfare of the common man. But does she really speak for the ordinary person?

On education, for instance, she herself speaks of the 93% of children in state schools, yet as Minister for Education she was responsible in the last Labour government for the greatest single cuts in education.

The Social Democrats tried to blame the failure of the last Labour government on the left wing of the



Williams' "moderate" policies paved the way for Thatcher.

Labour Party, on Benn and Militant supporters, when people like Williams were in the Cabinet. As her election literature points out, she was not only Education Secretary, but prices secretary, and it was her kind of 'moderate' policies that led to a massive rise in prices, a 5% pay freeze and a rise to 1½ million unemployed. No wonder

this 'vote winner' lost her safe Labour seat in Stevenage!

The Labour Party must answer the lies of the Tories, the Social Democrats and the press and pin point the need for socialist policies. There was a 30.4% vote for Labour in Crosby in the General Election with a Marxist candidate, and that is even in

an area with 62.8% of the population non-manual, professional or managerial.

More than ever, socialist policies are needed even in an area like Crosby, especially for the youth. The youth unemployment rate is increasing dramatically and there are virtually no facilities.

Tory cuts have meant the swimming baths are no longer open in the morning. Of course, this doesn't affect those with private swimming pools. One homeless YS member was told to go to the Salvation Army, as the waiting list for single people was two years long in Crosby.

There is no shortage of facilities if you can pay, however. You can yacht on the marina, play squash or tennis at a private members

club, or join the West Lincs golf club, if you have been to the right school, and you know the right people to fill in your references. Meanwhile the workers of Waterloo Seaforth and Milands, can no longer use the pitch and put which is being closed down.

The YS offered a debate with the Tories who offered a five aside match instead. The Young Liberals didn't even reply, presumably because they have no policies. Better to be an extremist demanding a guaranteed job for all school leavers, an end to exploitation on YOPs, a 35 hour week, a roof over your head, and cheap leisure facilities than a moderate without two policies to rub together!

## MIRROR REFUSES REPLY

In a prominent editorial on October 26th, the Daily Mirror, so-called 'Labour' paper, published a vicious editorial against the Militant, suggesting that the Left was "costing the party the votes of thousands of its ordinary, decent supporters", and calling for the expulsion of Militant supporters.

In the editorial the Mirror also repeated some of the bitter innuendo of the ultra-right. We reprint below a letter sent by the editor of Militant to the editor of the Mirror. Needless to say, that democratic paper has not printed it, or even acknowledged it.

26 October 1981

Dear Editor,

The Daily Mirror, (Comment, 26 October) repeats the lies and slanders of the rest of the Tory press when it alleges that Militant is "financed by large anonymous loans (the biggest interest free) and the 'donations' of its members."

We do not have "members", "Militant" is a newspaper, not an organisation. Our supporters are all individual members of the Labour Party. Nor are we part of "revolutionary international groups."

Moreover, there are no "large anonymous loans" made to "Militant". Your Editorial tries, through innuendo to give the completely false impression that "Militant" is financially backed by some sinister force. Our funds, come from our supporters. We do not receive a penny from the CIA, the KGB, Colonel Gaddafi, or from big business.

As you are well aware, the loans to "Militant" come from WIR Publications Ltd., which in effect acts as a "collecting box" for our supporters' donations. This was fully explained in our statement to the Labour Party last year, which was accepted by the National Executive.

Details of donations are printed every week in our paper, and our accounts are open to public inspection at Companies House. Why does not the "Daily Mirror" publish details of amounts it has "anonymously" paid to right wing Labour MPs and leaders for articles in the Mirror?

In attacking "Militant" you remain true to form in defending the "mixed economy" (ie capitalism) and Labour's right wing who defended a system which has put 3 million working people on the dole.

Labour's right wing, backed by "Mirror" writers like Joe Haines who was Harold Wilson's right-hand man, supported policies under the 1974-79 Labour government which led to the catastrophe of Thatcher coming to power. It was the rejection of these discredited policies, as well as of those of the Tories, which led to the victory of the Liberals at Croydon.

Socialist policies are the way to defeat the Tories and their cousins, the SDP/Liberal Alliance. The policies of Joe Haines, the Daily Mirror, and the Labour Party's right wing are grist to the mill of Labour's enemies.

Labour Party members understand this, and that is why they are turning to the policies of "Militant". For the same reason, the Daily Mirror's call for a witch-hunt against "Militant" and its supporters will receive as little support now as they did in your previous campaigns against us.

Yours faithfully  
Peter Taaffe,  
Editor, Militant.



## Pat Wall addresses Labour meeting

"Had I lost at the reselection conference I would have congratulated the winner and accepted the decision."

By  
Pete Watson

**"No-one can deny the depth of the crisis we face." With these words the Bradford North Labour Party candidate, Pat Wall, opened his speech at an Eccleshill branch Labour Party public meeting on unemployment.**

He went on to explain how in some ways the crisis was worse than the 1930s. In 1932 there was only a fifth of school leavers in Bradford looking for work as there are today. Now it was impossible to move to find work as his father did in the 1930s.

The Tory government

followed the theory that weakening trade union rights and increasing unemployment would strengthen the owners of industry and bring down public spending. The only result however was to increase public spending on dole money putting aside the lost taxes and production of those out of work.

Working people are robbed every day of their lives. Taxes and pay restraint only hit the working-class. Yet the Tories have the cheek to blame us when the bosses

have refused to invest over the last few decades!

A few years ago the Bairds factory in Bradford was shut with the loss of 3,000 jobs despite protests from Bradford Trades Council and Labour Parties. This decision was taken by people not elected and who probably had never been to Bradford. The alternative economic strategy rightly called for more control over big business but it requires a socialist plan to solve the problems. Immediately we need a 35 hour week and early retirement to offset unemployment.

The SDP had gained support mainly from the middle class whose jobs have been decimated. Many support the SDP because it seems to be a party of change. Change is needed and that can only come about by a return to those policies that built the Labour Party.

The other platform speaker, Arthur Hare from

the British Pensioners Trade Union Action Association, called for support for the Pensioners Charter that gave a decent dignified standard of living to pensioners and a petition was circulated calling for the ending of fuel standing charges.

John Barker (Bolton branch LP) reported on how his Labour Party had increased several times over in membership over the last few years. He expressed anger at how the press had been used in the past weeks to throw mud at the selection of Pat Wall rather than have a debate about policy within the labour movement itself.

In summing up, Pat Wall pointed to his long record in the Labour Party showing a letter of thanks from the now Lord Sefton for Party work done in 1951. "Had I lost at the reselection conference," he said, "I would have congratulated the winner and accepted the decision."

# YOUTH ON THE MARCH

By Phil Duffy  
Dublin Labour Youth

Labour Youth, the youth section of the Irish Labour Party, held its first demonstration on Saturday, 31 October.

It was undoubtedly a historic occasion.

Over 500 from both North and South marched through Dublin in a marvellously successful demonstration.

For the first time in living memory, the Labour Party took to the streets—and brought together young socialists from North and South of the border, Protestant and Catholic, in a socialist campaign.

The demonstration, unanimously backed by the seventeen trade unions affiliated to the Labour Party, was led by John Carroll, President, and Michael Mullin, General Secretary of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union; Michael Brennan, General Secretary EETPU, and Michael D Higgins, Chairman of the Labour Party.

Starting in Parnell Square with a street theatre of the trial of Rackrent Graball, the notorious profiteer, marchers then gathered behind the band of the ITGWU as it wound its way down O'Connell Street.

A coffin was carried painted with the slogan 'Bury Capitalism.'

Chanting was almost continuous as demonstrators successfully appealed to young people to join the march as it passed by.

The overwhelming impression: young people angry, in a fighting mood, but also enjoying themselves.

Over 100 had come from the North. One Belfast YS member said: "I can now see how workers can be united around a bold campaign without sectarianism."

A Ballymena YS member said simply: "You wouldn't see anything like this in the North. The sooner we get a Labour Party of our own, the better."

Contingents came from Galway, Cork and Limerick, from Greystones, and Bray. For many it was the first taste of the real meaning of a national youth section.

This march was a vindication of the bold and audacious approach urged upon the youth section by the supporters of Marxism on the National Youth Committee.

To the sceptics we can only say: the proof of the pudding is in the eating. This is the way Labour Youth can be built.



Derek Spiers (Report)

# IRELAND: Youth show the way

Michael D Higgins, Chairman of the Irish Labour Party, who marched on the demo, welcomed Labour Youth's initiatives:

"It was a marvellously successful and important demonstration, and we're all indebted to Labour Youth for organising it. "The whole future of the Labour Party, if it is to move away from being just a small parliamentary party and be a viable force, means it needs to recruit members and earn respect for itself through leading public support on important public issues. And there's no more important public issue than the issue of unemployment!"

John Carroll, President of the Irish Transport & General Workers Union, told 'Militant':

"It was very successful. I thought it was very encouraging and it showed that young people are anxious to get involved if they can understand that the Labour leadership will listen to them.

"I was very uplifted by it myself and I think the public who watched these young people passing by must have themselves been impressed and realised that at long last something is stirring.

"Young people in the trade union movement have a special obligation to be involved in politics.

"The policies which the government of the day and the employers impose on industry reflect in turn on the wages and conditions of employment they enjoy and on job security. So if they don't have political involvement how can they shape their own destiny?"

"It's important that young trade unionists should be out there kicking with their right foot and the right foot is being part of the Labour-working class movement."



Derek Spiers (Report)

Headed by the ITGWU band (above top) Labour Youth makes their presence felt on Dublin's streets. Fighting for a future (above) placards declare socialist unity, North and South, against unemployment and Tory politicians.

## Fighting traditions of Connolly and Larkin revived by Labour Youth rally against unemployment

Young workers, students and unemployed youth from all over Ireland have served notice on the capitalist class:

**We will no longer put up with the intolerable conditions forced on us by the bosses' system.**

This was the message from the march and rally which were the high point of Labour Youth's campaign against unemployment.

In the South 35,700 youth

under 19 are officially on the dole, along with 18,500 in the North.

A massive 250,000 people will be out of work in Ireland as a whole by the end of the year. The capitalist system can offer no way out of this catastrophic situation.

We have not based our campaign on feeble appeals to the bankrupt system of private enterprise to do something about unemployment, but on bold socialist policies.

So successful was the rally that it had to be moved into the large auditorium in Liberty Hall, the ITGWU's headquarters.

It was a fitting place, as Labour Youth chairman, Mick Martin, said. The campaign showed that Labour Youth were rekindling the tradition of Connolly and Larkin, founders of both the ITGWU and the Irish Labour Party.

Lucy McShane brought greetings from the Belfast Young Socialists. To great

applause, she said that she hoped it would not be long before Labour Youth came to Belfast to march on a similar demonstration.

Speakers from the floor, representing many areas of the Thirty-Two and the Six Counties, stressed the same problems of workers and youth—and the need for class unity and socialist policies.

Report by Brian Hanney, Galway West Labour Youth

# Move again Thatcher!

"Move to find work" said Thatcher last year. Thatcher herself had moved out of Grantham, Lincolnshire, and 2,000 Labour Party and trade union members marched on 31 October in protest at the 8% unemployment that has befallen her home town.

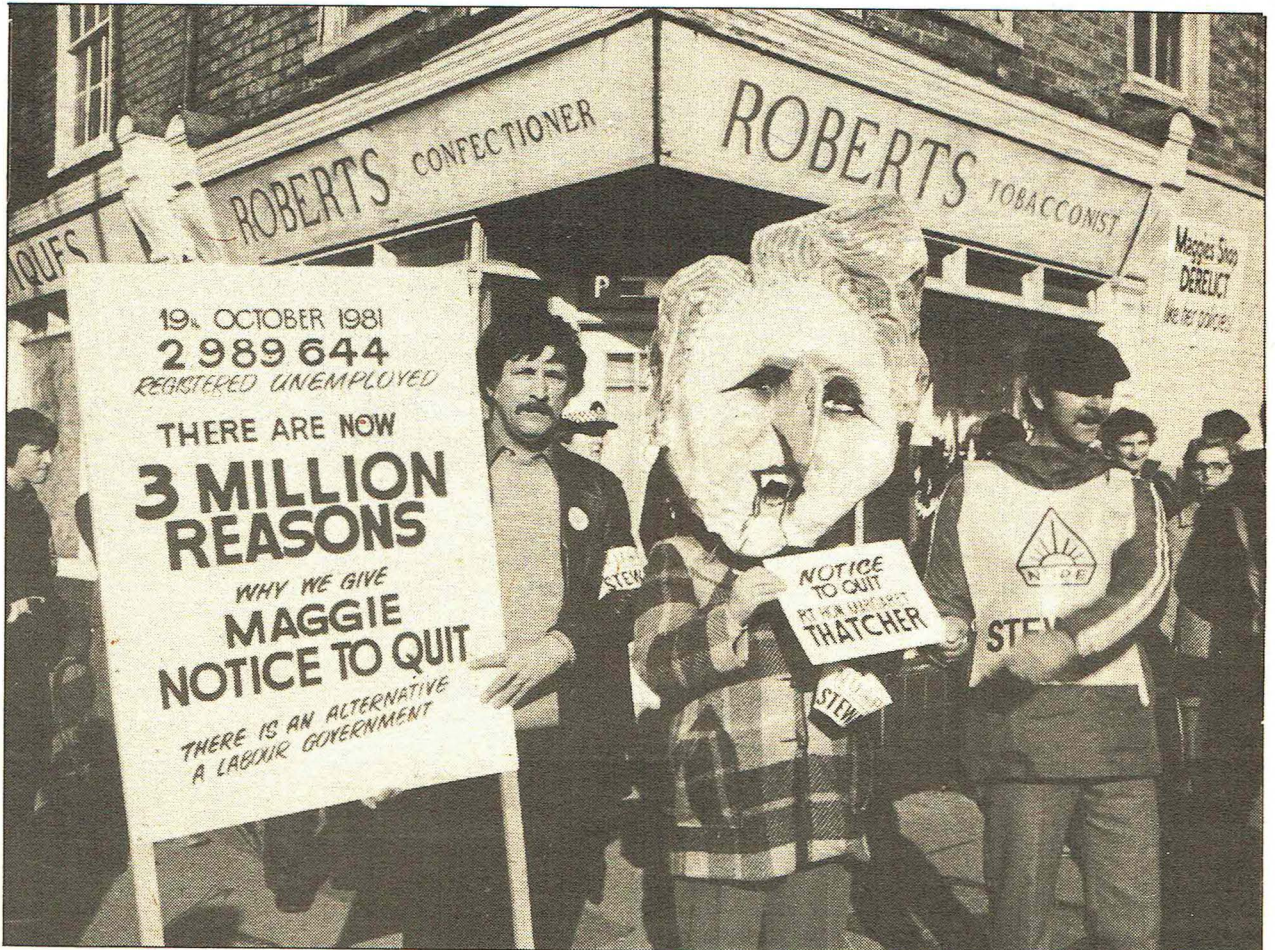
Cat calls and boos greeted the sight of Thatcher's birth place, a seedy, run-down corner shop as derelict as her policies. The march then proceeded to Wyndham Park for the speeches.

Michael Foot spoke of the future of British Leyland, where the possible loss of half a million jobs in the car industry would be the biggest economic disaster brought about by this Tory government, and "the responsibility will be laid squarely at the door of Number Ten."

Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolsover, made an amusing speech which captured the imagination of the crowd whilst underlining the gravity of the situation. "The Tories have given back £15 billion to the top tax payers, and when Labour is in power", Dennis promised, "we'll look after our class", as they have theirs.

The most pleasing aspect of the day was the interest shown by some of the town's youth in the policies and activities of the LPYS. So perhaps there will be a greater awareness among young Grantham people in the future. And unlike Thatcher's it will be a socialist awareness!

Report by Mike Noon and Cindy Rimer; Photo by Nik Money; all Grantham LPYS



## One step from slavery

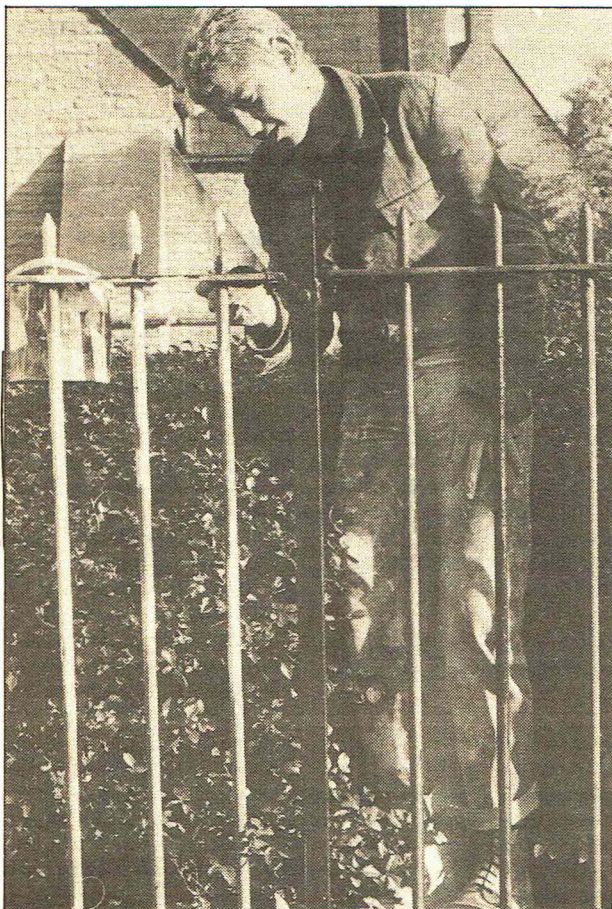


Photo: Denis Doran.

Painting a church railings on YOPs scheme in Jarrow.

**YOPS, and STEP, and WEEP, a bewildering variety of initials covering a number of different schemes.**

**They've all got the same result, though, keeping young workers "off the streets" but without giving them a real job with real training and certainly not giving a living wage!**

**Chris, an LPYS member in Nottingham, tells of his own experiences on a**

**STEPS (Special Temporary Employment Programme) scheme.**

**I started the scheme as an employee of the Community Task Force in October 1980, with a contract of one year.**

In the beginning I was told I would be doing barges and boats up on a canal. When I started on the Monday with two other people, we were given one pair of leggings and no other sort of work-clothes for what was to come.

The Supervisor told all

three of us to go down to the bottom of the site and watch what was going on. What I saw was unbelievable!

Two people were on the edge of the canal, one on each side. There was a metal shuffle formed into a kind of box; on each side of it were two ropes.

Each person on the canal edge would have to grab hold of the ropes when the shuffle had filled with water and sunk to the bottom. When they pulled it up, it would be filled with sludge and debris like broken bottles.

My job was to wait with a wheelbarrow on the side of the bank. I then had to help them lift the sludge into the barrow. The stuff smelled horrible and splashed all over the place, going into your hair and face.

It was very dangerous because it was very slippery on the bank itself and you would lose your balance. Occasionally I took this barrow full of sludge to two more people further on up the bank and they had to pick the barrow up and tip it on to a big skip.

Sometimes you had to climb into the skip and spread the sludge out with a spade, because when they tipped the barrow in, the sludge would just get stuck in one place.

After a few weeks the senior supervisor at the office could see we were all having difficulties, so at last he came up with an idea.

He got two blokes to build a dam, which was completed after two weeks, but which in fact made things worse.

Each night, the pumps would be turned on and each morning the canal would be drained, with the dam on one side holding the

water back. This just left about four feet of sludge.

But the dam leaked and water came in from the other side. We had a platform no bigger than six foot in length and three foot wide, just on the edge of the canal, where we had to stand leaning over as much as possible to get the stuff into the wheelbarrow.

This went on for three months whilst I was there. One day one of the senior supervisors told me to take a wheelbarrow up to a church, giving me instructions to dig three holes, nine feet deep and about four feet wide.

He gave orders that it be completed in one day so they would find the drainage.

While I was having my dinner, the supervisor came down and asked me how I was going on. I thought, "anything to stay away from that canal," so I said "all right," and he told me I was on there permanently.

What a relief! After two weeks of being there with another lad, we were told to take every pew out of the church. All we had to tackle the job with were two crow bars and a hammer. We were then told not to damage the pews because the church people were going to sell them.

After a bit of hassle from the supervisor, who told us things weren't being done quickly enough, he brought another couple of lads who like us didn't have any joinery knowledge.

An architect who visited quite frequently and was very friendly said our bosses were absolute idiots expecting miracles from nineteen year old unskilled labourers.

Later we were moved to another church down at

Radford. When we started at this church, we found there were numerous jobs—painting, decorating, plastering. I managed to get on some plastering with a mate.

The first supervisor was a very decent bloke, and he had the same idea as nearly all the other people who had been moved to this church—that you were there for one year and you took your time to a certain extent to learn some skills.

A few months later, though, they got a new supervisor in charge who thought he knew everything. In fact he knew very little.

Within a month he had got rid of one of my mates, accusing him of not working, when he had just unloaded his pick-up van full of cement bags. My mate had lost his patience with him, hit him and two hours later was sacked.

But that shows how easy it was to lose control with the new supervisor because he was on your back all the time and we just tried to keep out of his way.

In April, when yet another new bloke came, who turned out to be a right slave driver, things really started hotting up. Once, I was making the tea at five minutes to three when he asked me what I was doing and then told me to get all the others to come in.

He announced, "Right, I'm your new supervisor. You start work dead on eight o'clock. 15 minutes break in the morning. Half hour dinner. 15 minutes break in the afternoon, starting at 3 o'clock. Finish at 4.30 pm."

My mate replied, "I'm leaving, I'm not being made to work like a slave for that money."

The supervisor's reply was to say, "You know where the dole queue is if you are not satisfied." Eventually I was the only one left at the church who started there only months before.

A few months after I was scraping a mould and talking to my mate, when little Hitler himself arrived and told us, "Next time I hear you talking before tea break, I will send you home."

I replied, "Well surely if the work is getting done you can talk." "No," he said, "there is a time to talk and that is tea break, not until."

When he was out of the room, my mate and I started talking and going on about him. But he came in, saw us talking and sent me home. I was given a written warning and also stopped half a day's pay.

Eventually I couldn't bear it any more and I would have ended up getting the sack, so I handed my notice in.

I had done ten months, the worst ten months of working experience, and if I was offered another chance of going on one, I wouldn't. That is the same view as a hell of a lot of other people on that scheme.

What's really needed is an absolute minimum is a union to tackle the rotten pay, the non-existent safety conditions and the slave drivers who make our lives a misery.

**Come to the YOPs Trade Union rights conference 21 November—see page 1.**



## For the time being...

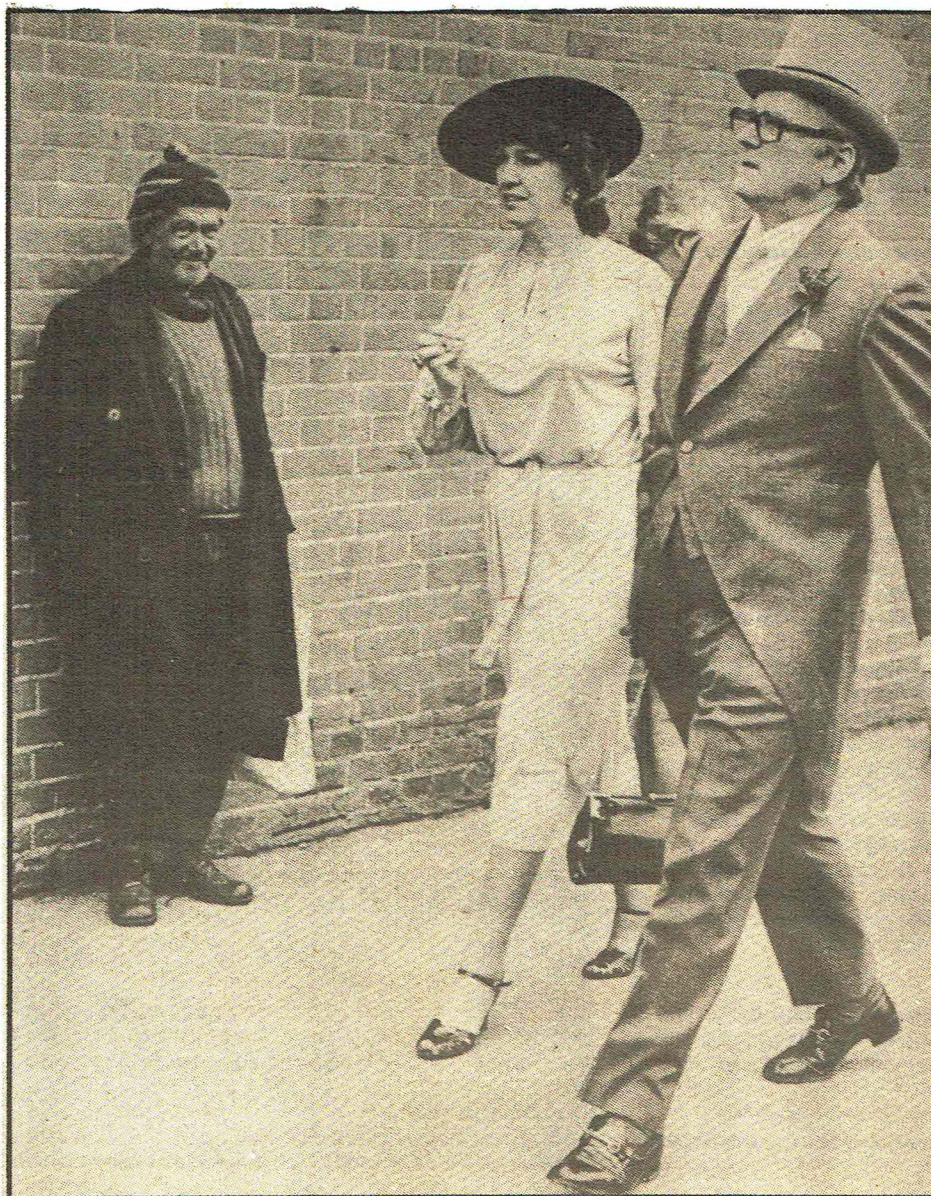
How many times has the "temporary" Prevention of Terrorism Act been renewed for another year? Most people have lost count. Now, Tory Home Secretary, Whitelaw, has just renewed another "temporary" law, also extremely dangerous in its implications. The Imprisonment (Temporary) Provisions Act was passed a year ago during the national Prison Officers' dispute. It allows the government to set up prisons in army camps, to give soldiers "all the powers, authority, protection and privileges" of police constables, and allows the government rather than magistrates to decide on bail. It also removes prisoners' rights. During the dispute, Whitelaw went back to Parliament every month to get approval for using the Act's draconian powers. But the clause allowing the Act to lapse after a year has been countered by the Tories activating another clause allowing for its extension for another 12 months. The labour movement should be alerted to the prolongation of yet another "temporary" threat to democratic rights.

## Eating their words

Eighteen countries of "sub-Saharan Africa", one of the world's major regions, suffered a decline in per capita income during the 1970s. This is one of the areas of the South (code word for semi-colonial, underdeveloped lands) for which liberal Brandt-Report supporters in the North (codeword for developed, imperialist states) are calling for further economic aid. However, an IMF/World Bank report originally commissioned by Robert MacNamara, the Bank's retiring chief, contained (according to one well-informed report) "many references to full-scale bribery, corruption, inefficient and ruthless dictatorships, and enormous misuse of resources..." Surprisingly for an official report it confirmed the unsurprising idea that World Bank/IMF aid "merely props up and encourages regimes and actually does more harm than good." Undaunted, IMF/World Bank officials came up with an effective answer: they suppressed the report.

## Iris woos Heath

Big business men, however, expect to be better informed than the rest of us. To improve their "intelligence", a number of private banks and financiers have set up the so-called International Reporting and Information Systems Holdings, based in the Netherlands, and code-named "Iris". As its American head, Iris's backers are hoping to recruit... Robert MacNamara! Iris will be sort of a private CIA, providing economic and political assessments of countries, institutions, and governments—although businessmen hope it will be more successful than the CIA (in view of its disastrous forecast about the "stability" of the Shah of Iran. No doubt its services will be rather expensive. And it is rumoured that Iris executives are trying to recruit none other than Ted Heath as its British figurehead for a reported salary of £50,000 a year. This should be a timely reminder that although opposed to the Thatcherites, "wets" like Heath are far from being on the same side as the workers.



Rich and poor 1981: Photo by John Sturrock (Network) from CIS Anti-Report

# Them and Us

## Unfair Shares

Judges mostly come from a rich, privileged background which they share with other top members of the ruling class. 'Unfair shares' has all the relevant facts about the judiciary. But it also gives graphic examples of class bias in the courts.

□ "A Brixton man who stole a 40p bar of chocolate was jailed for nine months. On appeal his sentence was reduced to four months." ('South London Press' 12.8.80)

□ Baronet Sir Hugo Setbright and 'former socialite' Victoria Ashton-Brooke were fined £75 for stealing a

dress gown from Marks and Spencer. Old Etonian and ex-Guards officer Sir Hugo asked the police to prevent publicity on his arrest. ('Daily Mail' 11.12.80)

Many of the examples given are heart-rending. They cannot fail to arouse burning anger at the inequalities of class society and the callous arrogance of those who uphold the system.

Example after example is given, on health, education, leisure, and particularly on the basic inequality of income and wealth. Key statistics are summarised:

□ Almost a quarter of the UK's wealth is owned by a mere one per cent of the adult population and 58%

is owned by 10%.

□ Almost two thirds of land is owned by only 2% of the population; meanwhile 1½ million families are waiting to be rehoused.

It is the cases—of extravagant, irresponsible, almost unbelievable wealth on the one side, and dire, humiliating poverty on the other—which primarily makes this pamphlet (based on 'Labour Research's' regular column) excellent ammunition for socialist speakers and campaigners.

'Unfair Shares: Rich and Poor in Britain Today,' published by Labour Research Department (36 pages/65p (80p post free).

## Handing out Pills

Pharmacists are highly qualified people. They could play a vital role in the National Health Service checking the effectiveness of drugs, counselling patients on harmful side-effects, helping to cut costs by advising doctors to prescribe generic drugs rather than expensive branded versions, and carrying out other research into the use and effectiveness of pharmaceutical products generally.

Mostly, however, pharmacists simply hand out drugs prescribed by doctors (except in a few highly specialised hospital or medical centres). Many pharmacists spend more time managing the chemist's general retail business than actually dispensing pharmaceuticals.

The severe limitations of pharmacists' present role are made clear in *Time For Change! Pharmacy and*

*Healthcare*, published by the Socialist Medical Association (30p from SMA, 9 Poland Street, London W1).

The main conclusions of the SMA pamphlet is that pharmacists' professional conditions should be radically improved by transforming them into a salaried service within the NHS.

That, as far as it goes, would probably be a step forward. But the pamphlet does not go to the root of the problem: control of the multi-million pound pharmaceutical industry by private multi-nationals who prefer to sell drugs through their own powerful advertising rather than have them dispensed through a planned, NHS pharmaceutical service.

The publications reviewed here, together with other socialist literature, are available from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

## Using the Media

*Get Yourself in the News* is intended as a guide for trade union and other activists. It gives advice on how to put over your point of view and the relevant facts to local newspapers, radio and television.

Published by the Birmingham branch of the National Union of Journalists, its aim—"to patch up relations between local reporters and the labour movement in the West Midlands"—may be somewhat utopian. It is the editors and ultimately the proprietors who decide what will be published, not that many journalists, unfortunately, identify themselves with the labour movement.

'Get Yourself in the News: Using the Media in the West Midlands' can be obtained (30p per copy or £1 for 4) from Charles Tremaine, NUJ Branch Secretary, 21 Coronation Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 7DE.

# Anti-report

The City is still prospering, with new areas of speculative profits being opened up all the time. In the decaying inner-city areas not so far away, unemployment, poverty and racial discrimination produced 1981's riots.

This is just one of the stark contrasts examined by the *CIS Anti-report 1981*.

Thatcher's economic policies have not achieved any of her main targets. But it is not the bosses and the wealthy few who are suffering.

*Anti-Report* documents the benefits of monetarism for the rich pariahs. It also spells out in facts and statistics the extent to which workers, especially young workers, women, blacks, and the unemployed have been hit by the Tories' savage deflation.

One section, *The Year in Figures*, sets out some of the material in useful tables and charts. Another, *The Year in Focus*, provides a brief chronology from October 1980 to September '81.

There are sections on Ireland, arms spending, and the crisis in local government. The presentation is agitational rather explanatory or theoretical (where *Anti-Report* is weak), but it includes a rich fund of factual material.

Excellent photographs are used very effectively to ram home the message.

*Anti-Report* (No. 29/30) is produced by Counter Information Services (£1.95 or £2.35 post free).

## Monitoring the State

Under a number of emergency laws, the RUC (Royal Ulster Constabulary) has a formidable array of legal powers available to it. It also has access to a wide variety of arms; which are also available to reserve officers both on and off duty.

These are just two aspects of the RUC's powers which are examined in the background paper, 'The RUC: A Sectarian Police Force', published in the latest *State Research Bulletin* (number 26).

This issue also has news items on the police chiefs' campaign for tougher "public order" legislation; the winding up of the Mounties' internal security operations in Canada; the police responses to the Scarmen enquiry; a review of the last nine months' banning of marches under the Public Order Act; and other developments.

State Research is an independent group of investigators who publish invaluable information on developments in state policy, particularly in relation to police, internal security, espionage and the military. They also regularly examine the links between these fields and big business and the right.

The bi-monthly bulletin is available from Independent Research Publications Ltd., 9 Poland Street, London W1 (£5 a year to individuals, £8 a year to organisations).

# 'OPEN PRISONS' FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Bad as the Youth Opportunities programme is, the government has another scheme which makes YOPS look like Paradise.

'Re-establishment Centres' so one of their pamphlets say, are to get you 'back in the working routine,' when you are feeling down on your luck. This gives the impression that they are voluntary, but often this is not the case.

In some cases a claimant is called to his or her local DHSS office, not to be informed of a job, but to be told to go and find work; an average amount of time given for this simple task being six weeks.

If you can't find a job or they feel you are not making 'sufficient effort' to find work, they may send you on a re-establishment course. That's what happened to me.

Whilst you are on the course you will receive your benefit. If however, there are no places at a local day centre you will be sent to a residential centre and here your weekly allowance will be cut to £6.40.



For this you will perform all sorts of interesting and useful tasks, such as brushing a yard, cutting a hedge or, best of all, shelling peas. You would be required to stay for anything between 6 and 13 weeks, your course being finished when they consider you are 're-established.' What criteria they have for this you are not told.

At 11pm every night, including weekends, it's lights out and you are sent to bed; having a drink in the Centre

Long term unemployment is bad enough—but you can be threatened with 'Re-establishment centres' too.

is punishable. In short, residential centres take on all the airs of an open prison.

Sleeping quarters are in a dormitory; there is enough room for a bed, a small locker and you. The door in these quarters slides open and shut so nowhere can you get privacy. If you say you don't want to attend a centre (and honestly would you?) your benefit is stopped.

The manager of the centre, when faced with the

argument that it is not people who need re-establishing for work, but work that needs re-establishing for people seemed quite baffled by the logic.

At the beginning of one week recently there were supposed to be six new arrivals at a residential centre; however only 2 turned up and one of those had disappeared the next morning. Far from being used to help people the system is being used to cut peoples' benefit.

People with no way of

defending themselves are being victimised. Even people who have volunteered are not allowed to leave once they get there (Note: no matter what your local office may tell you, there are no swimming pools at the centres).

**By a Macclesfield LPYS member who was sent to a re-establishment centre**

**MINERS  
NEED  
NEW  
LEADERSHIP**

For the last half century, the Durham area of the miners union (NUM) has been regarded as a moderate area. That is now changing.

Durham was formerly covered in pit heads—now it boasts less than twenty. The decline in the workforce has continued in relentless fashion.

Boldon Colliery was one pit where the Lodge unsuccessfully attempted to fight the closures. Nevertheless the echoes have been felt throughout the area NUM. The District Council recently agreed that all closures should be fought and that re-deployment to other pits should not be automatically allowed.

A miner from Boldon Colliery, told a Militant reporter about the feelings of men at his pit:

“A few of them say they'll vote Social Democrats 'cos the Labour Party done nothing for them. The Labour Party is split at the present, where you've got the left wing fighting the right wing and they think the SDP's going to be the new party. They're not quite sure what the real meaning of the SDP is.

“You've still got the majority of men who'll vote Labour 'cos they've voted Labour all their life and you've got those who'll say I'm not voting for none 'cos they've done nothing—and they are ones who might tend to vote for the SDP and say, well, its a new party.

“There's a lot of talk going on about who are they, why did they split away from the Labour Party—are these going to be the new ones who are going to do something for the working class.

“Main talk around the pit is the state of the NUM and the state of the coal mines. Men now are more worried about their jobs than anything else. With the threat of closures men are fighting amongst themselves to get a job at another colliery. Because if you don't get another job then you're looking forward to the dole.

“At the National Conference, resolutions were passed to say that if any colliery shuts we all come out. But Boldon is closing now so the men are only concerned with going to another pit. As far as fighting the Tory government, they are willing to fight, as long as they get a job first.

“A lot of men in the Durham area have said that they wish Arthur Scargill would lead the Durham area because then Boldon wouldn't be closing. 'Cos in a lot of opinions it's through the lack of interest of our own local area that the pit is closing.

“In this area there's a lack of leadership—a total lack of interest from our own leaders.”

## Office work threatens your health

“Office workers survival handbook: a guide to fighting health hazards in the office” is a complete review of the problems facing office workers: stress, noise, lighting, dangerous substances, and the effects of new technology.

40% of all workers (mainly women) are now employed in offices and this book gives an important insight into the modern reality of their work. Automation has increasingly made it more boring and repetitive, tying the worker to the pace of a machine.

In some cases workers are exposed to dangerous cancer-producing chemicals used in photocopiers. All this is a far cry from the image of 'the clerk with a quilled pen!

The numbers employed in offices has quadrupled in the last thirty years, from 10% of the workforce in 1950, and this together with the conditions they face, has meant a growing source of recruits for the trade union movement. Trade unionism in offices has doubled since the late 1960s.

Over the past 100 years offices have increasingly become the mirror images of factories and the drive to cut costs has meant the same trend towards automation and ignoring the problems of pollution and poison.

One of the most impor-



Unless taken up by trade unions, VDUs (such as above) can threaten jobs, eyesight and health.

“Office workers' survival handbook: a guide to fighting health hazards in the office” by BSSRS Publications. Price £3 (inc. p&p) from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

tant sections of the handbook is on 'new technology' and the hazards of working on Visual Display Units.

The first hazard is loss of jobs. At the British Standards Institute one third of typists lost their jobs with the introduction of VDU's. Saving money on staffing is always the employer's motive for introducing new technology.

Secondly there is a health hazard. VDU operators have complained of eye strain, headaches and

nausea.

Take this example: “Having done this work for a few months, I realised that my eyesight was affected. When I left work, I could hardly see across the road, although this used to wear off after a couple of hours.

“We all suffered with frequent headaches and carried aspirins around with us...But one girl went blind in one eye very suddenly. She went to the hospital and they asked her about her

work.

“They thought it probably contributed to her condition. She left the job and fortunately her sight returned. She didn't come back!”

Trade unions representing office workers, such as APEX, NALGO, CPSA, NATSOPA have negotiated 'new technology' agreements to preserve jobs and ensure that work on VDUs is limited. In offices where those agreements do not exist, staff can find

themselves working on VDUs for 7.5 hours per day, resulting in damage to their eyesight.

Other problems of VDU include stress, radiation and overheating. The handbook stresses that it is only through trade union action that the health of workers can be protected. When a VDU at Birmingham Aston University overheated and work became impossible, the staff stopped work, and non-union members joined the NALGO trade union. Emergency measures were immediately agreed, fans installed and two operators moved to a nearby room.

New technology has increased productivity immensely. At the Halifax Building, there has been a trebling of the workload but no new staff. Productivity amongst typists has increased by 600%. Their wages have not!

The handbook gives guidelines for safety in the office. It points out the basic need to cut hours not jobs. If a word processor can do eight hours work in 4 hours, then the VDU operator should only do 4 hours, then go home. This obviously is not in the employers' interests.

As the London Clerical branch of NATSOPA said “The employers tell us of the benefits that will come from new technology. But it's always from tomorrow. We want our jobs today”.

**By Barbara Humphries**

(NALGO London School of Economics)

# PASOK VICTORY:

## The beginning of the Greek revolution

1981 has seen renewed social upheavals throughout the capitalist world.

There have been the riots in Britain, attempted coup in Spain, the new movement of American labour and the French and Greek electoral earthquakes. As in 1974, the slump has jolted society and brought to the surface all its hidden contradictions.

For the workers' parties to win 60% of the votes is unprecedented even in the most industrially developed countries, let alone in a country like Greece, in which only 30% of the population are industrial workers. Only in Portugal in 1975 was this figure exceeded, but that was in circumstances in which the capitalist state had already disintegrated, the majority of the economy nationalised, and the press was in the hands of the workers' organisations.

But in Greece, this overwhelming victory was achieved in the teeth of fierce reactionary propaganda from the press and television, and on the basis of electoral registers which excluded the 18 to 21 year-olds and the hundreds of thousands of emigre workers, and were rigged to weight the votes against the urban areas.

The slogans of the cheering crowds "the people and PASOK in power" and "for change", and the programme of PASOK which includes the sliding scale of wages and pensions, a progressive income tax, reduced hours, a big increase in holidays, a free health service, nationalisation of the top ten families, the burning of police files, the democratisation of the trade union movement, the secularisation of the state and radical changes in foreign policy, all indicated the revolutionary significance of this result.

Reaction is paralysed. The bloodstained ogre of the Greek ruling class and its armed mercenaries does not dare to budge. In the past the Greek capitalist class met all attempts by the

workers to improve their lives with brute force, at the hands of the pre-war Metaxas dictatorship, and in the civil war of 1945 to 1949 in which one million people were slaughtered to prevent the victory of a Popular Front government.

The capitalists understood that, despite its liberal democratic programme, such a government resting on the armed force of the partisans and resistance fighters would be forced to establish a deformed workers' state, despite Stalin's deal with Churchill, in the same way as in Yugoslavia.

### Seven nightmare years

Following the civil war, the workers were subject to horrific police repression. When the workers between 1963 and 1967 tried to curb the excesses of the monarchy, the police and the army chiefs, their movement ended in a new military defeat at the hands of the colonels, who prematurely put into operation the King's contingency plans for a coup.

For seven nightmare years, the workers languished under the jackboot; but for all its brutality the Junta lacked a social base. In 1974, faced with the crisis in Cyprus and the threat of war with Turkey, rather than wait to be overthrown by the mobilised population, the colonels packed their bags and fled.

The whole adventure only confirmed the fears of the most farsighted representatives of the bourgeoisie that the colonels' haste and crudeness were "liable to lead to communism" (to quote Karamanlis). The collapse of the Junta in 1974 did indeed mark the beginning of the Greek revolution.

Now, after another seven years' protracted lull, the revolution has entered a brilliant new phase. So crushing is the weight of the workers' parties in Greece today, that not one single demented officer has dared to even raise the question of a military solution. Any attempt to use the Army

would cause it to break in pieces. The soldiers are discussing, meeting, ignoring the orders of their superiors and celebrating.

Even the rank and file policemen are jubilant. The vote for the fascist 'Progressive' Party slumped from 7% only four years ago, to 1½%. The once powerful Centre Union got even fewer votes.

The ruling class has to stand by passively while PASOK, perhaps the furthest left mass workers' party in the world, forms a government.

What a contrast to the self-assurance of the colonels, who stepped in before the 1967 elections to prevent the victory of the Liberal Centre Union, in alliance with EDA, a small front organisation for the Communist Party. Though such a government in 1967 would have put into question the survival of the repressive post-civil war state apparatus, there was nothing in its programme that began to question the survival of capitalism.

If PASOK had a bold and clear-sighted Marxist leadership, then power could be in the workers' hands without a drop of blood being spilled. The workers have not waited for reforms to be gradually introduced from on top, but have moved straight into action, to implement the programme. Workers have broken into the directors' offices and sealed all files pending a transfer of control.

The day following the election, the workers in the Electricity Board of Greece proclaimed that "power in the company had been transferred into the hands of the workers and other representatives of popular power" and appealed to all their colleagues who had previously been sacked for trade union activity to report back to work!

### Ruling class demoralised

Hundreds of workers victimised and blacklisted for trade union activity in the last couple of years, including those from the protracted PITSOS and Deutsch strikes, besieged the new Labour Minister from his first day in office with



...After a mighty struggle Hercules slew the poisonous Hydra ...

demands for reinstatement in their old jobs. Already strikes and occupations have been victorious, for instance the Henninger strike in Salonika.

The demoralisation of the ruling class is eloquently testified to by the flight of capital preceding the election. Every day 10 million dollars were smuggled abroad. In the last few years, 15 billion dollars were exported, the equivalent of half the annual GNP, and this year alone 2 billion dollars have been exported—more than the total sum invested in industry.

Even in the period of qualified bourgeois democracy since 1974, some reactionary generals had already been engaged in plots for a new coup. Now the tidal wave of revolution has engulfed them. The spasmodic industrial and political upheavals of 1974

onwards were followed in the last two years by a period of dejection and defeats.

### ELAS/EAM rehabilitated

It is galling for Averoff, a long stalwart of the right, to be forced to hand over the keys of the Ministry of Defence to Andreas Papan-dreou, who was brought to trial in 1966 on a charge of subversion of the army in the notorious 'Aspida' frame-up.

It is a further irony that the first act of Papan-dreou was to undermine the whole moral foundation of the State by according recognition 40 years later to that same heroic war-time resistance movement ELAS and EAM on which his

father George Papan-dreou declared civil war in 1945.

There are rare and inspiring precedents in history for these events. The election of the Popular Front government in Spain in 1936, the election of the Popular Unity President in Chile in 1970, and the overthrow of the Portuguese dictatorship in 1974 were all signals for the masses to move into action. In Portugal, although there is a relatively weak working class, with incomparably poorer tradition than the Greek working class, nevertheless, even after seven years' betrayal, the Portuguese revolution, and the gains won by the workers from 1974-75 have still by no means been decisively crushed.

Greece of all countries is a Marxist study of the state. Three times the monarchy was imposed by British imperialism. The Italian inva-





PASOK workers celebrate their party's unprecedented electoral victory

sion was resisted by popular mobilisation and the German Nazi occupation force had terrible difficulties in suppressing the population. More than once they faced the most magnificent and heroic risings of the population in Athens and the other cities, quite apart from the massive partisan resistance movement.

The monarchy and the British puppet bourgeois government were exiled in Cairo while the people struggled. Years of savage civil war were needed for the partisans to be disarmed and crushed, first by British and then by American imperialism using all the techniques later used in Vietnam—napalm, strategic hamlets, defoliation, etc—to instal the unstable capitalist state machine.

## Youth flock into PASOK

Even during the seven years of the Junta, Greece passed from a monarchy to a republic and produced a 'coup within a coup'. Once again a hastily devised new Constitution was imposed after 1974.

Hideous though the rule of the Junta was from 1967-74, because of its precarious social basis and its nervousness at provoking a determined resistance, it was not able to drown a generation in blood, as could the Generals of the civil war years.

Hence the painful memory of the workers and the youth could not be blotted out. It was this which split the previously monolithic Communist Party into two, and, more important, decisively broke the previous Stalinist stranglehold on the workers' movement.

Twice within 20 years, the Communist Party had led the workers to a terrible defeat. The political vacuum following the collapse of the Junta in 1974 was quickly filled by Andreas Papandreu, a Harvard economist who had gained popularity by his defiance at the intrigues of the King in the 1960s when he was a Minister in his father's Liberal government.

The youth, searching for a democratic and radical new party, flocked into the ranks of PASOK, determined to ensure that this time it would carry through to a finish the fight against the

grisly civil war apparatus, begun in 1965 and symbolised by Andreas Papandreu, the hated target of the Army establishment.

But Papandreu has the illusion that PASOK is his own personal property. On the contrary.

PASOK was created by the irresistible pressure of the working class and especially the youth. Within three months of its foundation, initially on a mild nationalist programme, it had lurched violently to the left, with the youth tearing evermore radical slogans out of the mouths of its leaders, and transforming it into a centrist party, hovering and zig-zagging between reform and revolution.

When the masses are in full flow, such a party sweeps ever further leftward. When the class struggle ebbs and society becomes stagnant once more, it retreats to reformism and chauvinism. For the very reason that it has a precarious and unstable base, and no authority or tradition, the bureaucracy behaves with the utmost arbitrary and capricious methods, all the more so in a country where the workers are accustomed to the repressive internal party regime of Stalinism.

The heady ringing rhetoric of 1974 has been muffled and the last period has seen wave after wave of expulsions and disaffiliations.

**Now however, the masses are flocking into the party once again. 100,000 strong, it has a target of 250,000 by the spring. The intense activity and enthusiasm of the entire working people will push the PASOK leadership far to the left of its favoured cautious programme of moderation, just as was the case with Allende in Chile, or the Armed Forces Movement in Portugal in the early years.**

But unfortunately it will be necessary for the workers to learn afresh the lessons of their past, the lessons of Chile, of Spain, etc. Papandreu has apparently already forgotten his own history.

After the stunning electoral victory of the Centre Union in 1964, the King and the ruling class used unlimited pressure, bribery, cajolery and intimidation to lure defectors from the Parliamentary majority and undermine the parliamentary base of the Centre Union.

In the shape of Mavros, leader of the now

discredited rump of the Centre Union, inserted in the PASOK lists under pressure from Karamanlis, Papandreu has accepted a Trojan horse for reaction within the ranks of the parliamentary majority. He is willingly making himself vulnerable once again to pressure from the threat of defections.

The same insidious and undemocratic role that was played by the hated monarchy in the 1960s is now being filled by Karamanlis, the semi-dictator who from 1955 to 1963 presided over the triumphant reaction which wreaked terrible revenge on the workers.

In 1963, Karamanlis was disgraced by new evidence that he had rigged the 1961 elections with the aid of his trusted accomplice, Colonel Papadopoulos (leader of the 1967 coup) and he had to flee the country in disguise on a false passport. This scandal brought the Centre Union to power.

From his splendid isolation in Paris, Karamanlis criticised the adventurism of his colonel friends and supported the half-hearted efforts of the King to organise a counter-coup. Following the collapse of the military regime, he was flown in at the expense of the departing dictators, and sworn into office by their puppet President Gizikis.

## 'Me or the tanks'

He thus inherited the power from these gangsters in just the same way as Juan Carlos of Spain was handed the power by the Franco family, or Marshal Badoglio by the Italian Fascist Grand Council in 1943.

Karamanlis, the Greek Spinola, has openly warned that "democracy in Greece was always unstable.... Greece may be confronted with the dilemma between communism and dictatorship." The undemocratic Gaullist constitution which was proclaimed by Karamanlis has never been voted upon.

Having bullied the electorate into supporting him in the hurried elections of 1974, under the slogan "Me or the tanks", Karamanlis used his packed parliament to push through his Constitution and later to proclaim himself President.

In 1974, Papandreu denounced the restoration of

Karamanlis as "the NATO solution". He correctly demanded the convening of a Constituent Assembly. Now he has bowed to Karamanlis and been sworn into office by the same Archbishop who previously sanctified the Junta. He has said nothing about the constitution. In this too he is creating enormous dangers for his government.

## It is certain Karamanlis will use his Presidential veto and provoke a constitutional crisis

Yet PASOK and the Communist Party together, have 185 out of 300 seats in Parliament, more than the required three fifths majority needed to revoke the Constitution and set in motion the procedure for electing a Constituent Assembly!

It is certain that sooner or later Karamanlis will use his Presidential veto and provoke a constitutional crisis. But for PASOK, now is the time to act, in the first flush of its resounding mandate.

The same applies with even greater force to the question of the Army. It is only a few years since Andreas Papandreu was in the Colonels' prisons.

Now, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, he tells the people that "the officers have learned from the mistakes of 1967", "the people and the Army are now friends", "there must be no political activity in the Army", etc.

All the mistakes of Chile are contained in those phrases. But in Chile there was, at least in appearances, a thousand times more justification for such illusions than there is today in Greece! Like in Chile, the salaries of the officers are to be raised, in order to placate them. But Chile showed that rabid sadists of the Junta cannot be bribed to respect democracy.

If the officers are indeed "democrats", then surely there will be no objection to the formation of trade unions in the armed forces and the right of soldiers to organise politically to forestall another coup.

**In a situation of falling production, falling investment, export of capital, record bankruptcies, a record balance of payments deficit, a budget deficit amounting to two thirds of the annual budget, inflation at 25% for three years running, unemployment at 13-14% and unprecedented falls in living standards, the reforms contained in the PASOK programme will be pitifully inadequate.**

**Half measures will not do. On this basis, disillusion and disappointment will set in, particularly among the non-proletarian strata in town and country, and the political conditions will be prepared for defections from the PASOK parliamentary bloc, Presidential vetoes, and eventually new military intervention.**

The most advanced workers and activists in PASOK will enthusiastically support every reform taken by the PASOK government. They too would like a painless transition and transfer of power. But the only way to fundamentally change society without incurring the risk of terrible bloodshed is by immediate, decisive and drastic action.

If the Greek workers suffer another bloody defeat, it will be the responsibility of Papandreu and others who try to dilute the programme of the people. The workers will undoubtedly move into yet further action, to form Committees of Struggle, to organise the rank and file of the police and army, to set up committees for PASOK, and, equally important, to promote real inner-party democracy.

Papandreu himself in an earlier period, before the waves of expulsions, spoke in favour of party democracy. Yet today there is no provision in PASOK for debate or accountability of MPs. Both the election programme and the candidates' list were announced without consultation. This has incurred the wrath of the rank and file.

It will be a similar period to that which has lasted for seven years in Portugal, but on a much higher level. There could be two or three PASOK governments before the movement would be extinguished. It will be a long time before reaction is strong enough to crush the movement.

A premature abortive coup could have the same effect as that of Spínola in 1975, in spurring the workers on to further victories. The memory of the dictatorship is still fresh and painful. The population will fight to the last breath rather than ever again submit without a struggle, and even the conscript army would disintegrate.

## The rank and file must push PASOK into becoming a Bolshevik Party

The crisis of 1963-67 will be as nothing compared to the tremendous events to come. Like Kerensky or Allende, Papandreu will be pushed hither and thither like a cork on a stormy sea.

It is only because Kerensky was overthrown by a mass workers' party that he is remembered as a ridiculous last tool of capitalism. If General Kornilov had succeeded in overthrowing him in August 1917, he would be remembered in history as a martyr alongside Allende.

**The rank and file of PASOK must push their Party into becoming, not another Popular Unity disaster, but a Bolshevik Party that can lead the workers and peasants to victory.**

The Greek workers today have the enormous advantage that the whole of Europe is lurching to the

# ΞΕΚΙΝΗΜΑ

**The Greek paper 'Beginning', produced by Marxists within PASOK, will have an increasing influence in the coming months**

In the absence of a bold leadership for the revolution, and equally of sufficient social reserves for counter-revolution, it is clear that Greece has entered into a protracted period of crisis and upheavals. Neither victory nor defeat will come soon. But that is not to say that the era will be stable even for one moment.

History will compensate for the slow pace of events in the last seven years with a dizzying, rapid, colourful procession of shocks: mass uprisings, jubilation, lulls, intervals of confusion and even despair, premature abortive coups, new peaks of popular resistance and higher pinnacles of glory, constitutional crises, splits within the mass workers' organisations, both to left and right, strikes, occupations, mutinies, and even insurrections.

left and that in France another left government is in power with both the Presidency and the Parliament.

Likewise in Spain the Spanish Socialist Workers Party is likely to win the impending elections. Such a victory would be even more decisive in Spain than in Greece.

The Marxist tendency in PASOK will have a wide and receptive hearing from the workers who have learned through bitter and painful experiences of the past. No working class has so heroic and rich a history of repeated struggle against such overwhelming odds.

In the context of the socialist '80s, we can be confident that a leadership will be created worthy of the finest traditions of the Greek working class, and capable at last of rewarding its sacrifices with victory.

# IMF-The Bosses' Sheriff

In Sudan, the International Monetary Fund is busy with a routine operation. It is negotiating a new £270 million loan to the Numeiry government—and laying down conditions that will make life even more hellish for the vast majority of the people.

Almost 18 million Sudanese, *The Times* admits, "are ensured no regular water supply and face an eternal struggle to find their daily food" (23 October).

Already in debt to the tune of £2 billion, the capitalist regime is dependent on ever-increasing doses of aid and credit with the slump of its cotton export market and the continuing price rises of vital imports.

Now the IMF is forcing the government to revalue the currency, which will probably lead to a 60% price rise of state-subsidised commodities like wheat, sugar, milk powder and petrol—adding to the poverty of the workers and peasants. *The Times* fears that "severe internal strife" could be provoked.

In country after country the IMF has played a similar role as trouble-shooter for the capitalist class and vicious oppressor of the poor and starving. In this article Mick Brooks examines the functioning of this prestige institution of the international capitalist order—and points out some of the problems that have arisen today.

## What is the International Monetary Fund?

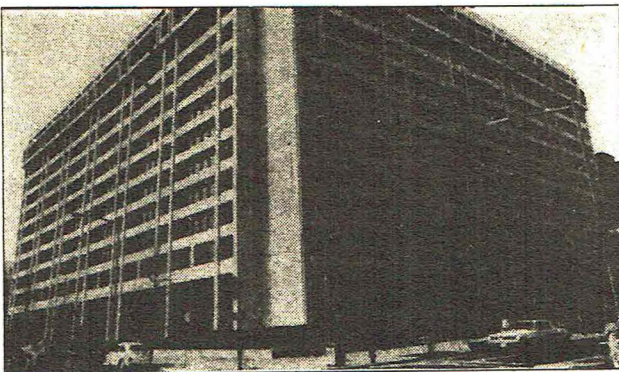
By Mick Brooks

Set up in 1945 with the World Bank it represented an attempt to rationalise relations between capitalist nations and replace the financial and monetary chaos of the 1930s.

Countries pay in quotas to a central pool and vote according to their economic strength. So the IMF is dominated by rich capitalist countries like the USA. It lends to countries in economic difficulties and

imposes progressively stricter terms. In the words of Anthony Sampson, in his recent book "The Money Lenders" it is "the financial sheriff".

It became the bogey of the left in this country in 1976 with the fall of the pound. Vicious cuts in public spending were imposed as a condition for a \$3,900 million loan required to restore confidence in sterling. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Denis Healey,



(Above) IMF headquarters in New York; (below) life for its victims.

deflected all criticism of himself back on to this mysterious defender of capitalist "rationality".

This was bad enough for capitalist Britain which had built up certain layers of fat. Harsh conditions for IMF loans have meant catastrophe for the underdeveloped countries.

In Ghana in 1973, the fall in the price of cocoa forced the government to apply to the IMF for a loan. The terms laid down were so stringent that they could only be imposed on the people after a military coup.

IMF officials make no secret of their preference for authoritarian regimes.

Their agent in Chile in 1973 commented: "the new regime is a welcome change from the chaotic conditions prevailing during the last year of the Allende government...we were truly impressed by the Minister of the Economy. An intelligent dynamic man of the right who nevertheless showed a certain sensitivity for social issues."

Such was the man's "sensitivity for social issues" that he complacently sat in a government whose hands

were still red from the murder of up to 100,000 workers.

Yet even the Chilean Junta clashed with the hard line of the IMF. The Fund, however, had its way.

In 1975, Chile's gross domestic product (GDP) fell by 16%. Unemployment went up to 20% and industrial output declined 23%. Workers' wages went down further and many small businessmen were made bankrupt. The IMF hailed this as "a major achievement of Chilean economic policy."

Naturally, the South African Apartheid regime is regarded IMF as creating a climate suitable for investment.

South Africa struck economic trouble in the 1970s because of its ever-increasing arms burden. In two years South Africa received more from the Fund than the whole of the rest of Africa. As Anthony Sampson points out, this "\$464 million almost exactly corresponds to the increase in South Africa's arms spending during that time."

Quite different treatment was meted out to the radical government of Michael Manley in Jamaica.

Jamaica was squeezed so average wages fell by 35% in 1978. Manley was forced to repudiate the IMF terms by the left wing of his People's National Party and go to the electorate.

But it was too late. The workers and rural poor were already disappointed at the PNP government's failure to carry through the radical reforms promised by Manley. Demoralisation, coupled with the violent campaign of Manley's right-wing opponent Seaga, led to an electoral backlash.

In power, Seaga's first act was to reinstate IMF loans and put the people of Jamaica back in pawn.

The right wing "Economist" uses this as an example to show that the IMF is no "devilish plot to subvert independence" (26 September). They proved more than they want to.

As they point out, some governments "may...be choosing to follow IMF policies without even going to the Fund. Some governments are so reluctant to be portrayed as IMF stooges that they prefer to take their own medicine."

So the enemy is not just the IMF—it is the whole in-

ternational capitalist order. "National Independence" will forever be a fraud so long as bankers, whether private or organised in the IMF dispose of the wealth of the world.

It is "logical" under capitalism that if a firm starts to lose money for any reason, then the plant will be closed down—and society has to pay the work force to sit at home and do nothing.

It is 'logical' that if a country runs a balance-of-payments deficit with its capitalist competitors then that country will have to impose a squeeze on spending at home to cut imports. That means cuts in social spending where the weakest go to the wall.

Capitalist Britain was experiencing "stop-go" economic policies long before the IMF began to intervene in its affairs. It is natural that bankers lend to the richest, safest countries, not to the poorest and most in need—and when they do they will demand the harshest terms.

Politicians ensnared by the 'logic' of capitalism can use the IMF as a scapegoat, as Denis Healey did in 1976. With a rich country, at any rate, the money loaned to it by the IMF is usually its own quota.

The IMF will never fulfill the dream of a planned, crisis-free international capitalism.

Limited co-operation between capitalist countries was possible in the era of the post-war boom as world trade expanded. But it is one thing to share out profits and quite another to divide up losses. That is where thieves fall out.

In any case, the IMF missed its chance of expanding its sphere of influence. The Fund has expanded its lending powers so that it now works more like a normal bank.

In the wake of the oil crisis in 1973, huge sums of cash came onto world money markets. While the IMF held back, the big commercial banks rushed in to lend it out again, making a quick buck in the process.

The world money system is now on the wobble. As the crisis in production spreads it will inevitably be reflected in financial panic and collapse.

Either the world returns to the financial chaos of the 1930s—or goes forward to a new socialist order.

# Solidarity with South

On Sunday 25 October, Poole LPYS held a day school on the theme 'Solidarity with South African Workers' to coincide with the Anti-Apartheid Trade Union Week of Action. About thirty local labour movement activists attended.

In the morning session a film, 'Generations of Resistance', was shown, which is well worth getting hold of. It graphically traces the heroic struggles of the black workers from the nineteenth century, when the tribes were opposing the white settlers who were forcibly

By John Hayes (Poole LPYS)

seizing their lands, up to the 1970s with the uprising in Soweto and the murder of Steve Biko.

In 1912 the African National Congress was created to eliminate the divisions among the blacks—tribal, religious and language—which were exploited by the white bosses, using the time-honoured divide and rule tactics.

Unfortunately, although the film was very interesting, it failed to draw the necessary conclusions. It portrayed the struggle in South Africa as being black versus white. No mention was made of the fact that the workers' movement needs to be built as the leading force to overthrow

both racist oppression and capitalist exploitation. It did not explain the present brutality of the South African regime is part and parcel of capitalism in decline.

As a speaker from the South African Labour Education Project explained in the session, the most constructive contribution we can make to the SA freedom struggle at present is to encourage links between South African workers and the workers in this and other western countries. This is all the more important because quite often it is the same multinationals who oppress the South African workers, and pay them

peanuts, while laying off workers in Britain and other advanced countries.

This also explains why boycotts on South African goods will not work on the basis of capitalism. However if the question of sanctions was taken up by the trade union movement internationally, with the blacking of South African goods in consultation with the unions in South Africa, this will aid the black workers in their struggle against the apartheid regime, and in their fight for a living wage.

In conclusion, the speaker from SALEP pointed out that the programme of the ANC for democracy in South Africa can only be

## MEETINGS ON SOUTH AFRICA

Called by Anti-Apartheid movement

- 18 November: 'Black Workers and trade unions in South Africa', Clapham
- 28 November: Joint AAM/Scottish TUC Conference, Glasgow

(phone Brian Climie, Glasgow 954 4973)

- 5 December: Delegate labour movement conference, AAM/ South West Labour Party/SW TUC, Exeter
  - 5 December: 'Apartheid and the British worker', AAM/York & Humberside Regional TUC.
- Labour movement activists should make every effort to attend. For details phone Chris Child, AAM, (01) 580 5311

achieved through the abolition of the cheap labour system by the organisations

of the working class carrying through the socialist transformation of society

**“In the campaign Jamaican Labour Party leader Seaga promised the people of Jamaica that under a JLP government, everyone would have ‘money jingling in their pockets.’ One year later, a quarter of the population are officially out of work.”**

This was one of the facts reported by Bob Lee at a ‘Militant’ Readers Meeting held recently in Brixton. In his introduction, Bob (Secretary of the People’s National Party Youth (UK) Black Socialist Youth Movement) described the decline in living standards in Jamaica and the rise and fall of the JLPs popularity since October 1980.

Last year, after one of the bloodiest and most violent election campaigns (with over 800 people, mainly PNP members, assassinated), Seaga led the JLP to victory, winning 51 out of 60 seats in the parliament. The 11 months since this victory, however, have seen the most dramatic shift away from the government. Seeing the rapid decay of the regime, the people are speaking openly of their disillusion.

Seaga’s government received a loan of £380m from the IMF (although a more modest sum of £25m had been refused to the reformist PNP government in January 1980). But despite this massive injection of capital, none of Jamaica’s economic problems have been solved.

The three major industries—bauxite production, tourism and agriculture—are still in decline. The output of bauxite will be lower this year than it was during the crisis of 1980. There has been no recovery of agriculture following the hurricanes of the previous year, and in spite of the biggest ever advertising campaign in the U.S., this summer has seen only slight improvement in tourism.

Unemployment is still at a record level. In the last 6 months of Michael Manley’s PNP government, youth unemployment fell by

**By Lesley Phillips**  
(Vauxhall LPYS)

10%. However, all programmes of improvement initiated by the PNP have been scaled down or halted, and plans to boost employment have been cut back.

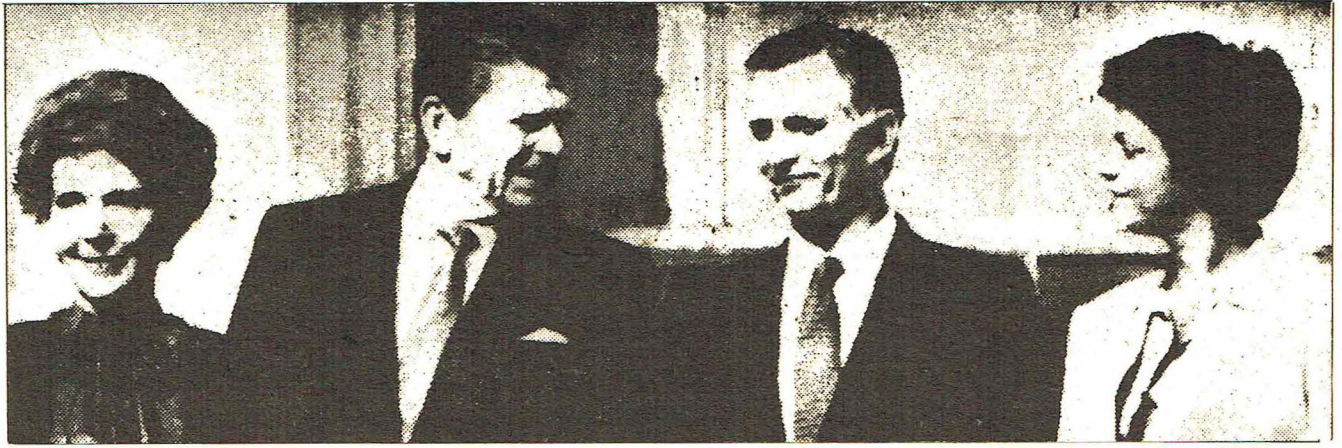
Bob Lee quoted an example where over 500 girls turned up in response to an advert for one shop worker. One disturbing feature of this acute unemployment problem concerns women—it is now a widespread occurrence that women provide “sexual services” to the bosses in order to be given, and to keep a job.

Despite the glowing image of a prosperous Jamaica painted by “The Gleaner” (a Jamaican paper available in England), there has been a savage decline in living standards. There is a crippling level inflation. The JLP has removed all food subsidies, so there is an abundance of basic foodstuffs in the shops, but no-one can afford to buy it. Supermarket owners even have Dobermans to guard the stock, in case someone in desperation tries to steal food to eat.

For the first time in 8 years, malnutrition is on the increase. Rents have shot up sky high—even middle class families are not able to pay their rents—and the massive programme of house-building introduced by the PNP has been scrapped.

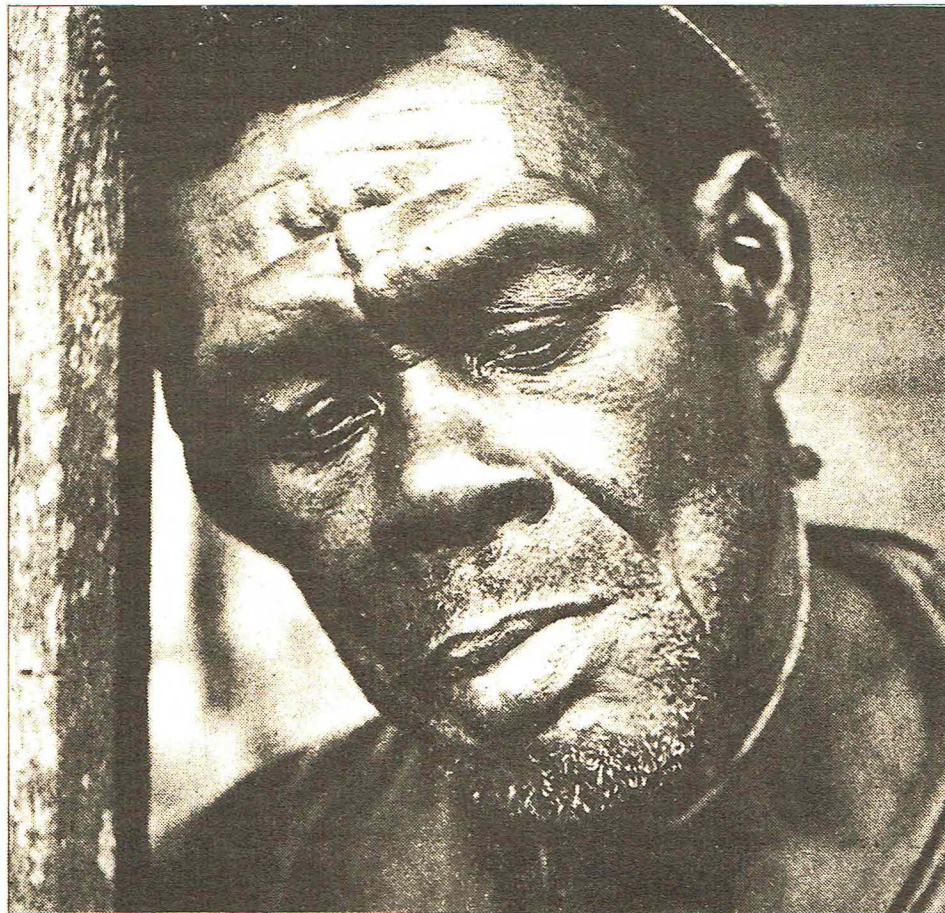
The political violence of the 1980 election campaign continues. Often workers and youth are too scared now to discuss politics in public. One 13-year old girl, from an openly PNP family, was found dead in the boot of a car, with a label on her wrist reading “socialist slut”.

Youths armed by the JLP



Jamaican Prime Minister Seaga with Reagan.

# BOSSES REGIME DEVASTATES JAMAICA



One in four Jamaicans is out of work.

during the election still roam the streets in their frustration and boredom, shooting at people and terrorising workers in predominantly PNP areas. False reports of “Communist infiltrators” are circulated, to allow the

government to take stronger measures against the opposition. There are frequent raids on houses, with socialist literature being confiscated and members of the PNP are arrested and imprisoned on trumped-up charges.

The JLP government is preparing the way for outlawing Marxism and introducing a dictatorship. One obstacle stands in its way—the might of the organised working class. Under the PNP, the workers saw vast im-

provements in areas such as housing, employment and health. Bob emphasised that these hard-won gains made in the early years of the PNP government, would not be given up lightly.

The shift to the JLP in 1980 was caused by demoralisation at Manley’s inability to provide lasting reforms, and by the savage intimidation and violence carried out by JLP thugs. Manley failed to take on big business, and every time he compromised with the system, as with Allende in Chile, the forces of reaction demanded more and more.

But now, one year later, there is deep disillusionment with the JLP government, clearly shown at local by-elections, while support for the PNP has risen. As workers begin to see there is no way forward on the basis of capitalism, there will be growing support for the left against the media-backed right wing within the PNP. Workers will draw the conclusion that the next PNP government must break the power of big business.

In concluding, Bob pointed out that the PNP must learn the lessons of the past. Backed by the strength of the organised workers it must equip itself with a programme of bold socialist action to bring about a socialist Jamaica as part of a socialist federation of the Caribbean.

## African Workers

### Trades Council backs SALEP

At the meeting of Deeside Trades Union Council on 5 November we had a speaker from the South Africa Labour Education Project.

In South Africa at the moment there is the biggest mass upsurge since Soweto five years ago. The speaker told the delegates of the struggle of independent non-racial trade unions in South Africa to win wage increases and union recognition. Many black workers were getting paid as little as £9 for a 40 hour week and were fighting against not only the

**Dave Clark**  
(Secretary, Deeside Trades Union Council)

employers but also the regime.

In view of the fact that all worker training has been brought under government control, SALEP has been set up to help meet the need for political and trade union education among the organised workers.

It was agreed to support and fully identify the Trades Council with SALEP. It was also agreed to give a further donation to SALEP as we had previously given a donation. In addition it was agreed that we urge all the affiliated bran-

ches to the Trades Council to also support and give donations to SALEP.

Everyone agreed that it had been a very good meeting and certainly we would urge all Trades Councils, Union branches, Labour Parties etc. who have not yet had a speaker from SALEP to invite one as soon as possible.

### Rowntrees Campaign

By Fred Cole

Continuing the campaign in support of 470 members of the independent South African Allied Workers Union, sacked by Rown-

trees’ subsidiary in East London, South Africa, the LPYS held a public meeting jointly with the local Anti-Apartheid group on Friday 6 November. On the platform were speakers from the South African Labour Education Project, the Anti-Apartheid Movement and York MP Alex Lyon.

The meeting attracted over 50 people, many of them workers and shop stewards from Rowntrees, including the Convenor of the G&MWU at the York factory.

The speaker from Anti-Apartheid described how the SAAWU workers had been given an ultimatum of “get back to work in 15 minutes or you are sacked”

by Rowntrees management when they struck in support of three workers who refused to repair machinery, the job of skilled workers.

The speaker from SALEP told us of the degradation of workers in South Africa by the enforced racial segregation of apartheid. He described how workers have begun to fight back by organising unions like SAAWU, and the massive strike wave which is now taking place.

The meeting discussed ways of continuing the campaign, with speakers calling for an exchange visit between Rowntrees workers in York and South Africa. Many speakers took up the need for a socialist trans-

formation of society as the only way to end the deprivation of South African workers.

One speaker praised the G&MWU for its serious pursuit of the campaign. The York Convenor said that he and all the shop stewards at the factory had listened carefully to the management’s case, and now would listen carefully to the case as put for SAAWU.

A collection at the meeting raised £26 for the SAAWU strike fund. Clearly workers in Britain can support and build links with other workers throughout the world, as it becomes more and more apparent that an injury to one is an injury to all.

# Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## Why don't we accept new technology?

Dear Militant

One of the main points of campaign in the Labour Party manifesto is a return to full employment. And to enable this we say we'll reduce the number of hours a man or woman must work each week, with no loss of pay, in order to provide the necessary requirement for the unemployed of the country.

But at the same time we restrict the introduction of advanced technology into the production lines, because it will result in the reduction of human work-hours needed. If we are all prepared to accept a reduction in hours to cater for full employment, why not accept the reduction of many more work-hours and allow computers to do our drudge and dreary jobs and share the work that it is left out between us?

There would be no loss of pay because the capitalists would then be in a position to give us more money due to the decreased operating costs. Or better still, try to change people's (the same people who're causing the unemployment in the first place) attitudes to unemployment ie 'lazy, good-for-nothing' etc by showing them that there's no alternative, and take, what appears to me, the opportunity of a life with no work to do, plenty of money to spend and plenty of time in which to spend it.

The increase in social security payments would arise from the subsequent increase in the nation's wealth.

Instead of trying to resist the inevitable (who can doubt that computers will never gain hold in our nation?), why don't we welcome it with open arms and settle down to a way of life which holds more promise for everyone?

Yours fraternally  
Stuart Cormie  
Brunel University Labour Club, personal capacity

## What happened to the leaders of the 1917 revolution

Dear Comrades

"Always and everywhere in peaceful labour or in battle, in production or in an executive office, I was, am and always will be above all a Communist". This is how President Brezhnev magnanimously accepted his latest award to become the most highly decorated politician since the Soviet Union was founded. The newly instituted medal was for 50 years membership of the Communist Party.

The longest serving Communist is Arvid Pelshe, who was aged 18 when the revolution took place. But the question is what happened to the members who would be in their late 80s and 90s now, and who played a leading role in 1917?

Yours Comradely  
Richard Evans  
Sparbrook LPYS



The recent massive CND demo in London. Labour must take the lead in the fight for nuclear disarmament. Photo: Militant.

## Manifesto must include nuclear disarmament

Dear Comrades

The most pressing issue in the world today is nuclear disarmament. It is therefore tragic that Labour Party conference failed to guarantee the inclusion of a unilateral nuclear disarmament policy in the next Labour general election manifesto.

The resolution's failure,

by 0.2%, to gain the two-thirds majority necessary to bind the Labour leadership to include this in the manifesto has probably given the right wing and their co-fudgers in the Tribune Group the opportunity to sidestep this most vital issue.

If the Labour leadership fails to grasp this nettle, and genuinely believes in a peaceful, socialist society, then it should take the decision made at conference to

be morally binding at least.

They must not take the coward's way out, by pointing to "multilateralism". This is no way out, as 'Militant' has pointed out in the past.

Comrades, the consequences for the world's future look grim if we don't pressurise the leadership to accept conference's decision.

Yours fraternally  
Alan Keating  
Wirral CLP

## Put the Tories in the dock!

Dear Comrades

I was interested to learn that the Tories wish for a return to corporal punishment and the death sentence, but I am surprised they do not fear that they might be the first recipients of it, due to their treatment of the working class.

I would like to see this government made accountable for the crimes it has committed. They must have caused the deaths of hun-

dreds of working people by their cuts in the NHS, the welfare state, and their policy of unemployment.

I share the anger of Chris Grace at Tory hypocrisy and L Harvey at Tory ignorance and small mindedness, along with millions of other socialists. I live in hope that we will one day have public accountability of government under a socialist state; this is the only hope that has kept this young person from suicide!

Yours fraternally  
Nigel Thomas  
Swansea

## Building Societies

Dear Comrades

An accepted way of life which has woven itself into the fabric of our capitalist society—moneylending—is predatory and a menace. Building societies have sprung everywhere, councils pay out millions of pounds a year and are truly manacled. This leech-like growth cripples us all, and cries out for serious reform by the next Labour government.

Yours fraternally  
Fred Pitfield-Bailey  
Devon

## Class divisions can be seen at work—even in the canteen!

Dear Comrades

Recently I worked in the kitchen of a large electronics factory in Edinburgh. Through my work in the kitchen it soon became very clear the class divisions set up even for something as simple as eating your mid-day lunch.

In all there are three eating areas. Firstly the main canteen which serves about 250 people. Each worker gets half an hour lunch break to get to the canteen, pick up a meal, eat it and get back to work. In this canteen the food was

basic but on the whole fine.

There was also the senior staff dining room which catered for around 45 people. This dining room serves exactly the same meals except these privileged few eat off white table-cloths with polished cutlery, and paid extra for the privilege.

But the most glaring example of class privilege was the specially built management dining room. These twelve hard working chaps could eat in comfort and luxury. The chaps, after pre-lunch drinks, sit down to a very nice three course meal with items such as veal escalopes, fresh salmon, steaks and fresh cream gateaux etc. all washed down with a nice large port or scotch. Needless to say by the time they had polished off that lot, a good hour and a half had gone by. And to stop workers witnessing all this, special blinds had been put up so

that employees couldn't see the chaps, but the chaps could see the employees.

Also just to add insult to injury, while workers paid the full food cost of their meal, management didn't pay a penny; it was merely charged to company expenses.

This is only a small example of class division but considering it must happen daily up and down the country, it shows the hypocrisy of the Tories and big business. So comrades let's get moving and start taking over all big business for the good of all on the basis of need not profit.

Who knows, the workers may take over the company while the bosses are still only half way through their second course!

Yours fraternally  
Eleanor McLaughlin  
Edinburgh Pentlands  
LPYS

## Tribute to a class fighter

Dear Comrades

How saddened I was to read of the tragic death of George Peake. Your article paid tribute to George's work, and to his tremendous contribution to socialism, and all of us who knew him saw his life stepping out of the page. He came to Brighton many times, and could speak to us from a background of hard experience, and brought us a fresh approach to the struggle of the African people. Typically, at last year's Anti-Apartheid national conference, he spoke with personal courage and conviction, urging the Anti-

Apartheid Movement to revise its position on the South African struggle.

George's work lives on. We must make sure that we follow his outstanding example of devotion and struggle, as the best way of fulfilling his life.

George will be sadly missed. His name will be added to the company of class fighters who have worked through the years. My condolences go out to his family and friends, who will share their loss at this time with working people throughout the world.

Yours fraternally  
Rod Fitch  
Prospective  
Parliamentary candidate  
Brighton Kemptown LP.

## Should heckling at Birmingham rally have been expected?

Dear Comrades

I would like to express my views on Joe McManus's letter (issue 575) concerning the heckling of Denis Healey at the Birmingham rally.

Mr McManus misses the point that the rally was primarily a protest against unemployment and many of the unemployed of Britain who Mr McManus refers to as "mindless morons" feel more than 'just a bit choke' at the prospect of life on the dole and the waste of their talents. Is it any wonder then that Healey with his past record, should receive

a less than enthusiastic welcome at an unemployment rally?

I can accept that the heckling was the only party of this important rally that the TV and capitalist press chose to cover but the blame for any bad publicity must lie with the organisers for inviting Denis Healey to follow after other excellent and dedicated speakers.

As for the issue of democracy I believe it is undemocratic that such a person (the hero of the capitalist press) should be forced upon the labour movement and working class, who look to the movement as their only means of political change.

Yours fraternally  
Ron Glenn  
Mansfield LPYS/AUEW

## The shape of things to come in Liverpool

Dear Comrades

The passing of Eric Ogden, one time Labour MP for West Derby, should not be taken as the death bell for the labour movement. Instead it should raise the spirits of every socialist in Britain, that at last real socialist policies are being put forward by real representatives of the movement.

When you look at the calibre of some of the members of the Liverpool Labour Party, the future looks very bright indeed.

The capitalists play on the fears and weaknesses of the working class. It takes a lot of moral strength and conviction, and years of dedication, to achieve a worthwhile cause such as ours. But the rewards are incalculable; a world of peace, with a role and future for every individual, regardless of colour or race. A world free of all prejudices and mental barriers imposed by the ruling classes. Forward to socialism, to the abolition of the capitalist system and all its evils. Unite and fight!

Yours fraternally  
John Dullard  
Secretary, Clubmoor  
Ward Labour Party.

## A capitalist horror story

Dear Editor

Sometimes the horrors of the capitalist world really strike you. In Brazil where the wealthy lavish millions on themselves, the poor, squeezed by 100% inflation, are trying to make ends meet by selling parts of their bodies for surgery. The extraction of a person's cornea causes blindness, but

together with the sale of kidneys they sell for £15-£20,000. They are advertised in the classified columns of the cities' daily newspapers with such headings as "financial problems", "urgent", "perfect vision" and "young".

Reports such as these really spur me on to struggle for socialism in my lifetime, before all of us are left maimed or dead by this ruthless society.

Rosina Harris  
Blackburn CLP

# Build **MILITANT**

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

# ads

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Eastern	4597		7100
East Midlands	3489		5500
Hants & Dorset	2574		5200
Humberside	1708		3500
London East	4956		7600
London West	2786		4800
London South	4170		5500
Manchester & Lancs	2582		5800
Merseyside	3501		6600
Northern	4233		8600
Scotland East	2114		4400
Scotland West	3936		7500
Southern	5121		7100
South West	2132		3500
Wales East	1324		2600
Wales West	2748		4600
West Midlands	4675		8600
Yorkshire	4738		9000
Others	19331		12500
<b>Total received</b>	<b>80,715</b>		<b>120,000</b>

**TARGET FOR YEAR-£120,000**

# TWO THIRDS OF THE WAY

**£6586 (two weeks)**

# -TWO MONTHS LEFT!

**What's the going rate for filling in a form? Anyone who's on the dole will probably answer "Peanuts."**

A number of investors filled in a form to get shares after the 'privatisation' of Cable and Wireless. A total of £224 million was put up.

If any bright capitalist had sold his or her shares the very same day they could have made 20% profit! Just like that!

Leyland workers, farm workers on £64 gross for a 40 hour week; every worker in Britain in fact, is constantly being told "work harder if you want a rise." But just look how much sweat these coupon clippers put into getting their little windfall!

Militant is not rich enough to play around on the stock exchange. We're not nice enough to the capitalists, the bosses or so called "Communist" leaders of Eastern Europe. So we get no handouts from the ruling class or from Stalinist bureaucrats.

Our money has to come from people like you, our readers and supporters. It's been your sacrifice over the years that has kept us going, and it will be the same in the future despite the increasing number of our readers who find themselves on the receiving end of the recession.

Over £300 in IOUs from our rally has already come in, so we're waiting for yours if it's still outstan-

ding! Sometimes some of our supporters come into money, and usually a proportion of it comes our way. Many thanks to D Webb and S Cole for £100 and £54 respectively from superannuation returns and pay back-dated.

£30 from farm worker R Phillips and £10 from unemployed C Gwynne (both Dorset) also indicate the resolve of our readers to keep Militant going strong! Thanks also to R Crawford (SPOE) for £20 and to J Barnett (Paddington) for £9.

Thanks to south-west readers for passing on their expenses from Labour Party meetings, to Bristol and Swansea LPYS members and to Childwall LP and Patchway LP comrades who contributed to collections. Workplace collections, such as those in St Neots can be valuable: thanks to J Burrill, M Wilkinson, and the other readers who made up nearly £18.

Meetings in Oldham and Stevenage netted the best part of £40 for us, a folk night in Southend was worth £25, and a social in Bradford left us £40 better off. Scottish supporters, with £20 from E Lothian and £30 from Fife, are doing their best to push their line across our chart, as are all those readers who sent us fivers this week.

We've unfortunately not enough room for them all, but just a few:- J Jenkins, S Sharp, 'Debbie' (all Liverpool), A Kingston (USDAW, S Yorks), F&B

## By Steve Cawley

Kidd (S London, C&G Jones (Tunbridge Wells), F Breen (Tower Hamlets), M Bounds (Blaby), J Bell (Notts), D Evans (Bristol), and two readers described as 'Tuck' of the Manor, Maltby, Yorks, and 'She who must be obeyed' (Eastleigh).

Sums between £1 and £5 were received from M Orton and D Smith (both Rhyl), M Fernandez (AUEW/TASS) and C Grice-Lowe (NUR) (both Leicester) and L Higgins (Dagenham) amongst many others. We really rely on regular donations so we know how much cash we can spend, and so the 50p promised each week by A Brazier (Kirkdale LPYS) is

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

an example we hope that as many of our readers as possible will copy.

Last but not least, thanks to our subscribers abroad for 'extras' on renewal, including D Robb (Paris) and U Joelsson (Gotenburg).

Militant isn't rich in the sense of having millions to play 'double or quits' on the stock exchange, but we are very rich in the sense of the talent and tenacity of our readership. Whatever the press may say about 'Militant', can they deny that we are able to appeal to workers where it hurts most, in the pocket, to the extent that no other paper, certainly in Britain, is able to?

If you are getting sick of the decaying class society we're living in, drop us a line and tell us your experiences. Enclose a donation to our fighting fund while you're about it! Give us the cash and we'll do the job!

SOUTH LONDON Militant Grand Xmas Bazaar. Sunday 6 December, Christchurch Hall, Trafalgar Road, Greenwich SE10. All offers of help and goods to sell phone Doreen Roberts, 01-543 3658.

**SOCIALIST XMAS CARDS.** Set of 4 original Hardman cartoons. 60p per set (inc. envelopes) + 14p post & packing. 5 sets - £2 + 30p post & packing. 10 sets - £3.50 + 50p post & packing. Available soon - order bulk sets and boost your area's fighting fund. All proceeds to Militant Fighting Fund. Send cash with order to Eddie McParland, 81 Troughton Road, Charlton, London SE7.

**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)

**GARSTON Militant supporters** wish to congratulate Pat and Ian Harvey on the birth of their son, Andrew, "in the belief that he will inherit a true socialist society".

**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.

**READING Militant Public Meeting:** 'What we stand for'. Speaker: Steve Morgan (Reading South CLP). Thursday 19 November, 8.00 pm, AUEW Halls, Oxford Road, Reading.

**MANCHESTER University Militant Supporters Society.** Monday 16 November - '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).

**Wigan Militant Readers Meeting:** 'Militant - what we stand for.' Speaker Richard Venton. Monday 16 November 7.30 Metro Club, Hallgate, Wigan. For further details of this and other local Readers Meetings tel: Wigan 321392.

Monday 23 November - 'Students and the labour movement'. Debate between Clive Heemskerck (Education Correspondent of the 'Militant') and Dave Gardner (Clause IV).

Monday 30 November - 'After Corby, socialism or social democracy?' Debate between Pete Watson ('Militant') and an SDP speaker.

**OXFORD Militant Public Meeting:** 'Which way forward for the labour and trade union movement?' Speaker: Tom Smith (Self-changing Gears, BL, Coventry). Monday 23 November, 7.30 pm, Cowley Community Centre, Oxford.

Monday 7 December - 'Import controls or socialist planning?' Debate between Brian Sedgemore ('Tribune') and a 'Militant' speaker.

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

## CLASSIFIED

**NORWICH Labour Party Young Socialists Public Meeting:** 'Youth Against the Tories'. Speakers: Andy Bevan (Labour Party National Youth Officer); Robin Dyball (NUPE National Committee elect). Tuesday 17 November 1981, 8.00 pm, Labour Club, Bethell St., Norwich.

**GLASGOW LPYS Public Meeting:** 'YOPs - end cheap labour'. Speakers: George Galloway (Chairman, Scottish Labour Party); Jackie Galbraith (LPYS); Johanne Coyle (TGWU); Alan Wilson (NUPE). Tuesday 25 November, 7.30 pm, City Halls, Albion St., Glasgow.

**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.

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

**What have you heard about the Labour Party's new magazine?**

# New Socialist

'New Socialist is lively, new and socialist.'  
**DENIS HEALEY, MP**

'New Socialist has made a great start. Please be sure of my continued co-operation with the venture.'  
**JACK JONES**  
President, TGWU Retired Members Association

'The poverty of philosophy and theory in the British labour movement is well known and deplorable. New Socialist is shaping up to be a great antidote.'  
**GEORGE GALLOWAY**  
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'The only really relevant debate about the future of Britain and the world is taking place between different sorts of socialists. Labour's new analytical journal is now the best forum within which those who subscribe to democratic socialism can argue their case.'  
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'I regard New Socialist as quite remarkably good. It certainly deserves to succeed.'  
**COLIN BARNETT**  
Secretary, North-west TUC

'New Socialist is a really important means of developing the discussion of what we mean by socialism and what kind of society we're trying to make.'  
**SHEILA ROWBOTHAM**  
Feminist Historian

'A splendid way to run Labour's internal election.'  
**RICHARD CLEMENTS**  
Writing in Tribune on the New Socialist Deputy Debate held at the TUC

Issue 2, Nov-Dec '81, on sale at main newsagents and radical bookshops, price 60p, or direct from New Socialist, 150 Waltham Road, London SE17 1JT. Tel 01-703 5298

# Industrial Reports



National Union of Seamen demonstrated against unemployment twelve months ago in Liverpool. Now they are fighting it in action. Photo: Militant

## STAFFA

By Alan Watson

The struggle to save jobs at Staffa goes on as the blacking campaign gains momentum. South Wales NUM have officially blacked Staffa products and this is being followed up in other areas.

Staffa, Brown and Sharpe (the parent company) Bow-

den's Warehouses, Hanniel's Containers and the scab lorry firms are now blacked at all registered and unregistered ports and docks, and a discussion is now taking place with airport unions.

A delegation from Staffa will be discussing with AUEW sponsored MPs in the House of Commons this Thursday (12 November) at 7pm.

Donations are still urgently needed to Staffa Shop Stewards' Committee c/o Chris Newsom, 39 Somers Road, Walthamstow, London E17 6RV

## P&O Seamen occupy

"We are preparing for a long struggle," said Danny McGee, the National Union of Seamen convenor on board the P&O ship *Ulster Queen*.

Along with the *Ulster Prince* this service from Liverpool to Belfast is threatened with shut-down by the international shipping operators P&O.

If the remaining link between Northern Ireland and England is terminated by the company, some 450 jobs will be lost and with 900 seamen already unemployed on Merseyside, there is no prospect of alternative employment.

These were the factors behind the action of the crews of the *'Ulster Queen'* and *'Ulster Prince'* to occupy the ships.

Action Committee member John Kirwam said that the decision to occupy had been almost unanimous, with only one against, even though people sitting in on the ship had never been on strike in their lives before.

Shop steward, Jo Anderson, clearly indicated the mood of the seamen when he said "We are prepared to fight—the NUS Executive have said 'enough is enough'. With their committed support we can win."

Asked what he considered the solution to be to the problem of shipping lines being closed, Jo answered that they must be

By Tony Mulhearn  
(Prospective Parliamentary Candidate Liverpool, Toxteth)

nationalised, although if anyone was prepared to take over the operation as a real concern they would have the support of the crew.

*Ulster Prince* Convenor, Roy Physick, after 28 years at sea, said he too was prepared to conduct a struggle for jobs for as long as it takes.

He said he would be looking for a national campaign to be spearheaded by the NUS, but he first of all saw the necessity of winning support from all P&O ships sailing.

Liverpool District Labour party have pledged full support and Labour's National Executive have been urged to do the same and to assist in a national campaign against P&O and the Tories.

The fight to save the ships is deadly serious, in an area where the chances of getting a job are now calculated at 1,500 to one!

Messages of support and donations should be sent to the convenors: Roy Physick and Danny McGee, c/o National Union of Seamen, Maritime House, Paradise Street, Liverpool.

## Coventry

On Friday 6 November, around 4,000 members of NUPE employed by Coventry City Council went on strike against proposed council cuts.

The cuts are being made by the Labour council following the 'No Choice' referendum in August, where all that was "offered" was a fall in living standards through either cuts or rates increases.

The majority of workers boycotted the referendum, but the council has increased the rates and still made cuts, which will mean that school and college cleaners will only be working 90% of the present hours.

They will also lose the option of working during school holidays and caretakers will receive a rent increase of £1.20 on top of the recent 80p rise. They would also lose overtime when the council stops the checking of boilers on Saturdays.

For many, mostly part-time women workers, a 10% cut in time worked, even from a 7½-hour week, will be a disaster, with husbands or other relatives either recently made redundant or on short time working.

Support for this dispute has been solid.

At Whitley Abbey comprehensive school, there have been 40 to 50 pickets each day; part time workers

prepared for a long struggle.

Previous cuts already mean that schools are left unfinished because of the shortage of cleaners and basic equipment. One woman explained how she had to buy powder to clean the floor herself, or she wouldn't be able to do the job.

The slogans of the strikers called for the resignation of the leaders of the council, "They are not real Labour people" was the attitude of the workers I spoke to. The role of a Labour council is not to attack the living standards of workers, but to defend them.

'Militant' has always pointed out that Labour councils must not make cuts, or increase the rates, but take on the Tories, mobilising local authority workers behind them.

The magnificent support for this dispute shows the willingness to struggle to defend living standards, a job in which Labour councillors should be giving a lead, against the real enemy, the Tories and the system that they represent, which is demanding the cuts.

Money is urgently needed by the unions. Donations or messages of support should be sent to Jo Little, 1 School House, Axholme Road, Wyken, Coventry.

By Mark Picksley  
(Coventry NUPE and Coventry SE LPYS)

## Haringey

Before allowing stewards to report back to their members over negotiations on reducing manning levels and changing work practices with management, the bosses of Haringey Direct Labour Organisation claimed the stewards were "unco-operative" and they would go over their heads to push through their plans.

Management instructions were issued. A deputation of stewards met senior management and demanded the immediate withdrawal of all compulsory notices and resume discussions, or immediate unofficial strike action was imminent. These demands were met!

After two weeks' discussion it was clear we were really talking about expenditure cuts, which would lead to a direct reduction in the living standards of our shop floor members.

On the Friday of these discussions, further management instructions appeared in writing trying to force 20 people to transfer from maintenance and also 15 members to be inter transferred. At the Craft shop stewards committee that afternoon, it was unani-

mously decided to recommend strike action to our membership. On the Monday, yard meetings took place and the recommendation was carried and the workers came out.

Later that day management asked to meet us and we agreed, on condition they met us on the shop floor. We produced five demands which they acknowledged. They said they'd meet us the following day.

The stewards decided to escalate the strike action on Tuesday. I spoke for 1½ hours to sparks—heating fitters and public lighting—and they came out as well. 450 workers were now out.

Tuesday evening we met the council and management for seven hours until midnight. All union demands were met except one (loss of earnings) for which on principle we didn't expect payment. Stewards agreed to recommend return to normal working on Wednesday.

That day, shop floor meetings accepted return to normal working, with the men giving stewards a massive vote of confidence and warned management and the council they would not tolerate dictatorship and were willing to strike in future.

By Dennis McCracken  
(Convenor, EETPU, Haringey DLO)

## Car workers' anger

### BL

In three days last week, after the return to work at Longbridge, there were two disputes over implementing a 39-hour week. On Friday it was implemented unilaterally by the workforce leaving at 4 o'clock instead of 5 pm.

The cause of the dispute is management's attempt to reduce morning and afternoon break times.

As Richard Lewis stated at the Birmingham LPYS public meeting, the militant mood exists on the shop floor. But this needs to be translated into changing the state of the car industry and the trade union structure.

The call came across for all the various motor manufacturing units—British Leyland, Talbot, Fords—to be integrated into a publicly owned car industry, and under workers' control and management. Time and time again in the meeting, the vital demands for election and recall for trade union leaders and for them to receive no more than the average skilled wage were raised.

Two workers on the Metro line commented: "nothing on BL appears in the press now but the Metro line has not run at all since Monday dinnertime, due to management trying to halve tea breaks, which would mean the loss of 16 slipmen, causing possible redundancies." 1,500 day shift men were out and this was followed by 1,000 on the Monday night shift which led to 2,500 lay offs.

"An indication of the speed-up that has taken place was given by the fact that on the Allegro line last year we did 16 cars an hour,

now we have to do 32 Metros an hour."

After the meeting, Richard Lewis said "other areas are likely to come out in response to managements cutting tea breaks. This could mean the cab section coming out which would be about 4,000."

As *Militant* said last week: "sporadic battles will unfold." They have and they will continue.

Report by  
Brian Debus

### FORD

On Monday 26 October, representatives of both hourly paid and staff trade unions at Ford's Halewood transmission plant requested facilities from management [without pay] to have a meeting with their respective full time officials on the

issue of the future of the plant.

The request was refused so the full time officials suggested the meeting should take place off plant. This was also refused. The reps felt the issue was important for all of our futures, so they decided to attend this meeting.

Consequently management stopped pay and supplements of the reps and are now in the process of taking disciplinary action against them. To allow such decisions to take place without response from the members would be to the disadvantage of all concerned.

All members were called to a meeting to decide the course of action. The action was decided upon for Friday 30 October, a one-day strike.

Lynne Harrison  
spoke to workers  
at Ford Halewood

## CPSA

## FOR A FIGHTING LEADERSHIP...

## ... and a fighting union

With growing optimism among activists over the election for General Secretary of the CPSA, John Macreadie last weekend spoke to the union's Broad Left in Leeds.

His message to the AGM outlined the long struggle of left activists from when they were in a tiny minority in the early '60s.

He had continuously fought for more democracy in the union and more aggressive policies to defend members pay, jobs and conditions.

John explained the gloomy future that capitalism offers for all workers, and put his own election campaign in the context of the general struggle for the socialist transfor-

John castigated the sell out of the present leadership earlier this year in the pay campaign and urged the Broad Left to prepare for further battles on pay, technology and cuts in staffing.

It was clear from the Broad Left AGM (see article) that there is genuine



John Macreadie (right) with civil service union leaders April 1981.

mation of society.

He pledged to carry out Broad Left policies and not to repeat the experience of the past, where individuals had been elected on a Broad Left ticket, only to repudiate their policies once in office.

enthusiasm for this campaign and the resolve to carry out the work to achieve a resounding majority in the present ballot. The results of the election should be known by the 22nd or 23rd November.

The Annual General Meeting of the CPSA Broad Left on 7/8 November, with over 250 activists, was by far the biggest AGM ever, and reflected the increasing strength of the left in the union at all levels.

Conference confirmed in its decisions the large and developing influence of Militant supporters in the CPSA. Despite an expectedly stiff challenge from Ray Alderson, a well known Communist Party member on the NEC, Kevin Roddy was reelected by a large majority as the Broad Left candidate for President in 1982.

In the other elections a ballot slate for the NEC was agreed while for the TUC delegation slate a large number of 'Militant' supporters were elected. The

biggest debate, on womens rights saw an overwhelming majority for more discussion on practical proposals to involve women in the union and also on areas of improvement in conditions of service to enable women to achieve genuine equality at work.

On pay a claim of 20% with a minimum increase of £15 per week, was passed, and preparations for industrial action in the new year were discussed.

To achieve success on this front as on others, there was general agreement to proposals for amalgamation of the various civil service trade unions. On relations of CPSA to the wider movement, it was agreed to seek more democracy on the union's TUC delegation —allowing rank and file delegates equal status to

NEC members.

Furthermore a report was given by Kevin Roddy on the Labour Party affiliation campaign, which was launched recently. The first hurdle would be gaining approval in principle at CPSA's Annual Conference next year. Then the battle would go to the membership on a ballot.

All in all it was a very successful AGM, an encouragement to Broad Left groups all over the country to go out and build the Broad Left, in preparation for further electoral and policy victories next year in the struggle for a fighting leadership.

By Pat Byrne  
(DHSS Section  
Executive,  
Personal Capacity)

## LAURENCE SCOTT

By John Byrne  
(AUEW Manchester  
North District Cttee)



Putting the "cop" in helicopters? The helicopter firm and Scott's parent company must be blacked.

On Wednesday 4 November, a new development in industrial relations was initiated. The use of helicopters in breaking picket lines

On that morning approximately 150 police, including some mounted police from the tactical aid group ringed the factory.

Then in came the two helicopters from Cabair, in Denham, Buckingham-

shire, to lift out motors thought to be for Polaris submarines. The strike committee immediately contacted the local airport and asked for the helicopters to be blacked.

This assurance was given and questions were to be asked in Parliament about low flying aircraft, as the factory is right next to a large council estate. Quest-

ions were also being asked about the cost and coordination of this exercise.

The Entebbe raid as it has been called has given a boost to the strike committee, with enquiries as far afield as Radio Canada.

It is hoped that the motors will be blacked if they are sent to Vickers at Barrow-in-Furness. The strike committee feel that the

motors taken out of the Manchester factory may have the nameplates changed at the Doncaster factory of the parent company, Mining Supplies.

The strike committee feels strongly the NUM should black Mining Supplies. of support should be sent to G Fryer, 20 Roundcroft, Romiley, Cheshire.

## WDO dispute

By a UCW Broad  
Left supporter, WDO

Two weeks ago, Militant reported the vicious attack on trade union organisation by Post Office management in London's Western District.

They attempted to transfer branch chairman Bill Willoughby to a tiny out of the way office on the grounds that he swore at them. Right away the men were placed on alert for industrial action to defend

trade union rights. Now the UCW executive has announced a "settlement".

What is this settlement that has forced the job-cutting, budget-saving London Region Management to recognise the negotiating rights of local trade unionists? It is an independent advisory review body!

Do Tom Jackson and the rest of the UCW EC really think this review body will encourage union reps to fulfil their function? Reps will know that at any time they can be dismissed or

compulsorily transferred if they act as spokesmen for their members or, as in Bill's case, for swearing at so-called management who refused five times to let him see a section of Post Office rules.

As we all know the general public are always cursing out Post Office mismanagement. Is it any wonder that a union rep faced with the current attitude of PO management blows his top now and then?

Tom Jackson came in like a lion; assessed the situation as one of Michael Edwards-type direct confrontation and promised us

action.

But he has given us a "review body". Meanwhile Bill Willoughby is on 'paid leave of absence'—(sounds like suspension on full pay) until his case is heard. Sounds like the Old Bailey, doesn't it!

This agreement is a direct attack on our right to have any kind of representation as workers in the Post Office. The present EC seem to have very little in common with the demands of the mass membership of the UCW. We want a fighting union that will defend the workforce and protect the rights of our lay officials.

## SULZER

Solidarity  
in Action

Another round of applause as a lorry spins round by the factory and returns home with its load still inside. Trade union solidarity is being learned on the Sulzer picket line.

Yet management staff who directly depend on the productive workers for their own wages have shown no co-operation with the strike. Private cars have been used to smuggle food into the factory. Electrical contractors have been sneaked in in the early hours to fix a lift.

This has achieved nothing in terms of production, but has angered the pickets, so that now all cars are asked to open their boots to check on what may be stuffed inside.

Nearly all contract clerks stopped immediately when appealed to by pickets on the front gate. One small cowboy firm however, used ladders to scale the back fence throwing the tackle over the top.

Pickets removed the ladders forcing the contractors to leave through the main gate, whereupon security had management ban them from the site. All that was left was for them to find their ladders and pump up the van tyres, which had suffered an attack of slow punctures.

The placards, "Burn Bowden, save Meg" demonstrate not a passion for Crossroads, but a deep suspicion that the works manager, Mr Bowden is engaged in a personal fight for prestige, along with managing director Mr Walton who is Chairman of the area Engineering

Jon Ingham spoke to Tommy Wake  
AUEW Convenor,  
Sulzers

Employers Federation Newspapers have reported him as being a "trendsetter" for the area employers.

The "trend" he sees is one of a 5½% pay award that has to be earned out of productivity. He is juggling with the future of a new £22 million factory, the living standards of 300 shop floor workers.

Since the strike began no moves by management have been made to speak to the union side. Even the more final offers have been removed. So too has the agreement on the 39 hour working week which was won by engineering unions after the 1979 national action.

Recently a bible salesman came selling his wares and explained that when he was troubled, salvation was found in the Bible. There is no prejudice against Bible salesmen, but the workers at Sulzers had turned to their own resources of strength and unity.

The mass meetings are now a weekly event, and play an important role in giving all the members full information and a full opportunity to raise any questions in the running of the dispute.

This involvement of the whole workforce and the chance to bring out any doubts, has enabled the strike to build its own solidarity and act as an organising point for picketing rotas. In this manner the mass meetings are developing a role of their own, a springboard from which to win the dispute.

# Militant

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The families of the Chamberlain Phipps workers turn out to demonstrate in Bishop Auckland, along with LPYS and labour movement supporters. Photo: Denis Doran

## CHAMBERLAIN PHIPPS WALLPAPER WARRIORS FIGHT ON

Over 60 people marched through Bishop Auckland town centre on Saturday in support of the 43 workers sacked at Chamberlain Phipps.

It is a sign of the times—this is the first demo that the town has witnessed in living memory!

The march started from the factory gate and marched to the local

By Dave Metcalfe  
 (Benton LPYS)

Social Security offices, gaining support and

moral encouragement from the townspeople who lined the route. Indeed, the High Street came to an abrupt halt as we walked past.

A petition containing a thousand names was handed in at the DHSS offices where speeches were made by the men, condemning the management and the present Tory government.

At the open meeting held that night the men expressed their feelings at the way the firm had acted; it is the first strike that they have had. One person told how a representative of the firm had said that some of the men were model workers, but if they took one back the rest could claim unfair dismissal. This clearly shows how the firm has used the strike to get rid of what they consider just a few 'trouble makers'.

Eddie Honer spoke on the working conditions in the factory showing

the callous attitude of management to workers. He claimed that cleanliness and safety conditions were virtually non-existent in the mixing room (for vinyls) and described tanks where Chlorine gas was thick in the air.

The men's union, NUFLAT, also came in for heavy criticism.

The meeting was then opened up to the floor where various topics were discussed: unemployment, the need for socialism and the fight to resist the Tories. The YOPs schemes came in for a particular attack. One woman said "We didn't bring our kids up to be slaves. My kids are having nothing to do with YOPs."

Altogether, 80 Militants were sold, and one thing came across strongly—the 'Wallpaper Warriors' will fight on until they win.

## THATCHERS MADHOUSE

Continued from page one

tries to blame "greedy workers" for the country's problems.

But the fact is, 1,600,000 men (a sixth of the adult male workforce) work a full week, plus overtime, for a gross weekly wage of less than £90. This is according to the latest "New Earning Survey" of the Department of Employment.

Another 2,900,000 women workers (60% of the female workforce) worked a full week, with overtime, for gross weekly wages of less than £90.

With 15% inflation and continuous rises in electricity, gas, telephone bills, etc, these are now poverty-level wages!

Yet the Tory government which promised to "cut taxes" has increased the tax burden on the low paid while reducing taxes on the rich and the super-rich.

The Tories are helping the rich become even richer. This is being paid for by Tory cuts in the living standard of working people.

Tory policies are class policies through and through. Tory ministers for instance, are now gloating over Sir Michael Edwardes' "victory" at British Leyland in imposing a paltry 3.8% pay deal.

This year, Sir Michael himself was given a £500 a week pay rise. His earnings as BL Chairman are £90,000 a year.

Redundancy is hardly likely to be a problem for him, even if he throws in the towel. When he left Chloride, Sir Michael picked up a £75,000 pay off. That was from a company which had just reported a £13,500,000 loss!

Workers are forced to make sacrifices. But the bosses continue to prosper!

If BL should make a profit, Jenkin, the Tory industry secretary has revealed, the Tories intend to sell off any profitable parts to private industry.

Steel workers have improved average productivity from 40.5 man hours a ton last year to 10 man hours now. So MacGreggor wants to slash another 18,000 BSC jobs!

Last year, the British Gas Corporation made a £700

million profit. So the Tories are now moving to hand over its prize assets to private firms.

Despite massive increases in productivity on the railways, British Rail are now demanding another 38,000 job cuts by 1985.

The Tories' rotten system, based on private profit for the few, means sacrifice without end for the workers.

The government's own statistics show the desperation of the situation. It is time for the whole labour movement to mount a massive counter-offensive: To bring down the Tories and return a Labour government on socialist policies.

The fight must be on unemployment: Work or full maintenance for everyone available for work.

A 35-hour week for all workers without loss of pay!

The Department of Employment itself estimates that currently overtime work is the equivalent of 880,000 full-time jobs. The implementation of a 35-hour week would create many more jobs than that.

For a living wage for all workers! Every worker, man and woman, young and old, should get a minimum wage of at least £85 a week.

Full support by the trade unions and the Labour Party for Fords workers, the Tanker drivers, and other sections at the forefront of the struggle for decent wages and conditions!

## DENNING

Continued from page one

can and cannot do! The labour movement must fight against this decision.

But it should also take note of what is in effect a general warning for any Labour authority or, for that matter, any future Labour government.

That is quite clearly that the judicial establishment cannot be expected to accept Labour's mandate, no matter how great, as 'constitutional' or 'fair', providing of course by the next election it is still legal to vote Labour.

## YOPS CONFERENCE

Just one week to go to the YOP Trainees Rights founding conference on 21 November.

The response has been so great that the conference is being moved to a larger venue at Central Hall, Renshaw Street, Liverpool L (see details below).

At its recent meeting, the Executive Council of the

National Union of Public Employees gave a big boost to the campaign when it decided to give its support to the conference.

The executive also decided to send a YOP trainee from each of the 11 divisions to the conference, and donated £50 towards the campaign expenses.

YOPS TRAINEES UNION RIGHTS  
 CAMPAIGN FOUNDING CONFERENCE  
 Central Hall, Renshaw Street, Liverpool 1 (2 mins. Lime Street Station). Saturday 21 November, 11am-5pm. For further details, write to YTURC, c/o LPYS 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.

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