

LONDON/YORKSHIRE
Labour Party conferences.
Save public transport.
See page 7.

Fulfil your 'Wild Expectations' DUMP TORIES NOT YOUTH

"What is your 'wild expectations'? A job—is that a wild expectation?"

So Tony Benn answered the lies of Tory Unemployment Minister Tebbit, to the cheers of 3,000 youth at the highly successful YOPs lobby of Parliament on 25 February.

By Willie Griffin
(Secretary, YOPs Trainees Union Rights Campaign)

The rally and lobby of Parliament were organised by the YOPs Trainees Union Rights Campaign and the Labour Party Young Socialists. It brought screams of rage from the Tory establishment.

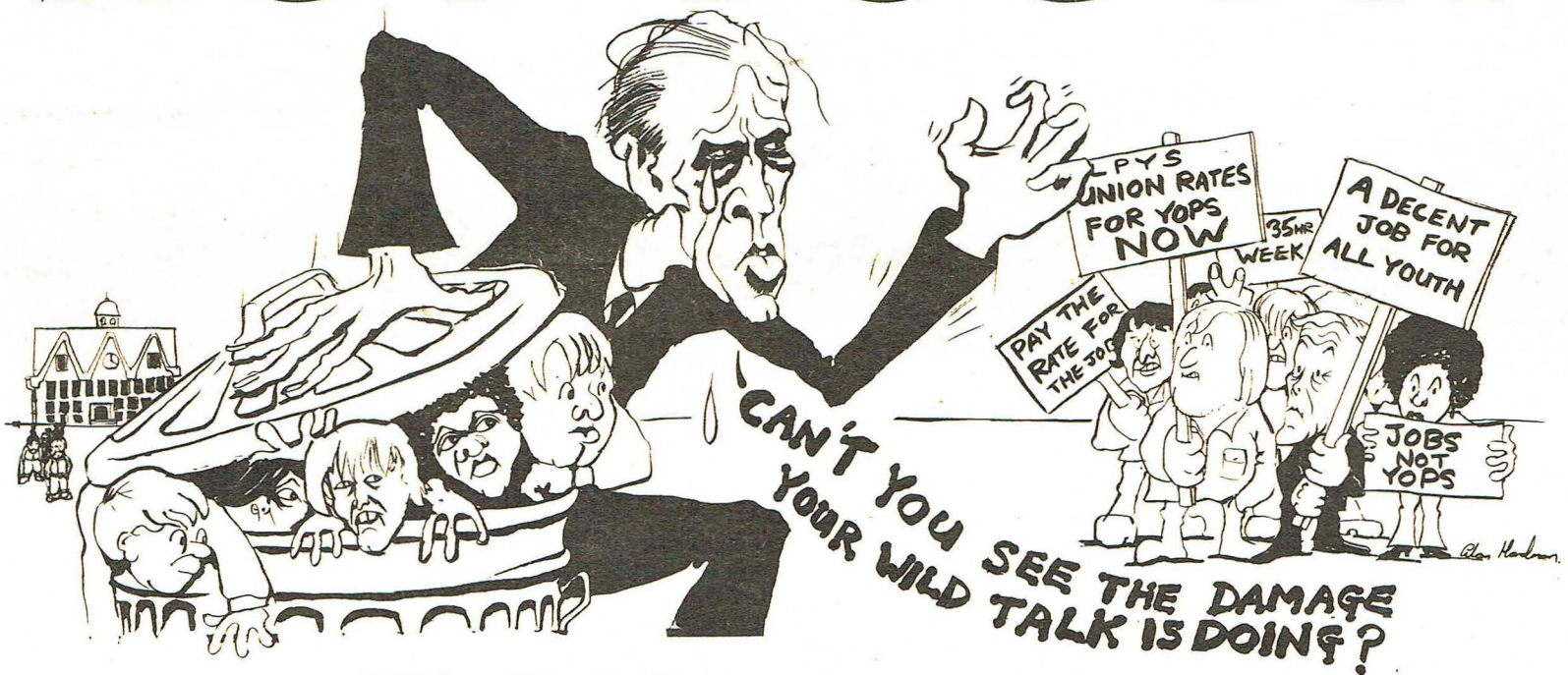
Norman 'on yer bike' Tebbit raged that Benn by supporting the rally was "encouraging wild expectations...among young people."

But as Tony Benn told the rally, echoing the demands of the LPYS and YTURC, trade union rates of pay, the right to a job, and five weeks' paid holiday are very modest expectations.

The other claim of the Tories and the kept press of Fleet Street was that the whole YOPs campaign was just a left-wing plot—YOPs workers were being 'exploited' and 'manipulated'.

But the YOPsters at the Festival Hall rally were quite clear why they were there—and who the real exploiters were!

"I'm on a course and at a day release centre. The £25 we get at the moment is hopeless—I don't get any supplementary benefit. I pay £12 out of that for my flat, and after food and so on I'm left with £5, for fares, clothes and to 'enjoy'



myself.

"Now the Tories want to put this down to £15. How will people survive on that?" asked Carol Upham from Wallasey.

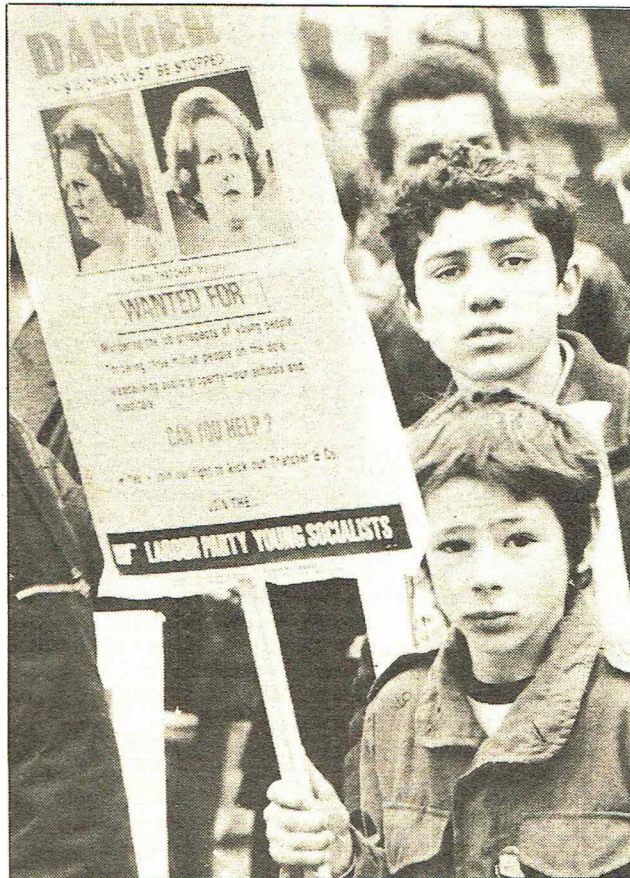
All the YOPsters present understood this protest was just the start of the campaign to organise the YOPs schemes.

And so do the Tories and their Fleet Street friends. The day after the rally, 26 February, they reached new levels of hysteria. The Tory rags echoed Tebbit saying it was all 'a politically motivated set-up'.

But the most hysterical attack came from the *Daily Express* which incredibly claimed, "Tony Benn's young supporters rioted during a mass rally at the Festival Hall..."! Unfortunately a small amount of vandalism did take place by persons unknown, which was publicly condemned by

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Photo: Militant



YOPsters and school leavers fighting for their future at lobby.

Heathrow still out for victory

British Airways ramp workers, locked out for 4 weeks, have agreed not to return to work under the new rosters which would cost workers £1,800 in a year.

This attack by British Airways management is a planned attempt to impose these new rosters on ramp workers first and then on the rest of the airport. BA management chose February to lock out the ramp workers as this was after the Christmas backlog of freight and mail, and before the Easter rush.

However, BA are still losing money on freight and mail which is either not moving or being transferred to other airlines.

An indication of the support the ramp workers have on the airport is the 24 hour strike by Northside Catering today. This support must be extended by the union leadership calling mass meetings amongst engineering, maintenance and Terminal 3 workers. Support also must be sought from workers in the other major European airports to block BA flights from Heathrow. This will prepare the way for victory in this dispute, stopping management's attempts to worsen conditions of all airport workers.

Upset Tebbit-Join LPYS

Militant

Amersham -

Nothing better summed up the twisted, madcap world of Thatcher than the sight last Thursday of stockbrokers scrambling and fighting each other to get hold of Amersham shares. In half an hour, whilst YOP trainees were assembling to lobby Parliament for decent wages, £23 million profit was made on the Stock Exchange for doing nothing productive.

Amersham, which had been publicly owned since 1946, makes valuable radioactive isotopes for medical equipment. But it was its profit potential, not its social value, which prompted the City sharks' ac-

tion. The share issue was subscribed twenty five times over.

This enabled 500 sub-underwriters to make £887,500 for just signing their names to a commit-

Labour must re-nationalise without compensation

ment to buy the shares if no-one else had wanted them.

In addition, bankers Rothschilds and Morgan Grenfell (where SDP leader Roy Jenkins is an adviser) got £310,000 for selling the shares. According to Labour MP Reg Race, some Tory MPs made a killing from wheeling and dealing Amersham shares last week. So much for the 'small men' that the government claimed would profit from the sale.

Although much attention has been focused on how

Amersham shares were sold, back-door deals are inevitable, when there are fortunes to be made. The Department of Trade is now investigating whether there were irregularities when Prestcold was sold off last year. When the Auditor-General demanded access to the files over the sale of Leyland's tractor division at Bathgate he was refused by Leyland's management.

The banks have been the main beneficiary of Thatcher's sale of £634m of state holdings since May 1979. They took £48m out of

£53.4m-worth from the sale of the National Freight Corporation.

In the autumn Thatcher plans to sell off £800m worth of British North Sea Oil Corporation assets. Only the City sharks and other oil companies will gain. Ordinary taxpayers are having their money used to provide a rich picking for the super-rich.

The labour movement must utilise all its strength to stop this plunder of the country's wealth. If there is determined resistance the Tories can be forced to

retreat, as gas workers showed when their threatened strike stopped the sale of Gas showrooms.

But action confined to the individual industry is not enough. The Labour Party must give a clear commitment that the next Labour government will re-nationalise without compensation all industries and companies which this Tory government has sold off. Such a policy would be enormously popular, if it was properly campaigned for and explained, and would stop Amersham-type sales dead in their tracks.

Labour Party

Reports

78th Annual Conference of the Labour Party Brighton 1979

NEC

The 24 February meeting of the Labour Party NEC that decided not to endorse Pat Wall as prospective parliamentary candidate for Bradford North based its decision on the verdict of a special enquiry committee which alleged 'irregularities' in the selection. But some NEC members thought the allegations completely trivial.

Neil Kinnock, stressed that the enquiry's objections were hardly serious enough to warrant a new selection. Left winger Les Huckfield rightly described the 'technical' objections to Pat Wall's endorsement as a fig leaf to hide the real objection, namely that Pat Wall is a Marxist.

Right winger John Golding admitted that where supporters of the 'Militant' are concerned he is "prejudiced" and even "bigoted", but claimed that this did not in any way influence his judgement as a member of the enquiry team. The NEC decision, by 15 votes to 13, means that the issue will now go back to the Organisation Committee, which

originally moved to endorse Pat Wall by 10 votes to 5.

The real inclinations of Labour's right wing were revealed again later when John Golding, seconded by Denis Healey, tried to block the endorsement of another 'Militant' supporter, Terry Fields, as candidate for Liverpool Kirkdale. Without even the flimsiest of technical objections, they wanted to suspend endorsement until the enquiry into 'Militant' made its report.

Golding withdrew his motion, probably realising that it would be defeated. The NEC would not block Terry Fields because of the uproar that would break out within the Labour Party over the vetoing of a candidate on purely political grounds. Despite the fact that open political proscription was not supported, nevertheless, the party rank and file should be aware that despite the Bishops Stortford agreement, many right wingers are still intent on a witch-hunt against the Marxist Left.

By Militant Reporters

SUPPORT FOR MILITANT IN CUMBRIA

Cumbria may seem an unlikely place for the ideas of Marxism to be gaining support, especially in an area like Windemere which conjures up ideas of mountains, lakes and holidays. But even here the ideas of Militant are now finding a big echo.

The right wing in the labour movement believe that behind every move to the left and every reselection there is a Militant plot. But Kendal and Barrow Labour Parties illustrate that nothing could be further from the truth.

In Kendal, where the Militant was not even sold until

very recently, 85% of a local Labour Party meeting voted in favour of a resolution to condemn the witch-hunt against the Militant. Don't think for one minute that this is a tiny caucus of people hidden away in a Tory area—the local Labour Party has over 100 members, holds public meetings every month with national speakers and sells Labour Weekly on the streets.

In Windemere, which has more in association with Wordsworth than Marx, the local Labour Party invited a speaker from the Militant to speak at the Party meeting. Since then at least 10 people

Opposition to witch-hunt

Yorkshire COHSE

The Yorkshire Regional Council of COHSE has clearly expressed its opposition to witch-hunts and expulsions within the labour movement and defended the right for Constituency Labour Parties to select their own Parliamentary candidates.

A resolution which was passed convincingly at the last meeting of the Regional Council outlined the need for unity around Labour's programme to defeat the Tories and expose the policies, or lack of them of the SDP.

Health workers are faced with an unprecedented attack. Lower living standards, appalling working conditions and unemployment amongst nurses and other sections are all that National Health Service employees have had from Thatchers' policies.

Last Saturday there was a demonstration in York against the 4% wage limit, organised mainly by health service unions, and this is typical of the fighting mood

that now exists amongst hospital workers.

Under the pressures of their rank and file, the leadership of unions like COHSE have told the government that 4% is unacceptable. However, the voting of COHSE's leaders at Labour Party Conferences and on the Labour Party NEC have shown that the rank and file have still got a job to do in building support for a determined leadership and a fighting programme for all health workers.

By Colin Piper (COHSE 257 Branch)

The following resolution was passed with only one or two votes against at the February meeting of Barnsley GMC. "That this CLP calls upon the Labour Party NEC to firmly reject any form of witch-hunt against the left wing in general and supporters of 'Militant' in particular, who have so far been singled out for special attention by certain MPs and leading trade unionists." Nobody spoke against the resolution, in a meeting attended by well over a hundred delegates. This followed a Special GMC which drew up a Parliamentary selection shortlist of two: Roy Mason MP and Jack Brown, South Yorkshire County Councillor.

The Union of Communication Workers, International London Overseas Telephone no. 1 branch, passed the following resolution without any opposition, dissent or abstention:

"This branch committee, conscious of the need for unity in the labour movement, at a time of fierce attacks on local government and working peoples' living standards, deeply regrets the decision of the Labour Party National Executive Committee not to endorse the Bermondsey CLP candidate.

We are also opposed to

the investigation into supporters of the 'Militant' newspaper. These sections will play into the hands of the Tories, Liberals and the SDP. They will split the Labour Party. The energies of the party members and full-time officials will be diverted unnecessarily. These energies could be put to better use preparing for the May 1982 local government elections.

We call on the NEC of the Labour Party to reverse these decisions and to mobilise working people in the fight against the Tories, SDP and Liberals."

Fred Mulley fails to be reselected.

Fred Mulley, former Minister for Transport, Education and Secretary for Defence, was deselected by Sheffield Park Constituency Labour Party on 28 February.

The successful candidate, Richard Caborn, is the left wing Euro-MP for Sheffield and is still chairman of the District Labour Party and vice-president of the Trades Council. Before becoming Euro-MP he was for many years convenor of the Firth engineering works in Sheffield.

The constituency party was controlled by the right-wing throughout the 'fifties and 'sixties. In 1953 it voted to expel the Bevanites from the party. One of those former Bevanites, Michael Foot, has spoken in defence of Fred Mulley in recent months.

By John Whitelaw and Dave Cotterill

However, over the last few years the party has shifted to the left. The former constituency chairman recently left to join the SDP, and became its founding chairman in Sheffield.

The selection of Richard Caborn marks a new phase in the development of the party. Mass canvassing work will be undertaken in the run-up to the May elections, and before the next general election, to ensure that not only a massive Labour majority is maintained, but that the party is built up and that we are in a stronger position to carry out the fight in Sheffield as a whole.

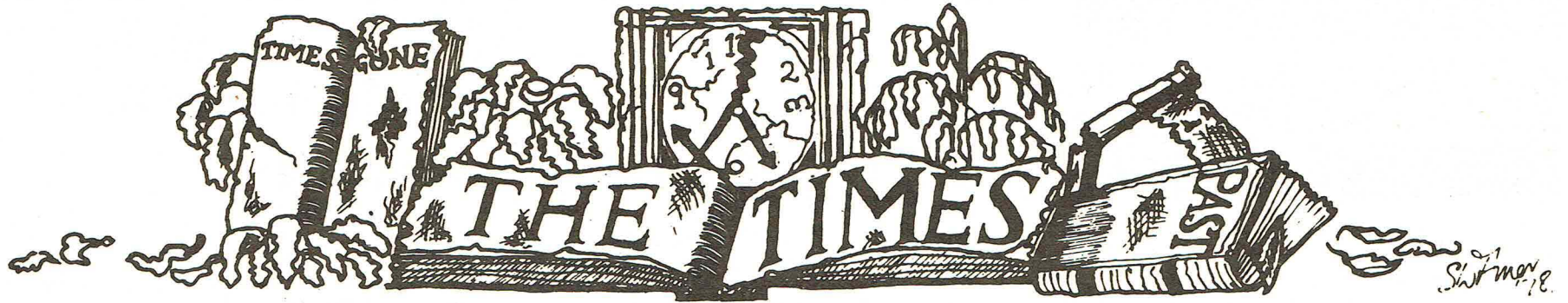
By Martin Hill (Sheffield Park LP member)

want regular orders of the paper.

Such a reception indicates the real shift to the left that has taken place in the labour movement. Similarly in Barrow where although the labour movement is very strong, there is the problem of geographical isolation. But even this physical barrier has not prevented Barrow from being affected by mass unemployment and falling living standards.

Subsequently, a similar shift to the left has taken place in the local labour movement. The number of delegates attending GMCs has doubled in the last year. A brand new Labour Club has been opened. And the Constituency Labour Party here also has come out against the witch-hunt of the Militant.

Such is the interest in the



FIGHT THE CLOSURE

It is a little over a year since Rupert Murdoch's News International acquired *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, and their supplements.

In that time his ultimatum-style management has prompted two previous threats of closure before this present crisis. He says he now needs over 600 jobs to go if the paper is to reduce its £15 million losses.

Profit is Murdoch's motivation so this present onslaught should not have been unexpected. His target this time is the clerical staff, who are to form 90% of the redundancies.

A common strategy

should have been prepared, instead of having all the separate unions go their own way, looking only after their own members. It is reported that some chapels have already reached agreements accounting for about 100 redundancies.

But a defeat for any section of workers will lead to further attacks when Murdoch again thinks he is strong enough and the time is right. What is more a defeat will give a lead to the other employers in Fleet Street to reduce the numbers of workers and weaken the unions' power.

A bold campaign is necessary, including a united stance from all the union chapels. This should be linked to support from workers on the *Sun*, *News of the World*, and the provincial papers of News International, if *The Times* closes.

Murdoch has already tried to transfer the titles from Times Newspapers to the News International Group, and this is a clear indication of his thinking. He, no doubt, hopes to open up afresh, maybe in his new factory for the *Sun* in London's Docklands or another site. You could guarantee that that would be with much reduced manning levels. If *The Times* closed, it would mean a victory for Murdoch. A separate fight by each separate union makes that victory all the more possible.

The buying of Times Newspapers by News International has given Murdoch even greater control in the national newspaper field, where he already has the *Sun* and the *News of the World*.

Few murmurs were raised about this at the time—he

was seen as the saviour of *The Times*. In the finality, "independent directors" and a statement on editorial freedom were gained, but these "safeguards" are a pipedream.

His own journalists in Australia struck in 1975 because of his anti-Labour stand, an action that would be welcomed by some of his journalists in this country.

His attitude on "editorial freedom" was made clear in November 1972 when he was quoted in *The Times*: "Do I intervene? Yes of course I intervene. It is nonsense to say that the man who is responsible physically, financially... must not be seen or known to exercise that responsibility."

Murdoch will only give an inch or move if he is forced to. Therefore a determined campaign is absolutely necessary to save

The Times. But the campaign must also raise the whole issue of newspaper control.

While the press is in the hands of the likes of Murdoch, jobs are not safe and the press is not free

A campaign based on the belief that no other option is open for the ownership and control of the press than the present one is handicapped from the beginning.

The Murdoch empire,

along with Express Newspapers, the Mirror Group and Associated Press control 90% of the national press (weekday and Sunday). This gives the lie to press freedom. Along with the Westminster Press, they completely dominate the provincial press as well.

The demand in the SOGAT constitution for the nationalisation of the press facilities, instead of threatening jobs, would open up the newspaper industry to many groups now denied this right. It would open the press facilities to genuine press freedom and would create more jobs. While the press is in the hands of the likes of Murdoch jobs are not safe and the press is not free.

By Peter Jarvis
(NGA)

YOPS AND TEBBIT

Dialogue with the deaf

As part of the massive YOP lobby of Parliament, a delegation of six met Norman Tebbit, Thatcher's 'Employment' Secretary.

The delegation were Pete Gayle, YOP trainee and NUPE member from Southwark, London; Maureen McLaughlin, YOP trainee and TGWU shop steward from Edinburgh; Shareen Blackall, TGWU from Merseyside, Mark Spence, unemployed from Birmingham; Laurence Coates, LPYS representative on the Labour Party NEC; and Willie Griffin, Secretary of the YOP Trainees' Union Rights Campaign.

We put four questions to Mr Tebbit. All we got in reply was a stream of agit-prop talk. It was like listening to a gramophone record droning out Tory dogma—worse than a waste of time!

For example, "The 'country' can't afford to pay YOP trainees the union rate, as you should all well know."

We asked, "Will you

By Willie Griffin and Laurence Coates

confirm that at the commencement of every YOP scheme, all trainees will have access to a union representative to explain the benefits of trade union membership?"

"It isn't my responsibility to do the unions' job for them!" stormed Norm.

"No, your're clearly out to destroy the rights of every trade unionist with your new anti-union 'Employment' Bill," we replied.

Tebbit thought he'd got us when we pressed him about YOP trainees' protection under the Health & Safety at Work Act. "They're covered by the Act," he replied, with a smirk as big as a Cheshire Cat's.

The point is, however, that YOP trainees are not classified as being workers... "They don't work! They're undergoing training," said Tebbit.

Therefore they are only covered by the Act to the extent that any member of the public is covered whilst

on an employer's premises. They do not have the same rights as all other workers enjoy, namely to elect their own Health & Safety Reps and conduct inspections of their workplace.

Furthermore, if they are ill for more than three weeks they can be dismissed without any comeback against the employers.

Mr Tebbit seemed unconcerned at the fact that last year 23 trainees had to have amputations due to injuries on their courses, and 6 trainees died in accidents at work. "The rate of injuries is no more than in industry as a whole," was Tebbit's answer.

Tories' slavery plans for youth

This is rubbish—the rate of injury on YOPs is double that for the average industrial occupation, but perhaps this is what the Tories mean when they talk about 'work experience'. When it comes to accidents and bad conditions—YOP certainly prepares youth for what to expect in industry!

Photo: Militant



A member of the Labour Party Young Socialists sells the LPYS paper at the lobby. Tebbit had no answers to socialism.

"What about trainees being dismissed for belonging to a trade union?" we asked. "Nobody can be dismissed, just for belonging to a trade union," he retorted. "They would have every right to take that to an industrial Tribunal."

"But you said that YOP trainees aren't workers!"

"That's right!"

"So they can't take a case of 'unfair dismissal' to a Tribunal!"

"No, but I'm sure that kind of thing doesn't go on."

The Secretary of State

will never be forgiven by the rest of his big business cabinet colleagues for conceding in our presence that "everybody, including YOP trainees has the right to join a union."

The LPYS and YOP Trainees Union Rights Campaigning will see to it that those words haunt Tebbit. Our efforts to unionise YOP schemes and recruit youth to the Young Socialists will be stepped up till he wishes he never opened his mouth!

The real nature of the Tories' plans for youth were

revealed when we fired the final question: "Do you think that youth are overpaid and have priced themselves out of jobs?"

"Some youth have priced themselves out of work," bemoaned Tebbit.

Which youth? Average wages for youth in industry haven't kept up with inflation for the last two years. The YOP allowance would have to be increased by £8 a week just to keep up with inflation over the last two years.

He further claimed that overpaid workers were the cause of all the trouble (where have we heard that before?). "Unit labour costs in Britain are higher than all her rivals. That's why we can't compete."

Just a few doors down his Westminster corridor was Sir Keith Joseph's office. It was Sir Keith who bragged to American businessmen that they should bring their money to Britain—because it has the lowest wage costs in all Europe!

Another senior Tory—Nigel Lawson—pointed out in 1980 that Britain's labour costs were only 54% of those in West Germany.

When we pointed out that he had no room to talk, drawing a fat cheque for £530 each week, Tebbit looked hurt... "When I was 16 I started work for £2 and 12 shillings (£2.60) a week—that's about £20 a week in today's money!"

That really brought us down to earth. There we were pestering Norm with our paltry problems. We felt like passing the collection box round for him!

"So you see, I haven't always done this job, and I'm sure if you have your way I'll be on the dole after the next election."

At last we agreed on something.

Activists ask MP - WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

By a member of
Attercliffe GMC

The contrast between MPs like Duffy and Sheffield's first Labour MP, Joseph Pointer, who also represented Attercliffe, could hardly be more marked.

Pointer's election manifesto in 1910 made no attempts to please the Brian McAteers of seventy years ago. No nonsense about the bosses' 'sensible' redundancy plans. Unemployment

was inherent in our present system and can only be cured by a change of system—viz by socialism."

In a manifesto which supported the nationalisation of land, coal, railways and shipping, he spoke out against the High Court judges and against the House of Lords.

"For years they have hindered reforms; now every lover of liberty and

progress must make his choice—the Lords or the people. I stand for the people. On which side do you stand?"

"I ask you to vote and to work heartily for the triumph of the cause of Labour and Humanity. Workers! Arouse yourselves! The workers must triumph. The noble idlers must be beaten!"

On 7 February a specially convened meeting of Sheffield Attercliffe Labour Party discussed for the second time what has been called the 'Davy Gate' issue (see *Militant* 18 December 1981).

In a taped telephone conversation (discovered accidentally by workers in a sit-in) with Brian McAteer, managing director of Davy instruments, our Labour MP Pat Duffy expressed complete sympathy with management, who were involved in a carving up of the plant which eventually led to 80 redundancies.

In the tapes not one word had been uttered by our MP against the management's intention to declare redundancies. Quite the reverse, he promised management his fullest co-operation!

Such comments led one trade union official to

describe Duffy as "a fifth columnist."

This, together with his comments about keeping left-wing MPs (Joan Maynard and Martin Flannery) out of his 'patch', had led first the local Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU) and then the Sheffield Trades Council to take the unprecedented decision to 'black' Duffy. They told trade unionists to have nothing further to do with him on industrial matters.

Our special meeting, in effect an inquiry, was stormy and lasted nearly four hours. This was despite the 'compromise' position put forward by Confed officials at the meeting, who only requested a formal apology from our MP.

A number of respected Labour Party activists walked out in disgust after hearing Duffy's response to the allegations made against him.

Duffy agreed to apologise for his comments about in-



Workers ask for support for the recent Jewel and Razors dispute in Sheffield. Trade unionists rightly expect Labour MPs' assistance

Photo: John Smith (IFL)

dividual officials, but defended his view that management and unions should work together, and his comments about keeping out the 'undemocratic left.' Indeed he again claim-

ed management were putting forward the only 'realistic' answer ie. redundancies.

Despite the superficial compromise between Duffy and the Confed, which was

in fact stampeded through the meeting, Duffy's actions have deeply divided the local party.

As one member said, at a time when unity in the movement is of utmost im-

portance, Duffy's actions were splitting the oldest Labour constituency in Sheffield apart. Despite this, the struggle to return Attercliffe to its socialist traditions continues.

TUC Youth Conference A Voice for young workers

"Normally I'm a law abiding citizen. But if Tebbit's employment bill becomes law—we must be prepared to break the law and defeat it!"

Thus Richard Frost, the delegate from the colliery overseers' union, COSA, Yorkshire Region summed up the mood of the 100 plus delegates to the TUC Youth Conference.

Faced with the nightmare of mass unemployment and anti-union laws, delegate after delegate demanded mass action and a real socialist alternative to the Tories to be put forward by the TUC and the Labour Party.

Frances Murphy (ASTMS Liverpool) echoed the opposition of many delegates to the exploitation of the YOP schemes: "The trade union movement must campaign alongside the LPYS to organise, recruit on the schemes, and fight for trade union rates of pay and conditions on YOP schemes.

"As for Tebbit's new £15 a week proposals—the answer is clear: if twelve million trade unionists say,

'No! you're not on!', Tebbit and the Tories wouldn't stand a chance."

R Pender from the Ceramic and Allied Trades Union (CATU) summed up the problem: "We have a capitalist society—run in the interests of the rich. Reasoning isn't possible with the Tories. What we need is a bold socialist campaign including nationalising the top 200 monopolies in the country."

The call for decisive, united action against the Employment Bill was overwhelming, but one delegate, Neil Paxton, from Northumberland COSA, echoed the arguments of the right wing in the trade unions: "How can we improve our standing in the eyes of the public? We must campaign against the Tebbit Bill, but once it becomes law—we must not challenge the democratically elected government."

Joe Cox, also from Northumberland, answered him to loud applause from the delegates: "Where would we be today if our forefathers hadn't taken action against the law?"

"We have to go to our membership, agitate, organise, for a 24-hour general strike, to prepare a campaign to bring the Tories and their profit system down."

This year's youth TUC clearly reflected the growing anger and bitterness among

young trade unionists, but Simon Smith (National Society of Metal Mechanics) pointed out the need for the Youth TUC to be democratised and given the means to get the ideas discussed at conference out to young trade unionists.

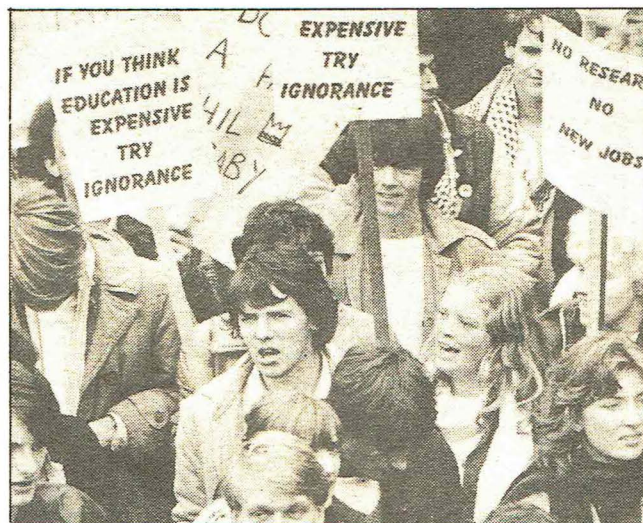
The NSMM youth conference had passed a resolution to this year's TUC Congress demanding:

- ★ A two-day youth conference to allow fuller discussion of the issues facing youth.
- ★ Democratically elected delegates—either by union conferences, or by the National Youth Committee of the union concerned.
- ★ The right to discuss motions at the conference.
- ★ The right to elect a National Committee to organise campaigns between conferences.
- ★ The formulation of a programme or youth charter.

Many delegates pledged themselves to build support for similar resolutions through their own unions, and step up the fight for a campaigning youth TUC, which could play a leading role in the defence of working class youth from the attacks of capitalism, and in the fight for socialist policies.

By Kevin
Ramage
(LPYS National
Chairman)

Tories threaten right to education



The right of unemployed youth to attend college for up to 21 hours and still receive supplementary benefit is under attack, as revealed in a confidential DHSS circular.

The DHSS argued that to allow the "Under 21 Hour" ruling to continue would be unfair to those who stayed on at school or college as full time students without any income!

But the real answer to this "unfairness" is to give a decent grant to every student over 16! The 'Grants Week of Action' by the National Union of Students (NUS) (1-5 March) is welcome and, when it comes to Further Education, long overdue.

A concerted campaign could certainly force local

councils to abolish discretionary awards in favour of mandatory grants for all students. And the Tories could even be forced to concede the NUS demand for a full grant for FE students but only if the demand is campaigned on amongst the ranks of the labour movement.

To give a grant to every FE student of just £25 a week (equivalent to a YOPS Trainee allowance) would cost the equivalent of one Trident missile. Only a mass campaign could loosen the grip of the Tories and their big business allies on the wealth of society—which they're prepared to spend on nuclear arms but not on young people.

Unfortunately the 'Week of Action' does not represent the start of a serious campaign by the NUS leaders. The call for walkouts on separate days at universities, polytechnics and FE colleges is divisive. A national walkout of all students would have had far more effect especially if backed by action from col-

November 1981: Students at Salford University fight the threat to their university. Cuts in all sections of higher of higher and further education need bold resistance.

Photo: John Smith (IFL)

lege workers who face redundancies.

But the links with the labour movement are vital. At the NUS FE conference the NUS vice-president, Andy Pearmain, a Communist Party member, argued that trade unions were 'too bureaucratic' and 'offered nothing to youth'.

He was taken up by one delegate who pointed out that young apprentices on part-time courses at his college, because of their trade union organisation, had a £40-50 weekly wage, compared to fellow students who were forced to live off their parents!

The answer for FE students is not to look to the SDP or Tory 'wets' for a change of heart but to join with the Labour Party Young Socialists to mobilise the mass of students alongside the labour movement in the fight for a decent grant for all students!

By Des
Heemskerck

Yops Lobby

STANDING UP FOR OUR RIGHTS

“At our day centre they didn't want us to discuss the campaign and its demands. But we think it's too important to ignore.

“We won't achieve our demands overnight—I finish my scheme soon, but we owe it to all those who are going to leave school this summer and will end up on YOPs. The campaign has got to start now.”

So Harlow YOPster Mandy Richardson expressed clearly the thoughts of the thousands of YOPsters who joined the rally at London's Festival Hall last week and the lobby of Parliament.

The mass meeting, 3,000 strong, was alive with enthusiasm for the YOPs Trainees Union Rights Campaign and the socialist aspirations of the speakers from the platform. It also showed the YOPsters' bitterness at the Tories for inflicting these low-paid schemes on youth.

**Report by
Bob Wade
Photos by
John Woulfe**

workers' struggle.

As the editor of *Militant*, Peter Taaffe, later explained to the mass meeting, dismissing those irrelevant groups on the fringes of the labour movement, if this battle is to be successful the youth must campaign for their demands to be taken up by the official organisations of the labour movement.

Dennis Skinner MP welcomed the 'extra-parliamentary action' of the lobby, and went on to smash the Tory lie that there's no money in the country. "There has been wholesale destruction of jobs. Yet at the same time we're seeing our Casino economy in action.

"The Nat West bank has



PHOTOS: Above: Part of the 3,000 strong lobby in the Royal Festival Hall
Below: Peter Gayle, a YOPS worker from South London, speaks to TV and radio reporters



“Tebbit wasn't telling us to 'get on our bikes', he was telling us to get back on our knees” — Tony Benn

Tony Benn received rapturous applause when he lambasted the media, calling the BBC the 'biggest right-wing organisation in the country.' To great cheers he went through the Fleet Street papers explaining how they were owned by and represented big business, adding, "The *Daily Mirror* pretends to be a Labour paper yet advocates Tory policies," and the *Guardian* was an "SDP paper."

He attacked Tory Employment Minister Norman Tebbit, saying, "He wasn't telling us to 'get on our bikes'—he was telling us to get back on our knees!"

Unfortunately, as the meeting began, it was loudly interrupted by the entrance of the Right to Work marchers. After some confusion, there was applause for those who took part in this march as a genuine protest against unemployment.

But they should ask themselves why their organisers had them loudly burst in when the meeting had already begun and the TV cameras were rolling. Why did they not take their seats with the thousands of other young YOPs workers, many of whom were taking strike action for the day?

Stunts, no matter how well rehearsed, will not win the aims of the YOPs

just announced £500 million profits. Building societies are springing up all over the place. So don't tell me there's no money in the country!

"There's plenty. I read in the Tory press this morning that yet another director was earning over a quarter of a million pounds a year." *Militant's* editor, Peter Taaffe, was well received and cheered when he said, "They call Norman Tebbit the Chingford Skinhead. I think this is an insult to skinheads."

Shareen Blackall, a Merseyside YS member who has been active organising YOPs workers into the Transport and General Workers Union, spelt out the realities of how the bosses were using YOPs schemes, pointing to Cammell Lairds Birkenhead shipyard where a hundred YOPsters are being used, still only paid £25 a week.

And like many speakers, not only from the platform but the floor as well, the secretary of the YTURC, Willie Griffin, outlined the demands of the campaign of

- ★ Trade union rates of pay
- ★ A guaranteed job for all trainees at the end of the schemes
- ★ Free travel to work for YOPs
- ★ Five weeks' paid holiday a year.

It's time to fight back!

Militant (16 January 1981) told the story of the terrible conditions faced by Tim White from Braintree who was forced to attend a 'Rehabilitation Centre' for the long-term unemployed. Tim was at the rally.

He said, "That was meant to get me used to work. But I still haven't had a job. I'm 21 now and I've not had one single job since I left school. I've written for countless interviews for jobs but most don't even reply.

"They look and say, 'Oh, he's long-term unemployed'. And that's

it. It's great to know you're wanted!"

"My scheme is at a hairdresser's. There's no real training—I just do shampooing. Most of the time there's nothing to do which is really boring.

"I work from 9 to 5.30 and for about six hours of that there's nothing to do. I doubt they'll give me a job at the end of it, but the thing is the full-time trainees there are only paid £25 a week anyway!"

—Christine Chapman, Leeds YOPs

"There's some good schemes, but some pretty lousy ones too. One is quite unbelievable.

"The trainees get a dustbin full of pigs' heads, which they have to scrape out to get all the meat for sausages. Putting it mildly, this scheme is not very popular with YOPsters!"

—A YOPs supervisor, Leeds

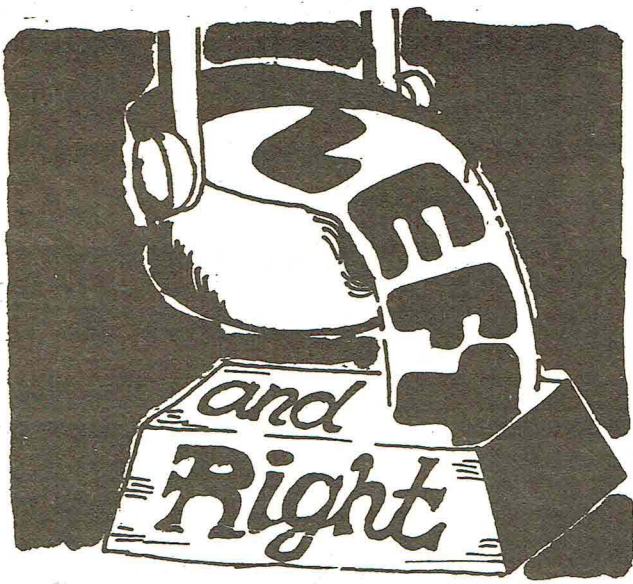
"I work at an infants' school and do all the dirty jobs. Sometimes I have to work up till 5.45 pm when the others have gone home, yet get no more money. I think the

rally and the campaign are great. It's about time someone fought back." —Sue Davey, Harlow YOPs

"We're on a scheme at the ASDA supermarket. Our 'training' consists of filling up shelves, mopping floors and cleaning up broken glass.

"And what's terrible is they dock your pay if you're late or off! If you have a morning off, they dock the whole day's pay of £4.75!"

—Sharon Smith, Carol Parton, Donna Burns, Steve Pitt, Wolverhampton YOPs.



The S African cricket tour

The white English cricketers now playing for vast sums in South Africa try to pretend that their actions are 'non-political'.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Look who stand behind the tour. It has been financed by SA Breweries, one of the country's largest racist employers. And head of the S African Cricket Union is property millionaire Jo Pamensky, who makes his money in a land where over 80% is reserved for whites only.

The tour has been condemned by black people in S Africa who recognise how such links help prop up apartheid. But it is the height of hypocrisy for some Tories or the elitists who run cricket in Britain to complain. Cricketing authorities are worried that they might lose this summer's visit from India and Pakistan and with it £2m in receipts. The government are worried that there will be diplomatic repercussions.

But Thatcher has not condemned them. After all aren't these cricketers doing what she preaches—going greedily for as much money as they can make regardless of the impact on others.

Critical Interference

On a recent 'Question Time', Cyril Smith MP warned darkly of "...an evil growth within our society." A rare piece of critical self-examination? Unfortunately not. He was referring to a question about 'Militant's' growth.

After a round condemnation from Tories and Liberals, the questioner was asked for his views. As he laboured his point about the evils of 'Militant', the information flashed up on screens in the Bradford area (where 'Militant' supporter Pat Wall has been chosen as Labour parliamentary candidate): There is a fault. Do not adjust your set!!

Corruption flourishes

Jewels, antique art treasures, western currency, all worth an estimated £500,000 have been found in the home of one of Russia's circus chiefs. Apparently he accumulated this wealth by accepting bribes from circus performers who wanted to travel abroad. What a double indictment of the dictatorial regime that rules in Russia, where to travel abroad is a special privilege which must be strictly controlled.

But what has also interested 'Kremlin-watchers' is that the circus boss and another circus performer (arrested earlier for corruption) were both friends of Brezhnev's daughter. This has led to suggestions that this, the latest in a long series of corruption cases, is being used to bring discredit on the 75-year-old Soviet leader. With no workers' democracy in Russia then such rumours can spread. But then it is because there is no democratic check upon the bureaucracy, who have usurped the revolution, that such corruption flourishes in the first place.

THE BUDGET 50 YEARS AGO

The 1932 Budget showed that the bosses' government had the same priorities as today's. Out of every £ spent by the government, 67p went on 'defence' (made up of 47p to pay off the war debt, 14p armed forces, and 6p on war pensions). Contrast this with the 33p spent on the rest (8p education, 4p OAPs, 2½p health and housing, 2½p unemployed and 16p others). And to save money the Tory Coalition with National Labour (today's SDP) cut 1m people from benefit through the means test and Anomalies Act.

DOUBLE STANDARDS OF RACIST TORY PRESS

If you're black then the Tory press are only interested if they think you're a criminal. If you are a victim, then forget it.

By Bob Wade
(North London NUJ)

That's the only conclusion that can be drawn from the way the press reported two murder trials last week.

In the first trial a gang of black youths were charged with raiding a pub, after an attack on a black person in the same area. In revenge, it is alleged, they attacked customers and then killed 19-year-old Terry May, who had no connection with the previous incident.

If this is true then socialists would totally condemn such action. Innocent people suffered, and other workers are driven into the hands of reaction. But helping to whip up this backlash is the capitalist press. On 23 February they gave the trial massive coverage.

But look how they reported the murder of a 25-year-old black youth, Fenton Ogbogbo. He had been eating a bag of chips in a fish shop when he was attacked by three white youths, who stabbed him seven times.

Although the trial was in the same building, on the same day as the other case began, it received minimal coverage.

Not surprisingly, the worst offender was the *Sun*. It had a front page story with the screaming headline "Black Mob's Rampage of Death". In all it carried 83 column inches on the story, yet nothing on the Ogbogbo



How the 'Sun' reported the trial of the alleged killers of Terry May. As table right shows it never even mentioned the murder of Fenton Ogbogbo.

Nigerian".

This type of coverage is nothing new. Last summer, after the first night of riots in Toxteth, when the *Daily Mail's* front page screamed 'Black War on Police', even their own report pointed out that the rioters were equally made up of black and white youth! And while shocked at the killing of Terry May, black workers will question why the murder of the Khan family in Walthamstow last June and the Deptford fire massacre did not receive the same amount of coverage by the Tory press.

How the press, on Tuesday 23 February, reported two murders (column inches)

Paper	May's murder	Ogbogbo's murder
Sun	83"	0
Mail	70"	0
Express	27"	1½"
Guardian	25"	0
Telegraph	23½"	3½"
Times	17"	4½"
Mirror	15"	0
Star	64½"	0

Workers black and white alike will be genuinely horrified at the murders of both May and Ogbogbo. But the mock horror of our so-called 'free press' is a sham. They are selective in the news, in this case cynically exploiting the Terry May murder.

Through their stereotyping of young blacks as all 'muggers, rioters' etc., they are fanning the flames of racism, in order to split and divide the working class and set them at each other's throats.

case.

The rest of Fleet Street fared little better. The *Telegraph* was quite blatant. The 3¼ column inches devoted to the Ogbogbo murder were run alongside the 23¼ inches given to

Terry May's. And while the latter carried the headline "Black mob 'attacked anyone'," in the former, not once was Ogbogbo referred to as black; but instead simply as "a man" and only once as "a

Women organise for better health

By Rosina Harris
(Blackburn Women's Council)

A Labour Women's Council has recently been formed in Blackburn and we are taking up a campaign based on the TUC pamphlet 'Women's Health At Risk'.

The aim is to improve the facilities and services to protect the health of women. It covers three main areas: (1) expanding work-place health education projects for pregnant women, to reduce infant mortality; (2) making available breast and cervical cancer screening, (3) protecting workers from the effects of industrial hazards, particularly effects on women and their reproductive systems.

Blackburn, with 14.2 deaths per 1,000 live births, has the highest number of deaths of infants under one year of age in Lancashire's six health districts. The national figure is 12.0, the highest in the industrialised West (in Sweden it is only 9.1 per 1,000).

Every year 18,000 children enter special schools or long-term institu-

tions. The annual bill for caring for them is £550 million a year. It is estimated that 5,000 handicapped children and 5,000 baby deaths are avoidable each year if the right amount of funding was used (Social Services Committee Report on Infant Mortality, 1979-80).

The lack of space means that many women with newly born babies, including caesarians, are transferred only 24 to 48 hours after the birth to smaller maternity units 4, 6, and 8 miles away.

Once, because of shortage of beds, some patients had to be delivered in an open 8-bedded ward.

Meanwhile, the area's birth rate is increasing and the local health authority has given the go-ahead for the introduction of seven fee-paying beds.

Provision for ante-natal care is also insufficient in Blackburn. Tests for detection of congenital abnormalities are not available in the town, so pregnancies that in other areas might be terminated are allowed to go their full time.

All recent research stresses that late attendance for ante-natal care increases

the risk of perinatal mortality (deaths from the 28th week of pregnancy to one week after birth) and handicap. It also shows that the incidence of both of these is highest among working-class, low-income women living in industrial areas.

In the present economic situation it is not likely, either, that firms will agree to introduce better health care at work, like that initiated by the General and Municipal Workers Union at Strathleven Bonded Warehouses Ltd.

Here, employees were kept informed of health education by articles in the company newspaper, lectures and film shows. The firm provided paid time off for ante-natal clinic visits. Pregnant women were allowed to leave work five minutes early to avoid stress, and were given a free pint of milk a day.

Nor is it likely that companies will easily agree to pay for on-site cancer screening facilities, even though it only costs £1.50 a screening. One woman in 17 is likely to develop breast cancer; 11,000 women die from it every year, and 2,000 die every year from

cervical cancer.

It is vitally important that those who understand the glaring need for socialism can explain to women that the lack of health facilities is rooted in the class system. Only when the NHS is put under workers' control and management and working-class women are included in the boards of management that run the health service will they really be able to improve maternity facilities to meet their needs.

Tory MP Jonathan Aitken in a speech on perinatal mortality, told how his wife had her twins in a Swiss hospital. Most of the techniques and equipment used there were invented, designed and came from England. What an irony when British hospitals are crying out for more improvements!

We have the nurses and the doctors, the resources and the technology. All we need is a socialist system to put them to good use.

(*Women's Health at Risk: A TUC Workplace Programme to Improve the Health of Women*, 35p from TUC, Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS)

London/Yorkshire Labour Party Regional Conferences

London in front line

This weekend's AGM of the London Labour Party takes place against a backcloth of increasing attacks on London workers. Well over 300,000 are now on the dole in the capital; the housing waiting lists are rising, later this month public transport fares will double and next month tenants will face a rent rise of around £2.50.

After ten months of Labour administration at County Hall, it is time for the London Labour Party to draw up a balance sheet of the GLC's progress and chart a clear strategy for the coming period. Without doubt, Labour's victory last May was seen as a big step forward by the working class in London, after several years of Tory cut-backs.

A whole series of radical reforms were promised in the manifesto, including commitments to freeze GLC rents, continue the Direct Labour organisation (in the form of London Community Builders) introduce cheap fares and have a target of creating ten thousands new jobs in the capital.

The manifesto also recognised that to implement these reforms they would be drawn into a showdown with the government. And as predicted, ever since taking office—the Labour GLC has found one obstacle after another being thrown in its path by the Tories.

On top of the Law Lords' decision to rule the 'Fares Fair' subsidy illegal, the Tories have slashed the block grant to the GLC from £189.5m to £44.5m. This was clearly a declaration of war by the government on the GLC.

Every one of these attacks on living standards flows directly from the Tory

government's strategy of hitting out at Labour councils. But unfortunately there is also the danger that their effect could be to undermine Labour support in the run-up to the borough elections this Spring.

This is particularly true if the boroughs go into the elections convinced that if Labour has a majority then all it can do is reluctantly carry out the Tories' 'dirty work'. With this approach, it would be possible for the SDP to appear 'radical'.

That menace must be defeated, but it will only be defeated if Labour presents a clear alternative and explains clearly how it can be implemented. If Labour in London is not going to back-track on its manifesto pledges in the boroughs, and the GLC is not just going to become a 'beached whale' (as Ken Livingstone has described it) then London Labour must prepare for an all-out confrontation with the Tories in order to get a massive injection of central government funds.

The action of Manchester's 37,000 council workers, in calling a twenty-four hour strike on 17 March to stop any redundancies, is the kind of lead which should be followed. But given the way the working class as a whole in London is suffering, action should not be confined to council workers.

A strategy for confrontation with the government will convince workers that Labour means to fight for London's services in the borough elections, and make it clear to the Tories that they will have to retreat.

By Tim Harris

(Erith & Crayford CLP)

'Militant' supporters standing for the Regional Executive are: AREA 2; Bob Labi AREA 4; Nick Bradley, David White, Eddie McParland.

We urge delegates to support these candidates.

Council was formed in 1973 and has always been dominated by the Labour Party. The four allied districts of Sheffield, Rotherham, Barnsley and Doncaster that lie within it have also received the solid vote of the working class and have remained loyal to Labour throughout.

The County Council pioneered a cheap bus fares policy on the basis that transport should not be run at a profit but should be a social service for the benefit of South Yorkshire people. Indeed South Yorkshire is the only area in the country where bus passengers are on the increase.

But unfortunately at first

STOP TORY ATTACKS ON OUR SERVICES



Workers from South Yorkshire on a lobby in London in defence of cheap fares.

Photo: Militant

UNITED ACTION NEEDED

The Tories have been consistently aiming to increase the powers of the government over local councils through crippling financial restrictions.

Now they are encouraging legal actions against Labour councils' rights to implement working class policies. They have enthusiastically backed the unelected Law Lords' decision to declare the GLC's cheap London Transport (LT) fares policy illegal.

Workers' response has been bitter. In large meetings throughout London, LT workers, other trade unionists and passengers have been united in their condemnation.

Last autumn's fare reductions helped to revive an ailing public transport system. The first few months saw a more than 25% rise in pro-

ductivity as more and more passengers used the LT network. But the Law Lords, and the Tories prefer to increase productivity the brutal way—by cutting down staff.

The decision was not made for 'logical' reasons. Even with the cheap fares, London's subsidy was only 46%, about average for a European capital, and low compared with a 72% subsidy in New York.

The mass redundancies, the increased road chaos seem to have been secondary in the Law Lords' minds to the need to shackle Labour councils and act as a warning to future Labour governments against implementing radical manifesto policies. These attacks are part and parcel of the government's offensive against local govern-

ment and must be fought as such.

The strike planned by LT workers for 10 March is a great start. The campaign cannot be restricted to leaflets, lobbies and petitions.

Nor can we hope for a Bill to be passed through a Tory-dominated parliament to legalise the Fares Fair scheme. The labour movement must look to its own strength.

One scheme currently being argued is the "can't pay, won't pay" option, where from 21 March, when fares are meant to double, passengers will be asked not to pay, and conductors not to accept, the fare increase.

By itself this is merely a substitute for an organised campaign. Isolated individuals would be asked to put their heads on the block

without the organisation to defend them.

The scheme could not keep momentum for any length of time. Any actions against the cuts could only work as part of a campaign led by the unions, with full support for any action taken.

The 10 March strike should see the start of firm links between the LT unions and other unions particularly in the public sector. Joint action, kicked off by a one day strike of public sector workers to explain the issues and build support, is the only way forward.

United working class action can not only stop the Tories and the Law Lords in their tracks but lead the way to the end of this hated government.

By Roger Shives

MAKE SOCIALISM MORE THAN A SLOGAN

Delegates for the Yorkshire regional conference of the Labour Party will have noticed in their annual report an advertisement proclaiming fraternal greetings from the "Socialist Republic of South Yorkshire".

But sad to say, this is only a slogan. You only have to look around the traditional industrialised east end of Sheffield to realise what havoc the capitalist system is playing with the people of South Yorkshire. In many areas unemployment is as high as 50% and the immediate prospects for reducing this appalling figure are nil.

South Yorkshire County

Council was formed in 1973 and has always been dominated by the Labour Party. The four allied districts of Sheffield, Rotherham, Barnsley and Doncaster that lie within it have also received the solid vote of the working class and have remained loyal to Labour throughout.

The County Council pioneered a cheap bus fares policy on the basis that transport should not be run at a profit but should be a social service for the benefit of South Yorkshire people. Indeed South Yorkshire is the only area in the country where bus passengers are on the increase.

But unfortunately at first

there was not a positive attempt by the leaders of South Yorkshire Council to defend their excellent policy. A special meeting of the Labour group was called when it was revealed that officers of the council had sought legal opinion about the fares policy, and to no one's surprise, they were advised that it was possibly illegal.

When Militant supporters on the Labour group attempted to move a motion calling for the reaffirmation of the cheap fares policy and the announcing of a mass campaign in its support the attempt was decried and denounced by the leadership.

Some councillors thought that workers would never rally around against a threat to their livelihood. But when a campaign to save our buses was eventually launched 250,000 people signed a petition in less than three weeks.

This week's decision by the County Council not to raise the fares is to be welcomed but the party must ensure that the support of the working class is harnessed to defend the policy.

Some left-wing councillors have in the past called for mass resignations meaning that 25% of the council might resign and fight a by-election on the

transport policy. But then what if they were still faced with the claim that it is still illegal? Resign again?

Unfortunately, not every district council is 100% behind the cheap bus fares policy. At least one local political leader has accepted Tory-imposed cuts and has even suggested that County Transport policy is to blame for the run-down in services.

However, there is still strong hope for a strong campaign. Young Socialist branches through South Yorkshire have called for a positive support to combat Tory attempts to make workers pay for the failures of capitalists. They have correctly seen that an increase in fares to "economic" levels will take between £3.50 and £4 a week out of workers' pockets.

The LPYS called for a

mass lobby of the County Council when they took their decision on 1 March not to raise fares.

Another consequence of raising fares of course would be heavy redundancies throughout local government in South Yorkshire. One estimate is that 1,000 jobs would be lost. Solid support must be given to the Young Socialists' demand of "not one penny on the fares, not a bus off the road."

**YORKSHIRE
LP CONFERENCE
'Militant Meeting'
Saturday 6 March 7pm
Speakers: Terry Fields
(Labour PPC Kirkdale), Walter
Cunningham (TGWU, Hull
Docks), Pat Wall (Bradford
North CLP).
Chairman: Glyn Robinson
(Ass. Regional Organiser
COHSE)
At MONARCH BAR
(opposite Conference Hall)**

SPAIN: Workers lead encourages

"Freedom for Tejero! Freedom for Tejero!" Thousands of blue-shirted Falangists chanted in Madrid last November, probably more cocky and confident, because of the attempted coup of their hero, than at any time since Franco's death six years earlier.

A year after Tejero took over the Spanish Cortes (Parliament) he and his co-conspirators have only now been brought to trial.

Far from having been purged of Francoists, Spain's armed forces are still riddled through and through with them. It has been due to the weakness of the conservative UCD government on the one hand and the even greater weakness of the leaders of the Socialist and Communist Parties on the other, that the extreme right in the armed forces and in society at large have gained confidence and have been able to put pressure on the government.

Since the attempted coup in February last year sections of the officers have gone out of their way to deliver provocations to the government. In November, a medal was presented to Lieutenant-General Milans Del Bosch, one of the main co-conspirators with Tejero, right under the nose of the Defence Minister.

Armed Forces' provocations

Three weeks after that 'El Alcazar', an extreme right-wing newspaper widely circulated in the armed forces and thought to represent the views of Francoist officers, published an article by Tejero himself in which he criticised government policies on the Guardia Civil. Then finally, in December, 100 officers and NCOs made public a statement in which they criticised the government and defended those responsible for the coup attempt.

The officer corps today are overwhelmingly the same officers who staffed the armed forces for General Franco and they remain completely unreconciled to the changes that have taken place in Spain over the last few years. They are not prepared to accept the democratisation of Spain.

The present economic problems are attributed by them to the freedom of organisation of political parties and trade unions. It was an indication of the way the generals think that when the coup attempt began, Del Bosch, as military commander of the Valencia region, declared all political parties and trade unions to be banned.

The officers have condemned the relative laxity of censorship since Franco's days, and what they see as

By John Pickard

the "degradation of society", shown by "criminality, drugs, outrages against accepted standards of behaviour and religion." They particularly deplore the "decline of the principle of authority," in other words, the move away from totalitarianism. Repeated attacks against the armed forces in the press have been declared intolerable.

Finally, the Francoist military have been strongly opposed to the granting of autonomy to the regions of Spain. The social and economic crisis in Spain today has raised the National Question—especially for the Basque region but including most regions—to a more important level than ever before. To the officers, de-centralisation inevitably means a decline in the power of the highly centralised state apparatus built up by Franco, and a decline in their own power.

But what has given the military more confidence of late has been the government's own weakness. The three leading organisers of the February coup—Tejero, Del Bosch and General Torres Roges—had all been implicated in previous coup attempts, in 1977, 1978 and 1980 and their impunity on those occasions only encouraged them to act again.

Tejero, when he was first under arrest last year, was held under such lax conditions that he had more visitors by well-wishers than he had ever had "at liberty". This lenient treatment of right-wing coup organisers and sympathisers in the army contrasts with the vicious treatment that would be given to workers in similar circumstances or the treatment that was meted out to sympathisers of the Democratic Military Union (UMD). Officers of the UMD were arrested in 1976 and given extremely harsh sentences and were never reinstated in their posts.

In the face of the growing confidence and arrogance of the right, the government itself has tried appeasement, and has itself inevitably been forced to the right. Even the replacement in January of the four top officers who form the Joint Chiefs of Staff has made no inroads at all into the Francoist base in the military.

There have been too many instances of government weakness in the past for this single half-hearted

gesture to make any impact. In practice, many more hard-line rightists have been promoted to key positions in the military in the course of the last 12 months than have been eliminated from posts.

The governing party, the Union of the Democratic Centre (UCD), is not "democratic", not in the "centre" and is not very "unified" at the moment. It was a party hastily cobbled together before the 1977 general election in order to provide an electoral basis for Spanish capitalism and many of its functionaries and Cortes members are former officials of Francoist organisations who have merely changed their political labels.

The constant references to 'threatened coups' have put pressure on the government to shift to the right and this has resulted in the breakaway of a handful of UCD "social democrats" to the left and a number of other UCD members to the right. There is pressure on the UCD prime minister Calvo Sotelo to go into coalition with the extreme right-wing neo-fascist Democratic Coalition (CD) of Manuel Iribarne Fraga.

In the Galician regional elections of October last year, in which the employers' organisation actively participated, Manuel Fraga's CD party actually defeated the party of the government for the first time.

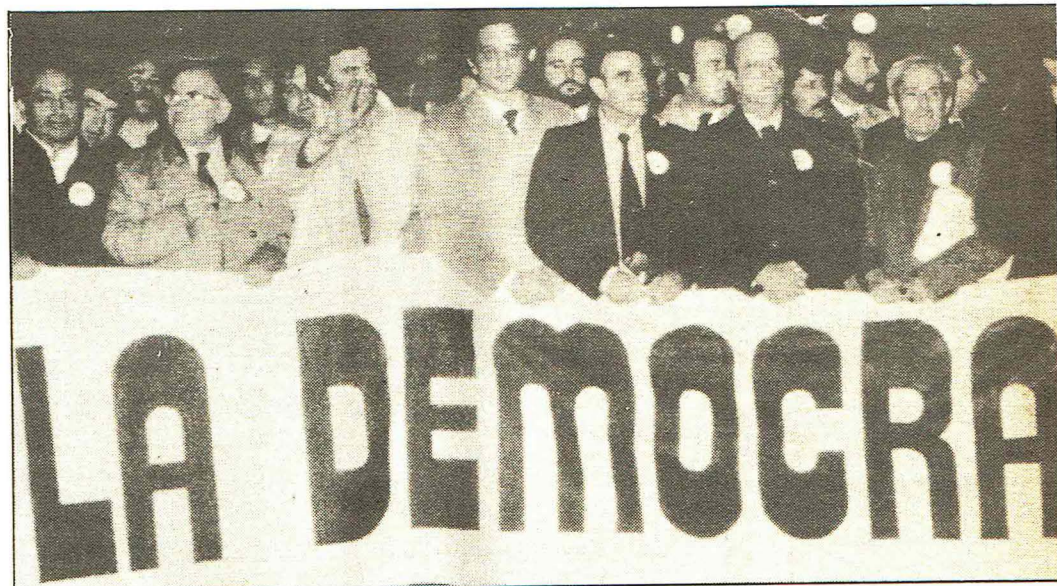
Much of the very mildly reforming legislation of the government has either been abandoned or has been put into reverse gear. Legislation aimed at secularisation and reform of universities has been abandoned.

There has been a re-imposition of much tighter press censorship and tighter government control of radio and TV. The new director-general of RTVE, the state-owned TV network, is actually the brother-in-law of Manuel Fraga and a former Information Minister under Franco.

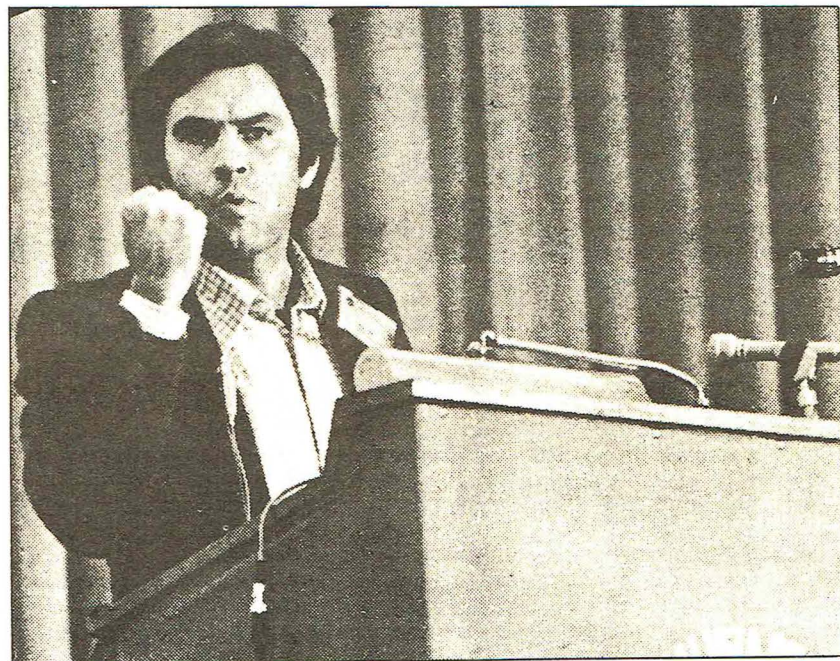
'Viva la Constitucione'

There has been a noticeable increase in the degree of censorship and the degree of harassment directed towards the more liberal press. The nationally known newspaper, 'El Pais', which on the day of the attempted coup carried a special edition with the headline "Viva La Constitucione" is now itself in danger of being bought out by the right wing, in order to gag it.

The political climate at the moment is still overshadowed by the coup of last year and by the pressure from the right. But the main factor in the growing strength of the right wing over the last 12 months has



February 1981: Socialist and Communist leaders march arm in arm with right-wing and neo-fascist 'democrats'. Below: Socialist leader Gonzalez (left) and Communist leader Carillo—failing to give a clear lead against fascists



undoubtedly been the complete ineptness and the crass opportunism of the "leaders" of the workers' organisations.

After the coup, Spanish workers witnessed the spectacle of the leaders of the Socialist and Communist Parties walking arm-in-arm in a demonstration with Fraga and the other leaders of the extreme right-wing political organisations. The workers' leaders have fostered the illusion that it is only "moderation" that can prevent a new attempt at a military coup.

All the policies of the Socialist Party (PSOE) have been diluted over the course of the last two years. Until recently the most radical policy of the Socialist Party was the nationalisation of high tension electricity grids. But now even that policy has been abandoned.

Socialist Party leader Felipe Gonzales declared recently that "for the present, in view of the state apparatus already existing in Spain, nationalisation would only bring impoverishment." The PSOE leader declared astonishingly that it was not true to identify nationalisation with the progressive attitudes or vice-versa: Franco had nationalised as had Italy's Christian Democrats!

In order to ensure that

the Socialist Party membership would accept the dilution of its policies Gonzales has expelled tens of thousands of members from its ranks. In only 16 months before the 1979 general election the membership of the party was reduced from a claimed 220,000 to 62,000. But because the PSOE still receives financial assistance from outside Spain, particularly from the other parties of the Socialist International, the leadership can remain relatively independent of the rank and file.

Despite the speculation in Spain at the present time about the possibility of a snap general election, Prime Minister Sotelo will probably try to avoid this course of action. An election now would probably mean the reduction of the 'social democratic' and 'liberal' elements within the UCD and the growth of its right wing, along with Fraga's CD.

Nevertheless, the opinion polls still indicate that if there were an election, there would be a majority for the combined votes of the Socialist and Communist Parties.

That being the case, one would expect Felipe Gonzales to be campaigning to bring down this bankrupt UCD government, to replace it with a government of the workers' parties. But

the opposite is true. The leaders of the Socialist Party have so little confidence in their own policies that they are refusing to campaign all-out against the UCD and are, in effect, propping up the government.

Furthermore, Gonzales has even gone so far as to suggest that even if the PSOE won, they would not take power on their own. He called upon Sotelo not to go to country and risk "a power vacuum" which may give "the excuse to those extreme right wingers, civilian and military, to attempt another coup."

Trade Unions sign 'Social Contracts'

The Communist Party (PCE) has also lost tens of thousands of members over the course of the last two years and is riven with splits from one region to another. Forty-five out of sixty-four members of the Basque Communist Party Central Committee were expelled recently because of their support for an agreement with the Basque Left to form a new party, Euskadiko Eskerra.

The expulsions even ex-

Leaders' failure reaction



many industries are still planning a massive shake-out of their labour force.

Employment is already running at the level of 16%, and unemployment benefit only covers half of those unemployed. The big increase in unemployment over the course of the last two years, and the complete absence of any leadership from the tops of the trade union movement have resulted in a decline in militancy and the number of strikes.

The time lost in strikes was 150 million man/hours in 1979, 97 million in 1980 and only 31 million in 1981 (these figures refer to the first 10 months of each year). But despite this decline in the number of strikes, it is clear that the sacrifices being made by the workers will fill up an enormous well of discontent and opposition to the government.

No social contract will prevent an increase in bitterness and hostility to the government among the rank and file of the workers' organisations. What is more, the workers are being called to sacrifice without there being any prospect of an end to the economic crisis.

For the fifth year running private investment is being withheld. In 1981 the gross domestic product rose by less than 1%. Even the official inflation figures are at the level of 13%, and most economists expect that this will increase because of a huge increase in the government's budget deficit.

No one seriously expects that the government will get anywhere near the creation of the 350,000 jobs as was agreed in the 1982 social contract.

In addition, Spain has been racked recently by the scandal over the poisonous cooking oil. The distribution and consumption of this oil has resulted so far in over 260 deaths, with about 17,000 others affected. There is enormous anger at the fact that profiteers were able to produce and sell this oil in the first place, but that anger has been increased by the complete inefficiency and ineptness of the government in identifying and convicting those responsible.

But even despite the weakness of the leaders of the trade unions and the workers' organisations, a new movement of the workers will be inevitable in the future, especially when there is a new upswing in the economy, no matter how weak or temporary.

Whereas in the last two years the trade unions, like the political parties, have lost tens of thousands of members, in the new movements in the future they will inevitably recruit thousands more to replace those lost. Many former members who have fallen out of trade union activity will come back into the UGT and the Workers' Commissions.

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It would only need the slightest lead from the labour and trade union leaders for there to be a massive resurgence of the labour movement. The demonstration of Francoists last November mentioned above, was attended at the very most by 50,000 supporters but in the same week a demonstration in Madrid organised by the Socialist Party, was supported by well over 400,000 workers.

It will not be the appeasement of the Prime Minister Sotelo or the "moderation" of Socialist leader Gonzales, but the mass movement of the working class that will change the political climate in Spain.

King Juan Carlos drew back this time

The introduction of democracy in Spain after the death of Franco in 1975 was not due to "a change of heart" on the part of the old functionaries and supporters of Franco. It was this mass movement of the workers, involved in strikes, general strikes, massive demonstrations, and other mass movements which frightened the ruling class into granting democracy in the years after Franco's death.

If all the former Francoists now describe themselves as "democrats" or as members of the political "centre" it is only because of the pressure of the workers' movement.

The attempted coup in February last year failed, but the majority of the officers will have sympathised with the political aims of those involved.

Indeed, the main part of the defence case in the trial has been that they claim that the king himself was a part of the conspiracy, or at least that he knew about it.

King Juan Carlos drew back on this occasion, as did most other officers, but only because of the possible reaction of the workers. But that would not prevent the king and the armed forces attempting a coup at a later stage.

But socialists must ask themselves, why has this situation arisen? Why is it, after the collapse of the Franco dictatorship, that reaction has any basis at all in Spain? Marxists have explained that there is no basis for a stable capitalist government in Spain.

The Spanish ruling class is quite incapable of solving the tremendous economic problems afflicting the country, even less so in a situation of generalised world recession. The crisis of the National Question has continued to be a running sore on the body of Spanish capitalism, and this also is a symptom of the bankruptcy of the system.

If there has been a continuation of the Franco state apparatus, and even a



Above: Fascist rally—emboldened by the weakness of the government and the workers' leaders. Below: Tejero holding parliament at gunpoint



"But even despite the weakness of the leaders of the trade unions and the workers' organisations, a new movement of the workers will be inevitable in the future and will change the political climate in Spain."

partial restoration of those features of Franco's regime thought long gone, it is as a reflection of the impasse of Spanish capitalism. But it is also a reflection of the fact that the leaders of the Socialist and Communist Parties have failed to mobilise support for the socialist transformation of society in order to solve the economic and national contradictions.

In spite of the leadership of these two parties, it still seems likely that a new election will produce a majority for them, especially after the examples of Greece and France. But under those new circumstances, new political upheavals will develop.

A victory for the left in an election would alter the whole political climate. There would be a new and massive influx of members into the Socialist and Communist Parties, especially the former, as well as into the trade unions.

There would be a great deal of pressure on the leadership as the workers demanded tangible improvements in their living standards from 'their' government. This would provide the basis for a new move to the left inside these parties, in the same way that the Socialist Party moved to the left from 1931 to 1937.

But this would also open the door for new plots and conspiracies in the armed forces and if the workers' 'leaders' then failed to carry through social change, if they retreated in the face of threats from the right, they would without doubt open the way for a new coup.

But even a new military government could not establish a stable base for itself on the rotten foundations of Spanish capitalism.

The 1980s open up a protracted period of crisis for Spanish capitalism, protracted because the enormous latent power of the

workers will be an obstacle to a bloody reaction like 1936-39, but also because of the chronically weak basis of capitalism itself.

It will only be the policies of Marxism, growing deep roots in PSOE and the trade unions that will provide a way out of the dead end of Spanish capitalism by giving a determined lead to the struggle to transform society. The rich traditions of struggle established by Spanish labour in the past will be more than surpassed in the struggles of the future. The trial in Madrid is a farce. It will be the workers who will pass judgement on Spanish capitalism in the end.

'The Lessons of Spain' by Leon Trotsky and 'Spanish revolution 1931-37'. Both 30p + 15p post and package. Available from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

INDIA W GERMANY S AFRICA

Low paid workers at an Indian fertiliser factory, in which British multinational Fisons has a major stake, have been given a reply to their demands for a living wage—death in a hail of bullets.

Six weeks after the mass murder of those striking trade unionists by the police, 150 wounded workers are still 'missing', union leaders are in hiding, and news of the carnage is suppressed as police seal off the area. This eye-witness report was given to me by leaders of the union.

The plant of Rallis India Ltd in Unnao, near Kanpur, is a highly modernised fertiliser factory employing 750 workers. The parent company brings together one of the richest and most profiteering of India's industrial empires, the Tata family, and the British-based multinational company Fisons.

Readers in Britain will be shocked to learn that this company hires 450 of its workforce on a casual, sub-contracted labour basis, paying them a mere 36 pence a day (6 Rupees). After patiently campaigning for two years for an end to this system and for wage parity with other fertiliser plants, these trade unionists declared a sit-in strike on 14 December.

Suddenly—at 6pm on 3 January, without any warning—four van-loads of police pulled up and opened fire on the workers, emptying about 80 rounds in an orgy of bloodletting. Ten workers were killed on the spot, 150 fell wounded into

**EXCLUSIVE
Militant Reporter
in India gets an
eye-witness
account**



BLOODY MASSACRE OF INDIAN WORKERS

the clutches of their uniformed assassins.

The state government of Uttar Pradesh obviously felt they had to intervene with their own brand of industrial relations to safeguard the interests of private enterprise since the company was losing 5 million Rupees a day during the strike.

Let no-one claim that this disaster was a case of jittery constables firing under pressure or panic. It was a premeditated, conscious attempt to crush this union and intimidate others. *The police pursued their operation for a full two hours.*

As workers fled across the walls in the dark or hid inside the factory, the police drew them out, pretending to be sympathetic workers, only to beat and arrest

them. Three workers were tossed alive and screaming with pain into the flames. Those factory officials who pleaded for their workers' lives to be spared were locked up.

For 25 days the whole area was sealed off. People talk of seeing 70 bodies dumped into the Ganges. Unnao Chemical Employees' Union leaders K.P. Singh (General Secretary), A.L. Kushawaha (Secretary), R.P. Tiwari (President) and M.P. Shirma (EC Member) described the horrific events to me in detail. "Three of us were there. Now we are all in hiding from the police."

The police are covering up their unprovoked atrocities and attempting to finish off the union by registering a case against 57

named and 400 unnamed persons for "violent mob action." But the truth is, all the workers were trapped inside the factory or fled for their lives. 25 are in jail and 32 on the run. Anyone who tries to contact these arrested workers is harassed, beaten and arrested.

**The workers are
maintaining
their strike**

Indiscriminate arrests have followed while a reign of terror by the forces of "law and order" is maintained. One worker was beaten unconscious and died 15 days later.

The truly heroic fact is that after two months of in-

timidation *these workers have not been driven back but are still valiantly maintaining their strike!* Let this be a lesson to us all!

This is the fighting spirit of the Indian working class. This is why on 14 January 12 million workers came out on a general strike and mass demonstrations against Mrs Gandhi's latest attempt to shackle their organisations and destroy democratic trade union rights—dictated by 'liberal' and 'democratic' western bankers of the IMF.

Their action was in the face of 10,000 arrests, threats to 'shoot on sight', loss of service, seniority and pensions and wage cuts. And this was despite very half-hearted leadership from most union tops.

Militant demands

answers from the British government: in view of the enormous publicity given to the Stalinist repression of trade unionists in Poland and calls for diplomatic and economic sanctions, will you equally condemn the bloody methods of the capitalist government of India?

**British
company
replies**

Fisons, the British-based multinational company, is a major shareholder of Rallis India Ltd., with a substantial investment in the company following a merger with Tata-Fison.

A spokesman for Fison told me on 26 February that they supported the hiring of workers on a seasonal basis only. If they took them on for 3 months they would be forced to give them permanent contracts. He admitted that the management had requested the police to evict the strikers, but claimed that this was because it was dangerous in the factory because of the presence of sulphuric acid. The workers know about sulphuric acid—they are employed to produce it every day.

Fisons claim that "only" two workers died and that workers had started the shooting. Fisons declined an opportunity to publicly condemn the shooting of their workers: "Why? How do you mean condemnation of it? We're extremely sorry about the death of two workers but the condemnation must come surely as a result of the action of the workers with the police. I mean we can't condemn the law, can we?"

**By a
'Militant'
reporter**

Scandal of 'union-made millionaires'

"The financial means and participation of the trade unions are constantly committed to public well-being—and not to some few individuals." That's what it says in the DGB (West German TUC) publication, "Solidarity costs money too" (page 27).

But *Der Spiegel* magazine (8 February) has exposed shocking facts and even corruption within the DGB-owned *Neue Heimat* building company. *Neue Heimat*, Western Europe's biggest housing development company, has an annual turnover of about £1,625 million. The trade unions' business involve-

ment also includes the *Volksfürsorge*, one of West Germany's biggest insurance groups, and the Co-op, one of the biggest supermarket chains.

According to *Der Spiegel*, the chairman of *Neue Heimat's* board received a yearly salary plus perks of 524,000 Marks (£131,000) from two jobs, one with the 'community-oriented' *Neue Heimat* and the other with the strictly profit-oriented sister company, *Neue Heimat City Buiding*. He also admitted owning 24 flats in Hamburg.

Leading trade unionists sit in the supervisory boards of these and 58 other companies. They include Vetter (DGB President), Loderer (Metalworkers' President) and Klunker (public sector union). *Der Spiegel* estimates the yearly transfers to other board

members at about 360,000 Marks. This does not include income from other posts (advisory boards etc).

Particularly telling is the case of Wolfgang Voram-brock, a board member who joined the Social-Democratic Party 24 hours after the passing of the Bad Godesberg programme in 1959 which scrapped the SPD's socialist objective. "And if the SPD gives up the free market economy", he says, "then I'll be out again next day!"

There has been an almost audible silence about these disclosures from the SPD leadership as well as the Liberals (FDP) and Christian-Democrats (CDU and CSU). They, too, are caught up in "allegations of illegal campaign contributions, secret foreign bank accounts and high-level cover-ups" (*Newsweek*, 25 January 1982).

With the West German economy stagnating and unemployment rising, now is the time for the unions to campaign on jobs and inflation, to take to the rank and file the question of ownership of the means of production and the blackmailing role of the banks and monopolies.

But in taking up the economic struggle they cannot ignore the questions posed by the *Neue Heimat* affair. Rank-and-file control is necessary over the administration, organisation and finances of the unions and union affiliated companies, which so far have been theirs in name only.

Active trade unionists will not be satisfied with the notices served on what might well be union-made millionaires at the direct expense of the workers' organisations.

The *Neue Heimat* affair is by no means over. The coming struggles will produce new and fighting leaders from the workers' ranks and a new, vigilant attitude towards democracy in the labour movement.

**By Greg Powell
Hamburg**

Split in South Africa's ruling party

Divisions inside South Africa's ruling Nationalist Party deepened with last week's vote of no confidence by 23 Nationalist MPs (out of 123 present) against Prime Minister Botha.

The conflict was brought to a head by Botha's proposal for some form of "power-sharing" with the 'Coloured' and 'Indian' sections of the black population (a crude attempt at divide-and-rule rejected by the vast majority of blacks).

Most extreme right-wing MPs come from rural parts of the Transvaal province, where right-wing leader Treurnicht has his power base. The split follows the shift by sections of white voters to the ultra-right *Herstigste Nasionale Party*

in last April's white election. While the HNP gained no seats, there is now the possibility of a split from the NP and an ultra-right opposition in parliament.

But Treurnicht denied any plans to leave the NP. While the ultra-right parties can feed off the fears and prejudice of many whites, they do not have the confidence of the capitalists either in SA or internationally.

The split in the NP reflects the crisis and confusion of South Africa's rulers, faced with massive struggles by the black working class, which neither the traditional bloody repression nor reformist gestures can today hold in check. It is a case of "those behind cried 'forward', while those before cried 'back'!"

Winning the right to the countryside

How many times have you been told: "If you really want to do something, you can do it...but, of course, if you were under Socialism or Communism you would be told what to do and you would have no freedom or rights."

At the moment you have the choice to be unemployed and depressed — or working, probably doing a monotonous job. Rights are few and far between. Those that do exist were bitterly fought for by the labour movement, and we must not take them for granted.

One such right is the right to walk in the countryside. Or is it?

This year sees the 50th Anniversary of one of the most significant mass trespasses ever to take place in this country. It took place on 24 April 1932, in the Derbyshire Peak District lying between Manchester and Sheffield.

About 600 walkers followed the Snake Way to the top of the 2,088ft Kinder Scout, over land owned by the Duke of Devonshire. Similar trespasses took place in other areas, like Epping Forest in Essex just outside London's East End, but the campaigns were especially active in Northern England.

Throughout the early 20th Century workers had

By Lee Waker
(Dagenham CLP)

bitter struggles for different things. Rights-of-way in the countryside were high on the list for some workers. After six or more days of slavery in dusty and sweaty mills and factories, a few hours on the moors was paradise.

When this particular trespass took place on the path up Kinder Scout the walkers were met by 14 to 20 gamekeepers, who were all armed with sticks. The walkers defended themselves and carried on.

In the meantime, about 800 police gathered at nearby Hayfield and waited for the walkers to return. Six were arrested and five of them were jailed.

One of them, John Anderson, was given a six-month sentence for allegedly causing grievous bodily harm to a gamekeeper. This demonstration was definitely a milestone in the fight for access to the open countryside.

As usual, the court where the trial took place was "impartial and non-political." But at the trial the jury just happened to be comprised of two Brigadier-Generals, three Colonels, two Majors, three Captains and two Aldermen.

Leaflets publicising the Kinder Scout trespass said



The 'hunting, shooting and fishing' clique failed to prevent workers getting some access to the countryside, but the rich still control the vast majority of land in Britain.

"It is a crime for workers to put their feet where Lord Big Bug and Lady Little Flea do their annual shooting." There were many other trespasses in the Peak District, and a demonstration in Winnats Pass, Castleton in 1932 attracted 10,000.

Trespass laws were made by landlords to protect their private estates—land which had once been held in common by the people, but had been seized by the monarchs, feudal lords, and the church. Trespass became one of the supreme offences.

Many private hunting forests were established. The New Forest in Hampshire was taken over by William the Conqueror in

the 11th Century.

In the Scottish highlands, up until 1745, most open land was the common property of the clans. After the beginning of the 19th Century vast areas of the highlands were taken over for deer forests, and the landless clans were pushed down into Glasgow as factory fodder for industrial capitalism.

One of the achievements of the 1945 Labour government was the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, under which ten National Parks were established throughout England and Wales.

The Peak District around Kinder Scout was the first.

Unfortunately, much of the land in National Parks

and also National Trust Property still remains in private hands. By leasing a vast amount of land or property to the National Trust, big landowners can avoid death duties—and generally pay less tax than otherwise. Why complain if you just happen to own a castle, it's still yours, but the repairs and painting etc. are paid for by the tax-payer. So unfortunately—but not surprisingly in a system based on private ownership of production—large parts of Britain are owned privately, and in England and Wales the owner has the right to kick you off the land (apart from restricted access to traditional footpaths).

DRUGS FIRMS THREATEN 3rd WORLD

A report in *New Scientist* (4.2.82) describes how the big multinational drug companies organise price fixing between themselves to maintain their stranglehold on drug supplies to hospitals and clinics in Bangladesh.

Here, eight multinationals supply over 80% of the \$85 million drug bill every year.

A local doctor in Bangladesh attempted to supply locally produced drugs at prices one third to a half lower than the multinationals. The response of the big drug companies was to organise so that there was at least one tender lower than the local doctors for each drug offered for contract.

The local firm succeeded in winning only one contract—the big companies weren't aware that he was tendering for it—at a price 50% less than the nearest

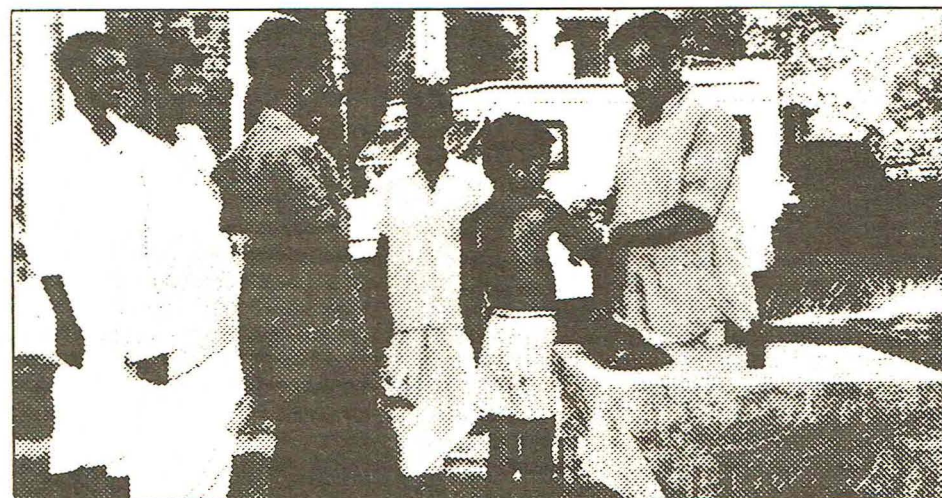
By Jen Pickard
(Newham NE CLP)

rival, Hoechst. This may have had the effect of temporarily cutting prices but by maintaining their monopoly the multinationals have ensured that prices will rise again in the future.

Yet another example of the attitude of the drug multinationals to the 'third world' is shown by the marketing policies of the pharmaceutical firm, Ciba-Geigy, in relation to the drug Aminophenazone (a painkiller).

The drug was withdrawn from Britain in 1963 because of toxic side effects. It was still available elsewhere, even though it was later suspected of being carcinogenic (causing cancer.)

In order to overcome these problems it was reformulated in 1976 and the new drug introduced first in northern and non-tropical countries, where it is thought dietary differences



Eight multinationals supply over 80% of the \$85m worth of drugs used in Bangladesh every year (above). But some of these drugs have been withdrawn for safety reasons, from the industrialised countries.

increased the risks. Ciba-Geigy deny that they are applying different standards to the Third World (*Pharmaceutical Journal*, 5.2.82) because they haven't found it necessary to withdraw the original drug from these countries.

Although the major reference book on drugs in Britain (Martindale) advises that the risk of side effects renders Aminophenazone

unsuitable for use, and there are alternatives available, Ciba-Geigy maintain that the risks are extremely small and it would be impossible to recall the drug in countries where communication and distribution is difficult.

As always, profit comes first, also when the weakest sections of society, the poor and sick, provide it.

The lessons are clear.

There is a crying need for medicines in the Third World—but medicines that are cheap, safe and effective. Until we in Britain make a start by ensuring that the next Labour government carries out the nationalisation of the Pharmaceutical and allied industries, then these lessons will go unheeded.

WORKERS PAY FOR REAGAN'S ARMS RACE

Last month, the issue of US military intervention in El Salvador was debated on American TV. The AFL-CIO leaders sent their American Institute for Free Labor Development man, who said that El Salvador is right on our border near Los Angeles, and he did not want a second Cuba, so we must intervene.

[The AIFLD is run jointly between big business and the trade unions and has been indirectly funded by the CIA.]

The attitude of the trade union leaders stands in sharp contrast to the anti-war mood among the majority of the rank and file. According to a Gallup poll last year, only 2% of Americans wanted an invasion of El Salvador.

Now even a former editor of the *New York Times* has been moved to comment by Reagan's policies:

"We must cut out more non-essential government spending and root out more waste," says the President, overlooking the biggest source by far of waste and fraud. It is the ravenous appetite of the Pentagon and its defence contractors represented by the next fiscal year's \$260 billion military budget.

"The people with real dependency," said Mr Reagan in last week's masterly TV performance before Congress, are 'deprived of what they need because available resources are going not to the needy but to the greedy.'

"Too true. Virtually every Federal programme to aid 'the needy' (and also to protect the health, education and basic quality of life for all the rest of us) is deprived of financial lifeblood. Virtually every programme to help 'the greedy' through corporate and agricultural subsidies, loan guarantees and political pay-offs...has found ample sustenance in the same budget.

"Meanwhile, Mr Reagan deftly draws the curtain over the \$100 billion deficit that will feed inflationary fires for this year and a 9% unemployment rate that may well feed fires of another kind this summer...

"As a result of Mr Reagan's sleight of hand in tax and spending cuts," he points out, "those whose annual household income is less than \$23,000 will be about \$30 billion poorer by 1985; those above that level will be \$230 billion richer."

To counteract all this belligerence there is a great deal of organising going on because a repetition of Vietnam is frightening many people. Huge street demonstrations are planned in front of the United Nations building in New York and elsewhere when the second meeting on World Disarmament takes place this June.

Reports Betty Traun
from New York

The painful truth of Strathclyde cuts

Dear Comrades,

Hepatitis, I thought, was a disease that you got if you travelled through countries such as India or Pakistan, primarily due to the devastating consequences of poverty that capitalism has brought to these countries.

It seems that this is not the case, particularly in the West of Scotland. Apparently there has been an increase of three times as many reported cases of hepatitis in the last year. Over 70% of those who caught it were of school age. Specialists at a university Bacteriology unit have said publicly that the reported cases here are only the tip of a large increase. Although doctors argue that there is no lasting medical effects, there is extreme concern about this steep rise.

The National Union of Teachers are blaming outside toilets in school and poor washing facilities, as contributory factors.

The National Union of Public Employees in the Strathclyde area have said that cutbacks in cleaning materials have affected hygiene levels.

'Savings' (ie. cuts) of 10% in the Education Department by Strathclyde Regional Council, we will be told of course, have had nothing to do with it! So we can now only presume this sharp increase will undoubtedly now drop, since the demise of Laker Airways. After all, it's a well known fact that large numbers of school-children from the housing schemes were spending their holidays in the Far East.

Yours fraternally
David Churchley
Glasgow Cathcart.

Stolen champers sent boss wild

Dear Comrades

After an attempted break-in where I work we were relieved to find nothing had been taken—except for a bottle of champagne belonging to the director. It had been near a window and the thieves had broken the window and reached in and taken it.

After reporting the incident, one of the senior staff came to check nothing else had gone. On hearing us express relief that only the champagne was stolen, he retorted angrily that the champagne had cost £35 a bottle and wasn't the cheap imitation stuff we were used to and we should have taken more care of it!

Knowing this same director to appeal to his workforce to forego a pay rise this year due to the bad financial position of the company and to aid him in making economies, I quite naturally was disgusted. This same director I might add collects old Jaguars for a hobby. Certainly different from collecting stamps or train spotting, isn't it?

Yours fraternally
A TGWU member

In issue 589, *Militant* printed a letter from Jim Dymond of Ipswich, complaining about an article in the paper which appeared on January 16. This article criticised the British Communist Party (CP) and its daily journal the *Morning Star* for continually referring to Poland as a 'socialist' country.

Comrade Dymond also complained *Militant* had misrepresented the facts by failing to point out in the article that the CP support Solidarity and did condemn the military takeover in Poland. This prompted many replies from *Militant* supporters, three of which are printed below:

Dear Comrades

Jim Dymond writes in your letters page that *Militant* has deliberately misrepresented the Communist Party, when it commented on the CP calling Poland "socialist". *Militant* should also have added, he says, that the *Morning Star* supported Solidarity and condemned martial law.

But how do these facts excuse the *Morning Star* for calling Poland 'socialist'? A graphic example appeared in the *Star's* editorial of 19 December 1981. Commenting on events in Upper Silesia when seven miners were shot dead by the military, the *Star* says, "It is tragic that such an incident should have happened in a socialist country."

How can you in one breath be condemning a military takeover in a country, and in the next breath call that very same country socialist? The *Morning Star* is utterly confused.

Poland has the basis for socialism, because there are no capitalists, and the economy is nationalised. This should be defended. But the Stalinist bureaucracy must be condemned because under Stalinism it usurped democratic work-

Why Poland isn't socialist

ers' control and management, necessary for socialism, and replaced it with one-party totalitarian dictatorship, which presently takes the form of naked military rule in Poland.

Calling Poland socialist does nothing if not confuse the issue, but much more important than that, it can turn workers away from the real meaning of socialism.

Yours fraternally
P S Mason
Leicester West LPYS

Dear Comrades

The recent letters about Stalinism in your paper remind me of one of the incidents which caused me to quit the CP.

In the early 'fifties, during Stalin's lifetime, a number of Communist Party leaders in Eastern Europe were imprisoned or hanged as 'imperialist agents' who had been working hand-in-glove with the 'arch-traitor' Tito. But in 1956 it was announced that the 'Titoites' had been innocent. They had been 'framed' by a gang of 'adventurers' led by the 'traitor' Beria.

There followed the outbursts in Poland and Hungary; whereupon the Czech government hastily announced that it had 're-convened' the case of Slansky, and had found nothing amiss—he was guilty.

So the Polish 'Titoites' were innocent, the Hungarian 'Titoites' were innocent, Tito himself was innocent—yet the 'Titoite' Slansky was guilty!

No wonder the capitalist press writers could write jeeringly about "life in the Communist asylum"!

Yours fraternally
Jim Parkes
Walsall

A lesson from the past

Dear Comrades,

After reading your report of the fight against Tebbit's Employment Bill, which will kerb and destroy the power of the trade unions, I read with interest the biography of Thomas Burt, the miners' first Northumberland MP in 1868. He says, "Since the laws of the country have in the past been made exclusively by employers and capitalists, many of them bear very oppressively and unjustly on working classes." He was referring to the 'Master and Servants Act,' the 14th Clause of which "empower magistrates to imprison workmen for 3 months with hard labour for breaches of contract".

At that time of 1868, the case of the gas stokers made a great stir. The circumstances surrounding it must be almost unknown to the present generation. Briefly, Lord Justice Brell had sent five men to prison for 12 months because they had been found guilty to a "conspiracy to coerce, or

molest, their employers by preparing for a simultaneous withdrawal of their labour".

So with the past and present attempts by the bosses to shackle the unions in mind, a final quote from Thomas Burt MP: "Organisation is the basis for all progress." These words are as relevant today as ever.

Yours fraternally
William West
Blyth

Workers suffer from bosses' blackmail

Dear Comrades

Perhaps young couples frightened of bringing up kids in the present society should follow the advice of Cyanwood Lead Industries in California. Because working on lead production under present conditions causes a deformed foetus in women workers, the Cyanwood bosses told their workforce to get sterilised or leave their jobs! Because of high unemployment,

Dear Comrades

Jim Dymond reckons *Militant* misrepresents the facts about the *Morning Star*. But is it an accident that the dwindling circulation of the *Star* is heavily dependent on the very countries it calls socialist?

Perhaps in the interests of 'broad left unity' the Communist Party could inquire why these 'socialist' countries don't allow or encourage the sale of *Militant*. Do they wish to protect their inhabitants from the 'deliberate distortions' of this 'sectarian' paper?

Even the *Star* doesn't call for this type of 'socialism' in Britain. One kind of socialism for British workers and another for the workers of the east? This shows the depths of nationalist degeneration of the Communist Party—long ago anticipated by Trotsky.

Militant does tell the truth. It does defend the gains of the revolutions in the East. Those are the nationalisation of the economy and the plan of production.

But we tell the whole truth—about the bureaucrats who in the name of socialism hold down the workers to line their own pockets. A look back at past issues on Poland shows that far from pleading with the military after the event like the *Star*, *Militant* warned in advance that Solidarity must sweep out the bureaucracy or be crushed.

Jim Dymond's letter complains, "As Marxists you should be reporting the CP's analysis of what these countries are." That's difficult—considering that the CP has yet to come up with an analysis.

Fraternally
Andy Beadle
Deptford CLP

some of the women were forced to take this drastic step.

Lead workers in Britain don't come off much better. A spokesman for the 'Lead Industries Group Executive' said that the levels of protection required to wipe out lead poisoning hazards were "quite fantastic". The cost of such measures if implemented "would result in closure of the bulk of lead industries in this country."

Perhaps it would—under capitalism. But under a workers' socialist government the health and safety of all workers would come before the blood-stained profits of the rich.

Fraternally
Theo Simon
Plymouth

One store that does have a crèche...

Dear Comrades,

A few weeks ago, the chairman of my LPYS gave a talk on a typical day in her life. She is unemployed, a housewife, and she also has



LPYS members picket the Polish embassy in London after the military take-over in December last year.

A tale of two birthdays

Dear Comrades

This morning I had to go to the Post Office to cash my child allowance—£5.25—in order to buy my son a first birthday present. As I stood in the queue I overheard a conversation behind me.

A boy of about 10 years old was telling his mother that he wanted a small motor bike. His mother said she thought he wanted a pony. The boy told her that he now wanted a motor bike instead, but she was dubious as they didn't really have enough room in the garden for him to ride around. The problem was solved by the boy suggesting that he joined a club and could ride it there.

As they talked I looked down at my son in his pushchair and thought how nice it would be to afford expensive presents for him. Although motorbikes or horses are beyond my financial means, there is a much more useful way in which I can help my son. I can give my support for the struggle towards socialism and actively campaign for the programme put forward by *Militant* which would bring about a socialist transformation of society, thereby ensuring a better future for all our children.

Yours fraternally
Jill Malcolm
Chairman
Stockton LPYS

a small son of one year old, so as comrades can imagine, her day is very busy and tiring.

During discussion, many demands came to mind, such as the need for a national network of laundries and restaurants, as it was pointed out that it is extremely difficult to look after a small child and cook or do the washing all at once. However, upon being asked what would help her most in her every-day life as a mother, our chairman replied that crèches in supermarkets, dole offices, doctor's surgeries etc. would make life much easier.

It was only when I heard her say this, that I remembered an article from one of last year's *Sunday Times Supplements*, about Harrods, the corner shop for the privileged and rich. I told the chairman not to be such a moaning Bolshie by demanding crèches in public places. After all, Harrods has a crèche...for dogs!

Yours fraternally
Maggie Fenwick
Stockton LPYS

BUDGET FOR A SOCIALIST FUTURE

Not many years ago, the main topic of discussion for most people before a budget was how much would the fags and beer go up.

With the experience of three years of nightmare Tory budgets fresh in their memories, working class families are now asking what new horrors Howe has in his monetarist mind.

They know that even if Howe slightly reflate the economy, the results will still be to hit the living standards of the working class. That's why many of our readers have started on their own budget, a budget for socialism. They want to make 'Militant' a more regular and bigger paper.

One of the reasons why East Midlands area is out front on our chart is that a number of readers there are committed to giving us a regular amount each week or fortnight. Of course the amount varies according to what each can afford, but it all adds up! M Riley (Chesterfield CLP) sent us a fiver, and £2 came from T Warby (Derby, TSSA). Thanks also to M Griffith (Nottingham NE CLP), Loughborough readers C Brookes, J and L Hall, Anon. lawyer (!) and T Mellon (Corby ISTC), who has promised us £2 per week.

Members of Northampton Labour Party and members of NALGO Gas Staffs (Blackpool seminar)

By Steve Cawley

helped to fill our Leicester supporters' rattling tins. In addition to 'extras' on sales of *Militant*, there was money raised from meals, sale of posters, and trade union expenses from the East Midlands area. We urge our readers in all other areas to go out and do likewise.

Already a Labour Party member in Toxteth sent us £50, a CPSA member Canterbury £39, K Bryan (Andover) £30, and we've got several donations of £10, one from expenses in Blackpool, one from a pools winner in Chorlton! The Northern LPYS Conference contributed £67, Coventry SE readers £21.50, Basingstoke students and Labour Party members £22, plus M Parry (Newbury) £6, and £4s from T Morgan and T Hamilton (both Cumbria).

In Manchester members of Wythenshawe CLP contributed £12.75 on an appeal sheet against the witch-hunt of *Militant* supporters. Have *Militant* readers in your local Labour Party made a similar appeal? Thanks also to Salford student S Newby for her tenner.

Important social events such as 'Marie and Denis' Union' (Merton) £16, pancake evening Basildon £11, Irish social organised by Tower Hamlets LPYS £34.50, Valentine social (Bracknell) £20. Also we've had nearly £10 from supporters in Cwmbran and Newport (Gwent), and fivers including those from A and T White (Aberdeen-

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 11 April
Eastern	722		2040
East Midlands	849		1470
Hants & Dorset	405		1100
Humberside	142		890
London East	1042		2010
London West	678		1150
London South	510		1550
Manchester & Lancs	714		1550
Merseyside	792		1950
Northern	816		2350
Scotland East	235		1290
Scotland West	611		1980
Southern	613		1900
South West	284		965
Wales East	131		970
Wales West	211		1130
West Midlands	410		1980
Yorkshire	860		2290
Others	90		6435
Total received	10115		35,000

Target for April 11th £35,000

This week £1442

ads

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

"What We Stand For" Meetings

TEESSIDE: Speaker: Peter Taaffe. Monday 22 March, 7.30 pm, Room 2, Stockton YMCA

TYNESIDE: Sunday 21 March, 7.30 pm. Speaker: Peter Taaffe (Editor, *Militant*). Venue to be arranged.

SUNDERLAND: Speaker: Peter Taaffe (Editor, *Militant*). Wednesday 24 March, 7.30 pm at the Sunderland Transport Club, North Bridge Street, Sunderland. For further details phone Ray Physick, Sunderland 653994.

BARNSELY: Hear: Peter Taaffe (Editor, *Militant*), Pat Wall (Nominated Parliamentary Candidate for Bradford North CLP), and Mike Smith (South Yorkshire County Councillor). Old Arcadian Hall, Market Street, Barnsley. 7.30 pm, Friday 19 March 1982.

COVENTRY: Hear: Brian Ingham (Militant Industrial Correspondent). Tuesday 9 March, 7.30 pm, Hare and Squirrel, New Union Street, Coventry.

PETERBOROUGH: Speaker: Steve Glennon. Wednesday 17 March, 7.30 pm, Neighbourhood House, Cromwell Road, Peterborough.

WEST WALES weekend school tapes. Rob Sewell, on The Role of the Bolshevik Party 1917 and Trotsky's fight against Stalinism. Jeremy Birch on Bolshevism and Menshevism and Russia under Lenin and Trotsky. £2.30 each or £7.50 per set including postage. Proceeds to Militant fighting fund. SAE for lists of other tapes available to: David Llewelyn Davies, 10 Page Street, Swansea.

MANCHESTER University Militant Supporters Society Monday 8 March: 'The life and times of James Connolly' speaker John Hunt (LPYS) Monday 15 March: 'The Bloody Rise of Capitalism' speaker Mick Brooks All meetings 12.45 pm, Meeting Room 4, University Students Union, Oxford Road.

EDINBURGH Debate. 'Which way forward for the Left?' Peter Taaffe (Editor, *Militant*) versus Robin Cook (Labour MP, Edinburgh Central). Saturday 6 March, 10.00 am, Trade Union Centre, Picardy Place, Edinburgh.

CHESTERFIELD Readers Meeting: 'Nuclear Bombs—how to stop the threat'. Speakers: Rob Jones (Sheffield Heeley CLP) and a local CND speaker. Monday 22 March, 7.30 pm, Rooms 3/4, Market Hall, Chesterfield.

BEXLEY Militant Readers Meeting on Poland. Speaker: Ed Bober. Venue: Erith & Crayford LP rooms, 315 Bexley Road, Erith, Kent. (Opposite the Royal Oak pub.) Thursday 4 March, 7.45pm.

ST HELENS LPYS Public Meeting "We want a future". Speaker: Laurence Coates (LPYS rep on Labour Party NEC). Green Dragon Pub, Gartons Lane, Sutton, St. Helens. 7.30pm Friday 5 March.

Get the truth about Marxism!

Price 20p. From local 'Militant' sellers and from 'Militant', 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. (Add 10p postage and packing. 10 copies or more post free).

To Sue and Chris Edwards (Newcastle). David Robert was born 17.2.82. Well done Sue—"Labour is the sole source of value".

Bridlington holiday flats near Spa conference hall. Vacancies for Easter sleeping from 2 to 6 people clean and comfortable. Mrs Cusworth, phone: 0262 73934.

Any 'Militant' supporter with a flat to share or wanting to share a flat in London please ring Dave, Ware 4245.

KARL MARX T-SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS. Sizes and colours for small—32-34; medium—34-38; large—38-40; extra large—42-44. Red moth on white, yellow, sky blue, bottle green, navy, black (sweatshirt grey and mid-blue). Cost: T-shirts £3.25; sweatshirts £6.75 (both prices include postage and packing). Plain T-shirts and sweatshirts also available, deduct 25p from price. Send cheques and postal orders to R Harris, 35 Westminster Court, Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 1UR.

MILITANT REPRINT
'Stalinism and Bolshevism'
by Leon Trotsky
Available from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. Price 20p plus 15p post and package.



Industrial Reports

T Lucas strike ends

AT the end of the third week of the strike at T. Lucas in Kingswood a mass meeting was held on February 26 in which union full time officials, shop stewards and management were invited to speak. After a long and heated meeting, and a unanimous recommendation from the stewards, the workers voted 70 to 88 to defeat a resolution to continue the dispute. The position now is that negotiations have been entered into on the 53 redundancies. The initial position is that they will be asking for volunteers, but unfortunately there will be a few compulsory redundancies, which will be carried out on the basis of last in, first out. What undoubtedly swayed many of the members was that management threatened a further 57 redundancies if the dispute continued. That threat is now withdrawn albeit temporarily. The immediate mood of the factory is undoubtedly glum but the leading militants go back determined to continue the struggle to have a 100% unionised and militant factory. The stewards wish to thank all those who responded to requests for help.

Yellow Advertiser

Support is needed for journalists on the 'Yellow Advertiser' in Basildon on strike after the sacking of two NUJ members. They were sacked after refusing to work on the new 'Essex Motoring Weekly' until negotiations had taken place. Donations and support needed—send to Jeff Sutton, 6 Britannia Road, Westcliffe-on-sea, Essex.

Belsize Engineering

Workers at Belsize Engineering in Milton Keynes have been locked out after a one day strike in protest at management reneging on agreed procedure over holidays. Belsize trades with Fords, Leylands, Vauxhall, Lucas and Jaguar, as well as Rotherham & Son (Coventry), Wilmot Breedon (B'ham), Smiths (London), CAV (Rochester), BSR (B'ham), Godmans (Havant), Millway (IOW), Rank Hi Fi (Bradford), TI Cox, Stanley (Sheffield), RR (Crewe), Gardners (Manchester), and AC Delco; and also the steel firms MacCready's, Cuctile, Wesson and Stourbridge. They are urging workers in these industries to support them. Send donations and messages of support A Lersch, 35 Buttermere Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes.

WDO chairman re-instated

Bill Willoughby, the Western Division Office UCW Branch Chairman who was compulsorily transferred by Post Office management for 'swearing' at a canteen manger has been reinstated. This was on the advice of the Independent Advisory Review body, set up to avoid industrial action by Post Office workers in support of Bill. Although the reinstatement of the WDO Chairman is a great victory the review body recommended that Bill should be awarded a suspended dismissal until 30 June 1983.

The conditions at WDO were described in the report as "a bad office"; "People are daggers drawn" and there is considerable "personalised conflict with supervisors." The immediate acceptance of the review body's findings by management show the mistake they made in trying to attack the workforce on an issue described in the report "as a storm in a teacup."

MATTHEWS WON'T BREAK UNION

The dispute between the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers and Bernard Matthews is now entering its third week.

Matthews, owner of the turkey produce plant in Norfolk, is still refusing to go to arbitration, despite the fact that shop stewards are prepared to drop their claim from 32% to 15% in order to get back to negotiations.

Negotiations broke down in November, when management threw out everything the union had put forward, and offered them £5 plus 67p attendance pay. As a result of this, shop stewards called an overtime ban.

On February 12 negotiations reopened with both Jack Body (the general secretary), and Bernard Matthews himself present. All Matthews could offer was abuse, both to the union representatives, and the workers, who made £4½ million profit for him in 1980.

Negotiations broke down yet again, forcing an all-out strike. The response was magnificent, with only a handful of workers crossing the picket line, despite intimidation from Matthews: on February 19 he had

a full page advertisement in the local newspaper, asking workers to go back to work and promising them that the closed shop agreement would not effect their jobs if they returned.

This cost him £1,750 and he has put in a similar one since. Money is no object when it comes to trying to break the strike, and therefore the union.

The workers at a mill who make the feed stuff for the turkeys, came out in support of their brothers at Holton and Great Witchingham. Matthews has since sacked them all, but he has bitten off more than he can chew—12 of the workers are members of the T&GWU.

Although the pay claim has been dropped, the shop stewards at Bernard Matthews have insisted that they will not return until the workers at the mill are reinstated.

The response from other trade unions has been marvellous. NALGO have instructed their members who are meat inspectors not to cross the picket line (under EEC regulations no meat is allowed to leave the factory unless it has been inspected). The T&G have also offered their support and are refusing to cross.

Support has also come from the UCW, GMWU, and the Norwich and Ip-

swich Trades Councils.

The total workforce, including management, engineers etc is 1,200, and less than 10% have gone into work, despite management's claim that up to 300 have gone into work at Great Witchingham alone. The truth of the matter is that if you were to take a '0' off you would have the correct figure!

Even though many of the workers live in isolated little villages, they have remained solid. They have had enough of shift work pay of about £62, with day workers on £52 per week. At Matthews Holton plant alone, 140 claim family income supplement! Mind you, Mr Matthews doesn't do so badly. He gives himself £7,000 per week.

Messages of support should be sent to the Norfolk Office, NAAAW, 76 Norwich St., Dereham, Norfolk. We also call on everyone to black Matthew's produce.

It is vitally important to the poultry industry that the NAAAW wins this dispute, or other companies will feel that they can treat their workforce with the same contempt.

By Theresa McKay (NAAAW, Personal Capacity)

NALGO HITS BACK

Islington

NALGO members in Islington Housing Department have been in dispute for the last three weeks.

The dispute with the SDP-controlled council is over the sacking of a worker, who was not allowed to do the job he was employed for.

The dispute escalated overnight to include the NALGO members across the borough. Last week, at a council meeting, SDP councillors refused to debate the matter in open. But a call for ACAS to be brought in to settle the dispute was decided. The worker was reinstated without disciplinary action.

But on February 25 the SDP moved 3 childcare officers out of their present posts thereby closing a childrens home in the borough. 100 NALGO members turned up at the building to protest. They were met by a large police presence.

ACAS came out against the closure but the SDP, led by councillor Bayliss, refused to endorse the decision, and now other departments appear to be threatened.

Last week when members of NALGO were asked whether or not they wished to stay out on strike, the vote was 954 for and 66 against, with 42 abstentions.

The result of the strike

vote was clear; NALGO members fully realised the effect that the SDP council has on jobs and living standards in this area. At present there are ten area teams in Islington. The SDP wish to cut this to three districts. There will be a loss of 20 jobs, and a heavy cut in resources available to cope with the increasing need of the people of Islington.

The Labour Party at the next election must vigorously oppose and reverse all past and present SDP cuts.

By Pat Edlin (Islington South & Finsbury CLP)

Wakefield

Results are coming in from an unprecedented ballot of local government workers in Wakefield.

Faced with a new policy of compulsory redundancies the union has received backing from the membership.

By Kevin Smith (Wakefield Metropolitan District NALGO)

In the event of the council declaring any compulsory redundancies the union now has an advanced mandate for:

- ★ Non co-operation with councillors (not paying expenses etc.)
- ★ Blacking new technology
- ★ Blacking outside contracting of NALGO grade work
- ★ Backing action of other unions against compulsory redundancies.

A mandate for all-out strike was narrowly defeated in this ballot but the vote clearly gives the mandate for a one-day all-out strike.

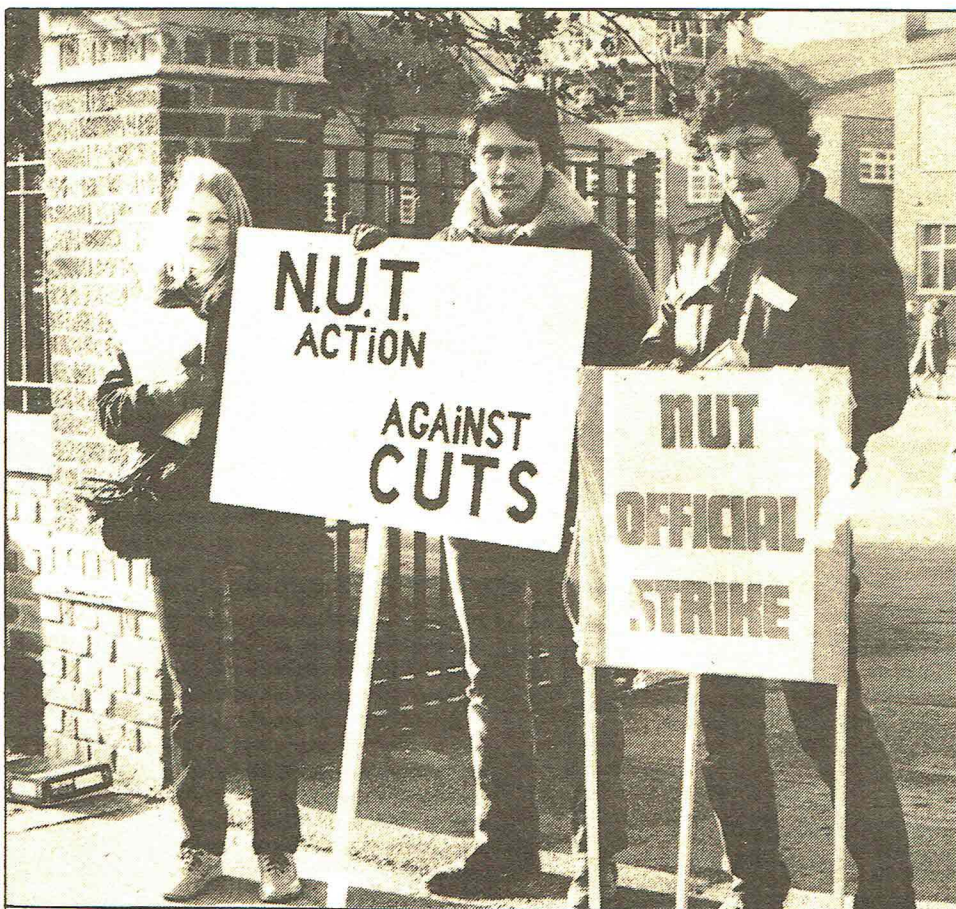
Although 67 jobs have already been lost, the council moved a policy of compulsory redundancies in the architects and public works department. But the motion was to apply to other departments as necessary.

This new policy was brought to bear on 17 members who remained unplaced from the architects department. The deadline for their compulsory redundancy was 31 December 1981. The union AGM a few weeks before attracted over 200 members and passed with a 90% majority a motion for an all-out strike.

In the face of such a mood the council found places for the workers with unusual speed.

All this has not been without opposition on the Labour council. Six left-wing councillors who voted against the compulsory redundancies were suspended and are now waiting an NEC enquiry. Ironically, one of them is Derek Thatchet, who has been selected by the SE Leeds constituency as parliamentary candidate.

Fight Tories, not teachers



Teachers picketing outside the Parsloes Manor school in Dagenham—the call for picketing by the striking teachers has been backed up by the union's executive, the first time in the NUT's history. Photo: Militant.

The teachers' dispute in Barking and Dagenham goes on. 800 teachers attended a strike assembly last Friday, and now 59 out of the 71 schools in the borough are affected by this

extended strike action against the cuts.

The assembly voted overwhelmingly in favour of calling on the National Executive to support our demand for picketing. This

demand has been met by the National Executive for the first time in history!

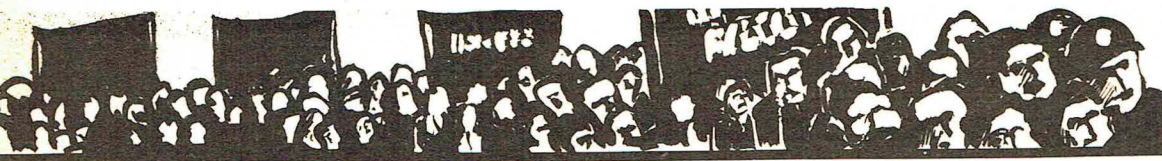
Already, on 1 March, secondary school teachers mounted pickets and turned away post and the

borough's internal mail. It is vital that this action continue and spread to all schools affected by the strike so that the schools may be forced to close thus putting increased pressure on the authority.

We are also campaigning for massive support from all local authority unions for a march and lobby of the council's final rate fixing meeting on 10 March. The march will assemble at Barking Park at 3.00 pm and proceed to Barking Town Hall.

The council have asked for a meeting with us this week but they have given us no indications of any offers. The NUT in the borough are standing firm. We insist that there be no further cuts in the education service. We have increasing support from parents, and from many local organisations including local LPYS branches and neighbouring Labour Parties. We demand that this Labour council fights the Tories, not the teachers and children of the borough.

By Anne Tanner (Past president) and Colin Ramage (Vice-president) (Barking and Dagenham NUT, personal capacity)



Industrial Reports

AUEW NEEDS A FIGHTING LEADERSHIP

This week sees the beginning of elections in the AUEW. It will have a direct bearing on the way our union will face up to the attacks on our jobs and living standards by the Engineering Employers Federation and the Tory government.

The vital position of General Secretary and other important national positions enter the final ballot, with the right-wing fighting desperately to maintain their domination of our union.

Almost every month new incidents ram home to our members the bankruptcy of our present leadership. Our executive has failed to give official recognition to our members at Laurence Scott who have magnificently

struggled to preserve jobs.

Also the acceptance this year of a 5% wage increase, bringing the minimum wage of skilled workers up to the 'dizzy heights' of £83 per week only highlights how far removed our leadership has become from the problems facing our members.

The implementation of the 39-hour week in the industry has been left to individual employers to determine when it is to be enforced, with, of course, many of them reluctant to do so.

At last year's Labour Party conference we saw the general secretary, Terry Duffy, cast our union's vote, without consultation, for Eric Varley as party treasurer, rather than for Norman Atkinson, a long-standing AUEW-sponsored MP.

Then there's the 'working lunches' given to the bosses at our union headquarters. Obviously all members will have nothing against negotiations and discussions taking place in order to gain better deals from the bosses for our members. But look-

ing at the past 'gains' our leadership have made, it would seem from these 'working lunches' that the bosses were getting good meals while we got bad deals!

We must elect a leadership prepared to fight the bosses and bring down this Tory government. Engineering workers have seen their lives destroyed through massive redundancies and short-time working. The election of Broad Left candidates in the forthcoming election would mark the beginning of our union transforming itself back to its proud, fighting traditions.

The following candidates are supported by the AUEW Broad Left:
General Secretary **Ken Brett**
National Organiser **Harry Cutts**
EC Member No 4 **Stan Cole**
EC Member No 6 **Ron Street**

By Alec Thraves
(Swansea AUEW)

'DEMOCRACY' IN THE EETPU

'Democracy' in the EETPU once again revealed itself. The second branch meeting on February 25 of the new 'super' London contracting branch ended up with 80 to 100 'sparks' locked out of their union premises at Highbury in Islington!

However provision for this possibility had been made with a local room booked in advance.

At this venue, Danny McCarthy was again elected to the chair and revealed that since the last branch meeting (see *Militant* 587) he and Chris Hill had both had their shop stewards'

credentials withdrawn, along with their safety rep positions, by the union.

Also, five electricians had been sacked and one had been transferred to a job miles from his home. All these brothers had been in attendance at the previous branch.

In the meeting member after member related the treatment they had received from full time officials, stressing that officials should be there to serve the members. Electricians at the Haden Young firm are demanding justice for their shop stewards, (see *Militant* 590) with possible industrial action if this is not obtain-

ed. The irony of members having to strike against their own union was pointed out, showing the state of affairs within the EETPU.

The fight, it was agreed, must go on and be developed with a complete change of the rule book and a total transformation of the EETPU. It was further agreed to turn up each month for the official meeting, continuing to meet unofficially if members could not gain access to the meeting room. Over 40 *Militants* were sold at the meeting.

An EETPU member

No help for the disabled

The bosses' attitudes to disabled workers can be seen in an incident that happened to a one-armed welder where I work. After finishing his job, he reported to the foreman for another. He was given a hammer and chisel and told to chip off stray bits of metal. Rather confused, he asked his shop steward's advice on how to achieve this.

There was only one solution as far as they could see. Was it really the foreman's intention that the welder place the chisel in his mouth and hit himself at the back of the head with the hammer, and would management provide the aspirins? Even the foreman had to agree that this was taking increased productivity too

far!

Seriously, though, how long will managements tolerate disabled workers who through no fault of their own cannot compete

with able bodied ones? And as jobs become scarcer what will be their chance of being selected?

By a TGWU member

Foyles

"...The Labour group in London supports your dispute...The GLC will check for any purchase of books through Foyles, and discontinue buying from this shop while your dispute continues."

These were the words of encouragement for the sacked workers from Ken Livingstone, the leader of the GLC, during a rally of the pickets during last Saturday's mass picket outside

Foyles bookshop in London's West End. Workers there were sacked for joining the Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers (USDAW).

As we go to press, 12 have now been sacked.

Messages of support and donations should be sent to: Siobhan Lanigan, c/o Collets Bookshop, 129 Charing Cross Road, London W.1.

By Pete Giblett
(Harrow LPYS)

Railways

Guard's battle continues

Members of the National Union of Railwaymen again expressed their anger at British Rail bosses last week, with a 24-hour strike by guards at Liverpool Street and Southend Victoria on February 26.

The stoppage paralysed the Southend line and disrupted many other services from Liverpool Street.

The dispute was caused by BR management's decision to deduct a day's pay from the guards for the day of an ASLEF strike, even though the men, members of the NUR were not involved, and reported for work.

BR were victimising the guards in this way for taking part in the strike and lobby of Unity House by NUR members the previous Friday, February 19.

In addition to this, guards have also been locked out during the ASLEF strikes at other depots as a reprisal for fighting flexi-rostering.

Management's action is in direct contravention of the national agreement covering the guaranteed week, which ensures all staff a full week's pay.

The guarantee may only be suspended after consultation with the union nationally. NUR members will therefore be demanding to know whether the NEC was consulted and if so, what their view was. And most importantly, what they intend to do about BR's latest flagrant attempt to trample NUR members' conditions underfoot.

Leeds rail meeting

'Make or break—what future for British Rail?' This theme attracted a good cross-section of trade unionists at a special Militant Readers Meeting in Leeds.

Tommy Wood, Secretary of Leeds No 1 ASLEF branch explained how his members had been determined not to go down in history as the drivers who sold off the 8-hour day for 3%!

Bro. Wood explained how in 1919 railwaymen had fought for the 8-hour day—"now we have to go



General Secretary of ASLEF, Ray Buckton (left) and President Derrek Fullick (head turned, right) arrive at BR head office Rail House for talks on March 1, to the cheers of lobbying ASLEF and NUR members. The meeting lasted only 30 minutes with ASLEF continuing to stand firm against BR's attempts to impose flexi-rostering on railmen. Despite horror stories of 'scuffles' etc in the Tory press, the lobby was in fact quite good humoured. Photo: Militant.

forward with plans to expand the railways, invest and with a policy of cheap fares to open the railway system up to everyone."

Geoff Bright, Chairman of Tinsley NUR branch, explained how local members of the NUR had fully supported ASLEF. What was encouraging to the whole labour movement, was the

solidarity displayed by the drivers. Geoff said there were 550 drivers at Tinsley, and there was never a crack in ASLEF solidarity.

He added the NUR must radically change its own approach of going cap in hand to the government with joint appeals for new investment with the British Rail Board.

In the past, there was a drop in route miles from 20,000 down to 11,000 and out of what is left, 800 miles are already overdue for replacement. Jobs at Tinsley (South Yorkshire) had gone down from 650 to about 400 in the NUR grades, and that is only in the last 14 months! In real terms this is not produc-

tivity—it is just old fashioned redundancies.

The meeting ended with a call for modernisation of the railways linked to a fully integrated transport system. Only such a programme could provide an expanding transport system both in terms of jobs and services, if placed in the context of a socialist planned economy.

CIVIL SERVICE UNDER ATTACK- CPSA - VOTE MACCREADIE



John Macreadie

Victory for John Macreadie in the CPSA General Secretary election will mean a major step forward in the fight to defend the jobs and living standards of civil servants.

With John Macreadie as Deputy General Secretary the Civil and Public Ser-

vants Association will have a leader who will not let them down.

Meetings will be taking place this and next week in the elections for this, one of the most important positions in the union. John, the present Civil Aviation Authority Group Secretary, is the candidate of the left.

If the policies decided upon year after year at successive CPSA Annual Conferences; are to be implemented then a massive vote for John Macreadie is vital.

Branches must ensure that meetings are held to discuss the elections, and that where possible the branch Executive Committee makes a recommendation in favour of Macreadie. If branches are holding Annual General meetings these meetings should also discuss the nominations.

The Tories are threatening to continue their assault on civil service living standards. By implementing the policies of Macreadie, CPSA can defeat this attack

and go forward.

John Macreadie stands for:

- A minimum wage of £90
- Pay claims to be drawn up by members through their delegates to special Pay Conferences
- Immediate reconvening of all local strike committees in preparation for any necessary action to achieve this year's claim
- Opposition to all job cuts, reductions in services, hiving-off and denationalisation
- No agreements on New

Technology without a 35-hour week and no loss of jobs

- One democratic union for civil servants
- One democratic union for Posts and Telecommunications
- The closed shop and the defence of trade unions' rights
- The re-affiliation of our union to the Labour Party and the election of a Labour government to carry out policies in favour of working people
- Election of all full-time

officials by a membership vote and for the implementation of conference decisions

- For the pay of CPSA officials to be related more closely to that of CPSA members.



Tony Benn speaks to thousands of YOPS workers on 25 February lobby. Photo: Militant.

PLESSEY BATHGATE- Historic victory but bosses still on warpath

"In the Court of Session, yesterday, history was made". That was how Labour MP Tam Dalyell summed up the victory of the Plessey workers last Friday.

He was addressing a rally of thousands, who marched through Bathgate on Saturday, in support of the sit-in which has become a focal point for the whole labour movement in the fight to save jobs.

A summons to appear in person before Lord Kincaid brought 141 workers to court to explain why they had not complied with an interim interdict granted to Plessey on 4 February ordering them to leave the occupied factory.

Their lawyer argued that "the sit-in is vital to the workers, because it is the only realistic method of saving their livelihood.

"I use the term livelihood

because in Bathgate, unemployment is 23% and the current redundancies would move that figure up to 30%.

"If my clients don't have jobs in Plessey's factory, they will not find jobs anywhere else. They honestly hold that the sit-in is the only really effective form of industrial action open to them."

By Pat Craven

The Judge concluded "that section 13 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act of 1974, might afford a relevant defence and justify the actions of the workers if it was in furtherance of a Trade Dispute.

"It may be that sit-in's are legalised by that section. I myself doubt it, but I can't at this stage affirm with confidence that it does not.

In the circumstances, the balance is clearly in favour of recalling the Interim Interdict."

The workers were delighted with the decision, but have no illusions that their fight is over. Speaking at the Saturday Rally, Convenor, George Wilson, pointed out that "Plessey are in the forefront of the fight for tougher Tory policies.

Indeed their personnel director appeared in Panorama supporting Tebbit's new Bill.

"We are not just fighting for our jobs, but for the right to fight for our jobs." He stressed that "the courts will never resolve big issues like this in our favour". Plessey will appeal and this is due to be heard on Thursday.

"Plessey are going to come at us with the big guns". AUEW Convenor Ina Scott told the rally, "now more than ever we need help from the trade union movement around

us. Only by your help can we win through."

In the first three quarters of the current financial year, Plessey made £79 million profit, (£18 million more than the same period last year). Yet this massive firm is determined to victimise the 200 workers occupying their Bathgate factory.

"They have thrown the book at us" said George Wilson, "They have sacked us and taken away our redundancy payments. A victory for us is a victory for you.

"The fight must now be fully developed into England and Wales. We've got to hurt Plessey, and hurt where it counts. Yesterday was a historic victory, but we have to rely on the support of the trade union movement and the community."

Please continue to send in your donations and resolutions of support, to Mary Murphy, 30 Main Street, Fauldhouse, West Lothian.

DUMP TORIES CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

the organisers from the platform. But to describe this small incident as a riot is an utter lie.

What the Tories and their Fleet Street buddies fear is that the anger of youth is now taking an organised form. What have they got to offer YOPsters? Far from ending the appalling exploitation of young full time workers on a pittance of £25, they want to extend that scheme and bring the money down to £15!

They have nothing to offer except the claims that decent pay and a guaranteed job are 'wild expectations'!

Under capitalism these will always be considered 'extreme'. The answer lies in joining the fight to change the system. If they can't afford to give us a decent life, then we can't afford them!

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