

Militant

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Support NHS Workers

ALL OUT ON JUNE 23rd

Health workers throughout Britain have given their answer to the government's offer of a 4% increase in pay.

In massive demonstrations, nationwide one-day strikes and other on-going industrial action, health workers have shown their anger at this contemptible offer.

An extra 79p for 40 hours. That is what the government's 4% means after deductions.

Not even enough to meet the increases in bus fares which most hospital workers have faced over the last few months, quite apart from rent increases, dearer food and all the other extra financial burdens that have been loaded daily on to the backs of health workers and other ordinary working people.

Part-time workers make up a huge proportion of the Health Service. They have been particularly singled out. If the government gets its way many of these workers will receive after

By Sue Pearce
(NUPE)

deductions an increase of only 39½p a week!

The Tories have declared war on the most poorly paid in society. Only the wealthy have been spared the onslaught against living standards which this government is conducting. Health workers asking for a modest 12% increase on their low basic wage have had the door slammed in their faces.

But the attitude to well-heeled judges has been entirely different. The already bloated salaries of these guardians of Tory law have been increased by no less than 18%.

The government hoped to shatter the unity of health workers by offering a little

extra to nurses, but this manoeuvre fell flat on its face with the decisive two-to-one rejection of the government's 6.4% offer by those nurses organised in the Royal College of Nursing, the oldest and most moderate body representing nurses.

This government has provoked the most united action ever in the history of the health service trade union movement. There is one claim for all nurses, ambulance workers, ancillary staff and clerical workers. Many hospital joint shop stewards' committees that had fallen into disrepair are now being revamped, and others are springing into existence for the first time. And all the

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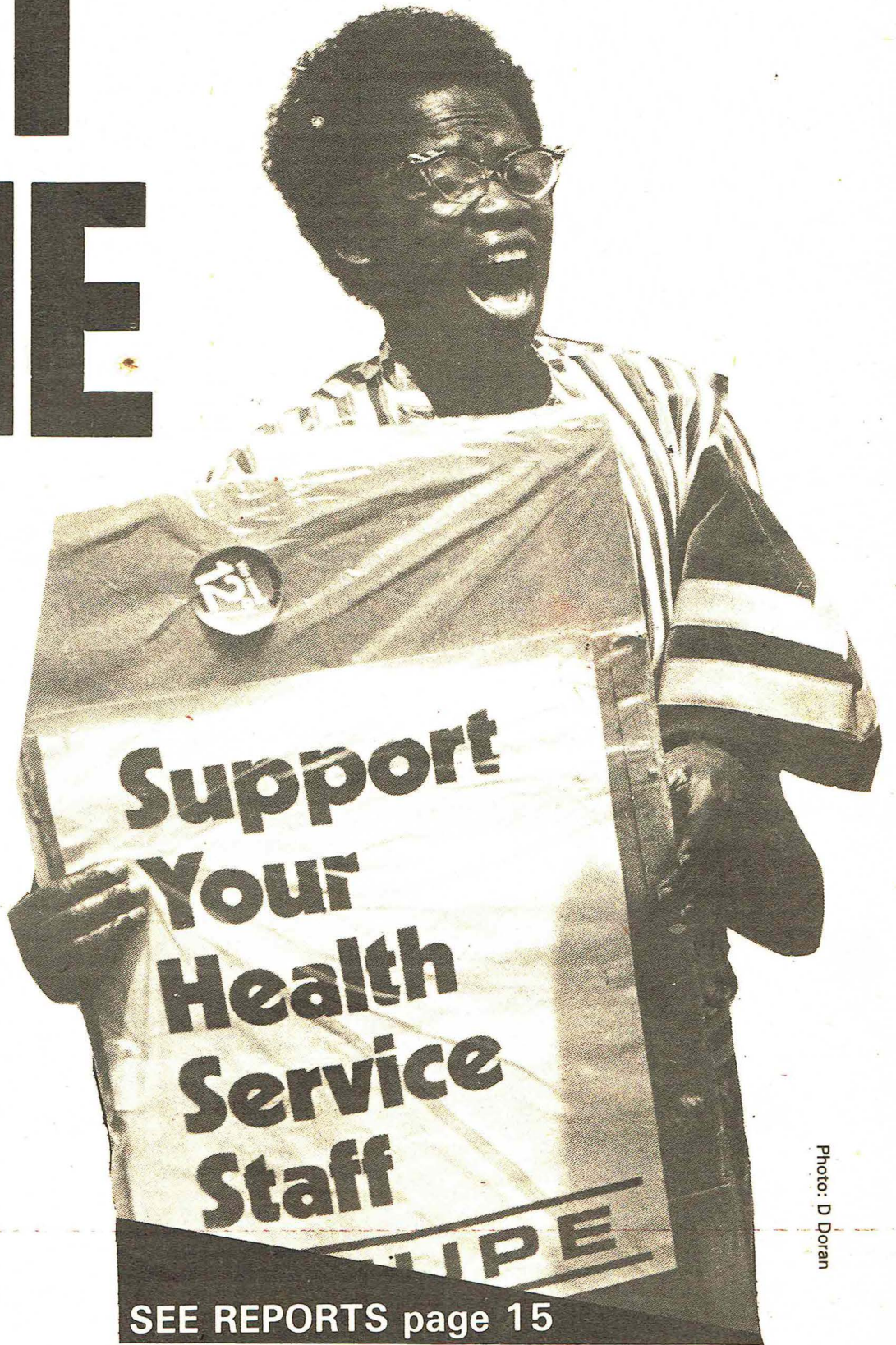


Photo: D Doran

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No Witch-Hunt!

With precision timing, the predictable campaign of the press and media has begun, in anticipation of Labour's National Executive Committee on June 23rd.

Its overriding theme has been the call for the expulsion of Militant supporters from the Labour Party.

These attacks will undoubtedly escalate in the run up to the June 23rd meeting, to pressurise the NEC.

The allegations against Militant in these attacks,

EDITORIAL

repeated monotonously, concern the finances and the alleged organisation of the Militant newspaper.

Despite these allegations having been answered time and again, the attacks have continued — rarely, however, allowing explanation of the policy, programme and ideas for which Militant has consistently campaigned.

This 'advice' currently being given to Labour's National Executive Committee is coming directly from the enemy—from those who have been most vitriolic in their denunciations of the Labour Party in the past, in election after election. The crocodile tears of Fleet Street, showing 'concern' over the well-being of the Labour Party, will undoubtedly be greeted with the contempt they deserve by the rank and file of the labour movement.

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FIGHTING FUND

Support the paper that supports you

Stormy period amount or new strains Militant's equipment sent resources! One supporter promises £1,000. Thousands of others strive for 'fivers' and tenners!

Deadline for £35,000 only three weeks away! Must have full

'Get-a-fiver: Give -a-fiver!'

(See Fighting Fund report page 13)

Labour's ranks must demand - NO WITCH-HUNTS!

Continued from
page one

What will sicken many Party members is the near perfect echo to the war drum being beaten in Fleet Street editorials from Labour's right wing. One right wing leader after another from the Parliamentary Labour Party or trade unions has backed the call for expulsions and other witch-hunting activities.

But it would be a disastrous mistake for the whole labour movement should the NEC decide to support such calls. It would be a decision overwhelmingly rejected and unacceptable to constituency Labour Parties and the wider labour movement.

It would be greeted by a wholesale revolt of Labour's rank and file to such dictatorial methods by the National Executive Committee. Militant supporters will fight tooth and nail for their right to put forward their views as Labour Party members.

The NEC may find itself in a position where it has to take action against many Constituency Labour Parties and even affiliated trade unions.

Any attempt to carry through widespread expulsions would result in the splitting of the Labour Par-

ty from top to bottom. This wrecking of the Labour Party will play directly into the hands of Labour's enemies, the Tories, the SDP and the Liberals.

Labour's chances of winning the next general election would be greatly diminished and the responsibility for such a catastrophe would rest entirely with those initiating this witch-hunt.

Indeed, the determination of such right wing trade union leaders like Terry Duffy to secure a Labour victory is at the very least open to question. In an attempt to blackmail the National Executive Committee into taking action, he has reportedly threatened to refuse to pay two and a half million pounds towards Labour's election fund and to support an 'independent' Labour candidate in Bradford North, if Pat Wall is democratically chosen as the Official Labour candidate.

Such proposals will undoubtedly meet with the revulsion of AUEW members. Futile threats to support 'independent' candidates should not be allowed to intimidate Labour's NEC. Such candidates can be electorally massacred by Labour campaigning on a

fighting socialist programme.

The entire Labour Movement should be clear from the outset, that the attempted purge of Militant supporters is not the end of the story for the right wing. Any successful action against Militant will undoubtedly be followed by similar measures against others in the Labour Party arguing and campaigning for radical and left wing policies.

Roy Hattersley has already warned that he wants the same action taken against the Labour Coordinating Committee as is taken against Militant. Sid Weighell, General Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, called in a recent speech for Tony Benn to leave the Labour Party and establish his own.

AUEW General Secretary John Boyd, referring to the 33 MPs who voted against the Tories on the Falklands issue, proclaimed in his union journal, "If in conformity with our Union's National Committee policy we do not cleanse our ranks of these little men we will soon not need to bother, for there will be no Labour Party to worry about."

Labour's right wing

clearly see the witch-hunt against Militant as the beginning of a purge against any who dissent. It is a campaign to destroy all the gains won over the past three years on democracy and policy.

Reflecting their attitude, the *Guardian* commented on Monday the 14 June "...that commitment must shortly involve not just condemning the activities of the Militant...but seeking effective measures to outlaw it. Equally, it must mean rejecting large parts of the proposed new blue-print for the next Labour election manifesto..."

The NEC must be told in clear terms that Labour's rank and file will not tolerate a civil war by witch-hunts

In proposing such a schema Labour's right wing, however, are dreaming dreams. Their position of dominance in the Labour Movement has been undermined because of the radicalisation of the entire

Labour and Trade Union movement and not as a result of conspiratorial plots.

There has been a movement in the direction of more socialist policies because of the developing crisis of Capitalism and the experience of Labour activists. The ideas of Militant have accordingly become more relevant and have vastly increased in support.

The attempted witch-hunt by the Right is doomed to failure. It will not be accepted by the rank and file of the Labour Movement. Already over 200 Constituency Labour Parties have protested to the NEC against the witch-hunt. The Scottish, West Midlands, London, Southern, and South West Labour Parties have opposed any witch-hunt. In the North West, a motion supporting it was contemptuously dealt with by moving next business!

It has been opposed by the national conferences of UCATT, GMWU, USDAW, the general executive committee of the Transport and General Workers Union and such bodies as the Glasgow district committee of the AUEW. Amongst the recent CLPs to oppose a purge was West

Bromwich West, the seat of right wing NEC member Betty Boothroyd, and Chesterfield, seat of Party Treasurer Eric Varley.

These views of Labour activists must be communicated once again to the National Executive Committee before June 23rd. In particular, the Labour Leader Mr Michael Foot should be made aware of the feelings of activists over the potentially disastrous road down which Labour's right wing are attempting to take him.

Resolutions, letters, telegrams etc., must be rushed to him and the NEC, before June 23rd, opposing the witch-hunt. By mobilising the support of Labour's activists this belated attempt to take the party back 30 years will be defeated.

Members of the Labour and Trade Union movement can look with confidence to increasing support for Militant and its Marxist programme in the face of this combined assault by the capitalist press and media and their spokesmen in the Labour Party.

Marxism has been a part of Labour's history from its very inception. It will continue to remain so.

TRADE UNIONS OPPOSE PURGE

BAKERS' UNION

"I am not a 'Militant' supporter, I have never been a 'Militant' supporter and never will be a 'Militant' supporter, but the real question is, why is 'Militant' so strong? That's the question that should be asked."

So Terry O'Neil, President of the Bakers Union, summed up the debate on the witch-hunt at the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers conference.

"The 'Militant' is strong because since 1945 Labour governments have sold out the working class... 'Militant' doesn't start strikes. If Scotts Bakery goes on strike it is not because of the 'Militant', it is because the bosses force it on the workers."

Terry O'Neil went on to refer to his own experiences in Bradford. "In 1974 we were on strike, the General Secretary of our union, the President of our union were against us... Pat Wall gave us real support, he is a fighter for the working class."

"I have to admit that in 1974 I couldn't bring myself to vote for Ben Ford... it was Brian Ingham who is with the 'Militant' and Pat Wall who said that I should vote for Ben Ford because he was the proper Labour candidate. Now Pat Wall is the proper candidate and these

people (the right wing) are trying to stop him."

Conference overwhelmingly passed a resolution in defence of the Young Socialists, the 'Militant', Pat Wall and Peter Tatchell and came out against any bans and proscriptions being introduced in the Labour Party.

GMWU

The major blue collar union, the General and Municipal Workers Union has come out against the witch-hunt. The Union executive document on the Labour Party—which opposed hit lists and witch-hunts—was backed by the following resolution which was also passed:

"Congress believes that only a united Labour Party can achieve a Labour victory in the next General Election. Unity can only be achieved if democracy within the party is respected and its basis must be the policies passed by its annual conference. All socialists prepared to work for a Labour victory on this basis should have the right to do so within the party and there should be no witch-hunts. The GMWU pledges its full support for a campaign to return a Labour government on a socialist programme."

AUEW TASS

The recent conference of TASS, the white collar union, came out firmly against the witch-hunt. A resolution was passed call-

ing on the union executive to "firmly and resolutely defend all the democratic gains made in the Labour Party" and "defend the rights of all shades of opinion within the party." It added, "The recent disgraceful veto of candidates by the (Labour Party) NEC against the wishes of the CLPs and the preparation of an investigation into the Militant Tendency can only be interpreted as the beginning of a direct attack on all progressive elements within the party and should be vigorously opposed."

An amendment from the union's executive which some delegates felt took the 'bite' out of the resolution was defeated.

Tonbridge and Malling Constituency Labour Party have rejected a witch-hunt.

At its May GMC, a motion calling for the Party to take 'necessary action' against 'organisations with attractive titles' (!) was moved by the electricians' union, the EETPU. Leader of the union, Frank Chapple is a delegate to the GMC but was unable to attend. The other EETPU delegate moved the resolution pointing out

USDAW Broad Left

At its Annual General Meeting on 13 June the USDAW Broad Left adopted 'Militant' supporter Jeff Price as its candidate for the Presidential election in 1983.

This decision represents a huge step forward for the USDAW Broad Left, and indicates the growing in-

fluence of Marxism in USDAW which has been taking place over the last few years.

A golden opportunity now presents itself to all supporters in the Broad Left and indeed to all USDAW members to equip the union with a fighting leadership, prepared to stand up to the onslaught of the effects of the recession on USDAW members.

Although USDAW is regarded as being traditionally on the right of the movement, indications in recent weeks have demonstrated the ability of the USDAW Broad Left to defeat the right wing. Four Divisional Council elections

were held, all of which showed increasing support for the Broad Left.

In Scotland in a left-right fight, the Broad Left candidate won the seat convincingly gaining over 7,000 votes to the nearest rival's 4,000 votes.

But it was in the union's Eastern Division that the Broad Left really made its mark. Two Divisional Council seats were up for election and the two Broad Left candidates routed the opposition gaining 12,992 votes and 9,670 votes to the opposition's highest vote of only 7,148. One of the candidates here was 'Militant' supporter George Williamson, who stated clearly his policies in his election address.

In Manchester, the Broad Left candidate failed to be elected but by only 197 votes.

By Mick Wainwright

(Blackpool Woolworth's USDAW)

WHO ARE THE REAL INFILTRATORS?

Read: 'CIA Infiltration of the Labour Movement'

£1 including p&p from World Books 1 Mentmore Terrace London E8 3PN

Chapple's party rejects expulsions

quite clearly that the motion indeed meant *Militant* supporters should be expelled.

It was pointed out by other members of the party that while the EETPU threatened to disaffiliate the union from the Labour Party, *Militant* supporters in the CPSA had played a major role in trying to get that civil service union to affiliate.

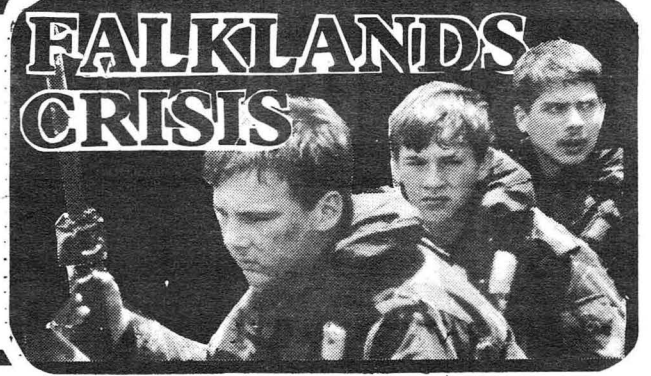
The seconder of the resolution was concerned that people wearing *Militant* badges had heckled

at Southern Region Labour Party conference. Heckling appears to have become a cardinal sin since the right wing lost their domination of the party. However, when I took my turn to speak at the GMC I was interrupted three times by spurious points of order! Fortunately the resolution was lost.

By Simon O'Rourke

(Tonbridge and Malling CLP)

AFTER THE WAR



Eviction threat to Task Force widows

Although their husbands made the ultimate sacrifice, Task Force widows and their families are now no use to the Tories' war machine and the Ministry of Defence has cynically told them to get out of the naval married quarters within six months, in the Navy town of Gosport.

The MOD have said they are prepared to take 'special problems' into consideration. But as a Navy wife Sue Brackley told the Gosport paper, 'The News', 14 June, "I would have thought that a woman's husband dying at war is a 'special problem'—but obviously the MOD does not. I just could not believe it when I read the letter. HMS Sheffield went down in May, so it leaves widows just over four months to find a new home."

The crazy logic of capitalism has been exposed to the Navy families of Gosport. Four hundred Navy homes in Gosport still remain empty, yet Falkland widows are threatened with eviction! The military 'strategists' of the Ministry of Defence are even totally

By Bob Wade

incapable of planning housing!

Hardly any council houses have been built in the area and in fact the council have been negotiating to buy houses from the navy!

And while Tories, especially with the present euphoria of the Falklands still in the air, may feign anger at such a scandal as this, they are totally incapable of doing anything about it. At first the widows feared they would be turfed out within three months.

Their local Tory MP boldly took up their case. His magnificent achievement was to come back with the alternative eviction

threat of six months! As if a mere 12 weeks will console the suffering families.

Similarly, the British ruling class have no interest in their 'loyal subjects'. Lord Matthews, owner of Cunard, not to mention the 'Daily Express', greeted the QE 2 when it returned with survivors from the Falklands. He reeled off the usual cant about 'defending the nation's interests' and so on.

Yet now it seems the Cunard ship destroyed in the Falklands, the Atlantic Conveyor, will be replaced not by a vessel built in 'patriotic' British shipyards but in Japan where, because Japanese big business bothered to re-invest its profits, ships can be built much cheaper. The 'patriotism' of the bosses only goes as far as their profits.

This is typical of the Tories and the capitalist class. After every war they raise the cry of 'homes fit for heroes' and other hollow promises. Yet after the working class has been forced into suffering and sacrifice in order to protect the interests of British capitalism, they are discarded like an empty shell case.

Junta faces workers' reckoning

By Colin Barber

The end of the Galtieri junta is now likely to only be a matter of time. The Junta took the gamble of the invasion to try to deflect mounting opposition at home to their repression and disastrous economic policies.

Now anti-junta crowds have returned to the streets of Buenos Aires following the fall of Port Stanley, and their bitterness has reached new heights.

"They lied to us," said one taxi-driver. "The government told us our men had fallen back to Stanley to give the enemy a surprise with their large numbers. Now they say our men were out-numbered and out-matched in technology by the British," said another, "all we have is a lot of dead

kids."

The leader of Argentina's second largest party, the middle-class, Radicals, has demanded that "The government should go now and a period of transition to democracy should begin."

Splits have opened up within the junta. The air force chief, basking in the glamorous sacrifice of his pilots, has reportedly demanded that the Army should accept full responsibility for the military defeat.

Even before the final battles Rear Admiral Asara, adviser to the naval Commander in Chief reflected the pressure that the junta were coming under, when he stated: "It is difficult to understand this conflict, this madness, in which many pieces of equipment and many lives have been lost. We can replace the equipment but not the men. It is so unfortunate that so many have died fighting for these islands. I really do not accept that they justify such a cost. Yes, I would say they

are not worth fighting for."

But as in Britain, the cost of this war is not only measured in lives, currently estimated to have been over 700 Argentinians killed and hundreds more seriously wounded. New taxes have been levied to pay for the junta's war. And this comes on top of a disastrous position facing Argentine workers as the economy totters on the brink of collapse.

The Business University in Buenos Aires has reported that only 46% of Argentina's industrial capacity is being used. Inflation last month was running at an annual rate of 128%. In the first quarter of this year industrial output was down 9.4% and gross domestic product down by 5.7% compared with the same period last year. Argentina owes \$9.2 billion in debts to US banks alone.

Undoubtedly there will now be a reckoning with the junta. The coming period is likely to be stormy, with some military leaders trying to replace the Galtieri junta with another, less discredited regime. But even that would have no stability. The class issues which the junta hoped to avoid by their invasion, will now redouble in intensity.



When the junta seized the Falklands/Malvinas, there were mass demonstrations in Buenos Aires (above). This week the military had to use tear gas to disperse anti-junta crowds after the defeat (see article below left)

PROFITS AHEAD FOR BOSSES

By John Pickard

Now that the Falklands war seems to be coming to an end, the Tories will be making sure that their big business friends will be guaranteed their profits and financial compensations. Indeed, many of them in arms manufacturing industries will be rubbing their hands in anticipation of lucrative new orders.

But the costs will now be counted by working people. It has been young workers, many forced into the armed services because of Tory unemployment, who have borne the brunt of the 250-plus fatalities during the war, and it will be the families of these same servicemen who will now have to shoulder the economic burdens of a war that was never in their interests.

John Biffen last week talked about "new spending cuts" and "higher taxes" and there can be no doubt about who will suffer from these. It will not be the millionaires' cabinet of Thatcher and Co.

If the Tories decide to replace all the ships and aircraft lost, it would cost an estimated £500m. The costs of sending the Task Force are over £500m so far, and

any prolonged deployment, for example in establishing a garrison, will increase costs even further. The total bill presented to workers could be over £2 billion.

Lord Inchcape, chairman of P&O (a number of whose ships are with the Task Force) rejected a proposal at the company's Annual Meeting that the 1981 final dividend be cut by 1p and the money given to the S Atlantic Fund.

Socialists always opposed Thatcher's war: the Tories are incapable of conducting any policy in the interests of workers. They have pushed unemployment up to 4 million and hammered living standards for the sake of British big business; they have fought a war 8,000 miles from home, for the sake of the interests and prestige of British big business; and now, after the war, they will put the burden on to workers' shoulders—again, in the interests of British big business.

What is also certain is that the Tories and their Fleet Street helpers will drop like a hot brick all

their propaganda about the nature of the Argentine military junta. For the first time ever, workers in Britain have had a real glimpse in the mass media of the horrors of this regime: the torture, the murders and the suppression of democratic rights.

A member of the British Defence Staff in Washington even commented that a Royal Navy diver had found, off the coast of Argentina, a "sea of skeletons", all weighed down with concrete. The Tories and the press only revealed these horrors over the last few weeks to get public support for the Falklands war; in reality the Tories were always among the best friends the Junta has ever had—and the same goes for the other military police regimes in Latin America.

Now the Tories and the press will do another about turn. All the revelations about the crimes of the Junta will begin to fade from the pages of the press, and the Tories will try to get back to their 'normal' friendly relations with all the vicious military dictatorships in the area. But workers will not forget so easily.

Come to Black Youth conference

In the aftermath of the riots in Brixton last summer, Lambeth council submitted a report to the Scarman inquiry detailing some of the social conditions facing the people in the area.

The report points out that amongst the population the incidence of poverty, homelessness, overcrowding, ill health and social stress exceeds Greater London and national levels. But for black people in particular this is even more the case in almost every respect.

The report explained that over 12,000 households in Lambeth lack sufficient bedrooms.

The numbers of single parents families is twice the national average. An indication of what this means in terms of economic deprivation is shown by the fact that of disconnections of electricity due to non payment of bills, 49% involved single parent households.

Lambeth has the second highest rate of people suffering forms of mental illness in the country, and whereas in other areas there is a slight decline, in Lambeth the numbers are actually increasing.

In addition Lambeth has the distinction of having the highest infant mortality rate than any other comparable area in Europe.

Since the present Tory government came to power, Lambeth, in common with other areas around the country has been reeling from the devastating blows inflicted by unemployment.

By Sam Brown

(London LPYS Regional Committee)

A year ago Lambeth council reported unemployment amongst black males under 19 at 55%. In central Brixton unemployment would undoubtedly be even higher and amongst young black women this figure would be even higher still.

The intervening 12 months have seen unemployment in the Borough rise by 52%. In Brixton the number of young blacks between 19 and 24 out of work has increased by a staggering 71% over the same period, and all the indications are that unemployment will continue to rise.

The situation in Lambeth demonstrates in an acute form the situation developing throughout Britain. Black people are bearing the brunt of the Tory attacks on workers living standards. Tory racism means we are hit the hardest by mass unemployment, slum housing and poverty.

That's why black workers from all over Britain will be coming together to thrash out ideas and to formulate a fighting programme to combat these and other vital issues facing black people.



The LPYS has been at the forefront in the fight against racism. Photo: Militant.

Venue change LPYS Black Youth Conference 3-4 July, County Hall, London

As a result of a police intervention in Handsworth, Birmingham, the Labour Party Young Socialists Black Youth Conference has had to change its venue. According to a report in *Labour Weekly* (June 11), it is believed the owners of the original venue cancelled the meeting after 'informal advice' from Handsworth police.

The conference will now

be held at the GLC County Hall, where facilities have been offered for the conference on the 3/4 July, starting at 11.30am Saturday 3 July, and finishes at 4.30pm the following day. Several hundred black youth are anticipating to be at the event.

Black and Asian youth have had to bear the brunt of Tory policies in the form of unemployment, slum

housing and poverty. Black youth will not be silenced by the Tories through unemployment or through police harassment. Black youth are organising inside the labour and trade union movement against the inequalities of capitalist society. The job of the Labour Party Young Socialists is to give a clear political lead.

Letters have also gone out to the labour movement

for financial and organisational help. Sponsors to the event so far are; Joan Maynard MP, Frank Dobson MP, Tom Sawyer (Ass Gen Sec NUPE), Alan Sapper (Gen Sec ACTT), A Quinn and T Duras (T&GWU executive, personal capacity), Bert Heitzmann (London NSMM), and Valerie Wise, GLC member.

END CHEAP LABOUR!

Coventry

This Saturday (June 19) will see youth in Coventry taking to the streets on a march organised by Coventry South East LPYS, demanding "End slave labour—proper jobs for youth!"

Coventry was once a major centre of British manufacturing industry—ten years ago two thirds of its workers were employed in industrial, mainly engineering, firms. That proportion was twice the national average.

During the 1950's and 1960's, Coventry was a boom town, with unemployment effectively zero, and wage rates, (particularly the tool room agreement) the pace setter for parity claims throughout the country.

The hammering the city has received under the Tory government leaves scars all around the town. Since May 1979, male unemployment has risen by 259%—for women, the increase of 185% reflects the pressures against these workers from claiming benefits and being forced back into the home.

The position for youth is particularly grim. Over the next few weeks, another 5,000 school leavers will join



The LPYS has always been at the forefront of combatting racism. Photo: Militant

LPYS on the march

the same depressing trail.

Two Coventry youth, Michele, 17, and Tony 16, explained why they are going on the march.

Michele: "I have been on the dole since February, it's my third time since I left school. I have also been on four schemes or placements, but they weren't real training."

Tony: "I have only been on two schemes and this is my second time on the dole. Living at home means I get virtually nothing in benefits."

Michele: "I went on one placement—to a shop—where I was being treated as a skivvy. I did more or less the same work as the other full-time girl. But she got £50 and I only got £23.50, and the shop owner didn't even have to pay that! He never kept any of us trainees on full time,

we were just cheap labour for him. On another placement, in a warehouse, I had a contract which said I was supposed to learn about goods inwards and outwards, stock control and so on. But by the end of the scheme all I had learnt was how to read 6-figure numbers, 3 at a time and how to click a price gun."

"Somebody has got to do something soon. On my dole money there is nothing to do all day—it drives you up the wall. How can I afford a 12 inch single at £2.99—no wonder people turn to crime! Me and Tony and any other of our friends we can get, are going on the Young Socialists march."

The only answer to youth in Coventry, to see a future that offers a job, money in your pocket, a holiday and other basic things the Tories tell us we can no longer af-

ford, is organising with the LPYS:

- ★ No to slave labour training schemes.
- ★ Full trade union rates of pay on YOPs.
- ★ A guaranteed job for every school leaver.
- ★ An early general election—fought on socialist policies.
- ★ End slave labour—proper jobs for youth! Assemble, 11am, Acorn Street, Stoke Aldermoor (3/4 bus terminus) march to rally outside Council house 1pm. Speakers include: Les Kuriata, (National Committee LPYS), Bob Lee (Labour Committee for Defence of Brixton), Dave Nellist (Labour Prospective Parliamentary Candidate, Coventry South East), and a NHS shop steward.

By Dave Nellist

NOTTINGHAM

The LPYS branches in the Nottingham area are leaving no factory unvisited, no YOP scheme or dole office that has not been leafleted in their efforts to build for the East Midlands LPYS 'Real Jobs for Youth' demo in Nottingham on 26 June.

The LPYS Regional Committee are planning to make this a historic demo, out of which we can build mass campaigning LPYS branches in every constituency in the region. We have a target of getting 1,000 youth onto the streets of Nottingham, protesting against Tory policies which have meant disaster for young workers.

The build up for the demo has meant a very hectic time for all the LPYS members in the area, especially the unemployed and student comrades.

They have carried out factory visits, dole sales, leafletting and so on. We have been up at 6am outside pits and factories selling papers and leafletting.

However, we aren't content just to stand outside the gates of factories either. We've made appointments to see shop stewards committees, site convenors and trade union branch secretaries during working hours so that they can raise the demo and the LPYS with the young workers in the factories.

The weekend before the demo we are going to have a day of action which will feature banners, placards, paper sellers and most importantly two street meetings on what the LPYS stands for. What we are going to do is stand on a wall with a megaphone and take it in turns to give it some hammer against the Tories!

The potential for this demo is enormous; already the comrades from South Humberside have said they expect 150 youth to come down for the march. Assemble: 11am, Goose Fair site, The Forest, Nottingham. March to Market Square.

By John Fahey
(Secretary, Nottingham North LPYS)

MANCHESTER

At a shop stewards' meeting at Longtrawford, Openshaw, representatives from the YOPs Trainees Union Rights Campaign met the stewards and outlined the demands of our campaign.

Workers realised the need to fight against Tebbit's attack on the trade union movement and gave their full support. In a bucket collection £17.36 was raised to help back Manchester LPYS's 'Youth Against Cheap Labour' march, which is being held on Saturday June 19th at the Salford precinct at 11am. March through Hulme and Manchester to Lesser Free Trade Hall.

Labour Women's Conference

This year's Labour Party National Women's Conference, held in Newcastle last weekend, was the biggest ever.

An increased number of delegates was to be expected when the Tories have intensified the attack on every aspects of the lives of working class women. Conference, however, largely failed to come to grips with the burning problems facing working women.

There were many good contributions on issues like child-care, reflecting the anger of women at the scandalous lack of provision. But there was general agreement on what is needed, while on the crucial question of how improvements can be fought for and implemented, about which there are strong disagreements, there was very limited discussion.

On most of the resolutions there was hardly any debate because of the way the agenda was arranged, and for many delegates there was a feeling of frustration. The platform's views implied a strong feeling of complacency with what Labour governments had achieved and would achieve in the future, while, unfortunately, a large group of delegates were more concerned with organisational changes and tactics rather than formulating clear policies on which the women's organisation could give a lead to working class women.

The conference opened with Jo Richardson MP moving a statement on "Peace, Disarmament and Development". The document argued that if more money was spent on foreign aid and less on arms, the problems of the Third World could be solved.

Ann Dean, the delegate from Bootle Women's Section, in her contribution, argued that capitalism can't deliver the goods in the developed countries, let alone solve the problems of underdeveloped countries. There could be no solution for these crisis-ridden lands within the framework of capitalism. Poverty and the threat of war cannot be seen in isolation from the overall fight for socialism.

The resolution on Apartheid moved by Margaret Creear, Rochdale Women's Council, was unfortunately lost. The amendment from Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society which deleted all reference to socialism was carried. Speakers to the amendment argued that the resolution was "arrogant"

By Glenys Ingham

(Deptford Labour Party)

because it was "dictating" to the South African workers on how their struggle should progress.

Moving the resolution, Margaret Creear outlined the appalling conditions of blacks under the apartheid system. In South Africa the infant mortality rate is the highest in the world. She spoke of the inhuman system of migrant labour which separates men and women, parents and children in the quest for cheap labour. Strike and trade union activity are squashed by the ever present violence of the army and police. These are all aspects of a capitalist system which takes a particularly ruthless form.

Boycotts of banks or food products will not end the exploitation of the black workers. A mass socialist movement must be built if apartheid is to be destroyed.

The organisation debate was taken on Sunday afternoon. Conference supported a number of resolutions based on the idea of positive discrimination. They proposed a number of organisational changes which, it was claimed, would increase involvement of women in the party.

'Positive discrimination' was passed, but not without opposition

The first composite, 16, called for the election of five women's places on the NEC of the Labour Party to be taken at Labour Party Women's Conference. The second composite demanded the National Women's Conference should have five resolutions on subjects of its own choice automatically on the agenda of Labour Party Conference.

The composite resolutions met with strong opposition from the trade union delegates, who argued that the organisational changes would have the effect of disenfranchising their membership, which included hundreds of thousands of working class women. Sheila Woodhead, delegate from Rochdale, argued against the composite. She said that it was important to involve more women in the party and make sure they were represented at every level. But this could not be



Women are taking a leading role in the struggle against the Tories. But to involve them in the labour movement will not come through reserving resolutions or positions for women, which amount to token concessions. Photo: Militant

achieved simply through rule changes which were being put forward as a short cut. We must fight for the trade unions to step up efforts to organise women and involve them much more in the life of the union and Labour Party.

Special steps must be taken to increase their involvement. Meetings must be held at convenient times, creches, baby sitters and transport must be organised. More trade union facility time for women must be won and special courses and

schools must be put on in the unions to increase the number of women becoming shop stewards, taking positions on branch and national bodies and taking up full-time posts.

This was the only way in which women were going to

be involved at the grass roots of our movement. Reserving resolutions or positions for women meant token concessions, not active involvement.

Conference Readers' Meeting: 'Women are angry'

All the anger and determination that should have been present at the Labour Party Womens Conference was found at the *Militant* Readers Meeting on Saturday night.

Over 80 people attended, including a delegation from NUPE who have been out on strike against the government's 4% pay offer for the last 3 weeks.

The speakers were Lynn Walsh, Assistant Editor of the *Militant*, Margaret Creear, delegate from Rochdale Womens Council and Joan Holland, a NUPE shop steward.

Contributions from the floor, reflected the life and

problems of many millions of working class women. Cathy Wilson, the delegate from the Isle of Wight, explained how she tries to keep herself and her son on weekly social security payments. The only good thing about it, she said, was that it constantly reminds you of the urgency and the need to fight against the system—something MPs on £14,500 a year, plus all their perks, seem to forget!

The response to the ideas expressed at the meeting was shown in the amount raised for the *Militant* Fighting Fund; £165 was collected!

Picture: page 13

Party members donate to fighting fund

Probably the majority of donations for *Militant's* fighting fund come from individual Labour Party members. But now we are seeing collections being taken at Labour Party meetings. Besides the £100 raised at the Wales Labour Party Conference, collections were also made at Reading South and Wokingham General Committees, Aberystwyth and Deptford Labour Parties and donations came in from left wing party members in Huyton.

A Hertfordshire party member sent us his Labour Party tote winnings and

elsewhere we've have regular donations of tote commissions, which obviously means the comrades concerned are assisting to build up Labour Party funds.

And where there are party officers or parliamentary candidates who support our ideas they don't aim to make personal profit out of their position. Derek Hatton, PPC for Wavertree donated £25 TV fees, and similarly H Morgan the secretary of Neil Kinnock's Constituency Labour Party, Bedwellty, sent us £10.

Bristol

At the annual general meeting of the Bristol District Labour Party, back in March, left wingers were elected to officers positions by a margin of 71 to 57 (14 votes).

The right wing undoubtedly expected to achieve election against the

left, and when defeated they successfully appealed to the National Agent for a new AGM, on technical grounds. By doing this they have successfully stopped the Bristol DLP from working until halfway through the year!

However, the new AGM was held on June 7. Party members were angry to find

prior to the meeting an advert in the local Tory rag by the right wing, through the Trade Unions for a Labour Victory group, urging support for the right wing.

At the meeting itself, 121 delegates attended (out of 157), as well as three regional full time party officials to organise the

voting. Not only did the left wing win the votes again, but this time it was with a larger majority of 23! And it is significant that on the eve of the right wing nationally trying to launch a witch-hunt against *Militant*, in the elections Peter Hammond, a *Militant* supporter, was elected as Trade Union Liaison Officer.



Only white heroes need apply

It seems to be a Falklands hero you must be a white Anglo-Saxon Protestant. The *Telegraph* reported the heroism of the Sir Tristram crew in saving troops from the burning Sir Galahad, but then lamented: "Both ships were manned with about 50 Hong Kong Chinese ratings and 19 British officers. There has been pressure on the Defence Ministry...to replace the 550 or so Chinese manning nine of its 27 ships. It has been claimed that the Chinese are less stable than British crews and that jobs should be given to British seamen at a time of high unemployment."

It is doubtful whether this piece of racist logic crossed the minds of the soldiers who were rescued from the horror of Bluff Cove by the workers of the Sir Tristram.

'Greats' you may have missed

The *Sunday Times* recently celebrated the one thousandth issue of its *Colour Supplement*, a weekly hundred pages or more of adverts interspersed with the occasional article on how to survive in darkest Hampstead on a mere £500 a week. They produced an alphabetical list of the 'greatest' people in their fields.

Some were fairly obvious (Pele the greatest footballer for instance). Some small categories didn't have much competition. The Greatest Queen for instance was won, believe it or not, by the Queen.

Others defied logic. The greatest lawyer was Lord Denning, hero of the London Transport tube queues. Greatest economist was Milton (I'm not a monetarist anymore) Friedman and the greatest entrepreneur was Frederick Alfred Laker, beloved by stranded deserted air passengers all over the world. The *'Sunday Times'* deny reports that the writer of the articles has won the greatest humourists award.

King Parasite

Not surprisingly none of the sycophantic messages to the Saudi Royal Family lamenting the loss of King Khaled and praising the new King Fahd, refer to the parasitic lifestyle of the Saudi princes. A few vague phrases in the newspaper obituaries of Khaled mention 'he reigned rather than ruled', hinting that this monarch's main concern was falconing.

And King Fahd is no stranger to profligate living. He would combine trips to the London Clinic to check his health, with gambling at the Clermont Club, often losing £200,000 in one night. His biggest gamble was when he tried to break the bank at Monte Carlo, and found himself £7 million in debt at one stage, before he was ordered home.

50 YEARS "IN THE GUTTER"

The Tory press has a special skill in trying to prove that the misery its system brings is really happiness in disguise. In 1932 the editor of the *'Sunday Express'*, James Douglas, twittered that: "Poverty is the source of all human strength, vitality and energy. In every race it is the creative force that renews the staff of life." His successors nowadays speak the same kind of rubbish about mass unemployment. And they reserve their bitterest invective for anyone who disagrees.

On 2 May the editorial of the *'Sunday Express'* whined: "There are not much lower depths to which a politician can sink than those plumbed by Mr Anthony Wedgewood Benn in his speech yesterday. He even managed to bring class conflict into the Falklands crisis by claiming to have evidence that most of the British servicemen in the South Atlantic come from working class families and only joined up to escape the dole queues. His words stink."

Perhaps the editor should talk to some of the rank and file soldiers, sailors and airmen or those dockyard workers who sailed with the Fleet with redundancy notices in their pockets. But at least the *'Express'* did have one accuracy. Its headline over the editorial summed up the paper's politics — "Down in the gutter".

"Boxing is absolutely indefensible. It is a case of making money out of organised brain damage."

That testimony by neurologist, Dr Alan Hudson, to the Canadian government's inquiry into boxing was ignored, as have been the deaths of at least 336 professional boxers since the Second World War from injuries sustained in the ring.

Profits speak louder than medical evidence. Working class youths and men fight and the rich take the prize pickings.

Last weekend's world championship fight was the richest in boxing's history, with estimated receipts of over £30 million. It took place in a special stadium constructed on the site of the car park at the Caesar's Palace casino in Las Vegas. This stadium costing £350,000 takes one month to put up and a weekend to dismantle.

The promoters got rich from the receipts from close-circuit TV but Caesar's Palace also profit from extra custom in the casino. When the Holmes-Ali fight took place at Caesar's in October 1980, the casino took an extra £16 million, more than two and a half times their average takings for a whole month.

"Boxing's exciting", declared Caesar's accountant, Pat Cruzen, this week. Excitingly profitable for the bosses he means, but the prospects for the boxers are not so rosy, judging by past records.

As recession has deepened in the last decade, the number of professional boxers in Britain has doubled—attracted by an escape from poverty. But for every Henry Cooper on TV there are hundreds who are scarred for life. Numerous surveys have catalogued the damage done to boxers.

One major neuropathological investigation in 1973, entitled 'The Aftermath of Boxing', examined the brains of fifteen ex-boxers, including two world champions, one an "all-time legend." It found that some boxers deteriorated mentally whilst still boxing, and others took 10 to 20 years before damage was noticeable.

Several were in psychiatric hospitals. Of the two world champions, one died severely demented in a psychiatric hospital, and the other died a vagrant and severely mentally deranged.

There is no protection for the head from the gloves or the canvass. Neuro-



The punch - drunk profiteers

surgeon, Pierre Le Blanc spent seventeen days last year unsuccessfully trying to save the life of knocked-out boxer Cleveland Denny. After Denny's death, Le Blanc commented: "I don't see how hitting a man on the head where the body's most sensitive and precious organ is located can be called a sport."

The brain is not a "perfect fit" in the skull. Surrounded by fluid it is capable of movement. Severe blows damage the nerve fibres causing scar tissues (fibrosis) in the brain. Once beyond a certain point, this fibrosis, peculiar to the brain and to boxing injuries, continues. After a point of no return is reached, the damage goes on, even if boxing is stopped.

Damage is not confined to the brain. Other common

boxing injuries are damage to the eyes, particularly to the retina. The threat of the early retirement of Sugar Ray Leonard, (going blind in one eye) is seriously worrying boxing promoters, because he is currently 'one of the hottest properties' in the game.

As long as boxing is profitable in major countries such as USA, Britain it will continue. In Sweden professional boxing has been banned for fifteen years. Norway last year abolished it altogether.

After the death of British boxer Johnny Owen in 1980, the House of Lords debated the abolition of professional boxing in Britain. They rejected it. The government said that there was first class medical supervision of this 'sport'. No-one mentioned the profits made.

●
Only one British boxer has won a gold medal at the Olympics in the last twenty-five years—Chris Finnegan. He went on to fight professionally, winning the British, European and Commonwealth titles before fighting, unsuccessfully, for the world title.

Threatened blindness ended his career. An operation saved one eye, but he is blind in the other, unemployed and in his own words "living on the kindness of friends". The British Boxing Board of Control gave him £500 compensation.

WISDOM OF PRINCE PHILIP

In order to promote his new book "A question of balance", HRH The Duke of Edinburgh descended to be interviewed by the BBC about his 'social philosophy'. Famous for riding, playing polo, driving horses, raising Corgis, and simultaneously shooting and conserving wildlife; the Duke is also an in-

tellectual!

The basis of his thought is apparently to find a point of balance and reconciliation in all things. The essence of good government, is to find a balance 'between the philosophy, political machinery and bureaucracy' of a society. In the shallowest of interviews the Duke developed this, the shallowest of ideas.

It is no use blaming

'theoretical systems' like capitalism or the bourgeoisie. HRH maintains that if a factory closes, it is the fault of the bosses and the Trade Unions, although it obvious whom he really blamed.

He advises, finding points of 'common understanding' instead of 'antagonisms' (read class struggle).

The Great Thinker then said he was in favour of extending democracy; but not in favour of the working class having control of the factor that has the greatest

effect on their lives, i.e. industry.

This great theoretician then attacked Marx and Marxism. His argument consisted of the usual trivia—that Marxism is all very well in theory, but doesn't take into account 'human nature'.

I, for one, will not be buying the book. It's not just my 'human nature'. I'm unemployed and can't afford it.

By Kevin Sharp
(South Herts LPYS)

By Jim Chrystie

New Contraceptive Drug

banned in USA passed in Britain pushed in 'Third World'

The controversy surrounding the drug Depo-provera and its use, or abuse, in third world countries, has been revived by the recent decision of the Committee on Safety of Medicines to allow it to be licensed for general use in Britain. On the other hand, Zimbabwe has just banned it.

Depo-provera is a contraceptive which is injected. One injection can last for either three or six months. Even the method of administering the drug has been the subject of controversy. Clearly it is very convenient—no pill to remember every day, for example.

But it is equally convenient to those more concerned about population control by the state than the right of individual women to control their fertility. The control remains in the hands of the person who holds the syringe.

Depo-provera was banned in the USA because experiments with beagles showed a link with breast cancer, while experiments with monkeys suggested that it caused cancer of the lining of the womb. Other studies suggested that Depo-provera can cause permanent sterility, an increased likelihood of getting diabetes and a lower resistance to infection. The most common side effect is the disruption of the menstrual cycle: heavy and prolonged bleeding at some times, loss of periods at other times.

Infectious diseases are no longer killers in the advanced capitalist world where public hygiene, adequate diet and antibiotics are taken for granted. In an underdeveloped country, however, a drug which decreases resistance to infection is a major health hazard.

Similarly anaemia from heavy bleeding is a serious matter where a majority of people suffer from malnutrition. Unlike a pill, you can't stop taking Depo-provera once side effects start to show: you just have to wait for it to wear off.

The US owned multinational, Upjohn, which makes Depo-provera, spent a lot of money on its development. When they failed to get a license to sell it for general contraceptive use in the USA or Britain, they launched a big promotional campaign in the third world where drug regulation is either non-existent or very lax.

Their aggressive promotion has been very successful: between three and five million women in 76 countries have had the injection. Drug firms sell many products in the third world that have been banned as too dangerous in the USA. This they justify by asking why anyone should suppose the USA is more correct than, say, Thailand in its drug regulation.

It is not, however, a question of abstract "correctness" but vested interests. Protection from unsafe drugs had to be fought for.

The drugs industry has not suffered much during the recession. The world drugs market, which totals over \$90,000 million, is growing at an annual rate of between 6% and 8% per annum and is dominated by 30 groups who control over 50% of sales.

Drugs account for 25% of ICI's profits, sales and profits having more than doubled in the last five years.

The percentage of profit gained from capital employed amongst drug companies is far higher than average. Following table shows the profit returns of pharmaceutical companies operating in Britain.

1975	15.4%
1976	16.9%
1977	19.5%
1978	21.0%
1979	14.9%
1980	16.3%

(Source: Office of Health Economics)

The USA, with its strict regulations, was one of the only countries where thalidomide failed to get a license.

The US government supports population control in other countries as a "solution" to poverty and starvation, especially where the poor and starving show signs of revolution. When contraceptive drugs were first being used in the third world in the 1960s, US President Johnson and World Bank President McNamara welcomed them as a cheaper "solution" than economic aid: "Less than \$5 invested in population control is worth \$100 invested in economic growth" and "successful programs of this kind will yield a very high economic return," they said.

Thus the unequal distribution of wealth and power is posed as a biological problem to be solved with drugs. In reality, the poor countries of the world have failed to develop economically, not because their rates of population growth are too high, but because they are exploited by landlords and capitalists at home and multinational



The right to decent health in the "3rd" world is not limited to ensuring safe drugs. In many cases sanitation and clean water supplies are more important.

companies from abroad.

Any drug suspected of the side effects that have been associated with Depo-provera should be withdrawn while further research is carried out. The question, however, when calling for a ban on Depo-provera, is: who is going to ban it? In Britain the Tories relaxed the drug regulations in 1981.

Many of the third world

countries have extreme right wing dictatorships, not likely to act in the interests of working class or peasant women—or men either for that matter. Some of them would certainly favour a ban—on all birth control—using moral and religious, and even sometimes nationalist, anti-imperialist arguments.

In Bangladesh, women are refusing vital tetanus in-

jections, convinced they are being given Depo-provera. However, many women have said they prefer an injectible contraceptive because it is not only easy to use, but cannot be detected, and sabotaged, by a husband opposed to birth control. For many women another pregnancy is a major health hazard, more immediate than possible side effects from the contracep-

By Vivien Seal
(Ardwick CLP)

tive.

It is also true, however, that they are not likely to have made a fully informed choice—Depo-provera can easily be given, and usually is, without a physical examination of any kind, never mind a detailed discussion about all its effects. In South Africa, black women have been given the drug without even being told what it is.

In any case, what sort of choice do women have? Risks from a drug or risks from pregnancy, and poverty and malnutrition either way. To talk about women's rights in this context, without considering the practical means to achieve them, is entirely abstract.

Here in Britain, although its use was restricted until very recently, doctors have been given the drug to women they deem "feckless", "promiscuous" or "unreliable". In practice they mean non-English speaking or black women, women depressed and demoralised by their desperate social and economic conditions, and mentally handicapped women. Research by the London Hospital showed that only a small minority had been properly informed about the drug.

The only way in which people throughout the world will be able to exercise genuine control over their fertility, and life after birth too, is to expropriate the landlords and capitalists who are the cause of the poverty and starvation of a majority of the world's population. The nationalisation of the pharmaceutical industry and its integration with a genuine health service controlled by workers and peasants will ensure research and development aimed at their real needs.

In many cases sanitation and clean water supplies will do far more than drugs to advance people's health. Birth control innovation will not necessarily come from the drug industry. But if there is still a demand for an injectible contraceptive, then democratic control will not only ensure that research aimed at that particular need is carried out; it will be the only guarantee of maximum safety of the resulting product.

Driven to Marxism

By Pat Edlin
(Islington South CLP)

In 1980 I got a job as a chauffeur for a supposedly exclusive car hire company (not trade union of course, wages £54 pw). I was just starting to read the *Militant* then, and if there was one job that pushed me towards Marxism that was it.

I felt sick with the ruling class on more than one occasion. One occasion was driving Prince and Princess Michael of Kent to a dinner at the Dorchester for well-

known celebrities. A thank you dinner for giving money to the "Stars organisation for Spastics". The dinner's cost ran into tens of thousands.

There was only one disabled person at the dinner and she was at the door in a wheelchair to be photographed giving flowers to the royals. She didn't get a chauffeur driven car there or home and didn't stay for dinner either. The thousands spent could have gone, if those

people were really sincere about giving money to the disabled, to buy 5 disabled cars or a third of a kidney machine.

Trade union leaders liked their chauffeur-driven cars too. A number of times I drove Antony Christopher of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation home from Westminster to his house in Croydon, although a black cab or rail would have been cheaper.

The total cost must have been substantial over a year

and against the money paid to a YOPster it looks like a fortune.

This attitude and waste is part of the reasons why *Militant* has always called for trade union and Labour Party full-time reps to be on the same wages as an average worker. So that abuse by a few at the expense of so many can be prevented. The fight for socialism is the fight against waste.

BRITAIN IN THE CC

"The European Communities celebrate their twenty-fifth anniversary this week with as much enthusiasm as a beefeater in a vegetarian restaurant." (The Times 22.3.82)

"A 25-year-old in a coma is a pitiful sight." (Economist 20.3.82)

If that is the best that two pro-Common-Market Tory journals can find to say about the EEC, it is no wonder that most workers have no illusions left in this European businessmen's club.

The last crisis, over Britain's contribution to the budget and farm price increases threatened, not for the first time, to blast apart the 'unity' which the EEC is supposed to represent between the capitalist countries of Western Europe. It was the most serious dispute since 1965 when De Gaulle boycotted the institutions of the Community and paralysed them for six months, after failing to get agreement on increased prices.

As Marxists have always predicted it would, the economic recession has led to the strengthening of the national interests of each separate capitalist class at the expense of "the Community." The boast of Gaston Thorn, President of the EEC Commission that "The Community is a priceless asset in a troubled world and a force of stability" was contradicted in the very same speech, outlining the Commission's programme for 1982, when he warned that "within the Community, the pressures of the economic situation are rousing the old demon of protectionism—the illusion that salvation lies in going it alone."

The dreams of the founding fathers of the Common Market are fading further and further into the mists. They envisaged the EEC as a stepping stone to the creation of a third world super-power, integrated politically as well as economically, with a market of 250,000,000, the equal of both American imperialism and Russia.

In the post-war world, the productive forces—science, technology and the organisation of labour—had outgrown private ownership and the nation state. The big multinational monopolies which own those productive forces planned for markets not of 55 million as in Britain, but the 250,000,000 of the USA or the EEC, or even the whole world. National markets were insufficient for these giant companies: they could only operate in terms of continental markets.

Capitalism had economically united the world into a single market, yet each national capitalist class still needed to maintain its independent state machine to back up with force its bid to grab a bigger share of the world market. Hence the continued development of the world economy was being dragged back by the limitations of the capitalist system as each ruling class needed to maintain its independent state.

The EEC was an attempt,

By Pat Craven

within Western Europe, to overcome this contradiction. The nations which founded the Common Market found themselves separately eclipsed by the two super powers, with Japan a rapidly rising challenge as well.

America's gross national product was 50% higher than that of the EEC countries and, in addition, American firms had bought up large sections of the most profitable industries within Western Europe. The European capitalists feared they could become little more than economic satellites of mighty US imperialism.

The early years of the Market, did appear to vindicate some of the perspectives of the founding fathers. Between 1958 and 1970, while world trade increased by 100%, the foreign trade of the EEC countries rose by 650%. Each of the six original EEC countries achieved a higher annual growth rate than the USA, although American firms shared in the benefits of this growth from their investments in Europe.

The main reason for this success, however, was not the existence of the Common Market but the great post-war economic boom, which was benefiting countries outside just as well, notably in Scandinavia.

It is relatively easy to develop economic co-operation when it is a matter of sharing out rising profits, yet even in this period, there were constant disputes between the member-states, most seriously with France in 1965.

The capitalists within each country were not prepared to concede any real measure of sovereignty to the European institutions. Both the EEC Commission and the European 'Parliament' can always be over-ruled by the Council of Ministers, in which it was

April 1948: Organisation of European Economic Cooperation founded (OEEC).

April 1951: European Coal and Steel Community founded (ECSC).

March 1957: Treaty of Rome signed by France, West Germany, Italy, Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg.

Aug 1961: Britain requests negotiations aimed at EEC membership.

Jan 1963: De Gaulle declares Britain 'not ready' to join EEC and vetoes application.

July 1965: France begins a boycott of EEC institutions that lasts seven months.

May 1967: Britain under Labour government (Wilson) applies to join EEC. Applica-



The LPYS conducted a vigorous campaign against the bosses' EEC, for the 1975 referendum, but from a class standpoint.

the practice for even one state to impose a veto on any measure which it considered a threat to its vital interests.

The Community has thus remained no more than a customs union. It cannot develop into anything further, and the idea that it could become a unified state with a single currency is no more than a pipe-dream.

This is perfectly illustrated by the present row between the Thatcher government and the other nine over budget contributions, farm prices and sanctions against Argentina.

Britain at first stood aside from the EEC when it was formed, the British capitalists thought that they represented a world power, with markets for export and investment in the former empire, now the Commonwealth. They quickly realised their mistake. Consistently, the British economy expanded at a slower rate than the EEC countries.

Between 1959 and 1970, the average annual percentage growth rates were:

Belgium	4.8
W Germany	5.3
Netherlands	5.4
France	5.8
Italy	5.8
Britain	3.1

British businessmen, especially the bankers, saw rich pickings within Europe and the Government applied to join the EEC, only to be twice rejected by De Gaulle, who saw Britain as a threat to the interests of French industrialists and the big farmers, who were growing fat on the basis of

tion remains on the table with no decision.

June 1970: Tories under Heath elected in Britain, renew application.

Jan 1972: Britain signs treaty of Accession. Norway, Denmark and Ireland also sign. Norway later withdrawing after referendum votes 'No'.

Jan 1973: Britain, Ireland and Denmark formally join EEC.

June 1975: British referendum votes by two-to-one to stay in EEC, after a massive campaign by big business, Tories, Liberals and Labour Right.

Jan 1982: Greece joins EEC to make 10 members.

Policy.

This policy, which guarantees the farmers' incomes, while forcing up food prices, led to the infamous 'mountains' and 'lakes' of butter, wine, vegetables and meat. De Gaulle feared that Britain would line up with W Germany to change this policy more in the interests of industrial capital.

These differences were partially settled and Britain, along with Ireland and Denmark joined in 1973. Greece has now become the tenth member, bringing the total size of the community to 290,000,000.

However, the Heath Government took Britain into the Market just as the post war boom was ending, far too late to gain the benefits which had been prompted by the advocates of entry. From the fourth quarter of 1971 to the fourth quarter of 1980, the average annual rise in industrial production of the EEC fell by 5.4%.

Since 1973, the average annual growth rate has only been 2.8%, industrial production is not expected to reach the peak of previous years until the end of this year, and over the next 5 to 7 years, the figure is expected to remain below the post-1973 average.

It is this economic decline which lies behind the latest crisis in which Britain is at the centre. Co-operation during the boom years, limited as it was, is giving way to national conflict.

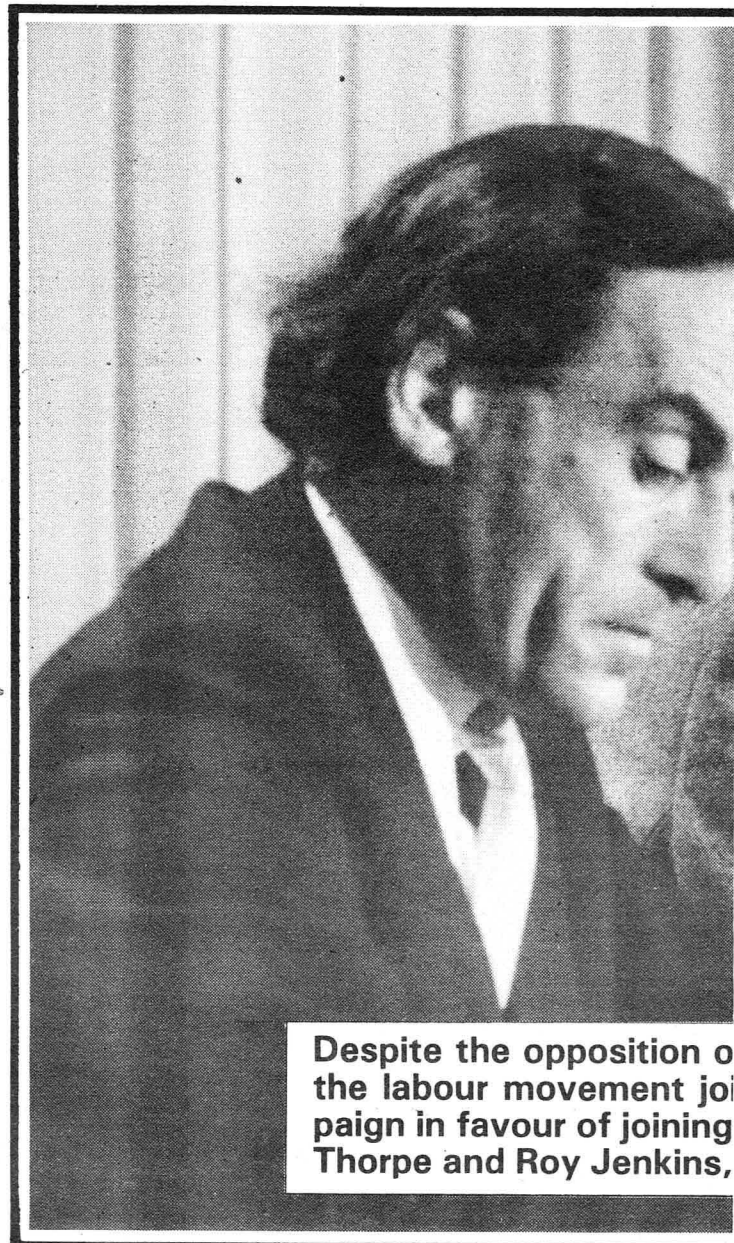
After its meeting Luxembourg last June, the Council of Ministers "echoed the alarm sounded by the Commission on the state of the internal market, which is increasingly threatened by intentional and unintentional barriers to trade and by the pervasive use of subsidies to ailing industries."

Typical of the disputes is the 'wine war' between Italy and France. The former produces 24 million hectolitres more than it consumes, and is therefore desperately trying to export the surplus into France.

These wine-growers have attacked the tankers and sabotaged their contents. One solution is a suggestion that the excess wine be turned into industrial alcohol, only to incur the hostility of British firms who produce this.

It is Britain's dispute however which poses the most grave threat. The issue

economic



Despite the opposition of the labour movement join campaign in favour of joining Thorpe and Roy Jenkins,

has come to a head over contributions to the community budget. 55% of the EEC's income comes from a levy of 1% of VAT, 45% is from duties paid on goods imported into the Common Market.

On this basis, Britain, which imports more from outside the market, would pay a disproportionate amount, 21.4% of the total. The UK's proportion of the

mise that a third year of refunds would be available if the exercises were not completed by 1982.

None of these things have been done by 1982, and Thatcher is demanding not just another refund, but a permanent change in the way the budget is calculated. All she has been offered is refund of £450 million for just one more year.

ECONOMIC FORECASTS FOR SIX MAJOR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (UK, W. Germany, France, Italy, Holland, Belgium)

Year	Output (% p.a. change)	Inflation %	Unemployment % (workforce)
1982	1.6	9.7	9.1
1983	2.4	9.0	9.4
1984	2.3	8.3	9.7
1986	2.3	7.3	10.3
1987	2.4	7.1	10.6

Source: Economist Intelligence Unit

total EEC Gross National Product is only 17.4%.

But because Britain has also a small agricultural sector, it receives far less from the EEC, only 9.6% of the receipts. Thus the fourth poorest country would be making the highest net contribution to the community.

Two years ago, the Tory government managed to negotiate a two-year refund of £1.5 billion, together with a commitment to overhaul EEC policies, to reduce spending on agriculture (60-70% of the EEC's expenditure goes on the Common Agricultural Policy) and increase support for other policies, provide Britain with a better budgetary deal and a pro-

In retaliation the Tories voted against the proposed 10.7% rise in farm prices, only to be voted down by the other nine members. The traditional right of veto has thus been over-ruled, a humiliating defeat for the Tory government.

Making the crisis even sharper is the Falklands war. Despite assurances that there is no link between this and the budget debate, it would seem that other EEC countries tried to use the threat of withdrawing the sanctions against Argentina to try to force Britain to concede on the budgetary contribution.

Seeing the continuous crises and the collapse of the high ideals which the

COMMON MARKET

problems unresolved



At the TUC and Labour Party conferences, the right wing of the Labour Party has joined hands with Tories, Liberals and businessmen to campaign for entry into the EEC. Here, ex-Tory Prime Minister Heath, Liberal leader Pakenham, and Labour leader Callaghan are soon to be given a plum job in the EEC, campaign for entry.



Despite all the grand plans of the founders of the EEC there has been no integration of currencies. A handful of currencies fluctuate together, kept within limited bounds by Central Bank interventions, in the so called European Monetary System (EMS). But this has not prevented currencies from being revalued or devalued according to the independent policies and interests of each separate capitalist class.

the major economies of Western Europe, would still be faced with this competition from the US and Japan, but in addition would be in direct competition for markets with the rest of Western Europe. It is pure fantasy to imagine that the Commonwealth countries or various 'third world' countries could fill the gap left by Britain's withdrawal from the CCT.

They are either undeveloped, and thus unable to afford to buy Britain's exports, or integrating their economies with one or other of the super-powers, Canada with the US, Australia with Japan.

On a capitalist basis, leaving the Common Market would mean jumping out of the frying pan and into the fire. The steep decline of British industry would accelerate. That is why there are now no sections of the British ruling class, however frustrated they are becoming at the disputes over the budget and agriculture, who advocate withdrawal.

Equally, there are signs of that some of the Labour leaders are being forced to have second thoughts about

withdrawal. Like Papan-dreou in Greece, they have seen the practical difficulties of operating within the framework of capitalism outside the EEC.

The fundamental error the Labour leaders make is that they see the Common Market rather than the capitalist economic system as the root cause of Britain's industrial decline.

Neither in nor out of the EEC is there any future for the British economy so long as it continues to be run in the interests of 200 giant monopolies who are motivated solely by profit.

That is equally the case with every other country in Western Europe. In all these countries the pressing need is for a government of the workers' parties to nationalise the major firms, with compensation on the basis of need, and place them under the democratic control and management of the workers, so that their economies can be planned for the needs of the people.

It would be impossible, however, for this to be done in each country in isolation. On the basis of socialist planning, the international integration of the different economies would become even more necessary. A voluntary federation of European states would be able to fulfil all the false promises of the EEC and go even further in developing the economy and raising living standards.

So, rather than just condemning the Common Market and putting forward the nightmare of an isolated, 'independent', capitalist Britain, the Labour leaders should be putting the class arguments against the capitalist nature of the EEC and campaigning throughout Europe for a Socialist United States of Europe, as the only escape from the horrors of recession which are now facing workers throughout the continent.

EEC was supposed to embody, it is not surprising that there is now an overwhelming majority within the ranks of the labour movement for the next Labour Government to withdraw. Food prices have increased relentlessly since Britain's entry, while vast surpluses have been stockpiled, destroyed or sold to Russia at knock-down prices.

The jobs which the Common Market was going to provide have been disappearing. Between 1970 and 1980, only 2 million new jobs were created, compared to 5m in Japan and 12m in the US in the same period. Unemployment in the EEC now stands at 10.25 million, a rise of 28% in just one year.

Understandable though workers' opposition to the Common Market is,

TOTAL BRITISH TRADE WITH THE EEC (£ billion)*

year	exports	imports	total
1970	2.4	2.3	4.7
1971	2.5	2.7	5.3
1972	2.8	3.4	6.3
1973	3.8	5.2	9.0
1974	5.5	7.7	13.2
1975	6.2	8.7	15.0
1976	8.9	11.2	20.1
1978	13.4	15.9	29.2
1979	17.3	19.9	37.3
1980	20.4	19.7	40.1

*Balance of Payments basis, source—Dept. of Trade

however, withdrawal would solve nothing. Indeed it would be as great a disaster as staying in.

43% of British exports now go to the EEC, compared to 20% in 1958 and 32% in 1973. All the EEC countries except Greece are now amongst the 12 most important UK export markets and West Germany has replaced the US

as the single most important export market.

Largely because of oil, Britain now has a trading surplus with the other EEC countries. It still has a deficit in trade in manufactured goods, though this is lower than that with non-EEC countries.

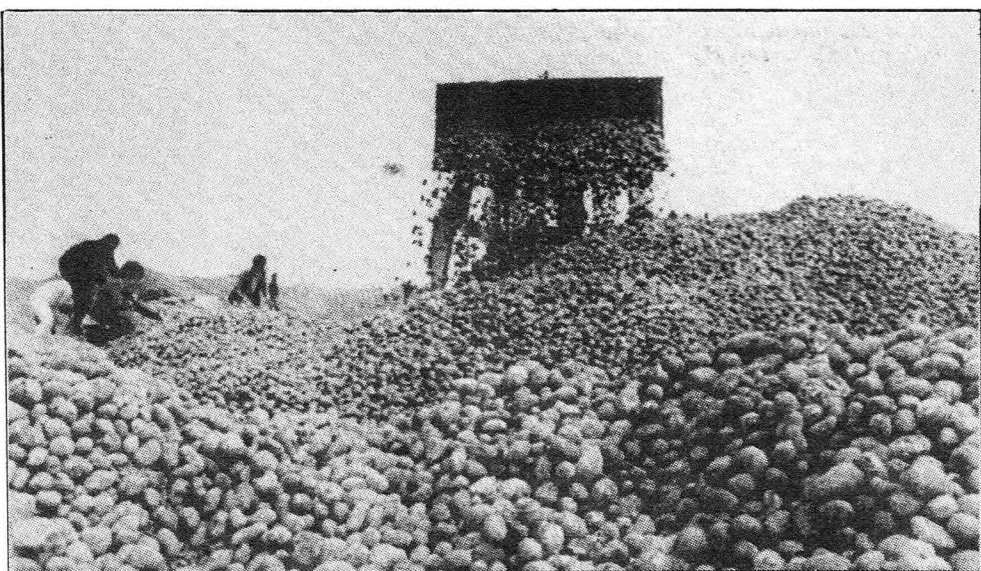
That is why the Tories are in such a weak bargaining position. The other Govern-

ments of the Ten know that British capitalism has no future outside the Common Community Tariff (CCT).

It is ironic that many of the firmest advocates of British withdrawal are also keen supporters of import control to protect British industry. The CCT is a blatant form of import controls, and it has become an essential crutch for European capitalists to protect them from competition on the world market.

With this protection, European capitalism is facing tremendous competition. As Gaston Thorn stated in his Programme for 1982, "Our relations with the US and Japan are getting more and more strained as the crisis bites deeper. A major dispute is building up over the trade balance."

Outside the EEC, Britain, already the weakest of



British workers have been horrified at the accumulation of "mountains" of food, destroyed or sold-off cheaply outside the EEC in order to keep up prices inside.

Withdrawal- from the frying pan into the fire

DIS-UNITED NATIONS



The UN was set up after the Second World War, in June 1945, as a direct descendant of the doomed League of Nations.

The League of Nations had been a failure as an organisation for the attainment of peace. Indeed, of the original 63 member states, 14 had left by 1939, 2 had been eliminated through annexation, and the Soviet Union was expelled for its attack on Finland.

The world's largest power, the USA, was never a member.

The League was largely responsible for policing the peace treaties following the First World War, but singularly failed to stop aggression by any of the great powers. In particular, it looked on helplessly at the military invasions by Italian and German fascism in Ethiopia, Czechoslovakia, Austria etc., despite verbal condemnations.

Lenin characterised the nature of the League in no uncertain terms when it tried to intervene in the war between Soviet Russia and the foreign armies of counter-revolution: "It became plain that the League of Nations was non-existent, that the alliance of the capitalist powers is sheer fraud and in actual fact it is an alliance of robbers, each one of whom tries to snatch something from the other."

The United Nations directly took over some of the mandates that the old League of Nations had failed to resolve and which indeed are still unresolved, such as Namibia.

The apparent honeymoon period between Russia and the capitalist powers after their World War II alliance was soon over. In the 'cold war,' the mutual antagonism and suspicion, always present but previously voiced in private, came out into the open as virulent and hysterical denunciations.

The Korean war (1950-54) marked a violent break-down in the unstable relations between the imperialist and Stalinist powers.

The Russians, being members of the Security Council, had a veto over

By Dave Farrar
(Tower Hamlets CLP personal capacity)

UN decisions. But due to a tactical 'boycott' of the Council, the Russian delegate was absent when the decision was made to send in 'United Nations' troops to halt the advance of the 'Communist' North Korean regime into South Korea, a US puppet state under Syngman Rhee's vicious right-wing regime.

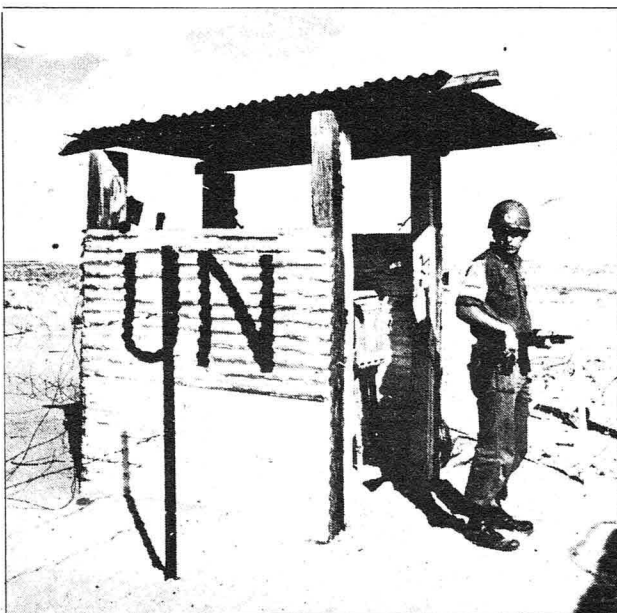
The UN intervention was carried out by the Western powers, including South Africa, under the direction of the US. The Korean war clearly reflected the division of the world into mutually antagonistic camps—the capitalist countries, and the deformed workers' states of Russia, Eastern Europe and China.

The UN has developed as a tool for carrying out decisions by the super-powers

Indeed, it was the stalemate created by the Chinese intervention that facilitated the present 'peace' between North and South Korea after the UN troops had overrun the North Korean lines and threatened the existence of North Korea itself.

Essentially, the UN has developed as a tool for carrying out decisions by the super-powers. Russia has never repeated its 'boycott' of the Security Council. The UN's 'peace-making' functions have been restricted to situations where the major powers, East and West, have been able to agree on a compromise.

In other situations—for example, the Iran/Iraq war, the Cambodian conflict, the



UN forces in the Lebanon were under orders, in the event of an Israeli invasion, to "shoot in the air a few times and then go into our bunkers". UN Under-Secretary General B Urquhart admitted the impotence of UN 'peace-keeping' efforts: "If they really want to have a war, a peace-keeping force won't stop them".

liberation struggles in Central America etc.—the UN has been conspicuous by its failure to intervene. In the week when the UN Assembly devoted, it could only stand impotently by as 14 wars were taking place in various parts of the world. But even if it could 'intervene' politically or militarily, in no way, shape or form could it do so in the interests of working people.

The negotiations over the Falklands have also shown how it can be used as a propaganda platform by governments at war.

Since the mid-1950s the independence of the former colonies and their admission to UN membership have made the General Assembly less reliable for the imperialist powers. But the French, British and American veto over Security Council decisions ensures that the UN cannot act against their interests.

Even the UN's founding principles reflect its lack of independence and its subservience to the vested interests of the governments and regimes which make up its membership. Its constitution, like most of its resolutions, is a masterpiece of ambiguity, freely used to justify whatever policy is followed.

Article 51 acknowledges "the right of national self-defence" which is of course a clause used by any regime like Israel, South Africa etc., to justify their military actions. Inevitably, the UN has made no impact in the major conflicts apart from acting as an observer on the sidelines.

Whilst Article 2 calls for "loyal fulfillment of UN obligations in good faith, and the pledge not to use or threaten to use force," it can be seen from the Falklands war how utopian this is. It has been completely ignored by British and Argentine capitalism in the pursuit of their own interests.

Faced with the threat of war and mayhem, with crises like those in the Middle East and the Falklands, the labour movement can place no faith in an organisation run by the ruling classes and Stalinist castes that form the governments of the world. The workers' movement internationally must rely upon its own courage, organisation and strength: only the fight for a world socialist federation can make the desire of the masses of workers throughout the world for peace into a reality.



The Israeli invasion of the Lebanon, overwhelming the Palestinian forces, has meant a military defeat for the PLO. But it cannot make an end to the Palestinian national struggle. The main victims have been the non-combatant population. The 1975-76 civil war cost Lebanon an estimated \$12 billion and 25,000 dead, 90% of whom were civilians. The final cost of the present Israeli invasion may well reach the same level. There are already reports of 10,000 casualties, mostly civilians killed or injured in the bombing of residential areas. The towns of Sidon and Tyre have been all but demolished and there are 600,000 homeless refugees—in proportion to Lebanon's population, this would be the equivalent of 10 million refugees in Britain.

Greece... France... now Spain swings left

In the May elections to the Andalusian parliament (Southern Spain) the electorate of 4.3 million gave the Socialist Party (PSOE) an absolute majority of 52.6%, with a further 8.5% of the votes going to the Communist Party (PCE).

The government party (UCD) saw its votes reduced from 31.8% in 1979 to 13%, and has been relegated to third position by the Popular Alliance (AP), with 17% of the

votes. This party, even further to the right than the UCD, is winning the support of the CEOE (Spanish CBI).

The UCD is now the third political force in Andalusia, the second Galicia, the fourth in Catalonia and the fifth in the Basque country!

It has presided over: an increase in unemployment from 1.4 million in December 1980 to 2 million now (in official figures); an average wage "increase" of 10% in 1981 (inflation 14½%); and a rise in the banks' profits of 35% in 1981.

It has refused to investigate fully the attempted right-wing coup of February 1981, the siege of

a Barcelona bank demanding the release of those involved in the coup, the scandal of the poisoned olive oil which left some 250 dead, and the trigger-happy civil guard assassins in Andalusia.

It is incapable of meeting the demands of the workers for the saving, let alone the creation, of jobs — unemployment now stands officially at 15.5% and in Andalusia more than 1 in 5. But with the mounting militancy of Spanish workers—general strikes in Getafe (Madrid), Ripollets (Barcelona), Asturias and various parts of Andalusia—they also daren't attempt to implement the needs of the employers in

mounting an all-out attack on the working class.

The mythical "centre" which has governed Spain since the death of Franco has all but disappeared as Spain polarises into "two well-defined blocks", in the words of AP leader Fraga. The CEOE has taken an active role in the Galician and Andalusian elections—calling for a non-Marxist vote, reminding the electorate that the type of society which exists is at stake, and financing the hard-line Popular Alliance.

The PSOE won an absolute majority in Andalusia because of the unpopularity of the government and the workers' need for change.

By campaigning on a programme of radical change they could have encouraged more workers to vote. Only 66% of the electorate voted as all the parties appear much the same.

Instead, the PSOE

leaders spend their time saying what they're not going to do in government.

Elections are due before March, and will probably take place this year. The PSOE will probably win even without a socialist campaign. But unless they are prepared to improve the lot of Spanish workers by nationalising the banks and the land and industry of Spain's dominant 100 families, their period in government will disillusion their supporters and open the way for a Popular Alliance government, in the same way that the 1974-79 Labour government in Britain paved the way for a Thatcher victory.

As the employers say here—the type of society is at stake. They recognise the "dangerous" mass need for change. The PSOE must fulfil that need.

By a Spanish correspondent

Out now!



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June 1980

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THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

- under Reagan

"They see the possibility of revolution behind the glazed dumbfounded sandbagged looks of thousands of hungry people who need to be fed."

When the conservative daily newspaper, the *Boston Globe*, printed this statement in its 23 May issue, it was not referring to the starving workers and peasants of the underdeveloped world. It was referring to the unemployed and their families who are queuing for food in the state of Michigan.

680,000 workers are unemployed in Michigan. This is 15% of the workforce. In the country as a whole 10.3 million are out of work, 1.3 million more are out of work but do not bother to register, and 5.8 million are on short-time.

At 9.4% of the workforce, the unemployment rate is the highest since 1941.

On coming to power the Reagan administration, on the bidding of its big business backers, launched a vicious onslaught on the living standards of the working class. Cut-backs of up to \$40 million were made on social spending in the federal budget of 1981/82.

These cuts were concentrated on health programmes, food stamps, unemployment benefits and the maintenance of safety at work. At the same time military spending was increased by a similar amount to that which was cut from social spending.

At present the Pentagon budget costs every American adult \$1,200 per year. The result has been the emergence of poverty and starvation such as has not been experienced in the USA since the worst days of the 1930's.

Across the country soup kitchens and food banks have been set up. These collect wrongly labelled and unsaleable food and distribute it to those who have nothing to eat. In Detroit alone 7,700 people per day receive food from 160 agencies.

The Reagan administration's response is to close its eyes and deny that any hardship exists. It has sacked 25% of its statisticians. The Community Nutrition Institute has been reduced to a staff of one. This one remaining employee, Burt Shollenberger, was quoted in the *Boston Globe*:

"People will starve. I think we will go back to the time 20 years ago, before we had any real nutrition programmes"; and some Americans will experience

From Robert O'Neill in the US

"severe malnutrition of the kind we are more accustomed to in Africa".

One million people lost their entitlement to food stamps in 1982 so far. The 22 million who still receive stamps do so at a level which is based on food prices of September 1980.

Half of the 22 million are children. A further 3.5 million children have stopped eating school lunches because their parents could not afford the 40 to 50 cents per day.

This is the reality of life for millions of working-class Americans in Reagan's America, where big business rules and profits come before all else.

The insanity of the system of capitalism that Reagan's Republican Party and the Democratic Party represent, is shown by the fact that at a time of such poverty and starvation the federal government is offering cash incentives to farmers to cut production by 15%.

At present a daily battle is taking place in Congress to cobble together a federal budget for the fiscal year 1983 which begins in October 1982. Reagan's proposals would further cut child nutrition programmes by 9%, Medicaid by 10%, aid to families with dependent children by 17%, food stamps by 20%, energy assistance by 25% and

training and employment programmes by 50%.

At the same time the Defense Department budget would grow by 18%. Children and working people are to be sacrificed to build bombs and military equipment and to put profits into the pockets of Reagan's backers in the military/industrial complex.

The difficulty in getting agreement on a new budget is a sign of the crisis now facing American capitalism. The attacks on living standards are being met with increasing opposition. Reagan's Republican Party had only 34% support, according to a recent poll, as opposed to 54% for the Democrats.

With Congressional elections due in the autumn, both Republicans and Democrats are attempting to avoid being held responsible for cutting living standards. The Democrats, like the Republicans, agree that cuts have to be made but they propose slightly less severe cuts in an effort to place themselves favourably for the elections.

The Reagan administration has opened up a new period in American society. Anger is building up in wider and wider layers of the population. The half million who marched on Solidarity Day on September 19th reflected this developing mood.

While set-backs are being experienced as some workers—fearing unemployment and without any clear lead from the leaders of their unions—accept cuts in wages and conditions in an attempt to save jobs, this will only be temporary. As soon as a new upswing takes place in the economy, if not before, organised labour will move to win back the 5% that was

cut from their purchasing power in 1981 and the further cuts that have been made since.

Among active trade unionists there is already a clear determination to struggle. This mood was well expressed by a member of the United Auto Workers, interviewed in the April issue of *Solidarity*, the UAW journal. Arlene Brown, an assembler at General Motors plant in Three Rivers, Michigan, lashed the Reagan government, and said:

"People are angrier than they were a year ago. They want action. It's time we beat the bushes for good candidates who'll represent the workers, the working poor, the small farmer, the ADC mother (mothers who receive aid for dependent children) trying to raise her family on next to nothing. What about some candidates from the plants?" She went on: "Yes, our people want action. Why not a one-day stoppage to show our people we have the strength? Why not a few more sit-ins at plants being shut down or homes being foreclosed by the banks?"

This worker's call for action, her confident defiance, is the voice of the future as far as American labour is concerned. American big business will not succeed in their efforts to drive the working class back to the conditions of the 1930's.

In the struggles that lie ahead the traditions of vigorous struggle, sacrifice and determined initiative which characterised the battles of the early American unions—the IWW and the building of the CIO—will be to the fore. As this process develops American capitalism will be shaken to its foundations.

Reagan's coming to power—celebrations for the rich, cuts for the poor.



Poverty and starvation have emerged on a scale not seen since the 1930's.

HOW THE SICK ARE TREATED

What happens when you make drastic cuts in a country's health service? The results in America were recently shown in a *Man Alive* investigation into the American Health Service (BBC2 8 May). The documentary showed doctors and staff at work in the only free hospital in Chicago—Cook County—which is threatened with closure under the Reagan cut-backs.

It is a known fact that doctors in many hospitals in the US check a patient's wallet before his pulse. The only way you get free medical care is if your income is so low you can't survive on it. Then you get a green card for treatment. But if you are poor and earn just enough to live on you must pay cash or have insurance, which is very expensive.

The nightmare reality gathered from the film is that in all hospitals except for the free ones which are rapidly disappearing under the cuts, the rule is no pay no care.

One harrowing scene showed an old man in a hospital bed, inarticulate through illness, with his wallet in his hand, getting out the dollar bills to prove he could pay the doctor standing by his bed. In this particular instance the doctor was trying to get through to the patient that he was in the free hospital and didn't have to worry.

One patient who had been shot seven hours earlier and taken to the nearest hospital was transferred to the free hospital when it was found he could not pay. Another woman with several arteries and tendons severed in her arm, with a blood-soaked towel wrapped round it, said she'd gone to the nearest hospital and asked for medical aid.

But first the nurse had ascertained whether she had a green card, money or in-

surance. When it was found she had neither, she was told she was being transferred to Cook County.

"I nearly died", the patient said. Later she was billed \$62 by the hospital for just being seen by the nurse.

Dozens of examples like this were given in interviews by the doctors at Cook County.

Dr Quinton Young, head of the hospital, said they wanted to close it down and he had been sacked twice. But each time had fought back in the courts and had been reinstated.

"We are dealing here with the wretched of the earth", he said. The doctor went on to say that private hospitals dumped patients on them who could not pay. Beds were standing in corridors. Yet they also rushed private patients to Cook County to make use of its world renowned specialists who came to the hospital to help.

The horrors of what happens to the sick in America, a so-called free society, struck home with a vengeance through watching this excellent documentary. How far down the road to this state of affairs are the Tories pushing us in Britain with the massive cuts already made and pending?

As socialists we must fight for the cuts in our Health Service to be restored and for the return of a Socialist Labour Government pledged to a policy which will transform society; to ensure among other things that private medicine is abolished and everyone is entitled to the use of a free and comprehensive health service. Let us show a beacon to our fellow workers in the USA and the world blazing a trail to a better life. They will let no one stop them in following.

By Stan Nattrass

Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

What a load of rubbish

Dear comrades,

'Britannia Hospital' is the most obnoxious anti-trade union, anti working class garbage I have ever seen on a cinema screen.

Just to give the comrades a flavour of what I mean, when the kitchen staff refuse to cook special breakfasts for the private patients, including an African head of state, the director of the hospital comes down and is told that the staff aren't going to cook meals for some 'fascist w** leader'.

All of the workers are shown as lumpen, strike-happy morons; the porters in this hospital are quite happy to let patients die on stretchers if it interferes with the game of cards!

This film is so contemptuous of trade unions and trade unionists that they couldn't even get right a simple thing like what the initials of the health union COHSE stand for.

The leader of a strike is

bought off by an OBE and the chance to meet the queen at a lunch in the hospital. He then goes out to the strikers, does a complete about face and calls the strike off. And the strikers gormlessly stand there with their mouths open and don't say a word.

The film ends with some idealistic drivel about the power of the human brain, and an insurrection of the working class. 'Britannia Hospital' which received glowing reviews from some of the capitalist press is obviously a middle-class attempt to cope with militancy of whole sections of the working class such as health workers.

I'd recommend LPYS branches to picket this film, if it weren't for the fact that nobody is turning up to see this rubbish anyway.

Let's fight for a socialist world where art and culture would be freely accessible to workers and films were produced for entertainment and not profit.

Yours fraternally,
John Fahey,
North Nottingham LPYS.

A fat hand-out for the playing fields of Eton

Dear comrades,

We learn that Eton College has recently received a handout of twelve thousand dollars, (approximately £6,800), from the EEC in order that a system to heat the college swimming pool by solar radiation may be installed.

We also learn that Britain has "a serious Common Market budget problem." Hardly surprising!

It nauseates many people, including yours truly, to think of the 'European Community', having to fork out thousands of pounds in order that our younger generation of the self-appointed elite may take warm dips at the expense of those who can least afford to subsidise such wanton and decadent extravagance.

If the EEC has got money to chuck around in such an irresponsible direction, then I suggest that somewhere, something is dreadfully wrong, not only with the European system, but also with those 'officials' who are paid handsomely to 'manage' (so-called) the Community's affairs, as well as those elected representatives who are entrusted to serve the people's interests.

This latest fiasco blatantly illustrates the mockery of the EEC, and shows what a shambles it is.

It also shows up the so-called "public schools" for what they are—parasites.

That £6,800 which the Community so casually squanders could have provided several wells for Third World countries where thousands of children die every day because they don't have enough water to drink, let alone swim in!

But then, let's face it, what are the lives of a few million starving foreign children, compared with the

prestige and traditions of fine British public schools such as Eton and the like?

What's more, who are we to question, and cast aspersions on, "our betters"? No doubt, there will be some who will bleat about the merits of retaining such outmoded and archaic establishments.

Let them bleat! I look forward to the day when every single one of these so-called "public schools" is incorporated into our comprehensive system, once and for all, so that all our children have an equal opportunity as regards education, not just a privileged few!

Sincerely, in solidarity,
Lomond Handley,
Secretary, New Forest, Womens' Group.

Onward Christian soldiers

Dear comrades,

As a new reader, I cannot understand why you under-rate the work of our Church of England. Recently on a Sunday, the BBC brought news and praise for the patient labours of our Army chaplains in the Falklands, especially for their 'care of the dead.' Their operations are described as 'ecumenical' because, it seems, they ensure that the bodies of young Argentinian Catholic soldiers are never buried under the wrong rites. What could be more important?

Think too how strikingly our Archbishop's prayer, in which he invited us all to join in and forget about turning the other cheek, has been answered. He prayed at the setting out of the Task Force that it should be granted "good judgement". That is exactly what gunners need. They have it now in abundance, making it possible for our



The ideas of Marxism have built the LPYS, the biggest socialist youth movement in Britain. Above, the 5,000 strong LPYS demonstration on February 2nd, 1980.

Put your money where your mouth is

Dear comrades,

At a recent Labour Party Ward meeting we were discussing resolutions for national conference. A councillor moved an unsuccessful resolution which called upon the next Labour government to introduce state funding for political parties. His reasons were that the Labour Party is short of money and cannot afford to finance national and local elections properly.

Militant supporters pointed out to him that such legislation would be a backward step and a poor substitute for campaigning work and mass activity. Also the Tories could at anytime stop the funds or grossly interfere in the affairs of the Labour Party (even more so than they do at present).

I gave an example of the LPYS, which despite its scandalously low budget, still manages to be the largest socialist youth movement in Britain. We are a living and growing organisation, not because

we just happen to be the youth section of the Labour Party, but because of the clear Marxist policies of the *Militant*.

Unlike the councillor, the LPYS does not separate finance from politics. We believe that if the Labour Party followed the example of its youth section and campaigned on a clear socialist programme, fighting for and taking up the day to day issues which affect the lives of working people then our money problems would be solved overnight.

The councillor set me thinking about the LPYS and how rich we are in socialist ideas. However the socialist ideas were not found under a stone and so consequently I think the LPYS today, owes a tremendous debt to the *Militant* for its clear Marxist lead which has enabled the LPYS to become 10,000 strong. But we must also invest in the future and build for the day when *Militant* becomes a daily paper and the LPYS becomes tens and hundreds of thousand strong, with members in every street and factory.

We can only achieve socialism if we build a mass

LPYS and Labour Party. If you believe in the ideas of socialism and are a member of the LPYS put your money where your mouth is and contribute towards the fighting fund.

Every LPYS branch which supports the *Militant* should have a collection for the fighting fund every meeting. Older LPYS comrades should point out to newer ones that it was and still is the ideas of *Militant* which are building the LPYS. A small donation from each LPYS branch in the country each week would soon add up.

Fighting the Tories and for socialism is a serious business. This kind of business can't be conducted with loans from the finance houses or big banks or just your goodwill. Support (financially) the paper that has built the LPYS. And remember, if it were not for the ideas of Marxism there would probably not be such a fighting, campaigning socialist youth movement known as the Labour Party Young Socialists.

Fraternally,
John A Hird,
Northern Region Youth Committee.

A suggestion for the bosses: nationalisation!

Dear comrades,

Recently we had an hour long film at BAC Weybridge, my workplace, with the aim of generating our interest toward the 'works suggestion' scheme. We were told that each suggestion taken up would procure cash awards, these awards usually being about £50 to £500. A quote from the accompanying booklet to the film said, "It is estimated that a 10% improvement in efficiency will generate up to £400 million worth of funds that could be invested in new facilities, new projects, better pay and conditions."

I noted that in the film and booklet a number of suggestions now in action had come from the BAC plant in Bitteswell, Leicestershire, which mainly deals in maintenance for the RAF. It is with some irony then that BAC have put into action a rationalisation programme, which includes the running down of Bitteswell over a period of a year, with the loss of 1,200 jobs!

Surely with this in mind the only logical suggestion which could be put forward is to once again nationalise British Aerospace, under a Labour government dedicated to socialist policies.

Yours fraternally,
Clinton Wilcox,
Aldershot, Surrey.

Only the best for a torturer

Dear comrades,

Lt.-Cdr. Alfredo Astiz, one of the Argentinian junta's 'star' torturers, arrived in Britain on Saturday as a prisoner of war. Was this 'fascist' thrown into a dingy cell on a bread and water diet?

Well, now quite. According to an official Ministry of Defence statement, Astiz will be confined in barracks, "set in pleasant surroundings on the outskirts of Chichester." In this 'prison', "He will occupy a three room accommodation comprising of a lounge, bedroom and bathroom. The rooms are furnished to officers mess standards and meals will be supplied from the officers mess kitchens. Lt.-Cdr. Astiz will have access to the barracks library and any requests for books and magazines will be considered." (*Daily Telegraph* 5/6/82).

Meanwhile ordinary soldiers, health workers and unemployed workers of Britain (and no doubt Argentina too) are told to 'tighten' their belts, or 'get on their bikes'. Although bosses may exchange harsh words between each other, when it comes to fighting workers they treat all workers with the same contempt and hatred.

Yours fraternally
Matt Reed
Bath LPYS.

chaplains to send so many young people out of this world on the right road.

Yours fraternally,
Rex Gibson
Broadway, Worcs.

While the United Nations discusses disarmament...

Dear comrades,

Following up Jim Christie's article "Arms Sharks Profit from Falklands War" (*Militant* 21 May), I would like to add a few more points.

Firstly, Aerospatiale and its partners Dassault-Breguet (manufacturers of the Super Etendard fighters) advertised their range of weapons, including the Exocet Missile, two weeks ago in a number of military magazines. The company went on to state how invulnerable the Exocet is to enemy defences, and how the missile skims across the sea hitting its target accurately.

This proves quite clearly that the capitalist arms



The Exocet—its makers are cashing in on its role in the Falklands.

manufacturers could not give a damn about human life and suffering, their blood-stained profits come first.

Secondly, later this month, the British Army Equipment Exhibition will be held in Aldershot. Here no doubt arms will be sold to military dictatorships similar to that which the hypocritical Thatcher government is fighting with at the present moment. Additionally, this exhibition is being held in the middle of

the United Nations Disarmament conference!

What conclusions can we draw from this? It shows us and reinforces our beliefs that capitalism is an evil economic force, and it re-emphasises the fact that arms sales will continue despite the lessons the government should have learnt from the Falklands war.

Yours fraternally,
Mark Ham,
Vice-chairman,
Dartford LPYS.



Militant meeting at Labour Party Women's Conference (above) raised £168 Photo: D Doran

ALL OUT FOR CASH- by July 11

The *Observer's* Investment Editor sees a 'very heartening feature' in the increased business donations to charity.

By Steve Cawley

That sounds good, until you realise he's talking about an increase from about one-eleventh of one percent of profits for the firms in question to about one-ninth, and it's all tax deductible.

Thousands of Labour supporters see the *Militant* as their favourite 'charity' because we demand a society where charity is not necessary, as a decent standard of living is guaranteed.

Meetings on the Falkland Islands, How to Fight the SDP, and other current issues were held in Watford, Stevenage, Norwich, Harlow, and Ipswich, and this explains the increase of £300 on the Eastern line in our chart—together with a successful May Day Party in Ipswich, whose proceeds have just arrived at our offices.

Thanks to those atten-

ding *Militant* meetings at the Dyers and Bleachers' and NUPE Conferences for their donations, and to dozens of trade unionists who've helped us with part or all of the expenses they received. Thanks to J Laverie (Lothians, £10), and G Williamson (USDAW Eastern Divisional Council) amongst others.

Labour Party Young Socialists branches to help us this week included Chester, Cardiff North, Rhyl, Neath (from a social), Hackney Central, Stockton, and Paisley, whilst a collection at the *Militant* meeting held in Newcastle for delegates and visitors to the Labour Womens Conference netted us £168 (with other donations afterwards from delegates looking after children at the time) in addition to a collection taken in aid of a dispute involving NUPE members.

Thanks to the following individuals amongst many others: A Herbert (ABS) for £30, J Burnett (Lit-

**This week:
£2,022**

tlehampton) for £21 from a part-time job, J North (UCATT) for £13 from back pay. We've also had £10 from R Davies (Chesterfield) as a 'thank you' donation, £8.67 collected by T Brown in Anfield on the basis of last week's front page, fivers from N Bond (birthday), R Feely (Dagenham), P Spurr (Plymouth), C Thorne (Birmingham), M Smith (unemployed, Manchester) and other amounts from B March (Thanet), S Draper (Grimsby), J Simms (Andover), Camden students (over £4), and P Whittle (London).

Jumble sales in Stafford and Chatham made us £119, a curry evening in

Newcastle £50, and socials in Birmingham and Glasgow over £30. So you can have good fun and help *Militant* at the same time—to say nothing of getting cheap gear!

With £19,000 to get in the next 4 weeks (at time of writing) we need all the help we can get! We appeal to all our readers to send us as much as they can, and if you buy a few books of our raffle tickets as well, you stand to win a stereo system or music centre! We did it (£20,000 in one month) to get printing equipment a couple of years ago—now we need the extra effort for the ancillary equipment we've to use. All out for July 11th!

ads

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

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.

CARDIFF: 'No to witch-hunts, fight the Tories'. Speaker: Peter Taaffe. Venue: Royal Hotel, St Mary's Street. 7.30pm, Wednesday 30 June.

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

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.

Classified

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

BLACKBURN Labour Party Young Socialists public meeting. 'What is happening in the CPSA?'. Speaker: Anne Horne, CPSA (shop steward, DHSS offices) at 7.30pm, Union House, St Peters Street, Blackburn. Everyone welcome.

BUILD 'MILITANT' SUMMER RAFFLE

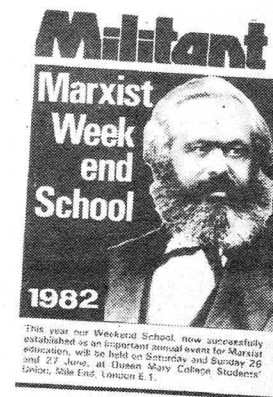
For just 10p you stand to win a stereo system or a music centre! And there's eight prizes of books to the value of £25 in addition!

Don't be left out. Your *Militant* seller has the tickets now! But this is a limited raffle so first come, first served! Promoter: D Smith, 73 Armond Rd, Witham, Essex. Date of Draw: Saturday 10th July 1982, before which all unsold tickets, counterfoils and cash must be returned to *Militant* offices, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

MARXIST WEEKEND SCHOOL

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

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



ACCOMMODATION: If you want accommodation for Friday 25th and/or Saturday 26th June, your completed booking form indicating this must be sent by Wednesday 23rd June at the latest, to Marxist Weekend School, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. Please note: If you book accommodation you still need to bring your own sleeping bag(s).

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'.

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 11 July
Eastern	945		2115
East Midlands	733		1765
Hants & Dorset	614		1250
Humberside	246		1075
London East	982		1960
London West	438		1060
London South	735		1415
Manchester & Lancs	691		2020
Merseyside	775		2290
Northern	808		2760
Scotland East	301		1345
Scotland West	847		2375
Southern	1236		1760
South West	454		885
Wales East	288		945
Wales West	658		1355
West Midlands	973		2120
Yorkshire	832		2505
Others	3,271		4000
Total received	15,828		35000

Industrial Reports

ISTC Conference

Despite huge sacrifices by workers in the industry, the crisis of steel drags on. The ISTC Conference meets at a time of growing fear of further job losses.

Since 1975, BSC's workforce and its capacity have been more than halved, with 120,000 jobs lost. The private sector has also lost 20,000 jobs since 1979.

But the stagnation of British capitalism and the USA's decision to put financial controls on steel imports means new burdens. The only answer the employers produce is more cuts. MacGregor has said his aim is a workforce of 62,000 with present capacity is under threat.

BSC is already dangerously near to being too small for viability. More closures would be a disaster. The problem of steel is the crisis of British capitalism.

Job losses will not solve the problems, and ISTC must say no more jobs to go. There have also been cuts in real wages. The 1982 national pay claim disappeared into local negotiating with a ban on overtime being called off before it began.

Any closures in the steel industry hit coal and rail as well. Workers in all these industries face Tory attacks of closures, privatisation, pay cuts and Tebbit's Bill. The immense potential power of the Triple Alliance needs to be brought alive with joint activity of the membership.

The Tories are attacking jobs, union rights, public services and industries as part of their plan to make the working class pay for the crisis of the Tory system, but they can be defeated through determined united action.

Action against the Tories must include the fight to return a Labour government on socialist policies. A witch-hunt in the Labour Party would only help the Tories and their friends the SDP.

This is a testing time for the unions. To win the future, the ISTC must adopt a democratic structure of union elections and a policy making conference. A strengthened union, linked to a Triple Alliance, with determined policies from the leadership is the way forward.

By Bill Hopwood

Rail, steel, coal...

COMMON PROBLEMS COMMON STRUGGLE

Photo: MILITANT



Mineworkers back the steel workers against closures, 1980. A strong Triple Alliance of rail, mine and steel workers would have an enormous effect in fighting Tory attacks

Kent miners

The national union backing given to Kent miners in their fight for jobs has won us support and help from miners throughout Britain.

I visited Nottinghamshire with other Kent miners last week where we received help and advice from both rank and file mineworkers and union branch officials. This unity will be much needed in our battles.

At my pit Tilmanstone, in Kent, we heard of the resolution unanimously passed by NUM NEC members in support of the Kent area NUM's policies in fighting against the Coal Board's proposals to close Snowdown colliery.

Tilmanstone unanimously agreed to suspend strike action from the planned date of 19 June until negotiations had taken place with the NCB on 24 June.

The union NEC would then decide what further action would be needed to get a future for Snowdown and the whole Kent coalfield. This is reportedly the first time, incidentally, that the

NUM NEC has unanimously agreed on a resolution to fight pit closures.

After the NCB meeting on 24 June, the way forward will be hammered out to secure the NUM demands; for 700 men to be left at Snowdown colliery with 50 transferred to Betteshanger and 100 to Tilmanstone and for a new recruitment programme.

We are calling for two production faces still to be in operation at No 6 seam and development No 7 seam to ensure no job losses and a future for Snowdown for twenty or thirty years. Juvenile recruitment should be at the level of 40 per year.

If these proposals are not met by the Coal Board then future action will be discussed at the NUM conference in July.

By Paul Burns
(Tilmanstone NUM
personal capacity)

The events of the past weeks give a vivid illustration of the need for a fighting Triple Alliance of steel, rail and mineworkers at national and local levels.

The decision of the NUR to fight the BRB pay offer is to be welcomed as the first step to an all out struggle against the decimation of heavy industry. The decision is a resounding answer to some of the dangerous statements made by some NUR leaders.

The press have reported that Sid Weighell, NUR General Secretary has expressed willingness to make a separate deal for NUR members. The Daily Telegraph (7 June) quoted Sid Weighell "Let them withhold pay from the train drivers but not from nine-tenths of the workforce, merely because one union—ASLEF—reneges

on agreements and tears them up annually."

Calls for separate deals must be firmly rejected, as it is only through united action by all unions within the rail network, that this struggle will be won.

The NEC must stamp its authority upon the actions of the union. The recent statement by a majority of NEC members to the Guardian of 9 June refutes divisive statements by the NUR General Secretary against sections of the Labour Party.

This must be maintained on the industrial as well as political plane. If attacks are to be made they must be aimed at the Tories and their political allies!

Undoubtedly the BRB with the full backing of the Tories are preparing for a major confrontation with the rail unions. The Sunday Telegraph (6 June) carried an article entitled, "Cabinet ready to back rail shut-down." Clearly anticipating partial or guerrilla action, they said "it will not

tolerate a repeat of the one and two-day stoppages earlier in the year.

"The Government will back British Rail in closing down the network if there is more trouble."

"Ministers are now indicating that they will block BR's access to its £20m-a-week subsidy if there are more stoppages." Once again the all-out strike call has outflanked the lock-out threat.

However, the Government, after the Falklands war may decide to tackle the unrest on the home front in a similar manner.

The Tories may seem determined to maintain a firm stand in lowering the living standards of workers in the interests of big business. But with the escalation of the health workers industrial action, and all out strikes on the railways, a series of major confrontations may be on the cards.

Arguments by the Tories and the BRB that the unions, or particularly

ASLEF, are responsible for the financial situation within British Rail must be rejected. This Government has shown no interest in the expansion of public transport.

They have slashed the public services obligation grant to the railways by £15 million and rejoiced at the recent Law Lords ruling on London Transport fares. In fact the recent offer to LTE staff of only 3% raises a clear case for united joint action by both groups of workers.

These battles are undoubtedly amongst the most important facing the NUR for many years. The union leadership must be committed to defending the interests of their members in the same way that Thatcher has protected the interests of her class.

By Bob Russell
(Willesdon No 1 NUR,
personal capacity)

EDP Sheffield — Solidarity boosts morale of strikers

Members of ASTMS at Electronic Data Processing (EDP) Sheffield are now in the fifth week of their strike for reinstatement and recognition of the union.

The strike started when management sacked Jenny Wright, a technical author, for recruiting people into ASTMS.

In fact, people were recruiting themselves; more than 20 people had joined the union in three weeks before the strike to fight a management who used to sack who they liked, when

they liked for whatever reason they liked at 10 minutes notice.

Management made pregnant women workers take a day out of their annual leave for each pre-natal clinic visit. They nearly doubled bonus targets for the punch room girls in four years, from 40,000 key depressions a day to 70,000 with no increase in bonus or productivity payment.

Union members voted unanimously to come out demanding Jenny's reinstatement and union

recognition. When the strike was two days old, management sent dismissal notices to all strikers, unless there was an immediate return to work. There wasn't, so all strikers were sacked and temporary non-union labour from a local employment bureau sent in.

One young lad and his girlfriend, under pressure from their parents asked management for their jobs back. The managing director agreed, but with the loss of all increments, pension rights etc and no protection

against dismissal for a year. He escorted the couple to the gate, and made them tear up their union cards in front of us.

A mass picket was organised at short notice last week and blocked the place off in the morning giving us a big morale boost.

The support of the Confed and the AUEW District Committee was invaluable especially as many of EDP's customers are Sheffield engineering firms. AUEW pressure has stopped one

big contract.

Last week the taxis ferrying the scab labour and taking work to and from EDP's customers were stopped. The taxi combine had a very big contract with Sheffield City Council who were keen to help us. Facing the loss of the big contract the taxi combine, covering all major taxi firms in Sheffield, decided to black EDP!

We know we have got to win. If management get away with their dirty tactics in this dispute, particularly,

the instant dismissal of all strikers, then it would give the green light to every non-unionised firm in the land.

But the dispute is not going to be over tomorrow, and we need your help. Donations and messages of support please to ASTMS/EDP strike fund, 61 Wostenholme Road, Sheffield 7.

By Pete
Hopkins, Chair-
man EDP Strike
Committee



Industrial Reports

NHS— WHY WE MUST WIN

Leicester Ambulances

On 8 June, Leicestershire ambulancemen called a total strike following provocative letters from management.

The first warned that failing to cross picket lines would put ambulancemen in breach of their contract of employment. The second threatened deductions from 50% to 100% for failing to cross picket lines.

Over 70% of the ambulance stations responded to the call for all-out strike. At Welford Road station, Leicester, Pete Elkington (a NUPE steward) told us: "This offer was like a red rag to a bull. With ten years service, you can earn £82 a week. That compares to £170 in the police and £130 in the fire service."

Day shift workers do a 10 hour shift from 7.30 to 5.30pm.

Peter Lachrin, another driver, said loss of bonus would make little difference since he was £11 a week worse off, since they were introduced, having lost meal vouchers and standby pay.

After 32 years he came out with £69 a week. They said unity between health workers was vital, and more sparks would fly if pay and conditions were not improved.

By Don Finlay & Shaun Moore

NALGO Health Group

The overwhelming support at the NALGO Health Group meeting for escalating industrial action shows the growing tide of support for the health dispute.

The press have claimed that NALGO members had not given backing to manual workers and nurses action, but delegate after delegate pointed to the contrary. Delegates reported on local initiatives including approaching dockers and factories and organising marches, etc.

One pointed out how, in a so far incomplete ballot, 75% of members were for pulling out key groups of workers, and 33% were for all-out strike action. When another delegate called for all-out strike action he was well received.

It was clear that the delegates and the membership were angry. But despite the strength of feeling of this traditionally quiet group the health committee kept hinting at "arbitration" which was never mentioned in the resolution passed.

In the end it took a Conservative to really challenge the conference. He said, after confessing to being a Conservative, that Margaret Thatcher was flexible, she stamped on the weak and gave in to the strong.

His conclusion was that we should be strong. He said "we Conservatives are better than you Labour types because you don't go right through with things to the end, you hold back. We fight to the end, so this meeting must do that, we must be strong. For God's sake do something!"

"I'm just one of many behind the scenes but the NHS can't work without us. It's not much of a job but I take my duties as seriously as any nurse or doctor."

These are the words of Norman Crumbie, incinerator operator at Gateshead's Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

His day begins at 8am with "the worst part of the whole job" cleaning out the remains left in the incinerator from the previous day. "You never know what you'll come across. Sometimes the smell is atrocious, especially after destroying stuff from the

pharmacy, drugs and that, the chemicals overwhelm you."

The next job, light the incinerator ready for that day's rubbish. It arrives in black plastic bags, some marked in yellow "hazardous waste."

The plain bags contain just general waste. The hazardous bags contain waste from the theatres, labs, maternity and from the homes of patients on kidney dialysis machines. "You can imagine what that is like."

"Apart from not being pleasant to handle, limbs and bits of peoples bodies, what we call the fresh meat, a lot of it is highly infec-

tions, like the waste from dialysis. I have to be really careful, or I could end up with something like hepatitis.

"It is not unknown for the hazardous stuff to be put into the wrong bags. Bags burst practically every week, sometimes you would think there had been a murder with blood flowing all over the place."

"I have lost count of the times I have had hypodermic needles stuck into me because they haven't been properly covered before being thrown away. Aerosol cans explode. The other week a glass phial exploded and burnt my neck and shirt, it's a good job I had

my visor on.

"Outside the incinerator there is no heat at all. So you freeze in winter but roast in summer because of protective clothing from head to foot.

"I'm busy all day and handle about five tons of rubbish a week in the compactor and burn about 300 bags a day. Then I have to clean part of the boiler house, the toilet, the changing room, as well as the general cleaning round the incinerator and compactor."

Norman works a 48 hour week, (half day Saturday and Sunday) and takes home £70 as week. "That £70 included our £10 bonus,

and in a few months time will fall to about £64 a week when I'll have done two years service and will have to start paying superannuation."

The waste is now piling up. There are thousands of black plastic bags, stacked six feet high in a compound costing the hospital £1,000. "I don't want to endanger the public, but we've no choice but industrial action. I'm the one who is going to have to deal with that backlog of waste when the dispute is over."

"That's when we are all given 12%. In my mind you fight to win. I'll be on strike for as long as it takes."

West Wales

Peter Short, the chairman of the health co-ordinating committee in Carmarthen told 'Militant' of the growing support for the demonstration in Cardiff on 16 June.

The health workers will be joined on strike by South Wales miners, seamen and other unions. Some members feel strike action should be escalated but members are prepared to abide by decisions nationally to preserve the unity needed to defeat the government.

Arthur Jones, NUPE secretary at the West Wales hospital, is a senior porter, yet his take-home pay for a £40-hour week is £47. That is why many health workers have to work long hours of overtime just to get a living wage.

At St David's Hospital, Carmarthen, the COHSE branch chairman, Alan Davies, explained that the mood amongst the workers was very good but there was a general feeling that the tactics should be changed and action stepped up.

This attitude is something which the national leadership should clearly begin to look at. Despite the determination at Carmarthen hospitals the response in Swansea and in other parts of West Wales was more patchy.

As the pickets pointed out, management can just about handle a one-day strike. This can start to have a wearying effect on strikers. You can't too often take a whole day's pay a week out of the already pathetically low wages health workers are receiving, without starting to undermine solidarity.

If they have to take on the Tories many health workers are ready to have a go with just emergency cover and get it over with. With the active support of the TUC the health workers can be victorious.

By Alec Thraves
(Swansea AUEW, personal capacity)



Health workers, supported by other trade unionists, march in North London

Photo: MILITANT

ISLE OF WIGHT

One unexpected 'supporter' of the health workers' demonstration on 8 June in Newport, Isle of Wight, was Steven Ross, the local Liberal MP.

Having just recovered from open heart surgery which would have cost him £8,000 outside the NHS, he now saw things in a different light. I can remember arguing with him about private medicine in the 1979 general election when he

believed in 'choice'—for those with money, that is.

The health workers and the working class support the NHS all the time, as was evident from public response to the 200 health workers who marched. The TUC must prepare for a 24-hour strike by all workers. All out on 23 June!

By Cathy Wilson
(Labour prospective parliamentary candidate, IOW)

CARLISLE

"This management and the government are playing on the good natures of the workforce. For the 8 years I have been here, I've seen my wages go down and down. 'I'm a cook, for which have trained for 4 years, and all I receive is £52 for a 40 hour week. Even the superintendent who is in charge of the kitchen only brings home £56."

By Ray Chandler
(NUPE steward, Cumberland Infirmary)

LEWISHAM HOSPITAL

"We're carrying on the dispute until people take notice of us. This government is prepared to spend thousands of millions on the Falklands war yet it turns a blind eye to the demand of decent pay from hospital workers who have to look after the injured.

By Blaize Plante
(COHSE secretary Lewisham Hospital)

KIGASS-ABEX

Women workers with no experience of trade unions on strike at Kigass and ABEX have won a ten-week long official dispute for recognition of the AUEW. "We will be going back to work wearing 'support Kigass strikers' badges with heads held high," was one striker's comment.

At Kigass an £8 increase and £14 at ABEX will be paid on return to work. With the

Tebbit Bill, union recognition will be crucial in the fight for decent wages and conditions at firms like this.

Shop steward Dawn McLean said, "I was coming out with £31 with those on top line £41 a week. The women at Warwick had to clean out the loos on a rota basis. We are not bits of machinery. We hate the way we are treated."

"There are a small number in mansions, the rest of us have to work in factories or

work in the loo. I have changed during this dispute. Before I thought strikes were stupid, like when my sister was on strike at Lockheeds. Not now! We would not have won without outside help.

"We learnt a hell of a lot in the dispute. Everyone has to be involved to keep the strike going. I wish there was something at school to teach you about strikes to help the whole working class.

"A local Tory MP said on TV that it was disgraceful

By Brian Debus

that the equipment we make was being blocked by Rolls Royce for the Harrier jet engines. They did not say about the wages and conditions.

"Thatcher makes me sick. While we were struggling for a decent wage, they are taking money off us for the Falklands war. The girls are so happy because we have won, and one girl is thinking of printing 'We are the champions' on our backs!"

The insulting pay offer made by the British Rail Board and the government has got the answer it deserves.

The call by the National Executive Committee of the National Union of Railwaymen (for 17 votes to 6) for all-out indefinite strike from 28 June will be endorsed by most members of the union.

The union had applied for a 10%-12% wage increase as the absolute minimum to keep pace with the cost of living, although a rise of between 27% and 32% would really be needed to restore wages to their

STRIKE BACK AT B.R. BLACKMAIL

mid-seventies value.

The Board have offered just 5% on basic pay. Furthermore it is not to be paid until 6 September, five months after the nationally agreed pay anniversary date in April.

In addition, the BRB are demanding that six points

By Bob Russell
(Willesden No 1 NUR personal capacity)

which the rail unions agreed to discuss, and have discuss-

ed since last year's "Understanding on Productivity" all be accepted by the end of July, otherwise the Board threaten to withdraw the 5% offer.

The productivity items include flexible rostering for locomen, one man opera-

tion of trains (OMO) with the removal of the guard, starting with the new St Pancras-Bedford service, the trainman concept, the open station concept, etc., all threats to rail jobs.

Clearly British Rail management hope to follow the example of other bosses in attempting to tear up national agreements, and with the aid of blackmail, trying to impose a pay rise worth approximately 3% over the whole year.

The all-out strike call must now cut the ground from under the Board's schemes to split and divide rail workers. The decision to postpone plans to close BREL workshops undoubtedly reflects the marvellous fight by those workers.

Also, however, it was an attempt by the Board to throw an olive branch to the NUR leadership, and avoid a fight on too many fronts at once. Likewise the pathetic offer of 50p per day to guards to accept flexi-rosters.

The Board clearly hoped to take on ASLEF first and separately on flexi-rostering. Now the NUR decision which should also get the full backing in action from ASLEF lays the basis for a united fight back.

This shows the importance of the rail unions going on the offensive and

taking the initiative from the hands of the Board and the government.

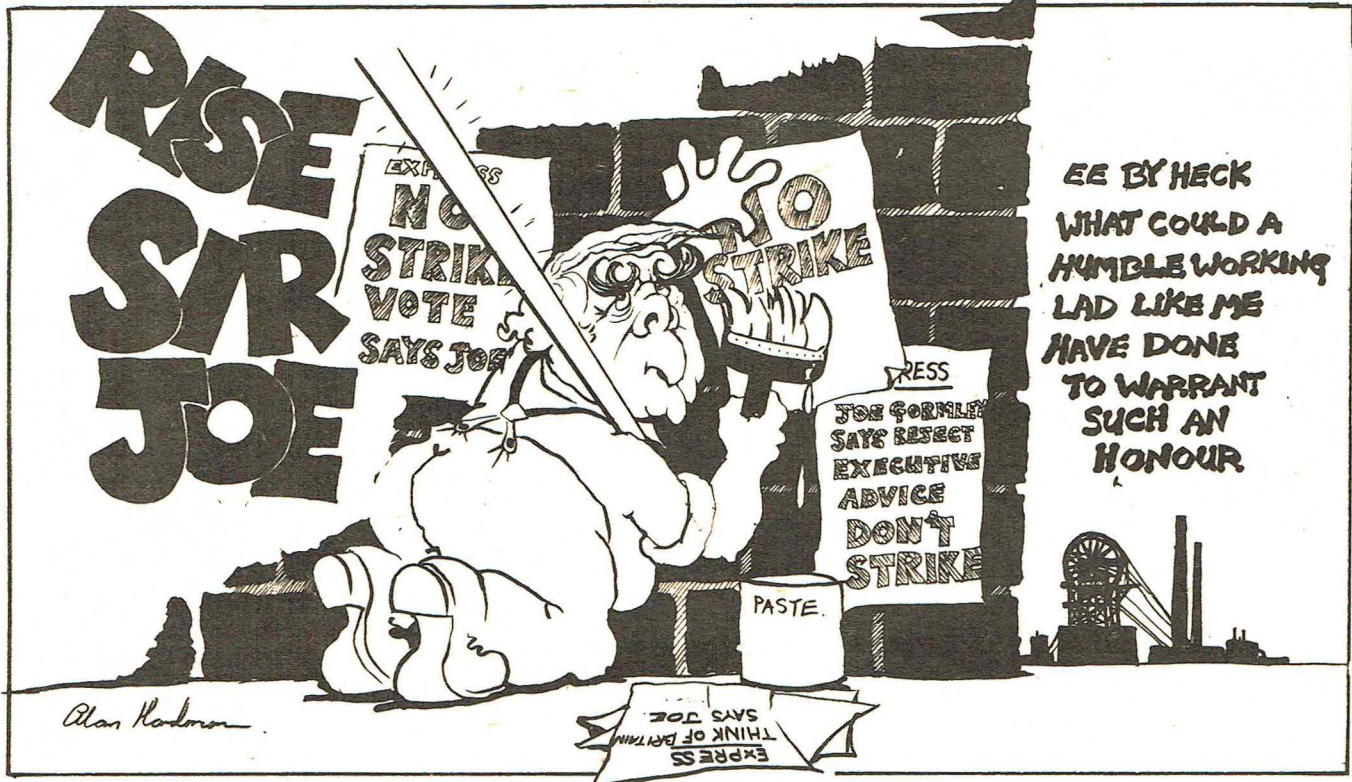
BREL workers faced with the Tory hammer fought magnificently and through the pressure of workers and the union, the BRB backed down from its wholesale slaughter.

If the rail unions' leadership can show the same response to the pay deal it would undoubtedly raise the confidence of the members who have unfortunately seen too much wavering from certain sections of the leadership in the past.

Links must be forged with other unions if we are to wage a successful campaign. With the support of the Triple Alliance a victory would be certain.

This is the way also to answer those fainthearts in the labour movement such as Albert Booth, Labour's Shadow Minister of Transport who last week was reportedly organising meetings between the rail union leaders and the Board to avert action on the basis that a rail strike could damage Labour's chances of winning the next election.

The Tories can be brought down if the unions use their full industrial and political strength to fight for a Labour government committed to a programme of socialist policies.



Reprinted from the Militant Miner of last month, before the honours list was announced. We, of course, apologise to Lord Gormley for underestimating his respect in the eyes of the establishment.

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ALL OUT ON JUNE 23rd

Continued from page 1

unions are working together through the TUC's Health Services Committee.

But the most outstanding feature of this dispute has undoubtedly been the solidarity and support shown by other workers, particularly the miners. Miners and hospital porters have stood shoulder to shoulder on hospital picket lines, with the government incapable of implementing its laws against so-called "secondary picketing".

That solidarity has been a crushing reply to the taunts of "selfishness" levelled against trade unionists by the millionaire press.

The Tories are already beginning to waver in the face of this trade union unity. If the hospital unions develop to the full their united action, and if the sympathy and support of other trade unionists is fully co-ordinated by the TUC then the health workers can achieve an important victory.

While the momentum of the dispute has been developing week by week, there is now a need for a far more clear strategy to be outlined to health workers,

many of whom are unclear as to what action is taking place in the different parts of the country.

Information is important in any industrial dispute. Weekly mass meetings should therefore take place so that all workers can be informed and also involved in the progress of the action.

Also, a national broadsheet should be produced weekly by the unions to update health workers on the latest developments.

At present the one-day strikes are the only united action that all the health unions are agreed upon. 'Militant' has called for the health unions directly involved in the claim to meet at least weekly in order to give a clear lead to the dispute.

Such a lead is now urgently needed. We have also called for joint action committees in every division.

All the differences of tactics and approach to the dispute must be eliminated, otherwise they will be exploited by the government.

A clear perspective for winning the dispute should

be spelt out to health workers. One-day strikes have played their part, but if they continue indefinitely week after week they will only sap the energies of those involved.

The unions should spell out exactly what sanctions should be applied and which services should be involved in indefinite action in order to reduce the health service to an accident and emergency service only.

Certainly such a service may cause extra suffering to patients, but the onus for this lies squarely with the Tories. They will not listen to reasoned argument, they only listen to those workers who are prepared to fight back.

Some areas, like the North East, are already on a full accident and emergency service. This was achieved by a strategy put into operation four weeks ago for indefinite strike action in one or more of the following key departments: stores, CSSD (sterile units) and laundries.

Vigorous picketing has also taken place with only emergency supplies allowed through. The health trade unions in the North East can only escalate the dispute further by actually closing hospitals. This is a step which no health worker wants to contemplate as such action would put patients' lives in immediate danger.

The Tories hope that the dispute will run out of steam as a result of this care and dedication being shown by health workers when considering tactics. The labour movement at large must not allow this cynicism to triumph.

Every worker owes a debt to health service workers. Now is the time to repay some of this debt.

The call should go out to the entire labour and trade union movement: "All out on 23 June!"

The day should be used to organise massive rallies of health and other workers, against the anti-working class policies of the Tory government. A major rally on these lines should be organised in London, with demonstrations in all the major industrial areas nationally.

The North East Division of NUPE has decided to picket all the mines, shipyards, rail depots, major engineering factories and rail depots in their area. This should be the approach nationally. But other workers should not wait to be asked for support.

Let us show health workers they are not alone. The TUC should also work out a plan for on-going solidarity action. A victory for the health workers will be a victory for the whole working class!