

Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

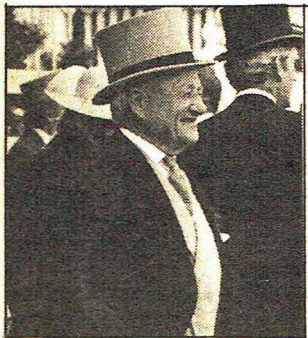
ISSUE 594
26 March 1982

20p

SICK OF THE TORIES?
Come to Labour Party
Young Socialists
Conference
Details page 5

TORY POLICIES ARE WORKING!

RICH GET RICHER



Tory Britain is rapidly becoming the poorest of all industrialised countries while within Britain the gap between rich and poor is getting wider.

Who has benefited

from this Thatcher government? If you are a member of the Royal Family, or earning over £500 a week, you may be richer.

The overwhelming majority of us are

worse off.

By Roger Shives

Real income per head has fallen rapidly in Britain. The average wage of British workers in 1980 had only

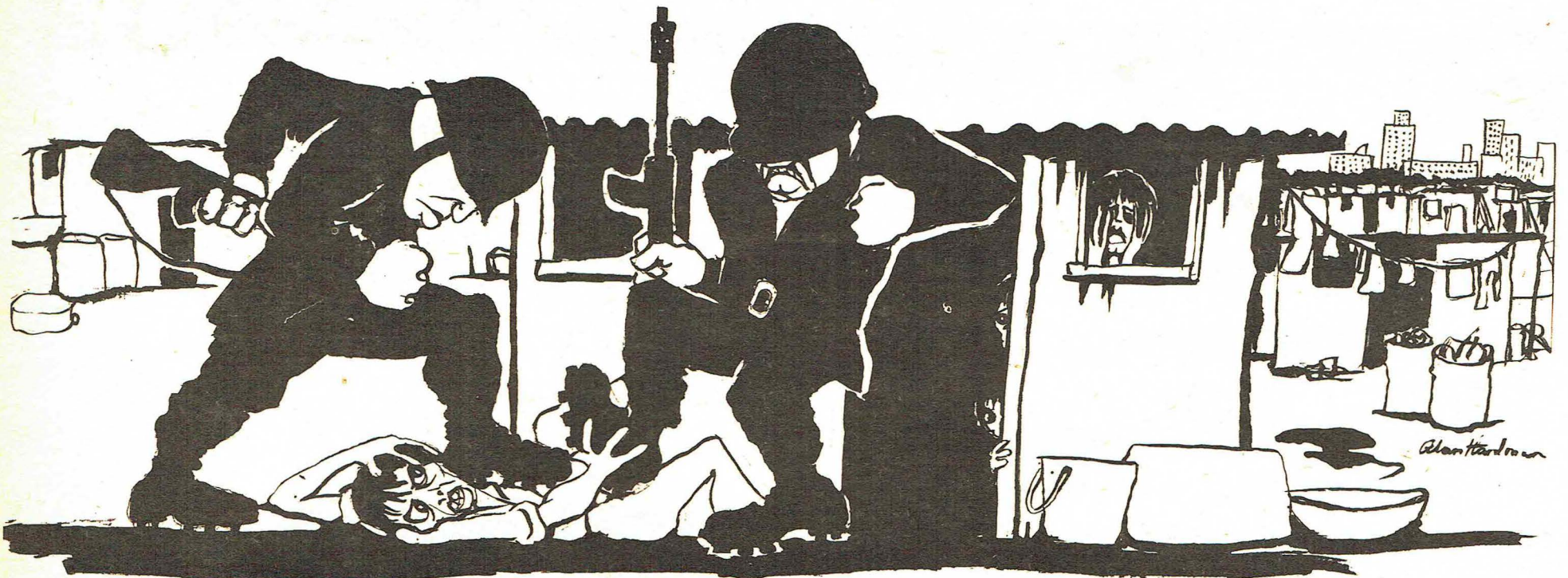
81% of the purchasing power of the average West German wage compared to 83% in 1979.

This reflects the total collapse of British industry in the past few years. Manufacturing output is now at its lowest level for 15

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REST GET POORER



GOOD AFTERNOON SIR. WE'RE CANVASSING ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT...
CAN WE RELY ON YOUR SUPPORT ON SUNDAY?

EL SALVADOR

By Jim Chrystie

Major article on
El Salvador
pages 8-9

End Tyranny -Overthrow Capitalism

This week's elections in El Salvador are a complete farce. They are taking place against a background of the most vicious terrorisation of the mass of the population by the military government and the right-wing death squads.

Not a day passes without the discovery of bodies of youths picked up earlier by the army.

In almost every case they show signs of torture, abuse and mutilation before death.

The elections are only an attempt by President Duarte to gain international recognition for his monstrous regime. "This junta does not have legitimacy," Duarte declared, "But the elections will give it that."

Voters have the choice of seven parties but only ranging from the right-wing Christian Democrats to outright fascists and gangsters.

Voting is meant to be compulsory, but no one

even knows how many voters there are. All left-wing parties have boycotted the elections, realising that to show their faces would be to sign their own death warrants.

Anyone who reports the truth is also risking their life. The murder of four Dutch journalists by a right-wing death squad last week, and the threats made to other international correspondents are clear indications that the extreme right-wing who still wield power in El Salvador will

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Militant

The implementation of savage fare increases on London Transport this week undoubtedly inflicts a sharp cut in living standards and marks a set-back for the campaign to defend public transport.

Despite mounting opposition, including criticism from most of the serious capitalist press, the Tory government has stuck firm and refused to budge. Even though Howell, the Transport Minister, is now hinting that some form of subsidy will eventually have to be given to London Transport he has made it clear that he is not prepared to give it now to the Labour-controlled Greater London Council.

This stubborn refusal of Thatcher and Howell to grant London Transport anything near the same level of subsidy of other cities' transportation systems can only be understood by their determination to deal a blow to the Labour GLC. Their motivation is only partly due to the mounting pressure of rates on businesses, but mainly to the desire to make an 'example' of the Labour GLC.

The election last May of a Labour GLC with a radical programme struck fear into the hearts of the ruling class and they were determined to do all that they could to bring the new council rapidly to heel. Now, just over ten months since they were elected, the only major part of the GLC programme which is still going ahead is

London Transport campaign needs more determined leadership

the Greater London Enterprise Board, and the Tories have just announced new measures aimed to cripple its financing!

It is only in this overall political context that the House of Lords decision on the 'Fares Fair' policy can be understood: certainly it had nothing at all to do with the running of a modern public transport system.

For the last three months a campaign has been waged against the cutbacks on London Transport, gathering widespread public support. The March 10th one day strike of London Transport was absolutely solid. Yet the fare rises were inevitable, given the nature of the campaign which was organised.

The campaign was not directed in any way towards the labour movement taking action to confront the Tories to force them to back down. The dozens of well attended public meetings, the rallies, petitions etc all helped to build up opposition to the in-



Photo: MILITANT

creases and to pin the blame on the Tories, yet they were not linked to any plan of action.

The very successful one day strike was called nearly three months after the House of Lords ruling.

Some trade union leaders looked upon it as a safety valve for their members' anger, as they were not prepared to challenge the government in political terms. No concrete plan of action on what to do next to defeat the cutbacks was put forward. If the strike had been held earlier then it could have served as a stepping stone to further action, but it was presented merely as the Trade Unions registering their opposition to the cutbacks.

NUR forced retreat on timetables

In this situation it is perfectly understandable that there was the development of the 'Can't Pay, Won't Pay' campaign as people have sought a way to actually stop the fare increases. However, as we have pointed out before, individual protest of this kind will not be able to stop the increases.

Even if 30,000 refused to pay their fares it would only mean a 1% drop in London Transport's income. In the event only a few hundred actually participated in the 'Can't Pay, Won't Pay' protest.

The real way forward has been shown by the fact that London Transport has been forced to postpone for four weeks the implementation of new reduced underground train timetables. London Transport were forced to retreat on this issue because the National Union of Railwaymen

refused to work with the new timetables. A similar stand by the other major London Transport unions, regarding all fares and the new bus timetables, would open up the possibility of defeating these cuts.

It is not too late yet to mount such a fightback, although time is running out. Already London Transport is beginning to lay the propaganda groundwork for blaming the next fare increase on the trade unions wage demands.

A bold call to action must be given by the London Transport Trade Union leaders at once. It must also be made clear that London Transport cannot be funded out of the rates but by the government increasing its support of LT to 60% of its running costs, in line with most other Western European transport systems.

The Labour GLC leaders also have a responsibility to publicly call on the trade unions to take any action necessary to defeat this attack. There must be no support for the idea that there is an artificial barrier between the political and industrial wings of the labour movement.

The raising of the fares is not the end of the cutbacks as far as London Transport is concerned. Still to come are the issues of new timetables, 5000 redundancies, station and bus route closures, pay and the inevitable wave of assaults on LT workers which will be caused by the cutbacks. A clear call for industrial action to defend London Transport is still the only way the Tories can be forced to retreat.

TRADE UNIONS and the LABOUR PARTY

Bradford Trades Council

After pressure from Ben Ford, the present MP for Bradford North, the TUC have told Bradford Trades Council that their delegates on Bradford North Labour Party can not vote in the constituency's fresh reselection meetings.

Bradford Trades Council has long historic links with the Labour Party. It was after the Manningham Mills strike in the city in 1891 that the Trades Council set up the Independent Labour Party to fight for parliamentary representation for the working class. Since then the Trades Council has consistently supported Labour.

Such considerations seem to mean little to Ben Ford. When he first wanted sup-

port for reselection, Ford, along with other Bradford Labour MPs, wrote to the Trades Council seeking nomination.

It was only after he was defeated by Pat Wall in the first reselection conference and the Trades Council passed a resolution in support of their President, Pat Wall, that he wrote to the TUC, claiming the involvement of the Trades Council was against TUC rules.

Labour Party rules clearly allow for full affiliation and participation of Trades Councils. Nevertheless, the TUC wrote to Bradford TC and told them that since 1977, trades councils could affiliate to Labour Parties, but could neither forward resolutions nor become in-

involved in selection or reselection battles.

Although trade unionists will doubtless consider such restrictions incredible in a period when every trade union needs to become politically active, the Trades Council will not participate in the reselection procedure. However we will not be disaffiliating from the Labour Party as was claimed in an article in *The Times* (22 March). We would also urge trade union branches and trades councils to fight to change this TUC rule.

There seems to be a move amongst some trade union right-wingers to loosen the links between the organised trade union movement and the Labour Party. If there is, it will be firmly opposed.

If Ben Ford had fought as hard to save the 2,000 jobs lost at Bairds EMI or the 1,000 jobs lost at International Harvesters as he has fought to save his own he might well have been reselected in the first place!

By Keith Narey

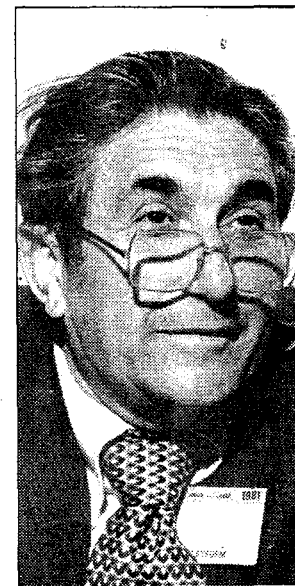
A gun at the head of the Labour Party

According to the 'Daily Mail', the leadership of the EETPU have withheld their £72,000 affiliation fee from the Labour Party "in protest against infiltration by the Trotskyist Militant Tendency."

Furthermore, the article suggests, Frank Chapple's determination to have the Labour Party deal with the Marxists was reinforced by the speech last week by Tony Benn in which he justified the right of Labour Party members to hold Marxist views.

At the same time, Roy Grantham, right wing leader of APEX was reported to have said, "There is going to be major pressure by the unions to ensure that the Militant Tendency people are dealt with under Clause two of Labour's constitution... these people..." he goes on, "do not believe in democracy."

It is clear from the actions of Chapple and Grantham that there is a campaign by trade union right wingers to hold a gun at the head of the Labour Party, with the threat of reduced finances unless the party moves back to the right. Only a week earlier there were hints that the AUEW,



Frank Chapple, EETPU leader

would continue to sponsor Ben Ford even if he lost the nomination in Bradford North and stood against the Labour candidate.

Frank Chapple, who was one of the signatories to the Limehouse declaration before the establishment of the SDP, has already considered withdrawing EETPU sponsorship from a left-wing Labour MP who supported Tony Benn in last year's deputy leadership contest.

Labour Party and Trade Union members must firmly rebuff this attempt to pressurise the Labour Party into reversing leftward policy changes and the democratic reforms of the last few years. Those "who do not believe in democracy" are on the right of the party, not the left.

"Decent, hard-working Labour Party members" (to use the phrase so much loved by the Right) must be protected from being witch-hunted out of the party for the views they hold. If there are to be questions raised about 'loyalty' to the Labour Party, then they should be directed towards those trade union right-wingers now hinting at disaffiliation because they find their own policies in a minority.

As for the *Daily Mail*, its editorial praised Chapple and condemned Benn's speech; saying "Almost as if Margaret Thatcher were sweetly to deprecate the expulsion of the late Sir Oswald Mosley from the Tory Party, Mr Benn 'profoundly deplores' the suggestion that disciples of Leon Trotsky should be drummed out of the Labour Party." The editors of the *Daily Mail* are the last people to be in a position to lecture anyone on 'democracy'. After all, their paper was a supporter of Oswald Mosley in the 1930s, carrying headlines like "Hurrah for the Blackshirts!" Many workers will understandably conclude that "any friend of the *Mail* is no friend of Labour."

Labour Party

Reports

W. Midlands • Southern
• S. Western •

LABOUR MUST DITCH CAPITALISM

By 'Militant'
reporters

The three Labour Party regional conferences taking place this weekend (26-27 March) are all in areas which ten years ago seemed remote from the worst problems of capitalism.

Not today. There are no havens of prosperity in Britain under Thatcher. The West Midlands, the South and South West suffer like the whole of the country.

In the West Midlands unemployment has doubled in twelve months and now stands at around 15% above the national average.

The prosperity and job security of decades has vanished along with factories like Rover Cars, Triumph Canley and Ansell's Brewery. Several resolutions deal with unemployment, the economy and the state of the region. Motion 33 from POEU supports the Alternative Economic Strategy. But even a Labour government committed to this policy of partial control of a diseased economy would not be able to put the economy fully back to work.

Only resolution 66 from Selly Oak CLP outlines the full socialist programme "for public ownership of the major monopolies in order to plan the economy." If such a programme with all the benefits it would bring were explained it would give Labour an outstanding victory in the next election.

Two resolutions oppose any witch-hunts in the party especially of Militant supporters but hopefully it is not those who argue for socialist policies who the Co-op Party in resolution 25 feel are 'those who would attempt to divide us'.

Also the Co-op's attack on opposing the law must not be allowed to go by without mention of, for example, the unions' defeat of the Tories' Industrial Relations Act. Action against reactionary laws does not contradict Labour's aim of utilising parliament to change society. Conference has the opportunity to work out the policies necessary to achieve just that.

Southern Region also faces devastation in areas like Chatham and Portsmouth

Brighton Kempton

Labour Party show the way to fight with calls for a "massive programme of public works at union rates of pay, a 35-hour week with no loss of pay, the ending of systematic overtime and the introduction of a minimum wage of £80 per week."

Reigate's resolution stresses that "while effective control of the economy rests with the minority that run industry and finance, unemployment can never be ended."

It calls for "a Labour government to take into public ownership under democratic control and management, the commanding heights of the economy, banks and financial institutions."

With only four Labour MPs in the South West Region, it is Tory seats which stand to fall to the present SDP bandwagon, but it is just as vital that we expose these new second-eleven Tories, for in some rural areas Labour voters may otherwise vote for the Alliance, wrongly seeing them as better than the Tories.

It is unfortunate therefore that the Regional Executive is attempting to make sure that resolution 32 from Bristol NE CLP on fighting the SDP is left to the end of the agenda and consequently not reached.

We will never win voters from the SDP by ignoring them or putting forward similar moderate policies. It has been the failure of those "moderate" pro-capitalist policies by Labour governments in the past, that has given credence to the SDP as a "new" party.

A highlight of Conference will be the debate on Youth, where resolutions from Swindon and Poole CLPs congratulate the LPYS for its role in helping to unionise thousands of badly-exploited YOP trainees.

Over 100 YOPsters attended the recent rally in London from the South West, and CLPs and union branches are urged to give all support to the campaign, recognising the dangers if young people are left in the gutter isolated from our movement.

These regional conferences should be seen as small steps towards building a socialist Labour Party which can lead the way to a socialist Britain.

TOXTETH LP RALLY: Sunday 28 March 2.30pm. Pakistan Centre, Mulgrave St, Liverpool 8. Speakers include Tony Mulhearn, local election candidates, an LPYS speaker and Alan Quinn (General Executive, TGWU, personal capacity).

SOUTH WEST

The following MILITANT supporters are standing for the SW Regional Executive: Marcel Pyke (NUPE)—TU section; Roger Thomas (Falmouth CLP)—Avon section; Cllr Derek White (Falmouth CLP) Cornwall; Bridget Shaw (Torbay CLP)—Devon; Tom Harman (Torbay CLP) LPYS; Mick Whale (Bristol SE CLP)—LPYS.

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.

Southern Region LP Conference

Militant Readers Meeting The Fountain Public House, Chapel Road, Worthing. Saturday 27 March, 6pm. Speakers include: John Kelly (Delegate, T&GWU personal capacity), Rod Fitch (PPC Brighton Kemptown).

MILITANT supporters who are running for the REC in Southern Region are: T Pearce (Wokingham CLP); Mrs B Bell (Havant & Waterloo CLP); Mrs C Wilson (Isle of Wight CLP); G Jones (Brighton Kemptown CLP); S Nattrass (Arundel CLP).

REIGATE Labour Party/LPYS 'Surrey needs Labour' March and Rally with Norman Atkinson MP, Sara Smith (Surrey County Councillor). Assemble, Reigate Town Centre, Saturday 3 April, 10.30am. March to Rally in Redhill town centre.

Kick the Tories out! No to Tebbit's anti-union bill & slave labour proposals for youth! Surrey needs Labour!

West Midlands LP Conference

Speaker: Dave Nellist (PPC Coventry SE CLP and REC candidate). Sunday 28 March 12.45pm at Three Fishes pub, Fish Street, Shrewsbury (200 yards from across square opposite conference hall).



Michael Foot meets 'Militant' supporters, local councillor Julie Taylor and Toxteth PPC, Tony Mulhearn in Toxteth last summer

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

Tory Disaster Socialist Answer

By Josie
Aitman

Eight months ago, the Toxteth area of Liverpool erupted. Bad housing, unemployment, poor facilities and police harassment over the years led to an outburst of anger at the effects of Toryism and capitalism.

Thatcher's "answer" was to tear Heseltine away from his Oxfordshire mansion and Belgravia house to visit Toxteth with bankers and bigwigs in his train. The result has been no help whatever.

Nearly three in five are unemployed, and local youth have a one in twenty-five chance of a job even if they get on a YOP scheme. We've got no new jobs—but we've got a new job centre!

Despite the brave efforts of local residents, the barrack like housing blocks, ill-kept and poorly lit streets make the area look desolate. But the Liberal/Tory alliance in the city, "encouraged" by the Tory government have built no council houses for the past three years.

Meanwhile, rents on average are higher in Liverpool than anywhere else in the country. And, despite all the publicity about school violence, a multi racial infant school at Dove Street, with a good record and small classes is facing closure.

At a recent meeting of

parents and teachers, Labour's local prospective parliamentary candidate, Tony Mulhearn received a tremendous reception when he pointed out the people responsible for the cuts, and said the closure was totally unacceptable.

The campaign to keep the school open, follows on from Croxteth Comprehensive where a recent battle by the parents has been won. The headmistress, teachers and parents are determined to deep Dove Street school open

But these attacks need a political answer and that is what a Toxteth Labour Party intend to provide.

On 28 March they have organised a mass canvass and recruitment drive for the whole constituency. Invitations have been sent out to all Labour Party regions to send people along.

Already many areas have indicated that in particular the youth from the LPYS branches are eager to come to Toxteth, where Tony Mulhearn is regarded as a candidate for the youth, standing on and supporting the programme of the

Labour Party Young Socialists and the Militant.

In contrast to the disastrous policies of the Tories, and the outdated and discredited ideas of the SDP/Liberals, Tony is campaigning on the following programme;

- A crash programme of public works to build houses, schools etc and to provide jobs

- A minimum wage of at least £90 per week

- The introduction of a 35-hour week without loss of pay, to create jobs

- An end to the scandal of council rents of £35 a week while the council has to pay £44 million to the money lenders.

These demands clearly show the need for the public ownership of the nation's wealth and resources—democratically managed and controlled by the working class, as outlined in Clause 4, part 4 of Labour's constitution.

For further information on this mass canvass please contact Ron Burke (Election Agent), c/o Labour Party, 61 Admiral Street, Liverpool L8.

Workplace branch in Liverpool

The first Labour Party workplace branch in the North West opened recently in Liverpool Housing Department, recruiting members across the different jobs from plumbers, painters and contract workers to office staff.

With the cuts due to Tory government and Liberal council policy, houses are in

decline while jobs are lost, vacancies unfilled, the direct labour schemes under threat and nobody recruited to the council.

With the anger of workers against the Tories the members are sure they won't have the same problems with recruitment to their workplace branch!

Anderton Speech

Tory economic policies are in ruins and by the next General Election all the main economic indicators—inflation, unemployment, production and investment—will be worse than in May 1979 when they came to office.

Faced with the mess of their economic policies, sections of the Tory Party are now openly canvassing for a 'Law and Order' crusade, hoping that this could restore at least some of their lost support.

More than 80 Tory MPs last week signed a Commons motion in favour of restoring hanging, after the national advertising campaign, initiated by the Police Federation.

But the Tory backwoodsmen's efforts have been aided by the increasingly right-wing campaigns originating within the police itself. The release of crime statistics by the Metropolitan Police related the figures to race, but in only one carefully selected set of statistics.

Nothing could have been better designed to invite the right-wing press and racist organisations to associate all crime with blacks, to demand vigilantes, repatriations, and so on.

What was not emphasised was the fact that robberies and violent theft, although disturbing enough in themselves, make up only 3% of crimes and that so-called 'muggings' make up less than 1%.

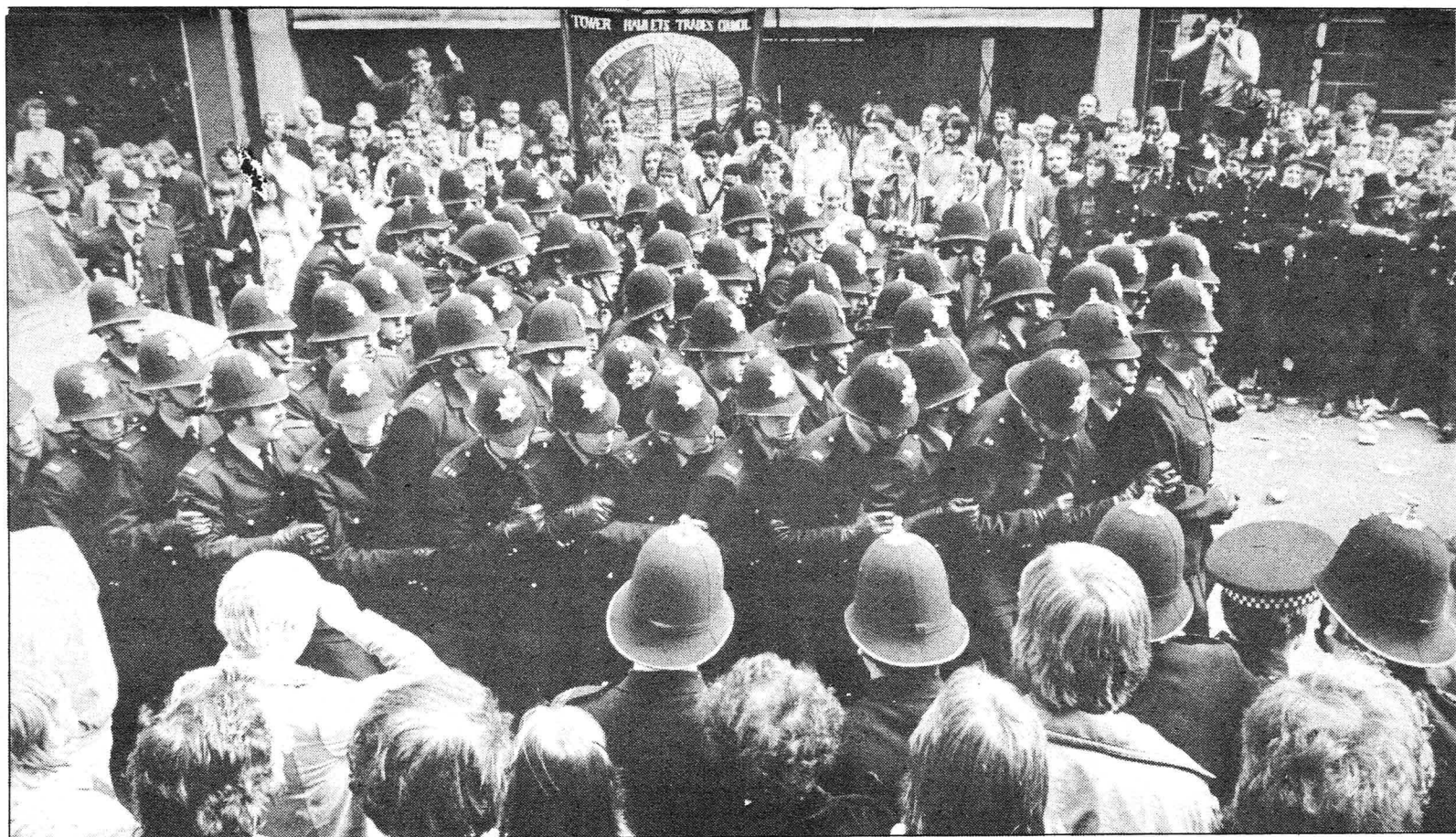
Tory spokesmen and the Tory press made no attempt to balance the figures properly. Even Peter Jenkins in *The Guardian* pointed out that nationally: "the victims of muggers are more likely to be male than female; far more likely to be young and able-bodied than old and infirm; nearly as likely to be hurt by white muggers as black."

None of these facts were used by Whitelaw, Thatcher or the gutter press to counter the campaign to stereotype all muggers as young blacks and their victims as white women pensioners.

A week after the Metropolitan Police crime figures were released, James Anderton, the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester made his own contribution to the law and order bandwagon.

Despite his pleas that the police should be non-political, like some sort of 'neutral' civil service, Anderton himself is very much a political animal, regularly making speeches, and putting forward his own personal views. In 1979, it was reported, Anderton attended 197 public functions and made 100 speeches.

He has clashed with the



Police formed a "wedge" to break up pickets protesting at scabs in the Nottingham Evening Post dispute in 1979. The police moves against workers at Laurence Scott this year cost over £100,000 for an eleven-day operation. Anderton's statement has been denounced by the NW Regional Labour Party, the NW TUC Regional Secretary and Greater Manchester LPYS.

Right wing campaign on police

By John Pickard

Greater Manchester Police committee on many occasions. Last month he refused to answer a number of questions raised in the committee about the use of large forces of police to protect lorries crossing the Laurence Scott picket lines. Up to 300 police had been deployed in that operation for a number of days.

Members of the committee had objected to the use of police in strikebreaking, especially at great cost and inconvenience to the ratepayers. A petition of 2,000 signatures had been presented objecting to the whole operation, "taking officers off the street at a time when elderly people and others were being attacked."

Anderton refused to answer even questions about the exact redeployment of officers to cover Laurence Scott's, on the grounds that, under the terms of the Police Act he did not have to give information which it was not in the 'public interest' to disclose.

There is no mistaking the right-wing bias in Anderton's views and his own perspective of a growing 'political' role for the police. In 1979 he declared: "I think that from the police point of view that my task in the future...that basic crime as such—theft, burglary, even violent crime—will not be the predominant police feature.

"What will be the matter of greatest concern will be the covert and ultimately overt attempt to overthrow democracy, to subvert the authority of the state, and, in fact, to involve

themselves in acts of sedition designed to destroy our parliamentary system and the democratic government in this country."

His latest speech follows a similar theme. "A quiet revolution is taking place around us," he said, "And the prize is political power to be wielded against the most cherished elements of the establishment, including the monarchy. It is as much the duty of the police to guard against this as it is to guard against crime."

The nightmare conjured up by Anderton is the "intensified move towards political control of the police, without which the dreams of a Marxist totalitarian state in this country cannot ultimately be realised."

Anderton, at his press conference, refused to be drawn on whether he was referring to Labour Party members on the police committee, but the Labour Party members themselves (as well as members nationally) will see these remarks as a clear political statement directed at them.

Anderton has advocated the abolition of the present police committees and their replacement by largely appointed boards, based, like the police authorities he advocates, on only eight or ten large regions.

The picture that comes to mind, if Anderton had his way, is of a police force even more remote from the local community, with each massive region being commanded by some kind of 'commissioner-general' responsible directly to the Home Office and no-one else.

Despite the repudiation of Anderton by John Alderson, the Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall, and by other senior officers, there is an unmistakable trend in the thinking of the

police towards a more and more open political role.

John Alderson and others have expressed misgivings about a so-called 'third-force' but in practice it already exists. Most large metropolitan police forces have specially trained riot squads equipped with CS gas, plastic bullets and riot equipment.

A special Home Office working party last year investigated and made recommendations on the use and availability of riot and

skill.

Newman has introduced many of his experiences in Northern Ireland into the training of police officers and has carried out further research into riot equipment and crowd control, and he was closely involved with the Home Office working party mentioned above.

The appointment of Newman and the speech of Anderton in London only confirms the trend towards a semi-political force like the Spanish Guardia-Civile.

The Labour Party must fight firmly against all these trends against control and accountability of the police. Democratic local committees should be established with control over the police, including police methods and hiring and firing, to give the labour movement a genuine authority over what should be a community service.

Where crimes are committed that are especially abhorrent to a local community, particularly violent crimes, there is generally a wave of sympathy and support for the police in making enquiries.

Thousands of volunteers have been known to search for children missing or abducted. There was no resentment towards the police in their search for the 'Ripper' murders.

But on the other hand police activities directed against sections of the community—the operation of the 'Sus' law against youth, especially blacks; the 'Swamp 81' operation in Brixton; arbitrary 'swoops' and arrests in the search for illegal immigrants; massive and expensive protection of fascists marching through racially-mixed areas; deployment against trade union picket lines—all these are in an entirely different category to the prevention of what most workers think

of as ordinary crimes, and serve only to alienate the police from the community.

It is only by a twisted form of logic that right wingers can use increases in crimes against the person, burglaries and so on, almost invariably committed by individuals, to justify the stocking of large amounts of riot equipment!

However much the Tories try to wriggle out of their responsibilities, there is no denying that crimes in general are associated with social ills like slum-housing, unemployment, poverty, and so on.

Breeding grounds of crime

The vicious policies of Toryism, driving more and more workers and their families to the brink of insecurity—or beyond—are directly responsible for increasing crime.

Much to her own embarrassment, Margaret Thatcher was forced to admit in the Commons that serious crime had decreased under the last Labour Prime Minister, while it had increased during her own tenure of office.

Capitalism itself creates insecurity and instability in workers' lives and there is no possibility in the foreseeable future that the social ills will decrease or even stand still: they can only get worse.

The Labour Party has the duty to fight for a police force that is democratically controlled and accountable. But the prime task of the movement is also to fight for a new society that would eliminate all the horrible social sores of capitalism that are the real breeding ground for crime.

Fighting the real criminals

If ever there was a time for young blacks to join the fight to drive out the Thatcher government, then it is surely now!

The Tory racists are on the march! Government ministers, the BBC, police chiefs and magistrates—that whole bunch are once again spewing out racist filth about black people.

With distorted crime figures and blatant lies about so called "black crime"; the Tory press want to divert the public gaze away from the real muggers in our society.

The bosses and their rotten profit system are the real criminals robbing us daily of jobs, homes and a decent education.

But gone forever are the days when blacks were prepared to take it lying down. Everywhere, black youth have shown that they are ready to fight back.

The question is—how? How do we end mass unemployment, win decent wages and better conditions? How do we stop police harrassment, and smash racism?

These are just some of the burning questions we'll be thrashing out at the LPYS Annual conference at Easter.

Why not come along and join us? Fight back with the LPYS, with the black and white youths from all over Britain who will be coming together at the conference

By Bob Lee

to discuss how we can take forward the battle for socialist policies!

In addition to lively debates on Central America, India and Pakistan, South America and many other international questions, there will be a full debate on fighting racism and fascism, which is always one of the highlights of the conference.

The LPYS National Committee will also be announcing detailed plans for a special anti-racist conference to be held in early July that will draw together scores of black workers and youth from trade unions, youth clubs, YOPs, schools and colleges.

The LPYS has a proud record of fighting racism. We have been in the forefront of the fight for workers unity to end immigration controls, drive the fascists off the streets and bring an end to discrimination.

We appeal to black youth to join our struggle.

In the remaining weeks leading up to the conference, LPYS branches should be making a final drive to get black youth to the conference.



The LPYS are well to the fore in fighting the Tory muggers. Come to conference this Easter and join our fight. And don't forget the Militant Readers' Meeting. Speakers include Pat Wall and Ted Grant. Photo: Militant

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.

"ROOTS REGGAE"

Enjoy Britain's most dynamic sound. The top band "Weapons of Peace" Playing Friday and Sunday, 9 and 11 April, at LPYS conference

MILITANT The voice for socialist youth

The Tory press and the right-wing in the Labour Party daily whip up a frenzy against *Militant* with calls for a witch-hunt against socialism.

Militant has always highlighted the role of youth in working class struggles. Youth gets the worst deal under the Tories; only one-third of all school-leavers this summer will have a chance of finding a job.

The rest will have to survive on £25 a week on YOP or £15 a week on "youth training".

Militant is the only paper to give consistent support to the Labour Party Young Socialists who are leading the fight against cheap labour schemes. During the riots of last summer, it was *Militant* who defended the LPYS against the attacks of the Tory press, exposing the

Tories as the real vandals.

In its eighteen year history, *Militant* had defended the LPYS from attacks and has been an indispensable weapon in building the LPYS. *Militant* is the only paper which every week reports on the campaigns and activity of LPYS branches written by local LPYS members.

Militant in other words is your paper. We need to raise £35,000 by April 11th: so far we have not raised half of that! *Militant* especially appeals to youth to support us.

The LPYS Conference *Militant* Readers Meeting has always seen tremendous collections for *Militant's* Fighting Fund. Last year we raised £4,900. This year we are calling for an extra special effort to raise £10,000 at the conference. We appeal to every Young Socialist Branch to organise

collections for *Militant*, and to organise a fund-raising event such as a social, disco or sponsored event.

We appeal to every Young Socialist to ask for donations or organise a collection at their union or Labour Party branch. Dorchester LPYS has already donated £50 to our funds this year—so we are asking every LPYS branch to raise at least £20 to donate at the *Militant* Readers Meeting at the LPYS Conference.

We get no revenue from big business advertising. We get no money from businessmen or Hollywood stars, and we don't get a kopek never mind gold from Moscow!

We rely on your support for your paper. Show the Tories where we get our money from by organising now to make sure we have a record collection at this year's Readers Meeting.

AUEW youth want socialism

Over the last few years, the number of apprenticeships in the engineering industry has slumped alarmingly.

Even sections of the ruling class are worried. After all how can there be the slightest hope of a renewal of industry in Britain if a new generation of workers get no training?

But the most angry section are, of course, working class youth who suffer directly on the dole queues and in the dead end jobs.

One delegate at the AUEW Youth Conference on 16/17 March, Graham Woodhouse described how his Sheffield firm took on 360 apprentices eight years ago. This year, management proposed to take on none at all. After union objections, management "softened". They engaged 25 apprentices!

Delegates were looking to a kind of society where their demands for a minimum of 25,000 apprenticeships in

the industry each year could be met.

A couple of delegates congratulated the Labour Party Young Socialists on their campaign to unionise YOPs trainees. John Baugh from Blackpool described the present government as returning to the mentality of the 1930's. A quarter of skilled jobs had gone in the past few years and Clive Williams from London described YOPs as a plan to get workers accustomed to low pay and most of all to try to get non-union labour into the factories.

Along with a resolution backing unilateral disarmament which detailed the gross wastage of the arms race, the conference decisions show that the active youth of our union are looking to socialist solutions, a sure sign of what will happen soon in the AUEW as a whole.

By Kevin Taylor

(Delegate, Division No 8 AUEW)

Older and Wiser

By Elaine Young
(Southampton LPYS)

I recently went on a three month technical college course.

This had the idea of teaching you enough typing and basic office skills to get a job, or more usually a place on a six month YOP scheme in an office.

After two months I was "qualified" enough for a YOP. I was to start the next week.

When I got back to class the lecturer asked me if I was looking forward to my new job. "Yes, in a way" I answered.

"Only in a way?" she gasped as if I had just made some shocking remark. It

seemed a great mystery to her why I wasn't bubbling over with enthusiasm at such a brilliant opportunity.

I explained that as it was my third YOP scheme, I was getting a bit disillusioned with them and that I didn't think it right that a whole generation of youth should be offered nothing but exploitation.

"You shouldn't have that attitude Elaine", she said, "Young people are lucky to have these schemes to go on when there are no jobs available". When I asked why there were no jobs, I was told that the "country" didn't have much money!

The lecturer couldn't ex-

plain why if that was the case, huge amounts of cash were wasted on trashy events like Ascot. I went on to say that the capitalists had created the system to ensure that the majority of people, the working class, would always live in poverty. This could only be changed by the working class, on realising this, fighting to bring about a socialist transformation of society.

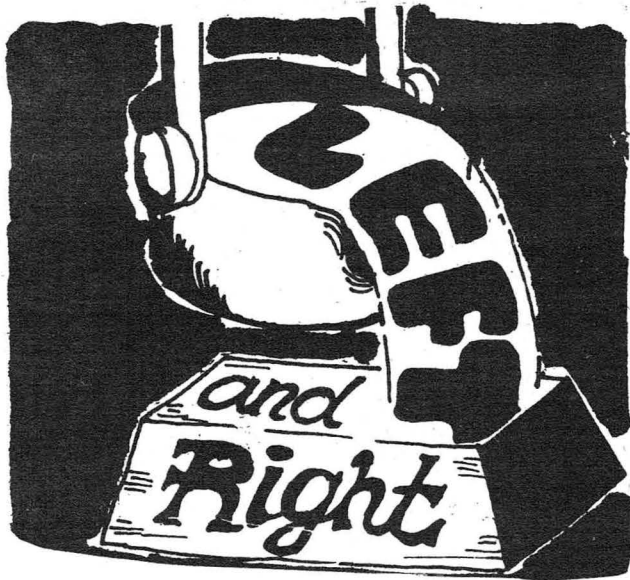
Although I was arguing in a polite and reasonable manner, the lecturer was beginning to get angry and had no qualms about showing it. She told me I was cheeky and would never

"get on" with an attitude like mine. I should shut up and wait until I was "older and wiser" before I started arguing politics.

Having been told to keep quiet, I had to just listen as she told the class that people with my attitude "didn't deserve places on YOP schemes...The world didn't owe us a living and we should be grateful".

Owe us a living? When every person the system keeps out of work lowers everybody's living standards by £25 a week.

I hope that when myself and the rest of our class are "older" we will be quite a bit "wiser" than she is.



'Daily Star' readers debate 'Militant' policies

The 'Daily Star' this Tuesday, 23 March, devoted a whole page to letters about 'Militant' and its policies, after it had received "a bumper postbag" in response to a letter complaining about the 'Star's' attack on 'Militant'. Below is a typical letter, from A Spillett, in Staplehurst, Kent:

"It doesn't need papers like 'Militant' to tell us there is a lot wrong with Britain today, but the 'Daily Star' should not turn ordinary people against Pat Wall and others who stand up for our best interests. Unless there is socialist government run by people like him, the ordinary people will always have unemployment, low wages and slum housing."

We would agree with the writer about all that, except of course that you do need 'Militant' to report what is really going on, and show the way forward. And if you still doubt it, read "Class Justice" below.

Class Justice

Great publicity for the plight of four dinner ladies who were prepared to accept all the benefits of wages and working conditions won by trade unions but were not prepared to contribute and join a union. An industrial tribunal in Birmingham awarded them £10,958 compensation this week.

But contrast this decision with that meted out to Keith Albison, a shop steward at Ideal Bakeries in Shaw. He was sacked on 29 December, for acting as a shop steward in defence of his members. His members came out on strike, the strike was made official, but unfortunately instead of relying on their own class strength, the workers agreed to refer the dispute to an ACAS industrial tribunal. They have recently reported, and found against Keith. But you won't read about that in the capitalist press, only in 'Militant'. (Further details page 14.)

Viscount's problem of running "100 council homes"

Repairs to the home, especially after this severe winter, can be very expensive. So perhaps workers will have sympathy for the Viscount Newport.

You see he owns a mansion called Weston Park. It has 105 rooms, and is set in a 14,000 acre estate in Shropshire. But its maintenance can be quite expensive. He told the *Daily Express* (March 11) about some of the problems; heating can cost £70 a day and "one burst pipe can do you £50,000 worth of damage". Then there's the problem of dry rot. "If you're not born to it, it's a life that takes a bit of getting used to." He's moving out to another 15-roomed mansion.

But he'll still have the problem of running Weston Park which, he says, is "like trying to run 100 council homes."

100 YEARS AGO

Far from being the tranquil period which is how school history so often tries to portray the Victorian age, a look at 'The Times' of March 1882 tells a different story. On 3 March there was an attempted assassination of Queen Victoria, the seventh attack of her reign.

And in Ireland the British ruling class was facing a familiar problem. An editorial on 11 March discussed the problem of keeping Irish Land League prisoners (who were demanding land reform) all in one jail "where they had every opportunity of conferring with each other and organising measures against the government."

On 6 March 'The Times' announced that British imperialism had spread its influence into Afghanistan, where a new adviser to the court "should be able to influence the Ameer (ruler) and win his confidence." There was no editorial then attacking foreign intervention in the affairs of another country. That had to wait nearly a hundred years, when the Russians intervened.



REDS

A Film

Worth Seeing...

... and why it should be free

You should be able to go and see 'Reds' for free as British taxpayers have helped finance its distribution in this country through the application of a tax loophole.

To encourage the making of British films, companies are entitled to write off the entire cost of film negatives against tax in the first year. Paramount the makers of 'Reds' have come to an arrangement with Barclays Bank, quite legally, which exploits this arrangement.

Although an American company, Paramount has a British subsidiary. They sold the negatives to Mercantile Industrial Finance, an offshoot of Barclays. MIF then leased the negatives back to Paramount.

The advantage for MIF was that they were able to offset the cost of buying the negatives against tax, and they then got paid by Paramount for leasing them negatives.

The advantages for Paramount were also considerable. Their sale of the negatives meant that they immediately got back the cost of producing the film. And their re-acquisition of the negatives by lease allows them to control the distribution.

The only problem for them is that to pay off the lease they have to rely on people going to see the film. If they have a flop on their hands they could make a loss.

But Barclays won't lose any money. Paramount is a subsidiary of the massive Gulf and Western Industries and can carry any loss. 'Reds' is not the first film to be financed this way; similar arrangements have been used to finance 'Dogs of War', 'Eye of the Needle', and 'French Lieutenant's Woman'.

If successful there are massive profits to be made from films. 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' cost only \$20m to make; so far it has taken in \$176m and is still going strong.

'Reds' may not be quite so successful. It cost \$42m to make, and although in the first ten days it took in \$4.7m, by the end of the second week this had fallen to only \$1.6m.

Still despite its financing 'Reds' will probably be worth seeing. As a measure of its effect, Ronald Reagan was reported to have asked why it didn't have a good ending. Some day soon, Ronnie will find out why.

By David Churchley

Warren Beattie is not usually associated with the Russian Revolution of 1917. That however is what his recent film 'Reds' is billed as portraying—"The ideal which moved the world."

Those expecting an adaptation of John Reed's classic book reporting the revolution, 'Ten Days Which Shook the World' will be disappointed. The film could not be said to be anything approaching an account of the revolution. In essence it is a very romanticised version of John Reed's personal life rather than his work as a revolutionary.

However the two overlap and the titanic events of that period in working class history, are brought out, albeit to a limited extent. Starting with Reed as a confused radical writer, it traces his personal and political development, representing the American Communist Party at the World Congress of the Comintern and his imprisonment by the White armies in Finland right through to his death in 1920.

Throughout the film, political points are frequently asserted, sometimes in a quite humorous manner. Early on Reed is shown attending a dinner at the Liberal Club, when still in America. It is just before the entry of America into the first world war, which he had been reporting.

Following a speech by a local dignitary urging men to enlist and fight, he is asked to give his comments on the cause of the war. He stands, pauses for some time and then much to the consternation of those present simply utters the word 'profits,' and sits down.

A large amount of the film is spent tracing Reed's activities in America. Here some good material is used about the activities of the International Workers of the World organisation and later his work in the Socialist Party. Through this medium, with some interviews of those who knew him, the international effects of the revolution are mirrored.

Reed arrives in Petrograd just before the revolution.

REVIEW BY Tony Sauniois

John Reed, author of 'Ten Days That Shook the World'



The film brings out, to a limited, but quite effective extent some of the events and atmosphere which developed.

One striking incident shows Reed attending a meeting of armament workers who are discussing whether to strike. Reed is asked by the workers to speak on the attitude of American workers to the war.

At first he refuses claiming that he is simply a journalist without 'credentials to speak.' He is quickly told by the workers that 'everyone has credentials and the right to speak.'

Lenin and Trotsky are only briefly seen addressing meetings of the Soviets, but their authority in the eyes of the workers is referred to on a number of occasions.

Events after the revolution are not explained at all well. The arrests of the anarchists and banning of non-party papers are raised but not put fully into context. Lenin and Trotsky's position are not made clear.

To those who don't know the reasons and events surrounding these decisions, and Lenin's view that they should only be temporary, the reference that they were necessary to stop 'counter-revolution' will seem inadequate.

Similarly the accusation is laid that all revolutions inevitably end in degeneration. Although opposed by Reed, in the film the point is not answered adequately—and the reasons for the rise of the bureaucracy not given enough emphasis.

Zinoviev is shown as part of the rising bureaucracy, in both life style and his political methods. One incident shows him changing one of Reed's speeches in the Middle East calling for a 'class war' to a 'holy war,' as it was 'more popular.'

One definite weakness of the film is the failure to portray the role played by Lenin and Trotsky after the revolution—in fact they are not shown at all except at the meetings of the Comintern.

Although the film doesn't deal in detail with the revolution and has political inadequacies it does bring home the movement which occurred during that period. It serves as an introduction to the revolution of 1917.

It is certainly worth seeing and on balance will have a positive effect on workers who may see it, having not been confronted before with either the work of John Reed or the Russian Revolution.

LIFE IN PRISON

My 'life of crime' began in 1975 when, aged seventeen, I was arrested at a London football match for singing.

I was charged with insulting behaviour and remanded in custody for three weeks at Britain's biggest penal dustbin, Wormwood Scrubs.

By a recently-released prisoner

any wonder that I was in one of Her Majesty's 'short sharp shock' centres within a month?

From this point on my story is one of visits to various penal institutions around the country including detention centres, borstals and prison.

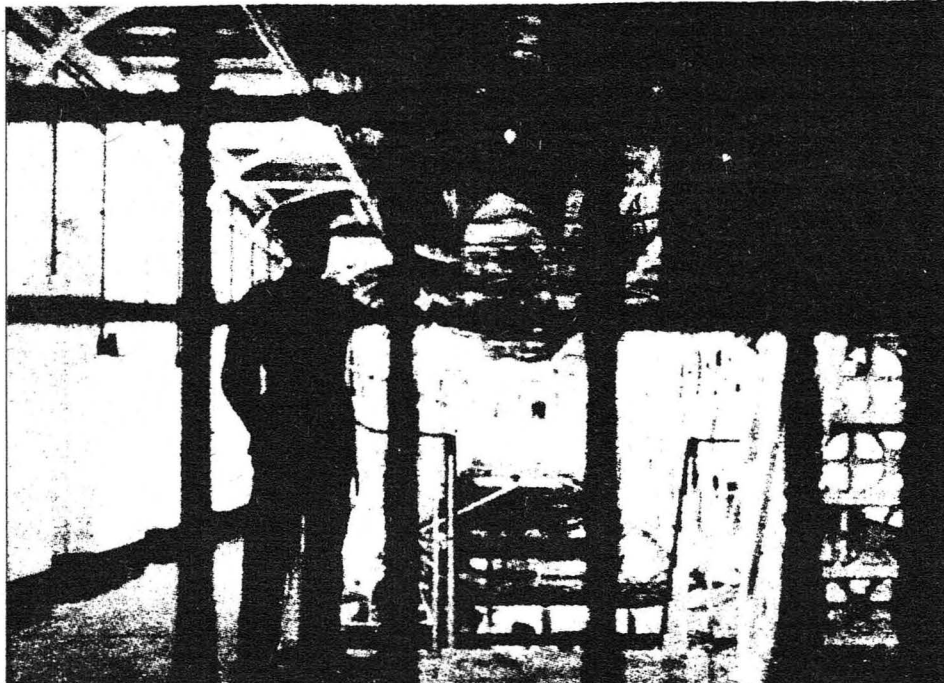
The actual conditions of British prisons are disgusting, degrading and filthy. Local prisons which hold remand prisoners and prisoners waiting to be transferred to training prisons are the absolute nadir of human misery and degradation.

Three people are usually held in a cell measuring approximately eighteen by eight feet. There is little opportunity to clean out the cells and so they invariably smell of urine, sweat and stale food.

There are no toilets in the cells. Inmates are expected to urinate and defecate in plastic buckets and empty them at set times during the day. This is the notorious 'slopping out' procedure: long queues of men carrying these buckets which stink to high heaven, waiting to empty them into two large sinks, whilst prison officers strut up and down the landing telling you to hurry up and get back to your cell.

Upon my return to court, the magistrate, not realising that he had already destroyed my immediate future, decided to give me a 'chance' and awarded me a fifty pound fine. My mate was not so lucky; he received a six month sentence.

That night I was on the streets, hungry and cold. To be perfectly honest, I would have been better off back in Wormwood Scrubs. Is it



The Tories have no solutions to ending the conditions which result in crime. All they propose is heavier sentences, short sharp shock centres and more prisons

Obviously there is no such thing as privacy in prison. You are locked up for twenty three hours a day with two other people.

There is no correspondence which goes in or out of the prison without being censored, and the censoring often takes on a punitive aspect. Very often my own letters were put into the wrong envelopes or they just simply 'disappeared.'

Ostensibly welfare officers are there to help prisoners with accommodation for release or when there is a crisis at home. In reality, many just couldn't care less, and even if they were altruistically motivated they could hardly be very effective under present conditions.

At the same time that prison conditions are deteriorating, the prison population has reached

record levels. This volatile situation is bound to reach explosive proportions in the not too distant future if nothing is done to alleviate it.

But just look at the class bias of the law, when unemployment hits.

In the post-war boom of the 1950s, John Bloom set up a firm called Rolls Razor which manufactured electrical appliances. When the firm went bankrupt, thousands of workers lost their jobs and his investors lost all their savings.

But because it was a limited company, Bloom lost only his original £250 outlay and when he was brought to trial he received a paltry £14,000 fine. He was able to keep his private jet, mansion, yacht, a house in England, a house in France and £5,000,000 in cash.

Now take the case of Mike with whom I shared a cell. He was working as a storeman for a firm that manufactured automobile parts.

One day he arrived at work to find he had been made redundant. His redundancy money ran out and he couldn't find another job. As the hire purchase bills mounted and despondency set in, Mike took to drink and ran up a number of convictions for being drunk.

Eventually, he was arrested for shoplifting and received a three months prison sentence. The magistrate probably thought she was going to make Mike pull his socks up. Magistrates, of course come overwhelmingly from the boss class.

If you have plenty of money in prison, you can

expect a very easy life. There are always some bent prison officers who are willing to bring in alcohol, tobacco or drugs as long as the price is right. I could personally name at least six screws who would perform any number of services for the right money.

However, the majority of prison officers are just ordinary workers trying to make a decent living for themselves and their families, and should not be tarred with the same brush as the few profiteers and thugs there are in the service. The prison service is subject to the same contradictions inherent in the police force and the armed services.

On the one hand, they are minions of the capitalist system, on the other they are workers themselves. It is a case of the bosses using workers to incarcerate workers.

There are no solutions to the problems associated with crime within the context of capitalism. Indeed, the great majority of crime is itself a product of the capitalist system. Many quack remedies have been tried but they have largely failed and they will continue to do so as long as criminals of the first order remain in control of the commanding heights of the economy.

The only real solution is the socialist transformation of society which would act to eradicate the causes of most crime. A government representing the working class would not only vastly improve the existing conditions in our penal system but also work to rehabilitate those people who are in that system and make sure that once they are released they will return to a society that offers them a better alternative than further crime.

London hospitals closed for emergency cases

"London is on the brink of a breakdown in its capacity to deal with accident and emergency cases" the *Times Health Supplement* revealed last month. On 26 February the THS reported that the scale of the crisis could be measured by what happened in one week in mid-January.

Beginning on 11 January eight hospitals in north west London were variously closed to emergency admissions. On 13 January the Royal Free, University College, St Bartholomews, St Mary's Praed Street, the Royal Northern, and Hackney, told ambulance drivers to take their patients elsewhere.

For residents in my borough, this meant that both hospitals serving them, Hackney and Barts, were closed on the same day.

The THS reports that the London Ambulance Service now has to telex the names of closed hospitals to ambulance stations every day. Rob Elliot, chairman of the NUPE ambulance branch



Demonstrating against Tory cuts

Photo: MILITANT

for North-West London, told the THS:

"When people are in transit they are in a lot of danger. We can only give basics like oxygen. So the longer the journey takes the more worry we have. On January 17 I had to take an old man with heart failure from Hampstead past two casualty departments before I could get him to hospital with a free bed."

This problem is not con-

finied to north London. But what is the Tories' solution as critically-ill patients are ferried around London in search of a bed?

Incredibly they claim that the capital has too many NHS beds and plan to close 4,000 in the next six years.

By Myrna Shaw (NUPE)

WORKING ON THE RAILWAYS

Contrary to the allegations printed in 'The Sun' from two train drivers' assistants during the recent ASLEF dispute, train drivers go home to bed exhausted after a long, hard shift.

ASLEF member Dave Nichol, a 'second man' at the Holbeck depot in south Leeds told *Militant* about the reality of a drivers' assistants' job.

"We were very upset about what they said because it's just not true. When you've a job you take a certain amount of pride in it. The truth is I've very little social life. Because of the shifts we work there is very little opportunity for social life—we are either working or in bed when everyone is out enjoying themselves.

As a second man I train as a driver, getting to know the set up of the railway and learning all the rules and regulations which you need to know to get promotion. I also operate steam heated



Photo: D Doran

boilers on certain passenger trains, and couple on and off trains as required. In an emergency I also have protection duties; if the track is blocked I have to go up the line and put up danger signals and so on.

With BR's productivity plans it will definitely affect the time I can expect to be promoted to a driver, through the reduction in the number of jobs available. There is very little oppor-

tunity for young people to be taken on as trainee drivers. Management are putting single manning on more and more trains.

At the moment there are more than 200 on the waiting list just in Leeds. I've been on four years and there's been less and less recruitment—now there is none at all.

When I first started I was always being told I couldn't have started at a better time, and in a few years I could look forward to being a driver. I still do, but things don't look so good now. Through government policies over the past 20 years the railways have been run down.

Without investment I don't think anyone can feel secure in their job. What we need is a Labour government which is committed to a fully integrated transport system, to provide a proper social service as opposed to running the system on a profit basis.

The labour movement in Britain has a duty to aid in whatever way it can the workers' struggles developing in Central America against reactionary police states and to serve notice on the Tory government that it will not tolerate any open or covert aid to these regimes.

Recent weeks have seen mounting pressure being put on the Reagan government by Western European governments to change US policy towards the developing revolution in Central America and towards El Salvador in particular. There is growing evidence that despite millions of dollars worth of military aid, the Salvadorean government is not winning the war against the guerrillas and this has led to severe criticisms of Reagan's policies in the capitalist press.

The fear of the Western European governments, also shared by Mexico and Brazil, is that Reagan's obstinate support for the doomed Salvadorean regime will only serve to push the revolution further to the left. They argue that it is necessary for Reagan to accept as in Zimbabwe that some accommodation will have to be made with the guerrillas if capitalism in El Salvador has any chance of surviving the collapse of the military junta.

Furthermore, they argue that Reagan's policies in Nicaragua are helping to push the Sandinistas towards overthrowing capitalism in that country.

All the reports from El Salvador this year point to the growing strength of the guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí Front for National Liberation (FMLN), the military wing of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) which encompasses all the forces fighting the military junta. At least 20% of the land area and possibly a greater proportion of the population of El Salvador now live in areas controlled by the FDR/FMLN.

The only reply of the regime has been to terrorise the population through the activities of its troops and the 'death squads'. As opposition has grown the right-wing 'death squads' have steadily stepped up their activities.

In 1978, 147 civilians were killed by them, in 1979 1,030 civilians, in 1980 13,194 and last year the toll reached at least 20,000. This is in a small country of 4,500,000, and in proportion to its population this killing rate would mean in Britain at least 400,000 dead.

From the very moment when the military junta of Napoleon Duarte came to power in a US government sponsored coup in October 1979, its position has been steadily undermined. Carter, the then US President, hoped that this coup against the discredited military dictator Romero would prevent revolution by introducing some reforms.

Initially the new government included two pro-capitalist parties—Christian Democrats, and the social democratic MNR—and the Communist Party's front organisation. But Romero's old state machine was left

By Bob Labi

basically intact and was able to thwart most of the promised reforms.

Rapidly it became clear that the new government was in reality nothing more than a re-vamping of the old military regime and within four months, 19 ministers, 10 heads of government agencies and four out of five supreme court judges had all resigned, along with the MNR and Communist Party. The quick disillusionment with the new regime resulted in a massive shift to the left.

On 22 January 1980, 200,000 joined a demonstration called by the CRM, a joint front of left groups. The increasing radicalisation provoked a split of 80% of the Christian Democratic Party away from Duarte in early March which later joined the CRM and the MNR to form the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) in April.

The first six months of 1980 saw a rapid growth in the mass movements against the junta. The murder of

General Strikes in San Salvador

the Archbishop of San Salvador in March led to a one-day general strike and a 400,000 strong funeral march upon which government troops opened fire, killing 50 people and wounding 650.

The weakness of the junta was revealed by the success of the two-day general strike in June 1980. Over 90% of industry, transport, commerce and government offices were closed down by this strike along with all the newspapers.

The very determination of the workers of Central America to struggle against murderous regimes should be held up as proof of the ability and willingness of the working class to change society and should be an inspiration to the entire labour movement.

The strength of the movement during the strike shows that it could have been possible for the workers to have taken power.

However, while this strike was clearly a great success in terms of its impact the FDR limited its demands to calls for a 'halt to military repression, respect for the right to strike, release of prisoners, and did not raise the vital life or death question of overthrowing the military

ELSA

workers must overthrow capitalism to gain democratic freedoms

dictatorship.

No mass demonstrations were organised during the strike in order to avoid conflict with the army, yet despite this at least 25 strikers were killed in the La Fosa area of the capital, San Salvador, alone.

This refusal of the FDR leaders to use the general strike as a stepping stone to overthrowing the junta actually weakened the response for their next strike call, in August 1980.

That three day general strike shut down 60-70% of industry and 30% of transport and commerce. At the same time the army killed 129 workers in raids on working class districts. Given that the FDR openly

leader, said that the tasks of an insurrection must be taught to the people and the August general strike was meant as a "pre-insurreccional rehearsal".

The weakness of this strategy was seen when the FDR's 'final' offensive in January 1981 failed in its objective of overthrowing the junta. In particular, the general strike call received only a partial support in San Salvador, the capital, where nearly a quarter of El Salvador's population lives.

Asked later about this failure, Alejandro Montenegro, a FDR leader, said that "in the capital it would be necessary to hold positions against the enemy for three days to have time

The workers and peasants of Central America have suffered desperately under murderously reactionary regimes, but they have also demonstrated unparalleled heroism in the fight against them.

said that the August strike was not meant to bring down the junta it is obvious that many Salvadorean workers did not see the point of risking death by going on strike merely to protest at the junta's policy.

Ruben Zamora, secretary of the FDR's External Commission, explained in a November 1980 interview that the August strike was "not insurreccional" and that the FDR saw the struggle as a "long" process of developing a revolutionary war, first by building a people's militia and then a people's army.

In the same interview Farid Handal, another FDR

to organise an insurrection...But because our forces weren't present it was easy for the enemy to break the strike...it is no longer possible to raise the idea of a strike without also discussing military protection for the strike."

Ruben Zamora, speaking in London last October, explained that until the end of 1980 we "had to use only irregular warfare, that is typical guerrilla warfare." He went on to claim that the January offensive, which he renamed a 'general' not 'final' one, was aimed to enable the FDR "to pass from that previous stage of the war to

a second or new stage of the war. In this new stage we started to combine irregular and regular forms of warfare, and to achieve this we needed a rearguard...so this was the fundamental objective of the January General Offensive: to create areas under the political and military control of the FMLN."

Clearly these statements meant that the FDR leaders saw the main task in overthrowing the regime was to build up armed forces outside the cities and only then going into the towns to organise the junta's overthrow.

This classical guerrilla strategy is not one which is based on the working class leading the struggle, rather on their role in the revolution being downgraded.

This strategy is not at all accidental, but flows from the programme of the FDR. The FDR has endorsed the 'Platform of the Revolutionary Democratic Government' which was drawn up by the left-wing CRM alliance in February 1980.

This Platform includes a whole series of vital reforms and changes, ranging from democratic rights to the nationalisation of banking, foreign trade, electricity, petrol and "monopolistic enterprises in industry, trade and services". But nowhere does it mention any form of workers' control and management over the nationalised sectors or the drawing up of a socialist plan of production.

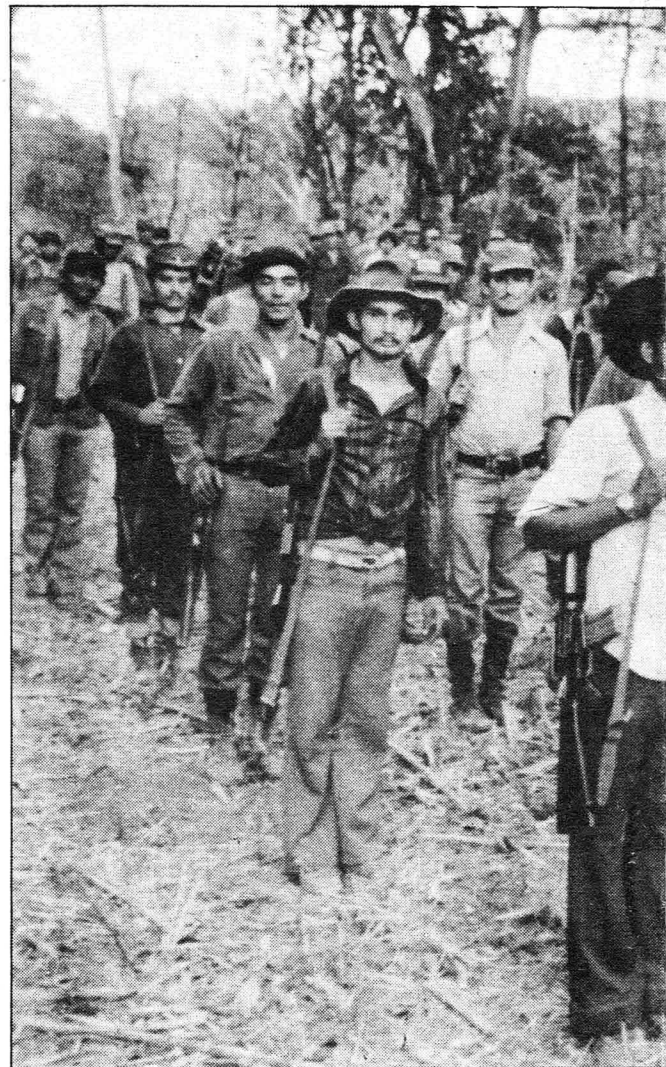
In other words the question is left open as to whether these nationalisations would be designed to help prop up the private sector or be seen as the necessary first step towards laying the basis for a socialist society.

The Platform is in fact both very verbose and at the same time vague as to the class composition and organisation of the 'Revolutionary Democratic Government', which reflects the fact that the FDR is an alliance of both workers' and capitalist parties. It states that the new government would "rest on a broad political and social base, formed above all by the working class, the peasantry, and the advanced middle layers. Intimately united to the latter forces

Capitalism cannot guarantee democratic freedoms

will be all the social sectors that are willing to carry out this platform—small and medium-sized industrialists...democratic parties such as the MNR, advanced sections of the Christian Democracy."

The desire of the left groups within the FDR to maintain their alliance with the pro-capitalist leaderships of the MNR and the anti-Duarte Christian Democrats is the fundamental reason why they do not base their strategy for overthrowing the dictatorship primarily on a working class movement. A victorious working class would immediately pose the question of the overthrow of capitalism, and with power in their hands the workers would instinctively move to take over industry and to complete the socialist



EL SALVADOR



At least 20 per cent of the land area and possibly a greater proportion of the population of El Salvador now live in areas controlled by the FDR/FMLN guerrillas

ANOTHER VIETNAM Film Review

"We are sending planes but no pilots. We are not sending combat troops...I see no reason to think Indo-China will be another Korea." So says US Secretary of Defence Wilson in a 1954 newsreel.

With this heavy historical irony, a new documentary, *El Salvador: Another Vietnam* begins.

Over half the film is shot in El Salvador: interviews with Junta leaders, refugees and guerrillas, and a camera-eye view of military 'sweeps' in the countryside.

Interspersed are shots of White House spokesmen, protest action and Congressional hearings on US involvement in El Salvador.

A brief background traces the mounting instability leading to the 1979 military coup, promising reform and stability. Civilian members of the first junta describe their fig-leaf role:

"They were using our faces and our names to keep on doing the same thing: trying to solve the political problem of El Salvador through military means."

In the struggle to repress popular unrest, the regime became more and more isolated and resented, and instability bred repression.

The present junta boasts of its agrarian reform policy: "The sin is these reforms were not made by the Communists, but by the armed forces." But former agriculture minister, Enrique Alvarez, explains; the reforms leave the rich coffee families (oligarchies) intact; the rich, who own the banks and industry, and control trade and commerce, will go untouched by a law that "does not even apply to 1% of the coffee property."

We watch women and children grimly picking the precious red berries, unrecognisable as coffee to European eyes.

Women in refugee camps talk between tears of arbitrary arrest and murder. Even in camps, they fear that the military or the notorious death-squads of ORDEN will any moment shatter their precarious security.

We see a cocked rifle posed in the hands of a corpse, no doubt preparing yet more 'exclusive' anti-communist government propaganda.

We hear denials, explanations and accusations from US politicians: in El Salvador there are "very few analogies with Vietnam"; the problem is a

result of "the world-wide Communist network which intervened in El Salvador."

The hypocrisy is exposed when Ita Ford and three other American church aid workers are found murdered, in December 1980. The church, Ita had warned, was regarded as 'indirectly subversive.' These deaths provoked the US government to cut off all aid, sending out special envoy Rogers to investigate.

After a quick reshuffle, Rogers returns home, and by January 1981 military aid is resumed. The US ambassador admitted that "no meaningful investigation was or is taking place."

"There is no repression in this country...the problem of misuse of authority is not the same thing." With imperious logic, president Duarte, in a lengthy interview, explains, "We don't want violence, the armed forces don't want violence, the people don't want violence. So who does? —the enemies of the government, the armed forces and the people."

By contrast, shots of guerrilla-controlled areas are idyllic; military exercises and training amid the stunning rural scenery, in bright sunshine, are accompanied by sweet music; we watch children at play and the crude manufacture of small arms and explosives.

We hear speakers from the opposition movements; the common programme of the opposition united front is flashed on the screen: we learn without comment that it includes calls for 'A people's army' and 'a mixed economy.' There is no overtly political questioning, however; no hints at analysis or programmes.

The film was made for an American audience, and aims to catch and capitalise on the growing fear and anger at 'another Vietnam.' Its message is very simple, a professionally-made agitational appeal. It has been nominated for the 'best documentary' Oscar.

A politically-minded audience will find, after fifty-three minutes, many questions remain unanswered. But, as basic agitation, the film serves its purpose.

EL SALVADOR: ANOTHER VIETNAM
17 March-4 April. At the ICA Cinema, The Mall, London SW1 (nearest tube, Charing Cross). Tel. 01-930 3647.
Distributors: Other Cinema. Tel 01-734 8508

By Eileen Short

revolution.

It is this fear of a fundamental social revolution which is behind the Western European governments' attempt to find a compromise solution. Their strategy is based upon working with the pro-capitalist elements in the FDR to try to safeguard capitalism's future in El Salvador whatever happens to the Duarte regime.

An important part in this process is being played by the right-wing leadership of the Socialist International. The openly pro-capitalist leadership of the German Social Democratic Party have helped set up a Spanish language magazine published in Venezuela with a German editor to gain support for their views. The September 1981 meeting of the Socialist International's Bureau did not even call for the overthrow of the Duarte dictatorship, merely that the 'FDR-FMLN should participate in a 'comprehensive political solution'.

The FDR's foreign affairs representative who was at the Socialist International Bureau, was reported to declare in Mexico City that "the guerrillas were seeking a coalition government that would guarantee genuinely free elections, an assured role for private enterprise in El Salvador... The left has relaxed the demand it was making at the end of last year that the forces of the Salvadorean junta should be "restructured. It is now seeking the removal of only the senior commanders." (*Financial Times* 25.2.82).

Now it has been announced that Guillermo Manuel Ungo, FDR President, is preparing to launch in Bonn, West Germany, next month a new peace plan. This plan, backed by

the right wing leaders of the Socialist International, will "call for the formation of a broad based interim government which would call new—and genuine—elections within 12 months. The government would include politicians of the right and left, army officers not involved in atrocities, church leaders, businessmen and trade unionists" (*Observer* 21/3/82).

But a "peace policy"—one that leaves capitalism intact—would inevitably mean a continuation of economic and social problems. Even with some elements purged, the army also would remain intact and would have to adopt repressive measures against the workers and peasants, who are now determined to make fundamental social changes.

Ironically there is a grain of truth in Reagan's position because a "negotiated peace" would probably still lead to radical movements that threatened the basis of capitalism.

Socialist International seeks a "negotiated peace"

To allow the workers and peasants to have democratic rights would inevitably lead to these rights being used to build a movement to overthrow capitalism. By the same token, the continuance of capitalism in El Salvador will always pose the danger of a new dictatorship. Therefore the key

to establishing even basic democratic rights in El Salvador is the ending of the capitalist regime.

This is, in essence, the application of Trotsky's theory of Permanent Revolution to Central America today.

But even breaking the back of capitalism in El Salvador would not lead to the democratic rule of the working class unless it was carried out by the working class itself. The FDR is now clearly basing itself on building an army and a base in the countryside, capturing the towns last, with or without the aid of the urban population.

Many such armies have been victorious in previous guerrilla struggles, but none of the regimes that have then been created have been workers' democracies, based on workers' control and management of the economy and the state and on workers' internationalism—the essential bases for the building of socialism.

Regimes based on victorious guerrilla armies are generally military bonapartist ones, whether they are based on a capitalist economy or a planned, nationalised economy. Only the massive activity of the working class can lay the basis for a genuine workers' democracy.

Unless the Salvadorean revolution bases itself on a strategy of the urban working class leading the overthrow of the regime then the downfall of Duarte will not get to grips with the root cause of the decades of dictatorship in El Salvador.

Even if the FDR leaders do ultimately take the course of breaking the power of capitalism there will be the danger of the creation of a bureaucratic

Cuba-style regime unless the working class itself carries through the revolution. Only the democratic control over society by the working class can prevent the development of a new bureaucratic elite.

This is the danger in neighbouring Nicaragua today where, despite the enormous advances which have been made since the overthrow of Somoza in 1979, the working class is not actually in control and running the country. Real power rests with the Sandinistas' leadership.

The development of democratic workers' and peasants' governments in either El Salvador or Nicaragua would provide an enormous boost to the unfolding revolution in Central America. The very nature of Central America makes clear the international character of the revolution there, that no country can hope to overthrow capitalism and move towards socialism in isolation. The revolution in Nicaragua has given a big impetus to the struggles elsewhere in the region.

The workers and peasants of Central America have suffered desperately under murderously reactionary regimes but they have also demonstrated unparalleled heroism in the fight against them.

Workers across the whole world are looking towards El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, and supporting the struggle of the masses there. But for that very reason, the international labour movement has also the task of debating and discussing the hopes and aspirations of Central American workers, and the nature of the regimes they will finally establish.

USA FRANCE

Reagan faces growing opposition

**CREATE JOBS
NOT POVERTY
LOCAL 122 UAW**



Members of the United Auto Workers Union arrive in Washington for the Solidarity Day demo last autumn

For the first time voices have been raised within the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO (American TUC) challenging the standing concept in that circle that everything the Pentagon wants is to be supported without question.

A number of council members have challenged Reagan's demand for \$216 billion for 'defence'. After some discussion by the council, a committee of eight was named to study the military budget, including some of those who challenged it.

The majority of the council is reported to be supporting AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland, who has always been viewed as a 'superhawk.' But even he has changed his stance.

Kirkland said that the military budget is "financed on the backs of the unemployed and the poor" while the "rich are reaping the benefits."

Reagan, he reportedly said, planned to get the increase "out of the hides of the poor."

Even Albert Shanker, a 'hawk' and President of the Federation of Teachers, said "we cannot afford to accept the 'guns and no butter' economics of Reagan

From Betty Traun in New York

and we must stop giving out blank checks to the military."

This change in the Federation's previous sabre-rattling line must be due to the realisation that the anti-Reagan coalition they have made with people's organisations and the union rank and file include an overwhelming majority opposed to the gigantic military budget.

Preparations are now underway across the country for the mobilisation of a mammoth national demonstration on 12 June to coincide with the United Nations Special Session on disarmament.

A June 12 Coalition with over 200 participating organisations has been formed to coordinate the

activities and plan what many believe will be the largest demonstration of its kind to have taken place in the country.

The demonstration has already received significant support from the labour movement. On the Coalition's executive committee are representatives of the coalition of Black trade unionists, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, International Association of Machinists, coalition of Labour Union Women, District 65 of the United Auto Workers, Local 1199 Hospital Workers and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Unions.

Thousands will be coming from overseas. Among those present on 12 June will be a delegation of 1,000 Japanese peace activists and another 1,000 from the massive European peace movement. All will assemble in Central Park for a rally, then march to the United Nations.

The demands of the June 12 coalition are to stop and reverse the arms race, and to cut the military budget and transfer the money to needed social services.

WEST BANK—Biggest protests since Israeli occupation

The most serious rioting on the West Bank since its occupation in 1967 has occurred in the last week, resulting in several Palestinian youth being shot, some of them fatally.

Clashes between Arab youth and the Israeli occupation forces have been going on for months now, but the latest Arab protests were directed against the decision of the Israelis to disband the local elected council of the town of El-Bireh and its replacement by a military commissioner.

A protest General Strike brought the whole of the West Bank—including East Jerusalem—to a stop despite the Israeli army attempt to force open shops and businesses. Even when there was a funeral for a youth who had been shot dead earlier, the Israeli army moved in to attack that march, resulting in more Arab injuries.

As a result of the Arab protest demonstrations, the army imposed a strict curfew on the Arab refugee camps on the West Bank. Three of the main towns, Nablus, Ramallah and El-Bireh itself, were put under a virtual state of military blockade by the army, in-

By John Pickard

cluding a rigid curfew.

What angered West Bankers even more was the fact that armed Jewish civilians from West Bank settlements were assisting the army in their repression of Arab demonstrations.

The upsurge of protest on the West Bank comes at a time when the Israeli government is in the last stages of its agreement with Egypt over handing back the Sinai desert.

Begin is trying to push the Egyptian and other governments to agree to the Israeli government's proposals for 'autonomy' for the West Bank. But these so-called autonomy proposals are a sham.

For years, it has been the policy of Israel to run down the economy and the infrastructure of the West Bank. While massive sums have been spent on new Jewish settlements, with the best farming land often confiscated from West Bankers, Arab villages have been starved of capital. Irrigation schemes, wells, roads, schools and clinics etc have been provided for in the Jewish settlements, but the government have

blocked investments in these vital needs in the Arab villages.

The Israeli government is now trying to blackmail Arab leaders into accepting their fake autonomy plan by setting up their own so-called 'village leagues', offering them cash for development, arms and protection.

It was because the council of El-Bireh refused to cooperate with an Israeli civilian governor—a step that would have been interpreted as de facto recognition of Israeli 'civilian' control as opposed to 'military' control, ie. annexation—that the council was disbanded.

Israeli policy for the gradual annexation of the West Bank will never succeed against the opposition of its one and a quarter million Arab inhabitants. Even the Israeli *Jerusalem Post* acknowledged the hypocrisy of the government's position, declaring that: "To talk about the need to resume negotiations on Palestinian autonomy, while young boys on the West Bank are being wounded, and in one case killed by Israeli soldiers, as if there were no other ways to control stone-throwing crowds, is sheer self-delusion."

CGT expulsions over Poland

The repercussions of the Polish coup have still not died down in France.

The vast majority of workers supported 'Solidarity' in Poland. For the 18 months when the Polish bureaucracy were forced to tolerate the movement, none but the most die-hard Stalinists in the French Communist Party (PCF) and in the leadership of the CGT (CP-led trade union federation) dared denounce Solidarity.

On the contrary, they opportunistically used the existence of trade unionism in Poland to 'prove' that the regimes of the Eastern Bloc were democratic, tolerant, open to 'dialogue' etc.

The leaders of the PCF termed these political upheavals "The Renewal of Poland". But after the bureaucracy moved in to crush the workers on 12 December, CP leader Marchais ferociously denounced Solidarity, holding it responsible for all Poland's social and economic ills, and called for a "restoration of order".

The CGT leaders also supported the repression. But since then, mass meetings of CGT workers all over France have denounced the leadership's stand. On 6 February, delegations from every region came to Paris to protest to the Executive of the Union.

Faced with this opposition, the CGT leadership, lacking any arguments,

By Marcel Coupeau

have resorted to expulsions and organisational measures. On 21 January the Executive Committee expelled 11 members of the CGT, including 9 shop stewards, for having "prejudiced the material and moral interests of the union."

The eleven, all hospital

The results of the French departmental elections are a warning to the Socialist-Communist government.

While the combined Socialist and Communist vote was still more than the combined right-wing vote, the continued slump in CP support meant that the left now controls only 35 out of 95 departments.

The massive enthusiasm that greeted the Left's election victory last summer has clearly been blunted somewhat by the government's faltering performance since then in carrying out its promised reforms. The CP is still paying the price for the opportunist vacillations of its policy in recent years and for the timidity of its representatives in the government.

Mitterand will now face greater pressure from his party rank and file to carry out bold socialist policies in the interests of working people—or risk losing further support and paving the way for a right-wing return to power.

workers in Villejuif, drew up an open letter to the leadership.

"Is there any serious reason to send a ten lined registered letter which with a stroke of the pen wipes out 10 years of militancy in the CGT in the workers cause?" they ask.

"We have not stolen the cash-box...We have never collaborated with the bosses against the workers. All the workers know we have always fought for their demands. Many of us have been censured several times by the bosses for union activity."

"Yes, like thousands of other CGT militants, we have taken the side of Solidarity against the repression of Jaruzelski. We have demanded the release of imprisoned trade unionists and the lifting of the state of emergency."

"Yes, we have collected money from the workers for Solidarity. That was our duty, that was our right."

"We want to defend the union as the instrument of workers struggle, but your methods will only weaken it."

"We, the unionists, must be able to say "I disagree" without being labelled a "tendency" or a "faction" to shut us up."

This expulsion is only one example of many. It shows the truth of the ideas of the expelled: the struggle of the Polish workers is inseparably linked to the struggle for trade union rights and socialism in France itself.

Labour's Alternative Budget

SOCIALIST MEASURES NEEDED

By Andrew Glyn

Workers in their millions, including many who were 'conned' into voting Tory in 1979, have been made bitterly angry by Thatcher's policies.

Cuts in living standards generally, in health, in education, but above all the monstrous rise in unemployment have all added greatly to the unpopularity of the government.

But to win mass support at the next election, the Labour Party itself must have a convincing programme to deal with the economy and especially with unemployment.

The focus on economic policy after the Budget provides an excellent opportunity to explain Labour's alternative. And compared to Sir Geoffrey Howe's studied complacency in the face of the havoc his policies are causing, the proposals put forward by Labour last week at least have an encouraging optimism about them.

The policy gives priority to overcoming unemployment and creating new growth in the economy, things that all workers would welcome after years of Tory-induced recession. But in relation to the drastic situation in the economy, the objectives of creating only 500,000 jobs a year and a 5 per cent growth rate are wholly inadequate, and, given the whole logic of the policy, confining the strategy within a capitalist framework, they are utopian in any case.

Labour's modest target to reduce the dole queues to 1 million in five years looks hopelessly inadequate when the hidden unemployed and the increase in the workforce are taken into account.

Unemployment was only 235,000 in 1955 and only 70,000 in 1944. Labour should set itself the goal of reducing unemployment to at least these sort of levels. **Between 1945 and 1948 three million new jobs were created. The same rate of job expansion—a million a year for five years—has to be the basis of Labour's policy: and bold socialist policies have to be adopted to make sure it is possible.**

But far from securing the required 5 million extra jobs, it is highly unlikely that the plans recently detailed by Peter Shore would yield the 2½ million he hopes for.

Indeed in broad outline the plans bear an uncanny resemblance to the last great Keynesian package, launched by Tory Chancellor Tony Barber just 10 years ago in April 1972.

★ Shore proposes to increase public spending by £4½ billion; Barber

increased spending by £4½ billion at today's prices.

★ Shore proposes tax cuts of £4½ billion; Barber cut taxes by £1.8 billion, equivalent to £7 billion now.

★ Shore calls for a "more realistic level of the exchange rate" (that is a fall in the value of the pound); Barber said that "an unrealistic exchange rate" would not be allowed to frustrate his determination to reduce unemployment.

After Barber's package, production did actually grow at 6 per cent a year, faster than Shore's 5 per cent target. But the pace of expansion could not be maintained despite a massive increase in the budget deficit. Inflation rose in two years '72 to '74 from 6% to 24%.

Furthermore, instead of ploughing back their increased profits into investment in manufacturing industry, which would maintain or improve competitiveness on world markets, cash poured into office blocks, stocks of commodities, indeed anything which promised a faster return than producing real wealth. Little more than a year after the 'give-away' budget the growth in production had ground to a halt.

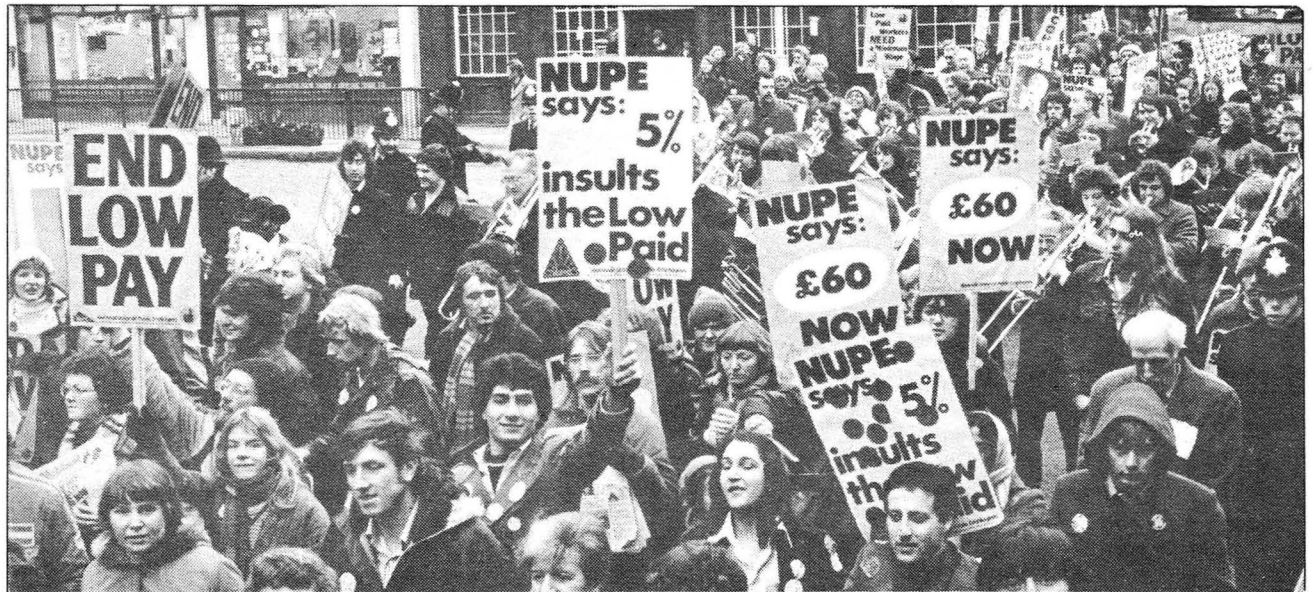
In the present situation, it is doubtful if the same pace of expansion could be maintained even for as long as under Barber. The first, and most crucial, point, is that the capitalist class were wholly behind Barber's policies but they are implacably opposed to Labour's.

Early in 1972 they had just received their first drubbing at the hands of the miners. The attempt to hold down wages by means of mass unemployment (at that time one million unemployed was regarded as mass unemployment) had collapsed and capitalism sought salvation in a reflationary boom.

The collapse of the boom, with the crisis in secondary banking, caused a torrent of recrimination to be heaped on the head of the luckless Barber.

It was precisely the experience of those years that explained the wholesale conversion of the City and much of industry to hardline monetarism. The City would now totally reject Labour's plan.

Far from pursuing the Tory strategy of pulling public sector borrowing



Despite the first year of the last social contract being "a year for Britain", it was soon followed by Phase II, III and IV until eventually low paid workers were forced to take action in the winter of 1978-79, against the scandalous 5 per cent limit.

down Peter Shore would push it up by £5½ billion in one year, with presumably more to come the year after and the year after that. But the strategy has not a word to say about how the big City institutions will be persuaded to lend all this money to the government.

No one can have faith in the 'negotiations' mentioned in this connection by the NEC's statement *The Socialist Alternative*, because it is not only the total size of Shore's package, but its shape which will antagonise the finances.

Peter Shore has correctly called for exchange controls "to keep capital at home." But keeping "capital at home" does not mean that it will be lent to the government.

He also proposes to raise an extra £1 billion in taxation of top incomes. But doctoring a growing PSBR in this way will only enrage the City all the more and speed up the financial sabotage of government plans.

Peter Shore's plan includes chunks of the CBI's programme: he calls for the abolition of the National Insurance Surcharge, an increase of government capital spending, as well as a lower interest rate and exchange rate. But the CBI sees these as part of an overall package of reduced government intervention.

Shore's plan to offset

some of the Tories' cuts with £2½ billion extra current spending on restoring the social services and the value of welfare benefits, is anathema to the CBI just as much as to the City. The CBI in fact wants cuts in this area to the tune of £1½ billion. With their rate of profit at only 2 per cent—a quarter of the level at the time of Barber's boom—the chances of business being launched onto a substantial boom are negligible. They will not invest in any case where so much capacity is unused—about 20% in industry overall.

There is nothing in the reported statements of Peter Shore to indicate what measures he would propose as Chancellor to force employers to comply with Labour's priorities.

Militant has consistently argued that Labour conference policies themselves are not sufficiently strong in this respect and that substantially further nationalisation is required. But there is no mention of these policies at all in Labour's strategy. **The logic of the policy is yet another attempt to push the socialist content of Labour's programme to one side, on the pretext that it is necessary first to get the economy right.**

Most alarming of all is what has now become a clear statement that Shore and the other Labour leaders foresee involving the

trade unions once again in a new "Social Contract." Despite all the experiences of 1974-79 the Labour leaders are canvassing again for an incomes policy.

The hope that economic expansion would not increase inflation by any more than 2½%, is also distinctly optimistic if a major fall in the exchange rate is contemplated. Peter Shore indicated his "continuing strategy for cost restraint in the second and subsequent years...necessarily included a national economic assessment, in which the trade union movement is closely involved with government, on the use of resources and the share of the nation's income...which would go to profits, earnings and other forms of income."

The pressure to restore profits from the CBI will be enormous. To meet the CBI's target of 10% for the rate of profit, the first 20% increase of production would have to go to profits.

There is no way that a "national economic assessment" can reconcile the demands of workers, enthused by Labour's victory, to restore their living standards and the welfare state, with the dictates of capital for vastly higher profits.

Enormous pressure—in reality economic blackmail—would be used by big business and the finance houses to push a Labour government into

seeing the 'right priorities' in their economic assessment. Otherwise, they would sabotage the government through a strike of investment, massive factory closures and capital movements.

If the basis of Labour's appeal to workers in the next election is the conquest of unemployment and other social ills—and that without doubt is the feeling of Labour Party members—then bold socialist policies would have to be adopted in the economic sphere.

Labour should explain that a Labour government would have to take over the commanding heights of the economy—the 200 or so industrial companies, banks, insurance and finance companies that dominate the wealth of the country. A genuine National Plan for economic recovery can only be based on genuine control of the wealth and resources of the economy and their democratic management and running in the interests of all.

Labour must fight for a clear alternative to the misery and chaos of capitalism. But workers will not be inspired by the call for more sacrifice—even if it is dressed up as a new Social Contract. The call must go out for a fundamental change in society, as the only way to give workers a future.



In addition to the 3 million registered unemployed, there are another 300,000 kept off the register by various "job schemes" and 700,000 who for various reasons do not register. Over the next five years another 750,000 more jobs will be needed just to make up for young workers coming onto the market.

NO TO INCOMES POLICY!



Letters

The facts about the Spanish Civil War

Dear Militant,

I often think that if all the fictional TV characters from 1930's serials who supposedly fought in the Spanish Civil War had really done so, then the war would have been won. For it seems that no series of that period is complete without a character, (usually middle class and artistic) out in Spain who generally gets killed. This gives a distorted view of that bitter war. It is one thing to have fictional characters who were in the 1st or 2nd World Wars since that was an experience common to millions of Britons. However it is quite wrong to invoke the Spanish war in the same way. Only two thousand Britons fought on the Republican side, of these around five hundred were killed. Most of these Britons were ordinary workers, often unemployed. There were some writers such as George Orwell who fought, but there were others like W H Auden who went and did nothing, also Ernest Hemingway who was considered by some more of a



Volunteers with the British section of the International Brigade during the Spanish civil war, 1936-39

hinderance than help.

No-one would question the contribution the British volunteers made, but in numerical terms it was small compared with other European countries. There were approximately twenty thousand anti-fascist German volunteers, despite the fact that Germany was already under Hitler's heel. The Italian volunteers ran the extra risk of instant execution if captured by Fascist Italian troops.

In fairness to the BBC they have screened 'the Colliers Crusade' (about the Welsh volunteers) and more recently 'Spain—a Return

to the Battlefields' (about British ex-International Brigaders). Unfortunately both these programmes were on BBC 2 at a time when few people would be watching, compared with the big audience fictional series which tend to portray Spain as a 'Boys Own' adventure.

Perhaps the great British public who cheerfully holidayed in Franco's fascist Spain do not know of the bloody facts of Guernica, etc. Indeed, some years ago Clive Jenkins sued a left-wing newspaper because it criticised the ASTMS for organising

cheap flights to Spain while Franco was still alive.

Spain was not even truly neutral during the 2nd World War, Franco sent an army division known as the 'Blue Division' to fight alongside Nazi troops on the Russian front. Yet it would appear that the Boys Own view of the Civil War and the squid and chips holiday image of post-war Franco Spain is preferable to the truth for the media.

Yours fraternally
April Field
Poole, Dorset.

Tories urge discrimination in the NHS

Dear Comrades,

Already in some areas black patients attending hospital for treatment have been asked to provide passports or proof of residency. With the recent announcement by Norman Fowler, Social Services Minister, on charging overseas visitors for hospital treatment, the proof needed will be asked for in all hospitals and doctors surgeries.

Fowler stated that EEC Nationals, Overseas Students and people on work permits will not be charged for treatment. But that he is investigating 'standard procedures' to get the information needed. He guarantees that "the intent

and questions asked will not be discriminatory". Surely Fowler is not so naive that he really believes that this action is not discriminatory; if you are black you will be questioned as a matter of course.

This announcement goes against all the principles of the National Health Service. Not all overseas visitors are wealthy, oil rich tourists. It looks like BUPA and other health insurance schemes will be making a few bob with holiday insurances.

The £6 million saving quoted by Fowler is ridiculous. Just on increased administration, man hours wasted ascertaining whether a patient is eligible for NHS treatment will soon wipe out this saving. The logical conclusion that we can draw is that the next stage will be that patients will have to prove they have

paid National Insurance contributions with a qualifying period of 1-2 years. What the NHS needs is more cash not more bureaucracy. The Tories are attempting to nail the lid on the coffin of the NHS. This is another slide down the slippery slope of an already cash starved service.

Yours fraternally
Pat Blatch
Southampton CLP

How do we get workers' control in the finance and service industries?

Dear Comrades,

As chairperson of the Knebworth & Codicote Labour Party I look forward to a socialist society but I keep wondering just

how we are going to achieve it. Yes, worker democracy can revolutionise manufacturing industry but how do we change the bankers, the lawyers, the stock brokers, the accountants, the solicitors, the teachers to name but a few groups who hold so much power in our society, how do we get them and their institutions to operate along socialist principles?

At our last meeting, on March 3, we had a very informative talk from Steve Glennon from Stevenage CLP on what *Militant* stands for and concluded our meeting with total support for the resolution. "This party demands the right of all socialist groups to organise freely within the Labour Party."

Yours fraternally
Kay Kelly
Old Knebworth
Herts.

More points on bottle feeding

Dear Comrades,

I am writing to endorse the comments made by Jen Pickard and Lorna Watson in their recent article on the cynical and self-interested promotion of artificial milk by baby food manufacturers.

It's interesting to note that the proportion of breast-feeding mothers amongst left-wing women seems to be much higher than amongst mothers at large, which indicates that bottle feeding is attractive, not because it "frees" the mother (sometimes used as a selling point) but because it's promotion tends to undermine women's confidence in their own ability to breast feed and the

desirability of doing so.

And in the third world, bottle feeding can have appalling and tragic consequences. Selling techniques such as dressing sales reps in a nurses uniform are used to push artificial milk. Because poor women lack the money to purchase sufficient powdered milk and, because of the lack of proper sterilisation of bottles, babies are now dying who otherwise would have lived. Nor surprisingly, little has been done to check the multinationals involved in this appalling trade.

Even in countries like Britain, although the effect of the promotion of bottle feeding is nothing like so drastic—there it is believed slightly higher risk from cot deaths and from gastroenteritis attached to bottle feeding. It is also in most cases an entirely unnecessary expense benefit-

ting only the manufacturers.

As far as the shortcomings of the NHS are concerned, I don't think it's simply a question of cuts and lack of funds, though obviously staff shortages don't help. Most if not all hospitals nowadays do emphasise the benefits of breast feeding but they are not only up against the persuasive propaganda of the food companies. With the subordination of women in capitalist society, one of the effects is to make women into sex objects; therefore breasts are primarily an object of titillation. A bare bosom is all right spread across a newspaper, but is rather 'disgusting' if bared for the purpose of feeding!

Also, I think there is ignorance amongst doctors, health visitors and midwives themselves, partly because of the lack of worker and

consumer (i.e. mothers) participation in the maternity services—ignorance and bad policy remain unchecked. It's not uncommon for mothers to be given well intentioned but completely erroneous advice on breast feeding.

The dismantling of the bureaucratic structure and hierarchy of the NHS and it's replacement by a democratic system run by those who use and need health care facilities and those who work in it would go a long way to solving this particular problem.

Yours fraternally
Anne Aylett
Swindon CLP

PS Any women considering breast feeding can get good, cheap information from the National Childbirth Trust, 9 Queensborough Terrace, London W2 3TB.

So why all the fuss about Pat Wall?

Dear comrades,

After the indignation of Labour right-wingers at the comments of Pat Wall on the capitalist state, I would like to point them to *Labour Weekly*, on March 12. It published Labour's strategy in support of the national 'Plan for Jobs' campaign. One of the questions posed is:

"If this (the 'socialist alternative') is really going to change Britain in a socialist direction, then there will be resistance. What are we going to do about it?"

"There can be no doubt that the radical policies that we need will meet with hostility and opposition from those whose power, privilege and wealth is threatened. Too often in the

The tragedy of youth unemployment

Dear Comrades,

I read a small article in the Scottish *Daily Record* last week about a young boy from Fife who took his own life. In this article it said that there was a note found beside his body—it said, "Mum and dad, I love you both, I'm fed up and can't get a job".

I know how the family felt. Last year my young brother took his own life. He was 19 and been unemployed for some time and could not see any way forward.

We should not be surprised that a lot of young people are pushed into the position that they think the only way of escape from this society is to take their own life. We in the labour youth movement must show the young people of this coun-

Single 'Militant' seller scares multi-national!

Dear Comrades,

I was selling *Militant* outside Fisons Pharmaceutical Division in Loughborough last Friday, when I was confronted by a Personnel Officer. Being the democrat he was, he flapped his arms up and down, backwards and forwards, attempting to become the first self propelled man in space, as he shepherded staff away from me. He ordered the security man to 'phone the police. Two young policemen turned up, took my full name and address. One asked for my date of birth explaining that it was easier for them to check up on me because a lot of people most probably have my name.

Apparently it was against the by-laws to encourage people to buy the *Militant* by explaining there was an eye witness report on the murder of 10 strikers at a

past we have seen how this hostility, expressed in a fall of business confidence and a flight of capital, has created an atmosphere of crisis in which Labour governments have been forced to abandon their social priorities in favour of economic orthodoxy.

"The country cannot afford to see a plan for recovery derailed once again in this way, and we must be prepared to counter this disruption when it occurs. We must also be prepared to face opposition and political obstacles thrown up by the civil service, the House of Lords, the judges and the European Community.

"We will not allow the programme on which we are elected to be frustrated by these entrenched and undemocratic powers."

Enough said?

Yours fraternally
Tony Gill
NE Leeds CLP.

try the way forward, pointing out the failures of society and the way to change it.

It's terrible being out of work. I've been unemployed for two years; you can't live in the house, you never have any money, you can't socialise or even buy clothes when you need them. I think that if the lad from Fife and my brother had been involved with the labour movement then they could have been saved. The only way to get rid of unemployment and the miserable conditions that go with it is to get rid of the causes—that's the greed and the need for big profits of capitalism. It must be replaced with a new society whose first priority is the need of society as a whole and not just a small minority.

Yours fraternally
Ali Hughes
Scottish LPYS
Regional Committee.

factory which Fisons had shares in, in Kampur, India (see *Militant* 591). All I was allowed to do was shout "*Militant*—20 pence".

How convenient for Fisons! Asked to move on because of a couple of complaints (whose, I wonder?) I did so, but explained I was not canvassing them to buy a paper but just mentioned it was available.

A last word for the Fison's personnel man. I sold four papers, three to people from Fisons. Also the crowd from Fisons who saw the police question me will want to know what Fisons are worried about. The links Fisons have with Rallis India Ltd and their refusal to condemn the police murders will be learnt by the workers. You can't keep the ideas of international socialism out by a phone call to the police.

Yours comradely
Gary Freeman
Leicester.

Don't trust Tory press

In a confusing and contradictory article in this week's 'Sunday Times', 21 March, Hugo Young, its political editor, attacks the left for being 'paranoid' about the media.

Yet even he points out in his article entitled 'In defence of the capitalist press' that "there is a huge anti-left majority built into media ownership and control."

And who can doubt that the owners exercise their power?

Victor Matthews ordered editors of the Express to be anti-socialist, and Rupert Murdoch, owner of The Times and Sunday Times was reported to be furious that space had recently been given to articles by rail drivers' leader Ray Buckton and peace campaigner E P Thompson. Later of course in his article Young argues the reverse that "serious daily and weekly papers must cling to their freedom from political bias."

Young may be confused, but our readers are not. They know that Militant is not "unbiased" in the class war and stands shoulder to shoulder with workers in all their battles against the bosses. Amongst those who have contributed this week are:

Yorkshire LPYS members gave £86 at the regional conference. £133 came in from Scottish Militant supporters, collected at the Scottish LP Conference, mainly at the Militant meeting, but with nearly £30 being collected from delegates and visitors on circulated appeal sheets.

Thanks for donations to Windermere Labour Party (£20), Washington South LP (£3.96), Liverpool SOGAT, T O'Neill, J Walsh, D McMillan (all EETPU) and B Bogie (AUEW Cons.) who contributed to a workplace collection. Money came in from Young Socialist branches in Perry Barr, Motherwell, Newarthill, Chester, Toxteth, Valton AUEW members at GKN Birmingham, and a raffle tin at a Merseyside NALGO meeting.

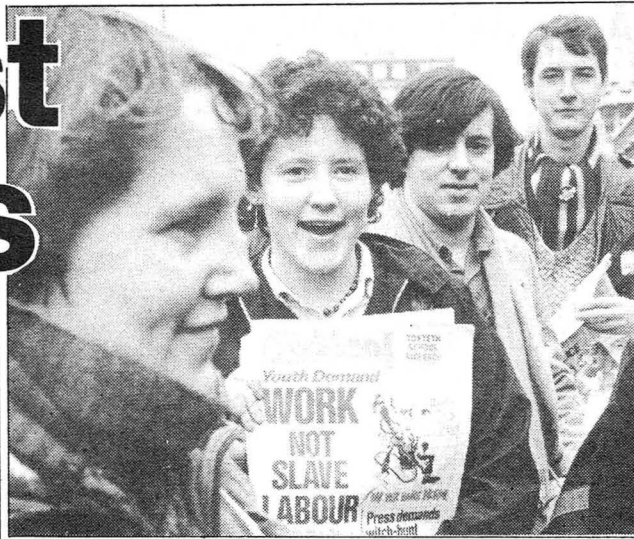
Meetings in Stevenage, Central London, S W London, Erith, Birmingham, Blyth, Chatham brought in £140.

Thanks to Luton supporters (£20), D Fautley (Notts), R Luckins and T Mellon (Corby), R Crowe (Poole) £15 and from London S Winders ABS member (£50), J Cooze (Westminster LP) £4, Mr Hothi (Southall), Poplar expenses £15.40, NALGO members T Bulley, P Butcher and M Dwyer (NUPE), and L Hockey (Wembley) and P Bonfield (Deptford APEX).

Merseyside donations included E Crosbie, J Kutesko L Hutchins and P Rowe (speakers' fee), while B Knight (Washington), T Meir (Newcastle NUR) and T Surridge (Blyth) were three Northern contributors.

Aside from the Scottish conference collection itself, other donations included J McGuinness (Fife), J Montgomery (Edinburgh EIS) and B Pottinger (Dalkeith) who put in part of his delegation fee, P Hynes (Lanark LP) and CPSA members E McGeachan and J Edwards who twice paid £1 for their Militants.

Kent supporters included P Loughran (Chatham NUR) and all the Folkestone comrades who raised £15 at their revolutionary (tea?) party, and they do say



YOPs lobby Parliament, 25 February Photo: D Doran

support Militant!

there's more to come! From the South West donations from C Smith, J Slocombe and K Derrick (Bristol) added to £3 from student G Radbourne (Totnes).

Meals and socials were enjoyed in Coventry and Cardiff, netting about £40, whilst S O'Neil (Birmingham AUEW) and R Roden (EETPU) together with J and K Siddiq (Stoke) (50p each week) and E Byatt (£1 for the Militant each week) show that even taking into account the cuts in living standards in the West Midlands in the last two or three years, comrades there are still determined to support us.

From Yorkshire, B Read (Bradford NALGO) put in part of his travel expenses, and South Leeds supporters

sent us £22. Thanks also to Barnsley tuck shop and Huddersfield jumble sale. Last but not least, a French reader gave us £1.50 more when ordering pamphlets.

By the time you read this column, we will have only two more weeks left till our 11 April target date for £35,000. Although we expect a bumper collection at the LPYS conference, we will need at least £10,000 to £12,000 besides that!

We therefore ask every regular reader to strike a blow against bans, proscriptions and the attacks on our paper. Defend workers' right to free speech! Dig as deeply into your pockets and cheque books as you can. Rush your donations to us today, and get your mates to do the same.

THIS WEEK:

£1,744

Target for April 11th £35,000

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 11 April
Eastern	1139		2040
East Midlands	1131		1470
Hants & Dorset	517		1100
Humberside	381		890
London East	1531		2010
London West	847		1150
London South	880		1550
Manchester & Lancs	885		1550
Merseyside	1023		1950
Northern	1132		2350
Scotland East	517		1290
Scotland West	1160		1980
Southern	1112		1900
South West	515		965
Wales East	219		970
Wales West	485		1130
West Midlands	770		1980
Yorkshire	1430		2290
Others	407		6435
Total received	16081		35,000

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SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per 2 column centimetres.
All advertisement copy should reach this office by SATURDAY.

ads

MILITANT READERS' MEETINGS

CHESTER Militant Readers Meeting. Northern Ireland: The socialist solution. Speaker: a member of the Northern Ireland Labour and Trade Union Group. Wednesday 7 April, 7.30pm. At Chester Labour Club, 5 Upper Northgate St.

POPLAR Militant Readers' Meeting: 'Unemployment—the socialist alternative'. Speakers: Steve Amor and Chris Rackley (LT worker). Wednesday 31 March, 7.30pm, Municipal Offices, Poplar High Street, E.14.

OLDHAM Militant Readers Meeting. "Which way forward for the trade unions?" Monday, 5 April, 8pm. Sergeant-at-Arms, King St., Oldham. Speaker: John Byrne (Manchester North District Committee, AUEW, personal capacity).

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).

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.

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

IPSWICH: Hear John Pickard on 'What Militant stands for'. Friday 26 March, 7.30 pm, Room 2, Town Hall, Ipswich.

CLASSIFIED

Militant supporter (female) wants to share flat/house in Central/North London from May. Ring 0703 641502.

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.

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.

Out soon: SOUTH AFRICA'S IMPENDING SOCIALIST REVOLUTION

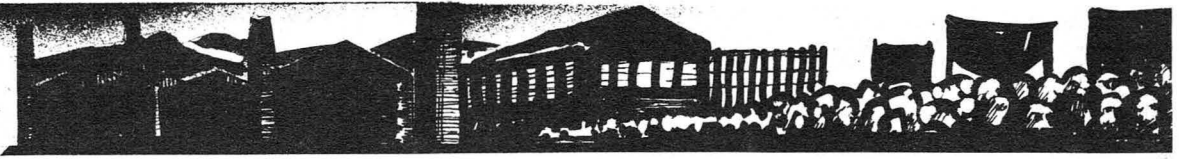
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1/4 page (display) £40

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
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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.

Industrial Reports



Matthews' bare-faced cheek

Strikers at the East Anglia poultry produce factories have given the company's owner Bernard Matthews a new title—last of the big spenders!

Earlier he had upped the offer to the striking Matthew's workers by a derisory 83p. Now, to add insult to injury he has added a mere 50p to this offer—to be paid over a 16 month period!

This was rejected by the workers, members of the NUAAW and the T&GWU, who have been out on strike since February 15. At the Holton plant 176 voted against the offer with none for. At the Great Witchesingham plant in Norfolk, 135 voted against the offer, with 95 for.

And now Matthews has the bare faced cheek to demand the unions carry out a secret ballot. From the outset of the dispute Matthews has made grandiose claims to the local press that droves of workers were breaking the strike and turning up for work. Now, he says the vote was unfair, as not all the strikers were at the mass meetings, admitting in passing that those who didn't vote were certainly not working in the factories!

Unfortunately it seems the leadership of the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers has agreed to the ballot of all members, including those who have scabbed. But the ballot will be taken when the striking workers collect their strike pay from the union.

The strikers have been encouraged by the massive support they have received nationally from the labour and trade union movement. Donations of a thousand pounds have come from the National Union of Seamen and the white collar union ASTMS, and £500 from the NUM. There have been other large contributions from the FBU, NATSOPA, UCW, NGA, and from local Labour Party and trade union branches. Many messages of support have been sent, such as the one from the Frinton and Walton District Labour Party in Essex, showing the extent of support for the strikers.

Keep it up—send donations and messages of support to; Norfolk Office, NUAAW, 76 Norwich St, Dereham, Norfolk.

By Teresa Mckay (NUAAW, personal capacity)

ACAS 'Ideal' for bosses

My dismissal by Warburton's Ideal Bakery reported earlier this year in the Militant, was taken to arbitration, which we lost.

Having now been to the arbitration body, ACAS, it's quite apparent to me it's not there to help workers but to lull them into thinking they're getting justice when in fact they are not. The illusion which many of the members had in ACAS has now been completely blown away.

Because I was a shop steward who believed in strong trade unionism, the

company had for a long time been wanting to get rid of me. When I was dismissed my union, the BFAWU, acted quickly to make the strike official.

Unfortunately the action, which had been endorsed by a secret ballot, was not fully supported by members who feared a strike not realising the immense power they hold.

The company spend a great deal of time portraying a paternalistic image to workers who cannot understand why this company should be opposed. They fail to see that they are being robbed. But with the more ruthless the bosses become, as they abandon

workers in their search for more profit, the honeymoon will be over with workers quickly reaching the right conclusions.

In my case many members supported the call for action to win my reinstatement; this was a magnificent response to the sacking of a branch official as many members were taking action for the first time. Although it cannot be seen as a victory, the company got a bloody nose. It was only because some members scabbed the workers cannot now claim a victory. This is a setback as we had been trying to build unity in the bakery after the same members had refused to

work to rule during Easter 1981, an action again endorsed by secret ballot.

This temporary setback now calls for a determined effort to re-create a stable branch.

The branch membership must start to realise its only through their own strength and actively supporting each other that living standards can be protected.

A unity must now be forged to build the shop stewards movement started in the Warburton Group. Shop stewards must take seriously the building of such an organisation. Many members have looked too much to their economic status. The company have

seized on this to put fear in the minds of the workers.

It's true workers suffer hardship by going on strike. But its also true workers, by constantly taking pay rises below the cost of living, will lose out and their buying power will be weakened in the long term. It's no good just putting off taking action.

Many of the members have now learned there's nothing to fear by taking action and a hell of a lot to gain by firm, positive action when it's called for.

By Keith Allison (BFAWU)

EETPU

Stewards re-instated

Electricians working for the Haden Young company in London scored a victory when their shop stewards Danny McCarthy and Chris Hill regained recognition from their union—the EETPU—and the management.

The reasons for the original withdrawal of their shop steward and safety rep credentials (see Militant 590) remain unclear. However, what is clear is the tremendous anger at the union's leadership over this issue. The threat to take industrial action in support of the stewards may well

have been a key factor in the executive council's new decision on this matter.

Unfortunately, the doors of the London Contracting branch remain closed to its 11,000 members. The functions of the branch have now been placed in the hands of the Area Industrial Committee, who will meet in place of the branch membership.

But no doubt pressure will be kept up by EETPU branches and site shops to force the union's leadership to restore the voice of London electricians.

By an EETPU shop steward

ASLEF say thanks

At a meeting of the Press Branch of EETPU, Neil Milligan, ASLEF organising secretary, was welcomed, when he came to thank the Fleet Street electricians for the money they raised in support of ASLEF during their recent dispute.

Neil told the branch that the money had been tremendously welcome. With a total of over £5,400 raised amongst 1,200 members, this was the highest amount raised per head, on a pounds to members ratio, Neil informed them.

The money collected will now be handed over in a presentation ceremony out-

side the Sun newspaper building, as an indication of workers' attitudes towards that paper's vicious and scurrilous attacks upon ASLEF members, particularly at Kings Cross, throughout the dispute.

Neil said that support for ASLEF had been marvellous. They had received a cheque for £5 from one woman with three kids whose husband was unemployed. That was an indication of the amount of support coming in. That will be essential in future, because, as Neil Milligan pointed out, "the battle was won but the war goes on."

Manchester strike

Sixty electricians, members of the EETPU, are on strike at Manchester University against a 6% pay offer, on May 19.

The Joint Industrial Board Agreement, which nationally sets wages for the EETPU, had decided upon 9.8%. During the last 10 years, the University management have always honoured the board's decision. However, that is not

the case this year. The workers have been on overtime ban since Christmas and they are infuriated at the Michael Edwardes' type 'take it or leave it.' approach of the University negotiators.

The members have withdrawn 24-hour emergency cover, and in doing so closed down the heating, boilers and ventilation in all the University

buildings.

The EETPU members are strengthened by the fact that AUEW members are also in dispute over a pay claim, and therefore there is every likelihood of a joint union escalation of industrial action.

The EETPU members have in effect had no pay rise since 1980 due to 2 to 3 yearly contracts of employment. The men want 9.8%

from April. The strike has been made official and the workers have the backing of the Students' Union. The men in the EETPU are determined not to let the University negotiators pick off each union on site one by one, in the pay claims round.

By Mike Lea (Wythenshawe LPYS)



School meals staff in Kent are set to strike from 26 April to stop the Kent County Council's plans to tear up national agreements and worsening conditions for 6,800 workers (see Militant 589). At the meeting on 22 March, the vote for strike action was very narrow, 356 to 313, but with many abstentions. If a firm positive lead is given by the staff's union, NUPE, support can be built up before the strike date next month.

NALGO rally

With the ballot papers sent out, 100,000 leaflets have been produced by the Campaign for NALGO Affiliation to the Labour Party (CNALP), to urge NALGO members to support Labour affiliation, and are being distributed through district campaign committees.

The official statement issued with the ballot paper is confusing, with the point in favour of affiliation being contradicted by the same point in the negative printed alongside it. Therefore it is vital that the leaflet which takes up the main issues should

reach as many members as possible. Order the leaflet from Danny Purton, telephone 0279 (Harlow) 31656.

All supporters of NALGO affiliation to Labour in the London and surrounding areas should make every effort to attend the national rally being held at Camden Town Hall, Euston Road, London, at 2.30pm on Saturday March 27. Speakers include Labour leader Michael Foot and Tom Sawyer, deputy general secretary of NUPE, as well as representatives from CNALP and FLAG.

Guards battle on

The anger of rank and file members of the National Union of Railwaymen against the flexi-rostering continues. Nearly all trains in the Liverpool area were stopped on 12 March after an unofficial one-day strike by NUR guards at the Lime Street, Garston and Kirkdale stations.

Nearly 150 guards took part in the action, and placards on the picket lines read 'No to Parker and Weighell's phoney deal.' Despite the fact the action was unofficial, only one guard reported for work.

The guards expressed full support for the stand taken against BR management's flexi-rostering proposals by the train drivers' union ASLEF. The NUR members are against flexi-rostering on two counts. They estimate they will lose around £100 in pay in a 12-week period. And it will destroy their social life, which is bad enough under present shifts.



Dockers ready to strike

Hull dockers are ready to fight Tory attempts to restructure the Local Dock Labour Boards.

At a meeting on March 18, the Hull dockers unanimously agreed a call for a 24-hour national strike. This strike will be on the same day as a recalled docks delegate conference to co-ordinate opposition to the Tories' restructuring plans.

The Hull dockers' decision follows a call for action

By Paul Spooner
(Secretary,
Tallymen's Branch,
T&GWU
Hull docks)

from a recent National Ports Shop Stewards Committee meeting in Glasgow, where 85% of Britain's dockers were represented. The Hull dockers also

unanimously backed the demand for an all out national strike should the Tories go ahead with their plans.

It was pointed out at the meeting that the attack on the boards, which give dockers protection against enforced redundancies, had been expected from the 'outside' from the Tories. But instead the attack came from the 'inside', through the dismantling of the boards, from a committee which had no dockers' representatives on it.

This committee recommends the Local Dock Labour Boards, which are made up of half dockers, half employers, should be restructured into five regional Boards, with one docker and one employer from each port in the

region.

The dockers fear these new boards would be cumbersome and less responsive to the needs of individual ports. This move is seen as the start of the destruction of the Boards themselves and the Dock Labour scheme—and the jobs that go with it.

A call was also made for the removal of any dockers' representatives on the Boards who voted for the restructuring.

Once again the dockers have shown their determination to fight any attempt to weaken their rights and conditions won over many hard and bitter years of struggle.

No to cuts!

An estimated 7,000 council workers demonstrated through the streets of Manchester on March 18. They were protesting against the City Council proposal to cut 6,000 of the council's 37,000 jobs.

Once again the Tory government is forcing a Labour council to sack workers. But, as Dick Pickering, local leader of the General and Municipal Workers Union told thousands of workers outside the Town Hall, the Manchester workers are going to try and stop the Tories getting away with it.

At the council meeting which followed the march, the left of the Labour Party voted against the cuts. However the cuts are to go through, the rates and rents are to go up by 12%. Though the council has said they will not call for compulsory redundancies, the workers know that most of the volunteers have already gone.

Either, as the City Labour Party has demanded, the council confronts the Tories or they will have to confront the workers. This is understood by millions of workers today. They know that Thatcher and the employers must be stopped.

In Greater Manchester alone there are thousands of workers facing up to the employers. 700 workers are on strike at Parkinson Cowan (see article). Hundreds more workers in Stockport have struck against the threat of redundancies. Busmen at 3 depots threatened with closure have twice staged strikes and marched in protest. Sit-in strikes have taken place at Gardiners, at British Aerospace, a major factory in Farnworth and at a factory in Bury.

Workers are being forced to fight back. They cannot afford any further cut in their incomes.

By Phil Frampton
(Ardwick
Labour Party)

Over 700 workers at the Parkinson Cowan Measurements Ltd firm in Stretford have come out on strike after rejecting management's third and 'final' offer of 7.8%.

Andy Porter, AUEW shop steward at Parkinson Cowan told Margaret Manning of Moss Side CLP about the strike; "All the workforce is out with the exception of two directors and a couple of contract canteen workers. It's the first time all sections on the site have come together."

"The firm made £2.4m last year, and this year's profit is estimated at £2.6m. They have spent a lot of money on building improvements such as an extra warehouse and superficial facelifts to old buildings. We visited Thorn Consumers (the company is part of the Thorn EMI group multinational) at Chadderton, Oldham, where they have had a pay rise of 9.5% with no strings attached. So we should be offered at least that."

"The company has large stocks of gas meters waiting to go out. We have been to see the stewards of the Gas Board and they have promised to get in touch with the meter stores to stop stocks being moved. Management have to do stocktaking on March 27 for the end of the financial year so we hope that will force them to negotiate with us before then."

The strikers have visited local factories with collection sheets but money is still needed: send to K Frisky, 1 Melbourne Ave., Stretford, Manchester.



Nearly 4,000 building workers marched through central London on Tuesday, 22 March, to protest against the Tory policies which are devastating the construction industry. Nearly a thousand workers assembled at Tower Hill lining up behind the many UCATT and GMWU Construction banners, for the march to Westminster. Along the route the demonstration's ranks were swelled when hundreds of workers left their sites to join the march. As Dennis Skinner pointed out during question time in parliament the same day, the 400,000 unemployed building workers should be matched up to the 500 million bricks stockpiled in the country to provide homes for nearly one and a half million families on housing waiting lists. Photo: Militant

FOYLES

The USDAW picket of Foyles bookshop, in London's West End, has been withdrawn, after 6 weeks.

The Foyles dispute committee have said,

"Despite the fact that we have withdrawn this does not mean that the dispute is over. Three shopworkers, including the sacked shop steward, Siobhan, are still in the process of taking Foyles to an industrial tribunal in pursuit of the right to join a trade union.

"There has been a great response from most trade unionists and from the

general public. We have collected over 6,000 signatures for our petition, and deliveries have been disrupted for over 5 weeks. Unfortunately, the USDAW officials have not been as helpful.

"Now, we shall concentrate on the legal aspects of our case. The shame of this is that it only helps individuals, and for the current and future Foyles workers' conditions will be as abysmal and archaic as now. Workers will be denied basic rights, and the only way this can change is to show solidarity in the future."

By Pete Giblett

DLO under attack

The attacks on workers and their families under the Land and Planning Act and the Tenant Charter has reached a new level of intensity.

The Glasgow Direct Works Department is being threatened with over 1,250 redundancies. In addition to this there are proposals to make council house tenants financially responsible for repairs and maintenance!

This has already been done by the Tory-controlled Edinburgh District council, and similar proposals for Glasgow are under discussion.

The workers in Glasgow Direct Labour Organisation's Queenslie Depot have started a campaign against these proposals involving Tenants Groups, Community Councils, trade unions and Labour Parties in an active campaign of opposition to these proposals including public meetings, leafletting, canvassing and possibly even demonstrations.

After addressing a packed Militant Readers Meeting at the recent Scottish Labour Party conference, DLO shop steward Pat McDonagh described

the situation to Militant.

"Under the Land and Planning Act, District Council DLO's must show a 5% profit margin or lose their contracts to private firms. This is totally against the concept of Direct Labour as a service to the ratepayers. Profit is put before public need yet again by the Tories. At present the profit margin for the private sector is little more than 3%, in any case!

"Brian Gallagher, who is the head of the DLO, the union executive and council's Labour Group, accepted the proposals including voluntary redundancy thinking that council tenants would accept the situation. Queenslie DLO Depot are now organising to spread out and co-ordinate a campaign of opposition to any redundancies. Redundancies can be avoided if tenants and workers unite in a massive campaign to defend tenants' rights and Direct Labour.

"We must intensify our campaign to get the council to reverse its decision. This can be done by mobilising council tenants to press their local councillors to vote against the proposal and to defend direct labour and public services generally."

CPSA—right-wing tactics misfire



John Macreadie

John Macreadie is receiving wide support despite attempts by the right-wing to discredit the Broad Left candidate for deputy general secretary in the current election in the Civil and Public Services Association.

The right wing are so frightened of the election of John Macreadie that they organised a leaflet drop at Newcastle Central Office designed to spread fear and distrust among the membership.

The tactic seems to have badly misfired on them; latest voting figures from Newcastle show 96 votes for Peter Thomason, 296 for Diana Warrick, 627 for John Ellis and 1,946 for John Macreadie.

It appears to be a low poll, due to election weariness caused by the right wing deliberately holding one election after another. However, the left vote looks to be holding up. It is still unknown how much damage to the left

vote has been done through Peter Thomason and Diana Warrick standing.

The main issues of this campaign remain unchanged despite the desperate attempts of the right wing to divert the campaign as John Ellis has done, towards scaremongering and witch-hunting.

This union executive still gravely refuses to lead the membership into action on any of the major issues the union faces. There is still no action on pay or new technology, or any other of the major questions facing the civil service trade union movement.

Now more than ever, we need a campaigning and fighting leadership. The election of John Macreadie as deputy general secretary of the CPSA would be the first step along this road. This achieved we must then strive to secure a Broad Left executive headed by Kevin Roddy, the Broad Left candidate in the presidential election.

By Bill Boyle

Health Workers WE'RE SICK OF LOW PAY

Nearly 5,000 health service workers lobbied Parliament recently as part of the campaign to win our claim for a cost of living pay rise (see *Militant* 590).

By Alistair Tice
 (Branch Chairman,
 NUPE, Hull Royal
 Infirmary)

This followed local demonstrations held up and down the country in the last two months. But judging from the government's response we're going to need more action than lobbies and marches to force them to concede our demands.

For the first time, the trade unions have lodged common claims for a common settlement date, April 1, and this unity clearly worries the Tories. They are now trying to divide and rule the different groups within the health service.

That is why Fowler, the Health Secretary, has 'found' an extra £82 million for pay negotiations with nurses (£63m), am-

balancemen, and other professions supplementary to medicine, enabling management to make an offer of 6.4%. At the same time, they intend to stick rigidly to the 4% cash limit for ancillary and clerical workers. This is a deliberate attempt to split the professions directly involved in patient care from the manual and clerical workers.

Management obviously calculate that if they can settle with the nurses who enjoy the most public support, then if ancillary workers take industrial action like in 1979, they would be able to take them on, and try and smash the unions.

This must not be allowed to happen. The extra 2% offered to nurses represents less than half the original claim, which was modest enough to start with, being only in line with inflation.

Not only that, but the government is only funding two-thirds of the 'extra' cash; the other £27m has to be found from the budgets of the new Health Authorities, which will mean either cuts in services or the loss of over 5,000 jobs. In other words, rob Peter to pay Paul!

NUPE and COHSE in particular, must throw this offer out and step up the joint campaign of all health service workers for the full claim of 12%. No one group should settle until all groups have secured the best possible offer. The government must be forced to centrally fund decent pay for health service workers, and not at the cost of services or jobs.



Heathrow Dispute : Week 7

The lock-out of Heathrow baggage handlers over a rostering dispute has received practically no press publicity despite reaching its seventh week. The workers have been encouraged by 24-hour strikes by Terminal 3 ramp

workers and British Airways Cargo workers. They are at present living on £12 a week strike money. The photo shows the workers' lobby of parliament (23 March). Photo: Militant

RICH AND POOR

CONTINUED FROM
 PAGE ONE

years.

In a world-wide capitalist recession, Britain's unemployment rate has risen faster and manufacturing output has fallen faster than those of any of Britain's economic rivals!

The chaos of capitalism internationally has been worsened by chronic neglect. There have been decades of totally insufficient industrial investment by the ruling class. But it's not the bosses who suffer.

The last three years have left everybody worse off except the very rich. If you are a top salary earner on £77,000 a year, you will be paying 14% less tax than 1979. If you are on an average wage you'll be paying 2% more tax while those on half the average wage will be paying 50% more!

The top 1% who own more than a quarter of all wealth in the country and the overwhelming majority of the shares haven't suffered much in their private comfort even with lower profits. Now non-oil profits are just beginning to rise again.

Meanwhile, the number of people forced to survive on the desperately low supplementary benefit is about

to pass the four million mark for the first time due to the rise in long term unemployment and the abolition of earnings-related benefit.

Over the past eight months, the DHSS have reportedly run out of cash for claimants and have had to get an extra allowance from the government.

Capitalism will not revive the economy. Workers must join the fight for a socialist society based on the needs of working people not profit

But even this 4 million underestimates the number living on the poverty line which may now reach six million, one tenth of the population.

The Thatcher government's war on the poor now sees attempts to cut the proposed rise in Supplementary Benefit from 11% to 10.5%. The worst off in society are being bled dry, all to give life to a near corpse, British capitalism.

The bosses are attacking our living standards because their system needs bigger

profits. This will supposedly encourage the capitalists to invest and make industry competitive again. And bigger profits can only come from lower living standards for the working class as a whole.

In so far as the Tories have any coherent economic strategy at all, it is quite simply to use high unemployment as a means of reducing everyone's living standards, including those at work.

But manufacturing industry in Britain is now producing about 19% less than at the time of the three-day week in 1974. The Treasury hopes for a 2% rise in economic output this year but even a 20% increase would still leave manufacturing production below the level reached in the 1970s.

Capitalism will not revive the economy. Workers must join the fight for a socialist society based on the needs of working people not profit.

The plant, the machinery and the skilled are available to give everyone in society a large rise in living standards. Even by employing the millions out of work, the average family could increase their standard of living by £25 a week!

Only the Tories and the capitalist system stand in the way. Join the fight to get rid of them.

EL SALVADOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

brook no interference.

Despite this, Thatcher, as loyal as ever to the policies of US imperialism, has sent representatives to El

Salvador to 'observe' these sham elections.

Yet even the Reagan administration, which has poured in hundreds of

millions of dollars worth of military equipment, to support the murderous regime, now privately recognises that these elections will settle nothing.

The guerillas already control over twenty per cent of the countryside and it is clear that no government emerging from these elections will be able to defeat them militarily.

Western governments are clearly afraid that the fire of revolt in Central America, which has already consumed the Somoza dictatorship of Nicaragua, will spread. Reagan is pouring in resources to try to destabilise the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua, and has given the go-ahead for covert CIA operations against Cuba.

The instability of the region is shown by the widespread guerrilla war in Guatemala, which has prompted this week's coup.

"The decisive battle for Central America is now going on," declared US assistant secretary of state Enders (5.2.82). But they cannot stamp out the growing opposition to the military police dictatorships in Central America, and whatever the result of the current US offensive against the workers and peasants, capitalism cannot solve their problems.

Capitalism has failed and no papering over with fake elections will restore its viability. The international labour movement must do all within its power to assist its speedy destruction and help bring about an international socialist alternative. (For detailed analysis see pages 8-9)

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