

# Militant

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# FULL SCALE WAR OVER FALKLANDS

The sinking of the General Belgrano and HMS Sheffield, followed by major sea and air battles, mark a decisive new stage in the development of the war over the Falklands.

By Ted Grant

The conflict so far has taken place on the sea and in the air, but this is undoubtedly a preparation for a British invasion of the Falklands.

Argentina and Britain have raised the question of the war with the United Nations Secretary General, but this is mainly manoeuvring, with each side attempting to put the responsibility for the conflict onto the other's shoulders. But in addition there has been pressure on the Thatcher government by the Labour leaders to take their case to the United Nations for a 'peaceful, negotiated' solution.

The United Nations is incapable of solving this bloody conflict. The Iran Iraq war has gone on for more than 18 months with the slaughter of tens or hundreds of thousands.

During the last three decades since the end of the Second World War, there has only been 17 days of peace. 40 million dead are a grim monument to the impotence of the United Nations to solve basic problems.

The United Nations will only solve secondary problems, not involving the major powers, where there can be agreement among the members of the Security Council, especially its most powerful members, France, Britain, China and the super powers, USSR and USA, all of whom have a veto. When one of the five powers with a veto disagrees, the United Nations is paralysed. In the



Marines on the Flight Deck of Hermes prepare for a Falklands invasion

Photo: PA

conflict so far, China and Russia have equivocally supported Argentina, while France and USA have supported Britain.

The attempt at a compromise by the Secretary General has already been rejected by Argentina. The Junta took military action to gain possession of the Falklands, because of the fear of revolution.

## Junta murdered thousands

Withdrawal of troops without 'sovereignty,' ie. guaranteed control of the Falklands, would mean an upheaval. Mass demonstrations would overthrow the Junta within hours of such a climbdown.

The Junta miscalculated the reaction of British capitalism to the invasion,

but they see no alternative but to fight with a slender hope of victory. They seem prepared to risk the airforce, the navy and the army in a desperate war.

They are not in the least concerned about the lives and conditions of the worker-conscripts. After all, the Junta have murdered tens of thousands of workers and imprisoned as many in concentration camps, to defend the rule of landed and industrial capital in Argentina.

The workers and soldiers are pawns in the interests of Argentine big business which the dictatorship was set up to defend. They have squeezed the workers unbearably and brought Argentina to the abyss of mass unemployment, economic crisis and

CONTINUED ON  
PAGE TWO

## Health workers fight poverty wages

"Tell the Tories they can stuff the 4% where the nurses stuff the enemies". This was the message Tory MP Michael Colvin received from angry health service workers during a demonstration and picket of the Golden Jubilee at Horsam Hospital, Bristol.

100 or so COHSE members, including both nursing staff and ancillary workers took part in the protest against the 4% of-

fer. Wage slips were presented as evidence of poverty wages. £47 for a 3rd year student nurse, £59 for a qualified staff nurse.

### By NHS worker Bristol

Colvin replied "how do you expect me to comment on 2 wage slips?" A host of hands went up, many of them earning less than £57 a week.

One woman then commented "what about your £13,000 a year?". Colvin made no reply, except to say that the Tories had done more for health service workers than any other government. At this, everybody burst out laughing.

Morale was high with workers showing their willingness to fight for a better pay deal, this demonstration was only the beginning, with the staff now working to rule and determined to win 12%.

# FALKLANDS

CONTINUED FROM  
PAGE ONE

runaway inflation.

It was the bankruptcy of capitalism and military police rule which brought Argentina to the brink of revolution. The Junta prefers a desperate war with even a small possibility of victory, to a climbdown which would threaten the collapse of the regime and even the possibility of the end of capitalism.

Stripped of the veneer of claims of 'honour and sovereignty', the naked interests of power, privilege, profit and prestige stand out as the real aims of the Argentine Junta. That is why the Argentine, British and international working class have nothing to gain from an Argentine victory.

Most of the Latin American countries are to one degree or another supporting Argentina with 'Latin American solidarity'. At the same time the EEC, the Commonwealth countries, Japan and the United States have been supporting Britain because of the NATO treaty, and the general inter-imperialist solidarity.

The main imperialist powers jointly exploit the economies of the ex-colonial countries, and do not wish to break ranks with British capitalism over this issue and so they have all taken some measures of economic boycott against Argentina. However, they are all grumbling behind the scenes and thinking of their own economic interests.

The escalation of the naval and air conflicts mark a new and bloodier stage in the war and may be the issue that is used by the main capitalist powers to distance themselves, diplomatically from Britain, even though serious conflict was always explicit in the despatching of the Fleet, something which they supported.

Pym, Thatcher and the other Tory ministers piously declaim that 'democracy,' 'freedom,' 'honour,' and 'Argentine aggression' are the reasons for their stand. They have assembled a mighty task force equipped with all the most modern technologically sophisticated equipment for sea, air and land forces.

Like Argentina they are

manoeuvring in the United Nations to put the responsibility of war on their adversary. It seems that an outright bloody battle on the Falkland Islands is inevitable. In reality, war has already started.

The hypocrisy and disgusting conceit of the ruling class in their talk of 'honour' and 'freedom' is nauseating. They are interested at home and abroad in their power, privilege, prestige and above all their profits. War is the continuation of politics by other means, and diplomacy is the continuation of war by other means.

They are not interested in the Falkland Islanders any more than they are interested in the health, wealth and conditions of the working class at home. What they are really interested in is their prestige, and a large share in the potential profits of the oil, fish and minerals in the Falklands area.

They are waging war on the home front against the working class by taking away many of their trade union rights with the Tebbit Bill. They have cut the meagre standard of living of

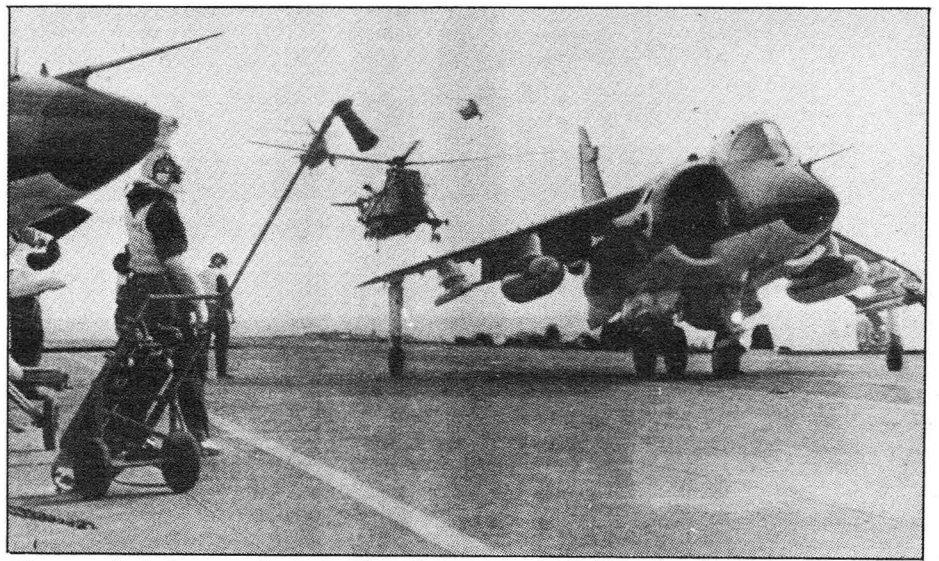
the unemployed and are waging economic war on the working class by reducing their standard of living.

They preside indifferently over 3 million officially unemployed and the worst economic crisis for fifty years. They are not prepared to wage war against those things. Their interests are not those of the workers, or the soldiers and sailors whom they regard as pawns to increase their power, privilege, profit and prestige.

They have blundered into an unnecessary war. They had a tender regard only a few weeks ago for the Junta who restored 'law and order in Argentina.' They have no genuine interest in the Falklanders or the Argentine, British or any other workers.

They wage war in the interests of their class. The war that should be waged, against unemployment, bad housing, bad conditions, bad wages, they are not capable of waging because of the economic interests of their class.

The ruling class in reality is not at all interested in a war against dictatorship and fascism. They are prop-



The war is being conducted using the most sophisticated radar, missile and communications systems, both sea and air-borne

ping up numerous similar dictatorships in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and they would just as easily prop up Galtieri or some other dictator in Argentina.

They would only regard the fall of the Galtieri Junta as a regrettable consequence of the defence of their own interests. Workers can never trust in the home or foreign policy of the representatives of big business.

In the collective interests of the capitalist class the Tories are prepared to requisition ships and other supplies with, of course, a luscious guaranteed profit to their owners. In peacetime they look with complacency on the suffering of youth, men, women and children, on the massive dole queues and on

low wages—all in the defence of the economic system.

How can the Tories ever be trusted to represent workers' interests in Argentina, the Falklands or in Britain, in peace or in war? The working class has no other interests apart from those of the workers in Britain, Argentina and elsewhere.

The Labour leaders, in effect, have been working in a semi-coalition with the Thatcher government on the question of war with Argentina. This class collaboration must be ended and a General Election fought on home and foreign policy.

If clear socialist policies were put, the Government could be brought down and a Labour government

pledged to socialist policies brought into power. A Labour government pledged to such socialist policies would be the biggest blow to the Argentine Junta.

They could appeal to the Argentine workers and soldiers to bring down the Junta and organise a Socialist Federation with the Falkland Islanders, with full autonomy for them. A socialist federation of Britain, Argentina and the Falklands could then bring enormous benefits to the peoples of both countries.

In the war against unemployment and poverty and during the present war in the South Atlantic, the main theme of Labour's policy must be 'No Trust in the Tory Government! Bring back Labour to power on a Socialist Programme.'

## Labour must demand general election

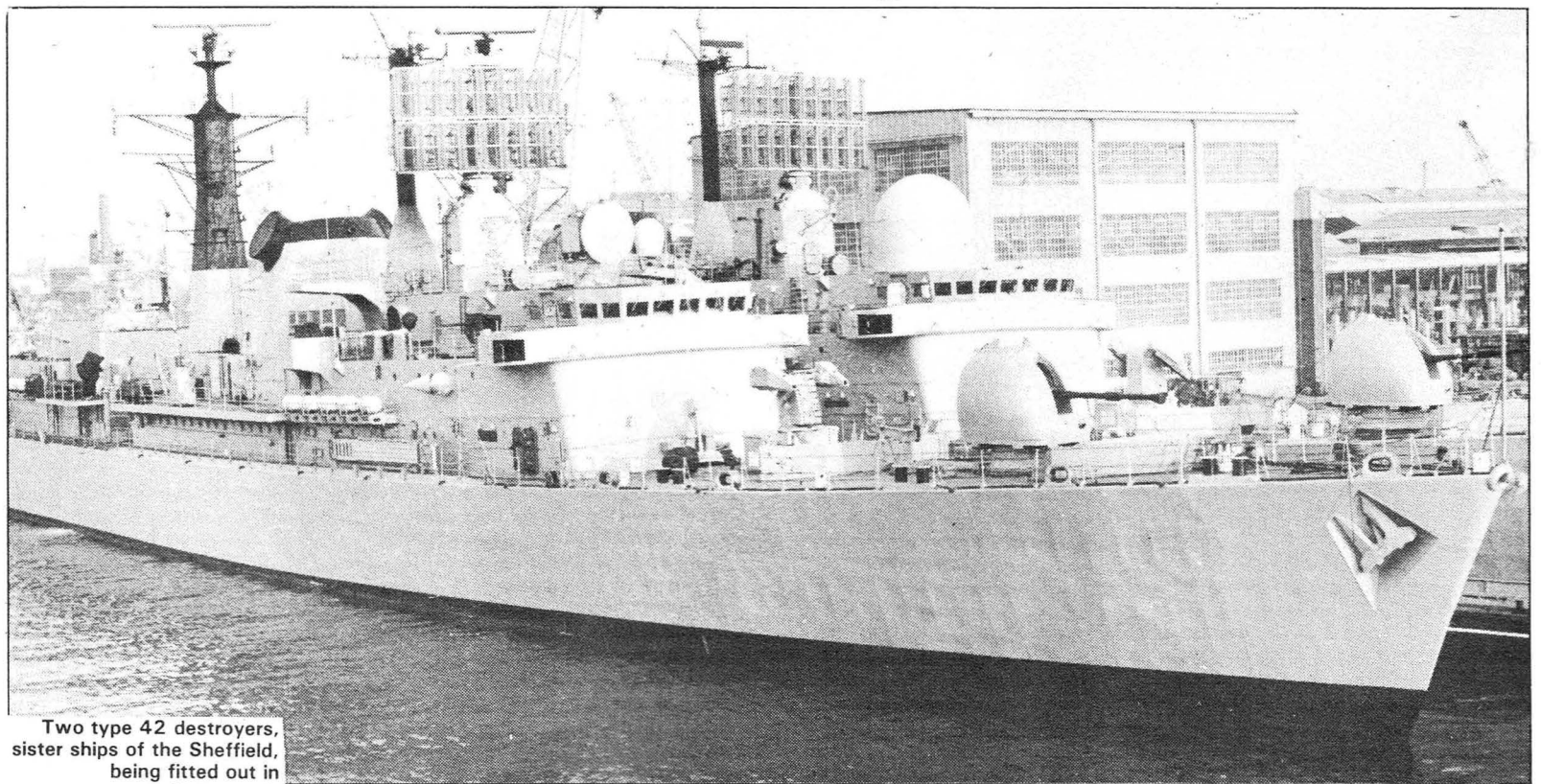


Photo: Militant.

Two type 42 destroyers, sister ships of the Sheffield, being fitted out in Portsmouth

## Demo against Pakistani dictatorship

A successful demonstration against a visit to Nottingham by Pakistan's ambassador to London, Arshad Ali, was organised by the

Committee for a Democratic and Non-Aligned Pakistan.

The demonstration was attended by some 200 people. Among the organisers who played a prominent role were Hasan Bokhari,



Akram Dhreja (both trade unionists and political exiles), M Riasat from the Labour Party in Nottingham, and M Bashir the Secretary of the Pakistan Peoples Party. The slogans

included "Down with the military junta!" "American Imperialists out of Pakistan!" "Free all political prisoners in Pakistan!"

The ambassador arrived

in a large limousine, but turned back at the sight of the demonstrators. After ringing his hosts, he finally made his way to the reception.

This was the first demonstration of its sort in Nottingham, and the Pakistani community in Nottingham showed its hatred of the murderer and torturer Zia in Pakistan.

There are 35,000 political prisoners in Pakistan. Political and trade union activities are suppressed.

The end to the dictatorship must be linked to the overthrow of capitalism and landlordism in Pakistan.

The demonstration showed the potential for organising opposition to the Zia dictatorship in Britain

among the Pakistan community.

Labour Party and LPYS branches should send resolutions to the NEC asking for a campaign to be mounted against the dictatorship of Zia, and condemn the support of the Thatcher government for Zia. Labour cannot turn a blind eye to repression in Pakistan.

**Ali Khan  
(Nottingham East  
LPYS and a  
member of the  
Committee for a  
Democratic and  
Non-Aligned  
Pakistan)**

# Labour Party

# Reports

## No to coalition!

Labour Party members working hard up and down the country to secure victory for Labour in the May 6 local elections will be infuriated by the acts of some right wingers.

Roy Grantham, general secretary of the white collar union APEX has called for a coalition with the SDP/Liberal Alliance if there is a hung parliament in the next general election.

At the union's conference in April, Grantham even suggested that the Liberal leader David Steel should be at the head of that coalition!

But Labour Party members will remember what the Lib-Lab pact of 1976-78 achieved for Labour's credibility, alongside the failed policies of the right wing Callaghan government, in the 1979 election. And how can Labour tie itself to a party which on their past record—Liberals and ex-Labour right wingers alike—have supported cut-backs in workers' living standards, and has now given support to the anti-union Tebbit Bill? A coalition would spell disaster for the labour movement.

Grantham says the need to get Britain moving again is greater than "the foibles of politicians". But while Grantham is prepared for coalition with these capitalist parties, he offers no olive branches to the left of the Labour Party. At conference he went on to attack *Militant* supporters and Tony Benn.

Grantham called *Militant* supporters "unrepentant and undisciplined". *Militant* supporters have a proud record within the movement and have nothing to 'repent', and the label of 'undisciplined' is hypocrisy

By Bob Wade

and an insult (see centre page feature).

*Militant* supporters in the Labour Party are busy canvassing and winning support for Labour candidates in the council elections, many of whom are right wingers. *Militant* supporters and Young Socialists accept the democracy of the labour movement and will fight to return all Labour candidates who were democratically selected to stand at the various bodies.

Yet Grantham remains silent over the position taken by Labour MP Bob Mellish and former GLC Labour leader Sir Reginald Goodwin in Bermondsey, south London. These have actually given backing to candidates standing against the official Labour Party candidates, because they don't agree with the policies supported by the official candidates! Imagine the frenzied outcry there would be from Grantham and other right wingers—as well as their friends in the Tory press—if left wingers broke with the discipline of the labour movement in such a way.

At best the right wing show only wafer-thin loyalty to the party and at worst, open betrayal. Ordinary party members will not forget these figures when, in a few weeks time, these same right wingers call for the expulsion of Marxists.



Hello there! Mrs Thatcher makes a personal appearance at the London May day march, joining up with the London LPYS. Nearly 3,000 joined the march to Victoria Park in East London for the May day festivities. However, elsewhere May day rallies were not so humorous—in Ramsgate a rally at the Labour Hall was attacked by fascists who hurled a smoke bomb. Photo: Militant.



YOPster at work—soon youth will be forced on these schemes by the Tories.

## Tories plan industrial conscription

The Tory government seem set on their reactionary attempt to conscript unemployed youth onto the new Youth Training Schemes.

They are saying if the unemployed refuse to go on these schemes their supplementary benefit will be forfeited—so much for Tebbit's claim these schemes will be 'voluntary'!

Trade unionists are becoming increasingly angry with the conditions faced by youth presently on YOPs schemes, the way the bosses are using them as cheap labour and to break up union organisation. The Wales TUC last week passed a resolution from the construction workers

union, UCATT, calling for a return to traditional apprenticeships rather than the MSC schemes.

If the Tories do go ahead with cutting supplementary benefit, the TUC have said they will refuse to co-operate with the Tories, and there will be growing pressure on the TUC to withdraw from the Manpower Services Commission altogether.

The Tories can be forced to retreat on this. It now appears that they may shelve their original plans to pay youth on these new schemes a pittance of £15 a week. The *Financial Times* (May 1) reported that government ministers had accepted that the trainees be paid £28 in line (after inflation) with YOPs pay.

The FT described this as a

'breakthrough for the MSC' who have argued for this. But this is also in no small way a victory for the Labour Party Young Socialists and their YOPs Trainee Union Rights Campaign.

While the MSC may have presented the statistics and arguments for an increased payment, there can be no doubt that YTURC's success in the increasing unionisation of YOPsters and the mobilisation of 3,000 YOPsters in the February lobby of Parliament, helped concentrate the Tories' mind on the matter!

But £28 is still a pittance! The LPYS and YTURC will continue its campaign until all YOPsters have union rights and rates of pay with a guaranteed job.

## Nazi mole in the SDP

The Liberal and Social Democratic Alliance has discovered another Nazi within their ranks.

Their official candidate for Rylands ward in Croydon, Joe Short, turned out to be a former student organiser for the National Front, a member of the National Democratic Freedom Movement and is now a member of the new fascist grouping, the British National Party, (made up of Tyndall's New National Front and a section the British Movement, which recently broke up, with the other section forming the National Socialist Movement.) Short was also reported to have been involved in an arson attempt on a synagogue (*Daily Mirror*, April 30).

He has been thrown out of the Liberal Party, but his name will still appear on the ballot paper on May 6 because of election laws. Nevertheless he is not the first Nazi to turn up in the

SDP/Liberal Alliance. Last year two members of the Luton SDP, one of whom was the joint branch secretary, were discovered to be members of the National Front Constitutional Movement.

In Harringey, a former member of the British Movement was discovered. And the anti-fascist magazine *Searchlight* (December '81) linked a Bedford SDP member to Tyndall. No doubt the fascists are infiltrating the 'new' SDP hoping to recruit some of the more reactionary elements who have been drawn towards this party.

Of course, the SDP/Lib Alliance have expressed their total opposition to the Nazis and have expelled them when they have been discovered. Indeed right wing Labour Party branches have been the victims of fascist infiltration in the past.

But while the SDP/Lib

Alliance draws the line at known fascists, it is prepared to accept other unsavoury elements. An SDP organiser for Bromley, Barrie Harwood, stated in the 'Beckenham and Penge Advertiser' last year that he challenged the "right of individuals to come to this country and expect to carry on nationalistic customs totally alien to British culture," and went on to say "It is a fact of life that the youth crime rate in places like Brixton, particularly among coloureds, is higher than anywhere else in London." Harwood was former chairman of Beckenham Young Conservatives before he found his place in the 'liberal' SDP.

By a 'Militant' reporter

## 200 at Benn ward meeting

On Thursday 22 April we held a public meeting in Knowle. This meeting is the first of a planned campaign to build the party membership and support for a general election.

The whole ward received a leaflet (5,000 were distributed) and the response on the night was fantastic. The hall was packed to overflowing with 200 people—mostly from the ward area.

The excitement and mood of the meeting was heightened by the presence of the press and TV cameras, present to report Tony Benn's speech on the Falkland Islands.

The speakers before Tony Benn were Nick Burdon (AUEW-TASS Divisional Organiser) who mainly dealt with Tebbit's Employment Bill and Sue Beckingham. Sue received tremendous support for her

points showing the class society we live in, particularly when she "advertised" the job of Lady Mills cook at £40 per week, for any unemployed.

Sue's demands were widely welcomed, likewise when drawing the conclusion that men and women, young and old, black and white should unite, join the Labour Party and fight with Labour for a socialist alternative.

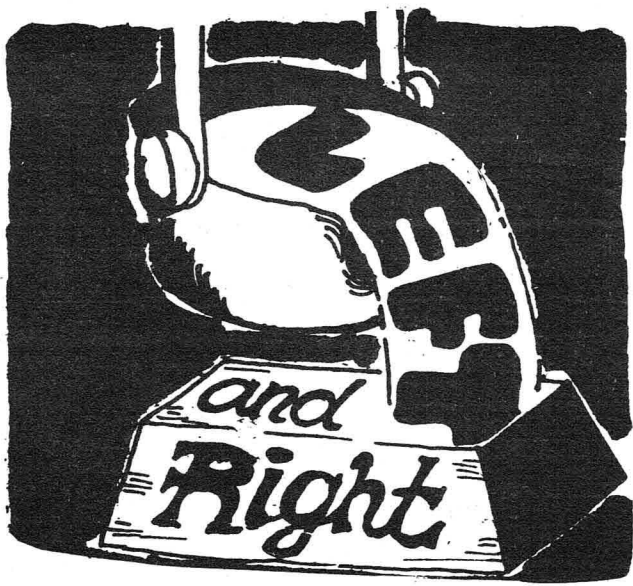
Tony Benn MP, the last speaker, received a tremendous reception particularly as he called for peace and not war. However, his biggest reception was for the demand for an end to the rule of the profit and for his statement that "some start as socialist and move towards the House of Lords, I have gone the other way."

It is clear from this meeting that the right wing of the Labour Party are totally out of touch with or-

inary working class people. Tony Benn, because he reflects the desire for alternative policies to the past failures of Labour administrations, and an alternative to the Tories, receives huge support.

But also the ideas and policies of *Militant* in this meeting of 200 in one ward (the largest such meeting I have ever seen here even compared with a general election) were really welcomed by the audience. Many of the audience signed to say they would be interested in future activities and there is no doubt that Bristol SELP has started to build a much wider basis of membership and support than has been achieved before.

By Bryan Beckingham



## Not putting their money where their mouth is

The Bank of England may talk a lot about the economy 'turning the corner', and how the future looks rosy, but their actions belie their words. Three years ago, it has just been revealed, their pension fund invested 15% of its £140m assets overseas, about three times higher than the average pension fund. Since then controls on the export of capital have been lifted, so we can expect the proportion nowadays to be even higher.

So whatever they say there is great pessimism amongst the notables who run the important Bank of England fund: two leading merchant bankers (members of Rothschilds and Hill Samuel) plus a leading industrialist, Sir Alastair Pilkington and a Bank employee, John Fforde.

## Ministry of Silly Walks?

A letter to Labour Weekly last week showed the deep grasp of politics of Britain's military establishment. While lecturing soldiers on security matters at an Army camp, an officer supplemented his talk with a display of left wing literature. Under the heading 'Trotskyist' was a copy of Labour Weekly. When the writer pointed out that Labour Weekly was not a Trotskyist paper, the officer said the issue contained articles of a Trotskyist nature.

As further proof of the subversiveness of the Labour Party, he said that someone called Max Wall had become the 65th Militant supporter to be selected as a prospective Labour candidate!

Well, not quite. There are quite enough comedians in Parliament already, particularly on the Tory and SDP benches. The officer was presumably thinking of Pat Wall. Are all the political briefing exercises as accurate as this one? Or perhaps the training was organised, not by the Ministry of Defence, but the Ministry of Silly Walks.

## Why top Soviet official was executed

Sometimes to preserve bureaucratic rule in the USSR, an official has to make the supreme sacrifice. Last week 'Pravda' reported that Vladimir Rytov, former Deputy Minister of Fisheries, had been executed for corruption.

He and others had been smuggling out caviar in cans marked as herring. Abroad they were re-opened, packed up as caviar, and the profits split between their Western importers and the Soviet exporters.

Such corruption is bound to occur when there is no real check upon the activities of the bureaucrats. Inefficiency, fraud and opportunities for crime will flourish when the workers have no means to control society. Now the bureaucrats in Russia cannot admit their dictatorial system is fundamentally flawed, so they occasionally attack the symptoms, not the cause.

Currently there is a big anti-corruption campaign and the Public Prosecutor has reported that such crimes have increased four-fold in the last ten years. But no matter how many Rykovs are sacrificed, to try and 'encourage' the others to be more honest, they will not be able to remove the root cause for such a situation—the absence of workers democracy.

## 50 years ago—profiting from war

The British ruling class has always seen the profitable side to wars and the Churchill family has always been quick off the mark to justify them. Currently we have Winston Churchill MP screaming in true Napoleonic 18th century style that Labour was scared at the first 'whiff of grapeshot'. But it's not his class that mainly pays in blood, though they mainly profit by it.

Fifty years ago in the April edition of the 'British Legion Journal' Winston's father Randolph had an article explaining that in the Great War (First World War) not everyone had been made poorer. He was right. Ship owners saw their profits rise by £350 million. In 1982 there are already demands for increased defence spending, and who will reap the main financial benefits from that but armaments profiteers who trade in Argentinian and British lives.

# 'Temporary' slums are 37 years old

By Bill Hopwood

"Even in prison you get a release date," said Mr. Petty, the husband of Carole Petty, organiser of a group of council tenants in Thornaby on Tees.

The tenants live in sixty houses built as 'temporary' at the end of the Second World War, with a maximum life of eighteen years.

Now thirty-seven years later, the houses are falling apart. Literally. A partition wall in one house fell down, ceilings are collapsing, the window and frame in one house fell out and took over a month to be fixed.

The houses are built on poor foundations, with concrete walls and low quality flat roofs. Roofs and walls leak, water rises through the floors and in winter, pipes burst. Mould grows on walls and carpets. The only way to keep the houses dry and warm is hav-

ing the heat on all the time.

The heating is on an open fire, a coke water heater and electricity. The area is a smokeless zone so the tenants are supposed to burn coke—which is wasteful on an open fire—or break the law. The coke water heaters are almost all broken. In Mrs Petty's house it has been out of action for eighteen months.

They boil water to wash the baby and take baths at friends. Even if the boiler was fixed it is a fire risk. The flue which would get hot if the boiler worked is surrounded by plywood and has a birdnest near it. Their electricity bill was £400 for six months.

One bedroom is unusable due to wet. The baby sleeps

with hat and mitts on and is still not warm. The electric wiring is faulty. When water seeps up from the ground it is sewage water.

Mrs Petty said "People don't believe it unless they see it and this is not the worst of the houses." In spite of the problems they make a great effort to keep a tidy home. They say a proper house would be like a palace.

One neighbour who just had a baby was told by the midwife that the house was unfit to live in. They also told a real life horror story of a retired woman who had suffered a stroke and was in a wheelchair and incontinent.

The wheel chair doesn't fit through the doors. There is no hot water, and the electricity was disconnected for non-payment. Her son who looks after her, reconnected it and was sent to jail for six months.

The Electricity Board worker came but refused to

reconnect as the wiring was unsafe due to the water and collapsed ceiling! The rent on the houses is now, after the April increase, £20.50. They have had enough.

Ever rising rents, no repairs and unfit houses. "If it was a decent house it wouldn't be so bad, but other rents on better houses are less, this rise is too much."

It is impossible to get moved. One tenant has been trying for twenty years. "If we were made homeless they'd put us back here." They would like to arrange an exchange of houses with Number 10 Downing Street!

If that doesn't work they might try another idea, to sell council houses. Already one house has a sign 'For Sale £2.50.' Teesside Thornaby Labour Party, and our candidate to replace the SDP MP, are helping their campaign for decent housing.

The Falklands crisis has diverted attention away from the April unemployment figures which have officially gone over three million again.

But the millions on the dole queue are victims of the Thatcher government's three year war—against the working class to try to boost the profits of British capitalism.

Usually in April, the dole figures go down. This year they went up. At 12.6% of the population, Britain has a higher percentage out of work than any European country except Belgium.

Some areas like Northern Ireland have been unemployment blackspots for generations. Even in the 1950's unemployment there never went below about 5% and towns such as Strabane and Derry hardly saw the post war boom. Now Strabane has a 37% official unemployment rate while the "best" area, around Belfast, has 15%. In January 43% of all those out of work in Northern Ireland had been unemployed for over a year and one in six for over two years.

The whole country is becoming a disaster area. The West Midlands now has a higher percentage out of work than Scotland, but wasn't the West Midlands one of the wonder areas of the '50s and '60s where a prosperous new Britain was being manufactured under the bonnets of millions of motor cars? Now one in seven are jobless.

The New Towns created after the war were meant to provide houses and jobs away from the smog and congestion of the cities. The planners could design the layout of the estates but under capitalism you can't plan for jobs that will last. One of the newest towns, Telford, has a fifth of the population on the dole!

In fact, the unemployment figures are even worse than the government claim.



The letters may fall, but the unemployment figures continue to rise.

Photo: MILITANT

# Thatcher's class war cabinet

By Roger Shriver

Young Worker Schemes where the government pay bosses to keep young workers' wages below £40 a week.

It is also the real meaning beneath a barely comprehensible speech made recently by Sir Geoffrey Howe: "Somewhere between the levels of income which we pay to those out of work and the earnings enjoyed by those who have a job are rates of pay which those out of work would be glad to take if they had the chance".

Howe is pessimistic about his success "Convention and narrowness of vision prevent these bargains being struck". Yes, the conventions of eating and paying rent and mortgages.

If the Tories are not going to make us starving unemployed cave dwellers we have to fight the class war against the Tories with the same determination Thatcher and Co. fight us. The Tories and their system must go.

The official statistics have been manipulated by shifting large numbers of the jobless off the register.

Some have been transferred from the dole queue to the sweat shop.

564,000 youngsters are on unemployment and training schemes. As most of them are not included in the dole figures, this hides an extra 305,000 people.

The government have at the same time been encouraging older workers to stop work early despite the atrocious level of retirement pensions. The proportion of males aged between 60 and 70 seeking work has been declining rapidly now for a number of years.

The Manpower Services Commission also admit there are very many women who have given up any hope of working and so do not

bother to register when they become unemployed or when their families grow up. The same even applies for a number of school leavers.

The newly formed Unemployment Unit estimate that in all about a million and a quarter are unemployed but not registered.

## Starvation wages on offer

Four and a quarter million people are victims of the Tory system and Thatcher's class war cabinet welcome it as a chance to try to keep all wages down—and all profits up. A blatant example is the



Kate Losinka, the CPSA President, giving out leaflets against Broad Left candidate John Macreadie, in Newcastle.

If anyone believed that a 'special relationship' existed between civil servants and the government then the myth has been well and truly smashed.

As the 1982 Annual Conferences of the civil service unions approach, a review of the period since the last Conferences shows a relentless attack by the government on pay, jobs and working conditions of civil and public service workers.

Living standards of civil servants have been cut by 18% in the past two years. The Tories scrapped the civil service pay agreement in 1981, which led to the 21-week strike and ultimate defeat as a 7½% settlement was reluctantly and bitterly accepted by civil servants.

This year, the Tories launched a further attack. As a 'Times' editorial said (28 April) 'This year's pay talks with the civil service

**By Pat Byrne**  
CPSA NEC candidate

are in part a tidying up of unfinished business from last year.'

An Arbitration tribunal award of between 4.75% and 6.25% (which the government will probably accept) spells continuing poverty for thousands of civil servants, particularly the low paid and the youth.

The Tories have not finished. The Committee of Inquiry into Civil Service Pay (the Megaw Inquiry) is due to report this summer on the future method of determining civil service pay.

The government has called for pay to be determined by 'market rates', the introduction of regional pay bargaining and special rewards for those who have 'special skills' or show 'special initiative.'

The government has also continued its attacks on jobs in order to meet its publicised target of cutting 100,000 civil service jobs over the period 1979-84. During the year, the Tories announced they were well on target and had already

cut nearly 50,000 jobs!

The agendas for CPSA National Conference and the Industry based Conferences show real bitterness over the Tory attacks and the failure over the past three years of the CPSA's right wing leadership.

In the Civil Service Conference, **Motions 1-20** censure the right wing Executive for their lack of lead during the 1981 strike, a batch of motions then attack the Tories' 1982 pay offer of 0-5% and the failure of the leaders to consult the membership on the 1982 claim on the question of arbitration, the lack of pressure on the Tribunal and the leadership's unilateral decision to accept the outcome of Arbitration in **advance of the hearing!**

Emergency motions deploring these failures and the need to quickly begin preparing for an all-out battle, if necessary, in 1983 are

inevitable, as the members draw the conclusions of the failures of 1981 and 1982.

**Composite motion 84** correctly calls for a Special Pay Conference to draw up the 1983 claim and **constitutional amendment 782** at the National Conference seeks to make this a permanent feature of union rules. **Motion 99** from DHSS Washington CB Branch demands that the Megaw proposals be put to 'the Annual Conference or a special conference of CPSA.'

**Motion 247** instructs the Executive to campaign 'vigorously for the implementation of a 35-hour week without loss of pay.'

A major issue at the Conference will be the Civil Service New Technology Agreement which the CPSA right wing leadership signed only weeks before the Conference. The agreement directly contradicts successive Conference policies

which demanded no loss of jobs and a 35-hour week as part of the benefits to civil servants in any Technology Agreement.

**Composite motion 697** from Customs & Excise Liverpool Branch which notes the 'failure of the Executive to mount an effective national campaign against public expenditure cuts' and calls for a campaign to defend civil service jobs.

The theme of the unions' Civil Service Conference is very much the defence of living standards, jobs, working conditions and the failure of the union's right wing leadership.

It has been a momentous year for CPSA and the motions on the union's National Annual Conference reflect this.

**Composite motion 30** from Customs & Excise calls for a review of full-time officials' salaries and 'believes that the salaries paid to officials should be more in line with that earned by members.' **Composite motion 42** from DNS Lytham calls for the extension of the election of the union's Senior Officers to **all Assistant Secretary (National Officer) posts in the union.**

The recent historic elections for General Secretary, General Treasurer and Deputy General Secretary and, in particular, the scandalous role played by the union's right wing will be a major issue at Conference.

Twenty four motions condemn the right wing leadership for recommending their preferred (right wing) candidates in these elections, and correctly argue that 'no such recommendations be made in the future.'

Other aspects of the role played by the union's right wing in the elections eg. the refusal to allow candidates (John Macreadie in particular) to address membership meetings; the role of the Tory press and the use made of it by the right wing; appear on the agenda.

The anger of members at the overturning of Conference decisions by the right wing leadership is best seen by the 102 motions censuring them for not affiliating to CND as instructed to do so by Conference 1981.

Not surprisingly, given the constant attacks on our livelihoods CPSA members increasingly see the need to re-affiliate to the Labour Party and the election of a Labour government on a socialist programme. This is

evidenced by 36 branch motions on the subject.

The other lessons learned during the year are evident in the rest of the agenda, such as **composite motion 349** from DHSS North Notts censuring the NEC for their failure to press ahead with the amalgamation of civil service unions.

**Composite motion 364** from C&E Liverpool calls for a Public Sector pay alliance and campaign next year. **Composite motion 445** calls for the democratisation and building of the union's Area Committees.

A number of constitutional amendments put forward further democratic steps in the union eg. **Motion 789** which seeks to make all decisions of NEC sub-committees answerable to the NEC and **Motion 813** which seeks to curb the immense personal powers of the President, so much abused by the outgoing right wing President Ms Losinka.

Conference must defeat the undemocratic propositions from the right wing **motion 785** which seeks to limit the number of motions branches can submit to Conference and the proposed rules for the NEC (currently marked Out of Order) which will change the NEC to a federalised body, as opposed to the entire membership electing the their union leadership.

Opposition to the Employment Bill (**composite motion 543**); opposition to the exploitative YOP and the Young Workers Scheme (**584**); opposition to attacks on the Social Security System (**610**); support for the GLC cheap fares policy (**657**); alternative work for the proposed closed MOD Dockyards (**664**); a class based party of Labour in N. Ireland (**680**); support for the Polish working class (**685**) all go to make up the Conference agenda.

Vital to the defence of living standards and jobs is the need to elect a Broad Left leadership.

In the past year, more and more members have seen through the so-called 'Moderates'. Increasingly CPSA members understand the need for a leadership which will fight to defend their interests.

A leadership which understands the need to link up the industrial struggles on pay, jobs, conditions, with the political struggle for a socialist society run under democratic workers control and management.

# CPSA Conference Wanted - a fighting democratic union

**Living standards of CPSA members have been cut by 18% in two years. Elect a Broad Left leadership to fight to defend our interests.**

The long strike in 1981, and the Tories disgusting offer has shown the need for a fighting union.



# IN THE NAVY-

## *It's them and us*

**Every member of HM Forces who is on leave, is currently on 12-hour notice of call up.**

Mike, who is in the Royal Navy and a member of the Labour Party, spoke to *Militant* about his experiences and the attitude of the troops to the current crisis.

"The news that the fleet was to be sent to the Falklands hit us on the Friday. It was evening and the word was buzzing round the pubs near my base. Most of the lads were dead keen to go. Some with families weren't so keen. The beer was flowing and then the beer was talking.

"But this is what the lads have been trained for, a chance to apply what they had learnt. Also they didn't believe that a small country like Argentina would ever dare to tackle HM Fleet—one of the best in the world.

"When you get the call to arms it's exciting. But now the troops must be sobering up. If there's war some of the marines and paras are going to die. If there's an invasion of the Islands there'll be a slaughter.

"I remember how a British general said of the Dardanelles invasion that we were 'bound to win because we had more men to be shot down'. If the Argentines have air superiority it won't be easy.

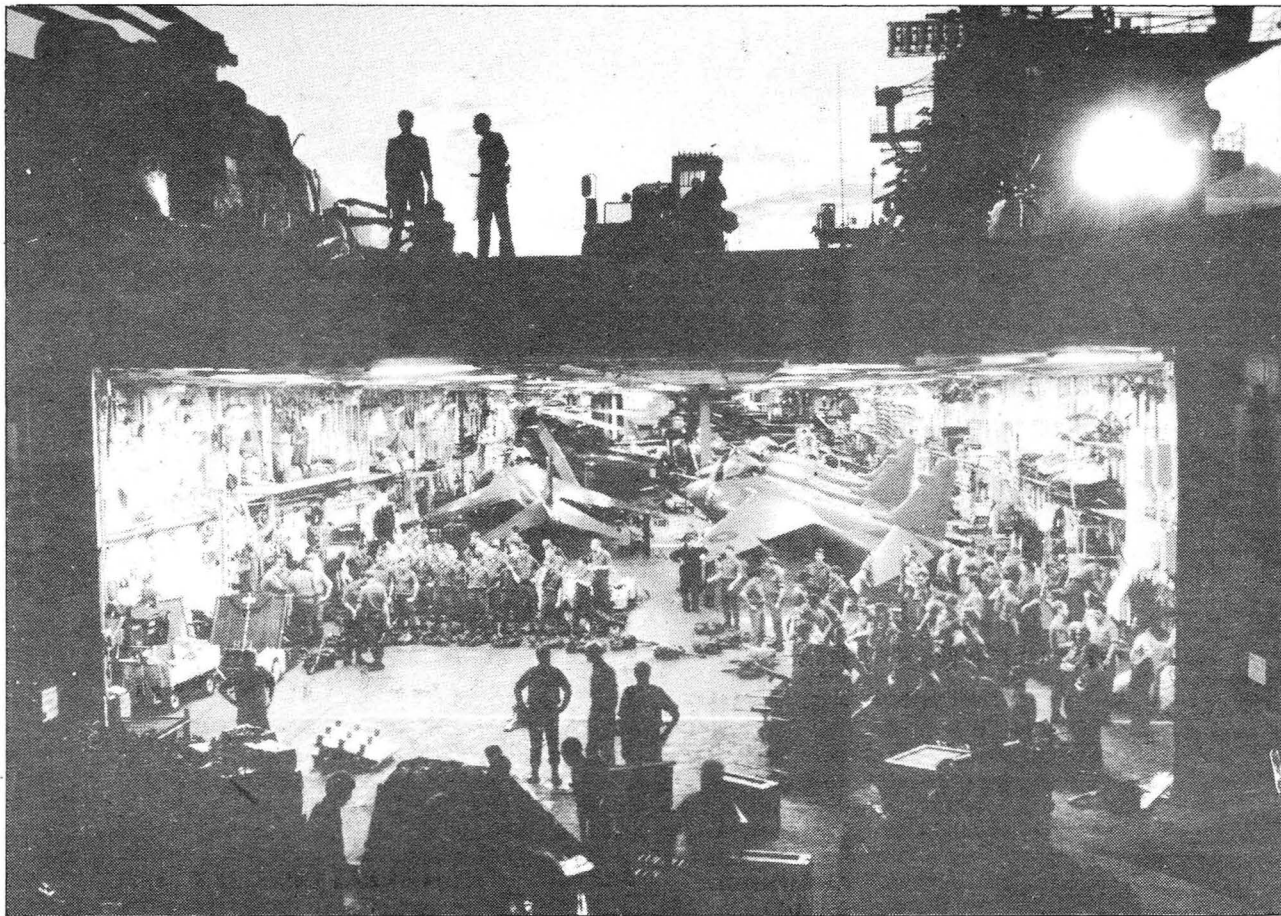
By Phil Frampton

"If Thatcher backs down and there's no war the troops aren't going to be much happier either, after spending weeks cramped up on the ships. The *Hermes* is pretty cramped anyway. Even in normal times the 2 galleys (canteens) mean long queues for food. Now with hundreds of reporters and troops on board it will be unbearable.

"The troops will probably be sleeping in the hangars. Not the same for the ships' captains. They have 2 rooms and a steward (butler) each to look after them. Commanders have a large room split into two. Petty Officers share a room and 26 junior rates share a room with 26 bunks and have a mess room".

The armed forces set up, says Mike, reflects class society. "But these type of differences of treatment don't really upset the lads. At the moment even the ranks are relatively sheltered from the problems facing society.

"While you're in the mob (Royal Navy) you get good medical care, you get £600 a year to send your kids to



The cramped conditions on HMS Hermes, only added to by the extra troops and media personnel now crowded onto the ship as well. Photo: PA.

boarding school. I tell the lads that they won't be in the mob forever—so then what? They can't hide from what's going on.

"So they're not socialists. But they won't take any pushing around. It's not like the army where most soldiers, especially infantry, have no use till they fight. They drill half the time. The last time I drilled was in my initial six week training

course.

"A ship is like a floating factory—everybody has a job. They really are workers in uniform and know they are worth something.

"Often if the lads don't like something they just stop work. On one ship I was on a lad dropped and damaged a piston. He got done for a C126 (a form he had to sign to admit liability and readiness to pay). It

was a genuine error but if the officer and got his way the lad would have lost £1,000. He refused to sign.

"The officer threw him into the brig (prison cells). When the men heard they decided it wasn't on. They stopped work so the Commander had to release the sailor and admit over the blower that a hasty decision had been made!

"They may be bolshie

like this but not politically. A lot of my lot will vote SDP next time, but then they were Tories before.

"There are 18,000 jobs going in the Navy and in the last pay round I lost 60p a day because of increased charges for meals, etc. They're just beginning to see that they can't get anywhere by backing the Tories."

## PLASTIC BULLETS KILL

**Eleven-year old Stephen McConomy from Derry was the tenth person to die in Northern Ireland as a result of being hit by a plastic bullet.**

He was hit on April 17 and died 3 days later. The plastic bullet is called a 'riot control' weapon; rather it is a lethal weapon. Like Stephen most of the 10 victims have been children.

Anton McCabe, of the Derry Labour and Trade Union Party, spoke to Michael Sweeney, uncle of the dead boy. At the start of the interview Stephen's mother had to be taken out of the room, she was so upset:

"It was absolute murder. I don't hate the army or the police, just the one that fired that bullet. It happened around 8pm. There was a hoax bomb at Butcher Gate. There were about 12 kids about. A few of them trying to pull the shields off the

side of an army pig (armoured personnel carrier). That's what galls us—when they say on television and on radio there were '40 youths rioting'. They were kids, not youths. There was no stoning at the time, nor a riot. 30 or 40 youths is rubbish.

Stephen was at the back watching. He was 7 to 10 feet away. He had a cardboard box in his hand. He was trying to walk away, and the hatch opened up at the back, the plastic bullet gun was stuck out, dipped down and aimed at Stephen and fired.

Stephen was carried about 4 feet onto the grass. A soldier told one of the kids with him "go near the body and I'll kill you". A couple of soldiers were laughing when Stephen was hit. A cop jeep came down and 2 boys got him into it and went to hospital with him. From Friday to Monday he was unconscious on the life support machine. He never regained consciousness.

The kids were that close the soldiers could have jumped out and arrested 2 or 3 of them if they had



Troops with plastic bullet guns in Derry

wanted to for whatever reason, and the rest would have scooted off.

Stephen had a fascination for the military and all that sort of thing. He used to play all the time with tanks. He was up there to see what was going on and what was going to happen.

When we came down from the funeral there were 10 or 11 police jeeps running about the streets and police producing weapons, all to move one hijacked mini van. They could have left it—there was a lorry load of bread left further away from here till it was burnt. It has all had a terrible effect on the family. His mother will never get over it.

I've been on only one march in my life—that was

Photo Eamonn O'Dwyer (IFL)

for the funeral of one of the hunger strikers, because he was a Derry man and lived near me. I never even marched at the time of the Civil Rights. We've stayed out of it. None of my family has been involved. You could take up the whole issue of your paper with families like us that are not involved and then get hit with it.

I worked with Gary English and was a friend of the family. He was killed a year ago nearly to the day. Gary and another man were run over by an army jeep. The jeep then reversed back over his body in the street. The soldiers that done that got off: it was covered up. We want a trial and want the soldier that fired that plastic bullet found guilty.

## TV preview—the shock of the new

**It was inevitable. When Granada TV ask *Militant* to a press preview (drinks and sandwiches thrown in) it's bound to be something a bit 'different'.**

**Visiting Day** is a shock. Not the story line: boy leaves school and while signing on, falls under the spell of worldly-wise, cool—and crooked—John. A life of petty crime leads to the accidental killing of an old lady. Our hero Chris is imprisoned in a Special Unit, and recognises, at last, that he loves the Princess he failed to appreciate when they were both in the same children's home.

The tale is superficially sketched and suffers from some crude stereotypes.

The shock—I'm still not sure how intentional—is in the bursts of song, even dance, on sets that would do Space Invaders or Dr Who proud.

Try to imagine West Side Story made for TV, set in Liverpool with SciFi surroundings.

Perhaps it's intended as the 1982 rock musical answer to Coronation Street; a tale of everyday urban deprivation folk.

Granada may be cashing in on the fashionable 'issue' of disenfranchised youth.

They may not have heard of Toxteth before last summer's riots. But you shouldn't necessarily tar the authors, actors or producers with the same brush.

Most of the cast are ex-Manchester drama and music students. They managed to convey a sense of energy and experiment that makes a definite break in the routine of tired old TV series.

Some of the scenes, and the songs, are more effective for the strange artificiality of the setting. A mundane first-disco embarrassment is stark against a background of Saturday Night Fever dance routines; a young nuisance in the futuristic kids' home suddenly and with no explanation starts protesting that his dressing gown is a 'death trap.'

Marxists are all in favour of a change—and 'Visiting Day' is definitely that.

What else it is—a crude, stereotyped attempt to make 'entertainment' out of serious problems, or a brave stab at theatre/TV with a message, you'll have to decide. Watch ITV, 10pm 8 May.

By Eileen Short

**Lothians Liaison Committee  
Labour Party Young  
Socialists**  
send fraternal greetings to  
**Militant readers and  
workers everywhere**  
No to witch-hunts and  
attacks on socialists!  
For a mass campaigning  
Labour Party committed  
to socialist policies and  
the ending of capitalism!

**600<sup>th</sup>  
EDITION  
GREETINGS**

**Socialist greetings to all  
workers and their families  
— Coventry South East  
Labour Party**

Edge Hill LPYS  
calls on all youth  
to fight for  
international  
socialism and  
world revolution

Cammell Laird  
Militant supporters  
send  
congratulations on  
600 issues, now  
for a daily paper

Supporters at the  
Driver and Vehicle  
Licensing Centre  
say: Forward to a  
daily Militant!

In memory of  
Ian Burge  
East London  
Health workers

**EAST EDINBURGH CLP**  
congratulates 600 editions of  
Militant. Best wishes for the  
future. Forward to socialism.  
Unity is strength.

**Congratulations on 600  
issues— forward to a daily  
'Militant' Ellesmere Port  
LPYS**

●  
Millbrook Ward  
Southampton LP  
sends fraternal  
congratulations  
Labour to power  
on a socialist  
programme

1/874 branch  
TGWU  
Littlehampton  
salutes the 600th  
edition of Militant  
Thank you for your  
unswerving  
support for the  
trade union and  
labour movement

●  
**ISLE OF WIGHT EXECUTIVE  
CATHY WILSON PPC**  
Sandown/Shanklin & District Branch LP  
West Wight Branch LP  
No witch-hunts!  
Endorse Pat Wall & Peter Tatchell!  
Down with Thatcher's government  
in Britain— Galtieri's junta  
in Argentina  
Workers of the World Unite!

**PADDINGTON  
NO. 1 BRANCH—  
NATIONAL UNION  
OF RAILWAYMEN**  
Sends fraternal  
greetings for  
May Day  
and congratulates  
'Militant' in its  
constant fight for  
socialism  
**Thatcher & The  
Tories Out—  
A Labour  
government pledged  
to socialist  
policies in!**

**600 issues of a Marxist  
paper— witch-hunts won't  
stop the next 600  
Ellesmere Port Militant  
supporters**

Militant supporters  
in Cardiff South  
East CLP  
congratulates  
Militant on its  
600th edition  
★ Nationalise the  
Commercial Banks  
★ Abolish the  
House of Lords

Cardiff South East  
LPYS  
congratulates  
'Militant' on its  
600th edition  
forward to  
a daily paper

**Socialist greetings from  
Stevenage LPYS**  
We fought the SDP before  
they left the Labour Party

**Fraternal greetings to  
workers everywhere**  
Kick the Tories out of  
government and off the  
councils and "moderate"  
trade union leaders out of  
office

**From Broad Left members  
of the CPSA DHSS Section  
Executive Committee**

**STEVENAGE MILITANT  
SUPPORTERS**  
600 steps to socialism! With a  
daily we will get there quicker!

.....  
**KIRKDALE CONSTITUENCY  
LABOUR PARTY SAYS**  
Fight the witch-hunt!  
Forward to socialism!  
Defeat the SDP infiltrators!  
For a socialist Labour government!

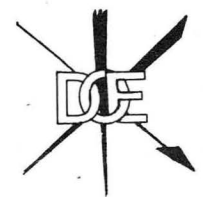
Cardiff SEA  
congratulates  
Militant on its  
600th edition  
Open up education  
to all workers

●  
**EAST  
EDINBURGH  
LPYS**  
Forward to a  
daily Militant

●  
Socialist greetings  
to the 600th  
Militant from Chris  
and Geraldine  
Jones of Tunbridge  
Wells LP

●  
Tower Hamlets  
LPYS  
The Mile End three  
were arrested for  
selling Militant  
Defend democratic  
rights, end Police  
harrassment

**Fraternal  
greetings from  
CPSA-DOE  
Labour  
Association**



- ★ Defend every job!
  - ★ CPSA re-affiliation to Labour Party!
  - ★ Kick the Tories out!  
Join the Labour Party and LPYS!
- CPSA Conference Meeting,  
Monday 10th May,  
Queens Hotel, Brighton**

**Speakers:**  
Kevin Roddy  
(Presidential Candidate)  
Rod Fitch  
(Prospective Labour Party  
candidate for Brighton  
Kempton)

**FIRE BRIGADES UNION**  
Extends May Day greetings to  
all comrades in the trade union  
and labour movement and calls  
for a united attack on the  
government's ruinous  
economic policy

Bill Deal  
President

Ken Cameron  
General Secretary

# 18 YEARS AND 600 ISSUES

Since the first serious attempt at a witch-hunt against supporters of the 'Militant' in 1976, there has been a more or less continued campaign in the capitalist press, unfortunately echoed by Labour's right-wing.

One of the central themes running throughout these attacks has been the assertion that Marxism is foreign to the traditions of the British labour movement. But this, the 600th edition of 'Militant,' is itself a refutation of that.

Marxism always has, and always will be a vital part of the labour movement. It is true that during the post-war boom, the thread of Marxism appeared to be broken. Marx's ideas during this period were ridiculed by the right-wing Labour leaders who, basing themselves on a period of unprecedented capitalist boom internationally, dispensed with socialist perspectives altogether.

The class struggle to them was only of 'historical interest' and some even claimed there was no longer a working class! It seemed in the 1950s and 1960s that there was an era of unending affluence and social stability.

But today in 1982, with four million unemployed, the wholesale destruction of the welfare state and industries, with the return of mass poverty and social deprivation who can justify the defence of such ideas?

**"We wish to tell the truth to the working class"**

From its launch in 1964, at a time when the first cracks were beginning to appear in the post-war boom, the 'Militant' has always fought against the ideas of the right wing. 'Militant' explained that the long post-war boom would inevitably give way to a period of downswing, recession and slump internationally but especially acute in Britain.

This development, it was explained, would once again confront the working class with the horrendous prospects of mass unemployment, dire poverty and instability. That was a prognosis only too well borne out by the events of the recent decade.

In its first issue in October 1964 *Militant* said, "The most important thing is that we wish to tell the truth to the working class, against the lies and exaggerations of the capitalist class and the half truths of the Labour officialdom." It was a task well undertaken in the general elections of 1964 and 1966.

In its very first issue *Militant*



By Tony Saunois

**Workers have faced a mountain of lies and distortions about the debate in the Labour Party and in particular the policies of Militant. Clearly, the capitalist press are afraid of the growth of Marxist ideas.**

*Militant* demonstrated its uncompromising stand for a struggle against the Tories, exclaiming in its headline, "Drive Out The Tories". In advance of the 1964 election *Militant* warned that "without a fight against the monopolies and big business, high finance will play cat and mouse with a Labour government."

In 1964 Labour was returned with a majority of four and in 1966 a majority of over 90. From that period up to the 1970 general election, the warnings of Marxism were only too clearly confirmed.

The developing capitalist crisis resulted in big business pressure upon the Wilson government to abandon its programme of reform. It became an instrument not of reform, but of counter-reform, introducing a wage freeze, cuts in housing subsidies, increased health charges, and an ill-fated attempt at anti-trade union legislation in the "In Place Of Strife" White Paper.

Labour's defeat in June 1970 and the return of a Tory government was a bitter blow: the result of six frustrating years for activists in the labour movement.

In 1966 Labour had secured 47.9% of the poll. By 1970 this had dropped to only 43%. The demoralisation of workers was not so much reflected in voters deserting to the Tories, but in the fact that the 1970 election secured the lowest turnout since 1935!

1970, however, was an extremely significant year for the development of Marxism in the Labour Party. *Militant* consistently championed the cause of working class youth. It always emphasised the essential role of the LPYS in spearheading the struggle for socialist policies throughout the labour movement.

It was in that year that the LPYS adopted *Militant's* programme, and its supporters achieved a majority on the National Committee for the first time. A testimony to the programme of Marxism lies in the transformation of the LPYS since then.

The Marxists won a majority from a leadership whose policies had reduced the LPYS to a shell of an organisation. The 1970 conference was attended by only 126 delegates and 100 visitors. 900 attended the first demonstration called by the LPYS after 1970. Twelve years later the LPYS has been transformed into a large, overwhelmingly working-class socialist youth movement.

288 delegates attended the 1982 conference and 2,000 visitors. Over 5,000 took to the streets in a demonstration in February of 1980 against the Tories. A million leaflets were distributed by the LPYS for the Labour Party demonstration in Liverpool in November of 1980, and 10,000 marched in the LPYS contingent.

More recently, through-

out 1981 unprecedented successes have been secured by the LPYS in its campaign on the rights and conditions of unemployed youth on YOP schemes. Over 10,000 have been organised by the LPYS into trade unions. 3,000 attended an extremely successful lobby of Parliament and the active membership of the LPYS now stands at approximately 10,000. Labour's youth has demonstrated that the Marxists' programme, boldly campaigned for, can win support.

But more than that, the LPYS has established itself as a serious political force not only among the youth, but in the wider labour and trade union movement. With representation on the NEC, its members active in both Labour Party and trade union branches, it has spearheaded the campaign for Marxist policies since 1970.

**Growing support led to a weekly Militant**

From a shell it has been transformed into the most active socialist youth organisation in Western Europe. This is despite being the "poor relation" in terms of finance and staff, by comparison with its international sister organisations, like, for example, the Swedish SSU, with over 100 full timers and only a few thousand active members.

The experience of the

1970 defeat, the growth of Marxist ideas in the LPYS, and constituencies, and above all the social and political explosions under the 1970-74 Heath government, led also to growing support and the publication of a more frequent *Militant*, which went fortnightly in September 1971 and weekly in January 1972. 'Militant's' Marxist programme was seen to be more and more relevant in the stormy period of the Heath government.

In 1972 alone there were magnificent strikes of miners, dockers, teachers and many others. The sleeping giant of the labour movement began to wake.

Within days of the arrest of five London dockers under Heath's anti-union laws, the Tories were compelled to release them, faced with a movement in the direction of a general strike.

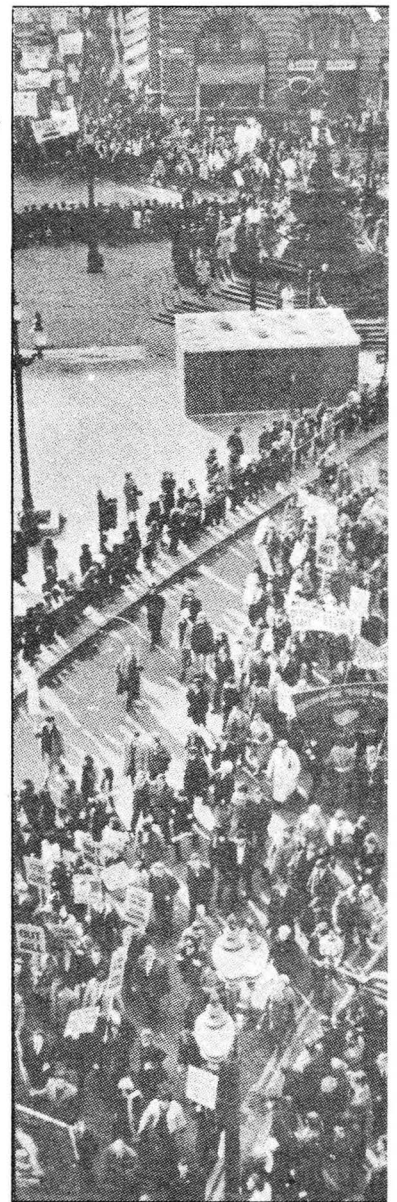
Throughout this period of struggle 'Militant' supporters were at the forefront; demanding a 24-hour general strike to mobilise the labour movement and force a general election and organising support for all sections of the labour movement in struggle.

One of the most crucial struggles which erupted in 1972 was that of the Clay Cross councillors, who refused to implement the bitterly anti-working class Housing Finance Act. It was a struggle which won the support of the vast majority of the activists in the labour movement.

Their subsequent defeat



The very first issue of Militant,



The massive wave of opposition to the Tory Bill—gave impetus to the growth of Militant

was due to the failure of the Labour leadership to mobilise the entire movement in support, but here again 'Militant' was at the forefront on the issue. In 1974 the LPYS National Committee organised a labour movement conference on the issue jointly with Clay Cross Labour Party, attended by delegates from 240 Constituency Labour Parties, 160 trade union branches, 200 LPYS branches, 40 trades councils, 30 tenants associations, 11 NOLS clubs, 12 NUS organisations and 340 visitors. This conference did



# ISSUES OF MILITANT:

water page 2  
ish Guiana page 3  
ng Socialists page 4  
ds & Rockers page 7  
ll up page 8

## TORIES

policies



Published in October 1964



The LPYS has been transformed into a large, overwhelmingly working class organisation.

## Marxist ideas gain ground

downfall of the hated Heath administration.

The working class movement primarily learns through experience. The lessons of the events surrounding the Labour administrations of 1964-70, together with the struggles under the Heath government were now being weighed up by activists throughout the labour movement.

It was those experiences which inevitably began to reflect themselves in the move to the left in the Labour Party, not 'infiltration' as is ludicrously claimed by Labour's right wing.

That Marxist ideas increasingly found an echo within the Labour Party was seen in the acceptance of Composite 32 moved by Shipley Constituency Labour Party at the 1972 conference, calling for an 'Enabling Bill to secure public ownership of the major monopolies,' and carried by 3,501,000 votes to 2,497,000.

It was this conference decision which later led to the demand for the nationalisation of the top 25 companies being raised by the NEC and the resulting dispute over the right of the Party leader to veto its inclusion in the election manifesto.

In the crucial 1974 election campaigns, the LPYS organised mass canvasses in many constituencies, resulting in the holding and capturing by Labour of seats in Parliament. 400 LPYS members, for example, went to assist Tony Benn's campaign in Bristol South East.

In this constituency alone, over 10,000 LPYS leaflets were distributed as part of a massive campaign. Similar work was done in Leicester, Garston, Birmingham Northfield, Govan and other constituencies.

It was reflected in a letter from Paul Rose, then MP, published in 'Militant' in

the aftermath of the second election in October 1974 in which he said, "not withstanding differences of viewpoint on some issues, may I pay tribute to your supporters who campaigned in my constituency, and who went to help in local marginals during the election itself. Their enthusiasm and dedication was the most refreshing thing I have experienced for many a year..."

### Labour's right-wing policies caused 1979 defeat

In the 1974 election campaigns however 'Militant' once again pointed to the necessity for Labour to struggle on a bold socialist programme. Before the election, in its issue of 15 February, *Militant* warned, "unless the next Labour government takes emergency powers to take the banks, the land, the monopolies into public ownership, under democratic workers' management, with compensation limited strictly to social security need, then we will face catastrophe."

The "tragedy" warned of by the Marxists became only too apparent in the aftermath of the second election in October 1974 when Labour was returned again with a small majority. Five years later Labour had entered the 1979 election campaign having slashed public expenditure by £8,000m, presided over a doubling in the level of unemployment and introduced a series of incomes policies which had drastically cut living standards.

In that sense as *Militant* commented afterwards Labour had once again "prepared the way for the return of the Tories". The coming to power of the Thatcher government clearly represented a new stage in the struggle in British socie-

ty. It is without doubt the most pernicious and savagely anti-working class government for decades.

However, economic crisis and attacks on the living standards and organisations of the working class is inevitably preparing the way for new social explosions. In this respect *Militant* has consistently warned of the threat posed to the rights and the organisations of the labour movement unless it is able to carry through a fundamental transformation of society.

In 1974 *The Times* and the ruling class discussed the possibility of a military coup. The prospect was not a serious one then due to the strength of the working class organisations.

However, the potential threat to the labour movement still remains. This was particularly drawn out in a review in the *Militant International Review* (Summer 1978) of a book by a leading Tory 'wet', Ian Gilmour, entitled 'Inside Right—a study of conservatism'.

Gilmour from the "moderate" wing makes the following observations on the issue of democracy: "Conservatives do not worship democracy, for them the majority rule is a device...similarly majorities do not always see where their best interests lie and act upon their understanding. For Conservatives, therefore, democracy is a means to an end and not an end in itself. In Dr Hayek's words democracy 'is not an ultimate or absolute value and must be judged by what it will achieve' and if it is leading to an end that is undesirable or is inconsistent with itself, then there is a theoretical case for ending it."

In that review *Militant* editor Peter Taaffe warned, "The labour movement in Britain can ignore the warnings contained in Ian Gilmour's book only at its

peril. A military dictatorship, backed up by fascist bands, is not on the agenda in the next period...but the organic crisis of British capitalism demands further attacks on the already reduced standards of the working class."

In answer to this threat *Militant* has consistently emphasised that with the strength and potential support of the labour movement, fighting on a socialist programme, it would be possible to stop any such attempt at reaction, and move peacefully to the socialist transformation of society.

In the light of the experience of the 1974-79 Labour government, the brutalised attacks on the living standards of the working class under the Thatcher administration, the labour movement has over the past period consistently moved to adopt more radical policies.

The ranks of the labour movement have also struggled to ensure that greater democratic control is exercised over the leadership. In this respect too *Militant* supporters have played an energetic part.

### Militant supporters fought hard for re-selection

It was *Militant* supporter Ray Apps who sat on the NEC working party on the issue of re-selection. Arising from his work a minority report was produced on the question and this made a significant impact on the whole re-selection debate.

Both in the Constituency Labour Parties but also in the trade unions (for example in USDAW) *Militant* supporters played an important role in gaining support for the election of the party leader by an electoral college, consisting of 40% for the trade unions, 30% for the CLPs and 30% for the PLP.

But the supporters of *Militant* have constantly emphasised the crucial necessity of linking the questions of democracy and accountability of Labour MPs and leaders, with the need for building a mass membership for Labour through campaigning for a bold and radical socialist policy.

Throughout these eighteen years *Militant* has argued its Marxist case. It has put forward its programme, not by personal denunciations or abuse of opponents, but by patient explanation, by facts, figures and argument. It has analysed developments in society nationally and internationally and charted a course to be adopted by the labour movement.

It has won increasing support. *Militant* supporters have been elected as councillors, LP officers and union leaders, selected as prospective parliamentary candidates—again, not on the basis of manoeuvre and intrigue, but by winning genuine support for the policy and programme of socialism.

It is as a result of the experience of the working class movement as well as its consistent programme and correct policy that *Militant* has increased its support. It would be wrong to exaggerate the support of this paper but it has greatly increased in importance and influence since its launch in October 1964.

By the same token it can be said with complete confidence that over the next decade support for *Militant* will go from strength to strength. During the next 600 issues the policies of Marxism will have achieved even greater support and no doubt in that period the paper will have expanded to a daily, as a reflection of further enormous changes in the labour movement in Britain.



Heath government—seen against the Industrial Relations Act. Marxism.

not win the battle over Clay Cross but it gave wide publicity and impetus to the issue inside the organised labour movement.

Throughout this whole period mass activity was conducted by all sections of the labour movement against the Tory government. 1971 saw one of the biggest labour movement demonstrations ever—500,000 against the Industrial Relations Act. It was undoubtedly this combined extra-parliamentary activity, culminating in the tremendous miners' strike of 1974 which led to the

# ZIMBABWE

## The stalled revolution

Concluding part of a two-part article by JIM CHRYSTIE

**Caught between the expectations of its supporters, and the restraints of capitalism, the ZANU-led government of Robert Mugabe has tried to manoeuvre and balance.**

As last week's article showed, the government have managed to introduce some welcome but limited reforms. But a black elite has emerged, which is enmeshed with the old state machine and would resist any move towards socialism. Only the working class, leading other oppressed classes, could break this resistance and pave the way to workers democracy.

But because of its relationship with international big business, the ZANU government, far from mobilising the workers, has tried to prevent any independent movement of the class.

Zimbabwean workers have been ready to defend the government against reaction, but they have also begun to see the need to organise independently to defend their interests. Conditions in Zimbabwe are ripe for the construction of independent mass trade unions.

The establishment of a ZANU-led government sparked off the biggest strike wave in the country's history. Miners, factory, textile, bus workers moved into action to demand the fruits of liberation—a shorter working week, higher wages etc.

The government's initial response was equivocal. They told workers that such strikes were illegal (under the Smith regime's repressive legislation!); instead they should pursue their grievances through the existing machinery and await the changes the government proposed.

Since then the government has raised the minimum wage. But its actions against strikers show the direction in which it is moving. The more ZANU has consolidated its hold on state power, the more it has been prepared to use repressive measures in quelling outbursts of discontent.

Last October, when nurses and teachers went on strike, they were threatened with expulsion to the rural areas and their leaders arrested. In January this year 250 railway workers—striking because wages were falling behind inflation—were arrested. Last month 1,000 bus drivers were arrested and 1,800 sacked for striking for a 16% pay increase.

If the government continues on a capitalist path, such measures must continue to be used in the attempt to safeguard profits and not frighten away foreign investors. This will no doubt be accompanied by some measures against capitalist 'excesses' in order to retain the support of the masses. With a strong popular basis ZANU government is not a mere puppet of imperialism but will balance and manoeuvre between the conflicting pressures, whilst in the last analysis defending cap-



Unemployed youth in Harare (formerly Salisbury)

italism.

But the future for a capitalist Zimbabwe looks far from rosy. International commentators, exulting over the 14% growth rate in 1980, failed to point out that this still left the Gross National Product lower than it had been in 1974! It was no economic take-off, but rather the end of the war and the lifting of sanctions which made this growth possible.

Even with this 'boom' going on, 31,000 workers lost their jobs in the second half of 1980. Last year the growth rate fell by nearly a half to 8%, and this year the government is hoping it will reach 6%.

### Zimbabwe cannot be isolated from the international recession

This slow-down is inevitable because Zimbabwe cannot be isolated from the effects of the international recession. Minerals produce 50% of foreign exchange earnings, and the world price of gold (Zimbabwe's most important export), along with other minerals, has fallen sharply in the last year or two.

The first six months of 1981 saw a balance of payments deficit of £21m, compared to a surplus of £80m for the same period in 1980. Resulting cutbacks on foreign currency has affected all sections of the economy.

To finance its limited programme of reforms, the government has increased its expenditure by 37%. The resulting deficit has been financed by borrowing, which means that one-

third of all government expenditure now goes into the payment of debts.

Other related problems have arisen from this policy. In the last year inflation has doubled to 16%, while government reserves only cover two months' imports. The first eight months of 1981 saw a trade deficit compared to a surplus the year before.

Mugabe has called 1982 "the year of transformation", but the capitalist economy cannot deliver the goods for the people of Zimbabwe. Last year saw real wages fall. The government's Riddell Commission reported that its main impression was "the degree of dissatisfaction, the depth of bitterness...and the frustration expressed by the workforce."

Balancing and zig-zagging between the classes, the government will not be able to bring about fundamental land reform or develop the modern economy, as long as it remains within the capitalist orbit. Nor will it be able to end the old divisions between Shona and Ndebele peoples and unite the country on a national basis.

Mugabe has expressed the desire of uniting the two African nationalist movements, ZANU and ZAPU, into a one-party state. In an interview with *The Times* (28 January 1982), he said that the timing of this move was the only issue.

But ZAPU leader Nkomo refused Mugabe's terms. Two weeks later the army unearthed secret ZAPU arms caches and Mugabe, declaring that he was 'shocked' by this discovery, sacked Nkomo from the government.

Nkomo, Mugabe said,

was "a cobra", and "the only way to deal with a snake is to strike and destroy its head."

The importance of this development was not so much the existence of the arms caches. After all, it was well known that ZAPU had hijacked three train loads of arms from Zambia in October 1980, keeping people out of the area for two weeks and spiriting away the guns, SAM missiles etc. In fact, Mugabe timed the exposure of the arms in order to move against Nkomo.

Since then the leading ZAPU figures in the army have been arrested. With the leadership out in the cold, some members of ZAPU have moved closer to ZANU to get at the fruits of office.

At the same time Ian Smith's RF party has virtually disintegrated. Nine of its MPs have broken away, two of them being rewarded with Ministerial appointments.

### No base for stability

The trend towards a one-party state is clear. With huge unsolved problems of poverty and underdevelopment, there is no possibility of building political stability on the basis of parliamentary democracy. Mugabe will strive for greater bonapartist military-police power in order to keep control over the country.

But this will not remove conflict, it will only repress it. Increasingly Mugabe will need to rely on military force. Not for nothing has the 5,000-strong, exclusively ZANU 5th Army Brigade

been established, trained by North Korea to act as an 'elite guard'.

As the economy flounders, the government may launch more attacks upon the capitalists—while holding the mass movement under close control—in order to satisfy some of the demands for reform. Within the framework of private ownership, substantial sections of land, manufacturing and mining could be taken over.

It could not even be ruled out that, under mass revolutionary pressure, from below, a section of the ruling group could split away, end the rule of capitalism altogether and establish a state similar to that in Angola or Mozambique.

But in the immediate future that is unlikely, as the contradictions within society and the economy have not reached that pitch, and the reactionary power of the South African regime continues to loom over Zimbabwe.

What would totally transform the situation is the development of the revolution in South Africa, the citadel of capitalism whose power bestrides the region.

Organised on an independent socialist programme, the Zimbabwean working class need to link up with the dynamic movement of the black SA workers to defeat the capitalist class in Zimbabwe and in South Africa itself. This alone would open the way for completing the unfinished tasks of the Zimbabwean revolution, abolishing poverty and deprivation, and paving the way to the integrated development of the whole sub-continent as a Federation of Socialist Southern African States.

## REVIEW:

### SOUTH AFRICA'S IMPENDING SOCIALIST REVOLUTION

Perspective of the Marxist Workers' Tendency of the African National Congress

With so many new pamphlets, booklets etc being produced on political developments it is sometimes difficult to select which ones to purchase and read.

But a number of

reasons make 'South Africa's Impending Socialist Revolution' essential reading for all workers and activists in the labour movement, irrespective of which country they happen to be

living in.

Firstly it comes from the Marxist Workers Tendency of the African National Congress (the South African liberation movement) and is written in a clear style addressed to fellow activists.

Secondly its theoretical ideas are not restricted to what is happening inside South Africa. This booklet is especially clear in explaining how a triple crisis has arisen in the three sectors of the world economy: capitalist, Stalinist and 'under-developed' countries. Nearly half of the booklet is devoted to explaining the world background, historically, economically and how this has resulted in the absence of a political leadership

prepared to battle all the way with the oppressed classes to transform society.

These sections of the booklet alone provide an excellent basis for organising political discussion around the ideas expressed. Every worker and activist would benefit by reading this clear account of how imperialism was forced to retreat after the Second World War, and why this unfinished anti-colonial revolution has left in its wake a variety of dictatorial regimes.

Finally the reader will benefit from the detailed exposition of the developing revolution in Southern Africa. Although at first sight many anti-apartheid activists have seen the situation as being just a black-

white divide, this booklet shows how it is far more complicated than that, and can only be fully understood as part of a class analysis of how a particular capitalist society has developed.

The booklet moves on to analyse the power of the South African working class movement, and assess what policies should be adopted, eg. whether guerrillaism is the way to bring about workers' democracy. It analyses the growing

splits within the ruling class, the changing experiences of the white working class and the class orientation of the leadership of the African National Congress.

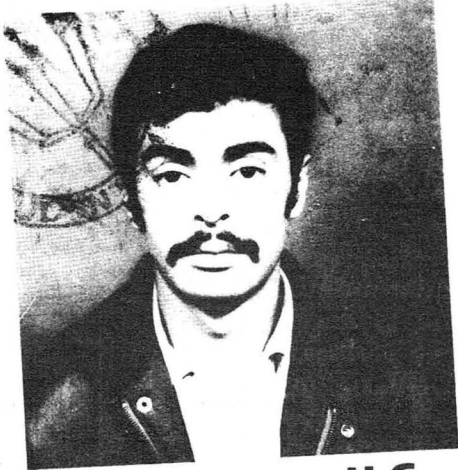
No review can do true justice to a booklet of 159 A4 pages. So buy it, read it, and organise discussion groups around its ideas. At £1.50 it's one of the political bargains of the year.

By Colin Barber

Price £1.50 plus 35p p&tp (in Britain)  
Available from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

# BACK CHILEAN WORKERS

## new disappearance



## save the life of oscar rojas cuellar

In April 1977, I came into exile to Britain with my husband, Oscar Rojas. My husband decided to return secretly to Chile; as is the case of many Chilean exiles, his legal entrance was barred by the present military regime. At the end of February 1982 I received news that my husband had been arrested on 28th December 1981, and since then has 'disappeared'.

As his wife, this news has been a terrible blow. Oscar's disappearance adds to the long list of those, who, because of their desire for justice, are objects of such repression. My grief joins that of thousands of Chileans who have had to face the persecution of a loved one.

At such a time, International Solidarity plays a vital role in saving people's lives. Today, when I do not know where my husband is, nor in what conditions, I appeal to you to help save Oscar's life. Please take up his case with the Chilean authorities, and urge that his whereabouts be disclosed and that he not be subjected to torture.

Mercedes Rojas  
Chilean Refugee living in Britain  
March 11th, 1982.

Thatcher's crusade against 'fascism' in Argentina has in fact driven the Tory government closer into their obscene embrace with Pinochet's dictatorship in Chile.

The Tory government has encouraged trade links with Chile and last year announced the sale of two warships to the junta. Now they are contemplating an effective military alliance with Pinochet's murderous regime against the Argentinian regime—in the name of restoring 'democracy' to the Falklands.

The true nature of the Chilean generals' rule was summed up in the fate of Tucapel Jimenez, leader of the Public Employees' Union. On 26 February he was found with his throat cut.

Last month Pinochet's entire cabinet resigned in the face of their insoluble economic problems. In the words of 'The Times', the "great hopes for economic recovery" vested in the junta and their economic team of 'Chicago boys' (followers of the monetarist Professor Friedman) "have begun to crumble" (21 April).

The junta's 'open-door' policy to foreign trade and investment has failed disastrously. While local agriculture and industry were devastated by foreign competition, investors speculated in the Chilean money market without creating new production.

For working people, already suffering mass poverty, life is growing worse. The world recession of capitalism has meant a slump in Chile's main exports—copper, timber, fish meal and fruit. Unemployment is estimated at up to 20%.

Even those middle-class layers who supported the overthrow of Allende in 1973 are learning the meaning of life under the heel of a military dictatorship committed to the interests of US imperialism and local big business.

Capitalist farmers who were expropriated under Allende's reformist government could once again seize the land from the peasants when the junta took over. But now, faced with bankruptcy, they may be forced to sell. The junta, in other



By George Collins

words, has saved them from expropriation by the peasants—only to have them expropriated by the bankers.

It is these policies which bring out the real identity of interest between Thatcher and Pinochet (and, for that matter, Galtieri's regime in Argentina). Like the Tories, the Chilean regime has been split into 'wets' and 'drys' (known, as 'flexibles' and 'dogmatics') as they searched in vain for a solution to the country's economic problems.

The main difference, in fact, is the depth of the crisis in Chile, and Pinochet's establishment of the military dictatorship which is necessary to go the whole hog in forcing monetarist 'solutions' down the workers' throats. Thatcher's government, for all its vicious anti-working class measures, is forced to move more cautiously by the mighty power of the labour and trade union movement in

this country.

Workers in Britain have a direct interest in smashing the London-Santiago axis of the Tories and big business, which is a source of support for the ruling class in both countries.

Military, political and economic links with the junta should be opposed in every way possible. Speakers can be invited from the LPYS Chilean Socialists Defence Campaign, which strives to build direct links with the trade union movement in Chile.

The Campaign last month sponsored a successful tour of Britain by a trade union leader from Chile. Support for Chilean trade unionists has begun to be raised in the labour and trade union movement, and activists in all areas are urged to take it up.

Address: Chilean Socialists Defence Campaign, c/o LPYS, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.

## 'MISSING'

The Costa Gavros film 'Missing' has been playing before packed houses in many cities in this country, and it is like a "teach-in" on the role of US big business in the massive violation of human rights all over the world. It should very definitely not be missed if it gets into England.

It is no mystery why the Reagan Administration angrily attempted to suppress the first showing of the film in Washington DC, claiming that it lied. It is a devastating indictment of the role of the US government and of the CIA in the 1973 coup by Pinochet in Chile, and it is being highly acclaimed by the critics.

The film is based on the

### From Betty Traun in New York

true story of a father's search for his son, a young US journalist, missing in Chile after the coup. It depicts the process of the victim's father learning just what the role of the US government is in Latin America.

The father, a well-to-do businessman, had never bothered to question his government's politics. Now he wakes up to find that his own government had probably ordered the death of his son.

The picture leaves an impression on the viewers, that few will ever forget, of

the horror of the Chilean police state, the collusion of their own government, and the US cover-up for that horror. And as developments in El Salvador continue, filmgoers cannot help but draw parallels between the US role in Chile and in El Salvador today. That is probably why the Reagan Administration tried to keep this movie from being shown.

Many US producers and critics have always claimed that American people only want 'escapist' entertainment, and do not want films dealing with serious subjects. The film 'Missing', as well as 'Reds' (released earlier this year) show that the producers have been living in a fantasy.

## Socialist-Communist government in Asturias



Communist unions on 16 April in defence of the public sector and against unemployment.

Avilés saw a 95% support rate, including schools, shops and bars. Here the

state steelworks dominates the town's industry and 12-15,000 redundancies are being called for by the board.

70% of the mining zone, also threatened, came out. In a country without dole and social security redun-

dancies will be ferociously resisted.

And in the same week the two main workers' parties, the PSOE (Socialist Party) and PCE (Communist Party), have formed a provisional regional government in Asturias, against the

wishes of the Regional Executive and national leadership of the Socialist Party. These "leaders" are afraid of upsetting their moderate image with the CEOE (Spanish CBI) and claim that alliances with the Communist Party will upset their electoral popularity.

At times however they themselves have called for alliances, even a national government with the UCD (Tories).

In fact Spanish working people, increasingly under attack from the bosses and their government, clearly see the need for workers' unity.

From a Spanish Correspondent

More than 100,000 a 24-hour general workers—80% of strike here in the industrial Asturias called by workers—supported the Socialist and

# Letters

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

**MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN**

## A hard winter for the boss

Dear Comrades

In these times of hardness and cutbacks it has come to my notice just how much we are conned by the bosses.

I work part time for a local bookmaker and recently we received a note from our boss informing us of his hardships. As everyone knows we have suffered a bad winter this year. This has cut back the bookmaker's takings who has still had to pay his staff. The notice said "due to a bad financial year pay rises will not be able to be given."

The boss delivered this notice in his new Porsche car. Just think, if only there hadn't been a bad winter he could have bought a better car!

Yours fraternally  
Thoughtful employee  
Leicester

## A tall story from the Job Centre

Dear Comrades

I haven't found that life on the dole is particularly humorous, but obviously some people don't take it too seriously.

Visiting the main Job Centre in Birmingham recently I had a look round for any possible jobs and one advertisement caught my eye—"Wanted: someone to entertain children but must be under four feet tall". As you might have guessed, the vacancy was advertised on the top line of one of the notice boards—well over the eye level of any dwarf!

Yours fraternally  
Ruth Hargreaves  
Handsworth LPYS  
and ASTMS

## Tory hypocrisy in action

Dear Comrades

Living in Gosport means that I've seen much of the background to the mobilisation of the Task Force to the Falklands. Somebody who buys the *Militant* from me every week told me the other day about the chartering of the "Canberra".

All the Asian workforce, many of whom do the "dirty jobs" on the ship, were sacked as soon as the ship was commandeered. They were removed from the ship when it docked and were sent to a Naval establishment near here. There was a mix-up over their back pay, so for a few days they had little money, but some of those workers paid a visit to Fareham, a nearby shopping centre.

They were stopped by the police and held, presumably on suspicion of being "illegal immigrants", until the Naval establishment could be contacted to verify their story. This must have

been extremely alarming for those workers, since they spoke poor English. They were eventually freed to wait until they could get a flight home.

This shows what the Tories really feel about the rights of ordinary workers. They may be weeping crocodile tears over the Falkland Islanders, but they didn't wait to consign those Asian workers to poverty.

Just a few weeks ago there were several hundred Argentinian sailors being trained by the British Navy in that same Naval establishment. Of course this was before the Tories discovered that Argentina was a military dictatorship responsible for the torture, disappearance and death of thousands of people. I wonder if the police thought the Argentinian sailors were illegal immigrants?

Yours fraternally  
Alison Hill

## Point on Tebbit Bill

Dear Comrade

In your excellent article on Tebbit's Bill you suggest that if passed, employers will be able after giving four days notice to select any striker to sack. This is not actually the case. As the law stands now it is legal—i.e. not "unfair dismissal"—to sack a striker so long as you sack all the people who have been involved in the strike at any stage. If Tebbit's Bill becomes law it will be 'fair' to sack only the strikers who stay out after the four days notice. But all those remaining out must be sacked. The effect of this will be to undermine the morale of strikers—workers may return to work because unless they are certain the rest will stay out, they will

be sacked.

This is only a minor point but we need to know where we stand in building a fight to smash this Bill which is a threat to the gains workers have made in organising themselves, gains only made by extra-parliamentary activity and breaking Tory laws.

Yours fraternally  
Joanna Morton  
Nottingham

## Second class citizens

Dear Comrades

Travelling on the railway recently I noticed that in the second class carriages it was full and in the corridors many people were standing. However, the front three coaches of the train were

Defence Secretary Nott talks to helicopter crews before the Task Force sets sail. But the Tories' 'concern' for the Falklanders did not extend to Asian sailors sacked from the Canberra.



Photo: PA.

## Putting the socialist case

Dear Comrades

As the threat of war looms over the Falkland Isles and world peace becomes precarious, I would like to tell you of the feelings of my mates. The local pubs, buzzing with the talk of war with national fervour generated by the mass media, have not been a safe place to put forward the arguments of the working classes, even when talking to my mates who are mostly miners. It is when you confront them with facts that 'Militant' prints and what they know to be true does reason seem to

prevail, such as who sold the Argentine Junta arms; why do the Tories now call Argentina 'Fascist' while the Tories' ally Pinochet in Chile isn't, and so on.

The workers' slogan at the time of the riots and strikes three days before the invasion was 'Bread and jobs', the workers' cry throughout the world.

The only way forward for the world is through a united working class whether it be in Ireland, Argentina, Spain, Poland or wherever, working together to overthrow dictators and their ruling

bureaucrats. Only then will we be able to do away with war and all its horrors and achieve 'Bread, Jobs and Peace' in a united world.

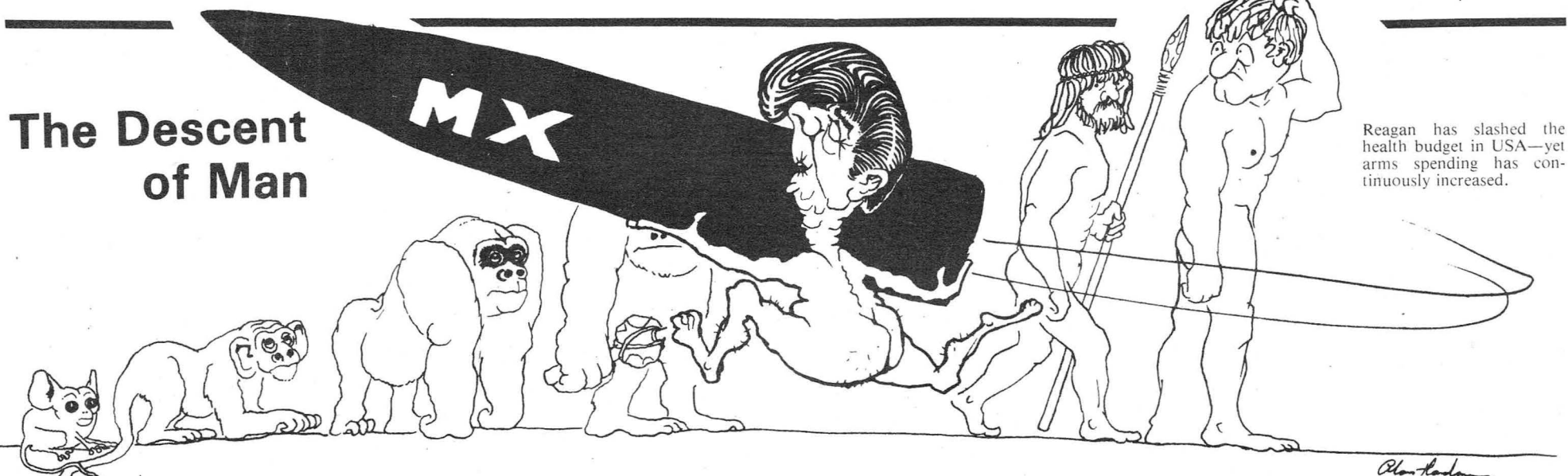
Yours fraternally  
R Bennett  
Radcliffe on Trent,  
Notts.

## 4% is peanuts!

Dear Comrades

My mother is a part-time worker at Isle of Wight County Hospital in Ryde. The hours are 2½ hours Monday to Friday and Sunday 1½ hours. My mother's gross pay is £24.98. The Tory government's offer of 4 per cent will be peanuts for my mother's wage! All National Health Service workers need the 12 per cent pay rise to make ends meet.

Yours fraternally  
Patrick Westmore  
Vice Chairman CLP  
and AUEW Ryde Branch



## The Descent of Man

Dear Comrades

I was reading a magazine article recently which detailed the effect of Ronald Reagan's butchering of public spending, in particular the effect on the medical care system. Without a National Health Service, American workers are dependent on 'Medicaid' which provides state assistance for those below a certain income, or 'Medicare' which provides for the 19 million old people. Reagan slashed £1,400

million from these schemes last year, and now wants another £2,500m cut.

What this means in practice was explained by a few examples. The family of a six year old boy in Maryland with a cleft palate (a condition which in this country can be remedied by an operation under the NHS) were told that under Medicaid previously they would have qualified for financial assistance for the operation. But Reagan's cuts meant they no longer

qualified and as they could not afford expensive health care their son would have to go without surgery.

Similarly in Washington a part time worker is trying to rush around to perform corrective surgery for a 12 year old boy's legs which entails a whole series of operations, before the family is thrown off Medicaid!

The most sickening example concerned a 73 year old diabetic in Virginia who used to have to walk along a four lane highway to get to

her chemist to collect her insulin as she could not afford the fares. She won't have to worry about doing that hazardous journey any longer though; due to Reagan's cuts her Medicare card has been withdrawn and she has no money to pay for her insulin.

It seems the only people who profit handsomely from Medicare and Medicaid are those doctors who charge the government enormous amounts of money for providing treat-

ment under these schemes. The same article carried a report on Dr Richard Kones of New York who had been convicted of fraud in the mid-'70s, of larceny in 1980 and this year, of insurance fraud! Dr Kones boasted how he had cheated the system for years, ripping off Medicare and Medicaid for thousands of dollars. In fact he has already had to pay back the equivalent of £154,000 to the government, and is still paying.

It is in the provision of

health care that we can see the sickest examples of the results of the market place economy, epitomised by the USA experience. Not only are the above cases an example of what workers have to face in America, but they should act as a worrying example to us in the UK to stop any Tory attempts at the privatisation of our health service.

Yours fraternally  
Kath Hardisty  
Hull West LPYS

# BUILD MILITANT!

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 11 July
Eastern	312		2115
East Midlands	120		1765
Hants & Dorset	124		1250
Humberside	153		1075
London East	272		1960
London West	155		1060
London South	167		1415
Manchester & Lancs	105		2020
Merseyside	229		2290
Northern	192		2760
Scotland East	126		1345
Scotland West	223		2375
Southern	365		1760
South West	55		885
Wales East	42		945
Wales West	153		1355
West Midlands	167		2120
Yorkshire	216		2505
Others	240		4000
<b>Total received</b>	<b>3416</b>		<b>35000</b>

## Triple our money

The money coming in is welcome and essential, but it is only one third of what we need to reach our half year target. Every opportunity must be utilised to raise funds.

Our hint last week to the delegates at TU conferences has been taken up with a vengeance! Over £270 was collected at the USDAW Conference recently, and when all the IOUs have been paid and bills met, the sum left still shows substantial support for our ideas.

£56 from delegates and visitors to the Scottish TUC, plus a £30 collection from Executive Committee members of the CPSA Civil Aviation Group coupled with a donation of just over £20 from Merseyside NGA members are further evidence of this support.

£452 in TU expenses were passed from comrades in Blackpool, Cardiff and Chester, while slightly smaller amounts received include £7.50 from London POEU members Dave, Charles, Steve, Clancy, Ray and Dennis. Thanks brothers!

Merseyside SOGAT and extras at an Notts NUM school and LPYS branches

By Steve Cawley

in Chatham, Cardiff North and South East, Blyth, and Gosport were other sources of funds for us. Does your local LPYS Branch support *Militant's* ideas?

A Hull social raised £23.50, Eastbourne collecting jar nearly £17, and a Toxteth supporter, Sonny, collected £12 from a coach trip. Tanners this week include those of K Bevan (Swansea), S Beynon (York COHSE) and A De Zoysa (Barking LP), with amounts from £5 to £10 from S Herdman (CPSA) Stroud, A&C George (Cardiff), K Gallacher (Sunderland NUM) K Swabey (Heathrow shop steward) and R Maxwell (Ilford).

The change from £5 was donated by readers who included W Rosam (TGWU, London) and A Butler (Rochester & Chatham LPYS). A lot of workers can only afford £1 or less—thanks to S Wilkinson (Swinton & Kilnhurst LPYS), Gosport readers D Herrington and S Culley, W West (Blyth), C Foreman (N London), J Waterman (Guernsey TGWU) and W

**LPYS SCOTTISH REGIONAL COMMITTEE send fraternal greetings to 'Militant' on its 600th edition Forward to socialism**

**THIS WEEK: £1328**

**IN YER BIKE NORM**



Posters 20 for £1 (plus p&p) from YTURC c/o 150 Walworth Rd., London SE17.

## MILITANT SUMMER RAFFLE

Over £700 worth of prizes to be won at only 10p a ticket. More details soon.

Taylor (GMWU steward, Ryde).

Our supporters on Rotherham have told us that they have planned two more socials, a garden party, a pie and pea supper and one of the comrades will abstain from drinking, in addition to making regular appeals at meetings and so on. What's happening in the town where you live?

Write and let us know.

We now need about £3,500 per week until 10th July to reach our £35,000 target! That means that every reader's donation, no matter how large or small, is valuable, and it also means that we can't (not that we ever did) rely on just a few of our readers to provide the bulk of our funds.

Even if this is the first issue of *Militant* you have ever seen, if you agree with our main point of view, you can make a contribution. Send us a letter, saying what you thought was best about what you read, plus any criticisms you might have, and something for our fighting fund.

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

# ads

## 7th South Wales Summer Camp

August Bank Holiday, Friday 27th August—Monday 30th August. For the 7th time we are organising our highly successful camp in the beautiful surroundings of Horton on the Gower Coast (10 minutes walk from Port Eynon and Horton beaches).

It will provide not only an excellent introduction to the ideas of Marxism, but also a superb holiday for the family.

This year will be the best ever with increased facilities but still at a very low cost of £10.00. Meals and snacks will be provided at the camp, but campers will have to bring their own tents etc.

## BIRMINGHAM MILITANT RALLY

BIRMINGHAM Militant Rally.

Saturday May 8th, Tickets—75p (50p for unemployed) Doors open—11.30am.

● 12 noon: 'A Fighting Programme for the Unions', Speaker: Tony Mulhearn (NGA member, Labour Parliamentary Candidate, Toxteth).

● 3.00pm: 'A Marxist Programme for Labour'. Speaker: Peter Taaffe (Editor, Militant).

Plus: Caliche (Chilean folk group). Refreshments. Crèche.

At Assembly Hall, Dr Johnson House, Bull Street, Birmingham.

Evening Disco at the Matador Pub, Bull Ring Centre. Time: 7.30pm—11.30pm (bar extension). Cost: 75p/50p unemployed.

## MILITANT TEACHER WEEKEND SCHOOL

At: Newtown Community Centre, Newtown Row, Birmingham On Saturday 22 May, Sunday 23 May. There will be 4 sessions:

1. The lessons of the Barking dispute and the way forward for the NUT. Speakers: Colin Ramage (Vice President, Barking NUT) and Felicity Dowling (Liverpool NUT)
2. Who controls education? Speaker: Roy Davies
3. Local Authority workers fight the cuts
4. Trade unions and the Tory government. Speaker: Wayne Jones (Militant Industrial Correspondent)

There will be a crèche and sandwiches available at the Community Centre and accommodation can be arranged with local supporters. Cost £4 plus pooled fare. Write: Louise Birch, 109 Northfield Road, Birmingham 30. Phone: 021 459 7903.

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## MILITANT READERS MEETINGS

NOTTINGHAM 'No to Tebbit's anti-trade union Law'.

At International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Peter Taaffe (Editor, Militant), Dave Hardy (Nottingham NUR personal capacity).

On Friday 7 May, 7.30pm.

EAST LONDON Militant Public Meeting. "600th edition, build Militant". Monday 10 May, 7.30pm at Fairholt House, Whitechapel High Street, London E1. (Near Aldgate East Tube Station, buses: 253, 25, 10). Speakers: Lynn Walsh—Militant Editorial Board, Terry Fields—Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Kirkdale, Liverpool, Fire Brigade Union (personal capacity).

SHEFFIELD Militant Public Meeting, Falklands crisis: The Socialist Answer. Speaker: Gordon Nardell—Leeds LPYS. Friday 14 May, 7.30pm. At: Station Hotel, The Wicker, Sheffield.

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).

MARXIST WEEKEND SCHOOL 1982. Saturday 26th June/Sunday 27 June. This year's School will be held at Queen Mary's College, Mile End, London E1. Courses will include: Introduction to Marxism, Latin America, History of British labour movement, Women and the struggle for socialism, Permanent Revolution and colonial liberation. Full details will be announced next week. Book the date now!

TEESSIDE Militant Readers Meeting: 'Falkland Islands Crisis'. Stockton YMCA, Room 9, 7.30 pm, Monday 10 May.

LPYS DAY SCHOOL 'The fight back against unemployment'. Speaker Bob Wright (Assistant General Secretary AUEW), Lawrence Coates (LPYS rep on Labour Party NEC) Frank Gates (AUEW Convenor Heathrow Airport). Saturday 15 May 10.30—5.00. At Havelock Centre, Havelock Road, Southall.



# Industrial Reports

## NHS Dispute

## WHY WE ARE FIGHTING

In 1978, a survey for the government concluded that the ambulance service should have one emergency vehicle per 12,000 people.

This was accepted as DHSS standards. Yet in our area of Hedge End at night and weekends, we have just one for 52,000 people. In the day we have three vehicles, but two are committed to outpatient work.

There has been no increase on the night provision since 1957, yet the population of our area has soared since then. In the east of Southampton at nights and weekends, three vehicles cover at least 100,000 people.

Quite regularly one area has to respond to an emergency call in another area because no other ambulance is available. For example, a Hedge End ambulance has had to go to Gosport on an emergency call, a distance of nearly 15 miles.

20 minutes is given to mobilise a vehicle to an emergency call—that's just to find a vehicle which is available, not to get to the

emergency. If we think the service is lacking at all, there is no independent body to which we can make complaints.

The ambulance service has been starved of money. Both population and costs have risen, but expenditure hasn't. The ambulance service isn't even classified as an emergency service—only fire, police and armed forces are. Increasingly, the service is run on the hope that emergency calls are staggered and don't come in all at once.

The job is difficult, with a very high stress factor. Not only do we have to drive at speed through traffic, we suffer risks through infection and even violent patients. Just recently, one ambulancemen in our area was twice punched in the face by a patient's relative—he got £20 compensation.

An ambulancemen needs many skills from driving to first aid and medical knowledge. Yet our pay is still very low. When an ambulancemen starts, he does a year's training on days. His pay is £67 a week.

A qualified am-

bulancemen working shifts gets a basic of £82 a week. We only manage by doing large amounts of overtime, which is nearly always available.

This covers for holidays, sickness etc, but also because we have job vacancies. The minimum starting age is 21, by which age many people have families and so on. A year earning £67 a week when you start is then impossible—you'd be better off on the dole.

Our retirement age is 65, but very few ambulancemen are able to work through to that age because of the toll the job takes.

Both of us have learnt lessons from our experience as ambulancemen. We both became active in the union, and have now just joined the Labour Party—both of came to see that you cannot separate trade unionism and socialism.

**Nick Brooks interviewed two ambulancemen in Hampshire who are members of NUPE**

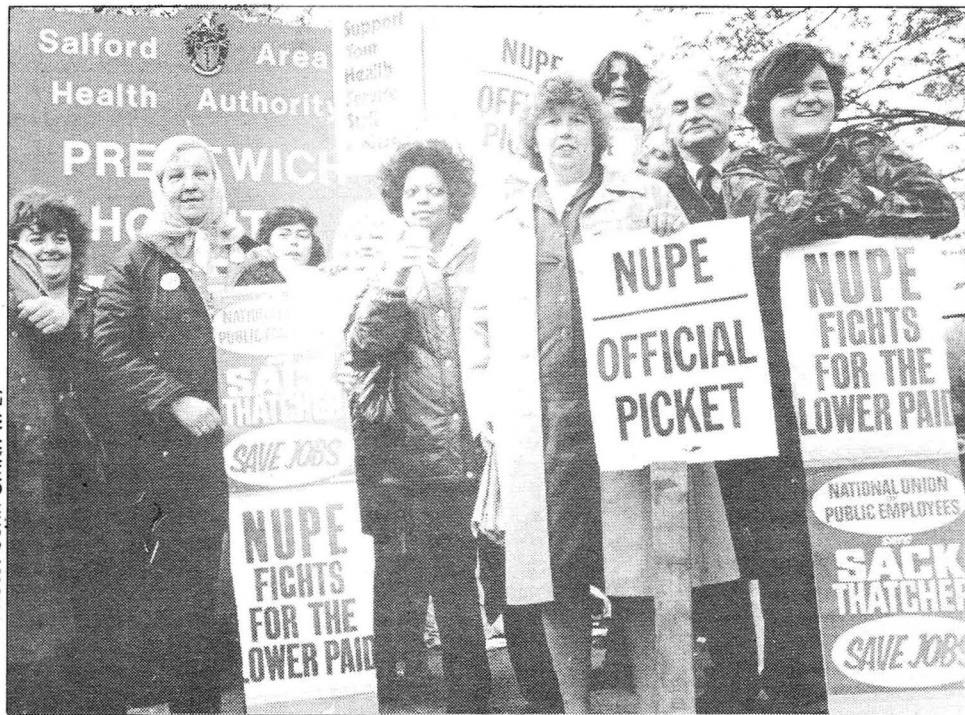


Photo: John Smith (JFL)

Hospital workers at Prestwich Hospital show their determination to gain the 12% for all health workers.

The Scottish Ambulance Service has not waited for the introduction of Tebbit's Bill to put the boot into trade union members. They have started by sacking Bro. Caddell for talking to the press about his suspension on a trumped up charge.

It's purely co-incidental that this man is one of the most outspoken opponents of the cuts which have taken place in the service. When his dismissal was announced it provoked such

anger that some of his colleagues staged an immediate one hour strike.

Thereafter 60 NUPE members took part in a further 2-hour strike on Monday 19th April. Shop stewards are now hoping that all 250,000 NUPE members in Scotland will be involved in industrial action in support of their colleague.

If management can dispose of a branch secretary in this manner

then all union activists are threatened with similar treatment. However, disappointment has been expressed about the lack of support this case has so far had from NUPE's national leaders. Support from the leadership would be seen as encouragement for any action undertaken.

**By Margie Hughes**  
(NUPE Northern Hospital Branch Glasgow)

## Lynemouth Colliery By J Cunningham (Ellington NUM)

A strike has broken out at Lynemouth colliery, Northumberland, in protest at the way the manager is treating the men.

Anger and frustration have been building up for months and the final straw came when shearer men who had been promised 100% bonus were only paid 65%.

Now the whole pit is out on strike and safety cover has been withdrawn. Ellington Colliery is also being affected because all coal from Ellington is drawn out by one belt into the Lynemouth warehouses. That belt has been stopped.

So even though Ellington is not in dispute, Ellington men have been laid off. Under the Employment

Protection Act workers laid off through no fault of their own are entitled to a guaranteed payment from their employer.

But even though two separate collieries are involved, in this case we still come under the same employer, i.e. the Coal Board. Therefore at present, the Ellington miners are laid off without pay and are only entitled to claim unemployment benefit. This has strengthened the hand of the Coal Board in this dispute as they are now trying to play off one group of workers against the other.

Lynemouth are determined not to return to work until their grievances over pay are settled. They have already passed a vote of no confidence in their manager and deputy manager. If they return to work now

bonus payments will be reduced to nothing and the manager will have virtually a free hand. There is even the possibility that the NCB will close the colliery down.

As yet Ellington NUM branch have come to no decision other than to continue sending safety men into Ellington Colliery and to continue clocking on every day in order to qualify for unemployment benefit. The blame for this dispute lies squarely on the shoulders of the Lynemouth management backed up by the Coal Board. They are responsible for the confrontation.

The only way that the dispute can be resolved is for the Ellington miners to come out in support of Lynemouth, so the NCB would continue to be losing the profits from 10,000+ tonnes of coal per day indefinitely.

If the NCB are prepared to do this rather than pay the Lynemouth miners a decent bonus then the action could be stepped up and broadened. With the two biggest collieries out, the next stage would be to gain support throughout the rest of the area. If the issues are made clear then this will not be difficult.

There is already a feeling of support throughout the coalfield, especially at Ashington Colliery which is under threat of closure, even though there are plenty of coal reserves left to work if the money for new development was forthcoming from the Board.

Only if the NUM is united against management and the NCB will it be possible to resolve the Lynemouth dispute; fight back against closure plans, and strengthen the union.

## JEWEL & RAZOR

### 21 WEEKS ON STRIKE

**As our dispute enters its 21st week, we need continued help from all labour and trade union organisations to win our case.**

On 1 December last, at 3.45 after working all day, management called our convenor and a colleague into the office and in five minutes they were made redundant with no consultation.

The next morning before work began, a mass meeting was held and the vote was unanimous in supporting all out strike action to gain reinstatement for the two victimised colleagues. From then until now, 38 members have been on picket duty outside the factory.

The dispute was made official by the AUEW District Committee in Sheffield. As support was gained throughout the working class movement, management played what they thought would be the card to break us. On 25 January we all received our dismissal notices, by recorded delivery.

These were all collected and, on instruction from the District Secretary, we

posted them back to the company and fought on.

Delegations have been travelling the country to gain support. But the only way we are going to win is the "blacking" of the company's products. This has fallen on deaf ears in some sectors. This, we believe is in anticipation of the new Tebbit Bill when blacking will be outlawed.

But there is a long way to go before the bill becomes law. Our fight has already taken the bill on and others will undoubtedly take the question up in the near future.

The Bill is a flagrant attack on the whole trade union movement and must be fought by everyone with an interest in the working class of this country. Our fight continues against a bigoted management, in the fight against compulsory redundancies and for the right to organise in the workplace.

Please make all donations to Jewel Razor Strike Fund c/o D Bramell, 10 Parson Cross Road, Sheffield S6 1JU.

**By Jewel Razor Strike Committee**

## IRSF Conference By Steve Higham

The Agenda of the IRSF Conference at Peebles once again reflects the growing political awareness of civil servants, and the struggle for a fighting programme and leadership for the union.

Although many good motions which would have committed the Executive to waging campaigns and organising action have failed to be picked for debate, Conference will have the chance to adopt many im-

provements in policy and organisation.

Many lessons on the need for trade union unity have been learnt from the pay campaign, and motions calling for permanent local joint union committees and for the discussion of amalgamation with other unions are to be discussed. The need for a regional structure for the IRSF will also be put forward.

Opposition to the policies of the Tory Government runs through the motions. Conference will be called on

to oppose the "Employment Bill" and Tebbit's so-called "training scheme".

The motions calling for recruitment of YOP workers into the IRSF should also be supported, though some office Whitley committees are now correctly refusing to accept these schemes.

Conference should give concrete support for the unemployed by fighting for full time jobs, and supporting the call for total bans on overtime and casual work.



# Industrial Reports

## BREL-United action to stop closures

**Workers in British Rail Engineering Ltd are now finding themselves next in line for closure and redundancies due to government cutbacks.**

Thatcher's servants in BREL propose to close Horwich and Shildon works and partially close Swindon with other cuts in other workshops, a loss of 5,000 jobs in all, mainly in areas of high unemployment.

This is meeting with enormously hostile opposition, not just from the workers most affected. A mass meeting at Glasgow BREL showed that the attempted bribe to other workshops that they might possibly take over part of the work

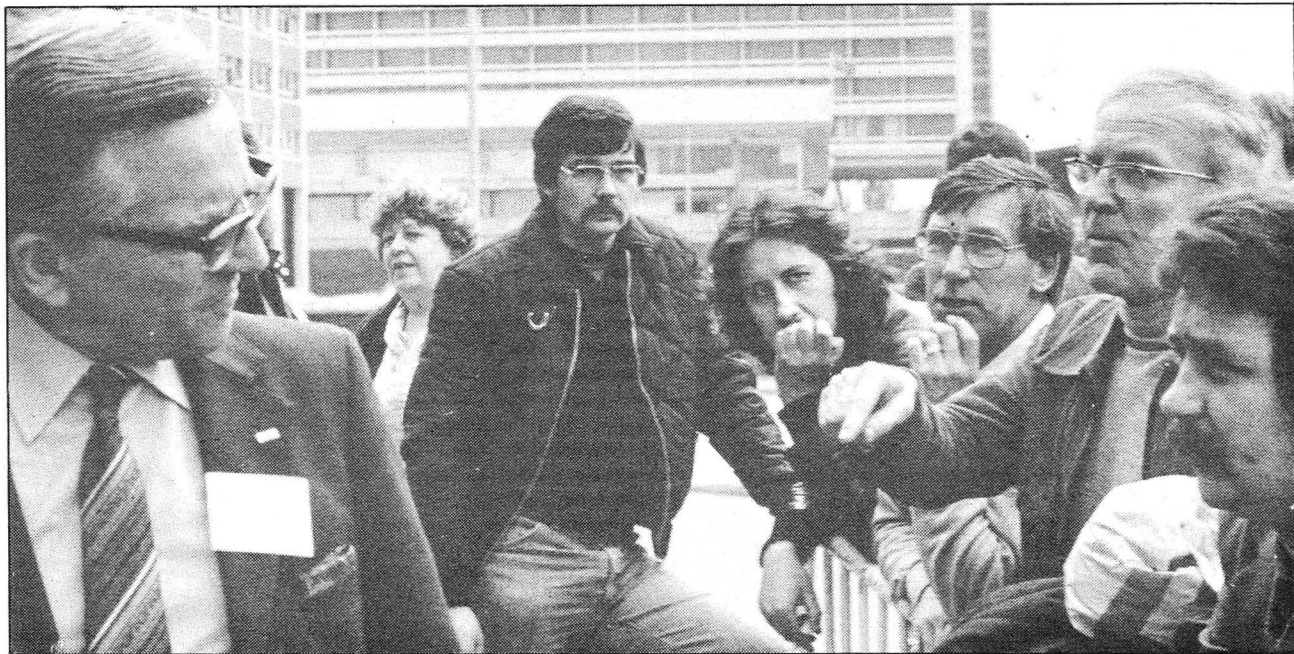
normally done in Shildon and Horwich does not wash.

Workers totally rejected BR's plans and voted in favour of two resolutions put by the Works Committee. One was for the setting up of a committee for closer communications between unions in the 13 BREL workshops.

The other called for rejection of the Board's proposed closures and redundancies and industrial action if necessary, to prevent these.

Workers in Glasgow workshops favour united action, to preserve the jobs of all 13 workshops. The rail unions must answer the call to lead a fight through industrial action if necessary to throw a spanner in the plans of the Tories before they totally destroy BREL.

**By Jim McVicar**  
(TGWU  
Glasgow Works)



Railworkers lobbying the NUR leaders last month at the TUC last month. Now they are demanding action to save BREL jobs.

Photo: Militant

### SHILDON

On 29 April, all Shildon showed solid opposition to the proposal by British Rail to close the workshop.

Out of population of 14,000 over 5,000 were on the march with a further thousand on the streets in support.

As well as workers from BREL workshops other factories, offices and shops joined the march as did

many from the schools. Even children at a primary school were out shouting support for the demonstration.

Shildon relies on the workshop for existence. Closure would mean over 30% unemployment. Many of the posters and workers on the march mentioned Consett.

"We didn't want to go the same way, a few weeks spending boom and then a ghost town," said one young worker. In this area Consett is a haunting sign of Tory

closures and the misery of unemployment.

Shildon football ground had an over-capacity crowd for the speakers who gave support to the workers' fight. As one worker said; "this is our Falkland Islands, we intend to repel the aggressor." A huge wave of booing greeted any mention of Maggie Thatcher.

The support of the Confed was promised by Bill Purvis who "guaranteed that the Confed will not be found wanting and will use

any measures. The NUR has also already warned of national action to stop the closures.

This is the way to victory, a united campaign of all unions nationally can stop the Tories in their tracks. A victory here would be a real gain for all workers and a setback for the Tories throughout the country.

**By Bill Hopwood**

### Swindon—mass meeting backs action

The mass meeting of BREL employees in Swindon workshops on 29 April showed by the big turnout and sometimes very strong language how it felt about the proposed redundancies and eventual closure of Swindon workshops.

Management's intention is to close the workshop and transfer the workload to Derby or Crewe. The policies put forward by the works committee and agreed to by a show of hands were:

1. To maintain the pressure for a general fight against the closure of Railway workshops, through the organising of a TUC sub-committee to organise for the whole of the public sector, and campaign for the programme of investment as needed to expand and maintain the Railway industry.
2. To increase the lobbying of parliamentary representatives who serve the district to mobilise the transport group of MPs within the house for the raising of the modernisation programme in parliamentary business.
3. To oppose any transfer of work to other workshops

or outside contractors.

4. To seek the full support of ASLEF, NUR and TSSA, in the region.

5. To seek the support of the local council by their refusal to assist with planning permission concerning any Railway property destined to be hived off to private industry.

6. The closure of the apprentice training school is a major blow for the youth of Swindon and the full support of parents is needed to keep this facility in operation.

7. Failure by the Government to detract from its present destructive policies will result in a demand for a national strike which would include the London Underground system.

The time has come for all unions to close ranks and fight the Tory Government with every available means. The future of our children and their children must be assured now, by agreeing to long term policies.

**By G Clark**  
(Shop Steward,  
Swindon)

### WANDSWORTH DAY OF ACTION

**Wandsworth local authority workers are continuing their action against the Tory council's plans to privatise. The dustmen are still out and still picketing.**

This bold action by Wandsworth workers has been given full support by shop stewards representing local government manual workers in London.

The London Local Authority Joint Shop Stewards Committee (LLAJUSSC) meeting on 29 April, was attended by over a hundred stewards from all over London with one fraternal delegate from Peterborough, where they are also fighting privatisation.

Dennis English, from Wandsworth GMWU, spo-

ke on behalf of the Wandsworth shop stewards in calling for a 24-hour 'day of action' on 10 May, both in support of Wandsworth and as a warning to other Tory councils not to try privatisation in other boroughs.

Efforts will be made to get the biggest possible support for the action, and strike action is likely in some boroughs.

The 10 May day of action will focus around a protest march starting from Clapham Common at 10am and marching to Wandsworth Town Hall.

**By Vince Roethling**  
(Wandsworth Manual Workers Strike Committee)

### Famous Names

For three weeks now, workers at Famous Names, Bristol have been on strike for decent wages.

Management offered these low paid workers 5% plus strings but workers are determined to stick out for £10 across the board.

Support, both in messages and finance has come in from unions, Labour Parties and LPYS branches. A delegation from T Lucas, a Bristol firm who were involved themselves recently in a struggle against redundancies, visited the picket line and donated £50.

At the Bristol May Day rally, Famous Names shop steward Joe Rattray spoke on the platform along with Tony Benn and Marie Paterson, TGWU National Womens Officer, and was

loudly applauded when he pointed out that the fight against low pay was every worker's fight. A collection raised £65.

Shop stewards at the Southport sister plant met with Bristol colleagues and showed their united determination to force the bosses to meet their demands, a determination which has been shown here by the presence of part time workers on the picket line.

The strikers feel they have gone too far now to turn back. Your support is vital. All donations to Tony Fear, TGWU 3/245 Transport House, Victoria Street, Bristol.

**By Damhnait Darkin**  
(NUPE)

## CPSA P & T Conference

"This conference notes that British Telecommunications has been unable to reassure its workforce that redundancies can be ruled out in the foreseeable future.

"On the contrary, the Chairman of the Board has recently pledged a 25% reduction in costs. Inevitably this will mean less investment, cuts in jobs and a slashing of members' living standards.

"This conference is determined to strain every nerve and muscle to ensure

that not one job or penny is clawed back from CPSA members. Conference demands a massive campaign among the membership, if and when necessary, explaining the need to actively oppose voluntary/compulsory redundancy."

Unquestionably this composite (motions 151, 152, 153 Liverpool GMO) embraces the anger and hostility of the overwhelming majority of CPSA members towards the hiving off of British Telecommunications.

The CPSA P&T Group Conference (9th—11th May) must give notice to the employer that any plans for job losses will be reduced to ashes under the feet of a campaign of industrial action by all unions in the Post Office and BT.

Other motions which will take the membership forward include Composite motion 7 (from Manchester Central) which calls for "an across the board pay rise for all CPSA represented grades as opposed to a percentage increase" and composite 12

(Liverpool) opposing the Government's 4% pay limit.

Composite 22 (Manchester South) calling for the "abolition of the age related incremental scales", if implemented, would lift young workers from the depths of cheap labour.

Additionally, the claim for a shorter working week is vital and needs to be backed "by a campaign of industrial action" (motion 43 Belfast). These motions deserving of support will undoubtedly receive wide support among the delegates.

## Back the paper that backs you

Every time workers take action to defend their jobs and living standards, the vicious role of the press can be seen. Hospital workers, railway workers, dockers, trade unionists in occupation to stop redundancies, all are insulted and grossly misrepresented by the Tory press.

Militant, on the other hand, exposes the Tory lies and faithfully reports the struggles of working people, calls for a campaign against

the Tory attacks and fights for a socialist alternative to the Tory government.

And we rely on the donations of workers to build our circulation and help our paper become even bigger and better. Give generously to our fighting fund [see page 13] and take up a collection. New Fighting Fund Collection Cards are now available from Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

## British Rail engineering

# UNITE AGAINST JOB LOSSES

Workers at Horwich BR workshops are calling for an all-out rail strike to save jobs threatened in the latest BR plans.

By Gerry Lerner

At a recent rally in the town, the works committee assistant secretary, Dennis Green said "We shall be pushing our people at national level to call a national rail strike.

"That would bring in the triple alliance...we shall take any action we feel necessary to fight for jobs at Horwich and in the railway industry". This is the message that will be taken to London on 5 May where there will be two separate delegate conferences to decide on policy. Workers are demanding that both the Confed and NUR start all-out action.

The workers have not been fooled by BR's tactics of proposing different approaches to job losses. The

action committee at Horwich, uniting workers from all sections of the works including salaried staff, was set up in anticipation of these proposed cutbacks. They organised the opposition to BR's plans very rapidly.

On 20 April, BR gave notice that they intended to make 439 workers redundant. This so-called "soft option" was withdrawn 2 days later when they announced plans to close the Horwich works.

On that day, 80 delegates from Horwich, joined representatives from other workshops in a large lobby of the railshop National Council to demand no compulsory redundancies. The next day Friday 23rd the entire Horwich workforce walked out to attend a mass meeting.



Horwich workers now call for all out strike to stop closures and redundancies

Photo: John Smith (IFL)

There was no doubt of the mood of workers there, as they carried unanimously a resolution to fight closure and compulsory redundancies. On 26 April, there was a mass walk-out and a protest march through the town.

The march numbered 3,000 and received tremendous support from the local population. At the rally, the call was made for a national rail strike.

Even the local chamber of trade pledged full support to the workers. Local shopkeepers realised that the

closure of the works would threaten the existence of many of their local small businesses.

It appears at the moment that BR intend to retain the mechanised iron foundry and the spring section. The foundry has been completely modernised over the last 6 years at a cost of over £4 million.

Many workers believe that the money spent on modernisation will go to assist the profits of private asset strippers when these sections are sold off.

At Horwich there are

currently 250 apprentices under training. As the works is the only major employer left in the town, there were 700 applicants when 30 new apprenticeships were recently advertised. These new starts have been kicked back already in anticipation of the closure.

Recently, Rail News quoted BREL Personnel Director as saying to apprentices at an award presentation "when the economy picks up, you youngsters will help form the backbone of the country's engineering industry".

On the contrary, if BR plans are allowed to succeed there will be another major blow at the base of engineering industry in this country.

The local councils in the area, Wigan, Bolton, the major district councils, parish councils in Blackrod and Horwich have pledged support. In fact the Horwich Parish Council has donated £200 to the fighting fund, and they are sending a delegation to lobby Parker and the BR Board.

See also page 15

# DOCKERS RIGHTS FIGHT

Ten years after the first major blow struck against Heath's Industrial Relations Act by Britain's dockers, a major confrontation is now looming with the present Tory government over the same issue.

The conflict, as in 1972, concerns the non-scheme ports and wharves. Dockers are demanding that these ports should come under the umbrella of the Dock Labour scheme.

These are the regulations which cover all registered dock workers and most importantly protect them from forced redundancy.

In 1972 dockers came out on strike and picketed non-scheme wharfs and certain other places which were performing dock work but not employing dockers.

Employers were building up non-scheme wharfs in

By Paul Spooner  
 (10/105 TGWU  
 branch  
 Hull docks)

order to by-pass the organised wharfs. The benefits for the employers using non-scheme wharfs spoke for themselves, low wages, low manning scales and the right to hire and fire.

The last Labour government introduced the 1976 Dockwork Regulations Act but failed to get through Parliament their proposal to extend the Dock Labour Scheme. The present Tory government now have to either extend the scheme or repeal the 1976 Act.

A vital role has been played by the unofficial National Ports Shop Stewards Committee in securing support for the extension of the scheme, which has led to the T&GWU recalled docks delegates conference calling

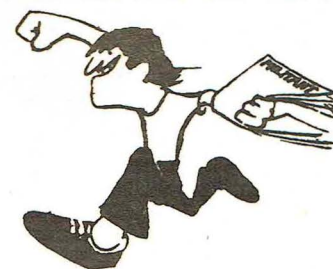


Preston Docks, one of a large number of docks closed or savagely cut in recent years

for an official total national dock strike from 10th May. The strike has been postponed because of the Falklands crisis, but it has not been put off for good. With international support already promised any strike could be the beginning of a real fightback by

the labour movement against the Tories and their attempts to destroy the trade unions in this country as this will be the first major clash since the Prior 1980 Act, and comes just before Tebbit's Act is due to become law.

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