

LABOUR PARTY
WOMENS'
CONFERENCE

See pages 7, 8 and 9

SOLIDARITY ACTION FOR HEALTH WORKERS

The third one-day strike of health workers was an enormous success.

At St Charles Hospital in West London, where I work, a demo going down to Harrow Road and Praed St hospital was supported by 300 people, picking up local people, Post Office workers etc. We held a very good meeting with Ken Livingstone and Anne Beales of London LPYS speaking. At University college Hospital in North London, a demonstration was supported by ASLEF, NUR, UCW, and CPSA branches and Camden borough manual workers took an hours unofficial strike to join the picket.

In Manchester, the Na-

tional Union of Seamen supported the one-day strike and 40,000 miners struck in Yorkshire, losing 100,000 tonnes of production. Local miners' leaders stressed that the nation owed a lot to health workers.

The mood of workers is very angry at the Tories' treatment, but we are delighted with the support we have got from workers in the hospitals and elsewhere. At a NUPE mass meeting at St Charles with other union members in attendance there was unanimous support for an all-out 24-hour strike with emergency cover based on normal night care, of two

By
Sue Pearce,
NUPE

nurses a ward.

Casualty and switchboard were working. All kitchen staff were out except for special diets and there were no domestic or ancillary staff.

A national campaign is vital. NHS workers are looking to the TUC Health Services Committee for firm action which will build support for all out action with emergency cover. We need the 12% and we must fight effectively to get it.



TUC must now follow up the enormous support for the NHS workers by a programme of co-ordinated action in support, beginning with a full one-day general strike. A victory for the health workers is a victory for all workers!

inside
FIGHT THE
WITCH-HUNT!

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ISRAELI
INVASION
OF LEBANON

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Higher taxes to pay for Falklands War

After weeks of telling us that the financial cost of the Falklands conflict could be met from the government's contingency funds, on Monday 7 June, the Tory leader of the House of Commons, John Biffen, finally blurted out the truth.

Taxes will have to be raised and public expenditure cut to pay for the war.

"National honour can rarely be redeemed on the cheap," he calmly commented in measured academic tones. "There is a price in blood and treasure." Yet it has not been his blood shed, but the

lives of ordinary sailors and soldiers.

And they did not end up fighting for 'national honour', but to rescue the prestige of the British capitalist class, who had bungled its negotiations with the Argentine military.

"Let it be clearly stated that the costs being incurred in the South Atlantic have to be met from a variety of non-inflationary sources," declares Biffen. In other words, ordinary workers are being asked to pay the price of the bosses' war for years to come.

Even if the task force

came back immediately the cost of the war would be over £1,000 million. Just to replace the lost ships and planes would need an estimated £708m.

By Jim Chrystie

If Thatcher goes ahead with the 'Fortress Falklands' policy stationing a 3,000 strong garrison, the cost of maintaining it would be an estimated £730m over the next three years. Using up-to-date government

figures it seems that the total cost of the Falklands conflict will total well over £2,000 million.

The taxes and cuts in social welfare that the Tories are now planning will undoubtedly hit hardest at working class families. Why should workers pay?

The labour movement from the beginning was opposed to the Argentine invasion of the Falklands and the planting of a military-police regime upon the islanders. The invasion had no justification whatsoever

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Militant

Lessons of by-election defeats

The result of the Mitcham and Morden by-election can give no encouragement to the Tory Party, despite the crowing of the press in the last week.

Only 21 per cent of the electorate in that constituency expressed their support for the Tory candidate in what was, for a by-election, an extremely low turn-out.

There is no doubt that the war over the Falklands dominated the campaign and gave it a completely 'abnormal' character. Days before the poll on 3 June, the election was not being featured at all in the press and voters in the area could have been forgiven for not knowing that there was a by-election in progress at all.

In the campaigning on the doorsteps, the Tories concentrated all their attention on the Falklands war and to that extent a big percentage of Tory votes could be attributable to support for the soldiers and sailors with the Task Force rather than the economic policies of Thatcher.

It is ludicrous for the Tory spokesmen like Cecil Parkinson to pretend that the result indicated a generalised upswing in Tory support. The domestic social issues—the collapse of the British economy, the massive and rising trends of unemployment, public expenditure cuts, etc—were not brought out.

But after the Falklands crisis these issues will come back to the fore and the Tories will get a battering. The Tories are living in dreamland if they think they will get away lightly with their merciless hammering of living standards these last three years.

Even in relation to the war itself, there will have to come a reckoning. Workers who are not prepared at the moment to 'have a go' at the Tories, because of a sense of solidarity with the workers in uniform sent by Thatcher to the South Atlantic, will at a later stage blame the Tories for the crisis in the first place. The Tories are ringing the bells over the Falklands now, but they will be wringing their hands later.

But there is no hiding either the fact that the Labour Party should have won this seat.

It seems that all too often in by-elections, it is the deliberate policy of the campaign managers to avoid tackling the issues, to conduct policies in a 'low-key' manner, but above all, to avoid a bold and open campaign on socialist lines.

It was bad enough that in a previous by-election the Labour candidate issued non-political badges bearing the motif 'Stan's the man', but it appeared that in Mitcham and Morden, the campaign badges carried only the letter 'N' (after Nicholas the candidate), like a recumbent Zorro sign!

Labour Party members must also question the organisation that goes into by-election campaigns. Why was it, for instance, that a huge LPYS canvass team was kept off solid working class estates and sent to canvass a Tory ward? (See page 5).

Nevertheless, by-elections are always a measure of support for the national leadership and policies of the parties, rather than a reflection of the individual candidates and election organisation. Dominated as it was by the Falklands crisis, Mitcham and Morden was presented with a picture of a Labour leadership dithering pain-

fully along behind Thatcher on this question.

The massive 52 per cent rate of abstention showed that there is great confusion in the minds of voters; they are not prepared to support the Tories, but neither are they attracted to the alternatives. Fighting on socialist lines, explaining the hypocrisy of the Tories over their relations with the Junta, demonstrating the capitalist aims behind the war, it would have been possible for Labour to have captured the support of these abstainers, and many others who voted SDP or Tory.

As for Labour's right wing, they are warming up for a witch-hunt when the report of the NEC inquiry into 'Militant' is completed this month, and they have predictably used this result in an attempt to support their view.

Labour must offer what the mass of workers are seeking—a decisive break with the past and the present

However, Labour Party members should be quite clear: it is the Right of the Party which carries the main responsibility for by-election defeats like that at Mitcham and Morden.

Labour did not lose the seat on 3 June: it was lost when a Labour right-winger defected to the SDP several months previously. Some would even argue that the seat was lost to the labour movement when Douglas-Mann stood on a 'Labour' ticket in the General Election of 1979.

It is the right wing of the

Labour Party who, like Douglas-Mann, are acting as a Trojan Horse in the ranks of the Party. Even before the next general election, they have begun to water down the reforming policies upon which Labour Party conference has decided in the last few years: on the economy, on disarmament, on the EEC and on incomes policy.

Following the 7 June meeting of Labour's Organisation Committee a further meeting of Labour leaders has been arranged for 4 July at Kingston. It has been called to try and "rekindle the spirit of Bishop Stortford," to unite the party and avoid major splits. A united struggle by the labour movement against the Tories, based on conference decisions and Labour's socialist aspirations will undoubtedly win enthusiastic support throughout the labour movement.

It cannot however be simply a unity of the "graveyard" with all discussion and dissent on policy and programme quashed. A fighting united struggle however is not being threatened by those arguing for socialist policies.

It is the Right who are bent on splitting the Labour Party from top to bottom with mass expulsions of rank and file socialists. Some right-wingers like Sid Weighell seemed to have already given up the next election as a defeat (see below).

Labour must win the next general election, and they must be in a position to win by-elections like Mitcham and Morden. But they will only succeed in these things if they fight on clear class demands, if they face up squarely to the SDP and the failed policies of the SDP/Labour Right from 1974 to 1979.

Labour must offer what the mass of workers are seeking—a decisive break with the past, with all those Tory and watered-down Tory policies that always seem to tackle the economic crisis by hitting workers' living standards. It is only the Labour Party that can offer a decisive break, by fighting on conference policies and for the socialist transformation of society.

'Falklands' cannot indefinitely hide social issues. Last year's People's March for Jobs



Right wing clamour for witch hunt . . . By Colin Barber

Backed by their friends in the millionaire Tory press, Labour's right-wing are now busy trying to whip up an hysterical campaign in the two weeks before Labour's National Executive discusses the inquiry into *Militant* on 23 June.

The *Observer* 6 June, claims it was given copies of some of the material submitted to the inquiry, showing that *Militant* used 'intimidation', and wanted to 'get rid of the right-wing'. These smears that *Militant* uses violence will be dismissed by the rank and file of the Labour Party, who know from experience that *Militant* supporters pride themselves on arguing the case for socialism, only by the use of facts and figures.

But in the coming weeks of hysteria more lies and

smears will be wheeled out. About the only accurate charge against *Militant* in the *Observer* article, to which we would plead guilty, is the crime of encouraging people to join the Labour Party.

For the right-wing that is the real crime. They want the party to return to the good old days when conference policy could be ignored, MP's were virtually a law to themselves, and everything could be fixed by a backstairs meetings of union bosses and Parliamentary leaders. A witch-hunt and expulsion of *Militant* supporters would only be the start. Once they have tasted blood, they would thirst for more.

Last week, right-wing union leader, Sid Weighell, called for Tony Benn to leave the Labour Party. "Let Tony Benn lead his own party, let him stand on his own two feet, and not contaminate the rest of us."

The *Mirror's* editorial, 8 June, viciously attacked Tony Benn, and accused *Tribune* of lying and

demanding that the National Executive 'kicked *Militant* out'.

The right-wing are now pressurising party leader, Michael Foot, to demand expulsions of Marxists. Before the recent parliamentary recess, it has been reported that Hattersley, Shore, Kaufmann and Brynmor John all went to Foot to persuade him drastic action was required.

The *Times*, 5 June, reported that the right-wing have also suggested that Foot should retire after the Party Conference 'because of ill-health', leaving the way clear for a hard-line right winger replacement, such as Shore, Hattersley or Healey. One member of the Shadow Cabinet apparently demanded the expulsion of hundreds of *Militant* supporters.

That would mean civil war in the party, but the right-wing are not concerned. They prefer to cripple the party rather than see it win an election with a radical programme of

reforms.

But whatever organisational measures the right-wing try, they cannot remove Marxist ideas from the labour movement, because only such ideas relate to the problems facing workers.

Their last attempt re-

...but NUR Executive majority refute Weighell—letter to 'Guardian', 9 June

Sir,—We, the undersigned members of the National Executive Committee of the National Union of Railwaymen, wish to set clear for the Labour Movement that the recent utterances on the question of the Labour Party and Tony Benn by our general secretary are his own personal views and not those of this union.

If blame is to be apportioned for the present state of the Labour Party, a large portion of it must be shouldered by all those Labour Movement leaders who take every opportunity presented by the media to attack the Labour Party and its left wing.

bounded on them. The *Guardian* reported, 7 June, that in the re-run for the Bradford North Parliamentary selection sitting Labour MP Ben Ford has received only three nominations, compared to *Militant* supporter Pat Wall's 21. Labour's rank and file na-

tionally must be prepared to reply to witch-hunts in the same way as the Bradford membership—by a resounding "No!"

Resolutions against any witch-hunt will undoubtedly continue to flood into the NEC from both CLP's and trade unions.

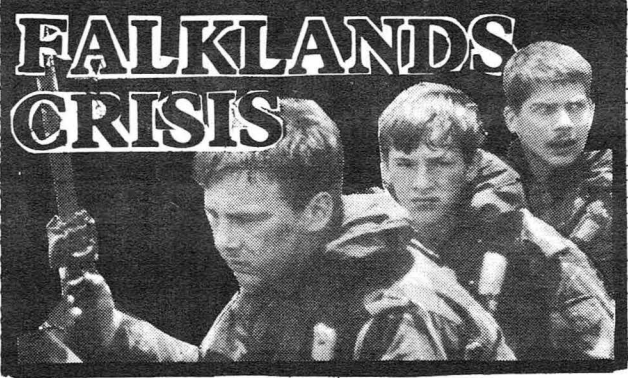
We would be very happy to see these people attacking the Tories and the employers with whom they negotiate as vigorously and venomously as they attack the Left. Indeed we consider that the railway industry and our members have more than enough problems, both political and industrial, to occupy our general secretary's time without his pursuance of personal political feuds in public.

Sid Weighell, like any other Labour Party member is entitled to attend his local branch and make his views known. What he is not entitled to do, as general secretary of our union, is to attack in such immoderate terms one of his Labour

Party comrades, and to denigrate the party which our union played such an important part in founding.

We therefore dissociate ourselves from his despondency about the party's prospects, and from his vicious personal attack on Mr Benn.

F. Kaler, D. Newson, I. Williams, P. Wheeler, J. Milligan, J. Stevenson, A. Ritchie, O. Conheeny, A. McCardle, J. Cogger, I. West, D. Shaw, J. Nicholson, J. Dunn, K. Turton.
The National Union of Railwaymen, London NW 1.



At the Versailles summit meeting of Western powers last weekend, Margaret Thatcher proudly claimed that Britain had "the complete solidarity and unity of all the countries here over the Falklands." But behind the common front of US and European capitalism, rifts of national self interest have begun to open up.

First Italy (on account of its close economic and historical ties with Argentina) and Ireland broke ranks with the other EEC countries over the imposition of economic sanctions against Argentina. Now there are signs of more serious divisions over the future of the Falklands.

In *Weekend World*, 6 June, the Tory Party chairman, Cecil Parkinson, insisted that there could be "no place for Argentina" on the Falklands after the war, and no possibility of further negotiations over sovereignty. This is the logical outcome of the Tories' policy—having retaken the islands by force, it would now be impossible

to hand them back peacefully to the Junta.

But US imperialism and the other Western states are

By George Collins

alarmed at the prospect this raises. At the UN Security Council meeting on 5 June, British efforts to organise a common stand by her allies against the cease-fire resolution went badly wrong.

Of all Britain's "staunch supporters", only the US joined her in vetoing the resolution—but then followed an embarrassing announcement that the US had changed its position to abstention. (Conveniently, the decision to change was taken too late to change the US vote.) France also abstained, while the Japanese position changed from abstention to a vote in favour, despite "frantic efforts in the early hours of Saturday" by Foreign Secretary Pym, according to the *Guardian* 7 June.

Just as Thatcher's policy over the Falklands is determined exclusively by the interests of British Big Business, so also the other capitalist powers follow policies in the interests of their own capitalist class. The problem for them is



that they need to maintain their alliances with Britain and in NATO—but they also want a settlement after the war in the South Atlantic that will hopefully make possible some sort of stability in the region.

They calculate that their interests will be best served by maintaining the military Junta—but that may not be possible if Galtieri has no "face-saver" offered him. At present, Thatcher's "death or glory" bid for a military 'solution', rules this out as, in effect, it would restore British rule over the Falklands indefinitely. Even for British imperialism, a victory in the Falklands will prove pyrrhic indeed, if its diplomatic and economic links with the other capitalist powers suffer as a result, and if the pro-western capitalist countries are de-stabilised.

Britain planned use of napalm first

By Bob Wade

The Tory press has worked itself up into a fury over the discovery that the Argentinian forces have napalm. Certainly napalm is a horrific weapon, but the first people to plan the use of napalm weapons, were the British troops in the defence of South Georgia.

Lieutenant Keith Mills told the *Sunday Times*, 6 June, that he arranged for improvised napalm booby-trap bombs, of plastic explosive attached to cans of paint and petrol, to detonate if the Argentinians stormed the beaches. "The paint was just to give the burning petrol some substance and weight so that it would travel and stick. Had they landed on the beach and jetty, they would have been incinerated. We would have turned the beach into an inferno."

In the event, the Argentinians landed by helicopter, but the British ruling-class recognised the value of the planned defence. Last week, Lt Mills was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his 'valiant defence' of South Georgia 'in the face of overwhelm-

ing odds.'

Tory hypocrisy over weaponry is not confined to napalm. Last year, Thatcher described the IRA nail bomb which inflicted horrific injuries on Army bandmen as "despicable and inhuman." But she would not doubt defend the use of the cluster bomb which has been repeatedly used by the British forces in the Falklands. This works on the same principle as the nail bomb, only a hundred times worse. Dropped by Harriers it scatters into 147 separate mini bombs which in turn explode scattering jagged shrapnel over a wide area.

Similarly, when the Royal Navy have shelled Argentine positions, they have used blast shells which explode 100 feet up in the air showering shrapnel downwards onto the soldiers below. The horrific injuries these can inflict are easy to imagine.

But besides the weapons being used in the Falklands, Britain has plenty of even more horrendous weapons in its arsenal, including napalm. Not content with these, capitalism puts its resources into developing even more fiendish weapons.

The latest 'goodie' from America is an anti-personnel mine that has plastic shrapnel—even if its injured

victim is rushed to a field hospital there is little hope of survival as the shrapnel cannot be detected by X-Ray. Will the Tories scream with outraged indignation at this terrible weapon, or simply place their orders with the rest of the capitalist countries?

And this is just 'conventional weapons.' If napalm is 'cruel and dirty', then what of the nuclear weaponry—Polaris, Trident, Cruise etc that can wipe out whole cities in one horrific ball of flame.

When Thatcher was told of the Argentinians' stocks of napalm she replied in her lachrymose tones; "Isn't it just one more thing that makes one realise we have to fight for our way of life and shall continue to fight for all the good things we uphold."

The 'good things' the Tories uphold are mass unemployment, tumbling living standards, shackles for the unions, cutbacks, poverty and an array of conventional and nuclear weaponry which pales napalm into insignificance. The "way of life" workers want are jobs for all, decent living conditions and peace, that can be achieved through the socialist transformation of society.

Counting the cost in broken lives

By Mick Rogers
(Ex-Suez conscript)

The war in Vietnam showed how the heroes of one day are the embarrassment of the next. By 1981 there had been 55,000 suicides among the young men who fought in Vietnam, 60% of veterans were alcoholics and 40% drug addicts. These figures can be readily understood if you have been under fire yourself.

The sight and sound of teenage soldiers crying for their mothers as they lie in the mud holding the stump that a few moments before had been an arm or a leg and the sickly smell of death that follows you wherever you go. The reports of young Argentinian soldiers crying after being captured is understandable.

The relief you feel after fighting for your survival, the knowledge that the war is over for you, that you are not one of the dead, dying or badly injured is hard to explain. The knowledge that you will not have to face the shells and bullets again after seeing many of your friends lying around either dead or injured makes the strongest break into tears.

Even years after, a smell, a sound will bring back to many troops on both sides all the horror that any war means. Many soldiers become so frightened that the next shell, grenade, bullet might hit them, that they even hope that if they are hit they will die, and not have to spend the rest of their lives as a shattered hulk, with parts of their bodies missing.

Many of the troops and sailors will be badly burned if the reports of the sinking of the ships and fighting on the land are only half true. For these there is not even the dubious satisfaction of a pittance of a disablement pension.

They will be classed as 'disfigured not disabled' and still be capable of working. The disablement to their minds will mean nothing to an uncaring Tory government.

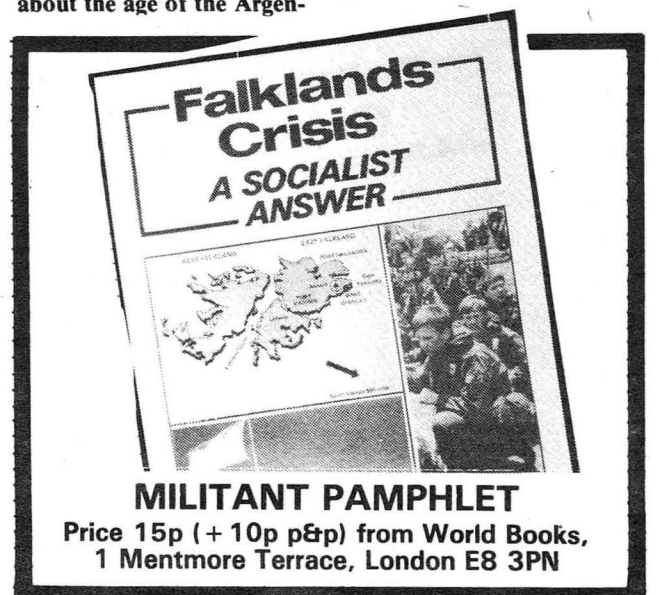
The British forces are now called our 'brave fighting lads', 'saviours of the British way of life' etc. But many of them will still remember that a few months ago they were told they were 'lazy youth who should get up off their behinds and go out to find work'.

Much has been said about the age of the Argen-

tinian conscripts, very little about the age of the British forces. Yet many are teenagers who joined the army and navy not to kill or be killed, but to learn a trade in the hope of finding a job when they left the forces.

The cost of this war to their minds and bodies can never be put down on a balance sheet. A year or so after the war is over the British and Argentinian capitalists will again be trading with each other. Arms again will be sold to bolster the juntas of South America as well as the profits of the arms manufacturers.

The only winners from this war are the capitalists and ruling classes. The real losers are the working classes on both sides both in cash and, more importantly, lives.



Now the Pope has gone...

Now that the excitement has subsided, a balance can be drawn up of the Pope's visit to Britain.

Attendances at some of the many meetings, although massive, were well down on what was expected, being tens of thousands short.

This is being counted for in pounds and pence by the many businesses who hoped to cash in on the Pope's tour. The Tyrella Glass company lost £26,000 on its papal mementoes and the Howard Smith printers have been left with 70,000 unsold brochures at a £1 each.

Public transport suffered too. British Rail had to cancel about 100 extra trains they had arranged due to the smaller than expected attendances. Greater Manchester Transport, who put on a thousand extra busses for the Mass there, needed half a million fares to break even—they received 180,000.

But although the visit is over, some businesses are still trying to cash in. For example, a carpet company in Gwent magnanimously 'lent' a £15,000 green, beige

By Derek McMillan

(Chairman, East Grinstead LP, personal capacity)

and gold carpet to the archdiocese of Cardiff for the Mass there. A magnificent gesture? Well, now the company have the 3,000 square yard carpet back they are going to cut the carpet that touched the Pope's feet into crosses, going for £5 each!

While the profiteers will be examining why the Pope's visit was a financial disaster for them, sincere Roman Catholic workers will now look at the Pope's words in the cold light of day.

While John Paul II was calling for men to cast aside the weapons of war, in the Falklands the battle for Goose Green and Darwin was raging.

When he talked in fine phrases about the holiness of family life, he repeated the Roman Catholic church's stale strictures against divorce, abortion and contraception. Stripped of the flowery phrases, the at-



A scene from the Papal visit. While some bow their heads in prayer, in moves a flag seller, selling his wares. Photo: Militant

tempt to keep 'women in their place' was still there.

While recognising that capitalism uses religious

divisions to divide and weaken the labour move-

ment, *Militant* supporters defend the right of workers to worship as they choose.

Nevertheless, as socialists we have a duty to combat the illusion that any saviour from on high, any magical force, can solve the problems of the world.

It is understandable that some workers should turn to religion as a way out of the impasse caused by capitalist society. But for all the pomp and splendour of the Pope's visit, nothing has changed.

Thatcher was not converted from monetarism

No blinding flash of light taught Thatcher or the capitalist class the error of their ways. The Falklands war continues, as does their other undeclared war against the labour movement and the living and social conditions of the working people.

For the thousands who rejoiced, the dole queues and tumbling living conditions remain. For the sick and disabled who were comforted by the Pope's blessing, the rundown hospitals and the decaying social services remain. Nothing has changed, and nothing will change until the workers take their destiny into their own hands to transform society, creating a decent life for all.

NO TO NUCLEAR ARMS



Nearly 250,000 joined the massive CND demonstration in London on Sunday — what better way to welcome Ronald Reagan to Britain! The next day of course, the Tory gutter press remained deathly silent over the massive turn-out, giving a few derogatory column inches to the event. The Tories hope to delude people into thinking there is no support for the fight against nuclear weapons. But the Tories do take the situation seriously themselves. One CND member was arrested after exposing a Special Branch film crew who were filming the marchers, no doubt for their many files. Photo: Militant

No to job losses!

During the recent election battles in the Civil and Public Servants Association, one of the main planks of the union's right wing was that the CPSA's proposed affiliation to the CND would

mean redundancies for workers in the Ministry of Defence.

Yet the fact is the Tories 'defence' strategy has proved disastrous for MOD workers, and it is the Tories who are threatening defence jobs.

Workers at MOD Llangennech are maintaining their opposition to the Tories' defence review and the introduction of Trident. At present the Naval stores at Llangennech are operating around the clock and there is a serious threat that stock levels may be reducing ahead of the rundown

targets. Workers loyalty will be rewarded with the dole.

And contrary to right wing claims, support has come in for the Llangennech workers from left of the union. The new president of CPSA, Kevin Roddy, and key left wing branches and executive members have promised financial support and solidarity.

Indeed, it was the right wings period in office that gave the Tories the confidence to proceed with the massive cuts in defence jobs. All the unions with the Joint Action Committee at Llangennech are committed to

the following programme:

- ★ Scrap Trident.
- ★ No to closures—save all jobs.
- ★ Commit Labour to alternative public sector work at Llangennech, with no loss of pay and conditions.

This programme can only be carried out by a co-ordinated campaign of the unions locally and the union leadership nationally together with the Labour Party. Messages of support and donations to:- Mrs D Hopkins, JAC, Royal Navy Store Depot, Llangennech, Llanelli, Dyfed.

Get red this summer

Missed out on a three-week £1,500 Caribbean cruise because the QE2 has been 'called up'? Never mind—there's another chance for a holiday of a lifetime.

A holiday where you can combine sunning yourself, dancing, canoeing, with learning about the history of the labour movement, Black youth and the struggle for socialism, and international struggles of the working class. And it won't cost you £1,500!

For only £20 you can come to the Labour Party Young Socialists Summer Camp, which takes place from 31 July—7 August, in the beautiful Forest of Dean, of Gloucestershire. The cost includes camp fees, films, discos etc every night, a play by the Scottish LPYS theatre group and other events.

It's been kept down this year by making the whole camp self catering—but even if you have difficulty cooking cornflakes, you won't starve, as the LPYS

Camp Catering Corps will be providing lunches and food in the evenings at very reasonable prices.

Everyone who goes has a great time (no half built hotels in Ibiza with LPYS Tours Ltd!)—so make sure you book your holidays now, and get your LPYS branch to start making plans to raise money to make sure everyone who wants to go can afford to. Letters appealing to trade unions and Labour Parties for sponsorships are available from Andy Bevan (LPYS, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17).

Some comrades are doing sponsored marathons. If that's a bit much why not organise a sponsored walk or swim, or a disco to raise money?

Two people in five won't get away from home for a holiday this summer, while a few will be going on safaris in Kenya, or cruises in the sun. If you want to step up the fight for a society where everyone can afford a decent holiday—then come to the LPYS Summer Camp — a week of socialism!

LPYS SUMMER CAMP
31 July-7 August
 Forest of Dean, near Coleford,
 Gloucs.

Cost: £20 (children under 12—£10, under 4—free)
 Book now! Send £5 deposit to
 LPYS Summer Camp,
 150 Walworth Road London SE17

Mitcham and Morden - WHY LABOUR LOST

Last week's by-election result in Mitcham and Morden was a big disappointment for everyone who worked to elect David Nicholas, the Labour candidate.

On a very low poll (48.7%) Angela Rumbold the Tory candidate was elected by a 4,000 majority.

Predictably the Tories are claiming that the result shows the electorate's support for Thatcherite policies. Yet on the doorstep their campaign was almost exclusively centred around the Falklands issue.

The election was caused because Bruce Douglas-Mann (who held the seat for Labour by only 600 votes in the last Parliamentary election) defected to the SDP.

His campaign traded much on the fact that he is the only Labour MP who, having defected, has resigned his seat and gone back to the electorate for a mandate.

He was billed as a 'man of principle,' the 'man who

keeps his promises.' The irony of this has not escaped Labour Party members! He told the local Labour Party he left because he had changed his views on 'certain issues'; he told the electorate the Labour Party has changed!

Douglas-Mann also took personal credit for the constituency work he has done, with of course, no mention of the Party that gave him the resources to do it!

But Labour supporters will also want to ask why the Labour vote was so poor in a mixed constituency which can by no means be called a Tory stronghold. With a viciously anti-working class Tory government in power, Labour should be winning hands down in areas like this.

Undoubtedly the Falklands crisis and the inadequacy of the Labour leadership's response to it has played a role. But, as well as this it is clear from discussions on the doorstep that Labour is not seen at present as a strong alternative to Tory monetarism.

The Labour candidate, David Nicholas, worked extremely hard throughout the campaign, beginning by helping out with canvassing for the local election.

David was selected on left policies and these came over when he spoke at the public meetings and in discussions. The leaflets and election address however, while they made a good job of exposing the appalling record of Thatcher's government and the Tories locally, gave only the sketchiest outline of positive policies, and failed to tackle the question of the SDP. The organisation of the campaign was inadequate in other ways. One example is the way in which 40 London LPYS members who came down for a mass canvas one Sunday were sent out to the most well-off areas of Pollards Hill ward, while two working class estates, where the majority of young people in the ward live and which had been leafleted in preparation the week before, were left uncanvassed.

I was told by the organiser that it was better to canvass 'our own areas' later because this would counter the smear leaflet that the SDP were expected to push out to likely Labour voters near the end of the campaign.

The low turn-out which, in general, was even lower on the council estates, shows that we cannot af-

ford to take the Labour vote for granted in this way. It was in the areas where the LP has played an active role locally that the best results were gained. Graveney and Figges Marsh, for example, increased the number of Labour promises voting by 48% over the local election turnout.

We cannot expect to win an election in a four-week campaign. We need an active Labour Party, alive to the problems of its working class constituents and campaigning for socialist solutions.

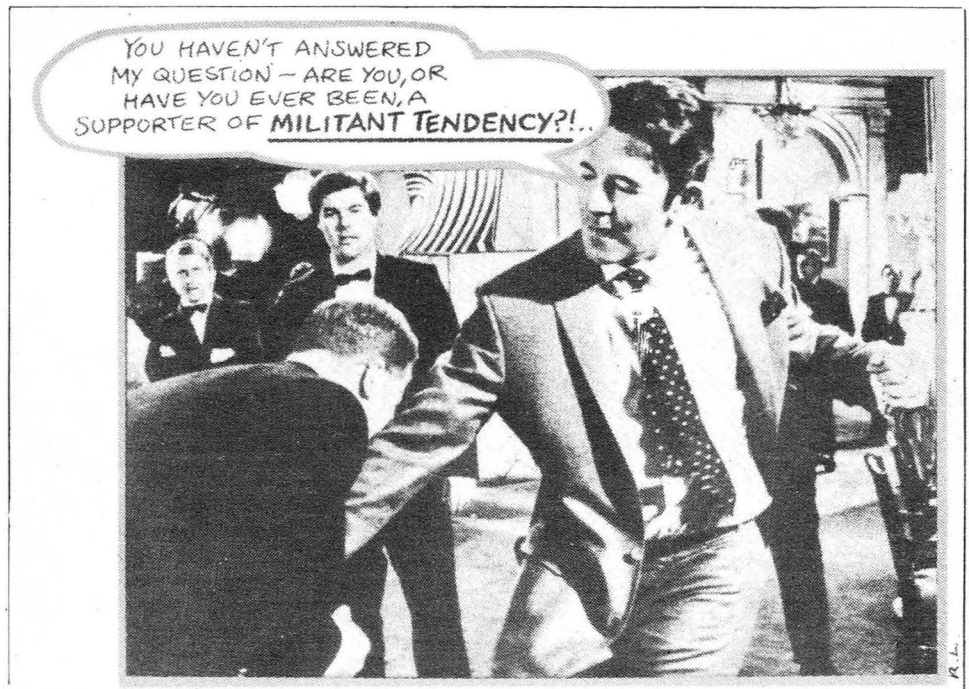
A step towards this will be the setting up of an active LPYS branch in the constituency. This is definitely on the cards now as a result of work done in the election. A group of enthusiastic young people are already making plans on how to best to take socialist ideas out to other youngsters in the area.

Incidentally, the expected smear leaflet from the SDP did arrive through our letter-boxes as predicted. It posed Bruce Douglas-Mann as the candidate standing for 'the old Labour tradi-

tions of caring and commonsense' and 'your new Labour candidate' as a Bennite and a Livingstonite.

However, perhaps those who claim it is Tony Benn who is scaring the electorate away can explain why only 30 people attended the meeting where Michael Foot spoke, while 200 came to hear Tony Benn.

By Marie Walsh
(Mitcham & Morden
CLP)



McCarthyism re-visited! These new postcards by Ray Lowry have been produced by Leeds Postcards, of 13 Claremont Grove, Leeds LS3 1AX. Also available soon from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. Price: 10p each (+ 15p p&P)

Support from Fords

The reason why myself and many of my workmates support 'Militant' is because it has the welfare of working people at heart.

A good example was seen before the threatened Ford workers' strike last January. The bosses' press poured out a torrent of poison against us with headlines like 'Get out and stay out' aimed at turning public opinion against us.

'Militant' on the other hand put forward our case and explained the true reasons for our dispute to its readers and called on support from other workers in our struggle for a better standard of living for our families.

The Welsh Labour Party conference voted narrowly for expulsion of 'Militant' supporters from the Labour Party with the TGWU

delegation abstaining. Before the conference our branch of the TGWU passed the following resolution:

'This branch notes the resolution to Wales Labour Party conference 1982 calling for the expulsion of 'Militant' supporters from the Labour Party.

'This branch calls on our delegates to—

1) Oppose all threats of expulsions of any section of the Labour Party in line with our national executive's stand

2) Call for unity around the Bishop's Stortford agreement in order to defeat the Tories and SDP and oppose the attempt to witch-hunt 'Militant' supporters out of the party.'

It is not surprising that the capitalists hate and fear a paper which fights for a socialist society world-wide. The right wing in the Labour Party have declared war on 'Militant' supporters too.

Is that because for many of them, like the SDP renegades, socialist ideals threaten their careers, which is all the Labour Party has become to them?

What they do not realise is that more and more workers are becoming aware of what is going on politically. It is the right wing MPs in the Parliamentary Labour Party who are out of touch with their constituencies. Workers will support and fight for a paper that fights for them.

The resolution we sent is in fact a massive vote of confidence from the workers at Ford's, Bridgend to 'Militant'. Forward to socialism!

By Andy Richards

(Shop Steward, Ford's Bridgend)



Labour Party Young Socialists Black Youth Conference

3-4 July, London

The LPYS wish to announce that owing to the activities of the Birmingham police, the venue for our national Black Youth Conference has unfortunately been changed from Handsworth, Birmingham, to COUNTY HALL, LONDON, 11 am start. For leaflets and information, contact A Bevan, Black Youth Campaign, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.

Swansea attack

The witch-hunt against 'Militant' supporters in Swansea Labour Party has taken yet another turn with the right wing grasping at straws in their attempt to stop democratic debate and discussion.

This week, the local Labour Association decided to withdraw the delegate's credentials of 'Militant' supporter Alec Thraves.

His crime? He refused to give a written guarantee to the officers of the Party that he would not give any personal statement to the media on any issues affecting the Labour Party in the future.

This attempt to silence opposition viewpoints by the right wing arose from personal statements Alec Thraves made during the recent re-selection process when he challenged the sitting MP Alan Williams, after the MP in a TV programme stated that if his opponent got the nomination, he would stand against

Labour as an independent candidate. In a response from Alec Thraves in the local press, he indicated that in all probability the MP would defect to the SDP in the near future.

The article—written in February—gives the excuse the right wing are attempting to use in order to prevent Alec Thraves, and by implication any Labour Party members, writing letters, making statements or comments to the media unless they go through the Labour Party office.

This crude attempt shows the right wing can only resort to organisational methods against their opponents. This unconstitutional action will be taken up not only through Labour's NEC but also by the branches of the many delegates to the Swansea party who are disgusted by this blatant victimisation.

Organisational manoeuvres such as this will have little support amongst the labour movement. This was shown during the same week, where after a number of resolutions were passed from AUEW branches to the Swansea District Com-

mittee, where it was decided to send a letter to the Executive Council of the AUEW expressing its opposition to the National Committee's decision to advocate a return to the proscribed list in the Labour Party.

At the same time, at the Swansea T&GWU 4/112 and 4/55 branches a resolution was passed condemning the decision of the regional delegation to the Wales Labour Party Conference to abstain in the vital vote dealing with the expulsion and proscription of 'Militant' supporters.

The branches' resolution was passed at the Swansea District Committee and they will now be writing to the Regional Committee to "issue a statement to the Wales Labour Party reaffirming our national policy" which is the opposition to witch-hunts of any section of the party.

**More reports
see page 2**



The Golden Fleece

How many of our readers had a flutter on the Derby? If you did, and won some money, we hope you'll remember to support Militant's fighting fund. One person who definitely did make a gain was Robert Sangster who owns the winning horse 'Golden Fleece.'

This was Mr Sangster's second Derby success in five years. He's not short of a few bob, having made a fortune out of other people's gambling through his control of Vernon's pools. Now he spends part of his millions in buying horses. He bought Golden Fleece for £430,000 and apart from winning the £142,000 prize at Epsom, Mr Sangster can hope to sell the horse at about £20 million.

£20 million! According to capitalist logic, a horse is worth well over 50 times as much as that received by relatives of Cornish lifeboatmen who died in the tragic Penlee rescue last December. Most workers who accept redundancy payments get under £5,000. Golden Fleece is "worth" 4,000 times as much. Life in capitalist Britain is one long gamble and it's the same people who win all the time.

March of the anti-democratic Right

Paul Johnson, a former editor of the 'New Statesman', now writes for the 'Sun', where his latest outburst on 3 June was entitled "March of the fascist left". Trying to convince himself and the readership that the Labour Party is dead and buried, he blurts out, "Yet the Marxists continue to carry through masterly power grabs."

These 'power grabs' Johnson refers to are the Labour election victories in London on 6 May. He moans, "Cunning behind the scenes juggling has given them mastery of Southwark, Hackney, Islington, Camden, Greenwich and Haringey." This 'cunning behind the scenes juggling' consisted of these Labour Parties standing candidates in the elections, putting over their policies, and being elected to office by the local populace.

And what does this great democrat Johnson propose that Thatcher does? "Having settled the hash of the fascist right in the Argentine, Mrs Thatcher may find herself this summer beating off a suicide attack by the fascist left at home. The British public will be solidly behind her on this one too."

Reagan's blood money.

Guatemala is one of the many despotic capitalist military dictatorships of Latin America. Left wing parties brutally suppressed and thousands have been butchered at the hands of the right wing death squads. A friend of the regime is President Reagan. It's not just that Reagan is trying to hold back the tide of history in Latin America to make a firm base for American Imperialism. He also has debts to pay. Former Guatemalan president Villagran Kramer told BBC Radio's 'File on Four' on February 4, 1981, that Guatemalan business men had made "contributions to the Republican Party and thereby to Mr Reagan's victory" in the US elections. To the tune of \$10 million.

After a bout of hysteria, the Observer sobers up.

The *Observer* article (June 6, p.2) referred to in the witch-hunt report on page 2 of this issue, was a hysterical attack looking out of place in this normally sober capitalist paper. After a long diatribe about 'infiltration,' 'violence' etc it finished up saying how the right wing of the Labour Party are "to persuade him (Michael Foot) that resolute action was essential if the party was to have any chance of winning the next election." Further on in the same paper however, the same author, Adam Raphael, sobers up. On page 10 is an article titled "The real reason for Labour's decline" which admits: "Nor are the ructions over party democracy, *Militant*, Tony Benn or any of the other headline-catching diversions responsible for the party's plight. What has undone Labour is its inability, at a time of declining economic fortunes, to construct a series of policies round which it can unite its traditional support!"

The struggles around the Reform Bill, which passed through Parliament 150 years ago this month, were of enormous importance for the labour movement and its lessons are still very relevant today.

The 1832 Act enfranchised the industrial wing of the British capitalist class. It gave the vote for the first time to some inhabitants of industrial towns, such as Birmingham and Manchester, and abolished the rotten boroughs where few, if any, people lived.

It meant that one in six males could now vote, but only one in 50 of male workers. Yet it had been the working class who had been overwhelmingly responsible for the pressure upon the government to pass this Act.

The events leading up to the 1832 Reform Act illustrate clearly that parliamentary democracy did not stem from the goodwill of the British ruling class, but was fought for over decades, primarily by the working class, and in the main through extra-parliamentary activity!

The movement for political reform had been linked with the struggle against the effects of the industrial revolution, the growing poverty of the handloom weavers, the harsh conditions in the factories, and the constant occurrence of unemployment. Trade unions (which had thrived in illegal conditions until the Combination Acts were repealed in 1824) acted hand in hand with radical political societies aimed at the overthrow of the government.

But the leadership of the radical reform movement remained in the hands of the middle class, that section of the bourgeoisie which had been left unfranchised after the English Civil War of the 17th century. Under the slogan 'Bread and political reform' they attempted to convince workers and artisans that they as 'the industrious classes' should make common cause against 'Old Corruption'—the landowners and tax collectors.

They claimed that if the Corn Laws were repealed there would be cheap bread. That if restrictions on capital were removed by free trade there would be more jobs for workers.

The membership of political organisations like the London Corresponding Society had consisted mainly of artisans who were prepared to campaign for political reform even in illegal conditions, and had taken part in mass demonstrations such as Peterloo which ended with a murderous attack by the local cavalry. Inevitably the political reform movement began to split along class lines.

From within the LCS came a new organisation, the United Englishmen, led by Tom Spence who attacked private property and called for nationalisation of the land. Thomas Hodgskin

turned the bourgeois right of the 'fruits of one's labour' on its head and explained that the only way that working people could achieve this would be by the abolition of private property.

By 1831 class divisions had come to the fore. Unemployment had led to rioting in Bristol and Nottingham, as well as countless strikes. In 1830 there was an uprising of rural labourers in Sussex and Kent. Throughout Europe there were revolutionary movements.

The National Union of the Working Class organised demonstrations of over 100,000 people in London and Birmingham in favour of universal suffrage. In towns and villages all over the country political societies were springing up, threatening that they would not pay tax but take up arms against the government.

The Chartist paper, *Poor Man's Guardian* explained that "the promoters of the Reform Bill projected it, not with a view to subvert or even remove our aristocratic institutions but to consolidate them by a reinforcement of subaristocracy from the middle classes."

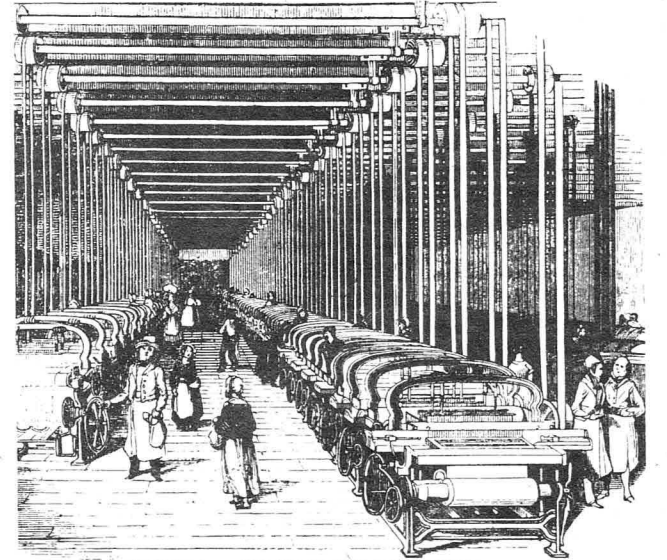
Parliament finally passed the Reform Bill on 7 June 1832 after six months of discussion in parliament. To finally overcome the die-hard opposition of the landowning aristocrats, the government threatened the House of Lords with the creation of more peers. Prime Minister Lord Grey, argued that the 1832 Bill would head off the growing threat of revolution and increasing support for universal suffrage and annual parliaments.

"There are no class of men so dangerous to democracy as those who under the guise of liberality conceal the most clear hatred to social reforms (for) the working class"
—Chartist writer

The mover of the proposal for £10 householders to have the vote explained that this "would not admit to the exercise of the elective franchise a single person who might not safely and wisely be enfranchised." On the other side, John Doherty, one of the local leaders of the National Union of the Working Classes, explained that the vote for the working class was "nothing more than a power given to every man to protect his own labour from being devoured by others." For both the workers and the ruling class, democracy was not an abstract principle but had a clear class content.

The 1832 Reform Act united the agricultural and industrial wings of the capitalist class against the labour movement. The reformed Parliament clearly

WORKERS WON THE VOTE



A Lancashire cotton mill during the 1830 s. Cheap raw materials from the colonies and low paid labour in factories at home contributed to the enormous wealth of factory owners.

- for the bosses

showed its true colours when the following year troops were sent to break up a demonstration by the National Union of the Working Class.

In 1834 the six Tolpuddle farm workers were convicted of illegal oath-taking (to join a trade union) and sentenced to life transportation. The Poor Law Amendment Act was passed which denied relief to all able bodied persons who refused to go into the workhouse. In the workhouses prison-like conditions were maintained; clearly the capitalists saw poverty as a crime to be punished.

But these were important years for the development of the early labour movement. Betrayed by the middle class, who had used them to enfranchise themselves, the working class now turned to trade union activity. In 1834 the Grand National Consolidated Trades Union was set up with 800,000 members.

The lessons of 1832 were reflected in the Chartist Movement, which right from the beginning, expressed the interests of the working class. The Charter, in the word of one of its leaders means 'more to eat for the industrious man, more clothing for his back, and the backs of his family, more comforts and enjoyments.' Alliances with middle class organisations such as the Anti Corn Law League were rejected. It became obvious that this section of the capitalists wanted repeal of the Corn Laws so that they would be able to reduce wages.

In 1851, Harney wrote in the *Red Republican* (a

Chartist paper): 'there are no class of men so dangerous to the principles of democracy as those who profess an unbounded liberalism, who enunciate a great amount of what are termed abstract political truths, and yet under the guise of liberality conceal the most clear hatred to social reforms which alone can alleviate the working class in the scale of man's happiness.'

Universal suffrage was not won in this country until 1928. The Chartist demand for Annual Parliaments has never been achieved, although the struggle within the labour movement for accountability of MPs continues. The working class won the right to vote through struggle. They met resistance from all sections of the ruling class, who feared that to extend the franchise to working people would endanger their own monopoly of wealth and power.

That is still their fear. In his book *Inside Right*, leading Tory Sir Ian Gilmour warns: "Conservatives do not worship democracy...For Conservatives therefore democracy is a means to an end, not an end in itself. If it is leading to an end that is undesirable or inconsistent with itself, then there is a theoretical case for ending it." If the ruling class in the future feel that democracy represents a threat to the privileges of their class, they will attempt to put an end to rights, which have been won in struggle over centuries.

**By Barbara
Humphries**

VIOLENCE IN THE HOME

"Sometimes I'd hide behind a chair, you know, get in the corner of the room and pull the armchair up against me. He couldn't get at my body so he'd put his leg over the chair and sort of stand on my head. He'd be drunk you see."

This statement*, by an 18-year-old girl, characterises the home life of battered wives and children. Her life has been a continuous story of squalor and horror, from the beatings she got from her father, through Borstal and Holloway prison, raped and pregnant at 15, turning from one violent boyfriend who fractured her jaw to another she met at the Chiswick Women's Refuge.

It is not surprising that she says of her own son, "I usually kick him, push my foot against his back, then he falls over and starts crying. I'm sorry then... because I know the pain, not just the pain but the feeling of not being wanted."

Here, much of the violence in the home and against women is concentrated into one girl's bitter experience, but these experiences typify the brutal existence that many working class families have, and indeed, have had in the past. Abhorrent though it is, violence against children and wives is not a new phenomenon but is rooted in the class nature of society. Violence against women has always been one of the most repugnant features of capitalist society.

In 1833 a report of the Commissioners on the Employment of Children in factories remarked on "acts of severity and cruelty towards children employed in factories," and although legislation was passed in 1823 to prevent cruelty to animals, it wasn't until 1889 that the Prevention of Cruelty to and Protection of Children Act was introduced. Even then the Attorney General advised against interfering with the "legitimate conduct of parents and guardians with regard to their children."

It was only in 1878 that the Matrimonial Causes Act allowed the judicial separation and maintenance of wives who had suffered violence in the home—until this time women were

By Jen Pickard
(Newham NE CLP)

bound by law to remain at home as the property of their husbands.

But in spite of legislation and greater public awareness of this sort of violence, for many families at the bottom of the social heap, life can be just as brutal. The true incidence of child abuse is unknown but some sources have estimated that 2,500 to 5,000 children are seriously injured every year by their parents.

Similarly, figures for violence against women vary, but the Citizens Advice Bureaux estimated that at least 25,000 women suffered from habitual serious brutality, and it is known that a woman is more likely to be murdered by someone she knows than a stranger. In some areas whole streets are characterised by violence—men beat their wives, women batter the children, who in turn may attack the elderly.

Attempts have been made to show that these forms of abuse are a result of the psychological make-up of certain sections of society. Whilst this may be true in some individual cases, the real problem has been summed up by the British Association of Social Workers when they said, "It is economic conditions, low wages, bad housing, overcrowding and isolation, unfavourable and frustrating work conditions, lack of job opportunities for adolescents/ school leavers, and lack of facilities such as day care, adequate transport, pleasant environment and recreational facilities which cause the personal desperation that might precipitate violence in the home."

But for many women there is no escape from domestic violence, the main problem being the difficulty of finding suitable alternative accommodation for

an issue for the Labour Movement

themselves and their children. Often women are confronted by a Catch 22 situation whereby a local authority will only consider an application for housing if the woman has custody of the children, but she is often refused custody because she is homeless!

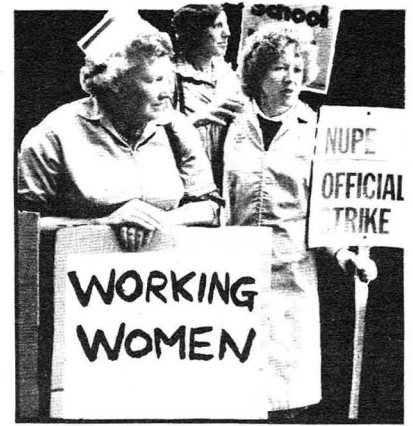
Then there are the financial problems—56% of those permanently separated were still existing

women and 17,000 children pass every year, can only scratch at the surface of the problem. Most refuges are overcrowded with half of the women having to share bedrooms with other families, and lack of funds means that facilities for children are often woefully inadequate.

In a survey of refuges, of those women who returned to live with violent men,

poverty rations as at present. In spite of the recommendation of a House of Commons Select Committee report in 1977 on Violence in the Family, that every effort be made to provide adequate facilities for the care of the under-fives, there have been massive cut-backs in nursery and child care provisions, especially under this Tory government.

ships in the home survive when there are no jobs, no nurseries, no houses and no future? Even in this so-called Welfare State society there are enormous, and for some unbearable, economic, financial and social pressures on working class families. The lifting of these burdens, the ending of domestic violence and putting human relationships on a sounder basis are tasks



In a survey of refuges, of those women who returned to live with violent men, 59% gave problems with accommodation as the main reason for their return.

on social security payments after 18 months, unable to get a job because of the lack of day-care facilities for young children. Those that may have had part-time jobs in the past have found that these jobs have disappeared as unemployment amongst women has soared.

The Women's Aid refuges give a useful service in providing emergency accommodation, support and advice for battered wives, but the 150 refuges in England and Wales, through which 10,000

59% gave problems with accommodation as the main reason for their return. Women must have the freedom to leave violent men if they wish but this means there must be a massive house-building programme to solve their accommodation problems.

Women must also have the economic means to be independent—by ending unemployment, providing child care facilities or by increasing social security levels to provide a decent standard of living and not

Violence against women in the home and within society generally is a symptom of the oppression of women and of a sick society—a symptom which cannot be tolerated. Many women have themselves been affected by the same despair and demoralisation which breeds violence, and increasing numbers of women have turned to alcohol as an escape so that increasing numbers of children suffer at the hands of their parents.

How can proper relation-

that only the labour movement can perform.

These tasks lie in the fight for a better society—for a real change in the living conditions of millions of working class families, an end to homelessness, an end to unemployment and an end to poverty—all those things that are the root causes of domestic and social violence.

*Web of Violence by Jean Renvoize, pub. Routledge and Kegan Paul Ltd.

Road accidents: worse for working class children

At half past three outside our local junior school there is always a group of parents standing by the wall, waiting to collect their children. The road is narrow, and with a row of parked cars it's always congested. Often, a coal lorry squeezing through the jam makes the whole thing worse!

A few weeks ago, as the children were pouring out there was a thud and then a scream. A young boy had been knocked into the air by a passing car. He broke both his arms and legs.

This sort of accident could happen any day of the week, with even worse consequences.

Parents are always angry when they hear of a child being hurt or even killed.

especially when the accident could have been prevented.

Many childhood accidents could be stopped.

The death of any child is a tragedy, and accidents are the commonest cause (30% of all deaths between 11 and 14 years). In 1979, 925 children died in accidents in England and Wales—there is a higher accident rate in Scotland. Twice as many boys as girls were killed.

Many, many more are injured. Over two million children have to visit hospital casualty departments every year, roughly one child in five. 128,000 injured children were admitted to hospitals in 1977.

Thousands of children are left with some disability from which they never



recover. Brain damage after a head injury can turn a normal, healthy child into a vegetable, who will need looking after for the rest of his or her life. Other injuries

can be just as devastating for the child and its family.

What can be done about this? Are accidents just "one of those things"? Are parents to blame for not looking after their children properly?

A closer look at the accident figures shows that a lot could be done to prevent them. A working-class boy is twice as likely to have a fatal accident as a middle class boy. He is seven times more likely to be killed on the road.

You don't need a University degree to see why. If children don't have gardens or nearby parks to play in, where else can they play but on the road? Other dangerous places found in working class areas, like derelict

slums and factories, waste ground, rubbish tips, deserted canals, slag heaps and railway lines, will all be used as play-grounds if there are no better facilities available.

A survey by Professor Townsend in 1979 showed that 44% of children of semi-skilled parents had no safe place to play. This is nearly double the proportion for professional and managerial parents.

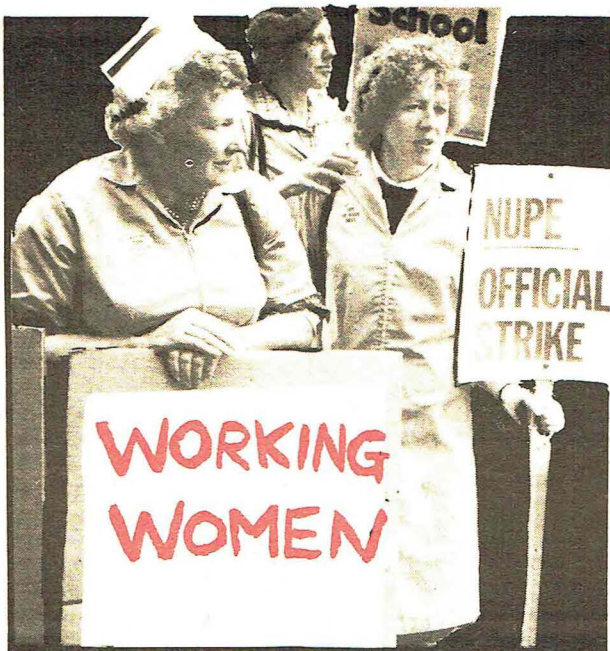
Tory cuts can only mean more children getting killed and injured and more mothers panicking whenever their child doesn't appear when called. Instead of cutting back the number of 'lollipop ladies', as many Councils have done, more are needed, on all busy roads that children have to

cross going to or from school. Derelict land should be built on or cleared and converted to safe play areas. Tenants and residents should have control over how these facilities are planned.

The cost of treatment of accidental injuries in children was estimated to be £68 million at 1980 prices. How much better it would be if this sort of sum was spent on providing parks, supervised adventure play-grounds, sports fields and other facilities in every area.

If this is what you'd like for your children, you'd better join the fight for socialism!

By John Dale



In the year since the last Women's Conference, there has been a rapid deterioration in the living standards of working class women.

Whilst unemployment has continued to rise, for those still at work wages relative to male workers are declining to the level of 1975 when the Equal Pay Act came into force. In some jobs—catering, cleaning, hairdressing, textile machinists, — women still earn only half of the average male wage.

Inflation in all the basics of life — fuel, food, rent etc.—make life a nightmare, especially for those women who are forced to cope with children by themselves. For example, Madeline Ward works a 16-hour day 7 days a week, to support 4 teenage children.

"They were given no presents at Christmas as their mother saved the money to pay an £660 electricity bill left, she says, by her husband when they separated four years ago. The family have lived by candlelight since the electricity supply was cut off ... On top of all this she last week appeared in court for a £231.76 rates debt which she claims she's paid... The only state benefit she claims is child benefit of £19. She starts work at 7am at the Hilton Hotel Laundry... until 10 or 11 at night. She earns £150 a week, pays £50 tax and spends another £50 on food. Her mortgage costs her £10 a week." (South London Press 25 August 1981).

Compare that with owners of hotels such as Lord Forte who said *"I've so many shares that whatever I sell I'd still be a rich man. To me, something like £1½ million is spare change."* (Daily Mirror 16 February 1982).

More and more women are being forced by their circumstances to struggle to defend themselves and to look for a solution to their problems. In the last few weeks the Health workers have been on the picket line demanding an end to poverty wages.

Amongst naval wives, the Falkland Crisis has meant insecurity and financial hardship and a growing revulsion from a government that can pay to send the troops out but not bring back the dead to their families and then start a public charity to provide for widows and orphans the benefits to which they are entitled and which the government should pay.

By Margaret Crear

The attacks on every aspect of working class women's lives provides great opportunities for the Labour Women's Organisation to give a lead and draw working class women into the ranks of the Labour Party.

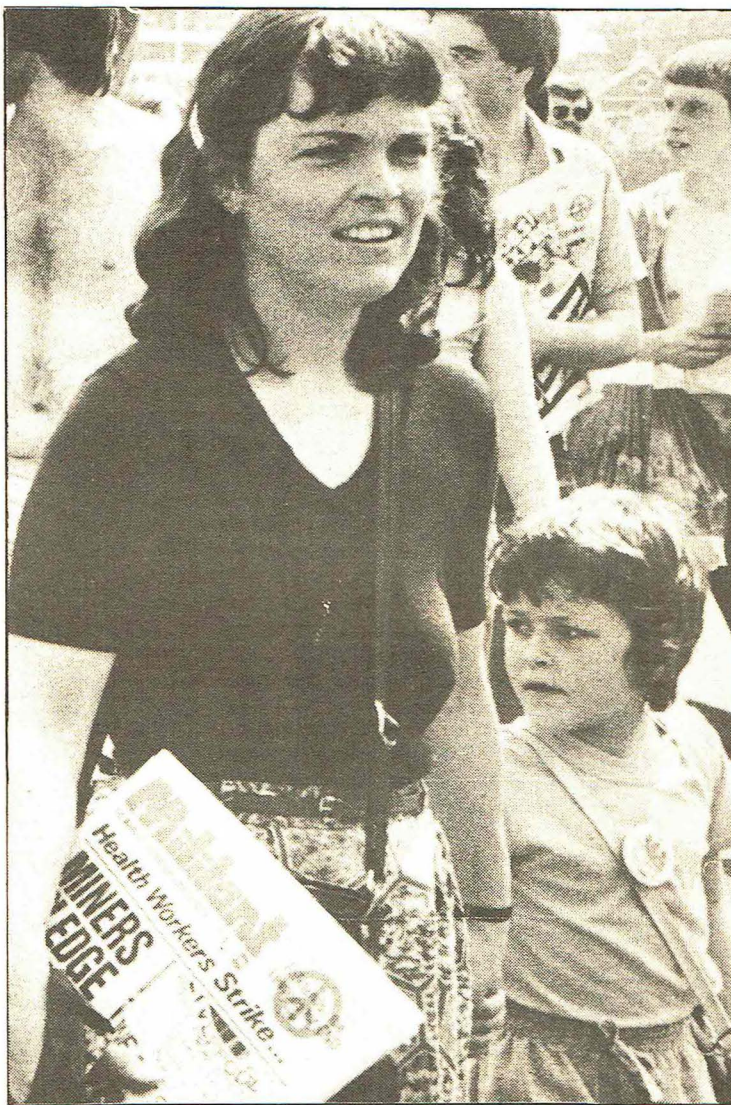
Already the increased politicisation of women has led to new womens' sections and councils being formed and no doubt increased activity in those already established. But this growth doesn't reflect the real potential for the womens' organisation to become a mass organisation. If it is to reverse this, it must become a democratic, campaigning organisation with a clear view of its role in the labour movement and what its ultimate aims are.

Much of the discontent in the Womens' Organisation is expressed through a large number of organisational resolutions such as that adopted at last years Womens' Conference which should give the womens' sections a structure similar to the LPYS. This will allow for election and accountability of representatives at regional and national level and provide a framework within which campaigns can be organised, policies discussed and the organisation built to a much greater extent than ever before.

However, members will have to be on their guard that the resolution is implemented in full and that no compromises are struck which leave us with remnants of the old structure which will hold back the development of the Womens' Organisation.

Another problem is the under-representation of women at various levels in the Party. This is in part an expression of the difficulty which working class women face in overcoming their double exploitation in the factory and at home which deprives them of time and energy but it also results from the conditioning in capitalist society which teaches them to regard themselves as secondary, robbing them of confidence.

Women's sections and councils should build the



Build a mass womens organisation!

confidence of women by helping them to undertake practical tasks such as the writing and production of leaflets, charring meetings etc. But first and foremost it must ensure that women receive a political education, not only on issues like abortion and nurseries which may particularly interest them but on all the major questions confronting working class people.

It must also ensure that the whole labour movement takes practical measures to ensure the involvement of women by providing crèches, taking the particular problems of women into account when organising events, organising special schools and courses to help them develop their abilities and political understanding fully.

The Womens' Organisation has to be wary of adopting resolutions which simply call for more reserved seats or quotas on commit-

tees which wouldn't go any way to drawing in the mass of working class women or ensure the removal of the obstacles to their full involvement.

One demand being raised again at this year's conference is for the transferrence of a number of resolutions from the agenda of Womens' Conference to national LP Conference. This arises from a genuine feeling that the resolutions 'go nowhere', although this is equally true of many LP Conference resolutions.

This dead-end reflects the inward looking nature of the National Womens Committee. This body should be responsive to the feelings and aspirations of working class women. They should act upon conference resolutions, take up campaigns in the name of the Womens' Organisation itself, not continually attaching its name to various ad hoc commit-

tees whose policies often conflict with those of womens' conference.

It should take its policies to working class women and convince them of the need to fight for these demands. It should campaign in the labour movement and the Labour Party in a similar way, for example, as the very successful YOPs trade union rights campaign has been conducted.

In the end the most crucial questions facing the conference are the policies on which it should campaign. How can it ensure that the energies and commitment of the women it organises are not frittered away but result in a radical change in their lives?

Bakeries are closing yet many families can hardly afford adequate food. Textile firms are closing yet as many womens' sections know jumble sales have never been better attended! Building workers are on

the dole, bricks stockpiled yet thousands are on council house waiting lists, many more need urgent repairs to their homes and many hospitals are crumbling around the ears of the patients.

Private ownership of the economy and production for profit represent an enormous stumbling block to raising the living standards and fulfilling the aspirations of our class. It's to this central question that Womens' Conference must address itself in the economy debate.

The NWC usually supports resolutions which call in a general fashion for the implementation of Clause 4, part 4 of the Party constitution. Yet they consistently oppose the resolutions which demand either the nationalisation of individual firms or industries or demand the nationalisation of the commanding heights of the economy in the form of the top 200 monopolies, banks and insurance companies.

Yet without a plan of production, drawing together the resources available, many of the legitimate and quite modest demands made by Labour women in their resolutions will not be met on a permanent basis.

It would be possible with such a plan to regenerate industry, making maximum use of new technology to provide full employment, based on a shorter working week and a guaranteed living standard for all. It would generate the wealth necessary and provide the material resources for a massive expansion of social services, nurseries, housing, facilities such as launderettes, restaurants, take aways etc. which would release women from household drudgery.

But of course, working class women have another strong reason for struggling to put an end to capitalism. The subjugation of women, their double oppression and everything which flows from that were done in the interest of private property, a system taken to new heights by capitalism.

If we are to free ourselves of discrimination, the violence and degradation of women and the drudgery which is the daily experience of working class women then capitalism must go.

The Labour Party Womens Organisation can play a major role in this process only if it adopts a clear socialist programme, takes it out and wins the support of working class women and builds a mass womens' section as part of a mass socialist Labour Party.

The Womens' Festival, organised by the Labour Party Womens' organisation in London on 5 June attracted several thousands, including a march held beforehand.

The LPYS section were easily the most vocal part of the march and their bookstall at the festival, with the Militant stall was well supported.

The womens' organisation could use events like this festival to draw thousands of working class women into activity in the labour movement, if they are linked to those social issues most affecting them.



Reverse discrimination no answer

Never has it been more urgent to activate the labour movement in defence of working class women. No other section of the workers has suffered more under Mrs Thatcher's government.

A number of trade unions have recently acknowledged their past neglect of women workers. They have begun to put forward policies on which to fight for equal rights and equal treatment. They are also increasingly recognising the need to recruit more women into their ranks and involve women fully at every level.

This new turn has been expressed in the call for 'Positive Action'. This slogan, also taken up by the TUC, reflects the class demands of working women. All labour movement activists should work to ensure that the policy statements are translated into action.

By Lesley Holt

'Positive action', however, has also been given another meaning. It has been put forward by some groups not as a programme of working class action, but as a policy of reform based on the idea of **positive discrimination**. Its advocates argue that a campaign for equal rights or equal treatment is not enough: past discrimination against women can only be overcome by **reverse discrimination** until equality is achieved.

This would involve legislation obliging employers to achieve quotas or goals for the employment of women in various skilled

jobs, senior grades, professional and management posts etc. Women would be given preference over men when applying for jobs or promotions.

Even if, under pressure from the labour movement, reverse discrimination legislation were to be introduced, it would not have the positive effects envisaged by its advocates.

Such legislation would not create new jobs—except perhaps in a new bureaucracy to monitor positive discrimination. Instead, it would open up a scramble between men and women for a dwindling pool of jobs. A small minority of women might benefit from preferential treatment. The position of most women would be left unchanged.

But the demand for preferential treatment for women would open up new divisions between male and female workers. Instead of breaking down prejudices, reverse discrimination

would reinforce the prejudices of politically backward workers.

The labour movement cannot afford to hand its enemies such a gift. They would eagerly exploit its divide-and-rule potential. We must fight for the interests of working women on demands which bring workers together in a common struggle. Only through using the power of the labour movement will the position of women be improved.

Every threat to jobs must be fought. We should fight for a minimum living wage for all workers of at least £90, which would be a big step forward for most women workers. The implementation of a 35-hour week, without loss of pay, would create new jobs and lighten the burdens on working women.

These demands on jobs and pay must of course be linked to the call for adequate child-care facilities and other vital services and amenities.

If discrimination against women was not overcome during the period of capitalist boom, it will never be eradicated in a period of capitalist decline—so long as we remain within the present diseased framework. Every attempt to salvage this foundering system involves dumping workers' living standards overboard. But even this will not avoid

shipwreck.

Only socialist planning, with the ownership and control of industry and finance in the hands of the working class, can provide the economic resources to eradicate the age-old discrimination against women. It is only through a struggle to defend jobs and pay and to change society that women will achieve real emancipation.

Positive discrimination is an attempt to find a short cut. If only male prejudice could be overcome, it is implied, women would get their fair share of employment. But real equality for women cannot be achieved through legal reforms because capitalism—especially in a period of crisis—cannot afford to give real substance to women's legal rights, even if it is forced to concede them in law.

This has been demonstrated by the history of positive discrimination in the United States. America's "affirmative action" programmes, begun in the late 1960s, have frequently been held up as an example to be followed. A series of laws, Presidential orders and court decisions established legally enforceable quotas or goals which employers were obliged to implement. As a result, argue the advocates of positive discrimination, things are incomparably better for American women.

A closer look at the real situation shows that this is not the case. A small minority of women benefited from affirmative action programmes. As employment generally grew, and managements and the professions expanded, more women were able to get top jobs. But as the US economy slips deeper into recession, even these limited gains are being undermined. And the figures show that the majority of women gained little or nothing from positive discrimination laws.

In spite of all the legal reforms, in 1980 three-quarters of working women in the US were in occupations with a female majority. More than half in jobs which were 80% female. Predictably, pay in these "women's jobs"—secretaries, nurses, telephone operators, etc—is invariably below that of men with equivalent skills.

Gains of 1960's and 1970's being reversed in new climate of unemployment

And positive discrimination does not protect jobs.

Representatives of American women's organisations met recently in Washington to discuss the growing threat to women's jobs. Reporting this conference, *The Times* (23 March) commented:

"Despite a decade of what are known as 'Affirmative Action Programs' (job quotas for minorities) and unprecedented employment gains, new figures show that the career and salary prospects of women and minorities are beginning to slip backwards, ebbing with the strong economic tide which has flattened employment in America generally... 'We're in a crisis. Women are so

terrified of losing their jobs they won't speak up about such things as equal salaries or advancement,' says Sandra Porter, executive director of the National Commission of Working Women."

The Times also commented on the divisive repercussions of America's discrimination programmes.

"The first signs of conflict have already begun to emerge as women in the workforce become increasingly hostile towards each other, resulting in a new divisive relationship between the non-professional support staff and female managers. 'There is a new tension between management and non-management women which could become very serious if not nipped in the bud,' says Jane Fleming, executive director of Wider Opportunities for Women, a national organisation which trains women for non-traditional work.

"The source of this growing hostility can be traced largely to the lower-paid women who see their opportunities for advancement drying up as the economic declines. Increasingly, these women are turning against the favoured one per cent of female managers and professionals who have achieved salaries and positions denied the rest."

The "Affirmative Action" gains of American women came either through concessions from bosses or through legislative concessions, which obliged the employers to act. They were not achieved through organising women, actively involving them in a struggle to improve their conditions. That is why the bosses can now wipe out the gains with very little trouble. The law is only a minor obstacle, especially with Reagan in the White House and his appointees in the courts.

The supporters of women's rights put their faith in the civil rights movement, on which, they said, the women's movement was able to build. But this movement, based mainly on the students and middle class, has not been able to transform the conditions of working-class women, any more than those of most black workers. Even the limited gains of the minority are now threatened, and the civil rights movement is incapable of defending them.

So it comes back to the labour movement. Despite their post-war decline under right-wing, pro-capitalist leaders, the trade unions remain the only bodies through which American workers can be organised and mobilised. In spite of its present leadership, the American working class remains, potentially, a mighty force for change. The formation of a party of labour is long overdue. But it will not be long, with the crisis now developing in American capitalism before the working class begins to move into action.

The struggle to eradicate discrimination and end the exploitation of women will be a vital part of the struggle to change society on socialist lines. But there is no short cut to this struggle in Britain or anywhere else, as has already been demonstrated by the experience of positive discrimination in America.

GULF WAR

Political earthquake faces Middle East

The Iran-Iraq war is dragging to a conclusion after twenty-one bloody months of conflict.

The war has been fought at enormous economic cost, and with great casualties for both sides, but the political consequences have yet to be calculated.

When the Iraqi regime launched its assault across the Shatt-Al-Arab waterway in September 1980, President Saddam Hussein had hoped that the revolution in Iran would have weakened the Iranian armed forces sufficiently to give Iraq a quick and decisive victory. He calculated that this would lead to the overthrow of Khomeini in Iran, so removing the threat of a mullah-led revolution in Iraq, and at the same time establishing Iraqi hegemony over the Shatt-Al-Arab estuary.

But Hussein did not reckon on the effect of the revolution on the mass of the Iranian army and, in particular, on the fighting morale of the Muslim militia, the Pasdaran. Because the Hussein regime was courted by former generals of the Shah in the early days of the war, Khomeini was able to portray the war, from the Iranian standpoint, as a 'revolutionary' war, against supporters of the deposed Shah.

The *Times* warned in September 1980, "Never invade a revolution" and in fact the war, far from destabilising the Khomeini regime, has strengthened it.

The social basis of the regime in Iran has yet to be finally settled but the internal struggle that raged over this period finally led to the toppling of Bani-Sadr and further increased the power of Khomeini and the Muslim hierarchy who used their powerful militia to strengthen their grip on society. Increasingly, the army has been supplemented by units of the Muslim Pasdaran and other Muslim volunteer militias.

The army has also been affected by the introduction of religious leaders into the ranks who, like Moslem 'commissars', have increased the morale and the combativity of the Iranian troops. With the Iranian army and the volunteers, some only 14 or 16 years old, prepared to suffer heavy casualties, the tide of the war against Iraq began to turn, despite Iraq's superiority in military hardware.

It has seemed in the last few months that the higher has been the morale of the Iranian forces, the more the morale of the Iraqi troops has ebbed away. The Iraqi army has been beset with desertions and demoralisation, affecting even leading officers as well as the mass of the troops. It was significant that whereas the original capture of the city of Korramshahr took six weeks of heavy, even hand-to-hand fighting, the

By John Pickard

recapture of the town by Iran only took two days.

The Iraqi government up to now has tried to disguise the scale of the defeat, referring in its own internal press to "strategic withdrawals," but they will no longer be able to hide what is, in effect, a humiliating debacle.

For the first time in the war some of the main Iraqi cities will themselves be subject to artillery bombardment from Iranian positions. Basrah, Iraq's only important port, and second biggest city, is already being shelled from the Iranian advanced position.

Iraq's development schemes have been abandoned as a result of war costs

The Iraqi working class has suffered enormously in terms of the tens of thousands of dead and injured. If the war was to continue they would be expected to shoulder even more unbearable burdens.

In the past the Iraqi government could base itself on its oil revenues and could at least make a pretence at developing the country. Central Baghdad itself is a vast building site, with all kinds of developments underway, including new highways, railway systems, electricity systems, street paving, hotels and office buildings.

It is arguable how much of the development in Baghdad and other cities was designed to increase the living standards of the mass of the workers, and how much of it was derived from government's aim to increase its own prestige. (Baghdad is the venue, in September, of the world conference of 'Non-Aligned' states.) But now, in any case, these development schemes have had to be abandoned because of the costs of the war. Austerity measures will affect the Iraqi working class more directly than before.

When the war began it was Hussein's declared intention to overthrow Khomeini in Tehran, but it looks increasingly as if it is Hussein himself who is likely to fall. The brutality of his regime in the past ensured that all opposition elements were ruthlessly purged but that will not guarantee him his safety in the coming weeks and months, any more than Savak guaranteed the position of the Shah four years ago.

It is not ruled out that there could be an attempt by Hussein's fellow officers within the Revolutionary Command Council (the centre of Baathist power in Iraq) to get rid of Hussein and on that basis to sue for peace with Iran, but that may also provoke a movement from below, involving the intervention of the mass of the Iraqi population... It is not possible to whip up national fervour, involving enormous efforts and sacrifices—even if under the control of the Baathist government—and then switch it off again like a tap especially when the war ends in defeat.

The Iraqi regime boasted that in the course of the war it had mobilised a 'popular militia' of 400,000, but when the knowledge of a humiliating defeat sinks in, that militia will not be a source of strength for the regime but the very opposite. It will become a focus of discontent and revolutionary opposition. Workers will want to know why 100,000 casualties had to be suffered for no apparent gain.

There are already reports of outbreaks of opposition, especially in the northern Kurdish areas of Iraq and those areas where the Shia Muslims—co-religionists of the Tehran mullahs—predominate. A series of demonstrations and riots in Kirkuk, for example, were reported to have been suppressed with great brutality. There are also increasing reports of demonstrations in Baghdad and Basrah.

Across the Persian Gulf the alarm bells are ringing just as loud. In the oil-rich Arab Gulf states the sheikhs and Arab royal families are looking now with horror at the possibility that Hussein's overthrow may produce new shock waves in the region.

The Arab sheikhs dread the possibility of revolution in Iraq

They dread the possibility of a new revolutionary government in Iraq aligning itself with the Khomeini regime in Iran. Senior Arab diplomats were reported to have commented that "it would be difficult to overestimate the impact the Iranian victory was having on their governments."

The *Financial Times* correspondent described the potential of an Iran-Iraq alliance: "Between them they would have a population of close to 55 million, possible oil production of over 8 million barrels a day, effective control over the vital Straits of Hormuz through which about 40% of the industrial world's oil passes and a large battle-hardened army which could overwhelm all other forces in the region." This may



Hussein did not reckon on the effect of the Iranian revolution on Iran's Muslim militia, increasing the morale and combativity of its army.

not be the most likely perspective, but it graphically sums up the fear of these reactionary Gulf states.

Last year in the tiny oil rich state of Bahrain, an opposition group was arrested just in time to prevent an attempted coup. The leaders of the Gulf states are almost paralysed with fear at the possibility of revolutionary movements taking root within their own states, whose populations have been massively swollen by

migrant guest workers, including hundreds of thousands of Egyptians, Palestinians, and many other Asian and Arab workers. The population of Kuwait for example, is only 47% Kuwaiti.

Their mutual fear of revolution has driven the Gulf States, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates to form the Gulf Cooperation Council which, in effect, is a means by which these regimes under the

Saudi Arabian and US umbrella can cooperate in suppressing any domestic opposition movements.

It was originally through fear of the Iranian revolution that these Gulf states sent enormous amounts of aid to the Iraqi war effort, a total of \$22 billion. But the fear of revolution in Iran has now been superseded by the fear of revolution in defeated Iraq. The main concern now of the Gulf states, and other Arab states, including some like Syria, which supported Iran, is to try to find a way to extract Iraq from the war by getting rid of Hussein, with as few 'waves' as possible.

The economic cost of the war

IRAN

There have been estimates of 80,000 killed, but in addition to those killed in the war with Iraq, up to 15,000 have died in internal struggles and, according to opposition estimates, there are 40,000 in prison. The war created one million refugees and has led to the complete ruination of the Abadan oil refinery complex. Oil production, formerly running at about 6 million barrels per day, is still at less than half that.

IRAQ

Estimated 30,000 dead and 70,000 wounded. Iraq was forced to borrow \$22 billion from the Gulf states to finance the war, and Iraq's own financial reserves fell from \$35 bn. in 1980 to less than \$10 bn. now. Oil production has fallen from around 3 million barrels per day to about 600,000.

The social effects of the war cannot now be undone

The Saudi Arabian regime has contacted the Iranian government, through the intermediary of Syria, in order to offer to pay war reparations to Iran, to 'buy off' the problem. Whether the \$15 billion on offer is sufficient to satisfy Khomeini, or whether the social and political effects of the war can now be waved away with a cheque book are another matter entirely. The social effects of the war cannot now be undone.

The class conflicts within the Middle East as a whole will build up enormous contradictions, like the subterranean pressures that lead eventually to earthquakes. The war itself has already acted like a political earthquake for the whole region, but it will be dwarfed by the even greater revolutionary shocks that will affect those rotting capitalist and landlord regimes in the future.

WAR IN LEBANON

- as Begin moves to destroy PLO

By Peter Jackson

In a massive attack involving combined air, sea and land forces, the Israeli government is attempting to destroy the Palestine Liberation Organisation in Lebanon.

In the name of a "fight against terrorism" the Israeli Prime Minister Begin has launched a murderous programme of official government terrorism on the Palestinian and Lebanese population in the area, bombing civilian centres and refugee camps. Reports indicate that hundreds of civilian casualties, including many women and children, had already been suffered through bombing even in the hours before the invasion itself.

Begin declared that the invasion was aimed at putting Northern Israeli towns and villages beyond the range of PLO rockets and artillery fire, by pushing the PLO militias back 40 kilometres from the Israeli border. But the conflict is unlikely to remain as simple as that.

The Israeli government will not itself be able to occupy permanently this large slice of Southern Lebanon, because of the domestic and international repercussions, but they would find it just as hard to prop up an enlarged "Christian" enclave if the Lebanese Left and PLO militias simply pulled back and regrouped their forces to the north, as they did after the Israeli incursion in 1978.

The scale of the Israeli military operation, involving up to 30,000 troops and hundreds of tanks and armoured vehicles, as well as huge reserve forces, shows that the Israeli ruling class have calculated that they must not merely push the PLO back further north, but completely destroy their military presence in Lebanon. But this plan, or an attempt to push the PLO out of Lebanon altogether, will enormously increase the possibility of a major war with Syria.



A week after being promised 75 new F-16 fighter bombers by the USA, the Israeli ruling class sent their present considerable airforce to attack targets in Lebanese towns and cities.

The Syrian government does not want a war. Unlike in 1967 and 1973, there would be no involvement by Egypt, the strongest Arab power, so that Syria would face almost certain military defeat. In addition, the Syrian President, Assad, has too many pressing domestic problems to want to threaten his own position further by a war which he cannot win.

But even despite these factors, Syria may become embroiled in the conflict. Syrian troops went into the Lebanon in 1976 in effect to stabilise the situation. The Syrian regime was just as afraid at that time that the

civil war that was raging between the Palestinian and Lebanese left on the one hand and the right-wing Maronite Christian militias on the other, would bring in its train incalculable international and domestic repercussions.

There has been since 1976, a de facto division of Lebanon, with Christian enclaves in the north west of the country, and in the far south along the Israeli border, (Haddad's "free Lebanon"), the remainder being controlled by the PLO and allied militias (in the south) and the 30,000 Syrian 'peacekeeping' force.

Up to now in this latest conflict, Syrian and Israeli artillery exchanges have been limited, but any Israeli attempt to fundamentally alter the balance of forces or re-draw the map of Lebanon raises the possibility of a major clash with the Syrian armed forces.

The Israeli intention does seem indeed to be a repartition of Lebanon into two spheres of influence, Israeli-Christian and Syrian, in neither of which the PLO will have a free hand. But Syria will oppose a new Christian 'statelet' in Lebanon, aligned with Israel.

It is this threat—of a more generalised war—which now concerns American and European imperialism. A limited 'police' action by Israel would not be too damaging, they calculate, although even that carries with it many risks, but a major Middle East war opens up a Pandora's box of problems.

The Iranian victories in the Gulf war have already put enormous pressure on the oil rich Arab Gulf states, who are paralysed by fear of social revolution. A new major war in the Middle East would make an unstable situation even less stable, threatening the strategic Western oil interests in the area.

In the long run, it will become clear also that Begin has seriously miscalculated. He is making a huge mistake if he believes that the Palestinian question can be removed by crushing the PLO militias with the overwhelming Israeli military superiority.

Tens, perhaps hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and Lebanese will become refugees as a result of this conflict. Many among the Palestinian refugees will have been made homeless, because of Israeli military action, for the third time since 1948.

The murderous bombing of Palestine refugee camps in Lebanon will only increase the strength and determination of the 2½ to 3 million Palestinians in the Middle East to fight for their own social and national emancipation.

The fighting in the Lebanon will not weaken, but will strengthen the resolve of Arabs on the West Bank and in Gaza to resist the Israeli occupation.

Israel itself faces a profound political and social crisis in the coming months and years. There are already deep and growing divisions between the right-wing Zionist establishment, especially represented in the armed forces and in the Likud government, and many sections of the Israeli working class.

Israeli workers have no interest in a state that is doomed to being a permanently armed military camp. In the long run, this war will exacerbate the divisions within Israel itself.

It will become obvious to the mass of Israelis that the Palestinians cannot be bombed out of existence. There is no peace in the Middle East, and no peace for Israel as long as the Palestinians are denied their own national and social emancipation.

Socialists must unreservedly condemn this latest Israeli invasion in Lebanon, and must express the fullest support for the right of the Palestinians to self-determination. But in the Middle East, more than anywhere else in the world, the question of national emancipation is intimately bound up with the socialist transformation of society.

If it is considered only in the context of competing nationalities, the Middle East presents a picture of absolutely irreconcilable contradictions. Undiluted Zionism, Arab nationalism, Maronite nationalism, etc. all lead invariably to dead ends and more wars.

Neither can any confidence be placed in a United Nations solution.

The United Nations forces in Lebanon and the calls of the Security Council for a withdrawal have been ignored by the Israeli government. Hard on the heels of the Falklands issue, the Lebanon crisis has clearly shown once again the utter impotence of the UN.

The labour movement must see the issues from a class standpoint. The national conflicts and contradictions can only be solved on the basis of the social transformation of society in the Middle East, and that is the task which can only be achieved by the labour movement itself.

It will not be the United Nations, the Israeli ruling class, nor any of the rotten Arab regimes in the Middle East which will point a way forward for the workers and peasants of that region. This is a task which will ultimately have to fall to the labour movement, fighting for the common interests of all workers and peasants in the area: in the interests of Jews, Arabs, Muslims and Christians alike.



RTZ's private army in Namibia

As US special envoy General Vernon Walters visits Angola hoping to break the deadlock in the negotiations over Namibian independence, the real nature of Western involvement in Namibia has been glaringly exposed.

Rio Tinto Zinc (RTZ), the British mining group managing and jointly owning the Rossing uranium mine in Namibia, have admitted that they keep a private army at the mine. Totalling 69 men, it has an arsenal at its disposal including automatic rifles and tear gas.

Sir Anthony Tuke, RTZ chairman, claims that in view of the guerrilla struggle being waged in the north of Namibia, "it is the duty of the management...to see that there are plans for the protection of their employees and their equipment."

But more is revealed of the real purpose of the bosses' militia in an internal company document, which declares that the aim is "to maintain a state of preparedness for civil or labour or terrorist attacks against the mine."

These concentration camp conditions give the lie

to the pretence of democratisation with which the South African regime and international big business are trying to dress up their present manoeuvres to foist a neo-colonial 'independence' on the oppressed working people of Namibia.

Moreover, the practice of keeping workers at gunpoint is not limited to RTZ. In its 1981 Annual Report, RTZ stated that "there is no special arrangement with regard to any military operations or any form of special securities (at Rossing) beyond that normally applied to any major installation of this kind in Namibia" (press release by Namibia Support Committee).

Namibian workers, living and working under a state of armed siege, will look for support to their British brothers and sisters in the common struggle against the power of the bosses.

ITALY

A mood of anger reminiscent of the 'hot autumn' of 1969 swept Italy last week as the bosses' organisation, Confindustria, announced their withdrawal from the wage-indexation agreement with the unions (linking wages to the cost of living).

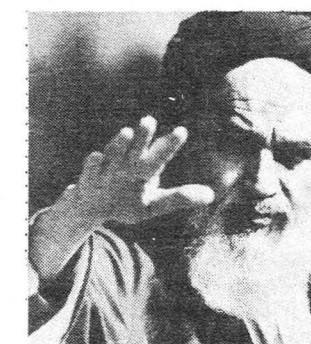
With inflation at over 15%, this is a blatant move by the bosses to cut wages. Strikes and demonstrations erupted throughout the country. The trade unions' call for a one-hour general strike met with an 80%-90% response.

But the workers' anger will not be exhausted by token actions. Luciano Lama, leader of the biggest trade union federation, CGIL, predicted that there will be "no truce" on the industrial front in Italy until the Confindustria backs down.

Even some capitalist politicians have taken fright at the consequences facing them, as the 'Financial Times' puts it, "expressing alarm at the risk of a protracted wave of industrial agitation" (3 June).

This could hasten the fall of the government and plunge Italy into a new political crisis.

IRAN



The nationalisation of foreign trade has been blocked by Iran's Council

of Guardians, a "constitutional watchdog" dominated by the conservative Islamic clergy.

Although approved by the Majlis (parliament) last year, the Council of Guardians has now decided that the measure goes against certain tenets of Islam which preach respect for private property.

But the real reason for the decision has been the pressure of the merchant class, with whom the conservative clergy are linked. The merchants do not want to lose hold of their lucrative foreign contracts.

This is a rebuff for Ayatollah Khomeini, who supports nationalisation in looking for mass backing for his regime. It is also a reminder to the workers, peasants and poor of Iran that the Islamic revolution has far from broken the power of the propertied classes to exploit the mass of society.



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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Why the Wales witch-hunt should have been defeated

Dear Comrades

I was a delegate to the recent Wales Labour Party conference and would like to add a point to the report by Ken Smith (*Militant* issue 603).

As Ken Smith reported the 'witch-hunt' resolution was only carried by 6,000 votes. The UCATT delegation, who would most probably have voted against the resolution, found when it came to the card vote that the right-wing leader of their delegation had left conference early, and had taken the card vote with him when he went. So UCATT's 7,000 votes could not be cast against the resolution. If they had of course, the resolution would have been defeated.

Yours fraternally
Dave Clark

ASTMS No 14 Division
and Wales Labour Party
Conference delegate

Double standards over trades councils

Dear Comrades

I was interested to read Keith Narey's article (*Militant* issue 594) on the attitude of the TUC towards Bradford Trades Council's involvement in Bradford North Labour Party. The attempt of the right wing to build a Chinese wall between the activities of the industrial and political wings

of the movement is not of course a recent development.

In the 1960s the right wing of the TUC and the Labour Party began the process of the breaking up of Trades and Labour Councils. These bodies brought together representatives of both the local Labour Parties and the local trade union branches into effective organisations. They were broken up in practically every case, but not without opposition from the local activists. In fact the TUC and Labour right wing had to spend an enormous amount of time on this which could have been devoted to far more useful ends. I agree with Keith that trade unionists should fight against the 1977 TUC ruling which forbids trades councils sending resolutions to CLPs or being involved in reselection.

However, it does seem odd that this ruling should be enforced only where Pat Wall is involved. At this year's Wales Labour Party conference a resolution was submitted by the Mid Glamorgan County Association of Trades Councils calling for the expulsion of 'Militant' supporters from the Labour Party. Comrades might well ask themselves why, in an area which contains such unemployment blackspots as the Rhondda, Pontypridd or Caerphilly, the CATC should be devoting its energies to witch-hunts.

And after the Bradford North experience, are Len Murray and Co. going to be hot-foot down to Pontypridd to sort out Mid Glamorgan CATC for getting involved in Labour Party affairs?

Yours fraternally
Andrew Price
Cardiff SE Labour Party

Letter from America

Dear Comrades

I was dumbfounded to read in the press that in local elections held in England the people voted with national fervour for Thatcher, partly on the basis of the war.

This morning, Phil Donague, who runs a TV morning programme which reaches many millions of people, and whose speciality is running controversial programmes, really ran into a soaring tempest. The subject was the Falklands war. What he was trying to do was to point out the futility of destroying young lives for a small island. He had invited a British official and an Argentine official stationed in this country, with British and Argentinian citizens, mainly business people, in the audience.

It was a madhouse! When Donague tried to appeal to them on the basis of humanity—i.e. "Are you willing to give up your sons for an island?"—he was talking to deaf ears. Nationalism is a powerful force for the middle classes of all countries. It ended as a shouting match and the reaction bears out what was written in the last copy of *Militant* I received. The war will most likely continue and those who wage it will have to pay a heavy price.

Yours fraternally
Betty Traun
New York

Strathclyde jobs shock

Dear Comrades

I was shocked the other day when I lifted up a daily newspaper and turned to the jobs page. To my

The oppression of part-time women workers

Dear Comrades

"Britain's 3½ million part-time women workers are undoubtedly the worst paid, most exploited sector of the workforce." (*Militant* pamphlet, 'Women fight for Socialism'.)

This quotation was vividly brought home to us when Kath Robinson (a Longsight Labour councillor) and myself visited GMWU shop stewards at the local ASDA supermarket to publicise the YOP Trainees Union Rights Campaign.

At this particular store, and it is by no means the worst, over 250 of the 300 workforce are part-timers! Moreover it is management's policy to replace every full-timer who leaves with two part-time workers. The bosses regard part-timers, most of them women, as a useful reserve of labour to be called upon when the economy picks up and rejected when it is in downturn.

Rarely protected by legislation, easy to get rid of and not in receipt of sick or redundancy pay these

amazement I saw vacancies for apprentice joiners, plumbers, painters, gardeners etc!

But the jobs were for Strathclyde Regional Council (Dumbarton area) where only weeks beforehand the council and the Glasgow District Works Department were to axe 1,200 jobs. People were asked to take voluntary redundancies and young people were also to lose their jobs. Now they



Working in the supermarket.
Photo: MILITANT

workers suffer because of their weaker bargaining position. The Women's Right to Work March organised by Labour should raise women to their feet and declare that part-timers are workers too!

Fraternally yours
Leon Kaplan
Manchester-Ardwick
LPYS

are taking on apprentices to make up for these 'losses'. Does it not just show you how hypocritical this Tory government can be?

Also did you know that you now need a minimum of two 'O'-levels for a job as a gardener? Perhaps it's so you can hold a really good conversation with the plants!

Yours fraternally
Raymond Smith
Provan LPYS

The May 6 election in Liverpool

Dear Sir

In your issue of 14.5.82 your Liverpool 'Militant' supporters report (on the 6 May local elections in Liverpool—ed), amongst other inaccuracies, that "In Old Swan the Labour vote increased, but the Liberals held on to the seat as the Tory vote completely collapsed." May I remind your supporters that last year in Old Swan Labour polled 2,572 votes, the Liberals 1,194 and the Tories 973. This year, since the adoption of Derek Hutton as PPC for the constituency the Liberals polled 2,269 (up 1,075), Labour polled 1,768 (down 804) and the Tory polled 924 (down 49). 'Militant' claims a commitment to democracy but it seems that you need to fiddle the figures to disguise the decisive rejection of your policies in "working class Old Swan". Dare you publish this letter, or does the truth hurt too much?

Yours sincerely
Christopher Rennard
Deputy Chairman
Liverpool Liberal Party

'Militant' replies: Yes we dare, Mr Rennard, because 'Militant' always deals with the true facts and if we make a mistake we rectify it.

But while the points on Old Swan are accepted, however, comparing the figures with "last year's" election is dubious. Last year's elections were for the County Council, whereas the May 6 elections were for the City Council.

To get an accurate picture of the swings in voting patterns, it is far more beneficial to compare the May 6 results with the previous City Council elections in 1980. In 1980, in Old Swan Labour got 34.2% of the vote, the Tories 22.1% and the Liberals 36.1%. On May 6, Labour got 35.8%, the Tories 17.7% and the Liberals 43.5%. Comparing the City Council elections, it can be seen that the Liberals picked up their votes from disillusioned Tory voters.

And it is convenient for Mr Rennard to pick one ward to justify his conclusions that there had been a "decisive rejection" of 'Militant's' policies. Overall in Liverpool, as Mr Rennard well knows, the Liberals received a hammering, with Labour returning 42 councillors, 'Militant' supporters among them, to become the majority party, breaking the Liberals' hold over the city, but not taking overall control as the Tories and Liberals between them have 57 seats.

It was the Liberals—and with them their infantile 'red scare' campaign that they conducted throughout the May 6 elections—that received the "decisive rejection". Liverpool workers are beginning to see through all the Liberals' flowery talk and see them for what they are—a Tory second XI.

Leaps and bounds in the world of physics

Dear Comrades

I was interested in the articles recently on Darwin and his ideas. This stimulated me to look further into the subject. As a student of physics I felt that the scientific method had always been applied in all the branches of science.

I found to my horror, however, that this was not the case. I discovered a wonderful example in 'Essay on Population', by one of Darwin's contemporaries, Malthus. He came to the appalling conclusion that the human population is capable of increasing indefinitely in geometric progression and so, therefore, starvation was necessary to hold it in check!

Maybe I was naive, but this man actually used biology to justify to the capitalist butchers that starving the workers to death was doing the human population as a whole a lot of good; he actually allowed social conditions to affect his "scientific analysis".

It is for the purpose of justifying their own social and economic society that there is such a struggle going on at the moment between the new biological theories of evolutionary

In the universe there can be no fixed factor—developments are the results of revolutionary leaps and bounds.



leaps leading to species formation, and the more conventional gradual theory.

Accusations of Marxist and Communist have been levelled at the theory because of its justification for dialectics in the world of biology. If such a universal law as the dialectical analysis of events can be shown in one field of science, then it can be seen in other aspects of society.

The laws of physics became dialectic at the

beginning of this century with the old laws of physics being superseded by the revolutionary ideas of quantum mechanics and relativity. The certainty of the old law of the universe was replaced by Heisenberg's "uncertainty principle". This literally meant the position of a particle or object could no longer be precisely defined, even time itself was no longer a fixed factor after Einstein's "theory of

relativity (general and special)". The whole of the universe had become a sea of constantly changing forces with no certainties.

With the advent of the quantum view of nature this finally puts the icing on the cake, as far as dialectics were concerned in explaining the physical world. Now nuclear transformations, electromagnetic interactions and just about everything you could think of was viewed as happening as the

result of revolutionary leaps or jumps, transferring fixed amounts of energy called quanta. The bourgeois philosophers must have been seething at the thought of such revolutionary ideas being proved in the most fundamental science of physics!

The whole philosophical justification for their system has been destroyed, the new biological theories meriting more vigorous capitalist attack because it is easier for people to relate to biological rather than abstract physical phenomena.

I feel we must, however, be careful to apply the dialectic method in a scientific method and not treat Marxism as a dogma in the way the capitalists seem to treat their philosophies. We must change as the dialectic changes, we must not be rigid and dogmatic; Marxism is a guide to action not a dogmatic absolute.

With the justification of our scientific analysis in all the fields of science, we should move forward in revolutionary leaps with the confidence of winning the working class over to the ideas of scientific socialism.

Yours fraternally
Ian Wells
Ogmore (Maesteg) LPYS
and Manchester University
'Militant' supporters

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 11 July
Eastern	676		2115
East Midlands	660		1765
Hants & Dorset	550		1250
Humberside	237		1075
London East	869		1960
London West	396		1060
London South	522		1415
Manchester & Lancs	584		2020
Merseyside	635		2290
Northern	730		2760
Scotland East	282		1345
Scotland West	658		2375
Southern	1066		1760
South West	424		885
Wales East	204		945
Wales West	544		1355
West Midlands	858		2120
Yorkshire	745		2505
Others	3,166		4000
Total received	13,806		35000

£21 000 NEEDED IN ONE MONTH!

By Clare Doyle

Money provides the 'sinews of war'. The Tories' war in the Falklands is already costing £1,000 million. Workers will be made to pay for it and yet workers will win nothing from it.

It is a different matter with money for the *Militant*. In winning the battles for socialist ideas workers have everything to gain. There is no time to lose. *Militant* arms workers with news, information, and explanations and with programmes and strategies around which they can organise and win. We just haven't got a frequent enough paper or sufficient pamphlets, leaflets etc. to do the job properly.

We urgently need your help and have a mammoth task before us of raising £21,000 in a month! Below is what that means for each area and some examples of how it can be done.

Eastern Region—more than £1,400 to raise. Examples to follow—£22.60 collected from members of SE Essex Constituency Labour Party, £5.35 in a coffee jar (Thundersley), selling *Militant* on council estates (Brentwood) £4.60, £5 for collecting LP tote and £3.18 from luncheon vouchers donated by I Still, £5 'honorarium' from Vice President of Peterborough Trades Council and £3.65 donated by G Carr (Canvey Island LP).

To raise in **East Midlands**—£1,100. £2 donations this week from Beaumont Leys Labour Party, P Jackson (Notts LP) and N Ashton (NUT), £1 from J Olver, £12 from meeting on the Falklands and £20.30 from a 'Bar-b-q'.

Hants and Dorset—£700 more by July 11th. People most threatened by Tory policies are prominent amongst this week's contributors—workers at Eastleigh BREL depot—A Firth, G Neal and B Wharton £1 each plus others £1.50, Ryde IOW pensioner Mr Allom 60p, £19 from

printworkers (SOGAT). Also £3.50 from Southampton LP members.

From **Humberside** supporters we need £838—another ¼ of their whole target. Money received last week only from Cleethorpes (£19.60).

East London has to get another £1,100, **West London** £664 and **South** nearly £900 in less than five weeks! Excellent example to follow:—One donation of £75 conference expenses, two personal donations of £50 ('Anon' Stepney and D

to help us fight off attacks from the Right.

£2,000 is the minimum we must have from **Northern** Region between now and July 11th. This week Newcastle LPYS £3; Gateshead East LPYS 'Without the ideas of Militant there would be no LPYS'. £3 from badges sold on Shildon jobs demo. £10 Bed and Breakfast charge, Social £11.70 and Member of European Parliament Roland Boyes, was persuaded to pay £1 for his Militant!

This week's total: £1,504

Todd NUPE). Very many thanks. £12 from C East (POEU), £1s from H Mott, W Rosam (TGWU), J Pridge and D Massey. An excellent £31 was collected at a Marxist Discussion Group in Cricklewood and £2.99 at Erith & Crayford LPYS, £14 raised at Brixton Barbeque, £11.40 by T Harris giving lifts and £13 from Acton readers' 'sale of sandwich at YS Union school.' (That must have some sandwich!)

Supporters in **Manchester & Lancs** must pull out the stops to raise another £1,400. Example to follow: £3.90 collected at Mossley ward LP, and £40.65 union expenses donated to Militant.

Merseyside has £1,655 to go. Crosby and Toxteth LPYS members have donated this week. Make it every YS every week! A sponsored run is raising big sums. A POEU member gave £9, J Sutton (Tranmere LP) £5, F Moran (Edgerton) £4.30, D Lee (also Birkenhead) £1, F Morgan £3 and P Campbell £2. Hundreds more needed

K Mackie of Edinburgh paid £5 for his copy. COHSE member M Masson, NUPE member S Wilson and an ex-teacher all donated £5 to help the fight to defend public services. C Campbell of Inverness gave £3 and B Stein £1. Many more supporters in the **East of Scotland** will have to follow suit to raise another £1,063.

The Glasgow branch of ASLEF "wish to acknowledge your support during our recent dispute with British Rail and also to donate £10 enclosed to the continued success of your paper." Cathcart LPYS also voted a tanner to Militant. These demonstrate the growing support for Militant. The success of the labour movement in defeating the Tories and the bosses' whole system will depend on the implementation of the kind of programme Militant fights for. Our success is YOUR success. If every Trade Union branch and every LPYS branch in the **West of Scotland** donates a 'tanner', £1,700 by July 11th will be



'Nae bother'!

Southern have under £700 to raise—still £140 a week. £47 this week included: £3 collected on a Health workers Demo by S Tyler (Hastings) and £20 selling badges in Austria!

South West has £461 to raise. Good examples: R Causley's pennies jar (£7 in 3 weeks), £3.80 collected at rallies in Shepton Mallet, £18.75 from a Party in Swindon and £2 in donations from N Nunnerly and I Nunnerly.

East Wales has £741 still to raise and **West Wales** £811—£300 a week for Wales as a whole for the next five weeks! This week saw less than £60! But particularly welcome was the £16 collected on appeal sheets in Cardiff SE Labour Party and £6.71 from YS members there (inc. L Colman's £1.30).

G Gordon of the 5/826 (Birmingham) branch of the TGWU donated £5 last week, D Stem £4 and G Bell of Stoke £1. But **West Midlands** readers need to collect 50 'fivers' every week to get the £1,262 Militant needs from them!

Yorkshire supporters need £1,760 to reach their target by July 11th and they seem determined to do it! Paul Riley of Leeds gave £100 to the paper he supports. Another supporter suffered 'a sore leg and bruised bottom to raise £65 on a sponsored parachute jump'!

£115 was energetically collected in the course of the UCW National Conference. £65 at the IRSF and £48 with more to follow at NUPE's Conference (£1 of it came from new General Secretary Rod Bickerstaff). Many Thanks to every contributor and every fund-raiser.

Don't forget Militant's Summer Draw. Deadline same as 2nd Quarter target date...July 11th! Get fighting for the fighting fund.

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

ads

MILITANT MEETINGS AND SOCIALS

SUNDERLAND: 'The Labour Party after the inquiry... Democracy or a witch-hunt?' Tuesday July 6, 7.30pm at the Democratic Working Men's Club, North Bridge Street, Sunderland. For further details phone Ray Physick, Sunderland 653994.

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.

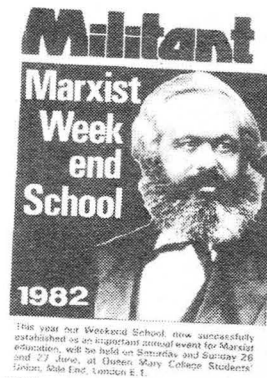
CHESTER-LE-STREET Marxist Discussion Group. June 13 'The Falklands'; June 27 'Parliament and Socialism'; July 11 'Is Russia Socialist?' All meetings at Chester-le-Street Labour Club. For further details phone Washington 478424.

EASTERN REGION COUNCIL OF THE LABOUR PARTY: 'What Militant stands for'. Saturday 19 June in Court 2, Felixstowe Town Hall at 1.00pm. Speaker: Bob Edwards.

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 you 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'.

CLASSIFIED

Bob & Catherine Rice announce the birth of their second son, Colin John on 25/5/82

CHESTER-LE-STREET LIMITED DRAW WINNER: No.4 K James, Durham.

Mortimer and Burghfield Branch Labour Party's Socialist Day 1982—Sat 26th June, 2.30pm. Lukin Wood, Mortimer, Berks.



A discussion of the momentous events in Greece and the problems posed... With speeches and seminars by prominent Pasok members

CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT, RAFFLE, TRADITIONAL MUSIC. ADMISSION £1. PENSIONERS & UNEMPLOYED 50p. UNDER 16 FREE.

Industrial Reports

BREL THREAT WITHDRAWN but attacks continue

Workers on every part of the railway system and in its subsidiaries face the biggest attack on their wages, jobs and conditions since before nationalisation in 1947.

In the last month, we have seen the proposed closure or partial closure of four of the thirteen main engineering workshops, the decision to impose new rosters on train drivers, and the 'offer' of mere 5% increase from September instead of April.

In reality, an increase of a third on rates would be needed just to reach the value of our wages in 1974. The Tory Government intend to solve the problems of the railways—at the expense of the industry's workers.

The problems of incompetent management, extortionate interest charges, and the lowest subsidies of any railway system in Europe are forgotten. In their eyes the blame can only be laid at the feet of railway workers.

The Tories and their BRB puppets issue heartrending pleas. If only train crews would give up old fashioned ideas like the 8-hour day, or shop men give up their old fashioned ideas like having a job, a new golden age

would open up for railway workers.

But their only real concern is to hive off the profitable parts of the industry and let the rest sink.

The government clearly intend to use the railway trade unions as a test case as was clearly shown by plans ('Sunday Times' 6 June) to completely stop government subsidies to the railways, (such as they are), in the event of strike action and to close down the system completely if any industrial action at all takes place by any section of the workforce.

The threat to the workshops has been withdrawn for the time being, after a massive campaign in the areas effected, and above all in the face of threatened NUR strike action.

BRB say they will try to keep these works open for new export orders. However, in view of the pitiful performance of British Rail Engineering Limited last year in this field, this does not offer any alternative.

Without a desperately-needed programme of massive investment, in new stock for BR there is no future for workers in any of the British Rail Engineering Ltd works at a time when a 57% fall in workload is predicted by 1985.

These closures seem to



NUR's threatened strike over BREL closures, coupled with movements like this in Swindon, forced BR to retreat. Photo: Militant

have been postponed merely in order to strengthen the BRB's hand for the battle on wages. The latest 5% pay offer from September, is a virtual declaration of war on the unions.

It must be asked why, when an increase of a third

is required, the NUR—which in 1981 said the industry's "ability to pay" was no consideration in drawing up wage claims, has only put in a claim for 12%. Nonetheless this claim must be fought for, through maximum trade union

unity.

More than ever, the road we must pursue in this industry is united industrial action to defend jobs, conditions and wages.

By Bill Esmonds
(NUR Derby works)

Scott's Bakery

Normal business at the Bakers Union Conference was suspended on 8 June for Ronnie Draper, of Scott's Bakery in Liverpool to gain unanimous support in the fight against redundancies and possible closure.

Management plans total closure of the confectionery department, massive reduction in manning levels and changes in shift patterns which would mean for dispatch workers, a day shift from 2 in the afternoon till 10 at night.

Scott's bakery have a proud tradition in the BFAWU as a staunchly militant union.

Ronnie made the point that Scott's workers don't ask for other people to fight their battles, when they ask for support, it is because they need it.

Joe Marino, General secretary, said any bakery workers would get full support from the Executive for fighting redundancies. There comes a time when talking has got to stop, and action is required.

"If we get full support within ABF for blacking, ABF will approach Rank Hovis McDougall to do the work. If we get blacking from RHM they will approach independent Bakeries, where Allied have many shares. This is a fight that will involve the entire membership of the union."

Joe Marino stressed the need for delegates to go back and agitate on their own shop floors so that when the call comes, that support will be forthcoming.

By Gerry Lerner.

Liverpool Council

The right-wing Tory/Liberal alliance on Liverpool council have made proposals for privatisation, threats of redundancies and taken dozens of stewards off pay for taking more than 12 hours per month on trade union duties.

Battle lines are now drawn between the City Council and an unprecedented combined force of local authority trade unions and Liverpool Labour Party.

The Liberal/Tory alliance have stepped up plans to destroy local government. They understand that to do this they need to undermine the trade unions representing the 30,000 workforce.

Over twenty union stewards have had wages stopped for doing normal stewards' duties and taking more than 12 hours per month off. Pilot studies for privatising the cleansing service, plans to put out housing management for private tender, increased use of cowboy firms instead of direct labour, a virtual moratorium on filling vacancies, and plans for redundancies have understandably received a hostile reaction from the Liverpool Local Authority Joint Shop Stewards Committee (JSSC)—representing all major unions.

At the request of members of the JSSC executive, Liverpool Labour Group have called a special council meeting for 14 June and a one-day strike of the council workforce is now planned for that day.

Already the JSSC recommended that if demands put forward by the Labour Group are not met, they will recommend all out strike for the following week.

By Councillor
Derek Hatton
and Ian Lowes
(JSSC)

NALGO Conference — Protect our jobs

NALGO's 1982 conference faces many vital questions. How can our members in the health service win their struggle for a reasonable wage rise? How can the local government section defeat the 4%? How can we stop the cuts in public spending which threaten us?

Our union has become far more involved in trade union activities over the past few years. We should now ensure that we act as a combatant and political union to protect our members against the greatest onslaught on jobs and living standards since the 30s.

The strong demands in resolution 65, 66 and 67 and 69 for campaigns against the cuts and privatisation should be supported. The resolutions to fight the attacks on the NHS through privatisation (71 and 72) also deserve support.

The right wing of the labour movement are again wheeling out the tried, tested and failed incomes policy. Resolution 84 should be supported. The amendment in number 85 which seeks to have incomes policies when there is what they misname a "planned economy" will only be used to create another "social contract" which will lead to massive cuts in real wages.

In resolution 52 and its

amendments and in resolution 56, NALGO can show its outright opposition to Tebbit's "employment" Bill. This legislation, designed to weaken trade unions' ability to fight cuts and for wage demands must be opposed, even if necessary by action which the courts would deem illegal. Support for resolution 56 which puts the necessary constitutional changes is vital.

Distrust of the current youth opportunities programme and other such schemes is revealed in a number of resolutions. In particular resolutions 116 and 124 set out the demands the trade union movement should be pursuing and in

amendments 118 and 120 there is the opportunity for NALGO to donate £2,000 to the YOP Trade Union Rights Campaign set up by the Labour Party Young Socialists to recruit YOPsters into the trade union movement and encourage the unions to fight for a better deal for YOPsters.

Resolution 127 gives the opportunity for NALGO to declare its support for unemployed members' sections in NALGO and in other unions being given their rightful place within the TUC.

The recent set-back in the Labour Party ballot will make it more difficult to draw political conclusions

from the policies which the NEC are promoting.

Nevertheless it should be made clear that the fight back against this Tory Government's policies and the attainment of policies of the alternative economic strategy which they support will only be gained within the main stream of the politics of the Labour Party and the trade union movement. The irony of the NEC supporting one thing and not the other will become obvious to the members.

By Ronald
Stevenson
(Strathclyde NALGO,
personal capacity)

POEU Conference

After some initial victories, the left suffered setbacks at the Post Office Engineering Union conference in Blackpool.

Setbacks on pay which will mean lower living standards for POEU members, and the loss of Phil Lloyd a leading left-winger from the National Executive Committee. The right-wing now have a 15-8 majority on the National Executive Committee—from 14-9.

A pay deal was accepted by the conference of 6.75% on the basic rate plus a promise of a future payment of

1.25% for productivity. This was part of a 12-point package deal which included an actual wage reduction for new recruits!

Despite the widespread unease of the conference at the low figure and the scandalous deal for the new entrants it was reluctantly accepted. Members undoubtedly did not feel confident that a battle could be won for a higher claim given the open and declared unwillingness of the NEC to provide a lead.

The National Executive Committee echoed British Telecoms argument that no more money was available even though Jock Campbell of London City

Branch pointed out that the telecoms industry was the most profitable one in the country.

Militant supporter, Phil Lloyd, was replaced on the National Executive Committee by a right-winger. This was the culmination of a two year campaign by the right-wing in the POEU, aided by the Tory press who have carried a series of red scare articles against the left and Phil Lloyd in particular.

Only days before conference, the *Daily Express* carried a defamatory article by a POEU right-winger attacking the Broad Left with Phil Lloyd again being singled out.

However, this reverse will be a temporary one. The right wing have no policies to protect and improve the jobs and conditions of the members, but this has not yet been revealed to the mass of members including many activists at the conference.

The slogan of the right wing 'Mainstream' group at the conference has been—"Remember the CPSA—Keep the left at bay". An unfortunate slogan. 'Mainstream' have short memories. At one CPSA conference only a few years back Kevin Roddy a Militant supporter and the left in the CPSA were replaced by the right wing who then went on to control the National Executive Committee.

However, within a few years the left had regained control of the National Executive Committee having swept to victory 23-3 on that committee, with Kevin Roddy being elected the President!

Tested in action POEU's right-wing leaders will fail to deliver the goods. With a clear alternative and painstaking effort the Broad Left can be confident that, despite these reverses, they will in future retake the NEC losses, gain a left majority and build a fighting democratic union with policies on pay, jobs and conditions that the members deserve.

By Wayne Jones
from POEU conference

Industrial Reports

NHS - STEP UP THE DISPUTE

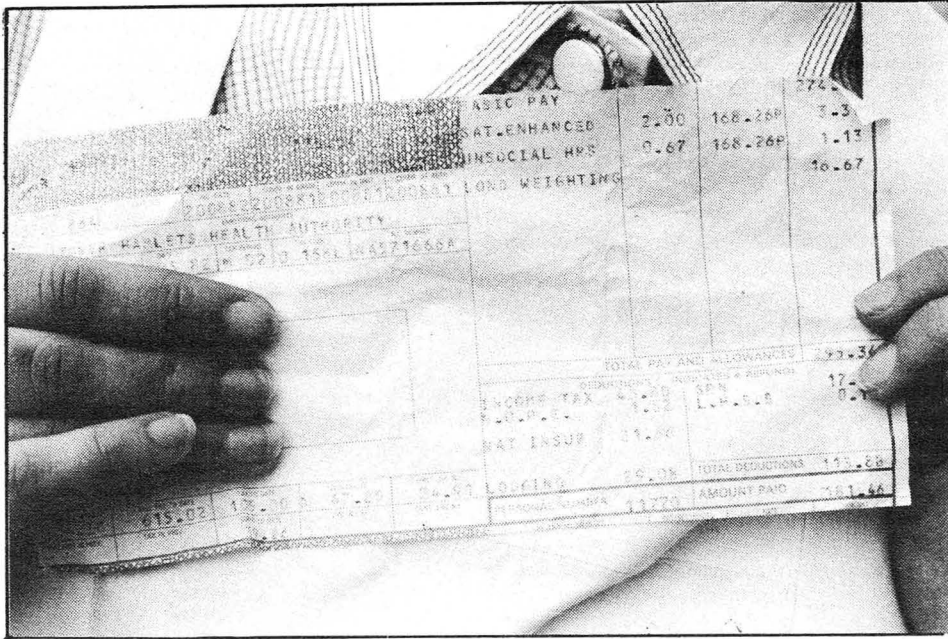
"More determined than ever"

"My last month's wages came to £181 take home. This has to last me 5 weeks, out of which I pay approximately £11.50 a week on rent.

"That leaves me approximately £25 per week to cover electric and gas bills, food, travel etc. That's why I'm on strike.

"I have just moved into a council flat, but previously I was paying £29 a month for accommodation in the nurses' home—that's due to double to approximately £60.

"We are expected to work normal shifts on the wards. We work 8 weeks in the ward and 2 weeks at college. Last week on a ward of 22 patients there was one staff nurse, a student nurse and an auxiliary. Not the best of working conditions for us



This pay slip shows why nurses and other hospital workers are determined to fight

or the patients.

"With the miners now helping on picket lines and other sections of workers taking action alongside us we can be confident in taking on the government. This support is crucial to our struggle.

"When Myrna Shaw was arrested (see below) this led to a hardening of attitudes. Many who were going to work decided not to and others in work came out to support the picket line.

"The public have also responded by writing to

MP's, visiting the police station etc. We are more determined than ever to win this dispute now."

A student nurse at Bethnal Green Hospital spoke to Alan Watson

Scottish Hospitals

Pat McGuire (NUPE shop steward, Monklands District General Hospital), spoke to George Black and John Gordon of Coatbridge and Airdrie LPYS: before a rally of 5,000 in Edinburgh.

"Since 1974, health workers wages have fallen by 33%, so a 33% rise is required...4% means 79p per week. Compare that to the Judges pay rise, 14 to 18%—some workers don't make as much as that increase in a week.

"Thatcher has united health workers in strike action. Our members have become sorely aware of politics. 4% has made workers aware of the need to fight the Tory Government and all it stands for.

"They are trying to 'americanise' the NHS, and spread profits among the rich. We have one of the best health services in the world, and the Labour Party leadership should be giving a clear lead to the public sector.

"There have been sensationalist stories in the press about patients dying. One statement on a Scottish TV news programme was that all cancer patients were not allowed into hospital.

"In fact, by the time that statement was made, the patients had been operated on. All our members and the public knew that that statements were lies.

"What we need is union action in industry and energy. This is everybody's battle."

Health workers must win

The one-day strikes on 4 and 8 June have shown again the anger of NHS workers at their contemptuous treatment by the government. An increasing number of hospitals are taking firm action in support of the full 12% claim.

The confidence of the hospital workers has been boosted by the unprecedented vote by the Royal College of Nursing to reject the pay offer by a two to one majority. This has dealt a crippling blow to the

government's scheme of divide and rule, of separating the nurses from their fellow workers.

This growing unity, anger and confidence must be given a clear focus by the trade union leaderships nationally. There is a strong feeling amongst active trade unionists that one-day strikes cannot be continued indefinitely. The dispute must now be stepped up a pace.

The NUPE conference decision to call for all out strike with only emergency cover showed the mood of activists. At the time of going to press, the TUC Health Service Sub Committee is meeting. There is a

clear need for this committee to set in motion a campaign to win support throughout the NHS for this policy.

At the same time, as Militant has stressed, there should be an on going action committee of all the unions actively involved, which should meet at least weekly. This should be mirrored at district and hospital level to organise the strike.

The dispute has received enormous support from other trade unionists. A bold lead from the unions nationally would see a major victory for the health workers and the entire working class.

Health workers had received an excellent response from the public on the May 19 strike, using a megaphone to urge support for their case and calling on passing traffic to beep their horns in support.

On 4 June, pickets used the same tactic again with a good public response. But this time the police turned up in force. A picket from nearby St Clements hospital visited Bethnal Green workers telling how they had been stopped by the police for calling on people to beep their horn.

The police then tried the same tactic at Bethnal Green. The whole basis for the action was to gain public sympathy and support for the health workers, so Myrna used a megaphone expressing her anger at the police action, and was arrested.

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But Bethnal Green health workers are not subdued by the police intimidation, and the picket was well manned on the 8 June strike.

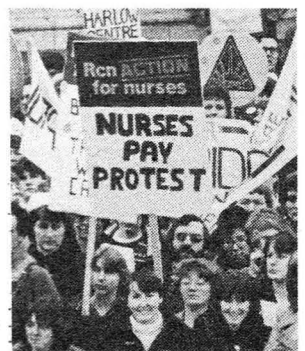
North Manchester

The strike was solid throughout North Manchester and Oldham, over 1,000 workers in 4 unions being out on 4 June.

The mood was summed up by the NUPE area officer, Chrys Humphrys, when he said "6.4% for the nurses has got to be seen against what they are giving up.

"This additional 2.4% represents £27 million on the national nurses bill. If that was accepted the government have not denied that it would mean a massive reduction in the number of nurses employed. A total amounting to 5,400 full time jobs would go.

"If our union took out 5,400 nurses on indefinite strike there would be a bloody uproar, but that is what the government is



Picket arrested

Myrna Shaw, the Assistant District Branch secretary of Tower Hamlets NUPE was arrested following police intimidation at the picket line at Bethnal Green Hospital in East London on 4 June.

WANDSWORTH - strike ends

The six-week strike by Wandsworth dustmen is over, after a majority voted to return to work last week.

However, the settlement the officials negotiated is no guarantee of saving jobs or stopping privatisation. Wandsworth dustmen have only won the right to see the tenders of private contractors and then negotiate massive cuts in jobs and conditions to compete with those tenders.

The Tory council are already talking of 50 jobs being cut, of 8-hour statutory days and other cuts in conditions.

This is a setback for all council workers in Wandsworth as Tory plans for privatisation go well beyond the dust. It is also a setback for other councils' workers who now face the same threat.

After a promise of full support from the national G&MWU and NUPE leadership, many workers will be asking why the dustmen were forced to return to work for so little.

Our action began on 19 April after a mass meeting of 2,500 council workers, both white and blue collar. NALGO had a one-day strike followed by selective action and manual workers came out for a week while dustmen stayed out indefinitely. But even then the national leadership were clearly dragging their feet.

Charlie Donnet of the G&MWU had urged no action until after the local authority elections. However, action began before the election, as it was vital to build on the unity and mood of the mass meeting.

Unfortunately, 6 May saw the return of the Tory council, though with a decreased majority. This was a major setback. But the strike could have been won if preparations had been made for all-out action following the election.

On the strike committee we had called for a mass meeting before the election, to prepare for all-out action on 10 May which could rapidly have spread to other boroughs. However, the full time officials and the majority of the strike committee had unfortunately relied too much on a Labour victory at the election, and they were also sceptical that a mass meeting would give the necessary support.

However, the mass meeting at the beginning of the dispute had shown the unity that could be gained if the issues were explained.

The strikers were by then getting restless, though at the reluctance of their officials and the strike committee to spread the dispute, and in response to strikers' pressure, the strike committee agreed to picketing other council workers.

This began on 12 May

Dennis English and Vince Roethling (Wandsworth strike committee) spoke to John Bulaitis

and was temporarily successful with workers respecting picket lines. But even now there was a reluctance to spread the dispute throughout the borough. Unfortunately on 12 May the day the manual workers stepped up action, Wandsworth NALGO voted to suspend their action, breaking the unity between white collar and manual workers.

The dustmen's picket lines continued and more support was gained from sections like the Parks Department. However, council's next move was to threaten mass sackings. The dustmen stayed solid and the strike committee responded with another mass meeting as now the whole trade union organisation in Wandsworth was under attack, as the mass sackings included up to 20 shop stewards.

Firm national action is vital to fight Tory plans

But by now things had been left nearly too late. By not calling earlier meetings, other council sections had not been involved in the action and the turn-out was not particularly good. Even though a vote was passed calling all-out strike, within two days, that strike had crumbled and the dustmen were fighting alone.

G&MWU and NUPE Conferences gave support for the action but throughout the dispute strikers were asking, "where are the leaders? Why aren't they down here if they say this is a national dispute?" To ensure the defence of our jobs, the union leaders should have built up support well before then.

The G&MWU and NUPE leaderships needed to gain support and spread the action in other boroughs from the start. The 10 May demo called by London council workers' shop stewards which mobilised 1,000 workers in support of the dustmen showed the potential.

This is really a climb-down by union officials in a serious fight against privatisation.

We now need to step up the campaign for accountability of our trade union leadership to ensure that they are really prepared to fight all cuts and privatisation and the system that breeds them.

KENT MINERS FIGHTING FOR A FUTURE

The National Coal Board's decision to partially close Snowdown pit in Kent has received a determined response.

Kent miners are to strike from 19 June to defend all jobs and they are calling on other mineworkers to aid their struggle.

Members of the Lodge Committee at Snowdown colliery spoke to Militant reporters about their plans.

"The Coal Board are trying to do at Snowdown exactly what they did at Leyland. Not only trying for redundancies but trying to smash the union organisation as well.

"There have been very few victories since Thatcher came to power. If they can weaken the miners, and the vanguard of the working class, these people are quite prepared to do it.

"This shouldn't be underestimated. The Leyland shop stewards committee was one of the strongest union organisations in the country. They would like to weaken us here, too.

"When the NUM NEC meets they must give full

support for Snowdown. The divide and rule policies that the Coal Board have tried for years, must be stopped. The Board should have to face the national union, over pit closures.

"We are going into other coalfields. Two lads are going to Northumberland, Durham and Leicester, for example, because they have the same problems as us, but with a less progressive leadership, to build for the next NEC meeting.

"The NCB are trying to blackmail us with the redundancy scheme. They have looked at the records and seen there are about 400 to 500 men of 55 or so, and they've put the big money offer in to entice them, to split the NUM.

"They are offering big cash settlements to get the 'old men' out, but very few would get these big sums. The scheme is very complicated, because it depends on a variety of personal factors like last year's earnings, to decide how much his weekly rate will be, whether he has got uninterrupted service or not, whether he gets hardship, accidents etc.

"Even if his wife is working will have an effect on what he gets. The Coal Board have put out figures of £10,000 or more. You

could count on one hand the ones that will get that!

"We are going to lobby the council NEC meeting on Thursday, and sending a bus from Kent. If other areas will support us we can have the same sort of effect as we did in February 1981, so the Coal Board will think again.

"We feel that the Board has come up with its worst offer possible to test us and see what position Arthur Scargill is going to take on all this. It is a test of the union, and we've got to show our strength.

"The Coal Board have ratted on an agreement negotiated with the Deputy Director, to reduce down to 700 men and develop the bottom seam accordingly, to keep two faces going.

"But the Director over-ruled that agreement, saying they would only keep it as a development pit, and cease production altogether. This would mean they would need 200 men!

"We have agreed to transfer 80 to Tilmanstone and 20 to Betteshanger and reduce the numbers to 700 while they develop the bottom seam and kept two faces in production. But they have ratted on that agreement.

"Even for the lads in this

pit to get other jobs, this depends on other pits accepting redundancy, about 650 of them. Who's to say those lads will accept that deal, and we don't want them to!

"And if extra men do go into Betteshanger, they might produce more coal but the shaft can't wind any more than it is doing at the moment!

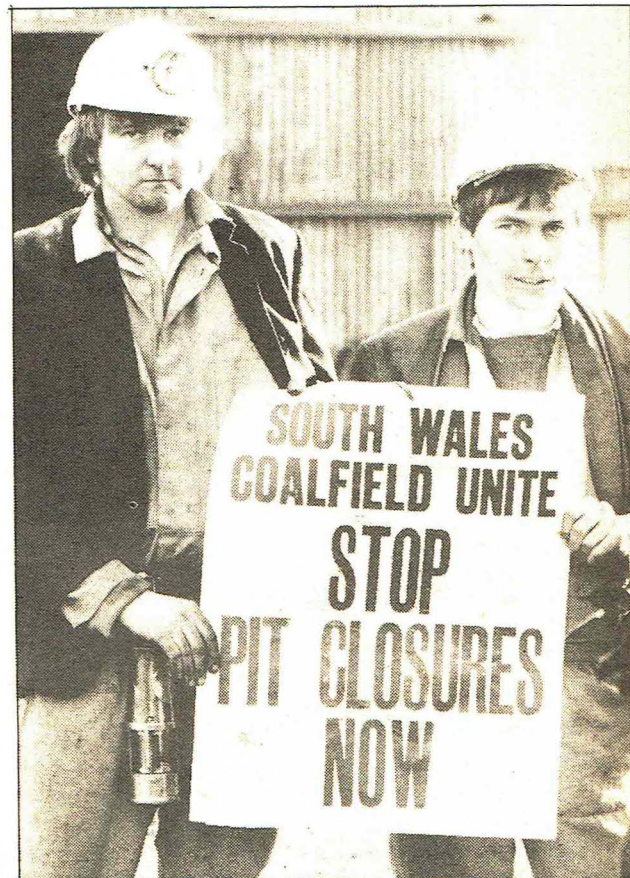
"You can't trust the Coal Board. At one time they said that the future of Snowdown lay in the north of the pit, now they want to shut that down, and go to the number 7 seam.

"Before, they said there was no minable coal in number 7 seam, but they have changed their minds again now, and said there is 80 foot of coal.

"There has been hardly any recruitment, and they are trying to take 500 jobs from one of the smallest mining areas. It smells a bit like pit closures to us.

"But once you've lost men, it's not just that they've retired, it's the end of the whole job. I can understand a 55 year old wanting the lump sum but we have to fight for these jobs, and jobs for the young people in this area.

"At the meeting on 2 June we recommended rejection of the NCB's pro-



Kent miners are determined to repeat the NUM victories of February 1981 Photo: Militant

posals for Snowdown, and that anyone taking redundancy pay would be debarred from benefits and services of the NUM.

"We also refused to accept transfers to Betteshanger and Tilmanstone, to refuse to allow NUM members to become members of another mining union, though men off work for 18 months with sickness or disablement and those over 60 years of age will be allowed to accept any offer that the Board can give.

"This was overwhelmingly accepted! Now we've got to get the support of other areas and fight for these jobs."

Eric Segal spoke to Mick Kelly, Phill Sutcliffe, Jim Miller, Bryn Hill, Dave Watkins, Jack Hould and Laurie Knight



Nurses and other hospital workers demonstrate in West London on 8 June. Health workers, miners, railway workers are all fighting attacks by this class government. Solidarity is vital. Photo: Militant

FALKLANDS

Continued from page 1

from the stand point of the interests of Argentine workers and was no more than an attempt to head off the growing opposition to the junta.

But neither can the labour movement give support to Thatcher's war, to a war conducted exclusively in the interests of British big business. Labour must campaign against the new taxes and cuts in social welfare. It's the bosses' war—make them pay.

Labour must campaign to take over the enormous wealth and resources in society and use it for the benefit of all. That would make it a society worth defending. And a Labour government committed to fundamental social change would transform the situation.

It would introduce the thirty-five hour week, a £90 minimum wage, a massive housebuilding programme and public works, restoration of all cuts in health, education and social services. Workers in and out of

uniform would see that this would be a society literally worth fighting for.

It would further be possible to give assistance to the Argentine working-class in their struggle to overthrow the junta.

Who owns the Falklands?

- * 70% by eight UK companies
- * The Falkland Islands Company (a subsidiary of Coalite) owns 40% of the land and employs 50% of the population.
- * The 97,000 acres around the beach-head at Port San

A class approach is the only way to solve the problem of war. The labour leadership must represent the working class as boldly as the Tories represent theirs.

Carlos (an area equivalent in size to Surrey) is owned by Port San Carlos Ltd, whose managing director lives in Ireland.

* Pebble Island, where the marines landed to attack aircraft, is a 36,000 acre farm owned by Dean Brothers.

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