



Tebbit bashes Unions...

DEFEND UNION RIGHTS

Tebbit has now spelt out the Tories' plans for an all-out offensive against the trade unions.

With workers' bargaining power already weakened by official unemployment of 3 million, Thatcher's big-business government is out to cripple the unions' ability to defend jobs and living standards.

The new measures, which Thatcher hopes to implement early in 1982, aim to smash vital trade union rights, allow bosses and government to intervene in the running of the workers' organisations, and financially cripple the unions.

The Tories are trying to off-load the crisis of the profit system onto the backs of working people.

Tebbit is not defending "workers' rights", as he hypocritically claims. He's defending the bosses' profits at the expense of trade union and democratic rights won through years of sacrifice and struggle.

Wage settlements are already lagging way behind price rises. Millions of workers are struggling to survive on poverty wages.

By crippling the unions, the Tories want to make British workers the permanent coolies of the industrial world.

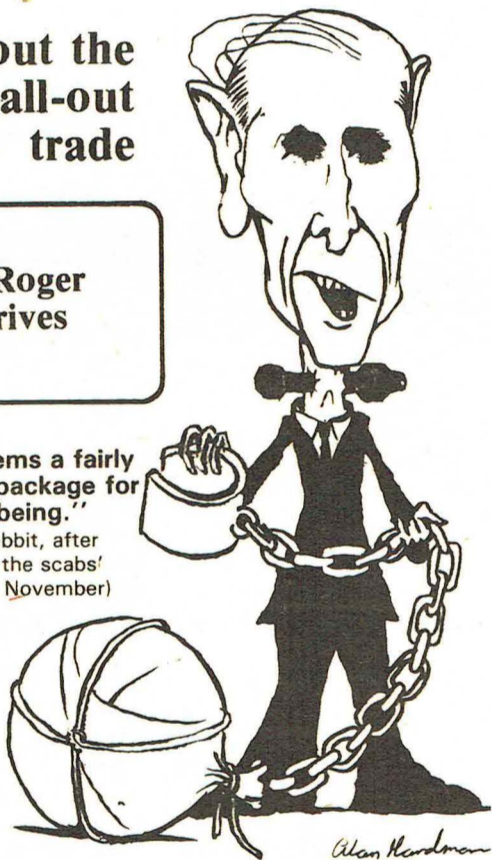
Tebbit will attempt to remove unions' legal immunity from damages.

For "unlawful" strikes, bosses could sue unions for damages of between £12,500 and £¼ million, depending on the union's size. Individuals "unfairly" dismissed or otherwise affected by "unfair" trade union action could also

By Roger Shrives

"This seems a fairly rounded package for the time being."

(Norman Tebbit, after introducing the scabs' charter, 23 November)



Right Retreats on Witch-Hunt

Labour's right-wing MPs have once again failed to push the National Executive of the Labour Party into a witch-hunt against the Militant and the left in general.

Although the threat of a future investigation into the Militant still hangs in the air, the right wing have undoubtedly been checked by the avalanche of resolutions from Labour Parties, Young Socialist branches and trade unions opposing any moves towards a purge. At Wednesday's NEC

meeting, John Golding MP moved the reference back of the Organisational Subcommittee's report on conference resolutions. This was intended to allow the NEC to consider an NUR resolution, which conference delegates decided they did not want to debate, to be re-discussed.

By a Militant reporter

The resolution, tabled by the right-wing leadership of the NUR but opposed by many of the union's active members, called for a return to bans and proscriptions, with 'Militant' clearly intended as number one target.

This new move on the NEC, however, was defeated. Michael Foot apparently said that he opposed a return to bans and proscriptions against left wingers. An investigation into the Militant could be considered by the NEC in the future, Foot said.

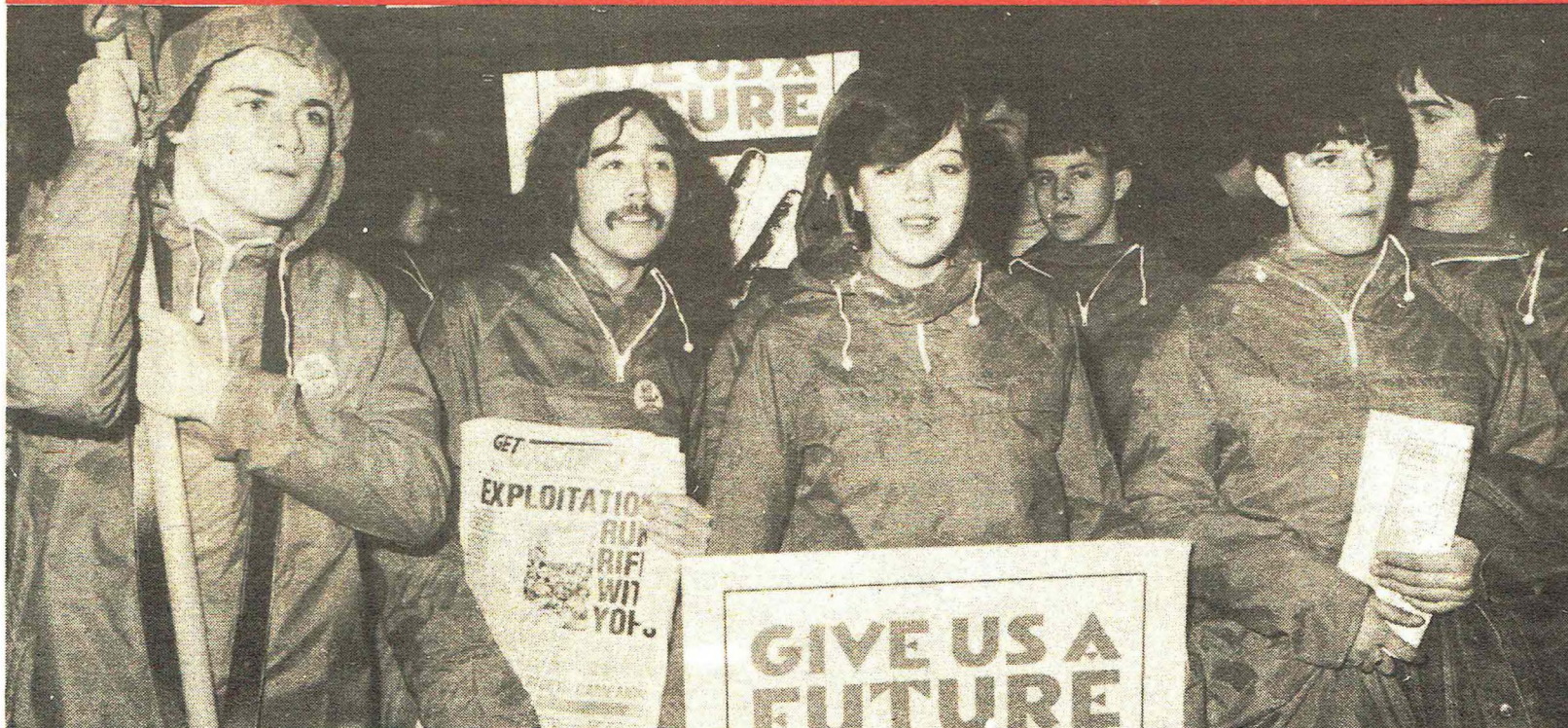
This vague promise of action in the future led John Golding to withdraw his proposal. Clearly, he was far from certain of getting a majority in favour of a witch-hunt.

Even those on the National Executive who have wavered on this issue have been made aware in recent weeks of the tremendous anger there would be amongst the rank and file of the labour movement if new

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Jobs Express-Youth against Tories

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Militant

Labour's Right try to turn clock back

Labour's right wing, using their dominance of the Parliamentary Party and their strengthened position on the National Executive, are trying to turn back the clock of progress in the Labour Party.

The right are calling for "unity against the Tories". But the spokesman of Labour Solidarity advocate a return to the diluted Tory policies followed by the last Labour government, policies which led the party and the labour movement to disaster.

Panicked by the threat from the Liberal/SDP Alliance, to which a number of their friends have recently defected, they are now trying to out-SDP the SDP.

Not only are they trying to ditch the radical policies adopted by successive Labour Party Conferences, but they also want to undo the democratic reforms gained in recent years.

As a first step, the right are pushing for a new witch-hunt against the 'Militant', which would open the way to a purge of the left in the party.

These developments are highlighted by the recent PLP elections for the shadow cabinet.

Ten members of the Solidarity group now dominate the fifteen-strong shadow cabinet. By voting this way, and excluding Tony Benn from Labour's front bench, the majority of Labour MPs have made

clear the deep divide between them and the party as a whole.

At Brighton, Peter Shore, elected top of the PLP poll, openly opposed the economic policies passed by conference. Eric Varley, fifth in the poll, openly advocated an incomes policy—which was unequivocally rejected by conference.

Brynmor John, also elected, supports Denis Healey's commitment to high defence spending and Britain's "independent nuclear deterrent".

And so the list could be continued.

Shadow cabinet elections: a kick in the teeth for Labour's ranks

Tony Benn, with 66 votes, was not utterly defeated. Apparently, even some on the right of the PLP recognised his standing in the party and cast their vote for him.

But a majority of MPs have repudiated the deputy leadership candidate who was only very narrowly defeated by Healey, and who clearly has the overwhelming support of constituency activists and massive support among active trade unionists.

John Grant, MP for Islington Central, hung on in the PLP just long enough to

vote for the right. Then he defected to the SDP. How many others, grouped in Solidarity, are deliberately remaining in the Labour Party as a Trojan horse, with the intention of blocking the implementation of radical policies under the next Labour government?

If Neil Kinnock's vote went up, pulling him up from twelfth position last year to seventh this year, it was because right wing MPs are acknowledging his role in helping to block the election of Tony Benn as deputy leader through abstention.

Activists in the party are clearly angry at the role played by Neil Kinnock and other Tribunate abstainers.

Those, like some of the Fleet Street hacks, who think the PLP elections signify a shift to the right in the Labour Party, are completely mistaken.

The right wing has strengthened its position on the NEC through the manoeuvres of some right-wing trade union leaders at the Brighton Conference. They succeeded, in part, because of the failure of some of the left union leaders to counter the massive press propaganda with a campaign among the membership on the policies defended by Tony Benn.

But there is no support among either CLP activists or active trade unionists for a right-wing counter-revolution. Workers want unity in the fight against the Tories. But they are not prepared to accept unity at any price.

Under the slogan of 'unity', the right are at-

tempting to resurrect the failed policies of the last Labour government—and to wipe out the democratic gains of the last three years.

This was made brutally clear in the six-page document issued on 18 November by Labour's 'Solidarity Campaign', led by Roy Hattersley and Peter Shore.

The document proposed a determined "counter-attack" to save "the tradition of democratic socialism". However, their "immediate objectives" made it clear just what this means.

"The objectives (according to 'The Times' report) include a review of mandatory re-selection, leadership elections, the composition of the Party's National Executive, and the procedures of annual party conference in an attempt to update and modernise the party."

Let there be no mistake! They want to reverse mandatory re-selection, leadership elections, and other democratic procedures.

Some of the right evidently think that Michael Foot is 'too soft'. Together with strengthening the right's position on the NEC, they would like to pressurise Foot into resigning to make way for someone like Peter Shore, or Roy Hattersley.

The right of the PLP will continue to support Foot only if he shows that he is prepared to move against the left.

Part and parcel of Solidarity's "counter-attack" will be an attempted witch-hunt.

"We must now turn our attention," says the Solidarity document, "to the organised infiltration that is undoubtedly taking place..."

Denis Healey, Peter Shore, Roy Hattersley, have all explicitly stated that they want 'Militant' and its supporters purged from the party. It would not stop there. If they could purge the 'Militant', they would then turn on their other opponents in the party.

"Solidarity" group pushing for purge against left

The right wing want to restore the party regime that prevailed under Gaitskell in the 1950s and early 60s. Bevanite MPs were suspended from the PLP. Left-wingers were expelled from the CLPs, left candidates, selected by constituencies, were vetoed by the NEC.

The great parliamentary 'democrats' ruled through thought-control and bureaucratic manoeuvres.

For three decades, the right wing have seen the Labour Party as a vehicle for their own careers. This was admitted in so many words by Solidarity supporter Austin Mitchell in last week's 'Labour Weekly'. The right regard themselves as a 'second XI', who when the Tories were ousted, could step in to run the capitalist system better

than the capitalists themselves.

Experience of the last Labour government, however, led the mass of the labour movement to reject this position. Under Wilson, Callaghan and Healey, Labour began the cuts and the monetarist policies which have been taken to such savage lengths by this Tory government. The five per cent pay policy directed against low-paid workers sealed the fate of that Labour government.

Labour's ranks drew the conclusion that only radical policies aimed at a real change in society could take the working class forward. To ensure that such policies were carried through, re-selection and the election of the Parliamentary leadership were regarded as a necessity.

The gains on these issues will not be reversed by the present campaign of the right, in spite of any temporary successes they may have.

Nor will the right succeed in expelling Marxism from the party.

Marxism, which inspired many of Labour's pioneers, has been a vital part of the party since its inception. It will not be rooted out by middle-class interlopers intent on preserving the Labour Party as a vehicle for their own careers.

On the contrary, the forces of Marxism within the Labour Party will grow from strength to strength as more and more workers turn to the programme of Marxism as the only solution to the crisis of capitalism.

Right retreats on Witch-hunt

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attempts were made to curb discussion and opposition through organisational manoeuvres.

Our reports on other pages testify to the enormous support for Militant in the Labour Party and the trade unions. Labour activists who do not support all of Militant's ideas, moreover, understand the vital need to preserve democratic discussion and procedures in the labour movement.

The right have a number of other reasons, too, for being disappointed with this week's NEC meeting.

A move to thwart the endorsement of the nomination of Militant supporter Dave Nellist as parliamentary candidate for Coventry South East was also rejected.

The full NEC meeting also decided that Frank Allaun would be chairman of the Press and Publicity Committee. At the sub-committee itself, the vote had been tied 8 to 8, and the decision referred to the full

NEC. The left thus retains the chair and the majority on this committee too.

Despite the right strengthening its position on the NEC in the conference elections at Brighton, they have, compared to the previous year, actually lost the chair of one of the committees.

Unanswered questions

Right winger Russell Tuck of the NUR was replaced as chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee by left winger Alex Kitson.

The right, to the bitter disappointment of the millionaires' press, has clearly failed to carry through the counter-revolution in the party which it threatened after Brighton.

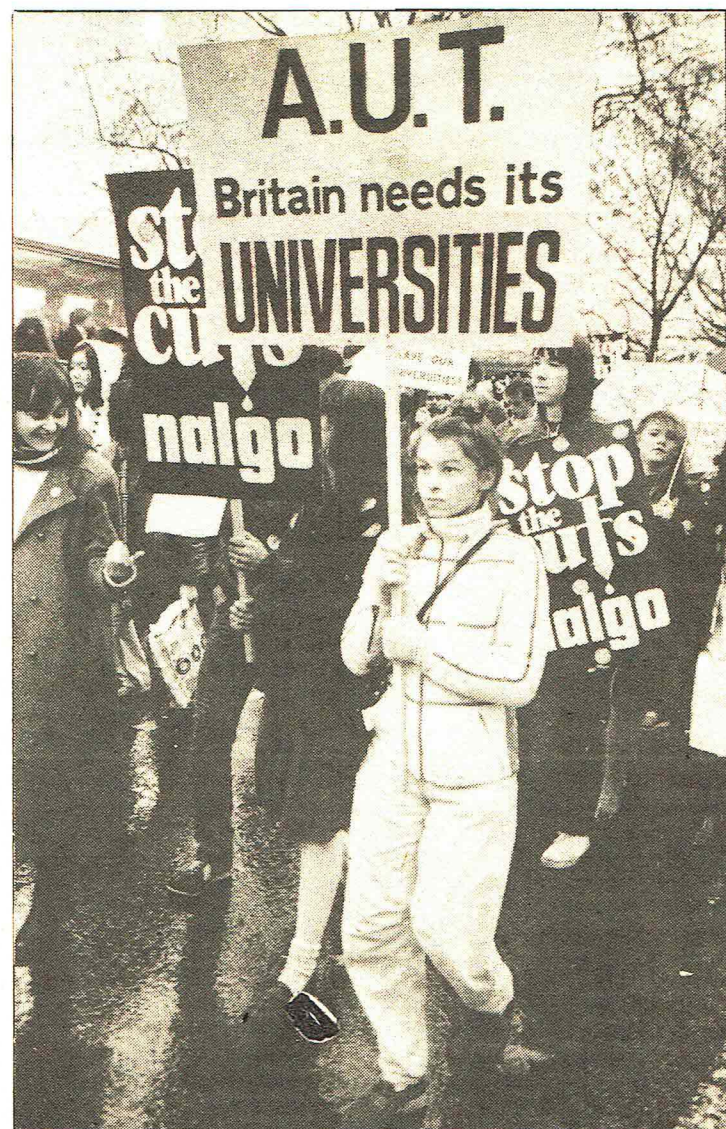
But the ranks of the Labour Party and the trade unions must remain on their guard. Conference decisions, the democratic party

reforms, and the right of all political trends to express their views in the party, must be resolutely defended.

Undoubtedly, resolutions against the right's attacks will continue to flood in to the NEC. Labour Party members and trade unionists will be waiting to see what action the NEC will take to examine big business links with Labour MPs and the penetration of the labour movement by the CIA and other intelligence agencies.

The questions posed on our centre pages are still awaiting answers.

In order to give full reports on the reaction throughout the Labour Party and trade unions to the threat of a witch-hunt against *Militant*, (see pages 8, 9 and 10), we have had to hold over our planned feature on World Trade and Protectionism, Readers' Letters, and other articles and reports



Some of the 14,000 workers in universities and colleges who came on 18 November to lobby MPs against Tory cuts. Called by NALGO, AUT (Association of University Teachers) and other campus unions, the demo marched from Chelsea College, threatened with job losses, to Westminster.

Photo: Carlos Augusto/IFL

after first ever YOPS conference ...

JOIN A UNION

Over 300 YOP workers, trade unionists and young socialists attended the organising conference of the YOPs Trainees Union Rights Campaign in Liverpool last Saturday.

The first speaker was Laurence Coates, LPYS representative on the Labour Party National Executive Committee. At a time of mass unemployment, said Laurence, all the Tories could offer youth was six months on a YOPs scheme. Thatcher's response to the August riots was to expand the YOPs schemes.

By Simon Swinnerton

(NUPE shop steward for YOPS)



Above and below: sections of the audience and speaker at last Saturday's YOP Conference. Photo: D Doran

WHO WAS THERE

DELEGATIONS present included: 52 TGWU, 51 NUPE, 18 GMWU, 53 other representatives of YOP schemes, 6 Trades Councils, 1 AUEW Junior Workers Committee, 3 from a TGWU youth section, 79 from LPYS and Labour Party branches, and 12 other trade unions.

DONATIONS received include: £100 Edinburgh No.1 NUPE, £50 NUPE Executive Council, £200 LPYS, £13 Romford Labour Party, £13 Rochdale LP, £10 TGWU 6/612 (Unemployed Workers branch), £10 Liverpool Graphical Association, plus £217 raised at conference.

£23.50 on YOPS was nothing but peanuts! Many young workers were only 20p or 30p better off than being on the dole and they get that 20p or 30p extra after working a 40-hour week.

Whilst the trade unions and Manpower Services Commission had called for YOPsters wages to be raised to £30, all the Tories seemed likely to come up with was a miserly £1.50 extra.

As far as Thatcher and Co. were concerned, you were "lucky" to get training. Yet she is paid more in three weeks than a YOP worker gets in a year. Laurence then spelt out the programme of the YTURC: "We want at least £20 extra and a full training scheme, not slave labour! In Chesterfield, eight girls are employed to count bins."

It was essential that the trade unions monitored these schemes. Last year, 3,200 accidents were reported on YOP programmes. Five people died and twenty-three lost limbs. And all for 50p an hour!

The 500,000 youths on these schemes are the biggest non-union section of

the working class. YTURC did not offer individuals money or perks but a united fight for decent wages and conditions: a fight for a massive programme of useful public works to build better houses, hospitals, schools and employ youth, full-time, with guaranteed jobs.

The only way to achieve this was to join the YTURC, join the Labour Party Young Socialists and campaign to kick out the Tories and bring Labour to power on a socialist programme.

During contributions from the floor, one Liverpool YOP worker said that joining the YTURC was "the best thing I've done since I left school. If you think £23.50 is buttons you have to fight for more. No one will do it for you." YOPsters had to be organised like apprentices had been in the 1960s.

John Dempsey, Lancashire full-timer for the public workers union, NUPE, then spoke from the platform.

He attacked Tories like Norman Tebbit for telling everybody to "get on your bike and look for work. The Tories say there is no alternative. They are right. There is no capitalist alternative, but there is a socialist alternative".

The trade unions had to link up and fight together, form joint committees and organise young workers. John finished by saying: "Thatcher is a vampire! She is sucking the welfare state dry. The only way to get rid of vampires is to drive a stake through their hearts."

"This is what this conference is doing by organising YOP workers. We fight to change the system and then as all vampires, Thatcher and her ideas will crumble to dust".

From the floor, Anne Beales, Chairman London LPYS, pointed out how the media were ignoring this conference: "They are terrified of our ideas. If this was reported in the press thousands of YOPsters

WHAT THEY SAID

Eric Jones [Margaret St. YOP, Liverpool]:

6 We want to be treated like adults. That's why I joined a union. You've got to fight or you don't get anywhere.

We want proper jobs. We want to kick Thatcher out and we've got to fight for what we believe in. If you don't fight you won't get anywhere. At the moment we're getting paid buttons, but work hard enough for a decent wage, more than £23.50.

Joining a union was the best move I've ever made. I was on the dole 18 months before I went on a scheme. It's hopeless when you're looking for work. They say 'what qualifications and experience have you? How can you get experience if you've never worked?'

Or they say 'We'll contact you.' How many firms ever write back? We need decent jobs.

If you believe in yourself—that you can do something with your life, then you're worth more than £23.50—it's peanuts.

A mate of mine complains, but he's not in a union, he can't see the

point, but he'll get nowhere moaning on his own. We've got to show him that we can fight.

Because if we want better pay, holidays, training, we're going to have to fight—HARD!

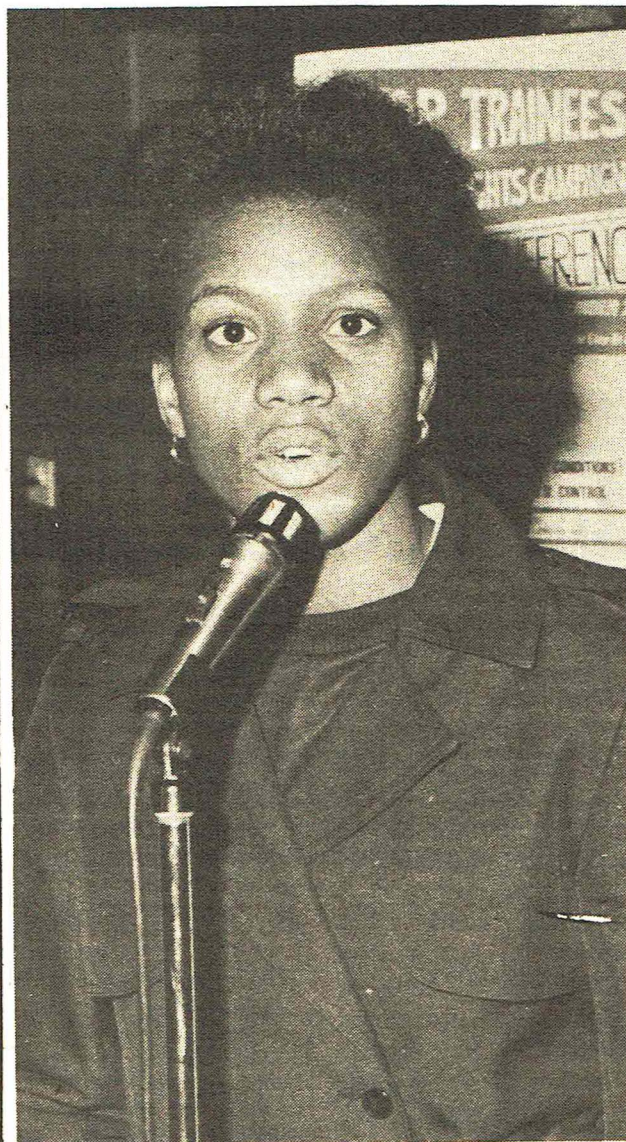
Another young worker on a scheme in Birkenhead:

6 I was working a 40-hour week—and I mean 40 hours. From the moment I went in to work on the switchboard in the morning to when I finished in the evening, I didn't get a single break.

I even had to eat my buttocks sitting at the switchboard. If that's training and work experience—they can keep it.

John Dempsey [NUPE Assistant Divisional Officer, Lancs]:

6 I hope this conference will be the first of many. It's a tremendous start. One of the crucial things about this conference is that it is discussing a charter—a clear programme of demands—for YOP workers. We must make that the programme of every Trade Union.



Detained for 'blemishing' Queen's peace

Five hours in a cell, with no charge at all. That was Her Majesty's sentence when several LP Young Socialists and Labour Party members dared to hold up a banner as the Queen visited Birmingham on 20 November.

The "seditious" content of the banner? 'Queen spends £1,000 a week, YOPS get £23.50 a week.'

Within two seconds of raising the banner, several policemen wrested it from YS hands.

After a one minute discussion making the point

that we were free to express our viewpoint, two of us were arrested. "Disorderly conduct" was quoted when we asked why.

In the Black Maria several police showed complete ignorance of what YOPS was, and different prejudices for gallows and gas chambers for us. At the police station, they stated they were arrested for a "blemish of the peace".

When we were finally let out, we were told we might be summonsed for "conduct

in breach of the peace".

Such was the dire threat that our small poster posed, that the police have still not been able to decide what to charge us with, if anything.

Fortunately, fellow LP members contacted a solicitor and the press, and mounted a picket outside the police station. This would have been expanded if we had not been released.

The need for police accountability is clear. But don't be daunted by the police; fight for socialism!



PHOTOS Above: Accrington demo on 14 November. Below: Norwich the same day

WANTED A future for Young Workers

UNEMPLOYMENT OR SOCIALISM?



Accrington

By Rosina Harris

This week, like every other week, saw jobs lost in the textile and engineering industries that once dominated Lancashire.

This week like every week saw the traditional image of the noisy industrial North West recede further into the past. Now four out of five East Lancashire school leavers have no permanent job to go to.

But this week also gave notice that workers in this area are not prepared to be thrown on the scrapheap.

In just about the biggest demonstration that Accrington has ever seen, an estimated 1,000 crowd marched in protest at Tory policies. The march, organised by the local Trades Council ended in a rally on the theme 'Jobs not dole'.

The local MP Arthur Davidson pointed to the damage done locally by the Tories, a theme taken up by Bob Cryer MP. He showed that workers had the im-

agination as well as the strength to solve the problems of unemployment.

He cited the Lucas shop stewards' plan for alternative use of machinery to make socially necessary goods rather than weapons of destruction.

Bob Cryer was warmly applauded by the crowd when he called on Michael Foot to start giving ultimatums to Mrs Thatcher not to Tony Benn.

Other speakers gave graphic illustrations of the impact that the destruction of the textile and engineering industry had on workers, particularly women and Asian workers in an area of traditionally low pay, long hours and dangerous conditions.

But the speech that was best received, ending with a standing ovation and constantly interrupted by cheers and clapping was from Peter Harris, youth officer for Blackburn Labour Party. Concentrating on youth unemployment, he hammered home the point that the fight for better conditions was inextricably linked to the struggle for socialism.

Peter explained how the wealth of the country, produced by the labour of the working class had been stolen by the bosses. A socialist planned economy with workers' control and management would be the only answer. Then produc-

tion would be for need and not for profit.

He showed the need for trade union leaders to fight, to turn down sell outs and back door deals with the Tories, and go to their membership to educate, organise and mobilise to kick out the Tories.

The response he got demonstrated the untapped determination of workers throughout the country. Peter pointed out as an ex-

ample the proud record of the Labour Party Young Socialists in fighting not just for youth but for all working class families.

Nearly 100 'Militants' were sold on the demo and many older workers told us after the rally how the fighting spirit and the clear programme of the Labour Party Young Socialists made their past struggles worthwhile.

Norwich

The madness of the Thatcher government and the nightmare of mass unemployment makes it easy to take politics on to the streets.

The 700 Young Socialists who marched in the Eastern Region LPYS demo in Norwich on 14 November were received very sympathetically as we had been during the week's build up in the city.

Norwich LPYS found few people who admitted they were Tory supporters. Thatcher and her mob are hated in the factories, in the schools, on the estates and by the shoppers in the city centre.

Only the police seemed to find our work distasteful, stopping to remove posters advertising the demo along the route of the march.

At the rally all the

speakers agreed that the only answer was socialism. The Social Democrats were a soft option—a Tory option that would be very hard on the working class if they got to power.

Among a number of very good speakers Nick Toms (YS National Committee) summed up the rally by urging action to get rid of the Tories right away using the labour movement's industrial muscle.

The first task of the new Labour government elected, must, Nick emphasised, be to swiftly put an end to the decrepit capitalist system by the implementation of Clause 4 Part 4 of Labour's constitution.

By K Harding
(Norwich LPYS)

Patient explanation of *Militant's* bold programme to change society can work near miracles in producing new young class fighters.

Mid and East Lothian Trades Council Youth Section (TCYS), which has been trying to form an unemployed workers' union (UWU) and a centre in Dalkeith, held a meeting recently in the area.

One or two comrades arrived half an hour before the TCYS meeting was due to start and stood on the street corner. Groups of two or three youngsters were milling about in the town centre.

The comrades stopped them and asked if any of them were on the Youth Opportunity Programmes and gave them the LPYS National YOPS leaflet.

A dozen young people (school students, YOPS workers and unemployed) took up our invitation to attend the TCYS meeting, where the Chairman abandoned the planned agenda and gave an off-the-cuff speech on the abuses of the YOPS schemes.

At first, although our policies met with approval our visitors were not then prepared to commit themselves to the UWU. More discussion was required.

Mineworkers in Monktonhall branch of the National Union of Mineworkers are calling for active support for the Labour Party Young Socialists' initiative on YOPS.

The branch put forward an amendment to the annual youth conference of the union in Edinburgh on 14 December calling on the Youth NUM Committee to "actively support" the YOP Trade Union Rights Campaign (YOPTURC) "initiated by the Labour Party Young Socialists" and to "vigorously pursue" the demand for trade union rights for YOP trainees.

They also called for full trade union rates of pay, union monitoring of all YOP and WEEP schemes and an end to arbitrary sackings and deductions. The amendment demanded that YOP schemes should be expanded into real year-long training programmes with a guaranteed job at the end.

This amendment is especially important because, if carried, it will mean closer links between NUM youth and the Labour Party Young Socialists.

Speaker after speaker linked up the plight of YOP trainees to that of the labour movement generally.

We explained that on the basis of capitalism, unemployment could never be eradicated.

Our visitors began to realise their problems would not end when their YOP schemes concluded, and the school students saw that the future for them would be bleak without the implementation of socialist policies.

Suddenly, the pessimism we had first encountered was swept aside as our visitors began enthusiastically discussing the need for a fundamental change in society.

Only one newcomer did not sign the sheet we passed round and the meeting demanded that we immediately set up a Dalkeith branch of the LPYS as well as look towards a UWU.

One YOP trainee who is to be taken on full time by her employer for the princely wage of £39 a week (after tax, national insurance etc she would probably take home £2.50 more per week than on the YOP) also asked us to help her bring USDAW into her non-union shop.

By Chris Herriot
(Mid & E Lothian TCYS
Chairman and NUM)

The last demand calls for "a massive programme of socially useful public works such as the construction of schools, hospitals, and council housing to alleviate unemployment"—a policy the LPYS have campaigned for consistently.

Further, this amendment concludes:—"Conference recognises that only the socialist transformation of society will end the horrors of unemployment once and for all and pledges to work for the earliest possible achievement of this end."

A second amendment was passed concerning the campaign work of the NUM Youth Committee. The original resolution requested the Youth Committee to campaign amongst young miners and working class youth generally to counter right wing propaganda, ideas and policies—without giving an alternative!

The amendment demands that the Youth Committee centre all such campaigns around the need for the "nationalisation of the top 200 or so monopolies which control 85% of our economy."

City of bills and insecurity



Photo: Militant.

Photo above: A sign of the past

Below: But the young will have to fight for a decent future



Coventry's council workers are now in the third week of their strike against cuts in hours and pay, closing all the city's schools and colleges.

The Transport and General Workers Union has already called for a one-day strike of local authority workers in the city.

Now an NUT mass meeting has called on its National Executive to issue instructions not to cross picket lines and to support the proposed one day strike. They also agreed to donate £1,000 to the strike fund to add to the £3,000 that NUT members have already collected.

On 25 November 4,000 NALGO members meet to decide whether to refuse to cross the picket lines.

NUPE has called for 26 November to be a one-day strike to show the council that all the city's local authority workers are united against the cuts. John Doran, a school caretaker and NUPE senior steward, told *Militant*: "We have been out now for three weeks and we are not going to go back until all the cuts are reversed."

By Mark Picksley

(NUPE and Coventry South East LPYS)

"The council has put forward offers which it claims mean less cuts. One is to reduce the hours by 5% instead of 10% but this still demands 50 redundancies of temporary cleaners some of whom have been working for over a year. That is no alternative."

"The level of picketing should be stepped up all around the city then we would show the real strength of the workers."

For a one day strike!

"But the strike does not just affect NUPE members; the union has called for a day of action on 3rd December. Local authority workers are in the front line against the Tory cuts. This is really only the first round and if we don't fight together the consequences will be terrible when the Tories cut and cut again."

"A one-day strike would show the Tories and the council leaders that we understand that all workers are affected and prepared to mount a united fightback to defend our services and

jobs. "It is vital that local authority workers join the Labour Party to change the council's policy and get leaders who are prepared to stand up to the Tories."

"There are 4,000 NUPE members in this city. If they join the Party the cuts couldn't be made."

Socialist alternative

"Several people have already taken up party membership because the right-wing councillors have not only provoked this dispute but have stifled all discussion inside the Party."

"The right have no strategy to fight the cuts and so can only capitulate to the Tories. We have to get into the Party to change the policies and offer a socialist alternative."

'City of skills and opportunities' is the slogan on the billboard ironically in a derelict railway yard outside Coventry station.

These words may have had some basis in the past but they bear no relation to the 'opportunities' facing young people in 1981.

From being a boom town, Coventry is now a slump town. Ten to fifteen years ago 40% of all school leavers were certain of an apprenticeship. This year over one thousand applied for 70 apprenticeships at Rolls Royce, while Jaguar offered none.

Only a pitiful 13% of this year's fifth form school leavers have found work, whereas even in 1979 there were jobs for 38%.

Coventry now has one of the highest levels of youth unemployment nationally and social life on the dole is reduced to zero.

One cinema which offered cheap rates for the unemployed has just closed and it is impossible for most unemployed youth even to think of going to one of the city's night clubs.

With this life of boredom and misery, what prospects open up for young people?

In a desperate attempt to gain qualifications and a possible job, the number of school leavers going to colleges has increased by 50% and the number going back to school is up 25% from last year, most of them receiving no grants at all.

In the city as a whole in November 1981 2,876 out of the 5,562 16 to 19 year olds are being used as cheap labour or doing dead end work on YOPs schemes. These 'boast' the glorious figure of £23.50 per week with no job at the end.

By Dave Nellist

Prospective Parliamentary candidate, Coventry South East

But the 'Coventry Evening Telegraph' the local Tory rag has found a way to dramatically ease Coventry's unemployment crisis.

"Dynamic thinking by GEC personnel directors" they say "has produced a new type of work-sharing scheme where one job is shared between two school-leavers. After doing 6 months work experience each trainee is given two and a half days a week at £26 per week, for 18 months."

After this, some youngsters, those that GEC have not singled out as 'trouble makers' and those not active in a union might find a job at the end but the rest are just booted back onto the dole.

Sadly this has been supported by the unions at this stage, but the Labour Party Young Socialists do not accept half a job on slave wages as good enough for young people.

It is our task to begin a campaign within the trade union movement for trade union rates of pay for all young workers, full trade union rights and permanent jobs for all.

But in the battles to come to achieve these basic demands youth will have to prepare to struggle by joining the unions and the LPYS to fight for a socialist planned economy.

These days there's no doubt. This is the only way to guarantee a decent future.

We can't accept a system where the heartland of manufacturing industry in Britain can at its best only offer two years of poverty.

The press is getting Royal fever again over the Princess of Wales' preparation for motherhood. Her child could be "second in line" for the throne.

For thousands of working class women, many of whom have been offered only the "line" of the dole queue, life is a constant struggle.

Gail and Julie, two members of Coventry South East Labour Party Young Socialists, explain what life is like for them.

Gail

Since the Tories have been in power I have had nothing but trouble. Since prescription charges have rocketed from 20p to £1 we cannot afford even to become sick.

I have two children and if my husband happens to have time off work he gets £17 per week to pay rent

and food and any other bills we may have.

Not so long ago he was on strike and could not claim anything except a few pounds to try and keep us. Our rents and rates have just gone up twice and are now £22.50 for a damp two bed roomed flat.

We cannot possibly go out any more, and the only time we go to the pub is after the YS meeting every week. We recently got into rent arrears because of the strike, and the council turned round and said we should eat less, sell some furniture and wrap up in blankets to keep warm!

What kind of life is this with two boys aged 3 years and 4 months? They must have food and warmth, there is nothing more we can give them.

I would like to see more than anything else a change in this type of living (or surviving) and the 'Militant' has shown me that you can do it! So you will always have my support.

Julie

When we were first married and had our first child, we only got £36.50 dole a week and two milk tokens.

We only had £10 a week for buying everything, that is with a baby. This went on for over two years.

My husband was always down at the doctors to get anti-depressant tablets. He spent over six months just visiting factories looking for work only to be told that there is no job and to be told by others that he was lazy and idle.

When he got a job at £49 a week it meant that for the first time we had some money to go out each week, but now he hasn't had a pay rise for two years. He's been told that there is none this year and we have another child.

This means that there is nothing left at the end of the week and we have real problems. All bills have to be paid by so much a week or by going into rent ar-

rears.

Our rent and rates have just gone up by £4 so Christmas will be a nightmare. I don't know if we will be able to get presents for the children and extra food.

There are lots of things we cannot buy. I haven't had cheese for months and I have forgotten what meat on Sunday is like.

All my clothes are second hand and we rely on being given a lot of stuff. Life is a real struggle to get along.

My mum tells me what things were like when I was a kid. You would think that things would have got better by now, but they haven't. In fact they are getting worse.

But we always make sure we give money to the 'Militant' each week, as much as we can afford because socialism is the only way we will have a decent future.



LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS

Public Meeting—'Tories out, jobs for youth!' Speakers: Dave Nellist, Prospective Parliamentary Candidate, Coventry South East; Les Kuriata, LPYS National Committee. Wednesday 2 December, 7.30pm, Gosford Park Hotel, St Georges Road, Coventry

SCARMAN

A knife without a blade



The Scarman report on the "Brixton Disorders" (published Wednesday, 25 November) confirms that it was appalling social conditions and bitter resentment against the police which were the two main causes of the upheaval.

Lord Scarman's report is a crushing indictment of the appalling social conditions in Brixton and other inner-city areas. The report implicitly refutes the Tory government's contention that unemployment and social conditions "were not to blame".

In reality, Scarman's report is a condemnation of the decaying capitalist system and the Tory government's policies, though Scarman, not surprisingly, goes out of his way to avoid putting the blame where it really belongs.

Scarman accepts that there were many cases of blatant harassment and racial prejudice by the police, and gives many examples of provocative police operations and methods. His material confirms the part played by Special Patrol Group operations and "Swamp '81" in bringing long-standing resentment of blacks, youth and the community generally to explosion point.

However, anyone who may have hoped that Scarman would draw the necessary conclusions and make radical proposals for reform will be bitterly disappointed by his report.

Scarman carefully hedges his many detailed criticisms of the police with cautious, legalistic qualifications. Despite all the evidence to the contrary sprinkled through his own report, Scarman still insists that in general the police always acted "reasonably", "lawfully", etc. Sometimes, he concedes, some policemen showed a lack of judgement or discretion. This is as far as he will go.

The people of Brixton will rightly see the report as a carefully constructed whitewashing job.

The report also implicitly makes a massive case against the lack of police accountability and present, completely ineffective complaints procedure.

He acknowledges that many people with justified complaints against the police do not bother to make their complaints because they have no confidence whatsoever in the procedure.

Scarman also points to the lack of real accountability and to the ineffective consultation procedures which exist. But on these vital issues—it should be remembered that the report is being made under the 1964 Police Act—Scarman's report is a knife without a blade.

He proposes purely cosmetic changes as far as the police are concerned.

Scarman regards the existing local Police



The Tory answer on 'law and order': Lock them up! as this Birmingham delegate (a member of a prison Parole Board!) proclaimed at the Tory Party conference last October. Will Lord Scarman persuade the Tories to change?

Photo: David Gordon

Authorities as adequate in principle. He merely believes that they should be made to work more effectively.

He recommends that consultation between the police and the community should be put within a statutory framework.

He recommends that the recruitment, education and training of police, and particularly efforts to recruit more police from the ethnic minorities, should be improved.

But in London, where Scarman admits there is the worst crisis in "police-community relations", Scarman recommends that the police should remain under the direct control of the Home Secretary, although he suggests that some other consultative machinery should be introduced.

A response to the Scarman report by Labour Committee for the Defence of Brixton

Scarman will inevitably get the worst of both worlds with this report.

His report will undoubtedly be bitterly attacked by the police, many of the Tories and the right-wing press, who will denounce the report as excessively blaming the police.

On the other hand, the people of Brixton, and young people and workers in other cities, will have no confidence whatsoever that any real changes will be brought about as far as the police are concerned.

Scarman endorses the moves, already approved by the Tories, to equip the police with water cannon, CS gas, shields, and other riot gear.

On complaints, Scarman says that there must be an independent procedure for there to be any public confidence. But he himself appears to have little hope that this will be put into effect.

The Labour Committee for the Defence of Brixton believes that the labour movement must step up its campaign for the democratic accountability of police. The police forces, including the Metropolitan and City Forces, should be brought under the control of local authority police

committees, which should have the power to appoint the chief constable and senior officers, guarantee an effective independent complaints procedure, and check the policies and methods of the police locally.

This is especially important in London, and the policy outlined in the London Labour Party's 1981 manifesto should be implemented as soon as possible.

Scarman calls for improvements in housing, education, job opportunities and other areas. But he himself admits that these depend on a successful solution to current economic problems.

Not surprisingly, he makes no reference to the fact that Tory policies, through boosting unemployment and imposing draconian spending cuts on local authorities, are all the time making things much worse.

Even if the very limited reforms proposed by Scarman were implemented, which is not at all certain under the present Tory government, they would very soon be undermined by a deterioration in economic conditions.

Scarman speaks as a relatively enlightened, liberal spokesman of the system. He would undoubtedly like to see reforms and improvements. But at the same time he is committed to upholding the diseased system which itself causes the problems in the first place.

Unless the underlying social conditions are changed and the police are made democratically accountable, there will inevitably be renewed conflict in areas like Brixton. The LCDB does not support rioting, arson, and looting as a way out. But we would warn that there will be new riots unless there are radical changes in the situation.

The LCDB will continue to appeal to the trade unions, the Labour Party, the Labour Party Young Socialists and the labour movement as a whole to campaign to offer a positive alternative to the working people of Brixton and similar areas. The anger and energies of young people and workers must be channelled into a movement for a fundamental change in society.

25 November 1981

PRIORITIES

In promoting the military's image the Pentagon spends more on its military bands than the Federal government spends on all civilian art programmes, music, dancing, painting, drama, etc.

This is just one of the facts set out in 'World Military and Social Expenditures 1981'. It is the seventh of a series of annual reports prepared in Washington DC by Ruth Sivard, and backed by various organisations and churches opposing nuclear weapons.

The report highlights some startling contrasts. For instance, in the United States itself, top military and civilian officials in the Pentagon cost the tax payer \$14 per subsidised meal. However, under Reagan the children of poor parents have to manage on a \$1.20 subsidy per meal under the

World Military & Social Expenditures 1981. (£2.50 from CAAT, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1)

school dinner programme.

World-wide military expenditures have now reached an estimated \$550,000 million annually. In dollar equivalent terms, this spending exceeds the annual income of the 2,000 million people in the world's poorest countries.

About \$100,000 million of this military spending goes to augment the growing stockpile of nuclear weapons. These barbarous instruments of destruction already contain over a million times the explosive force of the first A-bomb dropped on the people of Hiroshima.

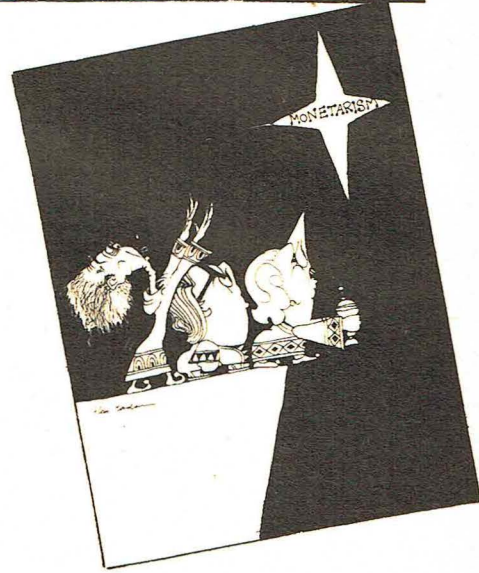
The contrast between the developed capitalist countries, and the poor, underdeveloped capitalist countries is well known.

The richest fifth of the world's population, for instance, can expect to live a clear 22 years longer on average than the poorest fifth. The report points to many ways in which money wasted on arms could be used to improve conditions.

While civilian unemployment is rising throughout the world, the world's military and para-military forces are absorbing the energies and skills of more and more workers—currently 25 million workers in regular forces and 45 million more in para-military and reserve units. Altogether, this constitutes a labour force as large as the combined populations of Italy, Greece and Norway.

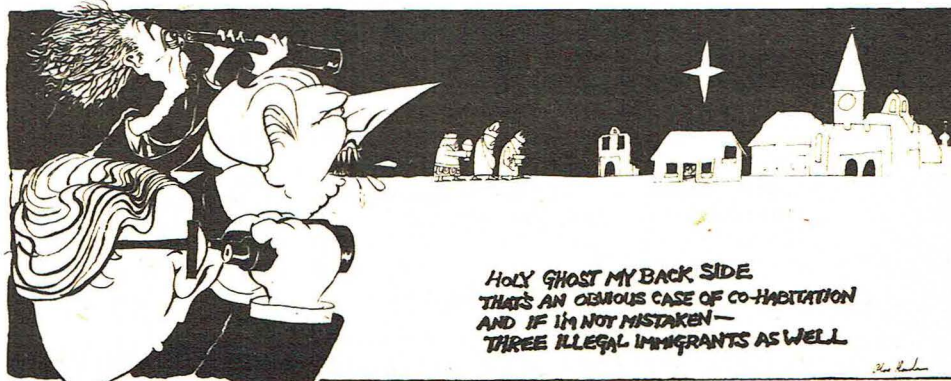
Some of Sivard's statistics, moreover, point to connections between military spending and economic performance. There is clearly an inverse relationship between military budgets on the one hand, and capital investment and growth rates on the other.

Those countries like Japan, which spend very little on military efforts, are at the top of the table for investment and growth. Those, like the United States and Britain, which spend the most on arms, are way down at the bottom.



XMAS CARDS

Set of 4 original cartoons. 60p per set (inc. envelopes) + 14p post & packing. 5 sets—£2 + 30p post & packing 10 sets—£3.50 + post & packing. 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.



ANGRY PROTEST AT BRUTAL KILLINGS OF KHAN FAMILY

Over 500 people marched in silence past the burnt-out Belgrave road house of the Khan family last Saturday [14 November]. This was part of an angry demonstration against the police's apparent indifference to murderous racist attacks.

Called by the local Asian Organisations, with the backing of the labour movement, the demonstration marched through Leyton and Walthamstow to a rally in Selbourne Park.

It was originally planned by the Asian Youth Movement for 11 July, to coincide with the funeral of Mrs Khan and her children who were murdered while they slept. This was prevented by the Metropolitan

police's blanket ban on marches.

Community leaders and Labour councillors at the rally criticised the police's refusal to recognise the problem of racial attacks. Arson is put down to "accidental causes in the home," etc.

Just as the meeting was about to disperse shortly before 4.00pm there was a commotion at the fringe of the crowd. A young Asian had been arrested after a clash with two fascists.

It became clear that these two had deliberately come to shout obscene and racist slogans. March leaders vainly tried to persuade the police commander that it was a mistake to arrest

someone provoked like this. The meeting decided to march to the nearest police station.

After a two-hour wait, we achieved success. The police "saved face" by saying they "might" prefer charges later. Meanwhile, Labour Party Young Socialists discussed with young Asians. One or two said that they thought Tony Benn was the only Labour leader with the answers. Quite a few took LPYS leaflets on the socialist alternative to racism and fascism, and put them in their pockets for later study.

By Steve
Cawley

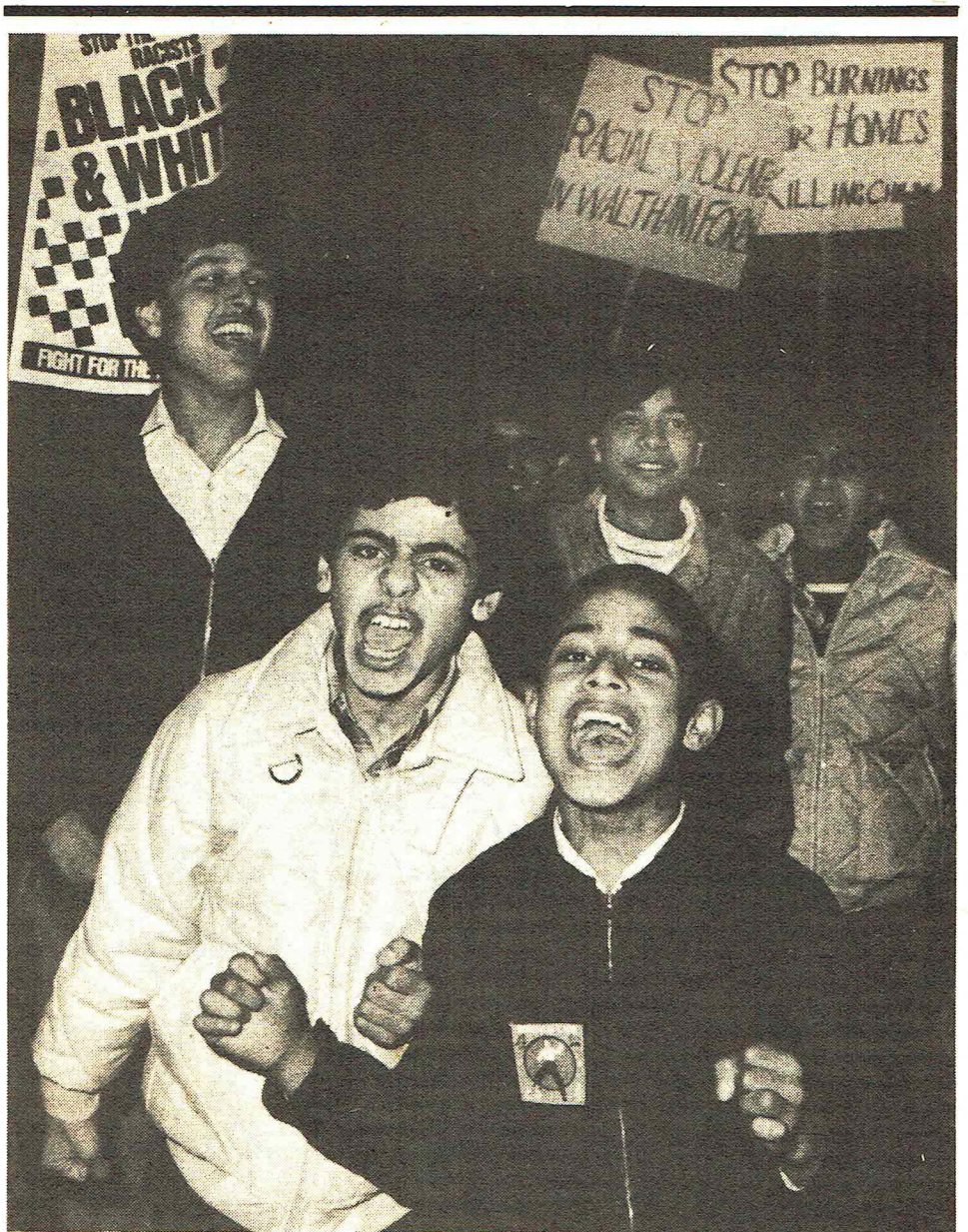


Photo: Nick Oakes

Angry Asian youth demonstrate against police inaction on fascist attacks outside Waltham Forest police station (14 November)

WHITELAW REFUSES TO ACT AGAINST RACIST ATTACKS

Home secretary Willie Whitelaw last week refused to set up a special police unit to tackle the activities of racist thugs.

There has been an alarming rise in the number of racial attacks against blacks—something now confirmed officially by the findings of a recent inquiry.

The Home Office enquiry, released on 17 November, found that in just two months police records in only 13 areas showed 2,851 "inter-racial incidents". They considered a quarter of these racially motivated.

Nationally, these figures indicate (according to the HO) about 7,000 a year in England and Wales. They admit this is a low estimate.

In London alone the number of assaults against Asians and West Indians has risen to sixty a week, which is twice the average for the previous year.

The HO survey showed that Asians are 50 times and West Indians 36 times more likely to be attacked than white people.

The inquiry was commissioned by Whitelaw, after great pressure had been exerted on him by black organisations and anti-racist groups, who had become concerned by the increase in the level of racial attacks. Previous figures have grossly underestimated the growth in the number of attacks, mainly because of the deliberate refusal by the police to recognise racism as a motive behind these crimes.

But the Home Office now

admits that even its own statistics probably conceal the true extent of racially inspired crimes because they do not take into account scores of unreported attacks.

All Whitelaw will do, it seems, is to extend and improve the system of monitoring racist attacks.

If the figures are regularly published, this may at least enable us to counter the biased and grossly exaggerated propaganda of the police and the press about "black muggings", "black crime" etc. In itself, however, better monitoring will solve nothing.

Were anti-racist units to be established, their effectiveness would be doubtful given the mentality and methods of most senior police officers—and the complete lack of democratic accountability.

Capitalist system spawns racist violence

But the Tories' outright rejection of the proposal indicates to most people that they are not prepared to lift a finger to prevent racially motivated crime.

Whitelaw's decision will fuel the anger of black workers who are becoming increasingly concerned at the failure of the authorities to protect their communities. The perpetrators of the New Cross massacre

in which thirteen young blacks died have still not been apprehended. Scores of other crimes against blacks still remain unsolved.

But black people have already shown that they are not just going to sit back and allow these attacks to continue. The huge demonstrations that followed the New Cross and Walthamstow murders show the depth of anger which now exists.

More and more blacks, especially the youth, already understand that they cannot rely on Whitelaw and the Tories or the police to protect them. They understand that the open racism of Thatcher and the Tory right wing is one of the key factors behind the rise in racial violence.

The thugs who carry out these attacks draw their inspiration from the racist abuse constantly spewed out by Powell and the right wing Tories.

Under the Tories, the menace of racism will grow unless the labour movement takes urgent action by linking up with black organisations to defend their areas from attack.

Such a programme of defence must be linked to a socialist campaign to expose and overcome the root causes of racism. Reactionary, racist violence is spawned by unemployment, poor housing, declining education standards and low pay,—in short, by the capitalist system.

By Bob Lee

POLICE CHANGE THEIR LINE ON COMPLAINTS

The Police Federation has had a change of heart. Mr. Jim Jardine, its leader, recently announced that the police were now prepared to accept a new complaint procedure involving an "independent" element.

Policemen, it seems, have been reading the newspapers. Even Fleet Street has recognised the massive slump in the public's confidence in the police. A recent "Observer"/NOP survey found that only 30% considered the police honest. Among the under 25s, only 20% considered them honest.

Less than half those polled thought the police fair. Only 50% thought the police treated all colours equally. Among younger people, however, there is a much stronger feeling that the police are prejudiced.

Among the under 25s 45% considered the police prejudiced against coloured people; 68% think they are biased against the young themselves.

In the face of this, the Police Federation probably reckons it must now bow to the inevitable.

The existing complaints procedure is certainly a farce. Of last year's 29,000 complaints, the most serious were 3,000 of assault by policemen. Yet only a 100 of these complaints were investigated by the Complaints Board, and only twelve police were convicted on criminal charges.

The Complaints Review Board looked into 15,000 complaints. Only 1% of these resulted in "convictions" before police disciplinary tribunals.

The Complaints Board does not even have the power to decide which complaints from the public can be investigated as "complaints".

A secret Home Office study, leaked earlier this year, itself strongly criticised the complaints procedure. It found that the police often fail to find important independent witnesses; they produce inaccurate summaries of evidence; and put too much emphasis on discrediting the complainants.

Fight for democratic accountability of police

Anyone who has tried to make a complaint will know the last point is an understatement. Complainants are often treated like criminals and even threatened with charges themselves.

So have the police had a genuine change of heart?

Mr. Jardine's comments suggest that accepting the inevitability of some "independent" procedure,

they are now preparing their defences against such a move.

First, they are demanding for policemen legal rights of defence and appeal which they strongly oppose for their own suspects. These would undoubtedly be costly.

This points to a second line of defence: the alleged expense of any procedure.

Sir Cyril Philips, Chairman of the Police Complaints Board, recently claimed that to investigate between 150 and 300 of the most serious allegations of assault a year would cost at least £10 million.

To investigate all assault complaints would cost much more.

In other words, there would be another vast bureaucracy headed by a select band of the "great and good", top civil servants, academics, lawyers, etc. It might be formally independent of the police, but would certainly not be independent of the ruling class.

Diversionsary talk about the problems and the cost evades the real issue: the need for democratic accountability of the police.

Only democratic control by local government committees, on which labour movement could have a powerful, genuinely independent say, can put an end to reactionary police methods and the abuse of police powers.



THE INTERESTS OF BEN FORD

The right wing on the NEC are attempting to block the endorsement of Pat Wall as the new parliamentary candidate for Bradford North.

This move against the person chosen, 35 to 28, by the Constituency Labour Party is an attempt to return to the dark days of Gaitskellism when the right wing regularly vetoed Left-wing candidates.

Pat Wall was adopted for both his own record and his consistent support for Marxist policies.

Pat was nominated by 20 organisations. For eight years, he has been president of Bradford trades council, and this was reflected in the 13 trade union nominations.

Ben Ford, the present MP who has been deselected by the CLP, is sponsored by the AUEW. But Pat Wall was nominated by two local AUEW branches to Ford's one. The AUEW district committee recently called for its union's sponsorship to be withdrawn from Ford. Ford's support in the unions, in fact, is very limited.

The main criticism of Ford in Bradford North has been for his political views,

By Steve Wilkinson
(Vice-Chairman, Shipley CLP, personal capacity)

which have always been to the right of the right-dominated parliamentary party. But this has been reinforced by his foreign trips and his business links.

Known at Westminster as a 'travel buff' and 'free-tripper,' Ford has visited Namibia three times under the auspices of the South African-backed Democratic Turnhalle Alliance.

He has chaired or been secretary to the Anglo-Brazilian, Portuguese, Malaysian, Argentinian and Singapore parliamentary groups. Ford claims he does not approve of the authoritarian regimes in these states; but the dic-

Pat Wall (below)



tators have frequently looked to these committees to improve their image, and promote trade, etc.

Ben Ford also has a number of business ties. These are listed in Parliament's 1980 voluntary Register of MPs' interests. The information given is hardly very revealing, but indicates Ford's interests.

The AUEW is listed under Financial Sponsorships, and 'Trades or Professions, etc' gives 'Occasional TV and radio broadcasts. Political adviser.'

Ford's 'Employment or Office' is given as Association of International Accountants; and International News Service. The latter 'news service' was, in fact, a public relations organisation set up to campaign on behalf of Bristol Ship Repairers against the Labour government's plans to nationalise the shipbuilding and ship-repair industry in 1975.

Under 'Clients' the register lists two companies, the Yale Lock Co Ltd and Crane Freuhauf Ltd. Presumably Ford acts as a consultant to these firms.

Crane Freuhauf is the British subsidiary of a big US firm which manufactures lorry trailers, including low-loaders used for military purposes. For a period, one of Freuhauf's subsidiaries, Trailex, in partnership with the Shah's government, manufactured a large number of trailers in

OPPOSE WITCH-H

WHO BACK

RIC

To prepare the way for a witch-hunt against "Militant" and the left in general, the right wing on Labour's National Executive are again pushing for an enquiry into "Militant".

Three years ago, Lord Underhill, with the backing of the bosses' press, produced a voluminous report on Militant's activities. 'Militant', however, supplied the NEC with full details of its activities and finances.

The NEC, with the subsequent endorsement of conference, decided that no action should be taken.

Yet without a shred of evidence, some of the right are repeating the reactionary press's scurrilous innuendoes of "Moscow gold" or "Libyan gold". They have unscrupulously tried to smear us with association with terrorist organisations.

They cannot accept that all the funds of the "Militant", without exception, come from donations of Labour activists and workers, though they have not a shred of evidence to the contrary.

Above all, they cannot accept that there has been a swing to the left in the party and a growth in support for Militant because more and more workers are moving to the ideas of Marxism as the only way out of the crisis.

They have decisively lost the argument over policy in the party. So they resort to manoeuvres.

The ranks of the movement will resolutely oppose

Investigate business and CIA penetration

moves to initiate an enquiry. They recognise it for what it is, a preliminary move in a purge directed against those fighting for bold socialist policies—against loyal party members who have worked for years to build up the Labour Party and the Labour Party Young Socialists.

On the other hand, Labour's ranks will want to know why there are not moves to enquire into penetration of the labour movement by groups and organisations totally opposed to its aims.

Capitalist backers

A thorough investigation of interference in the labour movement by big business and intelligence agencies is long overdue. What right-wing groupings have been backed, directly or indirectly, by the CIA or other intelligence agencies? What links have businessmen had with Labour MPs and right-wing Labour groupings?

Sir Harold Wilson has recently damaged the Labour Party by his praise of Reagan in America and by his thinly veiled support for Shirley Williams and the

Social Democrats.

Is it not time that the secret funds used by Wilson and some of his shadow cabinet in 1970/74 were investigated?

Undisclosed funds were supplied by a syndicate of wealthy businessmen. They include Sir James Goldsmith (well known for his right-wing, anti-union views); Sir Eric Miller (who committed suicide pending inquiries into financial irregularities in his property company); Lord Kagan (jailed for fraud); and Sir Rudy Sternburg (a wealthy entrepreneur with little obvious allegiance to the labour movement).

Five of the six trustees of these private funds were later enabled by Wilson.

Is it not time that there was an investigation by the labour movement into the association of James Callaghan with the Italian International Bank, of which he was a director in 1972? Or his association with Julian Hodge and the Bank of Wales, a "fringe bank" known for its "pyramid-selling" methods and its involvement in second mortgages?

There is no evidence that either Wilson or Callaghan were involved in anything illegal. But was their associa-

Iran.

In both 1974 and 1975, Freuhauf made donations of £300 to the Economic League. This is an ultra-right wing organisation which circulates information about trade-union activists and 'black lists' to managements. The League has connections with Truemid, a right-wing grouping which has attempted to organise in a number of unions.

Ford's directorships are given as 'Welltrade International Ltd' and 'Saunders Walker & Associates.' This second company acts as a public relations firm for various businesses. Ford ceased to be a director in January this year.

The other firm is a private company formed in 1971. The major shareholder was Morrell In-

vestments Ltd, a company registered in Guernsey.

Labour Party members may well think this is a strange kind of company for one of their MPs to be involved with.

In 1974/75 the company's 'principle activity,' according to the directors' own report "was that of providing draughtsmen, tradesmen and technicians, and semi-skilled labour to industry and other contracts." Figures given for export earnings indicate that much of this labour was sent abroad.

The nature of its operations can be deduced from the director's remark that in 1976 the "level of trading was reduced mainly due to uncertainty surrounding the operation of section 38 of the Finance Act 1975 con-

cerned with the taxation of agency workers, of which a substantial part of the company's business comprises."

The aim of the Labour government's Finance Act was to block various forms of tax evasion. The main abuse it tackled (in section 39) was 'sub-contracting', (known as 'the lump'), which was particularly widespread in the construction industry.

Welltrade's business fell off in 1977 ('exports' were down from £46,093 to £28,868) but recovered again in 1978. In 1980, the value of 'exports' was given as £191,297.

Ford has been known as a loyal supporter of right-wing Labour governments. The managing director of Welltrade, however, had little regard for the Labour

No to bans and proscriptions!

In the meeting which re-selected him last week, Stanley Clinton-Davis, MP for Hackney Central, called for bans and proscriptions to be used against 'Militant.'

● This week, however, his own CLP unanimously rejected this. Passing a resolution from the **London Metro branch of USDAW**, the General Committee declared its "belief in tolerance and fraternal discussion within the LP," and noted with concern "statements by prominent Labour Party members calling for a return to bans and proscriptions."

"This CLP opposes proscriptions and witch-hunts and calls on the NEC to endorse the candidature of the Bradford North prospective parliamentary candidate, as democratically decided at the selection conference."

In recognition of the LPYS's work, the GC unanimously opposed any cuts in the LPYS budget.

● At its last meeting the **West Yorkshire Political Committee of the Post Office Engineering Union** unanimously resolv-

ed "to call on the Labour Party NEC to ratify the nomination of Pat Wall as parliamentary candidate for Bradford North." The resolution was forwarded to union HQ.

● On 12 November a letter from Alan Williams MP for **Swansea West** appeared in 'The Times' calling on Labour MPs only to vote in the shadow cabinet elections for those who would not "compromise with the erosive plotting of the anti-democratic Trotskyist infiltrators."

Williams went on "They are carrion waiting to feed on the body of the democratic Labour Party. They hope to cheat their way to power under Labour's banners". A veteran Swansea Labour Party member Howell Bithell wrote a letter to 'The Times' refuting the MPs smears. He pointed out... "His direct call for a return to witch-hunting and McCarthyism will never help the party defeat the Tories, and is the surest way to destroy it."

"He wages a vitriolic campaign against 'Trotskyist infiltrators' which he has identified in the past as supporters of the newspaper 'Militant'. As someone who has been a member of the Labour Party for over 50

years—probably longer than Mr Williams has even lived—and a reader and supporter of the 'Militant', I totally reject the lie that I am an 'infiltrator' or a 'carrion waiting to feed on the body of the democratic Labour Party.'

"It is a disgusting remark to make about people who have given their lives to the movement and put people like Alan Williams where they are today."

"I have witnessed witch-hunts against the Bevanites in the 1950s. The slanders are the same: 'totalitarian,' 'communist,' 'paid agents of Moscow.' All you need is to substitute 'Tribune' for 'Militant.'

"I have defended—together with other 'Militant' supporters—all our democratic rights, at home and abroad. I am opposed to the one party totalitarian states of Russia and E Europe and support the struggle for workers' democracy."

"If the truth is to be told, Mr Williams is really afraid of reselection by the local party. In a campaign to hold the nomination, he has reverted to scare-mongering and McCarthyism as a means of slandering opponents."

"These methods are alien to the democratic traditions

of our movement."

● At a public meeting in **Reading** speaker John Cantwell showed that the current move by the right to witch-hunt the left and 'Militant' was a pathetic attempt to shift the blame for their own catastrophic adherence to a doomed system.

Speakers from the floor in several excellent contributions voiced their disgust at these McCarthyite tactics. They felt it was a clear sign that the right couldn't answer the basic Marxist ideas of 'Militant' which are increasingly being taken up in the Labour Party and trade unions.

A collection of £24 was a perfect reply to right wing smears about funds from 'mysterious' sources.

● In **Immingham, Lincolnshire**, the local press ran a scurrilous campaign against 'Militant', quoting a Labour councillor, Kelly Bradley, chairman of Immingham Labour Party as saying that 'Militant' supporters were causing 'confusion and concern' within the Labour Party.

He claimed there was no link between 'Militant' and the Labour Party locally or nationally. The local press and the councillor conveniently forgot that

'Militant' supporters hold important positions within the local Labour Party—including a town councillor in Immingham!

Local 'Militant' supporters replied that the councillor should ask local people who organised the local May Day march against unemployment in an area where one in eight are out of work. Who revitalised the Young Socialists in Cleethorpes and set up a YS branch in Grimsby? Who has been consistently leafletting, door knocking and canvassing for people to join the Labour Party?

That has been the 'Militant' supporters in the LPYS.

'Militant', they pointed out does not hide behind the Labour Party banner, we are proud to be members of the labour movement and genuine in our desire to build the Labour Party into a mass campaigning party offering workers a genuine socialist alternative to the horrors of Thatcherism.

● The 15th November General Committee of **Berwick and East Lothian Labour Party** defeated a move to send a resolution to the Scottish Labour Party Conference that "this party believes that the Underhill Report and subsequent evidence have shown that

the Militant Tendency is in breach of Party constitution." The resolution called for immediate expulsion.

This resolution got 15 votes whereas the successful ones got 35 and 36 votes. At the same time, though, a resolution was passed of disturbance at press reports that "the Militant tendency have targetted a number of Labour held seats including Berwick and East Lothian where they intend to replace the sitting MP."

Ali Hughes of Preston-pans LPYS commented afterwards "I do not know what they mean by Militant Tendency, but if it meant people who read and sell the paper they have taken on a lot."

"I sell the 'Militant' and last Saturday went selling with two friends in Tranent a small mining town with a population of 8,000. We sold 30 papers. The week before there were four sellers and we sold 38. All in under an hour each time."

"By the way I've been reading 'Militant' for some time now and I have never seen the unseating of my local MP mentioned in the paper. It must be some other press, the Tory press they are getting their 'information' from."

LABOUR MPs - JUST A CAREER?

It is usually in the name of some higher form of democracy that right-wing Labour MPs oppose the extension of Labour Party democracy.

But Solidarity-supporter Austin Mitchell MP has blurted out the truth. What is really at stake is power—which means the career prospects and ambitions of Labour MPs.

Almost incredibly his confession appears in "Labour Weekly" (20 November).

Democratising the party, for Mitchell, simply means "making the LP fit for Militant and other termites to live in."

The problem is, he says, that "to remove the prospect of power breaks the tie between personal ambition and party prospects." The LP is no longer an attractive vehicle for careerists.

"In the past," he goes

By John Pickard

on, "individuals have been able to pursue their career interests only through the party. What furthered the one furthered the other."

If many dropped the party once they could climb no further—Robens for the Coal Board, Jenkins for Europe, Walden for London Weekend Television, Prentice for the Tory Party, etc—well, that was only to be expected.

But now the careerists—the lawyers, the journalists, the doctors, the academics, all those aspiring professionals—face an invidious choice.

"Now they have to chose between the two. Do they want a council seat, to become a minister and drive

round in a black car? Then for the first time ever, the ambitious have to calculate where Labour can take them and whence the SDP.

"Not a pretty sight," laments Mitchell, "yet one which is inevitable when the party is losing impetus."

But isn't it policies based on the "mixed economy" (ie crisis-ridden capitalism) which have lost their impetus? The poor reformists have no more reforms to offer.

Faced with the prospect of being deprived of the services of ambitious, career-orientated parliamentary representatives, Labour workers are not in the least dismayed. Isn't this why, as Mitchell admits, "the right seem to be in despair"?

The labour movement wants representatives who will fight for the interests of the working class. That's why re-selection has been implemented.

To the right-wingers who look longingly to the SDP, the message is: On your way! And good riddance!



Labour Party Young Socialist members have been active in the TUC 'Jobs for Youth' campaign and the Jobs Express (above). The right wing's threats against the LPYS are threats against one of the most dynamic sections of the Party. No to witch-hunts! No to attacks on Labour's youth.

PROVOS OUT TO PROVOKE CIVIL WAR

Despite his claims of hundred percent support, Paisley's call for a day of Loyalist protest in Northern Ireland met with a very patchy response.

Some workers did leave their factories. About 4,000 of the 7,000 shipyard workers came out. But many more, despite intimidation, stayed at work.

Government buildings were virtually unaffected. Buses and trains ran largely as normal. Belfast bus drivers were subjected to threats, but they did not come out.

Instead of 'Protestant unity', the action day demonstrated the divisions. The activity of Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party was separate from the official Unionists.

The UDA and Loyalist para-military groups kept their distance. As one UDA leader put it, they had marched behind Paisley before—and their only reward was "sore feet."

Even more significant than the patchy response to the strike call was the small attendance at demonstrations and meetings.

Most workers who left work did so in order to protest at the seemingly endless killings, recently reaching one a day. But by and large they refused to associate themselves directly with Paisley or any of the political para-military groups.

Unions must fight sectarianism

The Official Unionist meetings in Belfast drew a crowd of less than a thousand. Paisley's meeting attracted only about 6,000. A separate UDA protest at the shipyard gates was supported by fewer than a thousand out of the 15,000 workforce.

A march by Paisley to the gates of Stormont attracted only 400. Outside Belfast it was mostly the same. In Paisley's Ballymena 'heartland' there was a rally of only a thousand.

Even the figures given in the staunchly Protestant 'Newsletter' underlined the lack of support—600 in Derry, 300 cars in a cavalcade in Bangor, 500 people out in Enniskillen.

Significantly, the biggest protests were in the rural areas.

In towns like Ballymena the rallies mainly involved people from the rural districts. The blockades mainly involved farmers and tractors.

The 5,000 who paraded that night in Newtownards—as a so-called 'third force'—were overwhelm-

By Peter Hadden
(Northern Ireland Labour and Trade Union Group)

ingly from the rural districts.

The limited support for a day of protest, however, was not for lack of provocation. Since the ending of the H-block hunger strike, it has been the clear intention of the Provisional IRA to provoke a backlash.

To Protestants the Provos' campaign against RUC reservists and off-duty and often ex-Ulster Defence Regiment members appears as a form of genocide. Only the anger and frustration at these killings enables the sectarian calls by Paisley and Co to get any echo.

A section at least of the Provos are clearly prepared to push the province to the length of civil war. Out of the ashes of such a confrontation they have the illusion that the country could be re-united.

Commenting on the reactions to the shooting of Robert Bradford, the Official Unionist MP, the Provos' paper 'Republican News', says: "This is civil war...if there's to be a consequence of the execution of a British MP then it must be the inevitable consequence of any struggle for a united Ireland."

However, if the Provisionals continue with this campaign against Protestant politicians, UDR men etc., and if they do provoke a backlash, it will be innocent Catholics who will be the victims.

Already, since Bradford's death, two young Catholics have fallen victim to Loyalist assassins.

The idea of a civil war is not to be toyed with. It would lead, not to a united Ireland, but to mass slaughter, to the driving of the Catholics from the North-East of the province, and to the re-partition of the country.

Among Catholics and Protestants there is a mood of opposition to all forms of sectarian violence. Groups like the UDA and UVF are aware that Protestants are not in favour of random revenge killings, which is why there has not been a return to tit-for-tat murders on the scale of the early 1970s.

Among the Catholics, too, there has been opposition to the Provisionals' campaign. In Strabane, there was an extraordinary

spectacle last Sunday; the 1,500-strong congregation gave a standing ovation to a priest who had condemned the Provos and called for stiff measures against them.

Despite the recent attention given to sectarian issues, moreover, united struggles of Catholic and Protestant workers on class issues are still taking place.

Last week, two trades councils called local stoppages and protests. In Derry, the trades council organised a protest in support of women occupying a shirt factory threatened by redundancies.

Newry trades council organised a successful protest strike against a local 'Grunwick'-style employer who had sacked workers for joining a trade union.

These issues get little or no mention in the press, either in NI or Britain. The media's coverage has created a distorted and one-sided impression of the situation in NI. The potential of the working class movement is generally ignored.

This week there was a feast of publicity for Paisley. In contrast, there was total media silence on the half-day general strike organised by the trade unions against the Tories on 2 April, 1980.

Yet at that time the major industries were shut. Ten thousand Catholic and Protestant workers stood shoulder to shoulder in Belfast. Almost 10,000—not 600 as on Monday—marched in Derry. All over the North there were similar rallies and demonstrations.

It is the trade union movement which has the power to eliminate sectarianism by drawing together both Catholic and Protestant workers in united action.

Protestants feel that their lives are threatened and that something must be done. Catholic workers fear attack by Loyalist killer gangs. It is only the complete absence of an alternative which forces workers to put up with Paisley's sectarian demagoguery and calls for a 'third force.'

But the formation of sectarian counter-armies, far from providing a defence, only leads to increased tension and more killings.

In the past, the trade unions, through mass action, were able to force the killer gangs to retreat, even in the border areas. Such action is again required.

A defence force based on the trade unions is the only means by which the lives of

workers can be protected.

Sadly, trade union leaders' response to Paisley's stoppage was just to issue a plea—jointly with the CBI—for normal working. They passed by the opportunity to conduct an independent campaign against the stoppage through outlining the alternative of united trade union action against sectarianism and poverty.

The demand for such a campaign must now be taken up within the NI trade union movement. Neither Paisley, nor the Provos, will give up.

The danger of intensified sectarian conflict demands bold and immediate class action.



The Royal Artillery barracks, Woolwich, SE London, where explosive packed in a toy gun went off at 8am on 23 November, seriously injuring two women cleaners

Photo: David Gordon

The trade union movement has the power to eliminate sectarianism by drawing together both Catholic and Protestant workers in united action



Ian Paisley at his "Carson trail" rally last February

Photo: Derek Spiers (Report)

But limited response to Paisley's sectarian call

Workers' struggles erupt in Romania

Widespread strikes and demonstrations broke out in Romania during October. After weeks of official silence and denials the news has now come out.

Workers were becoming increasingly angry at the continuing food shortages. Dissatisfaction was brought to a head by the recent government decree to ration bread and flour.

The biggest strikes took place in the Jiu Valley, Romania's largest coalfield, between 16 and 19 October. Miners repeated the tactic they had followed in the struggles of 1977 (see 'Militant' 576).

In the town of Motrul they held the Communist Party Central Committee Secretary, E Bobu, captive until President Ceasescu agreed to come and meet them.

Ceasescu was given a hostile reception. Young people threw stones, and Ceasescu left again without addressing the workers.

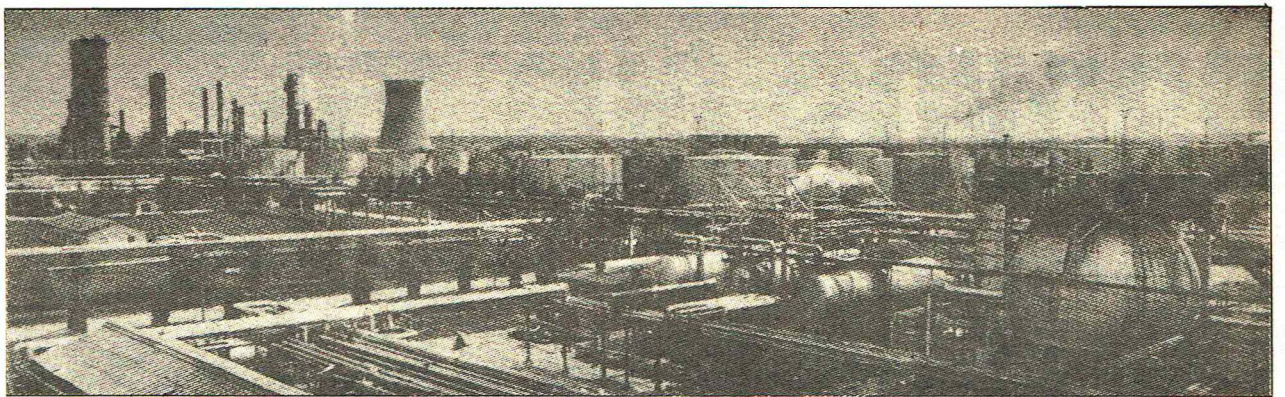
Demonstrators also attacked a police station in Motrul, it is reported, and set it on fire. In Giurgiu,

By George Collins

near the capital Bucharest, it is reported that the deputy CP chief of the city was killed during a riot. In Ploesti, the centre of the oil industry, a Party office and bookshop were bombed.

These spontaneous, violent reactions from the workers indicate the lack of any genuinely democratic mass organisations. The CP and the trade unions are agencies of the bureaucracy's rule.

These upheavals are a sign of the growing anger and frustration of the Romanian working class against the mismanagement, corruption and repression by the bureaucratic elite at the head of the nationalised economy. The support and authority of the Romanian 'Communist' leadership, acclaimed by the capitalists in the West for its 'independence from Moscow' and its 'enlightened liberal policies' have clearly been critically eroded.



Romania's spectacular economic development on the basis of state ownership and planning has increasingly been strangled by the mismanagement of a bureaucratic elite.



In the post-war years, support for the regime had been built on the considerable economic gains that were made possible on the basis of the planned economy, despite growing bureaucratic gains that were made possible on the basis of the planned economy, despite bureaucratic mismanagement. Meat consumption, for example, increased from an average of 16.7 kilos per person in 1950 to 62 kilos in 1980.

But the regime itself had a repressive Stalinist character from the outset. Ceasescu's 'independence from Moscow' amounted, in reality, to a cultivation of Romanian nationalism, especially among the rural population. The reverse side of the nationalist coin has been the systematic repression of the country's Hungarian, German and Serbian minorities.

Like the Gierek regime in Poland, Ceasescu stimulated rapid economic growth in the 1970s through increasing trade with the West. With the onset of capitalist

crisis, however, this has led to growing trade deficits, big foreign debts and inflation. This has forced Ceasescu to change course and try to curb imports.

In the face of growing dissatisfaction among the working class, splits began to open up in the CP. The younger generation of bureaucrats is said to be unhappy with Ceasescu's authoritarian leadership and to favour more liberal policies.

To all these pressures, the government has reacted with the classical Stalinist tactics of clamping down wherever possible, while sacrificing a few token scapegoats in an effort to divert the anger from below.

One such unfortunate scapegoat is I Novac, the director of a state farm. He was recently sentenced to two years' imprisonment for ordering workers to set the unharvested crop on fire—in order to conceal his failure to bring in the harvest by the 1 November deadline.

A government re-shuffle

has been reported, with the Minister of Agriculture being sacked in September.

Romania is showing all the signs of a deepening social crisis which could lead to revolutionary upheavals in the period ahead. This is a direct consequence of the inability of the ruling bureaucracy to develop the economy in an all-round way and satisfy the demands of the working population. This is a crisis which has become generalised throughout the Stalinist states of Eastern Europe and Russia itself.

The only solution for the working class is to overthrow the bureaucracy in a political revolution. This means a movement to establish democratic workers' rule on the basis of the planned economy, in the tradition of Russia under the leadership of Lenin and Trotsky and the Hungarian Revolution of 1956.

Eastern Europe today is on the threshold of unprecedented struggles by the workers, greater even than those of 1953-1956. But the

objective situation is far more favourable for the working class than in the 1950s, the heyday of Stalinism as well as capitalism.

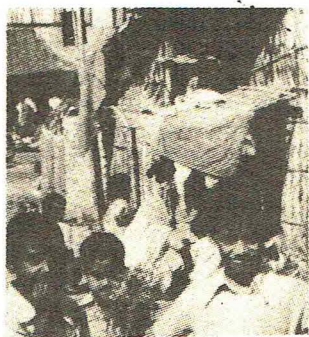
The unprecedented Polish events of the last fifteen months point to the enormous difficulties which now stand in the way of the Kremlin sending in the tanks.

Russia still has the might to intervene. But invasion by Russia would only intensify the economic crisis throughout the Stalinist states. It would produce a reaction from the capitalist states, and, above all, intervention against the people of Eastern European state would have tremendous repercussions within the Soviet Union.

Encouraged by the advances of the workers' movement in the West, notably in Greece and France, the workers' struggles in Eastern Europe will reach new heights in the period ahead.

In turn, their victories will act as a beacon for the social revolution in the West

Bangladesh



It is significant that the new representative of the crumbling capitalist state of Bangladesh is a sick, ageing judge who on his own admission has "nowhere to go but the grave".

The new President, Justice Abdus Sattar of the ruling Bangladesh National Party [BNP], was elected with a supposedly four to one majority over his nearest rival from the opposition Awami League. But many factors make his huge majority questionable.

There have been allegations of widespread intimidation and ballot rigging. The media is controlled by the state. More importantly, in October, the month before the election, the Army Chiefs were openly discussing a coup, should the ruling BNP—a pro-western capitalist party—be threatened in the election. The workers and peasants were virtually told 'elect the BNP or face military dictatorship.'

But the capitalist class internationally have been hesitant to hail the election result as 'victory for democracy'. They realise the instability of the situation. About 60% of the population live below the poverty line, and loans from Western capitalism to try and stave off further crisis for Bangladesh have virtually dried up.

New crisis looms on the horizon. A drought is racking the country, cutting this year's much needed harvest by about 10 per cent. The International Monetary Fund say they will halt further special assistance to the Bangladesh economy.

Despite the BNP's so called 'mandate of the people', their government

will be smashed by coming tumultuous events, with the generals and the threat of military dictatorship waiting in the wings. This must give new urgency to the struggle of the working class, leading the peasant masses to overthrow capitalism and abolish landlordism.

France



Political tensions have sharpened in France with the Socialist government's decision to bypass parliament and introduce new labour reforms by decree.

This decision is a result of the stubborn resistance by the right-wing opposition parties to reformist measures. Parliament has been

used deliberately to delay the Nationalisation Bill as well as next year's reflationary budget.

Rank and file Socialist anger at the capitalists' manipulation of parliamentary procedures boiled over at the recent Socialist Party conference. Under pressure from below, the government cannot afford a repetition of the same spectacle with each and every measure of reform.

The intended decrees to reduce working hours, extend paid holidays and lower the retirement age will be introduced in the new year. Negotiations on these issues between unions and employers, predictably, are dragging on very slowly.

There is no doubt that the mass of French workers will welcome bold moves by the Socialist government to carry out its election pledges. According to opinion polls, President Mitterand now has the support of 53% of voters—more than his election poll in May.

If this support were mobilised behind a programme for sweeping reform and social change, power could pass into the hands of the workers with virtually no possibility of serious resistance from the bosses.

Italy



Italy could be facing a winter of industrial discontent, with workers and employers at loggerheads over the future of wage indexation (the 'scala mobile', automatically linking wages to inflation).

Prime Minister Spadolini

made an unprecedented appearance at the conference of the Communist-led CGIL, the biggest trade union federation, to reject the leadership's compromise proposals for wage rises under 16% provided tax concessions are made.

But the government, struggling to keep next year's budget deficit to £22.4 billion [11% of Gross Domestic Product], refuses to make concessions anywhere near the union proposals.

Talks are due to start soon on the 1982-85 national contract for 1.5 million workers in the metal and engineering industry. The workers are likely to press for wage increases to make up for any cuts in index linking [which compensates only about 70% of price increases].

After being held back for years by conservative leadership, there is a mood of growing militancy among the Italian workers. Earlier this year, pressure from the rank and file prevented the CGIL leadership from retreating on the indexation issue. In the coming period tensions will undoubtedly increase as the capitalists struggle to unload the cost of the crisis onto the shoulders of the workers.

Build **MILITANT**

ads

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target for year
Eastern	4741		7100
East Midlands	3633		5500
Hants & Dorset	2758		5200
Humberside	1840		3500
London East	5301		7600
London West	2842		4800
London South	4313		5500
Manchester & Lancs	2817		5800
Merseyside	3749		6600
Northern	4366		8600
Scotland East	2175		4400
Scotland West	4154		7500
Southern	5170		7100
South West	2189		3500
Wales East	1366		2600
Wales West	2790		4600
West Midlands	4796		8600
Yorkshire	4852		9000
Others	19419		12500
Total received	83,271		120,000

TARGET FOR YEAR-£120,000

Don't let inflation beat us

This week, the Tories are putting up the pensions and social security payments; but by about 6% less than the rate of inflation, measured by their own tax and prices index.

By Steve Cawley

They are considering in their next round of cuts a 'marginal fall' in unemployment benefit. The margin is of course one between being on the poverty line and sinking beneath it.

The spirit shown by the YOPS conference and by the Jobs Express shows that the Tories can't drag us back into the '30s without a real struggle.

But Militant's needs are going up as well. We need more resources to enable us to reach the huge numbers of people whose lives and livelihoods are in peril from the attacks of the bosses and their Tory Party.

Stockport readers have helped us in this. Their raffle of the collected works of Lenin (winner, ticket 60) yielded £98 just in the purely financial dividends! Well done!

Thanks to TGWU Branch 5/909 for their monthly donations, and members of Ault, Hickwell and Glapwell LP, Chesterfield, who contributed £7 on an appeal sheet. LPYS Branches to send us donations, or run raffles for our funds included branches in Swansea, Leicester—from punk concert proceeds, and Bristol, with money from Discussion Groups from Eastbourne, Sunderland, Sheffield, and meetings from Llanelli to

North London making up over £90.

Comrades rattling tins on the recent Jarrow demo made £26 for us! Thanks also to contributors at a Wirral TU Forum for £8.35.

Individual donations ranged from £24 (C East, Thornton Heath) and £15 R Schoefield (SCPS), to £3.30 made up from students' donations at NE London Poly.

Thanks also to A Muscatelli Kirkdale LPYS, for £10, M Ferguson Sunderland, pensioner D Wooton (Brighton) and S Everett Bath LPYS (£5 each). S Donnelly, K Taylor (both Waltham Forest), seven readers in Renfrew, Leicester readers P&J Sherwin and S Sidat, N McQuat Erskine NUPE £1.50, A Tweddle (POEU Newcastle), G Pattison (Leeds POEU), B Judson (Leeds COHSE), S Sardu and L McLuskley (TGWU) all Merseyside readers.

Poole supporters raised £110 from a bazaar this week, a social in Glasgow raised £30, and from Wavertree and Stockport we've had £22 and £23 respectively from a jumble sale (and £5.10 from 'The Pig' which is fed when teas and coffees are supplied). Trade unionists in Liverpool and Humberside sent us expenses reimbursed of nearly £60, and the winner of the Leeds '50' raffle, June Marsden, donated her £5 prize.

We've still got an enormous job to reach £120,000

in the next six weeks. By the time you read this column we'll probably need another £35,000 or so. We hope that all our regular readers will give us a Christmas present, even if they don't normally have the funds to make a regular contribution throughout the year.

In some areas supporters have had more stocks of raffle tickets, having sold out once, but in other areas the tickets seem to be going

much more slowly. How's it going in your area? Help the Militant fight back against the Tories, and strike a blow for the millions living in absolute poverty.

There is no alternative to socialist policies! And there is no alternative to our readership when we look for funds to build Militant. Send your donation straight away to Militant Fighting Fund, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

CELEBRATE XMAS AND NEW YEAR WITH 'MILITANT'

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.

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

SOUTH LONDON Militant Grand Xmas Bazaar. Saturday 5 December, Christchurch Hall, Trafalgar Road, Greenwich SE10. All offers of help and goods to sell phone Doreen Roberts, 01-543 3658.

New Years Greetings in MILITANT

Get your LPYS, Labour Party or trade union branch to put New Years greetings in Militant. Greet the labour movement and help to build Militant at the same time! But hurry—closing date for copy is Saturday 19th December.

Rates:
SEMI DISPLAY; 3col cms (up to 15 words) £3
6 col cms (up to 25 words) £6
DISPLAY; 1/16th page £10

Send greetings or write for forms to Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Looking for a gift for the socialist with everything? Give the ideal Christmas present...A SUBSCRIPTION TO 'MILITANT'!
£4 for 13 weeks, £8 for 26 weeks, £16 for 52 weeks. Take one out now as the rates go up in February.

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

Wandsworth Militant Public Meeting 'Fight Heseltine with socialist action—no cuts, no rate rises'. Speakers: Valerie Wise (GLC member for Battersea South), Denis English (Assistant secretary, Wandsworth council manual workers joint shop stewards—personal capacity), Bob McKee (Battersea Labour Party Executive—personal capacity). Tuesday 1 December 8pm at: Wheatshaf pub, Balham High road (opposite Tooting Bec Tube).

MANCHESTER Ardwick Militant Readers Meeting. 'Can Labour win with Marxist policies?' Speaker Margaret Creear, Chairperson Rochdale Womens Council. Friday 4 December 7.30pm Slade Lane Neighbourhood Centre, Longsight.

MANCHESTER Militant Irish Social. Food, drink and 'turns'. 8pm til late. Phone (061) 248 7928 for venue

NORTH WEST LONDON Militant Readers Meeting. 'What we stand for.' Speaker: Kevin Ramage (National Chairman, Labour Party Young Socialists). Thursday 3 December 7.45pm Anson Hall, Anson Rd, London NW2.

Militant Marxist discussion groups, every fortnight in Waltham Forest. For details contact: Janice Dale or Mike Cleverley (01) 519 0961.

RED STAR DISCO—Book now and boost your funds with a Disco. Militant Music. 01-527-5292

WEST NEWCASTLE Militant Limited Draw. Results: 1st Prize, No. 133 D Archibald. 2nd Prize, No. 45 D McDonald.

NEW MILITANT LEAFLET now available. 'What we stand for' leaflet. Size A5 (13cm x 20cm). Duplicate details of your local Militant Public Meeting on the back. Phone orders to Circulation Dept. 01-986 3828.

TROTSKY 'MILITANT' PAMPHLETS

In the Middle of the Road 60p
Against the Stream 30p
The Class, the Party and Leadership 20p
or £1 for all three (price includes p&p)
from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

CLASSIFIED

Military Coup in Chile—Would an Alternative Economic Strategy Survive? The Allende Experience and the Alternative Economic Strategy. A Day conference on the relevance of Chile to the next Labour government. On: Saturday 28th November 1981, 10am—5pm. At: London University Students Union.

Campaign for NALGO Affiliation to the Labour Party meeting. Saturday 28th November, 11.00am at the YMCA Ellison Place, Newcastle. Speakers: Alex Kitson, Labour Party National Executive, Derek Hatton, Tom Sawyer, Regional Secretary NUPE.

MANCHESTER University Militant Supporters Society.

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

Monday 7 December—'Import controls or socialist planning?' Debate between Brian Sedgemore ('Tribune') and Bill Mullins (ex-senior shop steward BL Rover, Solihull)

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

TOWER HAMLETS/HACKNEY Militant Readers Meeting. 'What we stand for.' Speakers: John Pickard (Militant Editorial Board), a trade unionist from London Hospital. Oxford House, Derbyshire Street (off Bethnal Green Rd, opp. Tesco). Friday 27th November 7.30pm. All Welcome

BIRKENHEAD Militant Public Meeting. 'Tory Crisis—Socialist Policies for Labour.' Speaker: Peter Taaffe (Editor, 'Militant'). Birkenhead Labour Club 177 Cleveland Street. Thursday 3rd December, 7.30pm. For further details ring Richard Venton 051-647 4400.

KIDDERMINSTER Militant Readers Meeting. 'What Militant stands for.' Speaker: Jeremy Birch (Selly Oak Labour Party). Friday 27 November 7.30pm. The Bay Horse (opp. Library) Kidderminster.

'Lessons of Spain' by Leon Trotsky. With the original 1938 introduction 30p + 15p p&p

Also available 'The Spanish Revolution 1931-36' by Ted Grant

Available from World Books 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Industrial Reports

● Darlington buses

Workers on Darlington corporation buses, members of 8/22 branch TGWU, are campaigning against increased fares. In the past three years, they accepted the introduction of total one-man operation, redundancies, and drastic cut-backs in services. But now they are saying enough is enough.

The busmen lobbied a council meeting which was deciding of a 2-5p fare increase, with the district Labour Party supporting the busmen's case. The Labour group and the full council were lobbied and leaflets headed 'stop the rot' and 'no fare increases' were handed out. The Labour group withdrew but made no decision regarding the busmen's proposals of a fares freeze or bus subsidy. It is understood that Labour councillors are divided on the issue and that some right wingers are cynically using the London Transport case as a red herring to confuse matters.

The busmen consider that round one has been won but understand that the pressure on wavering Labour councillors is now on and intend to continue the campaign.

By Derek Stainsbytron (T&G 8/22, personal capacity)

● Hoover

In West London, unlike in the 30s, the picture has been the same as elsewhere. AEC, Alperton Cartons, United Biscuits, British Airways. The catalogue of industrial waste goes on and on. Now Hoovers, the largest employer in Ealing, is to go, if the bosses have their way.

The time has come for workers to fight back as only the workers can. The workers of Hoovers face long term unemployment. The older workers will probably never work again. Then there's redundancy pay; you can't sign on till you've spent that!

The workers should consider occupation. They've been promised support by their brothers at Cambslang and Merthyr, and it is believed the GLC would support this. The working class must make a stand.

Send donations and messages of support to: Nobby Clark, 428 Lansbury Drive, Hayes, Middlesex, UB4 8SP.

By John Gibbs (Ealing North CLP, personal capacity)

● Paddington NCL

Paddington's National Carriers depot is to be completely closed by the New Year, or so the few drivers that are left believe. They have already lost the bulk of their work to Watford and Kings Cross depots; now only the London postal district's traffic is left, but over 60 of the staff have been made redundant with a lot more to go at the end of the year. Some will be able to transfer to Kings Cross when the depot does shut after Christmas but it seems that none are going to Watford. This is raising the question in the minds of the drivers 'who is doing the work that has already gone

there and how can they cope with such a large increase in workload?'

The apathy of some workers at this depot not only stems from management's tactics but also the way our own union, the NUR, has responded to this closure.

We have been hearing our leadership saying 'not one inch off the track'. But unless we start fighting now it is only a matter of time before the National Freight Corporation closes down Kings Cross, or Watford or indeed many of these depots. It is also only a matter of time before the British Railways Board implement their redundancy plans. So even though our brothers employed by the National Freight Corporation have had the name of their section of the NUR changed to the National Union of Road Transport Operatives, we are still in a common battle in which we must fight, and our leadership must show a clear lead in this fight.

By Dave Dobson (Paddington NUR)

● Margate school closures.

Over two hundred workers, teachers and parents attended a meeting to oppose the closure of the only secondary education in central Margate. They were treated to a pathetic spectacle from the Tory County Councillors who attempted to evade every question. This raised the anger of the meeting and showed many workers the real nature of the Tories.

Teachers and parents claimed that the school buildings were below the legal minimum of the Education Act! Some classrooms do not have adequate heating whilst other rooms could not open the windows because of rotten window frames.

The mood of the meeting was strongly against cuts. Many Labour Party members stated the political nature of the cuts and pledged their total commitment to fight these closures.

'Militant' supporters in the area are aiming to link this campaign to the general fight against the Tories through the newly formed Kent Labour and Trade Union Action Committee.

By Jeff Porter (Secretary Park Branch LP, personal capacity.)

● Metal Box

Bosses at the Mansfield Metal Box company are using the divide and rule tactic to cut expenditure. Over the past year, they have cut working hours of the part time workers. But now the bosses are attempting to cause friction between the workforce, and one way this has been done is through cutting the hours of the full time workers, but with no loss of pay, where as the part time workers have lost pay, with no compensation.

As usual at the time of a dispute, the part time women workers have thrown at them that they are only working for 'pin money'—unfortunately this has been repeated by some male shop stewards, who are supposed to be support-

ing their members, not appearing to echo the bosses' attempts to divide and rule.

It can be seen that once again the bosses are using the issue of part time working to divide the workforce in order to reduce staffing levels at the factory. But the women must not be used as a scape goat and should get full, proper support from their union. After all, they pay exactly the same union fees as the men—they should get the same support!

By a Militant reporter

● London Hospital

Faced with unions determined to protect jobs, wages, living standards and services, management at the London Hospital are trying new tactics. Instead of negotiating with union officers, management are approaching individuals threatening, intimidating and generally trying to frighten them out of their basic trade union rights. They are mostly women workers, a lot are part timers, all on very low basic rates, many with unemployed in their family to support.

The porters at the East London hospital are defending basic trade union rights. Management are attacking fiercely and ignoring all agreed procedures. It is an attempt to break the unions.

They have reduced patient services, almost closed the accident emergency department and emptied 213 beds in a cynical effort to release other staff to attempt to do the work of the porters. If the unions had attacked patients in this manner there would be banner headlines in the press and 24 hour television coverage!

We will rally to fight for basic trade union rights and the defence of our jobs, wages and services, not only now over the Whitechapel porters but continuing until we have returned a Labour government pledged before its election to protect those rights.

By Tower Hamlets Health District Joint Shop Stewards Committee.

● CNALP meeting

Jim Lloyd, the Leader of Knowsley Council, addressed a meeting of NALGO Branch members on 12 November urging them to vote 'yes' in the forthcoming ballot on Labour Party affiliation. The importance of being able to influence policy at ward, constituency and district party level could not be stressed enough. It should be the aim of every trade union in the country to participate in the policy making of the trade unions political arm—the Labour Party.

Josie Aitman from the Campaign for NALGO Affiliation to the Labour Party outlined the arguments 'for' by showing how the Tories are destroying public services. She said the Labour Party believe in public services, and its' policies on other issues such as housing, disarmament, trade union rights and discrimination were the same as NALGO's.

By Irene Buxton (Knowsley NALGO)

FIGHT FORD BOSSES

Shop stewards and union officials from each of the 24 plants in the UK met earlier this year to decide what the claim for 1981/82 should consist of.

They unanimously decided:

—a demand for an increase in excess of £20 per week and consolidation of the present supplement into the hourly rate.

—a 35-hour week.

—a significant increase in retirement pensions and an improvement in retirement benefits.

These demands were totally rejected by the company. Instead they offered a derisory 4½%, conditional to acceptance of a 'weekly supplement'.

This weekly supplement

(which has to be negotiated) is in effect a de-unionisation of the workforce in Fords. A lot of workers think it's a worse offer than was made to BL! An attitude like that seems to reflect the mood of a workforce who have been treated with indifference. The mood is also reflected in the strike at Avely and the troubles at the PTA and Body plants, Dagenham.

At Avely we see the problem of manning levels starting to raise its head.

Fords have always raised the issue of how our opposite numbers on the continent are much more efficient and have higher production than we do. Yet Fords of Britain are one of

By Bob Neal (Shop steward, Sheetmetal Workers Union, Fords foundry, Dagenham)

the most profitable sections of its empire.

You can see how Ford are well able to afford the demands of the unions. As far as the shorter working week goes, Ford USA, despite massive losses, are working shorter time.

The demands of the unions are good up to a point, but with last year's acceptance of 9% we have already taken a large cut in our standards of living. In my opinion, an unconditional increase in the basic pay of £30 per week with no supplement would be nearer the mark to regain lost ground.

I also believe pay should be index-linked to cover inflation (as we apparently had in the past) and there should be a large increase in retirement pensions (also index-linked) and retirement benefits.

We must get unconditional acceptance of the demand for a 35-hour week with a guarantee of jobs. To protect living standards and secure jobs, we must go for these demands now.

BL - NO MORE REDUNDANCIES

British Leyland workers at Bathgate reacted angrily to company plans to chop 1,365 jobs from the West Lothian plant which currently employs 3,600.

Over 4,000 jobs are to go nationally: 140 in Glasgow, 1,800 in Leyland, and closure of the Wolverhampton plant with 750 jobs. Work from Wolverhampton is to be transferred to Bathgate, which itself is losing its tractor production side to a private firm in Lincolnshire.

Scottish unemployment stands at 13.4% but Bathgate already has 20% signing on. It depends on BL as a major source of

work, both directly and indirectly. Before last Friday's announcement local shopkeepers had felt a big drop in takings in this pre-Christmas period.

Interviewed on TV, one worker said, 'I'm on the scrapheap at 36. Nobody wants me. There's no jobs round here. We must fight.'

Management attempt to justify the sackings because the recession has halved the British commercial vehicles' market in the last year. Bathgate has a tractor production capacity of 400 per week, but management say only 70 are made weekly. Yet there is a crying need for agricultural machinery throughout the world, especially the third world.

The workers' fighting mood was summed up by AUEW plant convenor Jim Swan: 'I am angry and disgusted with management. Since 1976 we have

fully co-operated in the development of a completely new tractor, which is now to be sold off to a private manufacturer.

'Bathgate workers are to get no benefit for the efforts they have put in. Let me make clear that we will resist these sackings. There will be no Linwood at Bathgate.'

A determined stand must be made:

★ Edwardes and the Tories must be made to back down!

★ A united effort of all plants threatened.

★ No transfer of any machinery or stocks from any affected plant.

★ Weekly mass meetings of the workforce to discuss the campaign.

★ Workers' control of all BL factories.

By Tam Burke (Central Edinburgh CLP)

Scargill for NUM President

A victory for Arthur Scargill in December will be a victory for the left.

It will be the beginning of an exciting new era for the whole of the trade union movement. With the arrival of a left-wing President, the NUM can look forward to a more democratic system of elections for full-time officials of both the union and its National Executive. No more elections for life for any official—let's have regular re-selection.

The election of Arthur Scargill could also set an example to other unions, especially the steel and rail unions who, with the miners, form the triple alliance.

Of course, any union is only as strong as its mem-

bership; Scargill must have a solid rank and file backing him and his policies.

The next aim must be the election of a Labour Party committed to socialist policies. As Lenin and Trotsky explained, with a Marxist leadership of the Labour Party and the unions, the working class would be invincible.

Some of the union leaders are frightened of the power they have, and instead of standing against this reactionary government have met it halfway and have actually held back the workers.

Thatcher and her government backed away from confrontation with the miners last spring when the

membership called her bluff. What could be achieved when the officials actually lead the miners against her government?

Scargill's policies for the miners, of a four day working week, no pit closures (other than on the grounds of exhaustion), retirement at 55, rates protection scheme, decent wages, subsidies in line with other mining countries, can all be won. More importantly, we need workers' control of our industry.

Yes, we in N.E. Derbyshire are looking forward to the New Year with expectations not seen since '72 and '74.

By Ian Whyles (Derbyshire NUM)

CPSA pay—

Regain lost ground

In the 1982 pay claim, operative from 1st April 1982, Civil Service unions should seek to recover what was lost during 1981 and then secure annual cost of living increase to cover the period 81/82.

As a CPSA research department document points out "the lost ground in the 1981 pay year amounted to between 6% and 9% equivalent to between £5 and £7 per week for the average CPSA member. In order to restore members' living standards or relative earnings positions to April 1980 levels, increases of 15 to 20% would need to be achieved (approximately £12 to £15 per week for the average CPSA member)."

This evidence should have guided our pay claim, together with the longstanding demand for a 35-hour week, which would mean a one hour reduction in London and 2 hours elsewhere, and for the realisation of the union's annual leave demands.

The 1981 Civil Service strike showed conclusively that unity between the Civil Service unions behind a common pay claim and common programme of action is vital. These demands should have been the starting point for the discussion with other Civil Service and Public Service unions to achieve maximum unity behind a common claim.

Civil Service trade union unity will be particularly vital in the 1982 pay negotiations with the Tories committed to their vicious 4% pay policy. As part of the 1981 pay settlement the Tories agreed to the right of the unions to go to arbitration, but they also reserved the right to set aside any arbitration award if it is against the 'so-called' national interest!

Whilst 'Militant' supporters have no illusions about arbitration we recognise that it is possible, in the event of the 1982 pay claim being rejected by the Tories, members may initially opt for arbitration

By Kevin Roddy
(DHSS Section Organiser,
personal capacity)

especially under pressure from the right wing Civil Service union leaders.

It is important therefore that if the Civil Service unions proceed to arbitration they do so on a united basis arguing to recover what was stolen in the 1980/81 round and in addition increases to offset the increase of 12% in the cost of living.

Whilst firmly seeking Civil Service trade union unity it would then have been correct for the Civil Service unions together to seek the maximum unity with other public service unions in a common front against the Tory policy.

This programme was put forward at the CPSA's recent Civil Service Executive Committee Meeting by full time official and General Secretary candidate John Macreadie.

The right wing majority however, supported the alternative programme of the General Secretary Ken Thomas and DGS Alister Graham (the right wing's candidate for General Secretary). They argued for a £12 per week flat rate claim, which was carried by 15 votes to 5. Under this claim no attempt will be made to recover what was lost in the 1980/81 pay settlements.

Pay comparisons have also been jettisoned despite the right-wing championing this idea for years, and despite the January 1981 special pay conference decision to support comparability. Ken Thomas amazingly told the NEC that this idea was being dropped in order to present any arbitration tribunal "a modest claim"!

The right-wing claim leaves out the demand for a 35-hour week and it calls for an inquiry into the report of the Megaw inquiry into Civil Service pay. This shows the sugary illusions they have in a committee of

enquiry set up with the express intention to find a way to drive down our wages and conditions.

The right wing are cloaking their 'interim' claim as unity with the public service unions yet they have made it clear at the meeting that they have no intention of mounting any real fighting public service campaign. Moreover their claim is for a £12 increase, which is clearly out of time with the 12% claim submitted by the local authority manual workers and supported by other unions in the public sector.

Other Civil Service unions may feel that they have no alternative but to support the CPSA demands, though as this will mean a cut in living standards for members in SCPS, IRSF, IPCS, CPSU, etc., there is a possibility they may go behind a claim more in line with 20% with a £15 per week underpinning, and then proceed to arbitration without the CPSA. Such a split would be disastrous for Civil Servants.

CPSA members should demand immediately a special pay conference where the leadership should put forward their policy and seek membership's support for the demands put forward by John Macreadie, particularly if other Civil Service unions put forward similar demands.

Of course, the very best way forward would be for a broad united struggle of civil servants with the public service workers behind a common claim which protected the interests of all. The need for such unity is becoming more and more clear as the government seeks to attack each section of public sector workers in isolation.

But such unity must be on the basis of unity at membership level, not only at the top. Local co-ordinating committees of Civil Service and public service unions should be set up to prepare and organise for a common fight against the Tory pay policy. Pressure should be put on the union leaderships for this to be done.

It is clear from the events on the CPSA Executive that the senior full-time and elected NEC leadership are again showing the lack of bold leadership which CPSA members require.

They have learnt nothing from the bitter experiences of recent years. It is therefore vital to fight to replace the right wing leadership with a broad left leadership both in the senior officer and the forthcoming NEC elections.

would have provided jobs for some of the workforce. The port authority intervention then threw the whole dispute back into the melting pot and forced the workers to continue the occupation.

Meanwhile talks at national level between the Confed shipbuilding negotiating committee and British Shipbuilders have broken down. The unions are still demanding that BS



Workers occupying the P&O ferries in Liverpool.

P&O—determined to win

Photo: Militant.

In a determined effort to save jobs of the seamen of the P&O Ferries, Ulster Prince and Ulster Queen, the executive of the National Union of Seamen have declared that from midnight, Wednesday November 25, all services manned by NUS members between the UK and Northern Ireland will cease. It was also decided that P&O vessels operating from UK ports would be blacked.

Dockers will also be officially requested by the NUS to black all P&O cargo carried by other shipping lines. Action committee member Jo Anderson, crew member of the Ulster Queen, said, "This is just the kind of action we are calling for, from our ex-

ecutive—it will be a great morale booster for our people, who have been sitting on the ship since November 6."

General Secretary Jim Slater said, "we hope this action will make P&O and the government reconsider our request, and the service be operated on a temporary basis until a new operator identifies himself." The decision draws Sea Link, Townsend Thoreson, and Pandora (a division of P&O) into the dispute. P&O have made threatening hints about further job losses if the action of the seamen goes ahead.

Hints have also been dropped as to possible legal action against the NUS, under the Tory 1980

employment act, by other companies now involved in the dispute. To make the latest decisions of the union successful, Jo Anderson said, "action committee members accompanied by NUS officials will address mass meetings at all ports throughout the UK in order to explain the situation and to make sure members are fully aware of the facts."

Donations and messages of support to convenors, P&O dispute, c/o Maritime House, Paradise Street, Liverpool.

By Tony Mulhearn
(prospective
parliamentary candidate,
Toxteth
Labour Party)

MARCHING TO SAVE JOBS

The striking members of NUFLAT at the Bishop Auckland plant of Chamberlain Phipps are now in their ninth week outside the gates of the factory.

By
Martin Elvin

However, despite the callous actions of the management, the hardship inflicted by the refusal of the DHSS to pay the strikers' families what they are entitled to, and the failure of their own national trade union leadership to make the strike official, the workers are as determined as ever to continue the fight.

An indication of the sheer guts and grit of the workforce is shown by the recent march to London via Leeds undertaken by a number of them.

The section from Bishop Auckland to Leeds was

covered by six strikers, and was sponsored in order to raise money for the strike fund.

At the first two stops, Northallerton and Harrogate, the local Constituency Labour Parties laid on accommodation and food, and gave letters of support.

Their arrival at Leeds was greeted by the Labour Party, LPYS, local trade unions and the Leeds Trades Council.

There were even reporters from Yorkshire Television, BBC Television, and local newspapers. Undoubtedly the preparations carried out before hand, with fly posting and publicity along

the route paid off.

Whilst in Leeds they organised a picket of the NUFLAT offices, where they tied their banner to the door and prevented anyone leaving or entering for one hour.

This office had been the scene of an earlier encounter between two of the strikers, when they had met the NUFLAT National Secretary Eugene Mallon. Since the "Wallpaper Warriors" had started their dispute, his phone apparently never stopped ringing, and letters in support of the strike and wanting to know more about it poured in.

From Leeds, four of the marchers travelled by car to London to lobby the NUFLAT executive meeting to hand in a petition of 3,000 signatures collected in just 2 weeks.

Now in London, they have arranged to meet Michael Foot, their local MP Derek Foster and Euro MP, Roland Boyes and others. They will hand in a petition to the Labour Party leader, condemning the use of the 1980 Employment Bill, to prevent the strikers' families obtaining social security.

They also plan to visit Staffa, where they said, perhaps they can pick up some tips on picketing! Money and support still needed—phone 0388 663330

Robb Caledon

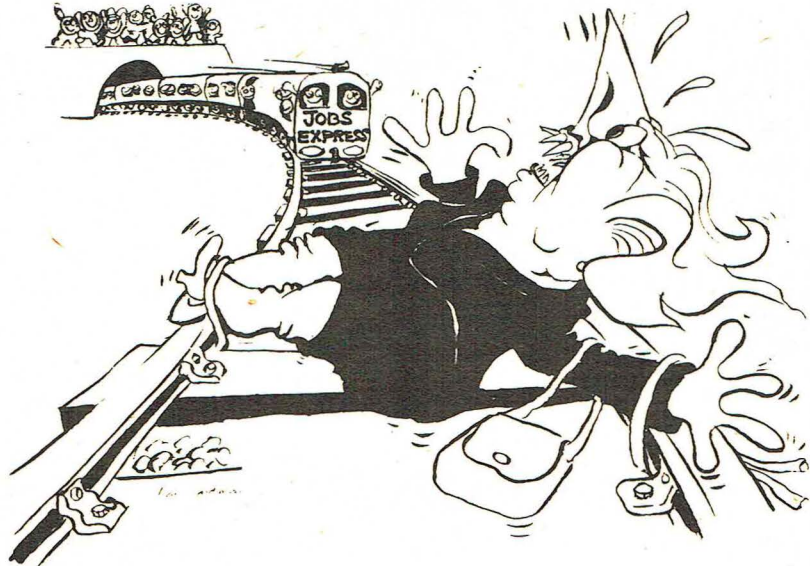
The Robb Caledon occupation goes on. Workers in the Dundee shipyard are still fighting for their jobs. The situation has however become confused with talks about the future of the

yard taking place as we go to press.

These involved Kestrel Marine, the firm of a neighbouring site who want to extend their marine engineering plant into parts of the Caledon yard, and the Dundee port authority, who won the land and want to build a container base on the same site.

The workers had earlier agreed, reluctantly, to accept Kestrel's bid, which

Jobs Express



A better deal for youth and the prospect of a job. That's what the hundreds of young people on the Jobs Express are demanding.

The TUC's Jobs for Youth campaign is undoubtedly a big step forward in highlighting the national scandal of youth unemployment.

A hundred young people joined the Jobs Express in Newcastle with another 250 joining at Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Sheffield, Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff, Swansea

Report and photo by Denis Doran

joined by 200 young people in a demonstration through Edinburgh, ending with a rally where Maureen McLaughlin from the YOPs Trainees Union Rights

bus pass as my college is one stop before the boundary after which it is free".

Therese Shortt from Cambridge was sacked from Trust House Forte's after working there for 7 months. She won a tribunal for wrongful dismissal but did not get her job back.

"The DHSS sends me letters telling me to buck up, and look for jobs. I have recently gone for 20 jobs. I can't even get on YOPs as I am 24".

Every young person on the train is bitter at the way they are being treated. Mark Steels from Suffolk is not sure the Jobs Express will produce more jobs.

He says "the TUC must mobilise to bring down the Tories, who will do nothing for youth. Labour has said they will do something for us; all the Tories want is money. They don't mind making money but won't spend any to create jobs. Hopefully, Labour will stick to their word."

The TUC has unfortunately tried its hardest to ensure that the Jobs for Youth Campaign and especially the Jobs Express train is kept non political. They even made every young person on the Jobs Express sign a statement barring them from selling or distributing literature other than official TUC publications.

The young people on the train see things differently. Many see the political fight to bring down the Tories and the industrial fight as inseparable.

In the demonstrations throughout the week the chants have been "Maggie Maggie Out Out Out" "We want nationalisation—and the Tories on the dole". That's what we've got to fight for!

Youth against Tories



and Bristol.

Elisabeth Glasgow is a YOP worker from Consett on the Jobs Express. At the age of 17 she is already on her third YOPs scheme working as a silk screen printer.

Liz says "the conditions at work are terrible; management see YOPsters like school kids docking their wages for petty things like talking. One lad was sacked because the boss thought he was too shy".

Liz wanted "to tell other youth on the train and throughout the country to join a union as this is the only way that they will stop being exploited. It will also get across to the people of Britain that youth need a future".

The Jobs Expressers were

Campaign (YTURC) stressed "it's in every worker's interest to oppose YOPs."

"The bosses can try to use YOPsters as scab labour during strikes. They can't kid us that if you work hard there is a job at the end. They kick off one YOPster and take on another."

Maureen was warmly applauded when she mentioned the tremendous work of the YS in the YTURC (see report page 3).

Alison Stone from Great Yarmouth has had to go to college because she couldn't get a job. "I get £11 a term as a grant. There are seven kids in my family and £11 is meant to pay for books, clothes, my keep at home and nights out with my mates."

"I don't even get a free

inside...

- Witch-hunt 2,8,9 & 10/• YOPs Conference 3/• Accrington demo 4/• Coventry 5/
- Scarman 6/• Police 7/• N Ireland 11/• Romania 12/• Fords 14/• CPSA 15

UNION RIGHTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

claim big damages.

This could lead—if the Tories succeed—to unions being crippled through the courts. Tebbit also hopes, no doubt, that the threat of damages may stop some TU leaders giving backing to their members' action.

These changes would return the unions to the position following the infamous Taff Vale judgement, in 1905.

But the Tories should be warned. Taff Vale led to titanic battles to restore TU rights. As a result, the Labour Party was built up as the labour movement's political arm.

Democratic trade union rights won through years of sacrifice and struggle will not be wiped out by a Tory law. As in the past, the law will be defied: workers will stubbornly defend their rights

Mass unemployment, aggravated by Tory policies, has had a devastating effect. But the trade unions' power of resistance has not been broken, as it was in the

1920s and '30s.

All over the country, trade unionists are fighting back against job losses and wage cuts. And there are bigger battles to come.

Heath learned the hard way. His Tory government brought in its ill-fated Industrial Relations Act. The dockers, the miners, and other workers defied the Act—and brought down Heath.

Mobilise against Tebbit

The Tory "wets", at least, are dimly aware of the mighty power of the workers, especially when provoked by anti-union laws. But where Prior fears to tread, Tebbit—on Thatcher's orders—rushes in.

Tebbit thinks he can smash the closed shop and hand the bosses a scabs' charter.

While stopping short of outlawing the closed shop, Tebbit wants to sabotage

this hard-won safeguard by imposing impossible conditions.

Workers could be dismissed for refusing to join a union only if 80% to 85% of the workforce (not just those voting) had supported the closed shop in a ballot during the previous 12 months.

Employers would regularly be given the chance to open the door to black-legs.

The bosses would be given a free hand to victimise shop-floor union leaders. If workers refused to accept a four-day return-to-work notice, the employers could dismiss all strikers—with the right to re-employ or to exclude whom they please.

Tebbit claims to be enhancing workers' rights by "improving the workings of the labour market"! But how many more workers would be on the dole now, but for resolute trade union action?

Massive Tory pit closures were stopped only by the miners' industrial action.

In Leeds this week, Sulzer workers won a big victory. Management had offered a zero wage rise, plus 5% for productivity. Only united union strength

won £10 rise for skilled workers.

Far from hitting the lower-paid workers, as Tebbit claims, the closed shop at Sulzers ensured the low-paid won a bigger percentage rise.

Smash the closed shop—and all workers will soon be low-paid. That's what the Tories' really want!

The Tories also aim to outlaw strikes for "political or personal" aims. Who will decide what is, and is not, a "lawful" aim? Presumably, Lord Denning or one of his bewigged colleagues!

No doubt the Tories are hoping they can rule out sympathy strikes, strikes against cuts, strikes in defence of democratic rights—and, above all, strikes against the Tory government.

They will not succeed! Nothing will stop the workers, once they move into action against this reactionary bosses' government.

But the time to mobilise is now! Shop-floor and branch meetings, rallies and demonstrations, must be used to bring home to millions of workers the danger of Tebbit's proposed laws.

The leaders of the trade unions and the Labour Party must call a 24-hour general strike as a first decisive step in an all-out

mass campaign to bring down the Tory government and return a Labour government committed to bold socialist policies.

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