

# Health Workers Strike...

# MINERS PLEDGE STRIKE BACKING

There is a growing tide of support for health workers in their justified fight for their 12 per cent wage claim.

Apart from the more or less spontaneous walk-outs by groups of workers on the last day of action, more and

more sections are coming to support the health workers officially.

The South Wales area of the National Union of

By Margie Hughes,  
Pauline Snyder,  
Jan McTaggart  
(Glasgow Northern  
Hospital Branch NUPE)

Mineworkers has agreed to a one-day strike in support of their brothers and sisters

CONTINUED ON  
BACK PAGE

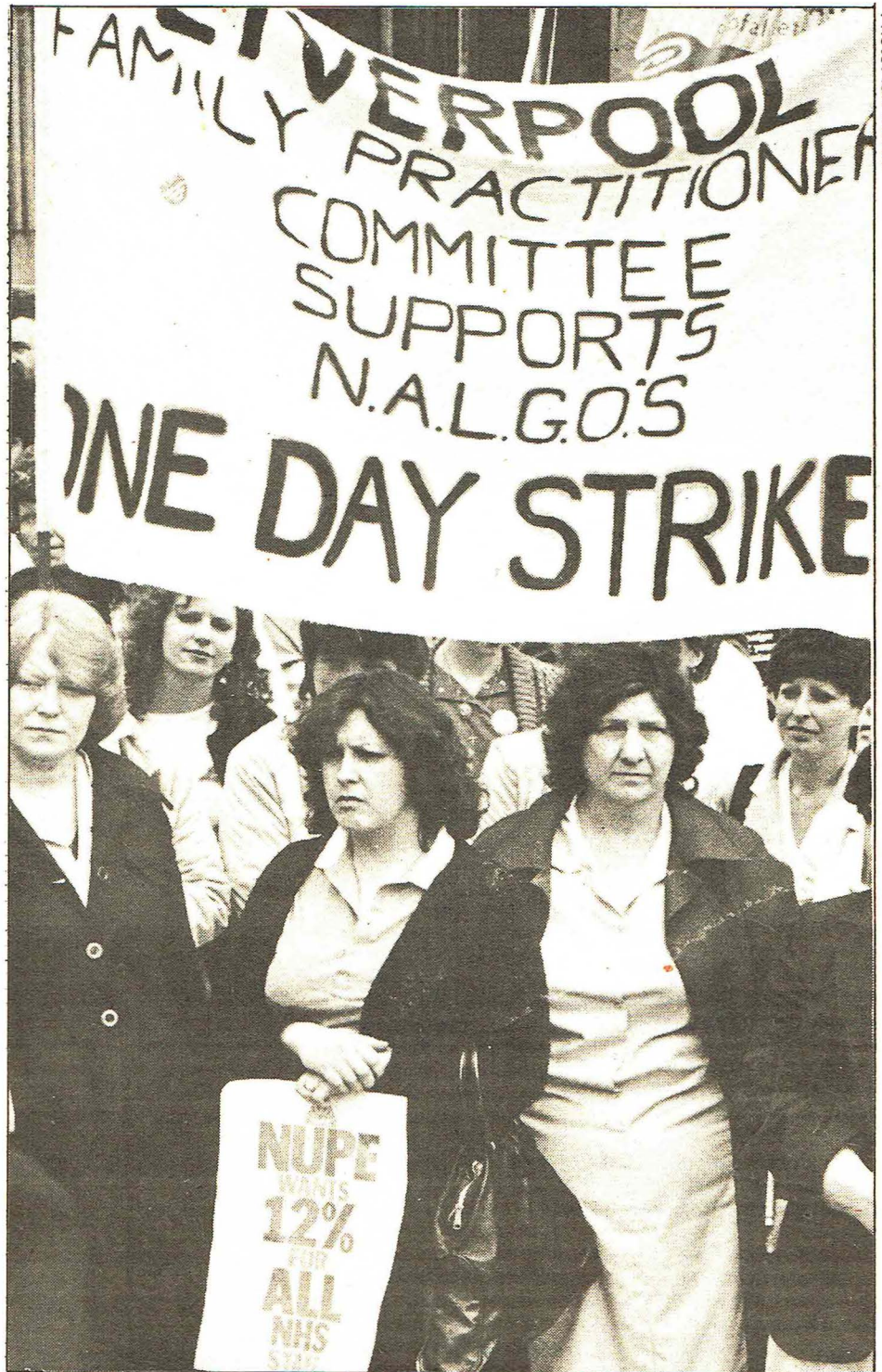


Photo: Ian Morris

Hospital workers demonstrate in Liverpool

# Falklands-Coalite cashes in

For big business it's business as usual—even in the middle of a war.

This week it was revealed that the Coalite company which owns the Falkland Islands Trading Company has been actively trading with the Argentine army.

Coalite's record must make any capitalist's heart glow. From 1951 to 1974 they put £3.3m into the Falkland Islands and took £11.4m out.

In actual fact from the £1.4m profits that they made between 1974 and 1979, £1.2m was paid out in

By Dave Cotterill

dividends.

Their pathetic excuse for the sales receipts found on Argentine troops is that they were forced into trading. Yet even under stress they still remembered to issue receipts, which show they supplied Land-Rovers, sheep and lubricating oil. So while workers are told that the Argentines are their 'enemy', British business happily trade with them. But this company is not

alone. They have simply followed the example of other sections of Big Business.

At the start of the crisis it emerged that Schroder Wagg the merchant bankers had secretly transferred their entire Argentine loan books out of London, in order to continue financial transactions with Argentina from their agencies abroad. Involved here was a loan portfolio of nearly £6m which is now operated from the safety of its Swiss subsidiary in Zurich.

Even the Bank of England took ten days to issue guidelines implementing the ban which prohibited further loans by Argentine borrowers. 'Patriotic' British investors and companies have also shown their concern for the

'national interest' since the crisis began by offloading £1 billion-worth of sterling and buying up 'safer' currencies.

Profits are the top priority for capitalists. War may be a horrible experience for workers but for big business it's horribly profitable. For the multi-nationals benefits can be gained from both the opposing countries.

Ford's subsidiary in Argentina is donating sixty trucks to the military. The subsidiaries of Eveready have offered \$30,000 of flashlights and batteries. One US food company has donated \$50,000 of food. According to the company's President "It would have been bad manners not to. We look upon it as charity to the unfortunates who happen to be

fighting."

Workers are always the one who are exhorted to make the sacrifices, to 'defend the nation.' But the labour movement must just as boldly raise its own demands. Workers have no interest in defending profiteers, in defending hypocrisy or a 'nation' in which the many sacrifice and the few profit.

If there needs to be 'defence', the labour movement must fight to ensure that it is defence of a society in which the wealth and resources are owned, organised and used by the whole population, by the working class, and not by a handful of parasite shareholders.

## FINANCE MILITANT

We need £23,000 in the next five weeks, a figure that could easily be passed if each week 5,000 of our readers sent us just £1. Since our fighting fund was written (p13) donations received have included a pensioner who told our seller to 'keep up the good work'.

Copy that example and when you've posted your cheque or postal order you'll know who finances this paper—you our readers.

## Falklands: Lessons for CND.

The stockpiling of nuclear weapons capable of destroying the world's population hundreds of times over, the production of more and more lethal chemical and biological forms of destruction, have all served to build support for the idea of nuclear disarmament.

On a world scale there is an enormous crisis of capitalism. In the advanced nations no solution can be found to the problems of mass unemployment and inflation. In the so-called colonial world the crisis is compounded a hundred times over.

It is against this background that the issues of war and peace have to be seen. With nations attempting to resolve their problems at the expense of other nations we are certain to see a continuation of world instability.

In Britain Thatcher has conducted a policy of turning Britain into a floating aircraft carrier. The build up of nuclear weapons has taken place even at the expense of dismantling the conventional forces—such as the navy.

At a time of mounting unemployment, with four million consigned to the rubbish heap, when cut-backs are being made in health, education and social services the Tories are spending £6,000m on nuclear weapons and £14,000m a year altogether on defence.

No small wonder that workers react with disbelief at such policies.

But in its approach to the issue of peace CND has rejected a class analysis. Consequently in the war over the Falkland Islands some sections of CND backed the war on the basis that it is being waged with "only" conventional weapons, though even here we have seen in practice the enormous devastation that can be caused by advanced conventional weaponry.

In the case of the Falklands war, the war has been to defend the prestige of the Thatcher government and British capitalism and for the potential resources of oil and fish and the mineral resources of the Antarctic.

For Galtieri and the Argentine junta the war was a diversion from revolution. The crisis of Argentine capitalism had reached mammoth proportions—inflation is running at 140%, unemployment is calculated by unofficial sources to be in the region of 40%, society is racked by speculation and corruption extending in all probability to the tops of the military leaders.

Prior to the invasion, mass demonstrations of tens of thousands of workers took place in Buenos Aires—despite the military state of siege.



CND demonstration in London last October

Photo: MILITANT

Under pressure the junta calculated that such a diversion would take the hot breath of revolution off their necks.

The Junta originally expected that the British government would accept the invasion and try for a negotiated settlement, but in this they made a serious miscalculation.

For the British capitalist class to have accepted the invasion would have meant a grave humiliation and a loss of international prestige. In all probability it would also have meant the fall of the Thatcher government.

### Hypocrisy of Tory government

These are the reasons which propelled the ruling classes of these two countries on the collision course of war. In such a situation pleading with Thatcher and Galtieri, or pious calls for peace and national reconciliation will come to nothing. It is like asking Satan to denounce sin.

The attitude of those workers who support CND and the calls for peace — particularly reflected amongst the youth—is perfectly understandable. The news that the Atlantic Conveyor was carrying 1,000 rubber coffins will further underline the horrors of war, especially as it indicates the extent to which the Tories are prepared to go, in terms of sacrificing human lives, to recover the Falklands.

But for the mass of workers, whilst there is a horror of war in general there is also some support for this war, because it is seen as a war against a fascist dictatorship, a war

for freedom and democracy. In no way can this be interpreted as giving unconditional support to the Tories.

The view which undoubtedly prevails is that "we have to support our lads". At the end of the war such issues as unemployment, prices, wages and social conditions will come back to the forefront.

The Tory cry has been for freedom and democracy in defence of the Islanders, but in reality this is crass hypocrisy. They have extended support to a multitude of reactionary regimes and have been utterly silent about murderous regimes such as the military juntas in Turkey and Chile. Previous to this war they were willing partners with the Argentine junta.

Moreover, how can any faith be put in a government which is attempting to curtail democratic rights in its own country through the introduction of the Employment Bill?

No "war" was waged against unemployment, because "the nation could not afford it". Yet the cost of this Falklands war is already estimated to be £1,000m, although it will in all probability turn out to be twice that figure.

The cost of putting a garrison on the Falklands is conservatively put at a further £1,000m, so the eventual total cost may well be in the region £3 to £4 billion. Missiles costing £½ million each are fired yet money cannot be found to buy kidney machines which would save lives.

The price of this venture will be paid by the working class in terms of higher taxes and further cutbacks in public expenditure.

Within the Argentine Junta there are now signs of growing splits and divisions on how to proceed. Even a

top aide to Admiral Anaya, who is considered a "hawk" in the military, has expressed doubts over whether the loss of life is worthwhile for what many consider as a handful of rocks.

The subdued mood in Buenos Aires seems also to confirm this. On Argentina's National Day (25 May) only a few hundred turned up to rally in the centre of the city, yet 500,000 packed the square in celebration last year.

This perhaps explains the apparent lack of morale amongst Argentine troops and the clear divisions between the conscripts and their officers. At the time of their surrender many of the conscripts at Goose Green threw their arms in the air with whoops of joy and said they were glad to be going home.

But the Junta has its own personal future at stake. A humiliating defeat would mean their end. A businessman in Buenos Aires was quoted by the 'Sunday Times' as saying, "Galtieri... would be swung from a lamp post in five minutes."

### Fight the system that breeds war

Furthermore a regime which has been prepared to murder 20,000 to prop up capitalism will not flinch to sacrifice thousands of more lives. Galtieri boasted that they would be prepared to sacrifice 40,000 lives.

Because of the position of the Argentine Junta it is still possible that a bloody battle will take place at Port Stanley with considerable cost to both sides.

The differences in the Tory cabinet over this issue

contrast two different approaches. Thatcher in a short-sighted fashion, oblivious to the wider aspects, is attempting to glory in the defeat of the Argentinians. She has clearly hinted at a long-term British development of the Islands.

On the other hand Pym representing the Foreign Office, and backed by Healey, Owen and Steel, and with an eye to the long term consequences, is reported to be chary of establishing a garrison.

He is motivated by the same interests as Thatcher and does not differ on the fundamental issues.

However, his fear is that a defeat of the Junta will provoke revolutionary upheavals which will have its repercussions in Brazil and the other countries of Latin America, and place capitalism in jeopardy.

In the long term Britain will win a military victory. Under these circumstances the ruling class will not give up the Falkland Islands to Argentina, although ironically before the conflict began they were considering arrangements under which they could cede sovereignty.

Now, however, they will probably move to garrison the islands and at a later stage attempt to combine with America to develop the region's potential of raw materials, of oil, fish and mineral wealth.

Even assuming the Falklands war were to draw to a rapid conclusion, there would not be the slightest guarantee that wars of the same kind would not break out again and again. Since the second world war, according to the Stockholm Peace Institute, there have only been 17 days without a war somewhere on the globe.

The Falklands war has not been fought in the in-

terests of the workers in Britain, in Argentina, or on the Islands although it is the workers who have borne all the costs. The labour movement must be in the forefront of the struggle against war, but that can only mean it must struggle against the social system that spawns war.

On the basis of capitalism, war will always be a fact of life.

Only by combining opposition to war and the struggle for disarmament to the issue of the socialist transformation of society will it be possible to secure a sane and civilised society, where conflicts like those in the Falklands would be removed to the history books.

Today the threat of world war comes not from 'accidents' or 'human nature' but from capitalism moving into crisis, which if unchecked by the labour movement, could throw up a military dictatorship.

At present nuclear war is ruled out. Nobody would gain from a nuclear holocaust. It is this realisation together with the strength of the labour movement which prevents world war at this stage.

However, this situation will not remain for ever, and the danger of nuclear war will remain if the working class fails to transform society on an international level.

Only on the basis of a series of massive defeats for the working class movements in the major industrial countries, with the coming to power of vicious military dictatorships, would the possibility emerge of a third world war.

By the abolition of capitalism and the creation of a socialist society we can destroy the root cause of war.

# Class viewpoint of Argentine trade-unionist

An exiled Argentinian Trade Unionist spoke at Tower Hamlets Trades Council on 24 May 1982. The following is a report of his speech.

"Brothers and Sisters, I was a prisoner of the military dictatorship in Argentina for 3 years. Many other Trade Unionists have also suffered imprisonment and torture. I bring you the greetings of the working class of Argentina.

Today, when people of Latin America are living under military dictatorships, I can assure you that the working class of Argentina will not give up the fight to overthrow the Junta.

From 24th March 1976, the day of the military coup, the working class of Argentina has been taking action in many different ways. The dictatorship has violated all the rights guaranteed in the Constitution. These rights have been over-riden by the laws imposed by the Junta.

To divert attention, the dictatorship has tried to arouse a false sense of national pride over the question of the Falklands. The Argentinian people do not wish to have conflicts with other peoples of the world. The working class movement of Argentina believes that the only beneficiaries of the war will be the Junta and the British Tories.

It believes that the people of Argentina will have to pay the price for this conflict. In spite of this, and at whatever cost our people will continue to fight (against the Junta) for their rights. The military dictatorship has not won the support of the Argentinian workers by this manoeuvre nor will it ever.

I would like to place special emphasis on propaganda which is trying to distort the true feelings of Argentinian people. This Argentinian government is responsible for the disappearance of 30,000 people,

the deaths of 9,000, 2½ million refugees, 2 million unemployed and 250,000 homeless families. That is why I wish to put special emphasis on what international solidarity means to people, especially the working class of Argentina.

We ask for you, the working class, to give us their support by denouncing the regime of Argentina. But we must also remember the role of Mrs Thatcher's government and its attitude to Argentina prior to the conflict. Our people watch with sadness the denunciations of the dictatorship by the Thatcher government when only last year the same government welcomed three torturers to Britain.

## Tories helped torturers

In this way, and through the sale of Arms, the British government has been an accomplice to a regime which has tried to cut off all our rights in Argentina. I want to say yet again that the working class of Argentina has no conflict with the working class of Britain.

Behind this conflict are massed big economic interests, particularly those of the United States of America. Meanwhile the working class are being asked to play the role of bystander, or at least, unwilling participants who have no say in the matter.

It is no co-incidence that the invasion took place at a time when the Argentinian workers were in the process of drawing up plans for a National Strike and other actions to threaten the dictatorship.

I've said already that I have confidence in the working class, both in Argentina and all over the world. The working class has not been defeated nor will it be by this conflict. Thank you for your invitation. I must emphasise the continuing important of in-



Commandos being transferred from HMS Hermes. Photo: PA.

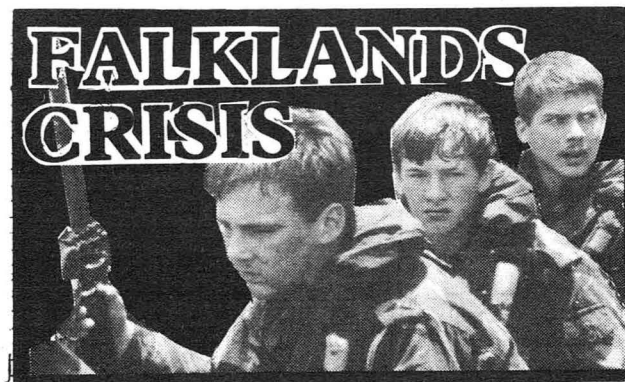
ternational solidarity to the people, particularly the working class, of Argentina."

**In answer to a question asking what he thought of the conference decision taken by the National Union of Seamen to support Thatcher's invasion, he replied.**

"War between two powers can only bring further poverty to the working class of both countries. Furthermore, only the workers

have any right to ask for the return of the Falklands, not the Argentinian dictatorship. As a fighter for the working class I do not agree with the position taken [by NUS].

Who are the people who are fighting? Working class soldiers have nothing in common with the assassins who are sending them. Remember, the Conservative government of the UK is also anti-working class."



# WAR MEDIA COVER UP

**The British government has learned from the American experience in Vietnam. They are deliberately preventing pictures of young dead or injured servicemen being shown nightly on our TV screens.**

In Vietnam the TV coverage of the horror of modern warfare was a major factor in the growth of an anti-war movement. The government is scared what impact the reality of war might have upon the British public. Alistair McQueens reported in the *Daily Mirror* (14 May), "In twenty years as a reporter I have never been so gagged—not even in Afghanistan after the Soviet invasion."

News, letters and even

film of the FA cup final reach the task force within 48 hours. Yet footage from the South Atlantic is taking three weeks to reach our screens (if at all). HMS Sheffield was hit by an Exocet missile on 1 May, but film of it and (heavily censored) the sufferings of the crew were only shown on 26 May. Film of the Task Force has been available in London to British TV for some weeks but reliable sources confirm that this extensive film will not be transmitted at the moment.

Obstruction by the Ministry of Defence is making accurate journalism almost impossible.

*Mirror* reporter McQueen commented: "Don't ask me or any of the pressmen with the amphibious assault group what is going on in the Falklands war. We simply do not know. We are not told. On

the odd occasions when we have been able to send news stories they have either been censored into gibberish or delayed so long in transmission they have arrived in London too late for deadlines."

'D'-notices (i.e. censorship) have been dropped on Fleet Street like confetti. The *Financial Times* (26 May) derided the attitude of the Ministry of Defence censors. The Navy have claimed that transmission of film via satellite would be affected by radar and that the Task Force would be unable to communicate during transmission.

Yet they can get film of the FA cup final down there in 48 hours. And as the *Financial Times* pointed out, if the US could provide daily pictures from Vietnam in the '60s, then with today's technology such minor difficulties could be

overcome, if the government wanted to.

But for this government hiding the truth has become second nature, truth being the first casualty of war. So the press have been reduced to inaccurate sketches reminiscent of the *London Illustrated News* coverage of the Boer war at the beginning of this century.

War is not a romantic encounter as some of the press bosses would have us believe as they turn from Bingo to Jingo in order to sell papers. Thatcher has condemned the BBC and some of the media for not "telling our boys' story". But as one news executive pointed out to the Prime Minister, "HMS Silencer (i.e. the Ministry of Defence censors) is sitting 500 yards from your own doorstep."

By Pat Edlin

# Naval wives anger

By a Gosport Labour Party member

**Peter Viggers, MP for Gosport, turned up at a recent meeting of the Navy Task Force Wives Group. Before he arrived, some of the wives declared "he won't get out alive" because he hadn't supported them in the fight to keep the Naval Allotment system.**

This system allowed sailors to allocate money to their wives through the Post Office. The Navy has recently stopped it because it costs too much. Everyone has therefore had to open a bank account, and pay bank charges.

During the discussion, one sailor's wife explained how dropping the Allotments system was part of the defence cuts, even though it causes all sorts of financial problems for the wives—it is much easier to budget if you can collect cash every week from the Post Office. But it cost the MOD £17 per person per year and that was too much.

These points were put to Viggers when he came in, with two local reporters, the local radio and BBC TV, but although he took notes, most of the wives thought they'd have a fight on their hands to get the Allotments back. The Tory government did away with them and Viggers is a Tory MP.

Apart from the anguish the wives are suffering, waiting for news of the next ship to be sunk or damaged, many are worried about money. "I don't see why I have to grovel to the Navy" one woman said as she described what happens if you have to ask the Naval Welfare Service for help to pay the bills—many sailors left for the Falklands before they could complete the

paper work to make sure their wives had access to money—you need your husband's signature to open a Giro Account.

"If you phone up Centurion (the Naval Pay Office) they tell you to go to the Social, they class you as an abandoned wife!" She went on to describe how, after asking for time to pay the phone bill, she has been told "anyone can say their husband is on the Task Force." Fortunately most people sending out bills in the area are more understanding.

A wife of a sailor from the Sheffield, joked about meeting him the next day at Brise Norton. "I shall have to take a clothes peg and a deodorant spray because they haven't changed their clothes for days."

She'd had to get an overdraft from the bank to buy his clothes to replace the ones which went down the ship. Everyone wondered whether the compensation would cover the interest charges on the overdraft.

As the meeting broke up, a woman rushed in to say the Coventry and Atlantic Conveyor had been lost. Everyone was shocked but they'd already worked out it was probably the Coventry because nobody with a husband on that ship had come to the meeting—they'd had the phone call or visit which all the wives dread. One or two wives even told me they thought it must be just as bad for the wives in Argentina.

In a town like Gosport it's all too clear that the workers are paying for this war, not to mention the wives and kids.

# Reagan - the voice of US big business

## At home....

It should be no surprise Thatcher has welcomed Reagan to Britain; looking at Reagan's policies at home and abroad you can see these two are birds of a feather!

When Reagan came to power in 1980 and later took up office as US President in 1981, it was clear his administration would be in the interests of big business.

Like Thatcher in Britain, he surrounded himself with representatives of the ruling class, in this case a caricature of American big business, and the wheeling and dealing that goes with it.

His vice president, George Bush, earlier this year was pushing for modified tax laws for drug companies. Before he took office, he was director of a drug company.

The attorney-general, William French Smith, was last year involved in a tax avoidance scandal. He used

By Bob Wade

a ruling which although presently being challenged still meant that Smith had not broken the law.

The Secretary of Labour, Raymond Donovan, has had various allegations made against him including claims that the building firm he previously partly owned used the criminal underworld to get business! The FBI allege he even witnessed the bribing of a union official—and this man's the labour minister!

The list goes on! The assistant attorney general, William Baxter, is in charge of 'antitrust law'. At his intervention, the federal government dropped a 13

year old case against the computer multi-national IBM, on the question of the monopolisation of the industry. Afterwards it transpired that, besides Baxter having previously worked with IBM's lawyers and was at one point paid for a year by IBM as a teacher, he also had shares in three small computer firms. Not surprisingly he forgot to declare this at the time!

One of Reagan's men who actually got caught out was his first national security advisor, Richard Allen. He had to resign after it was discovered that he received \$1,000 and three watches from a Japanese magazine after he arranged an interview for them with Reagan!

As for Reagan himself, he seems to believe he is the new 'King of the USA.' When he took office, he rejected \$50,000 offered by congress to redecorate the White House, the presidential residence, and instead took \$822,641. It is believed \$209,508 of that was spent on new crockery! It's not just at home that the president likes the good life. A recent trip to Jamaica and Barbados by the Presidential entourage cost US taxpayers an estimated \$5 million!

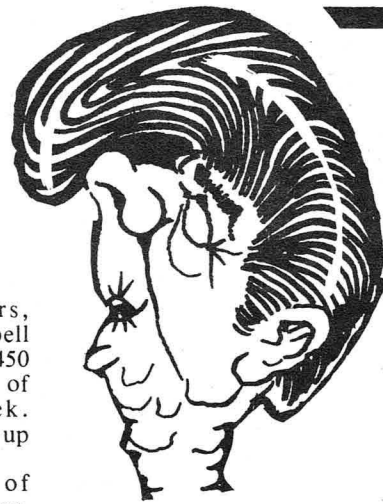
It is these wealthy parasites who are inflicting the policies of draconian austerity on the US working class.

For the workers, Reagan's policies spell nightmare. Around 450 firms are going out of business every week. Unemployment has shot up to around 10 million.

The driving up of unemployment has been accompanied by merciless massive cut backs. Last year Reagan announced cut-backs amounting to \$10 billion! this included \$670 million slashed from job training programmes, \$80 million from special training programmes and \$150 million's worth of cutbacks from the 'Job Service', achieved through redundancies. A further \$800 million was cut from hospital construction.

To put these figures into hard reality, an example of what these cuts mean appeared in the *Guardian* on May 13. It told of a 28 year old American worker who after receiving severe burns after an accident was turned away from 40 different hospitals because he was uninsured!

But Reagan is not pursuing his programme without opposition by the workers, which culminated last year in the mass demonstration by half a million workers in Washington on 'Solidarity Day'. That is another similarity between Reagan and Thatcher—their policies of profits first will be fought by the working class, whether in the USA or Britain. ●



## ....and abroad

"A new hope for all peoples, like ours, who would like to see the United States strengthen its role in the leadership of world affairs."

These words of congratulation greeted Reagan's election victory. They were uttered by General Pinochet, the dictator of Chile. His words echoed the sentiments of all the military dictatorships of Latin America.

For abroad, the Reagan regime has followed the same class interests as at home. It's proposed foreign aid budget of \$11 billion for next year included military assistance for a variety of right wing repressive dictatorships. Reagan had planned an extra \$128 million for the vicious murderous government of El Salvador. Last month's rigged elections had

brought into high office Major D'Aubission, whom the former American Ambassador described as a 'pathological killer', implicated in the assassination of Roman Catholic Archbishop Romero.

But last week to justify their proposed aid programme, Deputy Secretary of State, Walter Stoessel, described the regime as being guided by 'democracy and reform.'

Other Latin American countries that Reagan sees as being worthy of US military assistance are the military dictatorships in Chile, Guatemala and before the recent war, Argentina.

While the dictatorships receive backing, the US aids the destabilisation of Nicaragua

Radical regimes get different treatment. The *Washington Post* (15 February) reported that Reagan had personally approved a destabilisation programme against Nicaragua. American and Argentinian advisers were then training a rebel army of counter-revolutionaries in neighbouring Honduras. The Argentine involvement helps explain why Reagan was so keen to avoid war over the Falklands.

So when Reagan speaks of 'resisting aggression, defending democracy' he means the kind of democracy where he and his cronies can get rich pickings, whatever the cost paid in ordinary peoples' lives.

# CND...the socialist way forward

One of the major struggles of socialists throughout history has been the fight against militarism and war. Indeed, the first young socialist movement, the Young Guards of Belgium in 1889, were formed specifically to fight against conscription and the government's militarist aims.

Today in Europe, youth are on the march against nuclear weapons. In Britain this has been represented in the growth of CND, now attracting thousands of youth to its banner.

Yet the CND leaders are taking the youth up a 'non-political' blind alley and there is a danger it will follow the fate of the Anti-Nazi League, which mushroomed with mass support but without a class lead, its supporters drifted away. It is therefore essential that the new Labour Party Young Socialists pamphlet, 'Socialists and Nuclear Disarmament' receives a wide circulation amongst CND youth.

The pamphlet uses cold statistics to show the madness of the capitalist system which pours billions into arms production while



The CND has attracted thousands to its banner on the question of disarmament. But how will this be achieved? Photo: Militant

carrying out harsh cutbacks on workers' living standards.

But the main subject for discussion amongst CND youth will be how to take the struggle forward. The YS pamphlet puts forward the socialist view.

Disarmament cannot be achieved on a lasting basis under capitalism. While the means to proliferate arms are in their hands the

capitalists will use them to protect their class interests at the cost of the rest of society. In the final analysis, it was the class interests of the Argentine Junta and British capitalism that led to the Falklands war.

After the first world war, Germany was forced to disarm. Yet because German society was not rid of the crushing social condi-

tions of capitalism in crisis, the basis remained for the rise of reaction in the form of Hitler and fascism, who built up one of the most powerful armed forces in the world and waged war on Europe to secure markets for German capitalism.

Similarly today, the threat of world war comes not from 'accidents' or 'human nature' but from capitalism moving into

crisis, which if unchecked by the labour movement, could throw up a military dictatorship.

In the immediate period, nuclear war between the super powers is ruled out. Neither would gain from a world obliterated by a nuclear holocaust capable of accommodating only insects and deep sea fish! By setting off a nuclear war the superpowers would destroy the foundations upon which their wealth and privileges exist. But it is not only this logic that holds back the more rabid militarist sections of the ruling classes, but the strength of the labour movement.

However, this balance of class forces does not remain constant, and the danger remains if the working class internationally fail to take control of society. As the

pamphlet states "in the epoch ahead only on the basis of a series of massive defeats for the working class movements in a number of major capitalist countries with the consequent coming to power of extreme militarist police state regimes, would the possibility emerge of a third world war."

A society free of horrendous weapons and the threat of world war can be achieved with the socialist system that ends the root cause of war, the capitalist system.

The pamphlet also takes up other major issues facing CND, such as the question of the USSR and disarmament, NATO, the rank and file of the armed forces, and explains the demands of the LPYS.

'Socialists and Nuclear Disarmament'  
Available from LPYS, 150 Walworth Road,  
London SE 17 1JT, price 30p (inc p&p)

'Peace and Defence'  
— a LPYS debate with the Young  
Conservatives. Speakers: Kevin Ramage  
(LPYS National Chairman) and Phil Pedley  
(YC National Chairman) Wednesday June 9,  
7.30pm, at Grand Committee Room,  
House of Commons.

# Hands off the LPYS!

Labour's youth movement is likely to be the target of increasing attacks from the party's right-wing in coming months. This became clear after Labour's NEC voted by 8 votes to 6 to block the reprinting of the LPYS pamphlet 'Ideals of October' at its meeting last week (26 May).

The pamphlet, which first appeared in 1977 on the 60th anniversary of the Rus-

sian Revolution, has sold 5,000 copies and a further 2,000 had been requested. The right to re-publish has been withheld on the grounds that the document does not reflect Labour Party policy, an objection first raised by General Secretary-Designate, Jim Mortimer.

This in fact is not the issue. No-one can question the record of the Labour Party Young Socialists in fighting for the return of a Labour government committed to implementing the radical policies adopted by Annual Conference. At election time the Young Socialists are the hardest workers in winning support

for Labour, a fact that numerous candidates will verify.

But individuals and different sections of the movement have always enjoyed the right to advance their own point of view and freely discuss ideas within the party. The front cover of 'Ideals of October' carries an imprint explaining its role "as a background for discussion."

It is ironic that a pamphlet dealing with the degeneration of the October Revolution and the organisational manoeuvres used by Stalin and his henchmen to stifle opposition should itself be suppressed in this

manner. The use of such measures to curb democratic discussion is totally alien to the traditions of the labour movement.

It was right-wingers John Golding and Denis Healey who moved and seconded that the matter be referred back to the Press and Publicity Committee which had originally approved re-publication. Again, they argued that the contents of the pamphlet were contrary to party policy. However, their defence of Labour Party policy is extremely selective. At the same meeting they attempted, without success, to delete a

commitment to unilateral nuclear disarmament from 'Labour's Programme 82', the policy document that goes before this year's Annual Conference.

There will be further concern amongst the party's rank and file that this attempt to muzzle Labour's youth was supported by left-wingers Neil Kinnock and Joan Lester, whose votes decided the issue. Neil Kinnock argued that the Labour Party would "subsidise Leninist-Trotskyism when the Militant publishes Labour Party policy."

This attack on the rights of the LPYS to produce literature will be fiercely

resisted by the majority of Labour Party members. Numerous LPYS branches, ward Labour Parties and CLPs will undoubtedly follow the example of Hackney Central LPYS which endorsed the following resolution:

"This LPYS branch deplores the decision of the NEC not to allow further publication of the LPYS pamphlet 'Ideals of October.' We are opposed to organisational measures such as this, aimed at stifling discussion within the party, and limiting the right of the LPYS to produce its own literature. We call on the NEC to immediately reverse its decision."

## Northern Region Conference

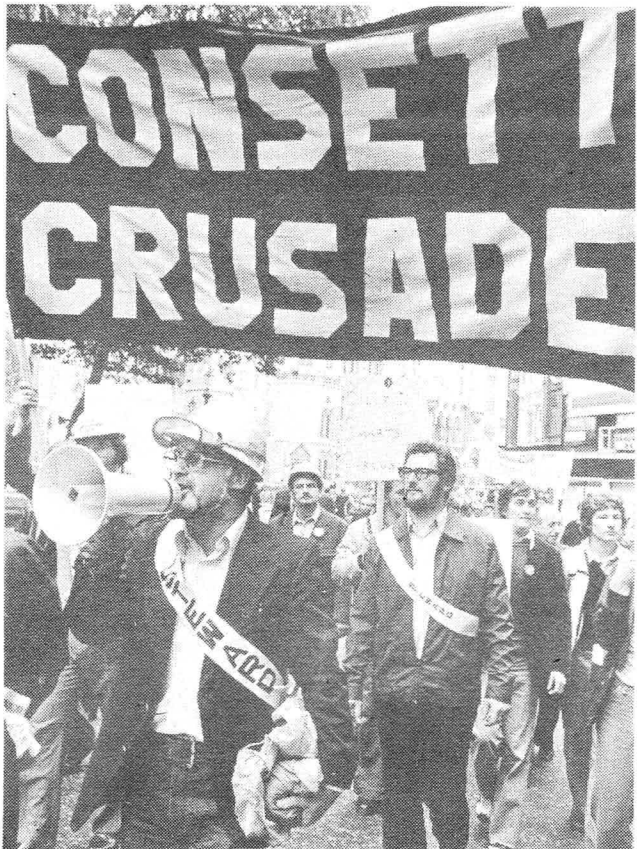
With unemployment standing at over 220,000 in the Northern Region, and the economic chop hanging over the head of Shildon railworks, the conference began by supporting an emergency resolution pledging full support for the workers of Shildon in their fight against redundancies.

Malcolm Graham, AUEW convenor at 'Ever Ready' in Derwentside told of the economic plight of the nearby ghost-town Consett and stressed that a bold leadership is needed if a repetition of Consett is to be avoided. This was met with a furious reception by Labour leaders in the area who felt they were implicated by Malcolm's remarks.

In the first session on Party organisation two resolutions from the EET-PU calling for proscriptions and individual ballots in leadership elections were overwhelmingly defeated. A resolution from Teeside Stockton CLP calling for "Sincere opposition to all witch-hunts in the Party" was carried by a card vote of over 100,000 despite the fact that the chairman had ruled that it had been defeated on a show of hands.

Unfortunately, however, a resolution calling on the NEC to endorse Pat Wall and Peter Tatchell was defeated.

Despite the fact that the Northern Region is the last bastion of the right wing there was little enthusiasm for a witch-hunt. The vast majority of party members were concerned more about fighting the Tories than expelling socialists from the party. This was reflected in



Consett workers demonstrate against the closure of the steelworks. The workers were defeated, and the lessons of this struggle must be learnt if the Shildon BREL workers are to be saved. Photo: Militant.

the quality of resolutions aimed at putting the Labour Party on the offensive.

Overwhelming support also came for the YTURC demands, and many trade union delegates pledged their support for the forthcoming LPYS/YOP demonstration in Newcastle on July 17.

With too much time allowed for the organisational session, by Sunday, time was running out and the chairman ruled that resolutions would be taken without debate. He also ruled that a resolution from COHSE should be dropped from the agenda completely. One of the demands of the resolution was for "nationalisation without compensation of all United Kingdom drug companies and foreign drug companies

with bases in the United Kingdom."

The dismay of the rank and file of the conference was summed up by the COHSE delegate who said, "We can't take much more, we must fight back now!" Unfortunately, the block vote of the big unions was swung behind the chairman's ruling—leaving many COHSE delegates angry and disillusioned.

The LPYS turned words into action at conference by making a collection of £144 for the Shildon Shop Stewards Committee fighting fund. We were also invited to speak at the Shop Stewards Committee meeting.

By Ed Waugh

(Northern Region LPYS Chairman)

## Prepare for Black Youth conference

By Kevin Fernandes

(London YS Regional Committee)

With only four weeks to go, activity is now building up for the LPYS Black Youth Conference on 3-4 July in Birmingham. LPYS branches are visiting factories, depots, YOP schemes, youth clubs and FE colleges to gain support for the conference.

Trade union branches and shop stewards' committees are being asked to sponsor delegates and give finance to subsidise transport.

There will no doubt be great sympathy for the conference among NUPE workers now in dispute. LPYS members on the picket lines and demonstrations should make a point of asking NUPE members to attend as delegates.

Every YS branch which is sending a delegation should have by now organised transport to Birmingham (to arrive by 11.30 am on Saturday 3 July).

On the Saturday the conference will start with a rally with leading black, LPYS and labour movement speakers. The rally will then split up into three parts—a meeting titled 'Third World in Crisis' with speakers from international workers' groups; a film show and discussion (the films are 'Blacks Britannica and 'Blood ah goh run'); and thirdly a discussion on 'How to fight discrimination'. There'll be cultural and social activities on Saturday night.

Sunday will start with fraternal greetings from black organisations and individuals, including Anwar Ditta and the New Cross Massacre Action Committee. The conference will then divide up into about five or six different discussion groups, taking up issues such as unemploy-

ment, youth training, education, the Labour Party and trade unions, problems of women, racial attacks and the police.

There will be a closing rally to bring together the ideas raised in the discussions and prepare a campaign to win decent conditions and lasting changes for black workers and youth.

Every LPYS branch in an area with a black population should be building support for the conference. For further details write to: Black Youth Conference, Andy Bevan, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.

### Sam Bond of Croydon LPYS explains why he will attend the Black Youth Conference.

I work on an adventure playground in Southwark, South London. The kids, black and white, are aged 7-17. It's a sign of the times that the kids over 16 are using the site, they're unemployed with nowhere to go.

The kids are frustrated by the lack of opportunities, the countless refusals, the rigid playground rules and regulations that only cater for younger kids—issued from above by an authoritarian Borough Play Officer, and the site often erupts into violence against the staff.

This disaffection with society and its rules soon spreads downwards, there is a very high rate of truancy from schools. The useless CSEs and quality of education are preparation for what? Where are the jobs?

They have no faith in the YOP schemes but these are now becoming a last chance. Their dole money, eaten by inflation, is quickly spent.

Thus there is a lot of truly petty crime, which added to their bad school records, paints an even worse chance of future employment. The boredom and frustration have led to glue sniffing and weed smoking in order to get high and forget life's problems.

Yet many of them hope and desire to do better and make something of themselves. But all this appears dashed all round.

Successive governments have left them at the bottom of the pile as an unskilled or semi-skilled workforce of cheap labour, but now has nothing to offer them.

That is why many of them will be coming to Birmingham. A black youth conference, by the youth for the youth. To meet fellow working class blacks. To hear bold, sincere socialist ideas as opposed to the politically corrupt, opportunistic leadership of the many organisations that claim to represent them.

It's no use just cataloguing their injustices, they feel, know and live them!

We will be giving a way out with militant ideas, why events occur and that they are not hopeless in society.

But most important a programme, an organisation and the ideas to take themselves and the white working class forward. █



### Mr Average meets the Pope

Miles Francis Stapleton, 17th Duke of Norfolk, Baron Maltravers, Baron Fitz Alan, Clun and Oswaldstre, Earl Marshal and Hereditary Marshal and Chief Butler of England, Premier Duke and Earl, is as rich as his title is ridiculously long.

He has no job (this feudal relic may be called a Chief Butler but he never actually butties). Nonetheless he has four residences, a house in Mayfair, Arundel Castle in Sussex, Bacres near Henley on Thames and a modest medieval mansion in Yorkshire with its own chapel, where the Duke says he "likes to live the life of a humble Benedictine monk!"

His only real concession to humility seems to be his refusal to use taxis in London, where he travels by tube on his old age pensioners card. It is presumably his experience in enduring the cuts which the Tories and London Transport have imposed that has led to him being presented to the Pope as "typical" of the Roman Catholic laymen of England!

### Polo—it costs you a mint.

Claire Tomlinson was the first woman to play in High Goal Polo tournaments, allegedly the elite of polo games (though what the poor end of polo is, no one knows). With her husband and two friends she trains and rides her own polo team, owning at least 50 horses. Trained polo ponies are worth £4000 or so according to experts.

The family home is a 280 acre dairy farm with the Prince and Princess of Wales as neighbours. The Tomlinson's estate has four cottages and staff flat so horses can be "taken home and tucked up for the night" by minions while she can go to a plush meal after a tiring game. She likes to "hunt a bit with the Beaufort". But she told the *Sunday Times* that she is "very keen to dispel the notion that polo is a sport for the privileged—it is certainly no more expensive than water-skiing or boat racing. I am sure a lot of people can do it." All you need is a 280 acre estate with four cottages...

### Poisoned profits

When President Reagan's government decided to spend \$46.7 million on new chemical weapons, they advertised, like the good free market adherents they are, in the *Commercial Business Daily* for the right company to make them. One of the contracts was for a nerve gas, methyl Phosphonyl dichloride, which like all poison gasses is supposedly outlawed under the 1925 Geneva Protocol. It causes uncontrollable vomiting and defecation followed by the collapse of the diaphragm and asphyxiation. It also may cause severe psychiatric disorders in non-fatal doses.

The biggest companies rejected the deal, but not for "moral" reasons. Dow Chemicals, who made the defoliant Agent Orange say they did not make sufficient profit out of that and they "barely broke even" on napalm.

The firms who did show interest are not publicly quoted on the stock exchanges. So they won't have any problems with protesters buying shares and raising problems at shareholders' meetings, and will be less effected if protesters organise boycotts. They will then be in on the ground floor of what is, despite the moans of Dow Chemicals, a disgusting but very profitable business.

### 150 YEARS AGO

This week in 1832 saw the passing of the Reform Bill, which gave the vote to the industrialists. They used the fear of revolution from below to frighten the aristocracy into giving concessions. One month before, on 1 May, 'The Times' had warned those opposing the Bill, that their opposition would arouse enormous response: "Will the people submit? Already they exclaim on every side, give us this Bill, or we will have more than the Bill."

It went on to compare the feelings in the country with that existing during the downfall of Charles I, the French Revolution and American Revolution: "For the first step proposed by the Anti-reformers would, under the actual temper of the people of England, be a headlong plunge into revolution."

# TRADE COUNCILS

## The biggest Challenge since General Strike

We would probably need to look back to 1926 to find a time when the trades councils were more important than today.

This must certainly be the most hostile government the unions have faced since the General Strike, hitting out at union rights with Tebbit's Bill and at jobs and wages through mass unemployment which has also caused a drop in union membership.

The Trades Council Conference in Bournemouth meets at a time when trades councils are being asked by the TUC to play an increasingly important role in organising the fight against the government in the different localities.

The trades councils with their potential for forging links with workers in all trade unions and all workplaces (and increasingly

### By Ann Jones

(President, Brighton, Hove and District Trade Union Council, and TC conference delegate)

with the unemployed as well) are essential organisations. In recent years they have been involved in organising the 14 May Day of Action in 1980 and the Peoples March last year.

We are now being asked to organise the first public activities against the Tebbit Bill, planned for 10 June, which involve a leafletting campaign and public meetings in all areas of the country.

This is a welcome first step for the TUC, but more action is needed. Resolution 3 from Merseyside, calling for the next government to repeal these laws, and for industrial action to defeat the Bill should be supported. This call must go out from conference to the whole trade union movement.

Other major debates will be around Resolution 7 from West Yorkshire calling for a socialist planned economy and Resolution 11 from Sussex on the privatisation of council services. There will also be debates around the abuse of youth labour on YOP schemes from Clwyd.

Some resolutions are less clear as to the way forward. Resolution 8 from Oxford, aware of the catastrophic decline in British industry, instructs the next Labour government to invest substantial amounts in modern technology.

### No to import controls

The next logical step would be a call for public ownership, but the resolution calls for a profits tax. With the capitalists still in charge of industry, this would lead either to a stubborn refusal by the bosses to invest or an outright campaign to sabotage any such legislation.

Similarly Oxford's de-

mand for selective import controls would see the labour movement join hands with the right-wing Tories and sections of the bosses to stop imports. These Tory supporters of import controls are no friends of ours and there would be no guarantee that protection would lead to investment and modernisation, only to price rises and likely retaliation by other capitalist countries.

The only way to protect our jobs and living standards is through independent working class action against the Tories and their system and for socialist policies. More and more the trades councils see the need to become local organisers against Tory plans.

The health workers' dispute shows that joint trade union activity is the way to take on this government. The trades councils must rekindle the flame that gave them such a vital role in 1926 and in 1971 when they mobilised to defeat the Heath government's Industrial Relations Act.

## NORTHERN IRELAND



On the march for the 12% in Belfast, 19 May.

## CLASS UNITY IN HOSPITALS

The 19 May strikes against the 4% "offer" to NHS workers had some of their strongest support in Northern Ireland.

The overwhelming success shows clearly how workers from both Protestant and Catholic areas can be unified in class action.

It was a solid strike throughout Northern Ireland. Hospitals closed across the province, with pickets on every hospital entry and only emergency ser-

vice provided.

Rallies were held in Belfast, Derry and Newry, with almost 3,000 in attendance in Belfast. The action was well organised and coordinated by joint shop stewards committees set up during the course of the dispute.

These committees have special significance in Northern Ireland, cutting across the religious divide and working together on a united class basis.

Workers from the Falls Road in the mainly Catholic area met up with workers from the City Hospital and the Musgrave Hospital from the mainly Protestant South Belfast area in the

centre of the city, chanting the same slogans.

Domestic workers from the Mater hospital told us they haven't even got a cloakroom and have to carry their purses with them all day, change under their overalls in the corridors and use the public toilets on the ground floor.

Most workers in Northern Ireland are determined to hold out for the 12% as 4% means an actual cut of 7% in real wages. One catering assistant told me how she has to work a six day week to take home a miserable £53.

The Labour and Trade Union Group, the only non-sectarian socialist group in

Northern Ireland visited all picket lines in all the areas of the city, giving out thousands of leaflets supporting the health workers and holding a very successful public meeting.

Micky Duffy, a 'Militant' supporter on the joint shop stewards committee in North West Belfast pointed out at the meeting the need for a political expression for the workers of Northern Ireland, a Labour Party, to fight for workers' interests.

175 copies of 'Militant Irish Monthly' were sold in all areas of the city.

By Lucy McShane

# Women's Festival

## WOMEN'S NATIONAL FESTIVAL

### LONDON, SATURDAY 5 JUNE

Demonstration to Festival  
leaves County Hall, 10.30 am  
Festival (organised by Labour Party)  
at Battersea Park



## How Lee Jeans workers won

**‘When management told us the factory was to close, we were stunned.**

We met and put forward proposals that were rejected the following week. Management were adamant the factory was to close—but we decided there and then, no way were we accepting it, so we refused to leave the factory and began to “sit-in”.

We barricaded the doors and settled down—we were a bit bewildered but determined not to be moved; as far as I was concerned they would have to carry me out physically. As well as having the worry about our jobs and just how the occupation would end, we also had to worry about our husbands and families, boyfriends—but really they were great, they were right behind us from the word go.

We had no food and very little money, but within a few hours, a delegation of stewards came up from the Lower Clyde Yards with £20.

We had to send out to the nearest chip shop for 200 fish suppers; the owner thought we were pulling his leg! Relatives brought up blankets and flasks of soup and tea, and we settled down to our first night. We all had to sleep in the canteen with our heads resting on tables.

On the Monday we met with management again, only to be told to give in. We told them no way. We knew it was going to be a long struggle, so we elected a committee and set up a three shift system.

The support we got was

The victorious struggle by women workers in Lee Jeans to save their jobs caught the imagination of the whole labour movement. It took seven months to win, from the day when the management told the workers on 29th January, 1981 that the factory was closing the next week. For the 230 strong workforce the subsequent sit-in was their first experience of struggle. But they were quick to learn.

Flying pickets were sent out all over the country to raise money and support. Young girls, some only 16 or 17, who had never spoken at meetings before, addressed audiences of thousands; the enthusiastic response they got at last year's LPYS Conference was typical.

But it was not all roses. The Lee Jeans workforce had hoped that the threat to 5,000 jobs at the Talbot works, also in the West of Scotland, would lead to a joint struggle for jobs and build towards a general battle against redundancies. But the Talbot workforce voted to accept closure.

Other problems were the local MP and boredom. Many forms of entertainment were organised: sing songs, bingo, live groups a LPYS disco, Wild Cat Theatre Group. Everyone had a turn at visiting factories and going to meetings. And as the accompanying interview shows, given determined leadership and courage, workers will fight and win.

By John  
McLelland,  
(Govan Labour Party)



**NEW MILITANT  
PAMPHLET  
Price 25p from  
World Books  
1 Mentmore Terrace  
London E8 3PN  
(add 10p p&p)**

terrific, you just couldn't believe it. On the Monday the men from the yards brought up £500, collected at the week-end. They had set up an action committee and offered to arrange meetings with other trade unionists.

They organised a meeting of 300 stewards in Greenock so we could put our case. And they arranged to get our sit-in covered in the press. Later on, we were getting £2,500 a week from the Lower Clyde Yards and the stewards had a 50p levy on their members.

We had letters and money flooding in from all over the country. When Jimmy Milne from the Scottish TUC was up at the factory and we thanked him for his support, he said 'you don't thank me—we thank you for showing us how to fight'

When Talbot workers voted to accept closure we were disappointed as we hoped they would do the same as us—I think they would have fought. If they did they would have won. But maybe it was the redundancy pay—maybe they felt they could not win”.

We always had the problem of boredom and keeping up morale, that was the most difficult problem, continually having to convince each other that they could not win.

(Another set back was the attitude of the local Labour MP Dickson Mabon, who has now joined the SDP.) That wee rat, he only stood for Labour until he was exposed. He did us a favour in leaving; now we know where we stand with him.

He never even appeared at the factory until three weeks after we began the sit-in, he never did a thing for us. As far as we were concerned he was just using the Labour Party.

The sit-in ended on the 26th August and by the 22nd September we were back at work. Our old manager knew we were a good workforce and now we have orders in and will be taking on more staff.

It was worth fighting for. On the first day, back at work, I'll never forget it, to see the girls faces it's hard to explain the feeling. We fought and we had won, we saved our jobs.

And I would say to anybody in the same situation, they should fight for their jobs when school day it's all worthwhile. Whether we won or lost we were going out fighting”.

Helen Monaghan,  
Convenor, Lee  
Jeans spoke to  
John McLelland,  
Govan Labour  
Party

## Fight to save jobs

Even if the Falklands has taken our minds off what Thatcher has done to working class families, we soon remember when we go to the shops, wait for the bus or go to work.

You hear comments all the time like, “I'll have to wait for the family allowance to get the kids' shoes (if you are lucky enough to be able to get shoes out of one week's family allowance!). These are the ‘luxuries’ that women go to work for. One-third of families would get less than £60 a week if women did not work.

75% of the NHS workforce are women, making it the single biggest employer of women. But in the interests of profit, our jobs, our health and welfare is being sacrificed to Maggie's spending cuts and NHS resources plundered for the benefit of BUPA's private schemes.

By 1986 in London alone, Tory plans would mean 12,000 fewer nurses and 9,000 fewer ancillary staff. In 1979 BUPA made a 31% return on profit—not bad for a “non-profit making” body! Nurses and NHS workers are denied a 12% rise, never mind a 31% increase!

It's too easy for the jobs of part-time cleaners, ancillaries, teachers and student nurses to disappear. In Dorset 800 dinner ladies lost their jobs when school meals were done away with. Kent are now trying to do the same and meeting fierce resistance.

The bosses think that women, especially part-timers, can be picked on. Women workers in the NHS in the winter of discontent and in the current pay claim have disproved the myth that you can't get women involved in the unions.

But the trade union movement has to ensure women are fully involved. It's harder for women—that's why the unions have got to make sure we get the time off to do our union duties, ensure creches at meetings and conferences.

Women mostly look after children, the sick and the elderly because of their traditional role in society—and doesn't it suit the bosses

who would rather spend £13,000 million on the military than on free social services, nurseries, geriatric care and a national health service. These are the things we need more of, not less of. Cuts make it harder for us to find work, keep up a job and keep up with a family.

So most important of all, unions must fight not only to save jobs, but for a programme of useful public works to create employment. As Tony Benn says if you can requisition ships for war, why can't you requisition resources and factories to provide jobs, education, hospitals, nurseries and social services?

### Socialist programme of action to link up struggles

This is the way forward:

- A job for all those who wish to work.
- No redundancies.
- No selling of jobs.
- Full support for all workers fighting to defend their jobs, their industry or their services.
- A 35-hour week with no loss of pay.
- Nursery and child provision as a right.
- Crash programme of socially useful works.
- Tories out!
- Labour to power on a socialist programme!

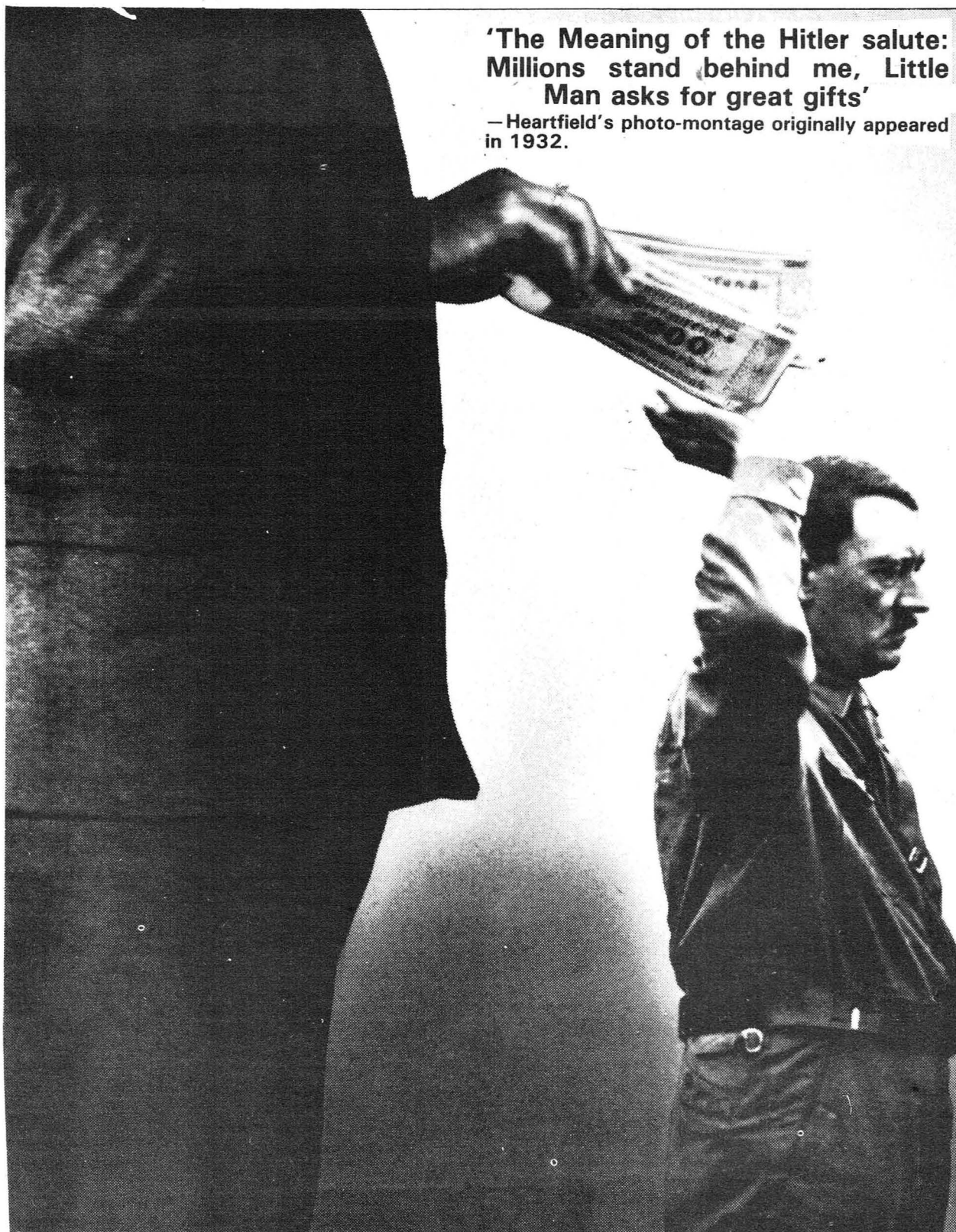
With new technology we could very quickly have 30 hours, or even 20 hours, and then we could get rid of many boring, so-called ‘women's jobs’ and free us to learn skills, and do the sort of work and have the sort of education most of us have never had a chance to do.

We must take our part in a struggle through the trade unions and the Labour Party to establish a socialist plan of production, not solely for women's sake, but to benefit all our class. Make sure you come to this weekend's rally—as a first step to mobilising to kick Thatcher out!

By Lesley Holt  
(Kirkdale LP, Liverpool  
Women's Council)

**'The Meaning of the Hitler salute:  
Millions stand behind me, Little  
Man asks for great gifts'**

—Heartfield's photo-montage originally appeared  
in 1932.



The reprinting of this article (originally written in 1948) provides a timely reminder of the double standards, hypocrisy and lies peddled by the ruling class and its representatives.

This particularly applies with the Tories claiming that the war over the Falkland Islands is in defence of democracy and freedom. In a similar way they claim that this was the issue which led to the Second World War.

In reality, however, the war was fought not to defend democracy but to defend the interests of Britain's capitalist class. They simply used the masses' fear of fascism and their commitment to democratic rights to further the interests of capitalism.

The article clearly points out that the commitment of the Tories to democracy was only skin deep. As long as democracy maintained their economic and political interests they were prepared to extol its virtues. But if their interests had been threatened by the workers' movement then it is clear that democracy would have been discarded.

In such a situation the capitalist class would have been forced to hand power to the Fascists who would then have smashed all democratic rights and organisations.

Once Hitler came to power in Germany the British ruling class leaned over backwards to placate the Nazis, by providing financial assistance and rearming Germany. Failing in appeasement and with Britain's

world markets, raw materials and profits at risk they were finally forced into war.

Although the war in the Falkland Islands is not on the same scale, and will not lead to world war, the parallels are obvious. Just as initially it helped to appease Hitler so with Argentina, prior to the war the ruling class made no criticism of the Junta.

On the contrary, leading Tories were fulsome in their praise that the Junta was following the same monetarist policies as in Britain. Similarly, Britain played a leading role, together with West Germany, in arming and training Argentinas forces.

Even the disappearance of over 20,000 people was not previously sufficient to move the Tories. Big business has been only too keen to lend the Junta money and do trade with them.

Now this has all changed. Once again the old slogans of freedom and democracy have been brought out and dusted down. But how can any trust be put in a party which is trying to take away democratic rights in Britain—through the introduction of the Employment Bill—and then proclaims that it is fighting for "democracy" 8,000 miles away? In reality, the war is over material interests and the prestige of two capitalist classes.

These historical examples and the current events make it clear that in a class divided society it is impossible to place any faith or trust in pious phrases from the capitalist class and their representatives.

## FROM 'MENACE OF FASCISM' BY TED GRANT

**Only two years after the war allegedly fought to destroy fascism the British fascists have commenced to regroup their forces.**

Throughout the country cautiously and unobtrusively at first, but more and more boldly, the fascists have come into the open.

At first they emerged as local and separate organisations and adopted a host of names for reasons of expediency. The aim was clearly to prepare for unification at a later stage.

Among the most important of these were the British League of Ex-Servicemen and Women, Mosley's Book Club and Discussion Group, the Union of British Freedom, the Sons of St George (Derby), the Imperial Defence League (Manchester), the British Workers' Party of National Unity (Bristol), the Corporate Club (a stu-

dent group at Oxford University).

These organisations are not short of money. Before the war, the British Union of Fascists (BUF) had extensive funds at its disposal. The fascists had intimate links with big business. Mosley boasted that he had spent £96,000 of his own personal fortune "in support of my beliefs during my political life." On two occasions, Mosley married into millionaire families.

In 1920 he married Lady Cynthia Curzon, a daughter of the late Marquis Curzon of Kedleston and a grand

daughter of Levi Zeigler Leiter a Jewish Chicago millionaire. Lady Cynthia inherited £28,000 a year from her own family (there are two children of this marriage). After the death of his first wife, a few years prior to the war, Mosley married again. This time, into the Guinness millions. His wife is the sister of the notorious Unity Mitford friend of Hitler.

In the early days of the fascist movement, Mosley was enthusiastically backed by a number of prominent capitalist and military figures. True, later when

# When Fa big bus

Mosley became discredited and it was clear the the movement was not timely, many of them dropped away or fell into the background.

Apart from the open members of the Fascist Party, a powerful club composed of members of the ruling class was formed to back the blackshirts. In a pamphlet entitled "Who Backs Mosley" published by Labour Research, some enlightening facts were revealed:

**"On New Years day 1934, was formed the January Club whose object is to form a solid Blackshirt front. The chairman Sir John Squire, editor of the London Mercury said that it was not a fascist organisation but admitted that "the members, who belonged to all political parties, were for the most part in sympathy with the fascist movement." (The Times 22 March 1934).**

The January Club held its dinners at the Savoy and the Hotel Splendide. The Tatler shows pictures of the club assemblies, distinguished by evening dress, wines, flowers and a general air of luxury. The leader is enjoying himself among his own class..."

Among the members of the Club were:

Colonel Lord Middleton a director of the Yorkshire Insurance Co., Malton Investment Trust, British Coal Refining Processes Ltd., and three other companies. He owns about 15,000 acres of land and minerals in Nottinghamshire.

General Sir Hubert de la Poer Gough, GCMG, KCB, KCVO, Commander of the Fifth Army 1916-18 and Chief of the Allied Mission to the Baltic 1919 (Russian intervention), now director of Siemens Bros., Caxton Electric Development Ltd., Enfield Rolling Mills and two other companies.

Air Commodore Chamier, CB, CMG, OBE, DSO, late Indian Army. Now aviation consultant and agent to and lately director of Vickers Aviation Ltd.

Vincent C Vickers, director of the London Assurance Corporation and a large shareholder in Vickers Ltd.

Lord Lloyd, former Governor of Bombay...

The Earl of Glasgow, Privy Councillor, brother in law to Sir Thomas Inskip, the Attorney General, who was responsible for the Sedition Bill in the House of Commons. The Earl owns Kelburn Castle Ayrshire and about 2,500 acres.

Major Nathan, Liberal MP for NE Bethnal Green...a member of the Jewish Agency under the mandate for Palestine... Chairman of the Anglo-Chinese Finance and Trade Corporation.

Ward Price, special correspondent to the *Daily Mail* and director of

Associated Newspapers and British Movietone News.

Wing Commander Sir Louis Greig, KBE, CBO, RAF, partner in J and H Scrimageour, stockbrokers, director of Handley Page Ltd., and an insurance company and Gentleman Usher in Ordinary to the King.

Lady Ravendale, Baroness, sister-in-law to Mosley and grand daughter of Levi Leiter.

Count and Countess Paul Munster.

Major Metcalfe, MVO, MC, brother-in-law of Lady Cynthia Mosley and Lady Ravendale, late aide-de-camp to the Prince of Wales and the Commander in Chief in India.

Sir Philip Magnus, Bart, a leading Conservative.

Sir Charles Petrie...

Hon J F Rennel Rodd, heir to Baron Rennell and a partner in Morgan Grenfell & Co.

Ralph D Blumenfeld, Chairman of the *Daily Express*, formerly editor. He was once editor of the *Daily Mail*. He is the founder of the Anti-Socialist Union and a member of its Executive Committee.

It is significant that among the early supporters of Mosley are named a number of wealthy Jews. This was before Mosley adopted anti-semitism as an indispensable means of rallying ignorant and backward supporters.

Mosley had the financial backing of fascists abroad. He received a subsidy of £60,000 a year from Mussolini. This has been confirmed by the discovery of documents in the archives in Rome dated 1935 and was revealed by Chuter Ede, the Home Secretary in the House of Commons.

Mosley paid visits to Hitler and Mussolini and was in close touch with the Nazi leaders.

With the outbreak of war, the Mosley movement declined. Like other fascist movements in Europe, the BUF became an agent of German imperialism on whose victory they banked to assure their future. The British capitalists at war with German imperialism had no use for the fascists and were compelled to illegalise them as part of the ideological 'war against fascism'.

But Mosley was well protected in prison and pampered with many of the comforts to which he was accustomed, including the best food, furniture and servants. As one of their class who had perhaps ventured too early, the British capitalists treated him solicitously with an eye to the future.

## ARE THE BRITISH CAPITALISTS ANTI-FASCIST?

The British capitalist class fought the war, not because they opposed



# Fascism was backed by business and the Tories

fascism and what it represents, but in a desperate struggle against rival imperialisms for world markets, for sources of raw material—for profit. Their victory has not brought and will not bring the end of fascism.

Throughout the world, the British ruling class has supported fascism and reaction against the progressive movements of the working class. Let us take a few examples.

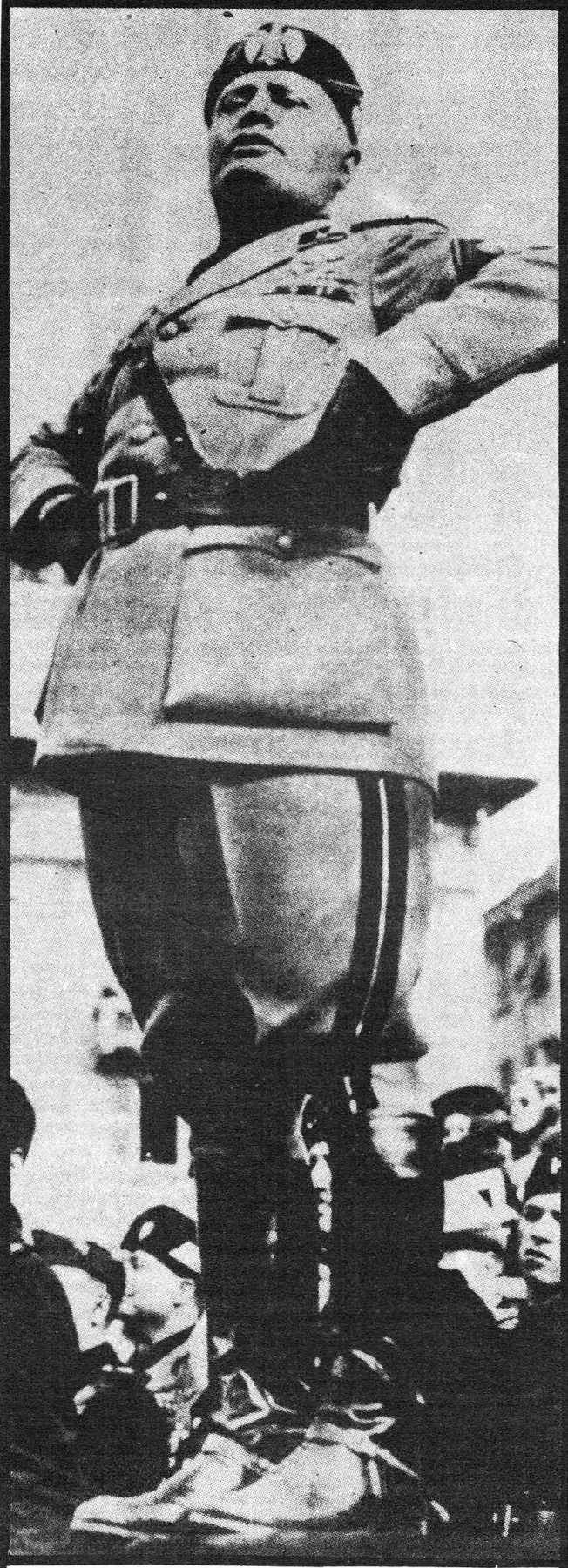
When Mussolini was subjecting the Italian working class to his castor oil 'treatments' and other bestial tortures, Churchill became deeply impressed with his "gentle and simple bearing". Speaking in Rome on 20 January 1927, Churchill found only praise for the fascists:

"I could not help being charmed, like so many other people have been, by Signor Mussolini's gentle and simple bearing and by his calm detached poise in spite of so many burdens and dangers. Secondly, anyone could see that he thought of nothing but the lasting good as he understood it, of the Italian people, and that no lesser interest was of the slightest consequence to him.

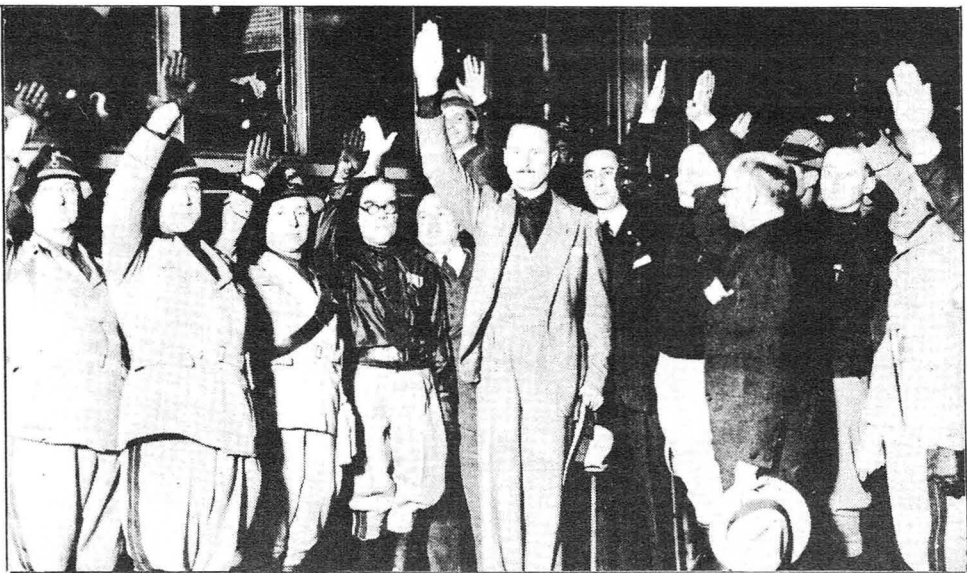
"If I had been an Italian I am sure that I should have been wholeheartedly with you from start to finish in your triumphant struggle against the bestial appetites and passions of Leninism. I will, however, say a word on an international aspect of Fascism.

"Externally, your movement has rendered service to the whole world. The great fear which has always beset every democratic leader or a working class leader has been that of being undermined by someone more extreme than he.

"Italy has shown that there is a way of fighting the subversive forces which can rally the masses of the people, properly led, to value and wish to defend the honour and stability of civilised society. She has provided the necessary antidote to the Russian poison. Hereafter no great



Below: Mosley and supporters Above: Italian Fascist dictator Mussolini



nation will be unprovided with an ultimate means of protection against the cancerous growth of Bolshevism."

Here the outspoken mouthpiece of British capitalism clearly indicates that in the last resort, faced with the revolutionary working class, the 'nation' (the capitalists) will not be 'unprovided'; it will always be able to imitate Mussolini and adopt the fascist method of rule over the workers.

In the struggle of China against Japanese imperialism, the British backed Japan because they saw in her victory a bulwark against the rising struggles of the masses of Asia. Mr L S Amery, then Secretary of State for India, a position which he held right up till 1945, said on 27 February 1933 in the House of Commons:

"I confess that I see no reason whatever why, either in act or in word, or in sympathy, we should go individually or intentionally against Japan in this matter. Japan has got a very powerful case based upon fundamental realities...

"Who is there among us to cast the first stone and to say Japan ought not to have acted with the object of creating peace and order in Manchuria and defending himself against the continual aggression of vigorous Chinese nationalism?"

"Our whole policy in India, our whole policy in Egypt, stand condemned if we condemn Japan."

The Nazis were aided and financed by the British ruling class. Hitler received the inqualified approval and support of British big business. Lloyd George the 'Liberal' described Hitler as a 'bulwark' against Bolshevism. As early as February 1934 the British government published a memorandum which allowed for an immediate increase in all German arms.

"The German claim to equality of rights in the matter of arms cannot be resisted and ought not to be resisted. You will have to face rearmament of Germany," declared the British

Foreign Secretary, Sir John Simon, on 6 February 1934.

Export to Germany of unwrought nickel, cotton waste, the basis for gun cotton, aircraft and tanks rose tremendously. When asked in March 1934 if Vickers Ltd were engaged in rearming of Hitler's Germany, its chairman replied:

"I cannot give an assurance in definite terms, but I can tell you nothing is being done without the complete sanction of our own government." (Henry Owen in 'War is Terribly Profitable').

"The British capitalist class fought the war, not because they opposed fascism...but in desperate struggle against rival imperialisms for world markets, for sources of raw materials — for profit."

The big financiers and bankers openly advocated a policy of support and assistance for Hitler. A short time after he came to power the Governor of the Bank of England declared that loans to Hitler were justified as "an investment against Bolshevism".

Large loans were given to Hitler. His occupation of the Rhineland, the rearmament of Germany, the *Anschluss* with Austria, the seizure of Czechoslovakia—all were supported by British capitalism. The reason: they feared a Nazi collapse and what might replace it.

Just before the war, the British, through R S Hudson, then Secretary of the Department of Overseas Trade, made an offer of a loan of a thousand million pounds to conciliate the Nazis and prevent them from expanding at the expense of British imperialism while remaining a bastion against the German workers and against the working class throughout Europe.

Churchill looked upon the Nazis with unbounded approval in the 1939 edition 'Great Contemporaries', Winston Churchill wrote about Hitler's rise to power:

"The story of that struggle cannot be read without admiration for the courage, the perseverance, the vital force which enabled him to challenge, defy, conciliate, or overcome all authorities or resistance which barred his path...I have always said that if Great Britain were defeated in war, I hoped that we should find a Hitler to lead us back to our rightful position among the nations."\*

Lord Beaverbrook, writing in the *Daily Express* on 31 October 1938 said:

"We certainly credit Hitler with honesty and sincerity. We believe in his purpose stated over and over again to seek an accommodation with us, and we accept to the full the implication of the Munich document."

This, of course, did not prevent him from holding ministerial office in the Coalition government in the 'war against fascism'.

In the Spanish civil war, the British capitalists were in sympathy with Franco. Under the cover of so-called 'non-intervention' they assisted him to crush the Republic.

No reactionary anti-working class movement went unsupported and unaided by British capitalism. Only when the Nazis encroached on their preserves they declared war in the name of 'anti-fascism'.

But when the needs of their class are such that fascism becomes necessary, they will just as readily turn to Mosley or some other fascist adventurer, just as the German capitalists turned to Hitler and the Italians to Mussolini. Today the fascists are not necessary for the defence of their profits. But tomorrow...

\*The same book by Churchill contains a venomous attack on Trotsky, who earns his bitter hatred, as builder of the Red Army and one of the leaders of the October revolution.

## USEFUL READING ON FASCISM AND MILITARY DICTATORSHIP

The struggle against Fascism in Germany—Trotsky, £4.50  
Fascism—what it is and how to fight it—Trotsky, 75p  
Fascism and big business—Guerin, £4.00  
Menace of fascism—Grant, 50p  
Lessons of Chile—Militant pamphlet, 65p

All available from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN (prices include p&tp)

# PORTUGAL

## New wave of militancy

**"Long live the General Strike of the 12th February!"** was the slogan plastered throughout Portugal.

Huge banners decorated the docks and large factories proclaiming the General Strike. Managements, afraid of antagonising the militant workforce, were unable to remove them from the factory gates.

The defiant banners symbolised the new militancy in Portugal. The strike—the first national general strike in Portuguese history—has enormously increased the self-confidence of the working class.

Determined to struggle against the attacks of the right-wing coalition government of Francisco Pinto Balsemao, the strike was rock solid in the factories. Called by the 1,600,000 strong CGTP trade union Federation, under the pressure from the rank and file, the 24-hour stoppage registered a 60-90% success.

All along Lisbon's industrial belt, factories ranging from the shipyards to soap manufacturers and armaments came out to a man. The Federation itself claimed that 2½ million members struck, out of a total workforce of 3½ million!

### Socialist programme of action to link up struggles

The mood of the workers hardened as visored police, armed with shields and riot batons, clashed with strikers in Lisbon's central square. Hoping to break the strike, the government hired 500 taxis and 400 buses in an attempt to keep the transport system going in Lisbon—in vain.

The February General Strike was the culmination of a prolonged strike wave affecting all sectors. Recently, strikes had broken out involving train drivers, transport workers, tobacco workers, dockers, port pilots, stevedores, and merchant seamen.

Again on 11 May a one-day general strike took place in protest over the deaths of two young workers and those injured on May Day when riot police opened fire on a demonstration in Oporto. The mood in the factories reached boiling point. The strike once again led to clashes with police.

### New stage in the revolution

After a temporary lull, with the capitalists attempting to roll back the gains of 1974/5, these general strikes

By Rob Sewell

are opening a new stage in the Portuguese Revolution. Aimed to defend the workers' interests and oust the right-wing coalition from power, they have assumed a direct political character. They are a continuation of the mass demonstrations of last December against the Government's wages ceiling, but on a far higher level.

Since the 1974 Revolution and the large scale nationalisations of March 1975, the capitalists have been successful in eroding many of the gains made. **The blame for this must rest with the labour leaders who have failed to mobilise the movement for the complete transformation of society. Now, however, the tide is definitely beginning to turn.**

Portuguese capitalism is in dire straits. The jacking up of prices and charges has pushed inflation up to around 25%. In February alone prices rose by 3%. In April, Balsemao introduced a 30% increase in bread prices. One pound of beef costs five times its pre-revolutionary price, and potatoes and other vegetables ten times!

The workers' militancy has grown as wages are pegged to a 17% ceiling. Wages are the lowest in Western Europe and are 33% lower than those of the Spanish workers!

As the *Economist* (24/10/81) commented: "A big attraction for foreign investors is Portugal's low wage costs, by far the lowest in Western Europe...Real wages fell steadily from 1976 to 1979, even though the GDP was growing at around 4% per year. Labour's share of national income is now down to around 55% (in 1976 it was about 65%—RS)."

Something like 25% of the workforce are either unemployed or semi-unemployed. The worsening economic crisis will mean further austerity



The February general strike, the first in Portuguese history, has enormously increased the confidence of the working class.

measures against the working class.

Overall growth is down to 1.5%, the lowest since 1974. With industrial production stagnant, and a fall in agricultural production by 8%, the coalition government has been forced to borrow, resulting in a foreign debt of \$10 billion—equal to half the Gross National Product!

### Government on the rocks

The crisis has resulted in enormous political instability. The present government is the 14th since April 1974. The capitalists look with absolute hatred at the extensive nationalisation carried out in March 1975. Ever since then, a series of right wing governments have eroded the gains of the Revolution, but have not been able to go all the way.

Recently the President of the Confederation of Portuguese Industry, Ferraz de Costa, blamed the ills of the economy on the events of 1974 and demanded firmer action from the government. Yet they are frightened by the strength and resilience of the working class, an astonishing 83% of whom are trade union organised! Thus the moves towards counter-revolution

over the past six years have been painfully slow.

*The Times* (26/4/82), in a sober assessment on the 8th Anniversary of the Revolution, wrote: "In spite of all the disillusionment over the revolution there are no signs that the mass of ordinary Portuguese would wish to go back to things before April 1974." The capitalists are still forced to bide their time.

In the meantime the right wing Democratic Alliance government made up of Social Democrats, Centre Democrats and Monarchists, is on the rocks. Split by internal bickering and squabbles, it has become more impotent with the rising militancy of the working class.

First the Socialist Party and then the Communist Party introduced censure motions in parliament throughout March and April in an attempt to topple the government. The recent strike wave has shaken it to its foundations.

Attempting to rally the right-wing, Balsemao has placed high hopes on drastically amending the radical Constitution of 1976 which sanctioned the gains of the Revolution.

The Constitution, framed in the period after 60% of the economy was nationalis-

ed, states (article 273) that it is the duty of the armed forces to "secure the continuation of the revolution" and "ensure the conditions under which Portuguese society may effect a peaceful and pluralist transition to democracy and Socialism."

A 'watchdog' "Council of the Revolution," staffed by left officers, was established to safeguard the Constitution. It has repeatedly blocked attempts by the government to introduce "economic reforms."

With the move to the right the armed forces were purged and reduced from 100,000 to 35,000. Now, with the growing mass radicalisation, a left mood has begun to reappear. Colonel Melo Antunes, chairman of the Constitutional Committee of the Revolutionary Council, declared recently that the only way out for Portugal was a left government of socialists and communists.

The revolution also introduced very strict hire and fire laws, which has hampered attempts by big business to delcare redundancies. As the *Economist* (24/10/81) explained:

"Labour legislation is less attractive. Under the present law, workers cannot be fired. That law is under review, and planned legislation will allow more flexibility. Bosses will be able to fire workers who are: incompetent; alcoholics; chronic absentees; or [ominously] acting against the interests of their company or country." (My emphasis—RS)

However, this legislation has now been put off due to the increased tension on the shop floor!

The AD government has pledged itself to constitutional 'reform' but needs a two-thirds parliamentary majority to do so. It has managed to get the support of the right-wing Socialist Party leaders for the abolition of the 'Council.'

Yet the proposed changes have led the government in-

to conflict with President Eanes who sees it as a threat to his powers. Such was the rift that he threatened to resign, establish his own Presidential Party and stand for Prime Minister!

The friction between Eanes and the government illustrates the divisions in the ruling class over how best to deal with the situation. Eanes, an astute capitalist politician, realises the strength of the workers, and prefers to bend with the wind a little. He stands for caution as a head-on confrontation will make matters even worse.

In the past, each move towards reaction saw a counter-blow by the workers, which almost resulted in the overthrow of Portuguese capitalism in 1975. Even Balsemao has realised this up to a point: "The Government is in no hurry to return its own nationalised banks to private ownership. Denationalisation would cause a political row!" (*Economist*, 24/10/81).

### New elections likely

The new strike wave has raised the Labour Movement onto a higher level. In this critical situation a united front should be formed between the CGTP and the UGT trade union federations in a campaign to bring down the government.

As new elections appear increasingly likely, fresh layers will enter the workers' parties, above all the Socialist Party, to help defeat the capitalist opposition. A radicalised Socialist Party will demand from its leaders measures in the interests of the working class. Attempts to tinker with Portuguese capitalism will solve nothing, as was illustrated by the last Soares Government.

Despite the large scale nationalisation in March 1975, capitalism has managed to hold on to its power. Although the top ten companies are now state-owned, still more than half of industrial production remains in private hands.

A majority Socialist/Communist Government would have to nationalise the rest of the commanding heights of the economy and introduce workers' control and management. A national plan could then be drawn up using the full resources of the country for the benefit of the working people as a stepping stone to a Socialist Federation of the Iberian Peninsula.

Over the years, the Portuguese working class has proved its capacity for struggle. This qualitative change will inevitably reflect itself in the political field. Objective conditions are favourable for a rapid growth in the ideas of Marxism. The task that the Portuguese workers have before them is the transformation of their organisations into effective instruments capable of carrying through the socialist transformation of society.

Right wing governments tried to turn back reforms on the land.



# SPAIN Socialist Triumph in Andalucia

**The Andalucian regional elections on 23 May showed a massive swing to the PSOE (Socialist Party).**

With its share of the Andalucian vote rising from 33% in the 1979 general election to 52%, the PSOE now has an absolute majority of 66 seats in the 109 seat regional Parliament. Combined, the two workers' parties, the PSOE and the Communist Party, gained a crushing 60% of the vote, and 74 seats.

For the governing Union De Centro Democratico, the election was a disaster, its vote collapsing from 32% in 1979 to 14%. Significantly, it was pushed into third place by Manuel Fraga's right-wing Alianza Popular, which got 17% of the vote.

This was partly a result of the UCD government's

handling of local issues, in particular the issue of regional autonomy. But undoubtedly it also reflects the polarisation in Spanish society as the worsening crisis of capitalism exposes the inability of the "centre" UCD to solve a single one of the problems of working people.

In some parts of Andalusia, for example, the unemployment rate is 20%. Impoverishment is widespread, with sections of rural people living on the edge of starvation.

While the working people are demanding solutions, the Spanish Employers' Federation was vigorously campaigning for "more orderly government", i.e. backing Fraga's AP. Thus the UCD lost support to both left and right, putting a question mark over the future of the government as well as the UCD itself.

The Andalucian elections have been seen as a trial run

for the coming general election, expected in November. With one quarter of the national electorate, Andalusia is considered representative for the country as a whole.

The PSOE triumph was achieved despite the absence of a bold campaign by the party leadership. The result reflects the overwhelming desire for a break with the capitalists' policies of austerity and a reawakening militancy among broad sections of workers.

The right-wing PSOE leaders, however, are reluctant to find themselves placed in power on the crest of this popular movement. PSOE leader Felipe Gonzalez has even disclaimed the significance of the Andalucian elections, warning against "overemphasising their importance".

In a speech last year, Gonzalez explained that a Socialist government

should not be expected to carry out socialist policies. But regardless of the wishes of the PSOE leadership, all the signs are that the Spanish working class will vote a Socialist government into office and expect it to act in its interests.

With the likelihood of an absolute majority for the PSOE, this would eliminate any need for a coalition with the UCD, which the leadership would present as a reason for "moderation".

It would usher in a new period of intense struggles by the working class in which the opportunity will be there to deal the decrepit Spanish capitalist class a death blow and carry through the socialist transformation of society.

Activists in the PSOE and UGT will struggle to ensure that those opportunities are used.

By George Collins

# CLASS DIVISIONS SHARPEN IN SWEDEN

**It is now five and a half years since the SAP (Social-Democratic Workers Party) lost office after 43 years in government.**

Unfortunately for the capitalist coalition government, their taste of power has co-incided with the world economic downswing.

As a highly industrial country based on modern technology, the Swedish economy is heavily dependent on exports. So it has been severely affected by the present crisis.

In the past Sweden has always been near the top of the league of countries with high growth rates. But now it has been stagnant since 1974. Industrial production is now 30% below the level of 1976.

After 43 years of Social-Democratic rule, it would have been impossible for the new government to launch an immediate attack against the workers. As a result there have been enormous budget deficits, increasing from 3.6 billion Swedish Kroner to 80 billion during their period of office, representing 12% of the Gross National Product.

The employers' federation demanded change and it was they who launched the first attack. They offered a 0.0% increase in the 1980 wage negotiations.

This was a provocation and the union leaders were forced to fight. This led to the "Storkonflikten" (Big Conflict) in which some 750,000 workers were locked out and a further 250,000 called out.

This shocked the society. For 10 days we saw the real potential of working class power. The employers had to retreat.

The government was powerless to intervene. But a few months later we saw the first devaluation and a squeeze that took back the workers' gains.

The strike frightened the labour leaders even more than the employers, and they refused to take up the challenge of the government. In the 1981 wage negotiations the LO (blue-



Swedish workers march for jobs

collar TUC) accepted the worst deal in modern history. It meant a cut in real wages of 8%. They then forced the white-collar federations to agree as well.

The consequence was a feeling of betrayal among sections of union members, which contributed to the lull that followed in the class struggle.

The coalition followed this up with further social cuts. Two measures have caused special anger. The first increased the period before sick pay can be claimed from one day to three. The other reduced sick pay by 3%.

This has resulted in a storm of protest, petitions and 35 spontaneous strikes. The demand was raised for a 24-hour general strike.

The LO leaders understood that such a strike would get an enormous response. So after a period they rejected the call.

Other benefits have also been cut in real terms. Living standards are now in decline and the crisis is causing an increase in unemployment. 100,000 industrial jobs—one in ten—have been lost since 1976.

In the 1970's the unemployed could be taken up in the public sector. But now unemployment, already standing at 140,000 (3½%) is rising. Many more are on special schemes, in education or early retirement and it is estimated that the real jobless figure, taking these into account, could be as

high as 12%.

It is now predicted that unemployment could double by the end of the year. Only 10,000 of the 40,000 school leavers are expected to find jobs.

The election this September gives the Social-Democrats a clear opportunity to drive the capitalist coalition from office. If the opinion polls are to be believed, the Social-Democrats will have a majority.

The opinion polls show a polarisation in Swedish society. The two present coalition partners are losing ground, and the right-wing Conservatives and SAP are gaining.

If the SAP win the elections, however, it will not be because of the pro-

gramme they offer. Their answer is a "Crisis Programme" which threatens more hardship and sacrifice for the working class.

Profits must be raised, according to this programme, so that workers' standards of living can continue to rise in the future. Although nothing should stop the SAP winning in September, the Crisis Programme will lead to defeat in the future.

In return for sacrifices demanded in their programme they offer "Löntargarfonderna" (workers' funds). These funds would take a share of the profits plus 1% of pension contributions. This would then be used to buy into industry. Theoretically, it would be possible to own

major industries in 20—30 years. 'Theoretically' is right; in practice the idea of the working class taking over industry in this way is impossible.

This plan would be based on the market economy, when what is needed is a planned economy under democratic working-class control and management.

But even this mild measure has sent the capitalists into a frenzy. They understand that it will raise the workers' hopes and could mean bigger demands in future.

The right-wing Social Democratic leadership will not implement this reform. Sections of them are opposed to new coalition with their traditional partners, the Communist Party, but would rather form a coalition with the "centre" Liberal Party. This would push their policies even further to the right.

Instead of a "Crisis Programme" Swedish workers need a socialist programme. This would include restoring all cuts, a plan for employment, a shorter working week, index-linked wages and the nationalisation of the parasitical monopolies.

These are some of the measures we think should be campaigned for. Undoubtedly it would enthuse the working class and youth to vote and would result in a massive victory. More than this, it would provide an answer to the problems facing Swedish society.

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demand  
socialism**

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# Letters

IEWS? COMMENTS? EXPERIENCES?  
CRITICISM? WRITE ABOUT THEM TO

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## The other side of the bar (1)

Dear Comrades,

As a bar worker myself I was very interested in Pam Wrightson's article "The other side of the bar." The pub in which I work is in the town centre and on a weekend especially we all really earn our money.

When I asked my district manager if we got double pay for Good Friday I was told not to be so bloody mercenary and just enjoy working the holiday session. As customers flocked in at 10.30am and didn't leave until closing time it wasn't much of a holiday for the bar staff I can tell you! As it turned out the brewery accidentally paid us triple time and took it back the next week and as I had paid tax on a higher wage than normal, I actually ended up with less than if I had only been paid the normal rate.

We get stopped a half hour pay for our lunch break but, as there are customers in, we don't get anything near that time. We also have to pay 40p per day for the food which the brewery have got to by law supply us with.

When I asked for a pay rise [I also have three children to support plus a husband on the dole who receives the princely sum of

£45 per fortnight] I was told that it wouldn't be possible without putting beer prices up.

But last Friday a phone call from the brewery bosses put beer up 2p a pint, 1p a measure, and Guinness went up 4p! When I asked if this meant we were getting a pay rise all I got was a pained look and of course no mention of a rise.

People who work part-time in pubs are people on low incomes and who are afraid of losing their jobs if they stand up to the bosses. It is one thing to organise unions and strike in a big concern but in a pub with only a few staff it is one of the best examples where a boss meeting his workers daily face to face can so easily apply the tried and true bosses method of 'divide and rule'.

Not only are there part-time workers working for need but it's got to be said there are an awful lot of seasonal workers, students included, who know they haven't got to put up with the class attitudes and low pay forever so therefore "why bother?" Why create a hostile attitude or maybe lose their jobs when they're not going to be around to reap any benefits anyway?

So it is not only the bosses we have to fight but we have to fight to convince people that we have got to stick

together and fight for a fair living wage no matter what your trade.

We have got to show other workers that we all share a common aim and if we all stick together the only way we can go is forward.

Forward to socialism and a smashing of the crushing class system and a decent place to live and work for everyone.

Yours fraternally  
A Brighton 'Militant' supporter.

## The other side of the bar (2)

Dear Militant

After reading your article, 'The other side of the bar' (14.5.82), I feel I must express my agreement with all the points raised and add a few of my own.

I have worked as a barmaid on and off for the past nineteen years and in that time conditions have not improved much. At present I work part time in a working man's club. There are no contracts of employment and the 'customer is always right' rule applies. We are expected to and do take all kinds of abuse from customers. If we retaliate the customer can take us in

front of the committee who have the power to dismiss us on the spot.

My rate of pay is £1.51 per hour and I work 15½ hours a week. If I worked 16 hours I would be entitled to holiday pay, time and a half for overtime and several other benefits but although I have repeatedly asked for the extra half hour's work, I have been denied it for obvious reasons. I have been told, "barmaids are ten a penny" so they can be easily replaced. I do not work for 'pin money'. Without my wage we could not manage as my husband is on a low wage (we have three children).

To my knowledge the majority of barmaids are not trade union members due to isolation and the length of the 'invisible' dole queue. Lots of barmaids are in the same position as myself which makes it difficult for us to organise ourselves and join a trade union for fear of losing our jobs.

I feel that part-time workers have taken this treatment for long enough and it's time we took a stand and fought for our rights. That is the right of all part-time workers to have decent wages and working conditions with job security.

Yours comradely  
An exploited barmaid

## Tory bosses humiliate YOPster

Dear Comrades,

Has the 'Militant' ever considered publishing sections of the Industrial Relations Act for the benefit of youngsters on YOPs, etc, who do not know or understand their rights regarding employment, especially those kids on cheap labour?

At a recent LPYS meeting a youngster said he was forced to do very heavy lifting and carrying etc, and forced to do overtime working in a very low paid (dead end) job for a Tory boss. Youngsters need protecting from their bosses. Whenever capitalists can corruptly exploit their employees they will do—don't let them exploit kids!

This youngster at the LPYS meeting said he went to the Tory boss and asked for a rise in pay. £25 for a 40 hour working week with compulsory overtime (ie 4 hours an evening and Saturdays, etc) and the threat of the sack if not worked, is a common horror story.

His boss insulted him and told the Tory foreman who went straight for this comrade hitting him in the face with his fists and calling him names.

Someone threw a bucket of water over this lad, to laugh at and ridicule his honesty. He was threatened with the sack and after a while was victimised very badly by the boss, and the foreman.

This is why workers must be told their rights of employment, especially youngsters used as cheap labour.

Yours fraternally  
Stephen Draper  
Grimsby LPYS

## Abandon hope all ye who enter Free Enterprise Zones!

Dear Comrades,

Almost two years ago an article appeared in 'Militant' concerning 'Enterprise Zones.' The London Enterprise zone has just placed a bright yellow banner above the gates of West India Dock in Poplar, East London. The banner reads 'Welcome to London's Enterprise Zone' but may as well read 'abandon hope all ye who enter here!'

Over the last year Tower Hamlets council has built 7 houses so some of the local residents were hoping that the LDDC [London Docks Development Corporation] would build houses for local people. It seems that the only enterprise is for the bosses.

A hundred local residents went to see an LDDC housing scheme in Beckton [east London] and described the houses as 'rabbit hutchies.' On hearing this the LDDC chief commented that the problem was that council tenants had become used to Parker Morris standards! He also said that houses built on the Isle of Dogs would be in a broad price range; £30,000—£50,000 was the prices being asked for in Beckton and with the site of the Island the prices would be more.

With 27% unemployment in Tower Hamlets who can afford that?

The local community association has now come out against the 'Enterprise Zone' and at a meeting recently a resolution proposed by a 'Militant' supporter was passed with none against, to oppose the Zone. If the city sharks and their Tory friends think they can exploit the people of East London without opposition they have another thing coming!

Yours fraternally  
Dave Farrar  
Tower Hamlets CLP

## How a YS member's letter turned up in a Republican newspaper

Dear Comrades,

A few days before the LPYS national conference a comrade showed me a pamphlet entitled "They Shoot Children" which was about the use of rubber and plastic bullets in the North of Ireland.

The pamphlet was produced by Information on Ireland, which I took to be an independent organisation concerned with enlightening the British public about what life is like for the working class people in Northern Ireland.

I decided to write to them explaining that as an ex-British soldier I too was opposed to the use of the rubber and plastic bullets and stated some facts about the type of training that I was given on the use of the baton gun, ie 5 minutes discussion on its description, how I should aim for the chest, one shot at a target and about two weeks brain washing in the defence of its use. I added in the letter my opposition to the capitalist policies of divide and rule.

The intention was such that if IOI were to publish another pamphlet on the British Army or something similar, then perhaps they would print my letter to show that ordinary British soldiers were not altogether, as some people would claim, vicious animals committed to maintaining British Imperialism, but in fact some were concerned about the welfare of their fellow Irish workers.

The letter did get pub-



A paramilitary stops a worker to get his ID in the Bogside, Derry. The LPYS and 'Militant' supporters are opposed to the sectarian tactics of the paramilitary groups. Photo: Militant.

lished—however, not in the way I expected! It appeared in the May 6th edition of the paper 'An phoblacht/Republican news'!

When a comrade pointed this out to me, I thought he must have been mistaken. I didn't even have the address of this paper in the first place.

Putting two and two together, I was dismayed, not so much with the IOI but with myself, in the fact that the letter was used in a completely different manner in which I intended or hoped it would be and the fact that the article ended up in a paper which takes a line which I am totally opposed to. 'An phoblacht/Republican news', supports the tactics of the IRA Provisionals.

As I put in my original letter, it is the working class, not the IRA, UVF, Red Brigades, ETA etc, who will finally rid this earth of the horrors of imperialism and capitalism, their policies and their tactics. Only the working class united together and armed with

bold socialist policies can bring about a withdrawal of the troops and better the living standards of the ordinary people of Ireland.

And indeed it is only the working class newspapers (written by the workers for the workers) that will appeal to the people of one class,

not one religion, colour or country, and support the rights and struggles of that same class. 'An phoblacht/Republican news', I am afraid, does not come into that category.

Yours fraternally  
Bob Harker  
Gateshead East LPYS

## Lessons in history

Dear Comrades,

Between 6—11 May the East Anglian History workshop held an exhibition in Colchester Library of photographs of work, 1890 to 1945. There were also films, talks and discussions. Highlights included Stephen Humphries speaking on the methods of Oral History,

Bertram Edwards on 'the Burston School Strike', Don Quinn's talk about 'Trade Unionism in Colchester' and films by Phillip Donnellan and Stephen Peet.

The best thing to come out of this exhibition however was that in the discussion the pensioners who attended told stories which made clear to younger people that the working class has had to struggle for

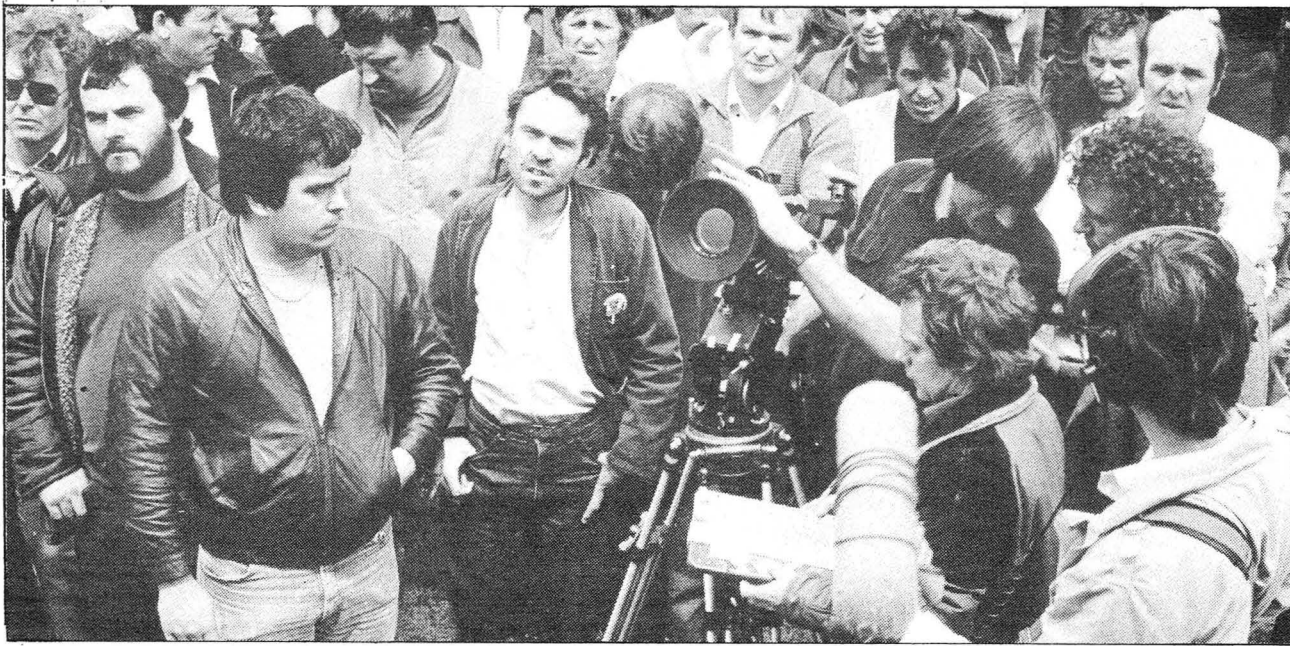
every reform from toilets inside houses to the NHS!

It is important that we don't forget the past. Nor should we let it continue to be dominated by historians who portray only the lives of the rich and powerful. It is important that the past is studied not just by professional historians but by every member of the working class.

I would like to thank all

those who attended and helped with the exhibition including those 'Militant' readers who supplied a bookstall.

Yours fraternally  
Graham Smith  
East Anglia History Workshop  
Wivenhoe, Essex



Mass meeting of Wandsworth Council workers against privatisation, 24 May. Photo: D Doran

# Why trade unionists back 'Militant'

This year's trade union conferences have had very little media coverage compared with last year.

By Steve Cawley

This is partly because of the Falklands, but also because the contest for the Deputy Leadership of the Labour Party last year attracted the Tory press in droves.

The media, as usual, have absolutely no intention of covering the 'bread-and-butter' issues that face the working-class in Britain today. However, *Militant* has tried to give as much space as possible to these issues, and to include a report of the major debates in the main union conferences.

We have received cash from members of the Fire Brigades Union and the Tobacco Workers Union for *Militant's* fighting fund (both amounts turned out to be more than we originally thought). There was £142 collected at the *Militant* readers meeting attended by delegates and visitors to the ASTMS conference, £175.88 raised altogether at Eastbourne from those attending the G&MWU conference, and well over £500 in all, including those at the UCATT, SOGAT (second instalment), SCPS, and APEX conferences.

The appeal for £1s at the

National Union of Seamen conference included a donation from D Morgan (New Zealand NUS), and together with contributions from members on MV Matco Avon (via Manchester) came to over £30.

Readers in Nottingham, Blyth, Southampton, Oxford, York, Teeside, Bexleyheath, Swansea, Coventry, and Kidderminster collected over £200 after expenses at meetings held to explain *Militant's* position on the Falkland Islands, and on other current topics. Rocher Branch (Chesterfield) and Pollok Labour Party held collections for the Fighting Fund, while Allom Labour Party (Northumbria) bought copies of *Militant* after hearing our ideas.

As usual, the Labour Party Young Socialists showed appreciation of our role in the movement, with £38 collected at a North-West Week-end School, together with contributions from Hackney Central, Clydebank, and Chester branches, and £10 from members of Cardiff University Labour Club.

Individual donations this week are topped by £50 TV fees from Terry Harrison, Labour's prospective

parliamentary candidate for Liverpool Edge Hill, which is almost exactly the sum sent in by supporters in Luton this week. We hope this will be the first regular series of donations from readers and supporters in Bedfordshire! Thanks too to those at discussion groups up and down the country, for instance in Leeds, Plymouth, and Spalding, Lincs, for their donations.

In London and in Manchester, comrades have undertaken sponsored running for us, while a Birmingham comrade, obviously aware that we won't have the opportunity to hold a meeting at his union's conference (TGWU), as it meets every two years, has sent us expenses of £20. Any more TGWU stewards, officials or delegates in a similar position?

A number of readers have sent us extras on top of

renewing their subscriptions to our paper: thanks amongst others to Gibraltar supporter (£3); D Chopra (London); Anon. NE London (£50); I Wilson (Strathclyde NALGO) £15; J Malarki (AUEW, Birmingham) £10; E Phillips, Poole LPYS (money from gardening) £4; Elida-Gibbs ASTMS supporters (Leeds) £4; 3 members of Motherwell & Wishaw LPYS £4.55; T Carden (UCATT) £5.

Last but not least we received "£1 from a sympathiser in the Travellers' Rest, Cramlington, without being asked..." Thanks very much. But we'll get an enormous amount more if we do ask; ask every reader at work, in union and Labour Party branches. More and more workers see the need for a paper fighting for them.

Will you help to build it?

**THIS WEEK: 2,301**

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 11 July
Eastern	571		2115
East Midlands	598		1765
Hants & Dorset	499		1250
Humberside	237		1075
London East	800		1960
London West	260		1060
London South	429		1415
Manchester & Lancs	484		2020
Merseyside	562		2290
Northern	662		2760
Scotland East	246		1345
Scotland West	610		2375
Southern	1018		1760
South West	346		885
Wales East	166		945
Wales West	524		1355
West Midlands	802		2120
Yorkshire	578		2505
Others	2909		4000
<b>Total received</b>	<b>12301</b>		<b>35000</b>

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

# ads

## MILITANT MEETINGS AND SOCIALS

AFTER THE WOMEN'S FESTIVAL come to a 'Militant' social and disco. Tickets £1.50 including buffet. From Doreen Roberts, ring 543 3658, or Marie Walsh 648 3957

## CLASSIFIED

NOW AVAILABLE! Tapes of Ted Grant's lead-off in a Swansea Militant public meeting on the Falklands Crisis. The Falklands Crisis. Junta out! Tories out! The socialist solution. £2.00 inc. postage. c/o D L Davies, 10 Page Street, Swansea SA1 4EZ.

URGENT APPEAL Any comrade with an original copy of Militant No. 1 and No. 7 please forward to the Militant office as soon as possible.

MICK BROOKS TAPES. As a result of production difficulties I cannot at the moment offer the tapes advertised so all cheques will be destroyed. I hope, however, that when the difficulties have been sorted out I can offer the tapes later in the summer. With apologies to all concerned, I Wells.

T-SHIRTS and SWEAT-SHIRTS. Sizes and colours for small—32-34; medium—34-36; large—38-40; extra-large—42-44. Red motif on white, yellow, sky blue, bottle green, navy, black (+sweatshirt grey and mid-blue). Cost: £3.25, sweatshirts £6.75 (both prices include postage and packing). Plain T-shirts and sweatshirts also available, deduct 25p from price. Send cheques and postal order to R Harris, 35 Westminster Court, Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 1UR. All proceeds to Fighting Fund.

LEICESTER LPYSs present: 'Trial of Thatcher', comedy play. Friday 4 June, 7.30 pm, New Parks Community Centre, St Oswald's Road. Don't miss it!

COVENTRY SOUTH EAST LPYS demo. "End Slave Labour, Proper Jobs for Youth." Assemble 11.00am Stoke Aldermore Shopping Centre, Acorn St. March to rally at Council House. Speakers Dave Nellist (Labour PPC Coventry South East), Les Kuriata (LPYS National Committee), Bob Lee (Labour Committee for the Defence of Brixton). Lenin Book Draw Winner (for £80 worth of books) No. 85. 2nd (£20 worth) No 132.

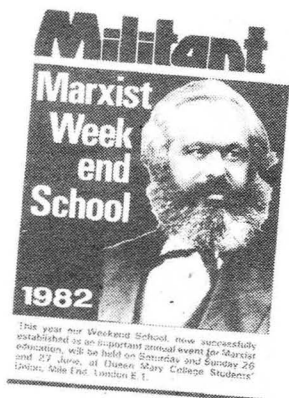
BRISTOL NHS Public Meeting 'Unity for 12%'. Thursday 3 June, 7.30pm, at Crown Tavern, Lamfords Gate. Speakers: Christine Edge (COHSE), Simon Newell (NUPE), Richard Garrad (NALGO)

National Broad Left for Railway Workers 2nd national conference, Saturday 5 June, University of London Students Union, Malet St, NW1, 11.00-16.30. All rail workers welcome. National speakers include: Dennis Skinner MP, Ian Williams.



## MARXIST WEEKEND SCHOOL Saturday-Sunday, 26-27 June at Queen Mary's College, Mile End, London E1

Courses include: Introduction to Marxism, Latin America, History of British labour movement, Women and the struggle for socialism, Permanent Revolution and Colonial Liberation. Booking forms available from your local Militant seller.



## 7th South Wales Summer Camp

August Bank Holiday, Friday 27 August-Monday 30 August. For the seventh 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.

Send money to South Wales Summer Camp, 181 Hanover Street, Swansea. Cheques payable to 'Swansea Summer Camp'.

# Industrial Reports

## KENT - Save the pits!

By Nigel Simpson  
(Snowdown NUM)

**Kent miners' leaders have called a 24 hour strike in protest at National Coal Board (NCB) plans to partially close one of the three Kent pits, Snowdown.**

At the mass meeting, miners will decide what further industrial action to take to defend these jobs.

We have been enormously encouraged by Arthur Scargill's full public backing if we choose to fight. Snowdown was on the Tory/NCB "hit list" of 23 pits for closure, which resulted in the victorious unofficial strike action of miners in February 1981.

Most miners realised this was only a partial victory and that the Coal Board would be back again. The redundancy payment scheme has been the National Coal Board's "pit closure charter."

Over the past year, many jobs were lost through voluntary redundancies and lack of recruitment, so pits continued to close.

The NCB's policy has been to take on miners area by area and pit by pit in-

stead of nationally. This was done with the tacit agreement of Joe Gormley who failed to give a lead to a fight against pit closures and redundancies.

The NUM accept that pits should be closed when exhausted of reserves, or unsafe. But this is clearly not the case at Snowdown, where below existing workings, there is a seam of coal which even the Coal Board admit should have enormously good prospects.

The NCB say that Snowdown is uneconomic, because of the poor physical condition of existing workings. In reality, the main reason for losses is a long period of bad management, and lack of investment, and the miners are not prepared to pay for this with their jobs.

The NCB have said that they will make £3.2 million available for investment for exploratory development of the new seam, but in the mean time they intend to reduce the Snowdown workforce from 850 to 200 men and cease coal production. This would involve 500 voluntary redundancies

from Kent miners over the age of 55 and 150 transfers from Snowdown.

Miners should have no confidence in NCB proposals. They wanted to close the pit before and still do now. To accept these redundancies would make it much easier for them to close the pit in the future. Kent NUM say Snowdown's workforce must be kept to at least 700 men, operating two faces while the new seam is developed.

They have agreed to 150 temporary transfers of men to other pits while this is taking place. The Board's proposals would mean that no Kent miner's job would be safe. If they close Snowdown, Tilmanstone and then Betteshanger would be next.

The election of Arthur Scargill as union President has increased the chances of a successful fightback and the coming months will see the first real test of his leadership, and the promises he made when he was elected.

Snowdown can provide an important starting point in a mass campaign of in-

dustrial action against NCB policies.

Many older miners could accept redundancy payments, which they see as a reward for the years of hard work in the industry, unless a lead is given.

We must not let ourselves

slip into the same situation as workers in British Steel and British Leyland. Miners have a responsibility particularly to ensure that jobs are available to the youth. No miner has a right to sell jobs. We have to fight now.



Miners at Snowdown Colliery. A threat to one pit is a threat to all

**OUT SOON!**

New issue of 'Militant Miner'  
20p + 10p postage and packing  
Available from Militant,  
1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Report by  
Eric Segal

## Save school meals!

**As a result of strike action by school meals workers in North Kent, Kent county council has discovered that the Treasurers Department made a "slight accounting mistake" and have come up with an extra £140,000 (equal to four days extra pay for the workers).**

This was announced at the first of two mass meetings involving school meals workers last week where the majority voted to stay out on strike. There have been major achievements by the women

out on strike, most of whom have never been involved in unions, let alone industrial action before.

The threatened privatisation of the school meals service has been stopped and the service are being encouraged to tender for other catering contracts.

Most workers feel that although these offers have been made, with more support from the rest of Kent, far more can be gained and so the strike is to continue.

The major gain all the

workers feel is that they have acted and worked as trade unionists; as one worker put it, "Kent County Council have discovered that part time workers are not a pushover."

Messages of support etc to NUPE Action Committee, c/o Rochester and Chatham Labour Party, 32a New Road Chatham. Tel: Medway 42079.

## 'PROJECT MERCURY' — Quick silver for bosses

**Public money is being plundered by "entrepreneurial" muggers in the Tory rip-off of the century.**

The Tory view is that only those industries providing essential but "uneconomic" services to the profit seekers should remain nationalised and run at public expense. Any profitable industry or part of industry must return to the private sector to refill capitalist coffers.

The working class has the power to stop this assault. All that is lacking is firm, decisive leadership.

The Tories have been "casing" British Telecommunications for their biggest haul yet. At a revenue of £2 billion, the sale of half British Telecom even outstrips the proposals for British Oil but it would still be a financial killing. BT has been investing at a rate of £2 billion per annum in

recent years! The British Telecoms Act 1981 did three things. First, it split telecoms from the Post Office, then opened both sides to competition and finally granted the Secretary of State sweeping dictatorial powers over the running and nature of the industry.

The Tories planned to divide the opposition, while restricting both sides' finances and allowing selective private competition.

The Left in the POEU then called for the mobilisation of the union membership in conjunction with other public sector unions in defence of our jobs and industry.

The right wing leadership instead attempted to negotiate with the Tories, and avoid industrial action, with disastrous consequences. Having got the BT Act through with no more than a Parliamentary lobby to contend with, it is no surprise that Thatcher has per-

sonally ensured the granting of a license for a private consortium to set up an "alternative" private communications network.

Of course, this private competition, "Project Mercury" won't have the fundamental restrictions like cash limits that the Tory government impose upon the nationalised industry.

The nationalised industry has a statutory obligation to provide an equitable service nationwide. "Project Mercury" can pick and choose the most profitable areas of operation, skimming the cream off and concentrating on business communications between major cities.

Until now, the Tories have had it easy but the tide is turning. A lobby of activists went to POEU HQ a few weeks ago to demand firm action. The lobby, called by London City Branch and supported by the Broad Left attracted some 150 activists armed with a full pro-

gramme of action to defeat Tory plans.

After initially refusing to meet us without appointment, the General Secretary and others agreed to talk to us "informally", where the lobby provoked the General Secretary into prematurely revealing that the Executive had decided to deny Project Mercury access to the public communications network!

This is a significant change of policy and a victory for the Broad Left's consistent campaign for firm action. Incredibly, the Executive now appear ashamed of their decision, which was hidden away amongst reams of text in a communication to branches, clouded by false assertions belittling Mercury's potential impact and the wisdom of taking industrial action at all.

Clearly these assertions need to be challenged and the Executives position shored up by the forthcoming Annual Conference.

Nevertheless, the news is welcome. The blacking of Mercury was the first point in our own action programme and a prerequisite of calling upon the rail unions to oppose the proposed use of facilities for the private network.

However, action against Mercury is only part of a wider campaign to make the Telecoms Act inoperable.

The defence of the Telecoms industry cannot be seen in isolation from similar struggles in other public industries. The Tories started their attack by dividing us.

We must now combine with all public sector unions to turn the tables on Thatcher. The POEU should take the initiative in settling up public sector defence committees and national regional and local levels with the clear objective of defending public industries and kicking the Tories out.

By Colin O'Callaghan  
(Overseas Telegraph POEU, personal capacity)

NUR  
Guards'  
Conference

At the conference of NUR Shunters, guards and chargemen shunters, the Conference Secretary Geoff Hensby gave details of a letter which NUR General Secretary Sidney Weighell had sent to both Geoff and the Conference President Alec Ligton.

The letter told them that a number of resolutions on the Conference agenda should be withdrawn. These dealt with consultation with branches on national agreements, variable rostering for guards, one man operation of trains, and the trainmen's Confed; all crucial issues! Conference delegates' reaction was one of outrage at attempts to undermine the status of conference.

The Conference Executive Committee decided to note the correspondence and determine under the Guards Conference constitution, what items would be included.

The first major composite dealing with flexible rostering said "the agreement reached between the NUR and BR on flexibility of rostering (not footplate staff) will place our members' conditions of service back into the Victorian era."

"Further this conference deplores the actions of the NEC of the NUR in ignoring the guards conference decision 1981. There was no consultation at Branch level, in order to gauge the depth of support.

"We therefore strongly urge the NEC to renegotiate this agreement as a matter of extreme urgency with a firm view to rescinding the same. And we call on branch representatives at this Conference to urge their AGM delegates to support an appeal against the NEC decision relevant to variable rostering." This composite was passed by 229 votes to 29!

NUR Assistant General Secretary Russell Tuck admitted to conference that the membership had been given short notice about the introduction of flexible rostering.

Very importantly, he also stated that the union was standing firm in opposition to one-man operation of trains.

The second composite resolution said, "This Conference reaffirms total opposition to the one man operation of trains. Conference notes with anger the apparent wavering of some full time officials and NEC members on this matter."

"We urgently request our NEC to refuse to discuss or list any proposals referring to one man operation of trains in accordance with the wishes of this Conference and AGM decisions." This resolution was carried unanimously.

By Malcolm Bryan  
(NUR Nottingham, personal capacity)



# Industrial Reports

## Health Service dispute-

**Step  
up  
the  
action**

**- Unity  
for  
12%**



Laundry workers at the Harrow Road Hospital, West London. Bad conditions, low pay and a 4% slap in the face from the Tory government. Photo: Denis Doran (Militant)

All over Britain and Northern Ireland, workers in the National Health Service are bitterly angry at the way the Tories have contemptuously tossed aside their totally justified 12% claim and offered an insulting 4%.

The years of cash limits and cutbacks in the NHS shows that the Tories and the capitalist class they represent have no interest in a viable Health Service. Their class, who can afford luxury treatment in private

health schemes, are prepared to see the NHS deteriorate both in living standards of the workforce and in the care given to working class patients.

For both the workers involved in the dispute, and the working class as a whole, decent wages and a thriving health service are of utmost importance. Support for the claim has been widespread in the labour movement as a whole, as shown by the decisive vote by the miners in South Wales for sympathetic strike action.

Victory in this battle is entirely possible if all the enthusiasm and determina-

tion shown in the one-day strikes is fully harnessed. The TUC and the trade unions concerned must give a clear direction to the struggle.

At present, different unions are implementing different policies. COHSE, for example, are applying sanctions, while in some areas NUPE have members on all out action. In some areas the unions are pulling in opposite directions. A united stand is essential if the energies of health workers are not to be frittered away.

Alongside the TUC's Health Services Committee, the unions most directly in-

involved in action must meet at least weekly in a national campaign action committee. This campaigning body should be mirrored at divisional and hospital level to break down any barriers between the unions and create a united struggle drawing on the full strength of the unions.

The NUPE conference call for all out action reflects the bitterness of feeling and the determination of all health workers. The prime need now is to build towards extensive action with emergency cover amongst health service workers in all unions nationwide.

The TUC must use its power to organise action to back up the health workers in the labour movement at large, building on the widespread sympathy already shown to the claim.

The Tories know that health workers will always consider very carefully the welfare of patients before taking industrial action. The Tories plan to exploit this dedication. All workers owe a debt to the health workers. The TUC must pull the full strength of the labour movement behind the claim.

## BREL- DEFEND ALL JOBS

The government controlled Manpower Services Commission have offered to pay for 90 young people to learn engineering at the Swindon training school which British Rail had previously threatened to "mothball."

They are offering to pay £1900 training fees for each place plus maintenance allowances totalling up to £17,000, as part of a long term training initiative. The Works Committee and BREL bosses are to negotiate on this plan.

This is a significant step down by BR management, largely under the impact of threatened action by trade unionists in the railway industry.

Although many active trade unionists will be sceptical about the long term commitment of the MSC and BRB, and on the conditions they will offer to workers, it shows that management are being forced to think twice about their BREL plans.

But a temporary reprieve of one training school is only a minor victory. There must be no let up in the action of railworkers to defend every job in every workshop through industrial action and links at all levels with the other rail union and other unions in the Triple Alliance.

By Anne Aylett

## Manchester

The success of the 19 May strikes in the Health Service was shown by support of workers in sections who had never taken industrial action before.

Laboratory technicians, office clerks and a handful of nurses joined the early morning picket of NUPE members from the laundry, portering and theatre staff at Manchester Royal Infirmary.

Apart from the insulting pay offer, the MRI are being asked to accept a freeze on appointment of all jobs for up to two months due to a £600,000 government cut in this year's budget, following a survey showing that 150,000 people have supposedly left Central Manchester.

This was mainly due to the survey being conducted in mid-summer when the students in the area were at home! In any case, working class people living in decaying inner city areas need more health provision—not less.

Nurses like myself get a lot of public sympathy, but we cannot just stand by while others take action for us. If you can't take action yourself, come and support

the picket lines before duty or at meal breaks.

United, and with the support of union like the miners we can get a tremendous victory in the fight for a decent living wage. We can also warn the government that any further attacks on the NHS will meet with a sharp response from a united trade union movement.

By Valerie Wood  
(Chairperson, United  
Manchester Hospitals  
Branch)

## Greenwich

Peter Blinden (NUPE Branch Secretary, Greenwich District Hospital and NUPE District Secretary) spoke to Tim Harris.

"4% means a 95p per week increase in take home pay for the average member. With the £1.35 per week increase in food prices as a result of the EEC decision, with increased rents and rates and National Insurance contributions this will mean a fall in living standards.

"Thatcher is out of touch

with the low-paid. Married women and men are on take home pay of £54 per week. Where's society gone wrong when we're in a war and the people that care for the injured are themselves being injured by Government policy?

"We want the Labour Party and Labour MPs to make this right wing Government understand why NHS workers are out on strike today. This is the Tory Government's work—not NHS workers.

"It's my members view—and my view—that this Government is deliberately destroying the NHS for the sake of private medicine. Whilst we are today fighting for our living standards we will also fight the same action to maintain the NHS that the Labour Party fought for in 1948. If necessary we will go on permanent strike to maintain living standards and NHS services.

"NUPE hospital workers overwhelmingly welcome Arthur Scargill's offer of support from the miners—we will be prepared to support them if necessary in their struggle to maintain a living standard that we demand."

## EETPU Conferences

Shop Steward members of the EETPU from several important industries will meet in the coming week to discuss resolutions effecting their own respective industries in one day industrial conferences.

British industry is in a state of decay due to lack of investment by British capitalism over the last 2 to 3 decades. The terrible consequences of this have been heaped on the backs of workers by the Tories and employers who attack living standards and demand changes in working practices.

The shop stewards will discuss tactics and strategies to deal with this crisis. The thread running through all the conferences is the demand for a shorter working week with no loss in pay, for wage increases to match at least the rate of inflation, and a strategy to fight redundancies.

Stewards also want to fight the Tories' anti-trade union Tebbit Bill, designed to put fetters on the trade union movement, so that living standards can be driven down even further than at present.

Unfortunately, the in-

dustrial structure of the EETPU does not allow all our shop stewards to gather as a unified organisation. One conference, with shop stewards representing the various industries must be demanded to discuss the attacks of the Tories and employers and agree a way forward for all EETPU members.

Only a united organisation can mobilise the power of all the rank and file around the programme needed to reverse the damage done by the Tories. A programme of a 35-hour week with no loss in pay, a national minimum wage, nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies under democratic workers control and management, a programme committing the next Labour government to socialist policies.

## Thomas Scott Bakery

In recent years, two of the big three bread producing companies on Merseyside, RHM and Spiller French have pulled out leaving ABF Sunblest plant the only large bakers in the area.

Last year, profits for the group were up by one-sixth on the previous good year. Workers had reason to believe that jobs at the

Thomas Scott plant in Bootle were going to be safe, but in the ceaseless drive to maximise profits, management came forward with proposals for de-manning and changed shift patterns.

The proposed changes are quite ludicrous such as severe cuts in the hygiene department where there is already panic stations when an inspection is due. They propose reducing quality control to nil and reducing workers' tea breaks who already work long hours in sweltering conditions.

Bakery workers have always worked Victorian hours but the new hours suggested are nothing short of barbaric. Many day shift workers would start at lunchtime and work until mid evening, night shift would start at teatime and finish at 3.30 am. All redundancies must be opposed. Any change in hours must be for more sociable hours not less.

By Tommy Nelson  
(BFAWU)

**BAKERS UNION  
CONFERENCE  
Militant Readers  
Meeting. "What we  
really stand for"  
Speaker: Gerry  
Lerner. Tuesday 8  
June 7.30pm South  
Cliff Hotel (opposite  
Spa), Bridlington.**

**The British Rail Board have declared war on the rail trade unions and the membership.**

Gone are the days of the Railwaymen's charter and a common approach by Board and unions to government. Although nearly 20,000 jobs have disappeared in the railways over the past few years British rail and the government now want more than the unions dare give.

The NUR Executive have now threatened industrial action if no satisfactory reply is received by 7 June on: British Rail's decision to close Shildon and Horwich, the partial closure of Swindon (with the loss of 5,000 jobs) plus an insulting pay offer of only 5% and that dated from September when the wages anniversary date is April 1982.

In a letter to all branches Sid Weighell, the General Secretary of the NUR, has pointed out "it is clear that the current crisis in the industry causes a real threat to our members' jobs, their standard of living and the whole future of industry is unsettled and uncertain..."

The 1981 pay settlement was agreed only after strike action was announced. Industrial action was only avoided because of the ability of the union leaders to accept a derisory 8% pay offer with a further 3% tied to productivity, to be agreed by January 1982.

The NUR leadership argued in August 1981 that 3% was not tied to productivity. *Militant* at that time pointed out that the decision to accept the 8% solved none of the major problems facing the industry and that national industrial action was only delayed.

The Christmas present that the NUR leadership accepted on behalf of its members—the implementation of flexible rostering—guaranteed the 3%. However, a six-week ASLEF strike followed because BRB refused to pay the 3% unless the drivers accepted flexi-rostering.

The BRB has taken all and given nothing in return. The common approach failed!

In 1981 the Rail Board's ceiling on investment was £398 million, but actual spending was down £90 million to £308 million. This year investment will be lower still at only £253 million.

As the letter rightly points out, "The process of decay will gather more pace and the much needed orders to provide continuing workload for BREL will not materialise." Since the letter was issued to branches, the BRB have made the derisory and insulting offer of 5%.

In a further attempt to divide the rail workers, the Board have tried to claim the pay offer is dependent on the (ASLEF) drivers accepting flexible rostering,

By Tom Doyle  
 (Tinsley Branch,  
 NUR, personal capacity)

# STRIKE TO SAVE RAIL INDUSTRY



Laying track in Tyne yard

Photo: D Doran

and both NUR and ASLEF also agreeing by July to introduction of one-man operation of trains and the trainman concept. Refusal to do so will result in the offer being withdrawn.

Sid Weighell's letter states the alternative: "The NUR is determined to fight to defend its members' jobs and living standards. The Board and the government have failed to keep their promises and in the face of demands for greater sacrifices in pay and jobs it is inevitable that the NUR will be forced to stand and fight."

"We are well aware of the damaging effect industrial action will have on the industry but the stark choice facing us is whether we stand and fight, or try to do a deal with a government we know we cannot trust and the BRB that have reneged on their commitment to improve pay and conditions as a direct result of improvements in productivity."

Although the NUR Executive has not indicated what sort of action it intends, we must follow the lead taken by many District Councils and Branches up and down the country by organising immediate mass meetings in every area, strike committees and preparing picket locations.

The Triple Alliance with the miners and steel workers should be invoked immediately. Failure to respond to the BRB's declaration of war will only sentence thousands of railway workers to the dole

queue. The BRB's intentions affect every grade, department and subsidiary.

It's not just a question of BREL or one-man operation of trains. The future of

our industry is at stake.

Strike action is not aimed at damaging the industry. It is the only way to save it from the Tories' attacks.

Many of us have criticis-

ed the union leadership in the past but the decision to take strike action must be welcomed. Now we must ensure all-out national action, as attempts to limit it

in 'guerrilla action' will detract from the real issue and let Thatcher's government escape from the noose which she has evaded for too long.

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## HEALTH WORKERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

in the NHS, as have the steelworkers at the massive BSC River Don works in Sheffield. At ferry ports, some members of the National Union of Seamen are offering support and there has been a pledge of physical and financial support by the Fire Brigades Union.

The TUC has only offered support in a general way but has stopped short of organising or calling for sympathetic strike action. But the TUC must act decisively! The TUC itself must give a bold lead to all affiliate unions to take action in support of the workers in the health service!

Rank and file workers in all industries are willing to back the NHS workers all the way. This was clear from a visit we made to Cardowan colliery last week.

There, the miners agreed with the nurses that it was high time that the Tories were out.

Following support by the Cardowan miners for all

out stoppage on the nineteenth of May, they agreed unanimously that any action taken by nurses in pursuit of a decent wage would be justified. One ex-hospital porter who is now a miner stated that he couldn't live on forty pounds a week when employed in Woodilee Hospital. He was forced to return to the pit in order to support his family.

Anger was expressed at the Tories willingness to spend millions in the Falklands war, while they cannot pay NHS staff.

The men realise all too well the need for a well equipped NHS. Several miners from Cardowan suffered severe burns due to a methane explosion in January. This drew to their attention the conditions and pay of health workers. Health workers agree with miner Pat Radigan who stated that "only by appealing to other trade unions to use their muscle will you be successful."

As one miner put it "The word just has to be said," indicating the mood of solidarity amongst the men for sympathetic industrial action. One young miner from the NUM youth section agreed to speak at the mass meeting at a local hospital re-affirming that support.