

# Militant

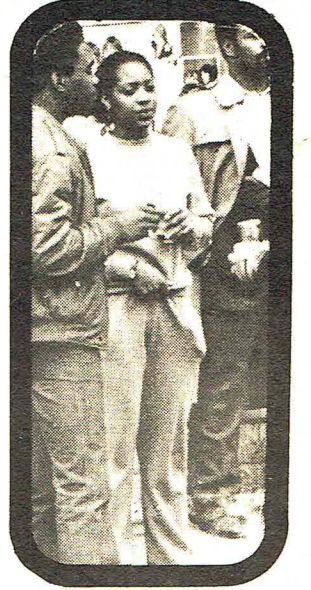
THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

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20p

## RACIALISM

Is positive  
discrimination  
the answer?  
pages 8-9



# DEFEND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

“London Transport will be finished if we allow these cuts to go through”.

This comment by Ken McMahon on the picket line at Ash Grove Garage, Hackney was echoed by tens of thousands of London Transport (LT) bus and tube workers who struck on 10 March to defend jobs and services.

The 200% increase in fares in 2 stages beginning

By  
**Vicky Matthews  
& Dave Webb**  
(Hackney Central LPYS)

March 21 will mean a 25% cut in services, at least 5,000 redundancies and a further huge fares rise later this year—unless the Tories are put firmly in their place.

Furthermore, the attacks on public transport will be repeated around the country if they succeed in London.

It is an issue concerning all workers. How will

## PROTECT JOBS, CHEAP FARES

workers get to work if fares are allowed to go up by amounts like 70% in West Midlands or 200% as in London?

There was little logic in the decision by the Tory Law Lords to overrule the GLC's Fares Fair policy. LT will only become “profitable” the fewer people use it! This will put even more stress on congested and unrepaired roads in London. The *Financial Times* described the North and South Circular Roads as “suburban settlements linked by traffic jams”.

Nowhere does urban public transport make a profit. Subsidies to LT even under the Fares Fair scheme were low compared to most European cities.

South Yorkshire with cheap fares and a 65% subsidy has had an increase in public transport usage every year of the cheap fares scheme while other public transport systems have declined rapidly.

The *Sun* on 10 March accused a TGWU rep at

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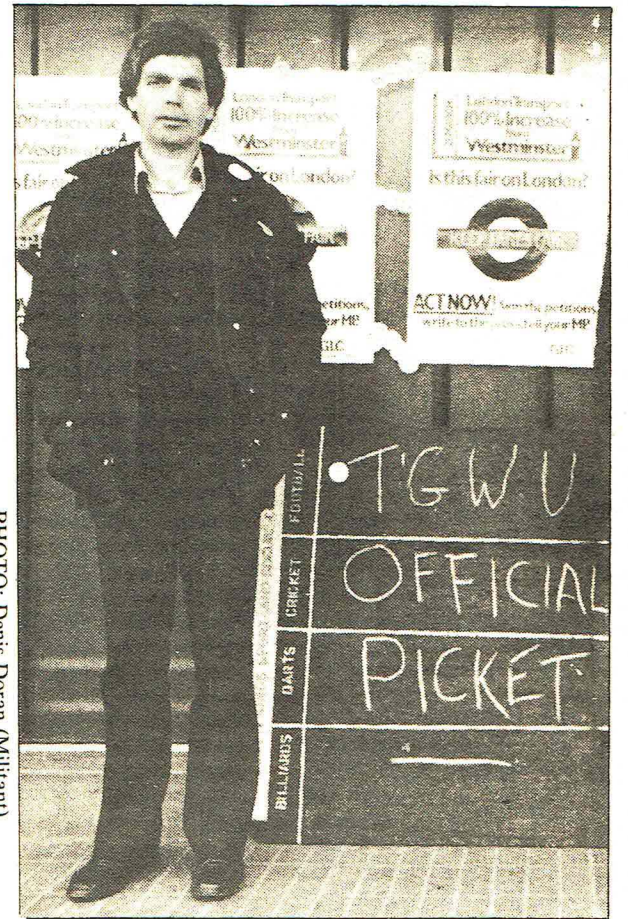


PHOTO: Denis Doran (Militant)

10 March. On picket duty to save jobs and services

## Are you coming to YS Conference?

Just three weeks to go to the Labour Party Young Socialists' National Conference.

Make sure you are booked for the best socialist conference of the year. Erith and Crayford LPYS have booked 45 places.

Hackney Central have booked 20 places and are organising a sponsored walk, a sponsored swim and a rock gig to pay for unemployed, school

students and YOPsters attending.

Make sure you don't miss out on four days of socialism (details page 5).



LPYS members on 25 February YOPS lobby

Photo: MILITANT

## HILLHEAD-

All eyes are on the Glasgow Hillhead by-election, where recent opinion polls show the Tories, SDP and Labour running neck and neck.

Predictably, the Tories have played down the main issues of mass unemployment, poverty, and cuts in public expenditure.

Malone the Tory candidate rants about law and order, rather than answer questions about the insanity of Trident II, wage cuts for nurses and teachers, or the proposed closure of the Weir Westgarth Plant in Glasgow.

The SDP's Jenkins is finding it more difficult than Warrington, trying to get credibility by publicising a handful of local defectors from the Labour Party.

His policies, when he dares to put forward any, will not answer the problems facing working people in Hillhead.

What solution do the SDP offer to the Clydeside area described last month in an SDA report as the “ultimate urban problem area in North West Europe, topping as it does, the lists of nearly every

# Labour Must Win

By David  
Churchley

undesirable economic, social and cultural indicator.

“Its older housing is appalling, its industrial base is exceptionally weak, and its financial problems are daunting.”

Labour can win Hillhead with radical socialist policies. The labour movement should use this opportunity to mount a campaign to show the Tories that they have outlived their welcome, and to unhinge the SDP bandwagon.

An election victory in Hillhead would be a decisive step in getting rid of the Tory government. It would provide

an ideal springboard for the Labour campaign for jobs and for the TUC opposition to Tebbit's bill.

Labour must campaign clearly for a socialist solution to the urgent problems of jobs, decent wages and housing.

It is unfortunate that Labour candidate has been stampeded by press poison about Pat Wall to disown *Militant*. However this will not detract one bit from the commitment of *Militant* supporters in the party, trade unions and LPYS to fight for a Labour victory.



# Militant

## Budget: False euphoria will be short-lived

**It was more with hope than any real conviction that the press last week almost universally welcomed Howe's latest Budget.**

But only a week later that hope—for an uplift in the economy and with it the fortunes of the Tory Party—already looks rather thin.

It is clear that the direct effect of the measures will worsen the position of the vast majority of workers. Despite the 1979 Tory election manifesto promise to "cut income tax at all levels to reward hard work," British workers have never been as heavily taxed as they are at present.

According to research by the Institute of Fiscal Studies, a worker would have to earn over £30,000 a year, (£600 a week) to benefit from the Budget. For the majority, the increased National Insurance contributions, really a form of taxation, cancel out the so-called 'gains' of the raising of tax allowances in line with inflation.

The category to have suffered the worst cut in living standards has been the unemployed. The short-term unemployed are having their earnings-related benefit abolished, effectively cutting their income by over £13 a week. What benefits there are for the unemployed and the sick are now subject to tax.

Tax is now being levied on those who are earning as much as £15 below supplementary benefits level—supposedly the level of the poorest of all. That says it all, as far as this government is concerned!

The Budget measures, therefore, will do nothing to stem the growing opposition to Tory policies. But neither will they make any significant impact on the economy. As Peter Shore commented sarcastically, Howe is "fine-tuning a slump."

The two years 1980/81 saw a decline in economic output of 5.5%, the decline of manufacturing specifically was much greater: something of the order of 19%. Thatcher's answer to the crisis of British capitalism has been to drive down living standards by high unemployment creating at the same time the worst recession in British industry for over 100 years.

Apart from real benefits given to the rich in the form of concessions on Capital Gains Tax, Stamp Duty etc, the real budget give-away was for big business. There will be cheaper energy, and less taxes in the form of lower National Insurance contributions.

These measures will, at an optimistic estimate, increase output by only 1.5%, not

nearly enough to prevent unemployment rising by (according to the government's own estimates) 300,000 this year. By the end of 1982, there will be well over 1 million long-term unemployed.

Nor is there the slightest guarantee that increased output and profits will go anywhere near creating new investment and jobs in the future. What increase in output there will be can easily be absorbed in the twenty-odd per cent of spare capacity existing in industry.

**A worker would have to earn over £600 a week to benefit from the Tory Budget. But Labour cannot fight Tory attacks on living standards by calling for sacrifices dressed up as a new 'Social Contract'**

The removal of exchange controls has resulted in a massive outflow of cash to investments and currencies abroad—£8 billion a year outflow at current rates—and any new profits generated in industry are likely to follow.

The tightening squeeze on living standards will in any case, have a further deflationary effect on industry as workers find that they quite simply cannot afford to buy goods.

There is, in other words, no prospect at all that the Budget can in some miraculous way create a substantial economic upswing. Even the happier forecasts of lowered inflation are looked at with scepticism by some economists.

The London Business School report on the Budget noted that by the next general election in 1984 output would be lower, unemployment more than twice as high and inflation higher than when the Tories came to office.

Despite the attempts of Tory leaders to paint a picture of peace and harmony—the "Tory Bishops Stortford"—panic and splits still lie just below the surface.

This week, for the third

month running, output has fallen again. Manufacturing has dipped to the lowest point since 1967.

Despite Howe's seeming obliviousness, his colleagues are seriously worried about further social unrest arising from inner-city deprivation and unemployment.

The editorial in the 'Observer' commented, "Does he have to wait until riots and unemployment-related crimes force his hand? Because if ever there was an incitement to further social unrest, it is the Government's continuing refusal to recognise that unemployment, not inflation is now the central economic issue of our time."

The loss of the Hillhead by-election, massive losses in the May local elections and more riots in summer: any or all of these will bring the alarm bells out again in the Tory Party to shatter the false euphoria of the Budget.

Labour must now campaign for a genuine alternative to Toryism. The Labour leadership this week have launched their own policy, including unfortunately what was described by Michael Foot as a new "Social Contract."

Despite the clear decisions of the Labour Party conference against wage restraint and despite all the bitter experiences of 1974-79, Labour's leaders seem determined to have an incomes policy as the basis of the next Labour Government's economic policy.

Such a policy would be a disaster. What benefits workers would gain by lower unemployment, would be more than matched by the sacrifice of other workers holding their wages in check as prices rise. It is even possible that a campaign on the lines of a 'Social Contract' could lose Labour the next election.

Labour must explain to workers that the only hope to defend or improve their living standards is for fundamental social change. On the basis of the weak crisis-ridden British capitalism there is no future for workers, with either deflation or reflation.

The socialist transformation of society, involving the nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies, the banks and finance houses, and the establishment of a socialist plan of production, is the only programme that can offer an end to the continual cycle of sacrifices faced by British workers.

Labour must expose the rottenness of the Tory Budget and Tory policies in general, but their condemnation of Thatcher and Howe will have a hollow ring if they are followed by demands for new sacrifices, however they may be dressed up under a Labour government as a 'Social Contract'!

## PRESS DISTORTIONS REACH ALL-TIME LOW

When it comes to attacking Marxists in the labour movement, no smear is too dirty or too inaccurate for the capitalist press to use. *Militant* supporters are well known in the labour movement for consistent and total opposition to the tactics of terrorism and bombings used by the Provisional IRA (see article page 4).

But that did not stop an article in the London evening paper *The Standard* (10 March) from saying that *Militant* had links with the Provisionals. *The Standard* interviewed John McKeever, who claimed to have been an active member of the Provisionals both in London and as a member of active service units in Derry and the border areas.

"I made a couple of trips back to England," McKeever claimed, "to see how things were progressing, mostly on the political side. I was liaison officer with the Militant Tendency.

I used to be invited to their meetings."

Even Sinn Fein in Belfast were not convinced by this story. They told a *Guardian* reporter that of all the British groups it had contacted, *Militant* was not one of them. They did not even have an address for the paper.

Peter Taaffe, editor of *Militant* issued an immediate press statement pointing out that McKeever's story was "a complete lie" and that it was published in *The Standard* "without any attempt being made by the journalist who wrote the story to check its authenticity with *Militant*..."

"*Militant* is, and always has been implacably opposed to terrorism" the statement went on. "We opposed the Provisional IRA right from its inception. We utterly condemned the Birmingham bombings, the London bombings and the cam-

paign of assassinations in Britain and Ireland by the Provos.

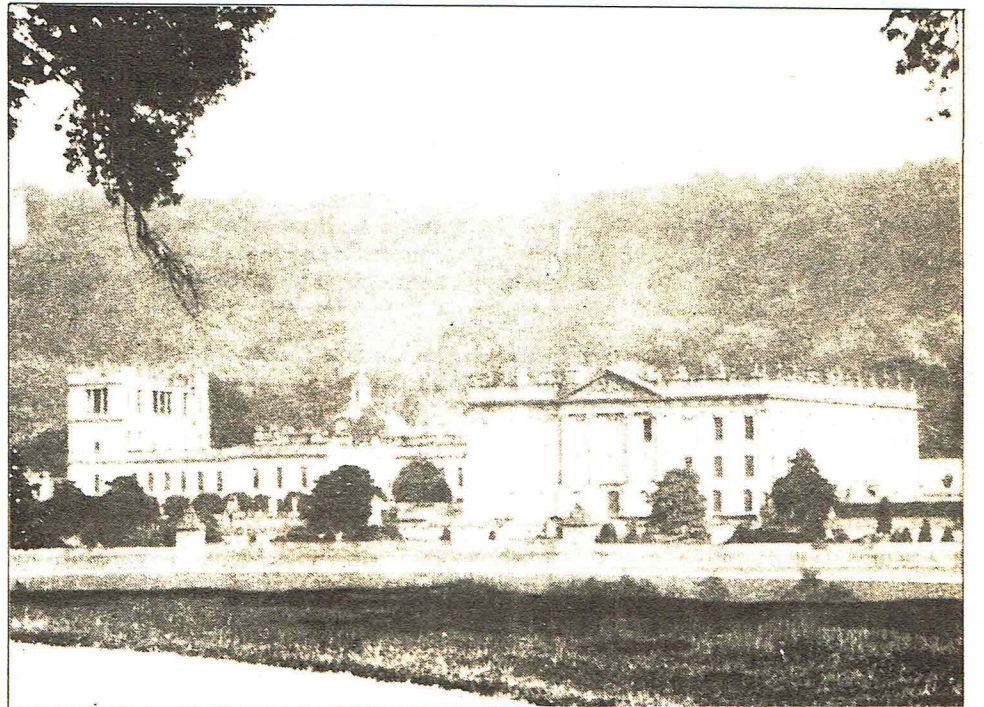
"We have demanded a public retraction by the Evening Standard and have consulted our solicitors with a view to legal action."

*The Standard* published only a part of this statement and only *The Times* who had repeated the story published the retraction in anywhere near its entirety. Once more, the National Union of Journalists 'Code of Professional Conduct' has been totally ignored by the reporters' failure to check up any part of this allegation with *Militant*.

Plainly the press hope that if enough mud and dirt is thrown at *Militant*, then eventually some will stick.

By Roger Shrivs

## ANOTHER 'COMMON MAN' FOR THE SDP



The latest recruit to the SDP lives in this modest little cottage in Derbyshire

The Eleventh Duke of Devonshire has left the Tories to join the SDP. One of the richest men in Britain, he owns Chatsworth House, in Derbyshire, has five other homes and has a chauffeur-driven black Bentley.

A typical member of the aristocracy, his father was a Tory MP for West Derbyshire for 14 years, before entering the Lords. The Duke himself stood for the Tories in Chesterfield in 1945 and 1950.

He was President of the Tory Associations of Chesterfield, West Derbyshire, and High Peak, and to complete the picture in 1960 he became Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Commonwealth Relations Office, later becoming a Minister of State for Commonwealth Relations.

The Prime Minister at the time was Harold McMillan, who just happens to be the Duke's uncle! Clearly just the man to bring a fresh approach to politics!

Now, he says, "the Tories economic policies are all Double Dutch to me".

He thinks Britain should be run like the rest of Europe and have a government which is "marginally left of centre...but not very far left." Did he rush to join the SDP? No, he talked it over with Roy Jenkins first.

"I felt the last thing the SDP needed was a rich Duke...but Mr Jenkins said that was OK." "We are delighted to have him in the SDP" said Mr Jenkins.

The voters in Hillhead

and elsewhere will see this latest recruit to the SDP as further evidence of the true nature of the SDP. While Roy Jenkins is driving round Glasgow to the tune of the "Common Man" his political allies include directors and Dukes, whose only knowledge of common men, is from their servants, chauffeurs and gardeners.

By John Dale  
(Bolsover CLP)

## OBITUARY

We are sad to report the death of Jillian Apps, the daughter of Ray and Joyce Apps after a long illness. The Editorial Board of *Militant* send their condolences to Ray, Joyce and the family. No flowers by request but any donations to Turner Home, Tilbury Place, Brighton.



## Labour Party

## Reports

## Labour Party Scottish Conference

This year's Labour party Scottish Conference was held in the shadow of next Thursday's by-election in Glasgow Hillhead. Delegates were anxious to project an image of unity and optimism, confident that Labour can achieve a historic victory there.

Nevertheless, the Conference decisions all confirmed the strides to the left which the whole Party has taken over the last few years. Support for the alternative economic strategy, total opposition to Trident II and the Employment Bill, and the repeal of the Tory legislation which is crippling Labour local authorities were all agreed to.

Unfortunately, however, resolutions which put forward a Marxist programme and the strategy to mobilise a massive campaign to bring down the Thatcher government and bring to power a Labour Government pledged to clear, socialist policies, were all defeated on the recommendation of the Executive.

In his Chairman's address, George Galloway quoted George Bernard Shaw, who said "people look at what is and ask why.

By Pat Craven

Socialists look at what could be and ask why not?"

This was taken up by Gordon Wilson of West Stirlingshire moving a Composite resolution on public ownership...

"Why not a job for the young comrades who spoke in the Conference about YOPs? Why not a decent wage for all? Why not a job for the Plessey workers? Why not decent homes and social services? Why not comrades? Because of the system, the capitalist system, because of profit, because of wealth and power for the minority, and unemployment and insecurity for the rest."

He concluded that "it is time for Labour to seize the commanding heights of the economy. That is why

clause IV part IV is so important. It represents the way forward to socialism, and an end to the horrors of Toryism and capitalism."

On the issue of fighting the cuts, Keith Simpson, Edinburgh East, argued the case for "a wide campaign of opposition involving the Labour Party, the unions and the sympathetic community organisations in a coordinated fight."

In an important debate on Northern Ireland, Lewis Matheson of Glasgow Durham, pointed out the extent of unemployment and deprivation—"there are now more people unemployed in Northern Ireland than are employed in the whole of manufacturing industry." He called for a Party of Labour "to fight for a socialist solution to the problems of poverty, want and exploitation, and resolve the question of the border on a socialist basis."

A resolution opposing "any attacks on any section of the Party, such as supporters of the *Militant* newspaper, campaigning for their ideas within the Party," was not called. However, the Chairman, George Galloway, opened Conference with a fierce

condemnation of witch-hunts; "we cannot allow one member after another to be cast into the lions den as heretics to be persecuted."

"We want a broad front which will give us the power to change this society. This will be impossible if the thought police of the 1950s are patrolling the highways of our minds, writings and speeches."

This year's *Militant* meeting was by far the biggest ever held at Scottish Conference. Drawn by the prospect of hearing Pat Wall, Labour selected for Bradford North, over 100 people crammed into the room, and were not disappointed.

Pat 'put the record straight' as far his views were concerned, after all the distortions in the press. He described the absolute nightmare situation which working people are facing. "There will be a tremendous fightback by workers to recover their living standards."

£130 was collected for the Fighting fund. The meeting proved that Marxism is still alive and well within the Scottish labour movement.

## Rents Policy Vetoed

An argument erupted at the March meeting of the NEC's Press & Publicity Committee, concerning the leaflet for the forthcoming local council elections. A month previously the Home Policy Committee, and then

the full NEC, had approved a motion from Dennis Skinner, seconded by John Golding, that the next Labour government would freeze council rents for its first year of office.

However, in the leaflet

for the May elections—"Blame the Tories for your Rent Rise!"—this commitment has disappeared without trace. When pressed, the party's Director of Publicity Max Madden revealed that their had been objections from Gerald Kaufman (Shadow Environment Secretary) and

other Parliamentary spokesmen.

The meeting passed a resolution re-affirming the decision of the Home Policy Committee. This illustrates the need for the party membership to maintain the pressure on the NEC on questions of policy.



"When the history of this government is written, the worst chapter will be reserved for youth," an FBU delegate said in the debate on unemployment and youth opportunities, the best and by far the liveliest at the East Midlands Regional Labour Party Conference last weekend. "The Labour Party must draw up a national plan" he added, "offering youth real jobs and real opportunities."

On Saturday lunch-time YOP workers and LPYS members had lobbied the Conference demanding 'Jobs not YOPs,' undoubtedly helping to win support for Resolution 33 from Louth CLP which called for the replacement of YOPs by a scheme of useful public works, together with a campaign to organise YOP workers in trade unions and to win trade union pay and conditions. The resolution was passed despite,

unbelievably, opposition from the Executive.

There were several fringe meetings at this year's conference. At a Campaign for Labour Party Democracy meeting Bob Cryer MP defended Pat Wall's record in the Party and said no one had objected on the several occasions Pat had stood as a candidate in local council elections.

Despite the cancellation of the *Militant* Readers' Meeting two days before

conference due to the withdrawal of the booking for the room where it was to be held, *Militant's* ideas did get a hearing at a Young Socialist meeting organised at a few hour's notice. This attracted some thirty delegates, and afterwards an older delegate said he would be willing to help set up a YS branch in his constituency.

By Chris Ridge

## EETPU delegates conference

The Scottish Regional Conference of the EETPU Labour Party delegates saw rank and file members object strongly to witch-hunt attempts by the union leaders.

The chairman, executive councillor Alf McLuckie, limited the discussion on Tory attacks on the working class but had time to ask for suggestions on how to implement a resolution calling for witch-hunts in the party!

Only two or three delegates out of 90 called for expulsion of *Militant* supporters, far outweighed by those opposing expulsions, bans and proscriptions, with delegates pointing out who were the real infiltrators, the SDP and those who invited them back into the party.

The EETPU leadership were condemned for their suggestions—that would destroy Labour—to split the union from the party. Some are calling for the American method of branches individually affiliating to whatever political party they choose.

A resolution to take no action on an earlier witch-hunting motion was refused by the chairman who threatened to close the conference. Attempts were also made to suppress discussion on the withdrawal of sponsorship (at the end of this Parliament) from Glasgow Central MP Bob McTaggart for "political differences".

Brother McTaggart signed the letter supporting Tony Benn against Denis Healey for the Deputy

leadership. Support for Bob McTaggart was overwhelming with the call for sponsorship to be restored.

Brother McTaggart said he had resisted pressure to take the matter before the Parliamentary Privileges Committee, but would argue his case in the union, thereby giving the Tories no opportunity to attack the trade union movement.

The response of rank and file EETPU members has been such that the leadership have now invited Bob McTaggart to discuss the question. Undoubtedly, many union branches will take this up with the Executive Council to ensure Brother McTaggart is not the victim of a witch-hunt.

Conference was closed prematurely after the Chairman refused to take any other business, including resolutions for Scottish Labour Party conference.

Regional Conferences of EETPU Labour Party delegates must be forums of discussion and debate, to weld together the trade union and the Labour Party.

Rule 25, which recognises the Labour Party as the Party of the organised working class must be expanded to allow open and democratic debate for Labour Party members within the EETPU.

After the Conference closed, £40.60 was raised for the *Militant* Fighting Fund. Noticeably, the right wing had not increased their delegation, whereas the left is now a rising tide within the EETPU.

## Betty Boothroyd's CLP opposes witch-hunt

In his latest attack upon the left of the Labour Party, Terry Duffy, president of the AUEW, condemned the reselection of "loyal, responsible, mature members of Parliament." Terry Duffy has in the past expressed his support for Ben Ford the MP deselected in the Bradford North contest and currently an AUEW-sponsored MP. Ben Ford has stated that if he is not re-selected, then he would consider standing against the Labour Party and it has been reported that the AUEW would consider backing him if he did this.

Labour Party and AUEW members will judge for themselves whether or not these actions can be interpreted as "loyalty" to the Labour Party! Meanwhile Labour Party branches and CLPs are continuing to debate, and overwhelmingly reject, the right-wing witch-hunt being prepared in the party.

Wallsend CLP last week passed a resolution deploring the NEC's refusal to endorse Peter Tatchell and its decision to enquire into *Militant*, at the same time expressing its own opposition to witch-hunts against

any section of the party.

The annual meeting of Chesterfield CLP (Eric Varley's seat), apart from also showing a move to the left in its EC elections, reaffirmed an earlier decision to condemn the witch-hunt against *Militant*.

The CLP of NEC right-winger Betty Boothroyd, West Bromwich West, also passed a motion against "any witch-hunt, expulsion or proscriptions aimed against the supporters of *Militant*." The same resolution also noted that Marxism has always been a genuine strand in the Labour Party and the meeting further agreed to invite a speaker from *Militant* to address the CLP.

The recent deferral of Pat Wall's endorsement and the press attacks on him were deplored in resolutions passed by Hackney Central CLP and Ryde Labour Party branch on the Isle of Wight.

The continued flow of resolutions and protests going to the NEC are a measure of the deep-rooted opposition in the party rank and file against any hounding of Marxists out of the party.



# For workers unity and socialism



The 100th issue of 'Militant Irish Monthly'. For ten years, this paper has fought for socialism, both North and South of the border. Take out an order and keep in touch with developments in Ireland. Order from Militant Irish Monthly, 75 Middle Abbey Street, Dublin 1. Six issues £2. Twelve issues £4.

Ten years ago, the first issue of *Militant Irish Monthly* was headlined, "Ireland—the real issues".

This month, with the publication of its 100th issue, *Militant Irish Monthly* is still the paper which workers throughout Ireland, North and South, can turn to for analysis and campaigns on the real issues.

Capitalism has brought to Ireland nothing but bloodshed, sectarianism, repression and poverty. *Militant Irish Monthly* has consistently fought for workers' unity and socialism as the only alternative.

The savage murder of thirteen unarmed civilians in Derry's Bloody Sunday pushed thousands of youth and workers from the Catholic areas of Northern Ireland in desperation into the Provisional IRA in the early '70s, seeking what they thought was the quick answer of the bomb and the bullet. *Militant* warned then of the dangers of individual terrorism:

"The rage of the Catholic population is entirely understandable. They feel like striking back, with arms, against those responsible for this massacre.

"But to propose a new campaign of terror and reprisals is no way to avenge

the dead. A campaign of individual assassination of British soldiers can only provide an excuse for further repression."

As an article in the 100th issue points out:

"Marxism opposes individual terrorism, counterposing mass action by the working class through their organisations.

"At the time when almost a generation of working class youth held illusions in the methods of the provos... *Militant* warned that such methods would result in isolation, repression and ultimately in defeat.

"Also we warned that, no matter what were the intentions of the provos, their campaign would inevitably stir a sectarian backlash. In 1972 this backlash emerged in the ugly guise of protestant para-militarism."

*Militant* opposed these reactionary forces and when loyalist para-militaries tried to organise work stoppages for their sectarian ends, *Militant* supporters were to the forefront in attempting to resist their plans.

*Militant Irish Monthly* has also taken a class position in relation to the troops which the paper warned from the beginning would be a force for repression, borne out by the more than 2,000 deaths since August 1969.

As early as 1969, *Militant* counterposed action by the trade union movement to

defend workers as the only way of ending sectarian violence.

In 1975-6 the trade unions, particularly Trades Councils in Derry, Lurgan and Newry, gave a vivid demonstration of how this could be achieved when they mobilised tens of thousands of catholic and protestant workers behind a campaign to end sectarianism.

A special supplement of the *Irish Militant* was produced then calling for a stepping up of the action and arguing for a Trade Union Defence force:

"The trade union leaders hope for 500,000 signatures for their Peoples Declaration. Five hundred thousand people represents one third of the entire population of the province.

"To talk in terms of such numbers is to talk in terms of the trade union movement being capable of taking the question of defence into its own hands.

"The trade unions have a basis of support in every workplace and every working class estate. Alone they have the capacity to bring working people from all areas together in a force strong enough to stop the killings."

*Militant Irish Monthly* has also fought for a class-based opposition to repression. The paper warned in April 1981 that "only the labour movement can

secure significant and lasting improvements in prison conditions" stressing that the call of the sectarian based H-Block Committees for action from the "nationalist population" would make the task doubly difficult.

*Militant's* insistence on a struggle for class unity has given publicity to many class actions and struggles neglected by the capitalist press. It has also been the only political newspaper in the North to demand a conference of labour to build a socialist trade union based party.

In the South too, *Militant* has consistently fought for the labour movement to campaign independently for socialism. The consistent opposition of the paper to the Irish Labour Party entering coalition with the Fine Gael capitalist party, which was denounced as a "cowardly retreat" by the paper in March 1973 has been shown to be correct.

The recent elections produced Labour's lowest percentage poll since 1957 after playing second fiddle to Fine Gael's Tory policies.

*Militant Irish Monthly* is more and more looked to in the Irish labour movement as the voice of Marxism. Readers in Britain too should keep abreast of developments in Ireland by placing a regular order for the paper.

## "CRIME STATISTICS"

# POLICE ENCOURAGE RACISM

With a great fanfare, the Tory press have announced the release of new racist "crime statistics", giving for the first time a breakdown of the colour of alleged offenders.

This represents the latest stage of a well orchestrated conspiracy by senior police chiefs to counter growing support for greater accountability and democratic control over their operations.

"Public confidence" in the police has recently been undermined by increasing evidence of serious malpractice, including widespread corruption, systematic harassment of trade unionists, youth, especially blacks, and arbitrary surveillance of political activists, even those who are national figures such as Tony Benn.

Even Lord Scarman was forced to reflect public disquiet over certain aspects of police activities, particularly with regard to special operations like "swamp 81" and the complaints procedure.

Faced with mounting criticism, the police have been obliged to go on the defensive. They initially praised the Scarman Report as "balanced and fair" and the Police Federation in a miraculous about turn, suddenly declared its support for an "independent element" in complaints procedure. Even "community policing" started to find favour again. But this sudden change of heart was a complete sham!

Behind the scenes, police chiefs have been preparing a vicious counter offensive. Firstly, a public propaganda campaign against the idea of community policing led to the resignation of two of its principle advocates, Webb and Alderson.

Then, as predicted by the Labour Committee for the Defence of Brixton, virtually every recommendation put forward by Lord Scarman was later attacked. Recently the Scarman Report itself, along with the repeal of the Sus laws have been blamed for the rise in street crime.

The increasingly aggressive political stance of the police was further shown this week in Anderson's call for the abolition of police committees because of 'subversion', and the new campaign by the Police Federation in favour of capital punishment.

Now the Metropolitan Police have deliberately set out on a vile campaign directed against blacks. They want to whip up racist hysteria for a clamp down on "black muggers" as a

pretext for the continued use of "aggressive" policing methods like the "Swamp" operation.

No socialist can condone acts of violence, which mainly hurt working class people, but the figures issued by the police supposedly showing an "alarming rise in black crime" are a crude distortion. They set out to paint a horrifying picture of marauding black mobs mercilessly attacking old white women.

By cleverly mingling various categories of crime the police give the impression that street crime or so called "muggings" are now out of control and that blacks are largely responsible.

The police figures cover reported robberies and violent theft. But they conveniently fail to say that this category accounts for less than 3% of all serious crime. Moreover they show that the category covering "street robberies" the nearest equivalent to "mugging" only accounted for 0.9% of all serious crime.

## Socialists do not condone crimes of violence but figures supposedly showing a huge rise in "black crime" are a crude distortion

Home Office figures published a few days later showed that the overall percentage increase in crimes of violence against the person was similar to previous years and much lower than the average annual increase of 9% between 1971 and 1979.

This blatant attempt to stir up racism has already led to provocative calls by fascist organisations for the setting up of vigilante groups. The very day the figures were issued a magistrate took the unprecedented move of sentencing a British born youth of West Indian parentage to "five years abroad" being told to "stay in Jamaica".

The labour movement can not condone violent crime and must support action to prevent it but the entire episode reinforces the case for democratic control over the police. At the same time socialists must show clearly the root causes of crime in the poverty and mass unemployment of an increasing number of youth, black and white, in capitalist society.

By Sam Brown



**BRADFORD NORTH:  
Winning support for socialism**

Bradford North Labour Party and particularly its selected candidate Pat Wall have been subjected to a massive smear campaign in the national and local media. Due to the decision of the NEC organisational committee we must go through the selection process again.

This will not stop Bradford North LPYS from putting forward and winning support for the ideas of socialism. We are determined to fight the press attacks in the only way possible—by transforming Bradford North Labour Party into a mass socialist party.

Over the last couple of years the number of Labour Party members has doubled in Bradford North, and as a result of a recent membership drive over 30 new members were gained in one ward alone. On 21 March we will be holding another mass canvass to put over the policies of Bradford North CLP, by talking to people on the doorstep.

An example of the support the Labour Party has in this city was that on 11 March Clayton ward (in Bradford South) was won from the Tories with the SDP being pushed into third place.

This was despite the uncritical gushing support given to the SDP by the local rag *The Telegraph and Argus*. At the recent Yorkshire Labour Party Conference we put on a display of the facts surrounding the selection of Pat Wall, and on this mass canvass we intend to display our alternative to the failed policies of the Tories and the SDP.

By Pat McDonagh  
(Bradford North LPYS)

# THREE WEEKS TO GO!

The Tories are not satisfied with over three million unemployed or with ensuring that two thirds of this summer's school leavers will be without jobs.

They now have two new 'offers' first a "holiday", training with the Army, and secondly the possibility of being deported for five years (see article opposite).

"On yer bike" Tebbit is preparing new Tory attacks on two fronts—cutting YOP pay to £15 a week and using the misnamed "Employment Bill" to try to undermine the strength of the unions.

The Tories offer youth a great choice—poverty or poverty, take it or leave it. Not surprisingly the anger and frustration of youth which led to last summer's riots is building up again.

But rioting will not solve the problems. The point is how can this anger be used to change society?

These are some of the questions which will be discussed at the Labour Party Young Socialists Annual Conference this Easter (see details below).

Every young trade unionist should come along. Join up with more than two thousand other young socialists in working out the fighting socialist policies that we will be taking out to young workers and unemployed in the next year.

Many trade unions at national and regional level will sponsor people. The General and Municipal Workers Union and National Union of Public Employees are sending one from each of their divisions. The AUEW Youth con-

Stan Pearce, Wearmouth Lodge NUM:

"I started down the pits in 1946. I've been to many meetings—Labour Party, trade union and so on—but I've never heard such a high level of political debate as you hear at this conference."

By Kevin Ramage  
(National Chairman, Labour Party Young Socialists)

ference will be electing seven young workers to come along.

Many local union branches, shop stewards committees, local Labour Party branches etc will sponsor one of their members or make a donation to help someone unemployed, at school or on a Youth Opportunities Programme to come along.

## North West Regional Conference

The retiring Regional Labour Party Youth Officer, Frank Aveyard, pointed out that a decade ago the annual conference of the North West LPYS attracted 30 members.

Last weekend's conference in Blackpool was attended by 160 delegates and visitors from the great majority of the Region's 60 branches.

Opening the 'Militant' rally at the end of the first day, John Hunt (LPYS National Committee-elect) pointed to the enormous role 'Militant' had played in developing the LPYS amongst working class youth.

It was as in appreciation of this, and a measure of the overwhelming support for 'Militant's' Marxist ideas that a collection at the meeting for the fighting fund raised £108.80 with a further £35 in IOUs.

By Leon Kaplan  
(Delegate, Ardwick LPYS)



Photo: Militant

Last year's Militant Readers' Meeting was as usual the highlight of the Young Socialists' conference. At this year's meeting on Sunday 11 April, speakers include Ted Grant and other leading speakers in the movement

## LPYS CONFERENCE 1982

Bridlington April 9-12.

Speakers include Tony Benn MP, Denis Skinner MP, and Alan Sapper (president of the TUC).

Conference debates. Special evening rallies on Black and Asian youth fight for socialism, and the struggle for socialism in Latin America.

For further information/free posters, leaflets and trade union letters contact Andy Bevan, LPYS, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.

STOP PRESS: Top reggae group 'Weapons of Peace' will be playing at the LPYS Conference on Friday 9 April and Sunday 11 April

Richard Matz, unemployed from Chelmsford:

"I've found it very inspiring. It's been great being together with a couple of thousand like-minded people. It makes you realise you're not alone, you're not isolated—there's other people with the same ideas as you."

"I've talked to people from other areas, like Doncaster and North Wales, and it's amazing how much we've got in common."

# Come to LPYS conference

Kevin Fernandes (Vauxhall LPYS) interviewed Vincent Leon, a local bus conductor, who is a Labour candidate in the May council elections, in Vassall Ward, Lambeth Borough.



Vincent Leon

## Why I'm standing for council

KF: Why are you standing for council?

VL: During the Brixton riots last year, I never saw any black leaders on television who were elected by the people—they were all self-appointed.

When they were speaking, they weren't speaking for all the people. Because 24% of Lambeth's population is black, it goes without saying that there should be black representatives.

Lambeth as a whole wants a lot of recreation and social facilities for the old, the young, and the unemployed. There should be jobs and equal opportunities for all. Also, the trade unions must step up the campaign for a shorter working week. There should be no discrimination

in employment.

KF: What do you think about the strategy of Lambeth council, in relation to the cuts and rate rises?

VL: The rates went up by 40% last year. This year they will be brought down. But I've always been totally opposed to rises in rates and rents to offset cuts. Unfortunately, despite the rate rises, there have been cuts anyway, through voluntary redundancy and vacancies not being filled. I am opposed to cuts in services.

KF: On the issue of the police, what do you think should be done?

VL: Confidence between police and the community has broken down completely. Until that confidence is rebuilt, there will always be

disturbances.

There must be law and order, but at the same time the police must be accountable, and not a law unto themselves. Local authority police committees should have democratic control over the police, including the top officers.

KF: What are your views on the Fares Fair policy of the GLC?

VL: Well I think the Fares Fair policy is a good one, and should continue; but I don't think it will get off the ground again until there's a change in government. This government won't change the law.

KF: After the one-day strike, how do you see the London Transport campaign going?

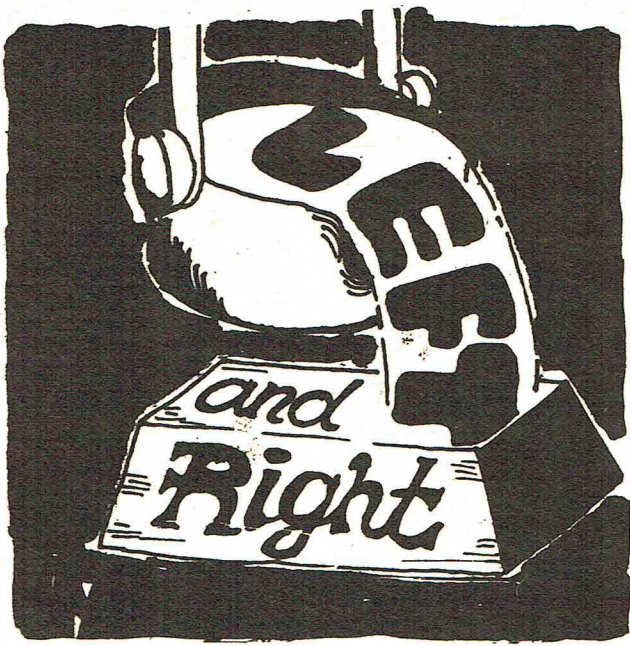
VL: The strike did show our

strength, but the Tories are hoping the campaign will die out, after one day. The best way to get the campaign going is an all-out strike of public sector workers, to get the government to cave in.

KF: The SDP—what alternative are they?

VL: They are no alternative—just the Tories' second eleven. In Islington, the SDP council is going to close nurseries, community centres and libraries. The SDP cannot be trusted. People like Shirley Williams voted for Tebbit's Employment Bill—an attack on trade union rights, and on the ability of workers to defend living standards. The SDP/Liberal Alliance supports wage controls, while letting prices rise.





## Does the CP welcome debate?

A special prize for hypocrisy must go to the *Morning Star* for its editorial on 8 March on how to combat *Militant* supporters in the Labour Party. This "will not be done", the editorial stated, "by a witch-hunt which will supposedly purge the Labour Party of its problems. The problems will only be solved if they are brought out into the open and tackled politically through open political debate and mass political activity".

And so say all of us. *Militant* would welcome such debate; it has nothing to fear from a clash of ideas. But does the Communist Party? In the British Communist Party Trotskyists who stood for the defence of the ideas of the 1917 Revolution were hounded out of the party, their ideas never being allowed proper debate. The CP issued leaflets saying treat a Trotskyist like you would a Fascist.

If the leadership of the CP has now been forced to change its tune, it is because Marxism in the modern world, ie Trotskyism, can no longer be fought in the old way. But in the Stalinist states Marxists are still imprisoned. Thousands have been murdered, including Trotsky himself, because they opposed the Stalinist dictatorship.

Will the CPs internationally open up an "open political debate" on Stalinism?

## "Won't you come home Bill Bayliss"

It hasn't taken long for the careerists who left the Labour Party to join the SDP to show the organisational manoeuvres so beloved by Labour's right-wing. Bill Bayliss, an Islington Councillor who defected to the SDP last year, and is now a member of Britain's only SDP council, is worried that middle-class SDP members may not re-select him for this May's local elections.

Now Islington SDP had written into their constitution that only members who were fully paid up by 8 December 1981 would be able to take part in selection procedures. So who turns up on 8 December at national SDP conference with 145 membership applications and a single cheque for most of them, but Bill Bayliss.

Unfortunately the local party refused to allow these members to take part in selection as they had not gone through the local party secretary. That has not stopped Bill. He has called a special meeting to try to alter the 8 December deadline.

Labour right-wing MPs must be looking nostalgically at this scene, wishing that more people like Bill Bayliss were still in the Labour Party to use such organisational skill in their defence.

## 50 years ago

Play it again Sam! The following quote comes from President Hoover, as he tried to get re-elected in 1932.

"We all of us are struggling to reduce the cost of government, we are struggling to avoid national and state and municipal borrowings, our tax revenues have greatly diminished, we must find new tax revenues to supplement those sources which have been dried up by the depression. So far as our deficit cannot be made up by drastic reductions of expenditure, we must resolutely balance our budgets".

Hoover 1932, it could be Thatcher or Reagan 1982. Same idea, make the workers pay for the bosses recession. Still Hoover lost the election.

# 'BEYOND THE COLD WAR'

"Not the Dimpleby Lecture" by E P Thompson is an account of the speech which the BBC banned in 1981—despite protests from thousands of viewers and the Dimpleby family.

"Beyond the Cold War" is the theme and he makes a number of valid points. He confirms what *Militant* has said long enough: that the Stalinist bureaucracy and Western imperialism are "symbiotic"—they use each other as an external threat to maintain their own power and privileges.

He counters Lord Carrington's myth of Soviet expansionism in Western Europe by pointing out that if this is their aim they have made an almighty mess-up of it. They have had, and will have, enough problems in Eastern Europe—the loss of Yugoslavia and Albania and the revolts in Hungary '56, Czechoslovakia 68, Poland '81 and so forth—without bothering about taking over the West.

He also points out that although Marxism is an established tendency in the working-class movement, Stalinism has no basic attraction to workers in the West. He correctly says that the workers of East and West have nothing to gain and everything to lose from the arms race. So far so good.

However, his solution is the breaking up of NATO and the Warsaw Pact and the creation of nuclear-free zones in Europe, which would eventually include the entire continent. Of course in a socialist society there would be a nuclear-free Europe and a nuclear-free world for that matter.



E P Thompson speaking at a 250,000-strong CND rally

But workers can have no trust in their employers to defend their interests—the clear and simple demand to disarm Thatcher and the class she represents is the source of the Labour Party and TUC decisions on unilateralism. The bosses cannot be trusted even with a pop-gun.

E P Thompson recognises *Militant's* argument that peace treaties are no solution—on the contrary they usually precede wars. Instead he talks of the politics of peace", which "cannot be conducted by

politicians."

Thus he reflects the attitude of many young CND members who have had enough of the career politicians who have dominated the labour movement for so long. The problem is that such an attitude lets the labour leaders off the hook.

He seems to forget that war (and peace) is the continuation of politics by other methods. The hesitations and prevarications of the Labour leaders over unilateralism are not an isolated incident; it is just one example of their inability

Derek McMillan reviews E P Thompson's pamphlet, 'Not the Dimpleby Lecture'

ty to break with capitalism. As Disraeli once pointed out, "Whatever government may be in office, the Conservatives are always in power." As long as the capitalist class retains their power and wealth they can use them to subvert the programme of the Labour Party.

With the best will in the world, no amount of pressure from writers, churches and choirs is going to persuade British capitalists to make Britain part of a nuclear-free zone against the wishes of American big business. It will require political action by the mass organisations of the working class. But even then no capitalist government would stay 'neutral' (or its people safe) in a nuclear war between East and West.

On a capitalist basis, E P Thompson's idea of a united Europe cannot be realised but the creation of a genuine workers' democracy in any one major country in Europe would act as a beacon to the workers of East and West and encourage them to fight for a socialist federation which would abolish national boundaries and passports and would have no need for weapons of mass destruction.

The bomb is not a workers' weapon. Our grandchildren will only half believe us when we tell them about this final horror of the bad old days of capitalism. But if we are to live that long we have to use our weapons—agitation, education and organisation—to the full.

# SECRET MI5 COMPUTER CAN 'FILE' EVERYONE

Recent reports in the *New Statesman* and *Computing* have revealed details of a new £20 million computer system set up by MI5, capable of holding records on every adult in Britain.

This huge system has been installed over the last four years without the knowledge of approval of Parliament.

The project was started in 1978, so who in the then Labour government knew or approved this scheme, and why has it been kept from the rest of the labour movement, or is the Ministry of Defence so powerful that they can spend £20m without government approval?

The computer system is based on two inter-linked ICL 2980 computers and 100 magnetic disk drives which can hold a massive 20,000 million bytes (or words) of information!

Sited in a MOD building in Mayfair's Mount Row, near MI5's headquarters in Curzon Street, the system will link into other government files at the DHSS,

DOE, Inland Revenue, Vehicle Registration etc. Presumably it will be linked to the extensive files now held by the police and special branch on trade union and political activists.

This alarming news comes at a time when the Tories are back-peddling on plans to establish a Data Protection Authority, a long overdue body which would monitor the misuse of personal information and 'safeguard' the rights of individuals, giving them access to and the right to correct or delete information held about them.

As long ago as 1972, the Younger Commission on Privacy recommended ten principles: 1) Information should be held for a specific purpose and not used for other, unauthorised purposes. 2) Access should be restricted to those authorised to use the information for the purpose specified. 3) Only the minimum information necessary should be held.

4) Computer systems should make indexes available for inspection. 5) Individuals should have access to all information about them. 6) Security against misuse should be designed into all systems.

7) There should be proper monitoring of this security. 8) All information no longer required should be destroyed or deleted. 9) There should be machinery for the correction of inaccuracies. 10) Care should be taken in coding value judgements.

Clearly the MI5 system will contravene all these principles. But it isn't just MI5 who need to be looked into. Secret blacklists of trade unionists held by employers' organisations, credit blacklists, the use of criminal records, police files, university and college records, and so on, all need urgent investigation.

The Tories are proposing a purely token body of one registrar with 20 staff. Such a body will be completely swamped by the vast number and complexity of computer systems which now operate.

The labour movement should demand the abolition of all undemocratic and secretive bodies like MI5 and the immediate implementation of the ten principles, particularly the rights of individuals to access and change all information held about them. The next Labour government must be committed to

passing and enforcing legislation to this effect, and destroying all such secret files held on individuals' trade union or political activity.

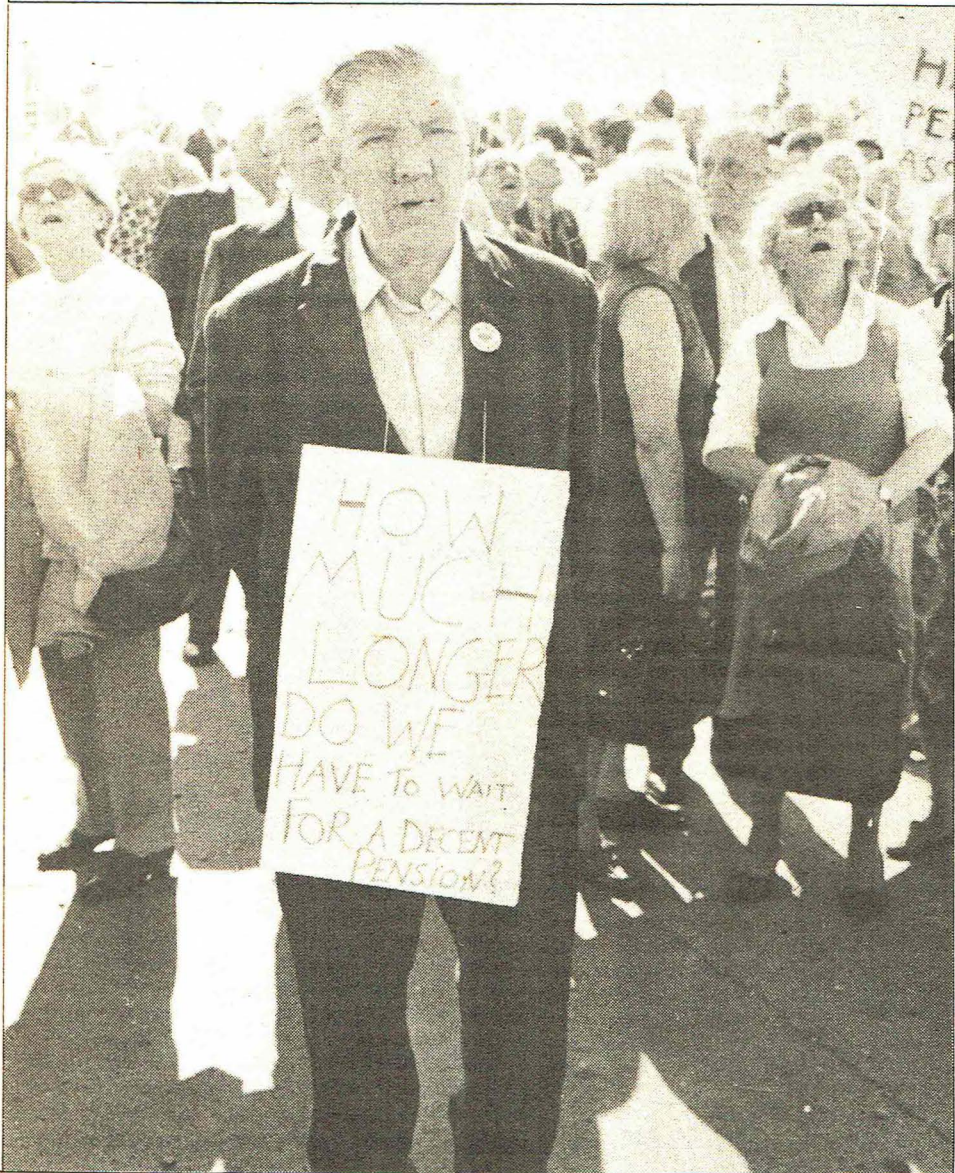
A properly constituted monitoring and enforcement body needs to be set up. It should be a national body of elected representatives, delegates from trade unions, and representatives from consumer groups, welfare rights groups etc. It should have computer facilities and a large computer audit staff of its own.

All computer systems should be subject to registration and license and an annual audit to ensure they meet the privacy standards. The auditors should be able to co-opt trade union representatives and computer staff from within the company or authority being audited, and should be guaranteed complete cooperation and access to all files and equipment.

By Gavin Dudley  
(Computer Systems Analyst and programmer)



# THIS COULD BE YOUR FUTURE



Pensioners' rally at TUC Conference four years ago. They are still waiting for the answer to the demand raised above. Photo: Militant

**Waiting for you at the end of your working life is a freezing cold house, huddling round a fire all day with no one to talk—unless you are prepared to fight for a better society now.**

I have been a home help for 18 months now and have had my eyes opened by what the Tories cuts in social services really means for the elderly in Britain today.

I visit two OAPs every day—to do their housework

and shopping. In most cases the Home Help is the only person they will see from one week to the next. Loneliness and money worries are the main problems facing the elderly.

In the very cold weather back in January many sat all day huddled around a two bar electric fire. Most of the houses I visit are ab-

solutely freezing, as they are very old houses and the elderly haven't got the money to heat a whole house up. So they just live in one room—downstairs, where they have their meals and sleep.

In the age of the microchip about eight of the ten OAPs I visit in a week, still don't have an inside toilet. Trekking out to the toilet in icy freezing weather is an ideal situation for elderly people to fall down.

Whereas, if you are young and you fall, you might not even hurt yourself, to an elderly person this can be a matter of life or death. Once on the ground they are often too weak to pick themselves up and can be there for hours or even days until a

neighbour or home help calls.

This is precisely what happened to one lady I was visiting. She fell in the garden and was there for a few hours until someone heard her calling. She was taken to hospital where she tragically died a couple of weeks later as a result.

I went to visit a married couple this morning who hadn't had a home help for two weeks as they were told by the social services that, due to cuts in services they couldn't have a home help on a regular basis.

The man has been blind since birth and the woman has a very weak heart which means she can't walk very far without nearly collapsing from shortage of breath. If this couple aren't in desperate need of help I don't know who is.

If they had savings then they would be able to pay for this service and that is the only way they would get a home help regularly. However they haven't. So Margaret Thatcher and her Tory friends are telling this couple and thousands like them "hard luck—you'll just have to try to manage the best you can."

All the elderly people I visit have worked so hard all their lives under the most horrendous conditions. They worked "all the hours god sent" to support large families and all for a pittance.

Some never knew if they would have a job to go to from one day to the next. And now these people have been told by this rotten capitalist system that they can rot on their miserable pensions as they can't produce profits for the ruling class any more.

In a socialist society the elderly would be cared for by the whole of society and not left to rot on the scrap heap. At present all there is to look forward to is death as the only way to escape from the nightmare of struggling to survive day after day. This may seem very dramatic but this is the reality of being an OAP today under capitalism.

By Damhnait Darkin  
(NUPE Bristol)

## Dosing you up for profit

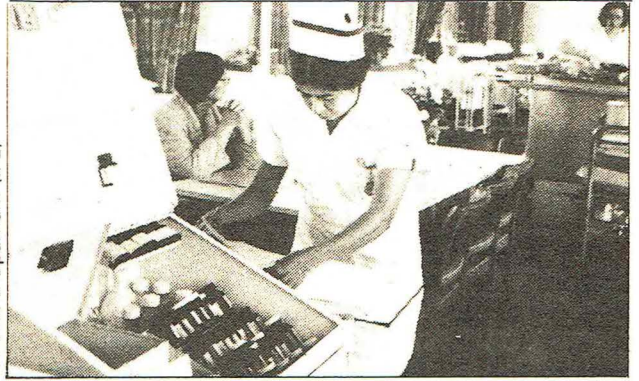


Photo: L Sparham (IFL)

Drug companies make vast profits from the NHS. Above: nurse on drugs round in a hospital

**The drug companies have given a new twist to the old saying: "It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good". Indeed their motto could well be: "Show us a sick patient, and we will show you a healthy profit."**

This has led to especially increased competition amongst the drug companies, who went to cash in on the spectacular increase in demand for tranquilizers and anti-depressants. Rising unemployment and falling living standards produce a level of distress and despair, which leads to general deterioration in health and ability to cope. Increasing numbers of people are going to their GPs complaining of vague aches and pains which often mask underlying strain and worry.

But as with all things touched by capitalism, the cure is sometimes worse than the treatment. Each year about 400 people kill themselves with overdoses of anti-depressants drugs known as tricyclics and over 10,000 people are admitted to hospital following such overdoses.

Never slow to miss an opportunity, rival drug companies have developed "new", (the favourite word in advertising!) safe anti-depressants. These drugs, even when taken in massive amounts rarely prove fatal.

The problem is, drug companies are finding it difficult to convince some doctors that the drugs are as effective as they are safe. Many doctors prefer to stick to tried and proven tricyclics.

In order to try and wean doctors over the their product, the drug firms have produced a plethora of flashy, expensive promotional material, "proving" their product is as good as their rivals.

Recently, a drug rep visited our hospital with a film extolling the benefits of one of these safe anti-

depressants. One of the characters portrayed in the film was a middle-aged housewife, living in a cramped block of flats, whose husband has just been made redundant. Not surprisingly she ends up in her doctor's surgery, depressed, anxious and "unable to cope".

The message from the film was quite clear: this woman needs an anti-depressant, but she's also a suicide risk, so don't put her on a nasty tricyclic (made by our rivals), give her a nice safe drug (made by us).

There was no attempt to suggest that the intervention of a social worker or other helper, someone to talk to and give advice, might be what this desperate woman really needed. To further rub in the message, the commentator went on to point out that the actual patient on whom the character was based, was prescribed tricyclics and did kill herself with an overdose!

In order to ensure good attendance at these promotions they are usually held in a lunch hour, and the drug firm provides the lunch. And when I say lunch I don't mean a packet of crisps and a glass of squash! It usually consists of an excellent and very ample cold buffet, with a choice of red or white wine.

However, this meeting went wrong, and the person doing the catering failed to turn up. A rather embarrassed drugs rep apologised for the absence of 'goodies', but to compensate offered everybody a meal at a local hotel at some convenient time! He wasn't joking, and many of the thirty or so doctors and other professionals present took up the offer we can only guess what the little beano will cost the company!

But never mind, there's plenty more working class suffering where that profit came from!

By Clive Gravell  
(COHSE Kiderminster)

## New threat to tenants

By Eddie Phillips

**Scottish council house tenants could soon be facing one of the most costly attacks launched by the Tories.**

A secret letter to Glasgow District Housing Committee (18 November 1981), which has just come into

Militant's hands, proposes that from this October council tenants in Glasgow will have to pay for all household repairs. The Tories are revising agreements on the basis on the basis of the Tenants' Rights (Scotland) Act of 1980 which applies throughout Scotland.

When this Act was passed it was said that tenants would have greater 'freedom' and 'choice'. Reality is different. Now they will have to pay for every repair. Even damage caused by dampness, a chronic problem in much of Glasgow, will have to be

repaired by the tenant.

But already Glasgow's current rent arrears stand at over £8m. Thousands of tenants cannot make ends meet now—how can they pay more for repairs?

It will not just be tenants under attack. The Tories are determined to hand over much of maintenance to

private contractors and various 'cowboy' operators. The threat of 1,600 redundancies hangs over the heads of Glasgow direct works department.

The fightback has already begun. Over 80 local activists held a packed meeting at the Queenslie depot (direct works) on 4 March. The mood was summed up by one speaker: "We are finished with words—it's action we want now".

A campaign has begun to

draw together tenants associations, community councils, trade unions, Labour Parties in public activity, meetings, mass leafletting etc. This fight must be fully supported by all sections of the labour movement.

Labour Councillors must refuse to implement these Tory measures. They have the support of working people on this issue. They must now show a lead in doing what they were elected to do—defend and protect the interests of working people.



# RACIALISM

**"Unemployment and poor housing bear on them very heavily and the educational system has not adjusted itself satisfactorily to their needs. Their difficulties are intensified by the sense they have of a concealed discrimination against them, particularly in relation to job opportunities and housing."**

Thus, the Scarman report into last summer's riots pointed to the plight of blacks in Britain. No one now doubts that mass unemployment and general poverty were the root causes of the violent upheavals.

Black people suffer the harsh effects of daily discrimination in housing, education, health and, above all, employment. In relation to the latter, even Scarman is forced to concede that "discrimination—by employers and at the work place—is a factor of considerable importance".

Proportionately more blacks than whites have low-status unskilled jobs; both manual and non-manual black workers on average earn less than their white counter-parts; a proportionately greater number of black women are likely to be employed as home-workers; a far higher number of black males are involved in shift work, particularly permanent night-shifts.

## Blacks in low paid jobs

Blacks are still concentrated in those industries where pay and conditions have generally been bad. There is a high percentage of blacks in the low paid textile industry and in catering, yet there are very few black firemen, milkmen, and printers.

Colour-bars exist in a variety of industries throughout the country, often as a direct result of racism among the workers. Blacks also face massive discrimination in local government and the civil service.

As a result of discrimination and disadvantage, blacks have traditionally faced disproportionate levels of unemployment, especially the youth. A higher proportion of black workers are made redundant.

The official figures conceal the real horror of black unemployment, as the government itself admits that a majority of jobless blacks probably do not register.

The misery caused by discrimination has become particularly severe in the recent period, especially since the Tories came to power in 1979. The combined effects of the capitalist economic crisis and racial discrimination have created a nightmare situation that will inevitably explode again, unless urgent and immediate action is taken to remedy the crisis facing the black population.

There is now, in the after-

math of the riots, growing support among blacks and sections of the labour movement for more decisive policies to combat racial discrimination. In particular, there has been a marked increase in support for ideas of "positive" or "reverse" discrimination.

Under such a policy, blacks could expect to achieve a better deal from the "preferential treatment" they would receive in such areas as education, housing and job opportunities. Through a "legally enforced" system of "quotas" and "targets" blacks would gain greater access to a whole range of jobs and services to which they had been previously restricted.

Supporters of "positive discrimination" argue that even if it is not the complete solution, such a policy would none the less represent a big step forward; it would provide a way of breaking "institutionalised racism" and compensate for past discrimination.

Given the scale of the problem, any policy that could even partially alleviate the terrible conditions which face blacks would be a welcome advance on the present situation. But is "positive discrimination" such a policy?

Does it really offer a way out, especially at a time when every section of the working class are being hit by Tory policies and capitalist decay?

## "Quotas" operate in the USA

While it is still blacks who find themselves at the sharp end of the economic crisis, they are rapidly being joined by an ever increasing number of poor whites. Millions of people, black and white alike, now live on the bread line, and thousands more join them every day.

Against that background, could a strategy of "reverse discrimination" really succeed?

A system of "positive discrimination" and similar policies in relation to various oppressed sections of society, including blacks and women, are, in fact, already in operation in the United States.

There, virtually every oppressed group—women, blacks, the young, the aged, the physically and mentally handicapped—is covered by equal rights legislation and "affirmative action".

Yet, despite elaborate extensive laws and enforcement machinery now operating in American states, the general experience of "positive

discrimination" shows that such policies have achieved only a very limited success.

However, even the limited gains made during the boom period of the sixties and early seventies have now been largely undermined by economic crisis, recession and slump.

Initially, the equal opportunities laws in the USA were vigorously enforced by the courts, and many companies, to avoid prosecution, made changes to their selection procedures, revised job qualifications and set up special training programmes.

But it remains a fact, however, that despite sheer magnitude and complexity of the government machinery to enforce equal

## Middle-class blacks made some gains

rights, only a small percentage of well educated, professional blacks have actually benefited from these measures.

Despite its apparent praise for the relative success of the equal rights measures in the USA, the evidence presented in a Runnymede report on what they have actually meant for the vast majority of blacks, represents a crushing indictment of the failure of "affirmative action".

Unemployment, for example, is still disproportionately higher among blacks than whites.

With today's slump, even the limited gains that were made by the black middle classes in the past are now being wiped away, as corporations step up their attacks on jobs, with large-scale redundancies of both black and white workers.

The defence of workers' rights and living standards in America will depend not on the decisions of "enlightened" judges of the Supreme Court, but on the struggle of the workers themselves.

The real advances of American blacks, including the abolition of slavery itself, have been achieved on the basis of struggle by blacks themselves, along with organised labour which has always played a decisive role.

In Britain, the laws which are supposed to protect blacks from discrimination are virtually identical to those in the United States, except that here the use of "quotas" or "reversed discrimination" is still, strictly speaking, unlawful. None the less, a number of bodies, local authorities for instance, now operate a policy of "positive discrimination" with "targets" and "quotas" in relation to employment, housing and education.

However, the anti-discrimination measures in Britain have made even less impact than in the United States. Blacks continue to experience widespread discrimination against them in virtually every field.



By Bob Lee



# Positive discrimi



BL workers picket line last November. Black and white workers must fight solidly together for better jobs and conditions for all. Photo: Militant

In addition to the Race Relations machinery, a huge array of programmes, projects and agencies have been established to tackle urban deprivation. All these agencies and programmes, such as Urban Aid and Inner City Partnership in conjunction with the Race Relations laws are supposed to have contributed to the elimination of disadvantage and discrimination.

## Positive discrimination would undermine unity

But once again, even the nominal gains that could have been made within the framework of these programmes and through the legal apparatus have been undermined by the economic crisis.

All but a few, educated blacks—many of whom, incidentally, are employed on

the programmes and projects themselves—have failed to benefit substantially during the 17 years the anti-discriminatory laws have been in operation.

Yet, if these policies have failed in more favourable economic conditions, then what hope is there of them succeeding amidst conditions of slump, given that poor housing, inadequate services and mass unemployment are no longer the experiences of just those who are discriminated against, but have now become commonplace for all?

Legal measures that generally consolidate rights won by workers in struggle must be supported. But at the same time experience has demonstrated that laws in themselves are no real guarantee, unless they are backed up with action by the labour movement.

There are laws which require large employers to engage a minimum of workers who are physically

disabled, but thousands who fall within this category are permanently condemned to enforced idleness because the legislation is simply ignored.

Most black workers now regard the race relations laws as a complete farce! The 1976 Race Relations Act, for instance, makes it illegal to "incite racial hatred", but to date there have only been 11 convictions for this offence.

Blacks fully understand that they cannot place any faith in the law to curb the excesses of the fascists. Likewise they cannot rely on the law to protect them from discrimination.

It is the struggle of the labour movement—drawing together black and white workers, young and old, men and women, the unemployed, the disabled and infirm—that will ultimately defeat racism and all other forms of discrimination.

But that very struggle could be threatened if the





# Discrimination no answer

fight against racial oppression is taken up in such a way that tends to divide rather than strengthen the unity of workers.

The vast majority of workers correctly support the measures taken by Labour governments to eliminate discrimination. Many trade unions have negotiated agreements to combat discrimination and secure better representation for blacks at all levels. But these struggles, especially at factory level, have always been part of the general fight to win better conditions for all workers.

**In the present conditions of slump, an actual policy of "positive discrimination" with "quotas" and "reserved jobs"—apart from not working in any case—would represent a dangerous departure from the position of class solidarity.**

Against a background of rising unemployment, cuts and falling living standards for all workers, "positive discrimination" would inevitably become a divisive issue for the working class.

It would quickly create hostility and bitterness among despairing workers who would resent the idea of "preferential treatment" for some while the rest go without. How long would it take for that resentment to assume a racial character?

It has already been seen that sections of despairing, white workers can be seduced by the racist position of the fascists. How much more would this apply with "positive discrimination" in operation?

Britain's inner cities are already on a knife edge. Terrible poverty and deprivation have created a volatile, combustible mixture of anger and despair

**"Positive Discrimination would not create a single job, home, hospital or school...black and white workers must be convinced that the programme of socialist change is an immediate and achievable object, something that they can fight for now."**

that may explode at any time.

The racist menace, consciously stirred by the bosses, is ever present, as backward workers find themselves pitted against each other, competing for scarce jobs, homes and dwindling services.

Race riots have so far been avoided largely as a result of the strength of the labour movement and the unity of the working class. But "positive discrimination", by undermining that unity, would add fuel to the smouldering embers of racism, and increase the danger of serious racial conflict in the inner cities.

The dangers of "reversed discrimination" are posed most acutely in relation to employment. With mass joblessness facing both black and white workers, especially the youth, "positive discrimination" in favour of blacks could only, in practice, operate at the direct expense of whites.

Most workers have a natural sympathy for the special plight of their unemployed black brothers and sisters, but few, particularly the more backward layers, would support the idea of solving the problem at their own expense.

It is a fact that as the recession begins to bite, an

increasing number of whites face similar levels of unemployment as blacks. In Toxteth, for example, unemployment among white youths has risen to 30%, compared to 38% among blacks.

The whole idea of "reversed discrimination" implies that white workers themselves are in some way responsible for racism and discrimination. The advocates of this policy fail to grasp the fact that discrimination is not an accidental process.

It is a product of a conscious policy by the ruling class who use racism as a tool to divide the workers movement. Any viable strategy to combat

discrimination should not play into the hands of the ruling class, yet that would be precisely the effect of "quotas" and "targets".

The first danger signs are already beginning to appear in America, where there is now growing conflict between blacks, women and Latinos, whose leaders are competing between themselves for favoured treatment from the state.

The situation that developed in the Ocean Brownsville school dispute showed the dangerous position that can arise out of arbitrary policies to promote the interest of one section of workers, regardless of whether it will further undermine the unity of the

workers generally. The position was explained by Peter Taaffe in the *Militant International Review*, (1972):

*"The appointment of a black administrator, as a step towards 'community control'...led to the white teachers being sacked. These were the union representatives in the locality". This sparked a walk out and then a strike by the white teachers, who were subsequently replaced by strike-breaking black teachers. "The net result was to inflame racial tensions both on the side of the black population and from the teachers themselves."*

The threat of similar conflict in Britain increase a hundred fold today.

## TUC must mount a massive campaign

The labour movement in Britain cannot afford to be divided along racial lines. "Positive discrimination", "quotas" and "preferential treatment" must therefore be opposed because it would not create a single new job, home etc. but could only serve to heighten racial tension and, by doing so, divert the workers struggle away from their real enemy—the bosses and their profit system.

But it would also be a mistake for the movement to oppose "positive discrimination" without at the same time putting forward a programme of concrete action to combat the immediate effects of racial oppression, as part of a general strategy to win jobs and better conditions for all.

Specifically, it is vital that the movement takes up the question of discrimination in areas where blacks are hit hardest.

Even though the crisis of capitalism is creating mass unemployment for all sections of workers, it is still blacks who bear the brunt. In the fight against general unemployment, therefore, the labour movement must—in addition to demanding jobs for all workers—support action that is specifically aimed at eliminating discrimination.

The TUC must immediately mount a massive campaign to end all redundancies, and for the creation of millions of new jobs through the introduction of the 35hr week and a massive programme of useful public works.

But in order to really counter the discriminatory practices of the bosses, the TUC must insist that control over hiring and firing be taken away from employers and put into the hands of shop stewards committees, that in racially-mixed factories would generally include black workers.

Local authorities, who are now often the biggest employers in the inner-city areas, should open their selection committees to allow trade union representatives so that equal and fair treatment for all applicants is not only done, but is seen to be done!

The trade unions should

also determine the scope and degree of "qualifications" needed for a job.

More "in house" and college training on full pay should be provided for both black and white workers, so that they can be provided with the necessary skills to guarantee promotion.

A massive campaign must be launched at every level of the trade union movement to alert white workers to the dangers of racism, and to show how discrimination operates against the interest of all workers.

Members of fascist organisations should automatically face expulsion from trade unions, and strong disciplinary measures, including expulsion, taken against racist workers, where it can be shown that they have collaborated with the bosses in discriminating against blacks.

Such a campaign must be linked to a drive to involve black workers, as well as the unemployed, in the labour movement. Blacks who are already active have a crucial role to play in the trade unions.

Through such action, it will be possible to breakdown racial barriers in areas such as the Fire Service, and at the same time force managements to cease their discriminatory practices.

Similar measures must also be taken in relation to discrimination in housing, abolishing "residency" and other discriminatory qualifications, for example.

Racism is potentially the greatest enemy of the working class. The ruling class understands that and will increasingly turn to racism as a key weapon to split the labour movement, to set black against white, worker against worker.

## Black and white workers together

Black and white workers must be brought into the labour movement together on the basis of a struggle to transform society. The nationalisation of the commanding heights of the economy and a democratic socialist plan of production—this is the only basis upon which it could be possible to provide adequate jobs, homes, education and health for all. The socialist transformation of society can promise the complete elimination of a fratricidal scramble for the necessities of life.

Black and white workers must be convinced that the programme of socialist change is an immediate and achievable objective, something that they can fight for now. That is the only real basis for genuinely and permanently removing the cancer of racial discrimination.

Unlike a divisive programme of "reversed discrimination"—which would not create a single job, home, hospital or school—these demands would be a real basis for mobilising blacks and the labour movement around a campaign that would at one and the same time defeat racism and discrimination and secure jobs and decent conditions for all workers.

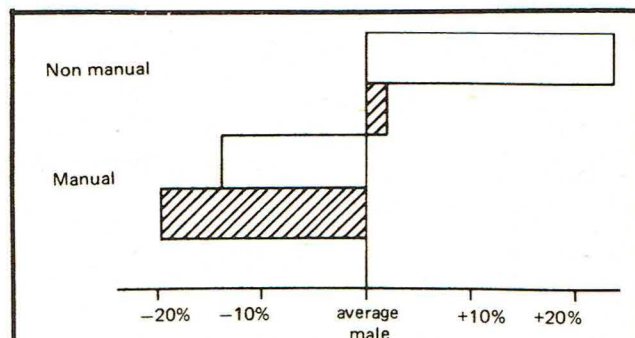


Figure shows percentage of male workers earning above and below average earnings; comparing black workers (shaded) to white (unshaded). Source: OPCS General Household Survey 1975 and 1976.



# Japan a glowing example?

Published by Trade Union Research Unit  
Ruskin College, Oxford, September 1981:  
*'Japan a glowing example?  
Some background information for trade unionists'*



Toyota workers in Japan

**This pamphlet is important reading for all trade union and labour movement activists. Making no pretence at analysis or interpretation, it nonetheless contains important information that can be used by the labour movement in defeating the propaganda of the employers.**

As the pamphlet points out, daily the working class of Western Europe are subjected to newspaper harangues lauding the success of harmonious 'labour relations' in Japan. Media pronouncements would lead one to believe that in Japan workers love their employers, don't go on strike, don't take their holidays, and welcome with open arms the invasion of the workshops by the new technology based robots.

In return for collaboration, we are told, living standards are high, job security is ensured and social benefits—pensions etc.—promise a rosy future.

This pamphlet explodes these myths. As it points out, in Japan there are two classes of worker, the regular worker and the non-regular worker. The first group work mainly for the large corporations like the

**By Ted Mooney**

giant Nippon Steel Corporation and constitute no more than 20% of the working population. The second group—80% of the working class—work for smaller firms, most of whom employ less than 30 workers.

Needless to say it is this latter group who are the most exploited. Some 3.5 million of them are casual labourers paid on a daily basis.

Again it is among this second group of workers that we find the most miserable conditions. Often as many as 20 people live in a room of only 30 square metres.

This group is supplemented by seasonal workers who come in from farming districts to work during the winter months and, together with student labour, provide a reserve army of employment.

Finally there is female labour which is more exploited than its European counterpart with wages for women being about half of male earnings.

All in all, the true picture of affluent Japan is clearly one of the biggest lies perpetrated by the bosses' propaganda machine. The real figure of unemployment, for example, is

estimated to be much closer to 25% than the official figure of a mere 2%.

The wages of 'non-regular' workers are only about three-fifths of those paid to regular workers. Their employers play a subservient role as subcontractors to the large corporations, more often than not on the site of the big employer. This has the added advantage of keeping down the wages of the regular workers.

What of the first group of workers, the 'regulars'? On the surface it appears they constitute a working-class elite, privileged and protected to create a division amongst the labouring masses.

**"Security of employment" means subservience for life**

Certainly they enjoy advantages in terms of retirement at the age of 55 years and so far they have security of employment for life.

But at what cost? First of all most of these workers are graduates from the university system—quite extensive in Japan—who come straight from the college to the large employer, 'Toyota', 'Hitachi', etc., and commit themselves for life.

Rarely do they transfer

from one company to another. Once inside the company, a system of promotions and a salary structure based on seniority ensures subservience for life—an almost complete bowing of the knee to the employer.

There is little evidence to endorse the myth that these people enjoy better living standards than their Western European counterparts. According to the Japanese Ministry of Labour figures for 1980, the purchasing power of the hourly wage compares unfavourably with most western countries. With Japan's figure at 100, West Germany stands at 191, France 128 and even Britain 132.

Alongside this dual system of capitalist exploitation there has developed a dual system of trade unionism. The first group of workers, the regulars, are organised in their own unions—truly company unions in the worst sense. These unions only organise workers who are regulars and who work for the particular company. No outsiders are allowed to join.

Whereas in most European countries in the years 1973-78 trade unionism was on the increase, in Japan it declined. This can only be explained by the Japanese employers' policy of increasingly using casual labour.

For example, in 1973 Nippon Steel employed 70,363 regular workers and 68,801 non-regulars. By 1977 this situation had changed, with only 66,762 regulars as opposed to 73,183 non-regulars—the rule being of course that non-regular workers are not allowed to join the company unions.

However, the Japanese working class on the basis of their own experiences are learning the lessons of history. General unions, independent of company influences, have sprung up and gone to work as the consciousness of the Japanese worker has increased.

Zenichijiro (All Japanese Day Workers Union), a nation-wide organisation of the unemployed and under-

employed, is fighting against unemployment, for a minimum wage and better social security benefits. Conditions are maturing for the working class as a whole to forge the necessary unity and realise their true role as the motor force of social liberation.

The paper, as has already been pointed out, is low in analytical comment and pays little heed to the special features of the Japanese economy. Neither does it explore as deeply as is necessary the nature of the company unions. In these senses it leaves many questions unanswered, but provides ammunition for British workers in their daily struggle and can be used as a starting point for discussion on Japanese trade unionism.

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## FRANCE — Bosses thugs kill worker

On the cold morning of 18 February, some 15,000 workers gathered in the Place de Clichy in northern Paris. Their banners showed that all the main factories were represented. They were there to demonstrate against the attack on the SCEAC factory by a vicious mob which led to the death of a worker, Ahmed Medjir.

From Place de Clichy the embittered march made its way to the factory itself.

For many years, the French labour movement has waged a struggle against the hated 'milices patronales' (bosses militia). These bodies are recruited by the

employers from the very dregs of society.

Convicts, thieves, police informers, flunkies and every other type of rogue go to make up their ranks. They are used to break strikes, intimidate labour movement activists, and generally to look after the interests of the bosses.

Often workers occupying a factory in protest against redundancies will find themselves attacked in the dead of night by 20 or 30, sometimes hundreds, of these marauding thugs.

A group of workers were talking on the march: "Do you have them at

your place?"

"Yes".

"How many?"

"Oh! They're everywhere!

It's not just for when there's a strike. They think they are gods. They push us around. They want to search us all the time. The least thing and they run off and tell the gaffer."

"That's to create an atmosphere of fear—it's exactly the same with us."

As the long procession got underway, the mood of mourning gave way to militant anger:

"Dissolution des milices patronales!!"

The first marchers app-

roached the factory. A line of workers, still occupying, were strung along the roof of the workshop from which their comrade had fallen to his death two days earlier, when scores of strike breakers had tried to storm the factory. They had sent a hail of bottles, stones, scrap metal and other debris over the wall. In their belts were the usual batons and coshes, for use when they got inside.

Amongst the thugs was the local commissioner of police, taking part in the fun. His men were standing by whilst this lawless mob went about their duty.

Ahmed, trying to avoid a

missile, dislodged some roofing and fell about 25 feet onto the concrete floor of the workshop.

The workers appealed for an end to hostilities to get an ambulance to their comrade. The police refused. Ahmed passed away.

Now, on the day of the demonstration, the workers are holding out for the cause which cost Ahmed his life. Between two red flags flying from the top of the factory wall are two banners. One proclaims the cause of the strike: "140 redundancies"; the other reads: "The bosses have killed our brother Ahmed."

One by one, workers fasten red carnations to the factory wall with union stickers. Money was collected for the wife and children of French labour's latest martyr.

The vast crowd disperses, with the theme of the speakers still fresh in their minds:

"We fought for the new government. We support it. But the change in the conditions of life of the workers will be brought about only by our own action, and our own power."

*By Marcel Coupeau  
in Paris*



# TANZANIA GUATEMALA EL SALVADOR

## 'African Socialism' fails to break out of.... THE CAPITALIST TRAP

The recent aeroplane hijack by Tanzanian youths calling for the resignation of President Nyerere has turned the spotlight onto the social morass which Tanzania has been sliding into over the past ten years.

When Tanzania was given independence by Britain in 1961, it was one of the poorest countries in Africa. Since then, many important reforms have been carried out by Nyerere's government. Tanzania's health care system is described as the best in Africa, and free and universal primary school education was introduced in 1977.

Yet despite Nyerere's philosophy of 'ujamaa' (brotherhood) and 'African socialism', the country has remained locked into the international framework of capitalism. The economy has remained dependent on the same raw material exports—coffee, tea, sisal, cashew nuts, tobacco—as in colonial times.

With the slow-down of the world economy, exports have stagnated while the cost of imports shot upward. Oil imports now swallow up 60% of all export earnings.

In 1972, Tanzania could obtain a tractor in exchange for five tons of tea; in 1979 it took 13 tons. In 1980, total exports covered no more than 40% of imports. On this basis, all Nyerere's policies to overcome economic backwardness have been doomed to failure.

In an effort to gain more control over the economy, the regime has carried out large-scale nationalisation, especially in the distributive

By George Collins

and financial sectors—without, however, challenging the capitalist system as a whole.

The net result has been the growth of a huge and increasingly privileged bureaucracy, doubling in size between 1970 and 1976, and consuming one-sixth of the national income.

On the land, where 90% of the people live, a policy of compulsory collectivisation of agriculture was resorted to in the mid-1970s, with large masses of people being forcibly resettled. The consequence has been the disruption of agriculture and a legacy of chronic friction between the peasantry and the state.

Farmers' protests against low crop prices and other grievances have taken the form of harvest and planting strikes, the sale of products on the flourishing black market or smuggling them out of the country. Sisal production today is 60% less than in 1970 and cotton production 20% less.

In the meantime, strangled by bureaucratic ineffi-



1976: Tanzanian students demonstrate against US efforts to impose a pro-capitalist 'settlement' in Zimbabwe

ciency and a desperate shortage of spare parts and raw materials, the small, mainly foreign-owned, manufacturing sector has been cut back to 30% of capacity.

On top of all this has come Nyerere's invasion of Uganda to topple the Amin regime, which has swallowed up £300 million—nearly all of Tanzania's foreign reserves.

With rural as well as urban production caught up in a vicious downward spiral, Tanzania has become more and more dependent on financial aid from Western governments and China (Eastern European aid mainly consists of arms).

Approximately \$600 million of aid, mostly from Sweden, Canada, West Germany and Holland, is coming in per year. Despite

Nyerere's aim of 'self-reliance', Tanzania has become one of the largest recipients of foreign aid in Africa.

At the same time, Nyerere is forced to continue looking towards the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund for support. Although, in 1979, Nyerere rejected the IMF's terms of savage cuts in public spending and devaluation of the national currency, similar pressures affect other grants and loans from the imperialist sharks.

For the mass of the people, these conditions spell worsening poverty and hardship. Inflation is between 40% and 60% per year; salaries and wages have declined by no less than 40% in real terms over the past ten years. The

peasantry, unable to earn a living by selling their products to the state, are increasingly falling back to producing for their own subsistence alone.

Trying to contain discontent and keep the system running, Nyerere has concentrated more and more power into fewer and fewer hands at the top of his ruling party, the CCMP. No other parties are allowed, and opposition is suppressed.

In 1978, for example, 1,500 students protesting against a 100% pay rise for MPs were attacked by the police. Hundreds were arrested and 359—one-fifth of the student body at Dar-es-Salaam University—were expelled.

Significantly, however, it is reported that the demonstrators were ap-

plauded as they marched through working-class areas.

The recent hijack reflects continuing discontent amongst the youth with Nyerere's failing policies, with the oppressive bureaucratic machine and the country's continued domination by capitalism.

But individual protest action cannot solve Tanzania's problems. The working people need to break free from the stranglehold of the capitalists and money-lenders, nationalise the remainder of industry and big business, and establish democracy at all levels of society in order to abolish the worst excesses of the present system.

The working class, despite its small numbers, will have an indispensable role in leading and carrying through this struggle.

The material and technological resources for overcoming poverty and underdevelopment, however, do not exist within the borders of Tanzania at present. These problems can only be solved on the basis of an internationalist programme, linking the socialist transformation of Tanzania to the struggle of the working class for socialism world-wide.

Developments in South and Southern Africa, in particular, are crucial to the future of Tanzania, which has important links with these countries. At the same time, the independent socialist organisation of the Tanzanian workers and peasants will strengthen the workers' movement throughout the African continent.

## 'Democracy' at gunpoint

The recent presidential 'election' in Guatemala was a farce.

All left parties are banned from activity. The four presidential candidates ranged from fascist to right-wing capitalist.

The reign of terror by the government troops and right-wing death squads continued throughout—even leaders of a mild centre party, the FUR, were assassinated in the election build-up.

Two weeks before polling day, in what appears a horrifyingly callous attempt by the right to discredit the left wing guerrilla movement, 53 peasants and children were massacred in the Quiche area. All had their throats cut by 'unidentified' soldiers.

But what the election has shown is the splits amongst the ruling class in the face

of growing crisis. The ruling Popular Democratic Front government of General Guevara was opposed by the fascist National Liberation Movement, which operates the death squads, the capitalist Opposition Union and the Authentic Nationalist Central parties. All represent sections of the ruling and middle classes, with a certain peasant following.

The widening gulf between these sections was shown by the government attack on its opponents following the announcement of the 'victory' of General Guevara. The three opposition parties held a joint march to protest against fraudulent voting returns. The demonstration was ruthlessly smashed by police and the military—such was the ferocity of the attack that even an American TV crew was arrested!

The splits and conflicts amongst the ruling class parties illustrate their incapacity to solve the crisis of Guatemalan society and their fear of revolution. The workers and peasants suffer mass poverty, with Indian peasants being forced off their land by the landlords, and workers living in absolute squalor—60% to 80% of Guatemalan dwellings do not have a safe water supply.

The answer of the ruling class, backed to the hilt by American imperialism, is to unleash death squads similar to those in neighbouring El Salvador. Murders now run at a staggering 300 a week, in a country with a population of only five and a half million.

By Bob Wade



## EL SALVADOR

With 'elections' approaching in El Salvador, much of the country is in the grip of a military reign of terror aimed at smashing all opposition. This picture shows the Topinol refugee camp on the Honduran border being searched by soldiers.

The Tory government, however, sees the elections as "a step forward".



# Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## No so sunny Thanet

Dear Comrades,  
With the holiday season fast approaching many readers will be thinking of where to spend a well earned break. But those of you considering a few days in sunny Thanet, please read on.

Thanet district council are desperately trying to cut £232,000 from their budget, but the problem is (as with many other Tory controlled councils) when you've cut everything from schools to street lighting, what else is left?

Why, public toilets, of course. Yes, in order to save £45,000, 17 of Thanet's public loos will be closed down so all you would-be tourists be sure to bring your portaloos with you.

Of course, when there's cuts to be made it's nice to know you can always rely on that old standby—refuse collection! Thanet's refuse collection service is to be cut to the tune of another £75,000. So remember to pack that all-important peg for the nose.

Shelters, seats, railings—all to go, and even signs; you know those things that tell you where you are and give directions—up for the chop as well. Whatever you do, don't forget your compass!

But of course, it's not all cuts in Thanet—in fact there are two things that are *always* being extended. That's the dole queue and the membership of the Labour Party Young Socialists.

Yours fraternally  
M Gasking  
Thanet East LPYS

## A miner's point of view

Dear Comrades,  
I have become a regular reader of your paper and look forward to it every week. It has enlightened me so much. I have got to admit that I have been one of the thousands of suckers in the past who have been taken to the cleaners by right wing leaders of the labour and trade union movement.

So they want a witch-hunt of the Left and the Young Socialists? My answer to that is let them get on with it—but if they think all is fair in love and war, then let us give as good as we get! What I have read this last few weeks in *Militant* has shaken me into writing this letter, having voted Labour since I was old enough. But nothing only the truth must be told to us. Thank goodness we have an MP up here (Dennis Skinner) who is worthy of the cause. So I conclude with these words—go to town you Young Socialists but always stick to the truth.

Yours fraternally  
C Darby  
NUM and Bolsover CLP

## OBITUARY: TONY HYAMS

Socialists in the Ipswich area will be saddened to hear of the death of Tony Hyams, who died in hospital recently. Tony was for many years a member of Twickenham Labour Party where he argued for the policies of *Militant*. Later on he developed political disagreements with the paper. He remained, however, a committed socialist and class fighter.

When Tony was born the doctors gave him 5 years to live. He was born with a

weak heart. He could never walk far without 'going blue'. Yet he never complained, indeed, those who knew him never thought of him as being invalid. He compensated for his disability with increased political activity. His contributions at Labour Party meetings were always carefully thought out by him, and listened to by others.

Wherever he worked he was active in his trade union, in particular, he

played an important role as a shop steward and chairman of the local TGWU branch.

He never let his involvement in politics blind him to other interests and activities. He loved sport and although rarely able to actively participate, his knowledge of it was almost phenomenal.

He will be sorely missed as a comrade and a friend.

Ipswich *Militant* supporters



YOPs workers demonstrate against pay and conditions at the YOPs Trainees Union Rights Campaign lobby of Parliament on 25 February. Photo: *Militant*

## Anger over the unemployed

Dear Comrades,  
As part of my social workers in service course at a local Polytechnic I was given a project to do and decided to do it on youth unemployment and schemes operated by the borough for which I work. As part of my research I had an appointment with the local careers office. I asked the officer for the figures for youth unemployed throughout the borough, and was told that in no way would I be given them as they were too sensitive to make public!

However, the officer was most sympathetic to the problems of unemployed youth and became very unprofessionally angry as she described how the money given to youngsters was fiddled by the government.

Another thing that distressed her was that the

local authority had become very enthusiastic about these 'training schemes', particularly about the WEEPS scheme. But they did not think it necessary to employ sufficient officers to monitor the youngsters adequately at their workplaces!

She further told me that although quite a number of the careers' officers were

members of the Labour Party it was impossible for them to point out any 'political solution' to the youngsters as they were supposed to remain 'professionally neutral'.

Yours fraternally  
Ruth Jellings  
Ealing NALGO

## Now the Tories want to tax the unemployed!

Dear Comrades,  
The government revealed on the 3/3/82 that from July of this year, millions of unemployed people will have to pay tax on dole money. This is adding insult to injury. This Tory government have slashed jobs, so that now the unofficial

figure of unemployment is near the 4 million mark. It is almost impossible to get a job, so we have to live on the bread line pittance we get from the government. It is only barely possible to meet our needs, without any luxuries at all. Now they intend to make it even more impossible to live by taking tax from the unemployed!

How can we sit back and let this happen! People to-

## What the upper classes mean by 'conservation'

Dear Comrades,  
Near Dorchester recently, a 75 year old pensioner's pet cat was ripped to pieces by a pack of hounds in her garden during a fox-hunt. She looked on too terrified to go outside her house in case the pack killed her as well. According to her son, the huntsmen sat on their horses, "grinning from ear to ear", as they watched this disgusting spectacle.

This is not an isolated incident. On February 20th, at Lucy Hill, near Burley in the New Forest, the chairman of the New Forest Women's group was taking part in a protest against bloodsports, during a "meet" of the New Forest hunt. She and her son were knocked to the ground by a car, allegedly driven by supporters of the hunt.

As they picked themselves up, hunt supporters shouted at

them,—"...next week you'll be back in the dole queue..."

There is no doubt in my mind that the so called 'upper echelons' of our septic and senile society would like to 'cull' every one of us who doesn't touch our forelock in reverence every time they sweep past in all their decadence and pomposity! There is no doubt too, that they would be happy to do so in the name of 'conservation'—conservation of their own rotten species!

Incidentally, it may interest readers to learn just why fox-hunting caught on in this country, during the eighteenth century. It was to give British army officers practice in the saddle during peacetime, so that they would be in 'good form' when it came to extending the empire.

Good luck *Militant*, and keep up the good work, you've got at least a dozen more readers in the New Forest area!

Yours sincerely  
Christopher Lindsay  
Wessex Anti-Bloodsports Council, Burley, Hants

## Is the St Saviours school incident surprising?

Dear Comrades,  
After the riots last year, the capitalist press are once again dropping the phrase "left wing militants", whilst reporting the behaviour of nine year olds in St Saviours School, Liverpool. I do not come from that part of the country, and I am no authority on the behaviour of children at junior schools, but I can recall so-called 'protection rackets' at my primary. Many times I walked home, because some bullies forced me to hand over my money, and I know of many people from other schools, who went through the same thing.

However, the press reports from the above

school certainly made me shiver at the thought of youngsters having so much aggressiveness and frustration at so young an age. But why did these kids react so violently?

These children can see the future that they have in front of them; unemployment, police harassment, poor housing, and worst, the threat of nuclear war. If these factors have reached these young minds, no amount of parental or teacher discipline or control can harness their aggressiveness, and whilst I hate violence, what can we say to these youngsters while they can turn round and ask if they have a job when their schooling is over, and the answer to-day is "not likely".

Yours fraternally  
Margaret Middlemas  
Castlemilk, Glasgow

## Red Flag v. the racists

Dear Comrades,  
As capitalism goes into crisis the ideas of racism are fostered, not only by fascists but also by the bosses and their press in order to divide workers. Two recent events at football matches show how certain sections of working

class youth through demoralisation have looked to these avenues.

Recently West Ham played West Brom, who have two black players, Cyril Regis and Brendan Batson. Throughout the first half of the game these two players had bananas hurled from the terraces at them. At half-time an announcement over the tannoy asked those responsible

to stop. The response was a chorus of the Banana boat song with racist connotations.

However, at the other match concerned there was a positive sign. Chelsea were playing at Sheffield Wednesday. A section of the Chelsea fans decided to give sieg heil salutes while marching up a street, and sang a reactionary song about unemployment. The



The poster says it all! day are poor enough as it is, are we prepared to let this

response of the Wednesday fans was to raise their clenched fists in the air and give a chorus of the Red Flag!

It is the duty of the labour and trade union movement to campaign against racism and fascism by showing working class youth that they are interested in their problems and future, and also, explaining that racist and fascist ideas are used by the

capitalist government tread us into the ground, or are we going to stand up to them and show them we have the right to a living wage? We will not be put down by this government, we have the power to stop this government, let us use that power and kick the Tories out.

Yours fraternally  
Katherine Armstrong  
Belfast

bosses to divide workers and smash their organisations. The labour movement can win these youth on the basis of policies and action to the side of socialism, away from reaction.

Yours fraternally  
Gerry Talty  
Rushcliffe LPYS



# End Tory Rule! Build Militant!

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 11 April
Eastern	1010		2040
East Midlands	1059		1470
Hants & Dorset	480		1100
Humberside	347		890
London East	1375		2010
London West	709		1150
London South	656		1550
Manchester & Lancs	876		1550
Merseyside	932		1950
Northern	979		2350
Scotland East	407		1290
Scotland West	1012		1980
Southern	1026		1900
South West	482		965
Wales East	198		970
Wales West	484		1130
West Midlands	621		1980
Yorkshire	1314		2290
Others	370		6435
<b>Total received</b>	<b>14337</b>		<b>35,000</b>

## Target for April 11th £35,000

The press called last week's budget a "something for everyone" budget. In fact, like all Tory measures, it made the rich richer and the poor poorer.

In an attempt to make the failing capitalist system work, the Tories have given huge "incentives" to top managers and directors in the vain hope that they will invest in the "slimmer fitter industry" supposed to emerge from their monetarist policies.

And who is it being forced to get "slimmer"? According to the *Sunday Times*, the unemployed, pensioners, skilled, unskilled, semi-skilled, and clerical workers and professional workers like teachers. Only senior managers and company directors are better off after three Tory years.

But is the economy thriving? No. The senile capitalist system needs huge transfusions from our living standards to keep it barely alive.

That's why more and more people are turning to Marxism, to the fight to make this the last Tory budget, and to make sure that future Labour budgets don't attack the poorest in society to keep royal families and millionaires in the style they're accustomed to.

One clear way you can help is by donating to *Militant*. This week we have received £2,484, all of it from the working class. For some reason we don't get money from royalty, millionaires, or even sacked bosses picking up their golden handshakes, though occasionally we get big donations such as the £200 from Jimmy Deane, an old fighter for socialism (who wished it could be £2,000), plus £150 from K Gilmour

(Glasgow).

Our thanks, then, to all who have given this week, including P Binney (Mansfield YOPster) £10, J Dolan (Rufford NUM) £1.10, J Bell (North Notts LP) £3.40, M Daley (NUPE) £1.60, P Stamp (CPSA) £4.60, M Oldfield (NALGO) (all Leicester).

Mr Allom (IOW pensioner) sent a welcome 80p, J Orson £2, P Atkins £3, P Bahia £1, M Ellis (TGWU) £1.20 (all Southampton LP), M Phillips (Poole NUT) £10, R Phillips (Poole NAAAW) £16, D

Whittaker (Ilford LPYS) £1, J Fell (Hackney Central LPYS) £1.75, H Ross (Hackney GMW) £1, H Wobey (Hackney) £5, S Nally (Lambeth Central LPYS) £12, G Bullock (Tooting LP) £1.

J Ithell of Chester LPYS sent £5, M Preston (Glasgow) £2, J Neilson (North Lanark LP) £1, M Sewell (Largs) £1, T Kitchener (Oxford) £1, B Shillingford (Oxford) £10, G O'Connor (Reading) £1.50, J Durham (Canterbury NALGO) £4, R Brooker £3, O Davies £2, M Hanson £5,

M Singleton £10 (all Brighton Labour Party).

K Annis (Gloucester LP) sent in £1.70, P Crack (ASTMS) £25, I Nunnally £1, N Nunnally (AUEW) £1, M Cook (unemployed) £1 (all Bristol), M Harris (Caerphilly) £5, G Street (Cardiff) £1, Joanne Harvey (school student, Stafford), Jhavid & Karen Stoke 50p weekly, P Else (Leeds) £1, T Gill (Leeds) £6.

C Brace (Secretary, Fulford COHSE) gave £5, Rother Valley LPYS £10, and a BBC technician on a Peter Taaffe interview £1. Union donations and collections this week included Southend COHSE £4, NALGO Gas Staffs £22.24, AUEW Hull £5, Hillingdon Council Workers £7.50, Scottish EETPU LP Conference £40.60.

Regional Labour Party and LPYS conferences have also helped, with collections coming from Eastern, Scottish and North West LPYS conferences (£45, £90 and £144 respectively), and Yorkshire Regional Labour Party conference (an excellent £168).

Militant Readers' Meetings and discussion groups are also reflecting the interest in our ideas. Coventry readers have sent £77, with more to come, while other collections at meetings this week came from Southend, Mansfield, Sutton (Notts), West Ham, Macclesfield, Preston, Blackpool, Edinburgh, Stirling University Labour Club, Glasgow, Bracknell, Basingstoke, and Keighley CLP.

But we also appreciate all the small donations, so if you cannot afford a large amount, how about a few bob extra for the next copy of *Militant* you buy?

By Derrick McClelland

### ADVERTISE IN OUR MAY DAY AND 600th EDITION

Salute May Day and our 600th edition with a greeting in each issue. Our 600th edition is the week after our May Day edition so why not take out two greetings? We are having a special offer for two ads at a cut price.

1 Advert

3 column centimetres (max 15 words) £3

6 column centimetres (max 25 words) £6

1/16 page (display) £10

1/8 page (display) £20

1/4 page (display) £40

2 adverts x 3 column centimetres £5

2 adverts x 6 column centimetres £10

2 adverts x 1/16 page (display) £16

2 adverts x 1/8 page (display) £32

2 adverts x 1/4 page (display) £64

May Day is an important day for workers internationally show your organisation's solidarity with the world working class and place an advert. The 600th edition is another landmark in the history of *Militant* so give us a boost and show your support for our paper.

Closing date Tuesday 20 April. Cheques payable to *Militant*. Send to *Militant* 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN or phone 01-986 3828.

### OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we inform comrades of the death of Sam Gordon on 12 March. He devoted his whole life to the international struggle for scientific socialism.

In the past 20 years his activities were diminished by the cancer which ravaged his body but he never gave up the fight. His ideas and his teachings live on!

The cremation will be at 3.30 pm, Golders Green Crematorium West Chapel on Friday 19 March. No flowers, but donations to the movement.

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

# ads

### MILITANT MEETINGS 'WHAT WE STAND FOR'

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, 7.30pm, at the Sunderland Transport Club, North Bridge Street, Sunderland. For further details phone Ray Physick, Sunderland 653994

LEIGH: Hear Gerry Lerner. Tuesday 23 March, 7.30 pm, The White Horse, Railway Road, Leigh.

NORTH WEST Labour Party Conference Readers' Meeting. Hear: Tony Mulhearn (Prospective Parliamentary Candidate, Liverpool, Toxteth). Saturday 20 March, lunchtime meeting, Opera House, Circle Bar, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

UXBRIDGE: Hear Sue Kohn (LPYS National Committee) and Wally Kennedy (local trade unionist). Wednesday 24 March, 7.30 pm at Yiewsley Community Centre, Harmondsworth Road, Uxbridge. Buses: 222, 223, 224

### READERS MEETINGS

STRETFORD Militant Readers Meeting: 'Trade Unions: the Tory attack'. Speaker—Bill Connors (USDAW national official, personal capacity). Tuesday 23 March, 8.00 pm, Old Trafford Centre, Shrewsbury Street, Stretford.

HALIFAX Militant Readers Meeting: 'Socialism and Parliament'. Hear Keith Narey (Bradford West Labour Party) on Tuesday 23 March, 7.30pm, at AUEW Club, St James St., Halifax (near bus station).

Third Kent Militant Weekend School will be held on Saturday/Sunday, 5 and 6 June. Three speakers + hotel bed, breakfast, evening meal. Only £7.50 (same as last year). Further information contact: Selby Hotel, 7 Union Crescent, Margate. (Tel: 0843-24309).

### CLASSIFIED

Celebrate the 3rd anniversary of the Grenadian Revolution. Speakers from the High Commission of Grenada, from El Salvador and Nicaragua Campaigns. Socialist Challenge Social, Saturday 20 March, 7.00-12.00 pm, Brixton. Please contact Hilary for further information on 733 5740.

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

To John and Anne: Congratulations on your engagement. Unity is strength. From the 'Basildon Soviet'.

BARNESLEY: Hear: Peter Taaffe (Editor, Militant), Pat Wall (President, Bradford Trades Council) and Mike Smith (South Yorkshire County Councillor). Old Arcadian Hall, Market Street, Barnsley. 7.30pm, Friday 19 March.

BRADFORD Militant Readers' Meeting: 'Socialism and Parliament'. Hear: Pat Wall (President, Bradford Trades Council). Sunday 21 March, 7.30 pm, Textile Hall, Westgate, Bradford.

IPSWICH: Hear John Pickard. Friday 26 March, 7.30 pm, Room 2, Town Hall, Ipswich.

SOUTH WEST Labour Party Conference Militant Public Meeting. Saturday 27 March 1982. Speakers: Robin Clapp (REC 1977-82), Mick Whale (LPYS National Committee). Venue: 3 Bears Restaurant, Mary Arches St., Exeter. (opposite conference venue). Lunchtime meeting, teas and sandwiches available.

SALFORD Speaker: Pat Wall (President, Bradford Trades Council). Sunday 28 March, 7.30 pm, Black Lion Pub, Blackfriars Road, opposite Trinity Church. Everyone welcome.

BURNLEY Militant Readers' Meeting. 'The decline of British industry and the socialist alternative'. Speaker: Gerry Lerner. Thursday 25 March, 7.30 pm, 3oot Inn, St James Road, Burnley.

BRACKNELL Militant Readers Meeting: 'Tebbit, the Tories, and the Trade Unions'. Hear Martin Elvin. Thursday 1 April, 8.00 pm, Griffin House, opposite Red Lion pub, Bracknell.

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.

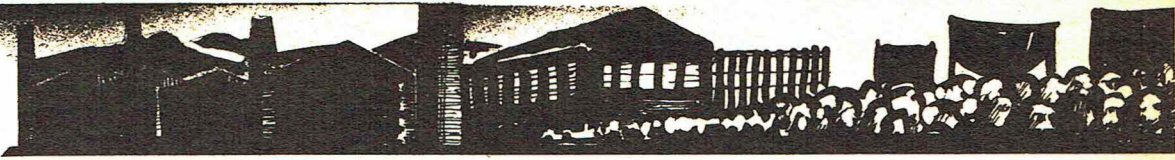
LONDON Readers Meeting: 'Support LT workers! No cuts, no redundancies'. Friday 19 March, 7.30 pm, Marquis Cornwallis Pub, Marchmont Street, W.C.1. (Tube Russell Square).

DEPTFORD Grinling Gibbons Ward Labour Party film: 'The People Will Win' and speaker from El Salvador Solidarity Campaign. Thursday 25 March, 7.30 pm, Deptford Town Hall, New Cross Road, SE14. Admission 50p, unwaged 10p.

Women in Trade Unions Conference. Saturday 27 March, 10-5.30, at Kingsway Princeton College, Sidmouth Street, WC1. Women only. Registration £3.50/£2 includes lunch and films. Crèche. Some disabled facilities. Contact Women's Fightback, 607-9052/5268.



# Industrial Reports



## IMI Shipley

After two weeks on strike, workers at IMI in Shipley went back to work believing that there was a large increase in the management's pay offer. After one and a half days' negotiating, however, the management only offered a backdated rise of 5%, an increase of only 1% on the original offer. After the company books were looked through, the shopfloor accepted the pay deal. While the pay rise was small, the settlement should still be seen as a victory.

Since then, however, the management have decided to charge the AUEW District Secretary and IMI shop stewards for rent and rates during their 'occupation'. It is believed that the Engineering Employers' Federation may be behind such a move in order to prevent other engineering workers from using the occupation weapon.

## Glasgow DLO

Glasgow District Council recently announced that it was seeking 1200 redundancies in its Direct Labour Organisation—300 voluntary sacrifices are being sought firstly in the Paint Department. Perhaps the most disgusting aspect of the matter is that apprentices are to be paid off on completion of their training. It is claimed that these measures are necessary in order to comply with the Planning & Land Act, which demands a 5% profit margin by the end of the next financial year. The council would appear to be unaware that the above Act is designed to end DLOs and provide the market for the Tories' friends in the private building sector.

## Burroughs

Members of the NGA and SOGAT at Burrough's (a paper factory at Pentwyn, Cardiff) successfully fought management plans to impose redundancies. Without any prior notice, 13 workers out of a workforce of 120 were issued with redundancy notices one Friday in December. Presumably the management's effort at wishing the workers a happy Xmas! This was despite the fact that Burrough's, part of a multi-national, made handsome profits. The decision of the workers to fight every redundancy, backed up by their regional union officials, evidently came as a surprise to the management. Shortly after the new year, all redundancy notices were withdrawn. This clear stand by the unions against any redundancies has resulted in previously non-union workers joining up, with virtually 100% membership now established.

## Broad Left

The Liaison Committee of the Broad Left Organisations, made up of genuine trade union Broad Left's, is to step up its campaign to fight for the shorter working week. The main aim will be to encourage and support unions which submit new claims for shorter hours. It will urge the TUC to start campaigning on a national basis to get mass support for this policy, given the massive rise in unemployment. A TUC campaign would include widespread leafletting, joint trade union conferences, demonstrations and industrial action. Also it will call on both the TUC and the Labour Party to demand that the next Labour government should implement a 35 hour maximum week legislation within the first year of office, being obligatory on every employer and in particular on the largest employers.

Those wishing to contact the Liaison Committee of the Broad Left should contact the convenor: Phil Holt, 108 Princes Boulevard, Bebington, Wirral, Merseyside. Phone: 051-645 1375.

# NURSES JOIN NUPE

**Lynn Walsh is right in 'Militant' issue 589 when he says that public sector trade unions have increased their membership above those lost through cuts and redundancies.**

This has certainly been our experience amongst nurses at Hull Royal Infirmary. Nursing membership in our branch of NUPE the local authority workers' union, has tripled in the last year from about 150 in early 1981 to nearly 500 today. This has been achieved by a vigorous and active campaign of recruitment, and by taking up all the main issues affecting nurses over the past 12 months.

Previously unorganised nurses have been taken into membership, and members have been recruited away from the Royal College of Nursing. The RCN is a professional organisation rather than a trade union—not affiliated to the TUC; dominated by the nursing hierarchy, its constitution rules out any form of industrial action, and last year they voted to accept a 6% pay rise when all other unions rejected the offer. Contrary to Tory propaganda, it is the more militant trade unions, like NUPE, that has increased its membership, at the expense of the moderate RCN.

Nurses are now beginning to see through the hollow promises from Thatcher of rewarding nurses for not taking industrial action. 'Jam tomorrow' will not pay the bills today!

Last year, we campaigned in our hospital against the

6% offer, and secured a 91% rejection in a ballot, with more than half prepared to take some form of action. Last month, a march through Hull of health service workers against the 4% cash limit attracted over 500, mainly nurses involved in their first ever protest.

But it is not just the issue of pay that we have taken up. Local negotiations over the 37½-hour week resulted in the creation of 32 new jobs. A questionnaire was carried out to monitor staffing levels and non-replacement of staff.

Also a public campaign, which is still continuing, against pay beds within NHS hospitals has been conducted. Petitioning inside the hospitals and on streets produced 10,000 signatures against Area Medical Committee proposals to increase the number of private patients

on North Humberside.

Using regular leaflets and newsletters to explain all these issues and the shop stewards getting out amongst all our members, we have shown nurses the advantages of belonging to a trade union which actively and vigorously pursues their interests, with consequent rapid growth in membership.

**By Kevin Smith and Alistair Tice (NUPE nursing stewards, Hull Royal Infirmary)**

On Monday 15 March several thousand health workers from all over Britain met to show their disgust and opposition to the government's pay offer.

Despite non-stop rain and wind, hospital workers

from all the major unions, NUPE, COHSE, GMWU and ASTMS, queued for hours outside the Houses of Parliament, some delegations with letters to meet their own MPs, others to meet panels of MPs to put their case.

The whole lobby went conspicuously unreported on television, despite TV cameras being present. None of the daily newspapers had any reports the next day. Yet of course if any form of strike action is ever taken within the health service, front page headlines scream out with accusations of 'callous murderers' and so on!

The campaign against the government's pay limit has started and it must be taken further through joint union meetings locally etc., to secure 12%.

**By Sue Pearce (NUPE)**

## 'Why we rejected ACAS'

**"We've had everything under the sun thrown at us—we've been sacked three times, but we're still fighting."**

That was how Ina Scott, AUEW convenor at Plessey's Bathgate factory, summed up a meeting to rally support for their sit-in at the Labour Party Scottish Conference in Perth last Saturday.

Earlier the factory convenor, George Wilson, explained why the workers rejected an appeal from ACAS which would have meant the reinstatement of redundancy pay and withdrawal of notice for 80 of the workers, with a view to them being employed in the factory by a firm called Arcoelectronics Holdings.

The workers decided that "the details given by the company of 80 jobs was insufficient to have any confidence that these are real jobs, nor that the numbers are sufficient to cover the areas the company claim they will operate."

Dutch registered, Arcoelectronics is a subsidiary of Wedje Holdings, an American company which is run in Europe by an employee of Plessey, and in Britain by someone who is still working for Plessey. It is proposed that the Bathgate factory would be run by Harold Jackson, its present managing director.

"Let no one claim," stressed George, "that when they rejected this offer our members did not recognise the enormity of the situation and realise what could be taken from them again."

Senior trade union officials had advised the workers that this was the best deal they could get from Plessey, though they agreed that if it was rejected the dispute would still be official and strike pay would

be paid.

Meanwhile, Plessey's appeal against an earlier court decision that the occupation was not illegal has been heard by three judges, who reserved judgement. "When Plessey used the courts, the dispute took on an extremely new dimension," George Wilson explained. "Let us recognise the biasness of the courts as far as property is concerned. This is a forerunner of the way the Tebbit law will be used."

Messages of support and donations still vital: send to Mary Murphy, 30 Main Street, Fauld House, West Lothian.

**By Pat Craven**

## Manchester cuts

Stewards from the majority of Manchester council workers' trade unions met together for the first time on the 12 March for a rally as part of a campaign to oppose the latest round of Heseltine's cuts, which the local Labour council is carrying out.

The rally was called to build support for a day of action, including a lobby of council and a demonstration on March 17. The coming together of most of the unions is the major step towards a unified campaign. This needs to be extended to link in with the other trade unions in the public sector, such as bus workers currently fighting increased fares, cuts in services, and garage closures. Also the Labour Party, tenants and residents in Manchester, must be involved in mass opposition to the government cuts, and along with other towns in a similar position.

**By Margaret Manning**

(NALGO Steward)

## SANDWELL DLO STRIKE

At a mass meeting at West Bromwich Town Hall, 600 Sandwell Direct Labour Organisation workers voted overwhelmingly for an all-out strike action in defence of their sacked senior steward, George Hickman.

Management's frame-up of George, this time over alleged infringements of time sheets, was so obvious that not one of the workers questioned the full time official's report of events. This was the second time in three months that the DLO management had attempted to summarily dismiss George.

This is part of a general attack on the DLO. Sandwell has one of the biggest DLO departments in the West Midlands, employing

some 1,600 workers. The authority has attempted to contract out the work, which has been fiercely resisted by the workers, through picketing and on one occasion an occupation of the main depot.

Probably the most disgraceful part of the situation, is that out of 72 councillors, 56 are Labour. In the last few months, 19 'Tribune' councillors have been expelled from the Labour Group for voting against cuts, including cuts in the DLO.

In an interview before the mass meeting Brother Hill T&GWU Deputy Convenor, Brother Ken Gallagher, NUPE Convenor, and Brother Len Griffiths, FTAT Convenor, all agreed that the right wing Labour councillors were acting no different to the Tories. Such were the

depths that management were going to, that the director of works, Mr Heyhoe, had spent hours spying on Brother Hickman from his car, using binoculars. For this he gets £18,000 a year!

The Sandwell DLO workers are determined to fight. This fight must be carried into the Labour Party, who should instruct the Labour councillors to support these workers. Brothers like George Hickman have proved themselves as fighters for the labour movement; the trade unions and Labour Party must rally round him.

Messages of support: Shop stewards room, Sandwell Direct Labour Organisation, Sandwell Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands.



Photo: MILITANT

## FOYLES

Siobhan Lanigan, sacked from the Foyles bookshop in London's West End for trying to organise a union, displays a £100 donation towards their strike fund from the Westminster branch of NUPE. The workers were sacked for being members of the shop workers union, USDAW. Such is the hard faced attitude of the owners that they have even sacked 'one of their own,' Tony Foyle, nephew of the owner, after he told the *City Limits* magazine "no intelligent person would want to work in a bookshop unless he owned it!"

Send donations to Siobhan Lanigan, c/o Collets Bookshop, 129 Charing Cross Road, London W1.



# Industrial Reports

## UNITY TO STOP BR BOSSES

Without doubt, the support from the TUC, Labour Party NEC and many trade unions indicated the goodwill of the movement towards the train drivers when they took on this reactionary government.

However, in contrast to the excellent response of the labour movement generally, some right wing union leaders went against basic trade union principles by criticising another union when in a crucial struggle.

In particular, NUR General Secretary Sid Weighell, in frequent statements to the press, in comments made on radio and television acted in a manner which angered many workers, not least his own members.

Indeed, in the February 26 edition of *Transport Review*, the NUR journal, Sid Weighell again points to the cost of the strike and how the money could have been spent on better pay and conditions or new rail equipment. The General Secretary should have taken that into account when he left the locomotives to battle alone. As one NUR guard, Des Lane, at Liverpool Street pointed out; "If Sid Weighell and the NEC had not hastily signed this rotten agreement, the ASLEF would not have been isolated and their action would not have been necessary."

Mr Weighell even used the dispute to further his own political ends with attacks in the Tory papers on the left wing and *Militant* in particular.

In addition, the locking out of NUR staff on Sundays when ASLEF were on strike and the attacks by BR on those guards who struck against flexi-rostering, represents a clear breach of the guaranteed week. Management are not supposed to do so without prior consultation with the union. Many NUR members will be

demanding to know whether the leadership were consulted and what their position on the issue is.

Not only has Sid Weighell's action angered many NUR members, but his attacks on ASLEF are at variance with the views of the union's NEC, which according to *Transport Review* (15 January), "reiterated that the 3% is separate and distinct from productivity and insist that it is paid forthwith."

But in view of this NEC decision, many NUR members have been concerned at the total lack of any clear opposition by that body to the damaging statements and actions of the General Secretary and other leading members of the union who don't appear to be bound by NEC policy.

Nevertheless, the action by ASLEF has been an inspiration to many NUR members.

The dispute has shown the possibilities for the Federation of rail unions. Despite Mr Weighell's lament that "the Federation is hanging by a thread" (*TR* 12.2.82), locally the links between ASLEF and NUR have been enormously strengthened, with members speaking at one another's meetings and seeing the need for a common struggle against a common enemy.

Such unity will be essential in the coming period. Already BR management are claiming that losses of £150 million, caused by the dispute they provoked, will mean further job losses and the sale of further BR assets. What hypocrisy! Last year they closed down the entire Collection and Delivery parcels service. They continued the rundown of large sections of the freight business. Profitable hotels were sold off. A total of 12,000 railway jobs went last year alone.

Throughout the dispute Tory Cabinet Ministers and MPs hypocritically claimed that the action of locomotives was jeopardising future investment.

But the action so effectively employed by locomotives to protect conditions, must now be turned into an all-out offensive by all three rail unions, not only to defend jobs, pay and conditions, but to force the government

to make the cash available for an expanding modernised transport service with decent pay and conditions for all.

Time and again the rail unions have been promised investment for the rail industry if they accept productivity and job losses. Despite the rail unions accepting change, investment for 1982 (£275m), is way below what is required, on the BRB's own admission.

It must be spelled out to the BRB and the Tories that the union will accept productivity after the money is made available. Furthermore, the only productivity that rail-workers are prepared to accept is productivity within the context of an expanding and modernised rail network, where productivity is rewarded, not with job losses, but shorter working hours.

By David Chapman  
(Glasgow ASLEF)

"Flexibility means opportunities" proclaims the middle pages of the February 26 issue of *Transport Review*, the NUR's weekly journal. "It means more time off and less anti-social shifts" and, we are told, "anyone who denies this is not telling the truth".

The article, signed by the NUR General Secretary, is in marked contrast to the NUR Branch and District reports which appear in the very same issue. Are the Merseyside and North Wales and Portobello branches not telling the truth when they say the flexi-rostering agreement is a 'retrograde step' and call for the agreement to be rejected? Are those members in Ayr, Manchester District Council, Miles Platting, Stockport and Norwich who all express serious misgivings about flexi-rostering not telling the truth?

Or is it the case that rank and file NUR members are genuinely concerned about their jobs and working hours and lack of consultation with the membership before the agreement was signed? Indeed, in the issue, only a few branch or district reports praise the flexi-rostering agreement.

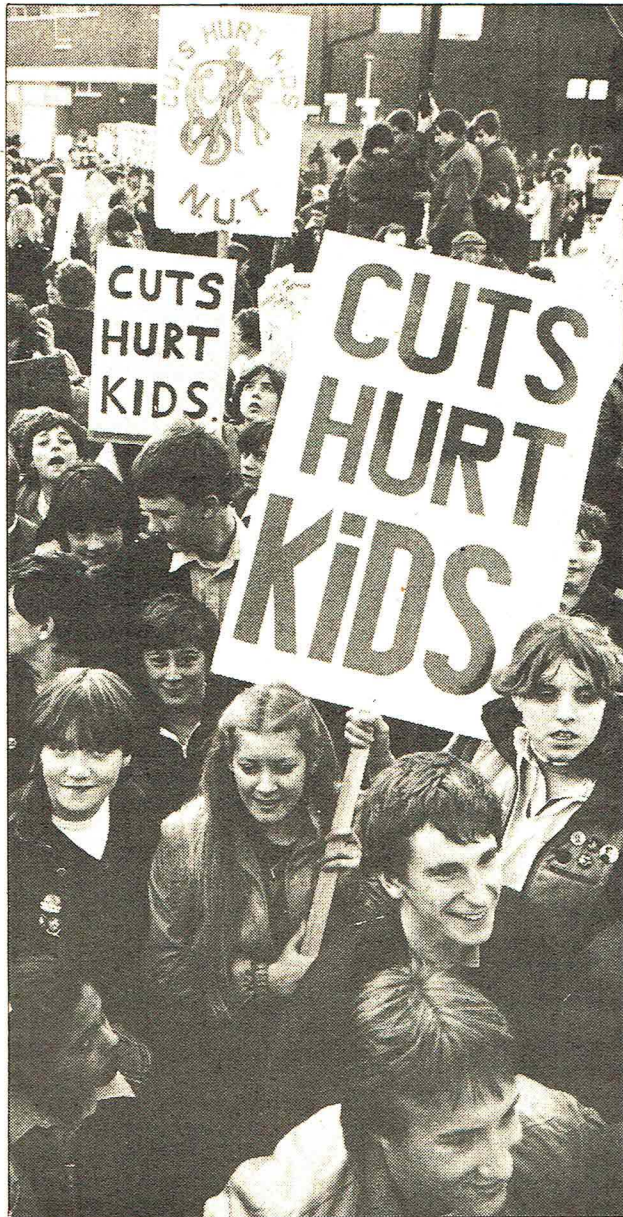


PHOTO: Militant.

A massive demonstration of 5,000 teachers, parents and school students marched through Barking in East London to protest at the Labour council's decision to carry out cuts. This coincided with the strike by local members of the National Union of Teachers, who are protesting against plans to axe 150 teaching posts in the borough. After the march, angry parents and teachers lobbied the Labour councillors as they entered the Town Hall for a meeting.

## CPSA ELECTION-SUPPORT MACREADIE

Voting is now under way in the elections for a deputy general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association. 'Militant' talked to the Broad Left candidate for the post, John Macreadie, about the election campaign so far.

As the deputy election campaign continues, what has been the indication so far of the support you are receiving?

JM: The support I'm getting is good. The issues raised in our campaign are in tune with the views and mood of the activists in our union; the lead the Broad Left took last year and are taking this year on pay; the question of civil service union amalgamations, and the arguments in favour of affiliation to the Labour Party.

What has been the action of the right-wing leadership and the right-wing candidate in the election campaign?

JM: The CPSA right wing have played a scandalous role. Firstly, they interfered in the official election

material by including in the election addresses a recommendation favouring their candidate, John Ellis. This is quite contrary to the rules of the union.

Secondly, they have again turned to the Tory press for help—worse of all was the front page article in the *Daily Express* quoting statements from John Ellis, the right-wing candidate. This basically called on the Thatcher government to lead a witch-hunt against the left in the civil service unions. I have lodged a complaint with the general secretary about Ellis's statement—it goes way beyond the bounds of electioneering and lays many activists within the union open to attack.

We then have the intervention of the CPSA general secretary elect, Alastair Graham. He issued leaflets which again he sent to the Tory press—we've seen a vicious campaign by the right wing of character assassination of myself and supporters of *Militant* within CPSA in general.

Why is a Broad Left victory important in this election?

JM: Already this year the CPSA right-wing leadership have led the membership into arbitration on pay

## Strike stepped up at Matthews

At mass meetings held on Monday 8 March, both plants of Bernard Matthews, Halesworth in Sussex, and Great Wingham in Norfolk, the decision was overwhelming to reject the latest derisory offer of 83p.

The workers had not been out on strike for over 3 weeks to return to the hell hole for a basic wage of £73.54!

The dispute has now entered its fifth week and the NAAAW members attitude has hardened. It has been a real shock to the company to see that in spite of their intimidation, no more than 60 to 65 have crossed the picket line and most of them are management.

Norfolk Refrigerator Transport have been breaking the picket line, but the T&G have had them blacked at the docks, where they usually pick up bananas.

The company are going to have to do something very quickly, because Easter is fast approaching, which is a period in which they depend on making their killing financially.

And the strikers received another morale booster this week. Matthews, no doubt in a panic as Easter looms up, had transferred thousands of turkeys to a works in Twydale, Driffield, in an attempt to get the goods onto the market. But after the intervention of the union, workers at Twydale, also members of the NAAAW, have blacked the turkeys!

## Determined mood at Rawsons

Night shift workers at W E Rawsons Ltd in Wakefield walked out on 6 March after management ignored protests about reduced manning levels.

There have been 10 redundancies, out of the Asian workforce of 60, last year, and matters came to a head recently when night shift workers were ordered by management to reduce manning levels for each machine. Manning levels were ordered to go down

from 4 to 3 men, which spelled further redundancies. Besides this being unsafe, the machines have been speeded up.

Management were completely arrogant and dismissed those who protested by joining in the walk-out and strike. The men are all members of the Textiles section of the TGWU and have gained full backing from the union. The mood on the picket line was determined when I visited.

As we talked the wind blew hard and then changed to hail-stones. The manage-

ment and the bosses obviously think that the weather is firmly on their side. But the local labour movement are now organising an appeal for cash for the picket line for heating and shelter, in order that aid can be given to these workers. This dispute clearly shows how even in this downtrodden section of industry, workers can really set the pace for fighting against redundancies and speed-ups.

By Roger Bradley  
(Wakefield LP)



# ASLEF LOBBY NO RETREAT ON ROSTERING!

Despite driving rain, the banners of the train drivers were held high on Monday when members of ASLEF along with other rail workers marched to lobby the Railway Staff's National Tribunal.

The lively demonstration, over 100 strong, then joined up with another 150 members of ASLEF, and with members of the National Union of Railwaymen, at the tribunal's venue in Holborn, London.

The Railway Staffs National Tribunal (RSNT) is the highest level of negotiating machinery for the rail unions and the BRB.

Rail workers packed into the meeting room to cheer on ASLEF general secretary Ray Buckton, as he echoed the determined opposition of not only train drivers but NUR members to BRB's attempts to impose flexi-rostering on rail workers.

In contrast, BRB

By Jim Sharkey  
 (Polmadie ASLEF personal capacity)

spokesman Clifford Rose was booed when he entered the building, and jeered when he gave 'evidence' to the tribunal outlining BR's attempts to attack conditions won over the past decades by the rail unions.

Also, NUR members present responded angrily when their assistant general secretary Russell Tuck outlined to the tribunal reasons and 'justification', for acceptance by the NUR leadership of the BRB's proposals.

ASLEF's determined stand against flexi-rostering

continues. Throughout the dispute, ASLEF pointed out the retrograde step flexi-rostering would mean for the train drivers conditions. Lord McCarthy declared himself "unable to understand" flexi-rostering. ASLEF members do understand it, and are fighting it.

ASLEF also correctly criticised the BRB for not processing their proposals throughout the proper negotiating machinery. BRB's proposals have now gone through the correct channels.

However there are certain dangers in ASLEF's argument. The Tribunal's terms of reference are very tight and the BRB believes this favours them.

It is crucial now that ASLEF ensures the RSNT

is not used to trap locomen into accepting flexi-rostering.

Our six week struggle has been to defend the eight hour day, not the negotiating machinery which has frequently been used to frustrate our demands. It needs to be replaced with a procedure more responsive to our aspirations.

The fighting mood displayed during the six week action and at the demonstration and lobby on 15 March needs to be used to win a victory in the 1982 wage claim.

While we can be victorious in a defensive struggle, we must now go on the offensive to secure decent pay; improve working conditions and get an expanding modern rail system.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Camberwell Garage in South London of bullying workers into strike action. This is nonsense. Workers understand the effect these attacks have on their livelihoods.

The TGWU rep, Bill Murrell, told a *Militant* reporter "From the Tory press, what can you expect? All members except one out of 480 were out after two meetings voted overwhelmingly for this action. There have been no threats in this or any other garage".

"Fares Fair was the best thing ever, with more people than ever riding on buses. Now we could lose 1,000 buses by the end of 1983 with three drivers and three conductors affected for each bus."

Apart from the LT workers' action over 200,000 passengers have already signed the petition against fare rises. The Tory press are attacking workers because they are scared at the opposition the Law Lords have stirred up.

The enthusiasm must be used to save LT services and jobs. Unfortunately the main protest tactics at the moment are strong on imagination but weak on organisation.

The "Can't-pay-won't-pay" option being canvassed by some GLC councillors asks individual passengers to refuse to pay fare rises and individual conductors and inspectors to take no action.

Although some union leaders have said they will back members who face disciplinary action, there

have been no union instructions to members to collect only the old fares. A campaign that puts all the onus on individual isolated bus crews and passengers is no campaign at all!

An effective campaign can not rely just on individual courage. It must use the full strength of the working class, and particularly LT workers.

The LT unions should demand the immediate withdrawal of all job losses threatened and reinstatement of cut services. This would ensure the support of both workers and passengers. Failure to withdraw these threats should be answered by a coordinated refusal to operate both the new rosters and the increased fares. The union should make it clear that it will not tolerate the suspension of any crews.

But LT can only operate a cheap fares scheme with greatly increased central government subsidy. The demand for a 60% subsidy from central funds is still below that of most European cities.

The unions, the GLC leaders and the London Labour Party must organise a campaign, including industrial action, to obtain this vital financial lifeline.

Given the enthusiasm engendered so far, a campaign putting the full weight of the labour movement behind this struggle could draw all unions facing government cuts into a common battle against Tory devastation.

The Tory government who have backed the Law Lords to the hilt, must be given a clear choice—to back down—or get out and give way to a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

# ANC OFFICES BOMBED

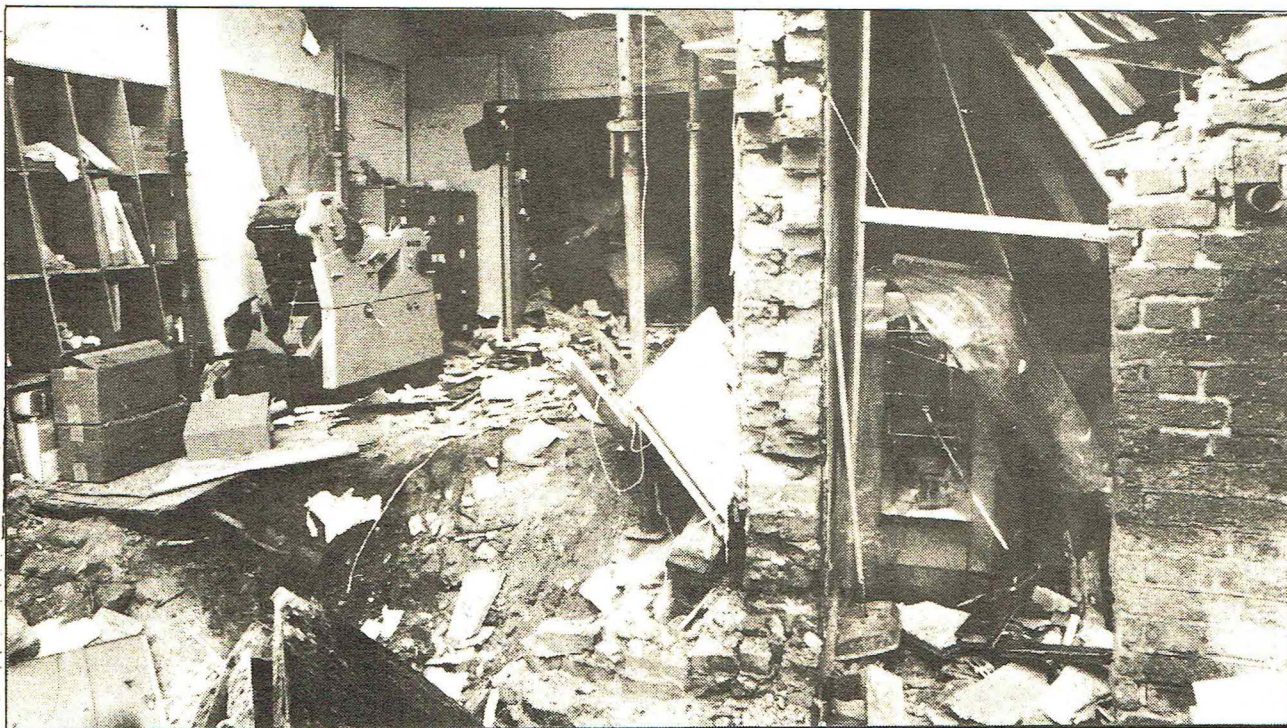


Photo: Andrew Ward (Report)

On the day that thousands demonstrated against apartheid in South Africa, the offices of the main African liberation group, the African National Congress (ANC) were devastated by a

large bomb in Islington. Other ANC offices have been bombed and destroyed. The Islington area has also seen a number of racist attacks in the past few years.

## WANTED £20,000

Militant is still under attack from the millionaire press, the TV and radio. We need your support to help us fight back with meetings, pamphlets, posters and

leaflets to give the facts, figures and arguments on where we stand and how socialist policies can beat the bosses and their system.

Help us raise a record £20,000 in four weeks (see fighting fund report on page 13). Don't leave everything to the last. We expect a bumper collection

at Labour's Youth Conference but we must be nearly on target by then. Easter Sunday, 11 April, is the deadline.

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