

# Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

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20p

**Witch  
hunt**

**Workers  
pledge**

**"We  
will  
defend  
you"**

"If they try to expel you, we are joining the Labour Party to defend you."

This response of a group of workers in a Swansea pub is typical of the response of anger that has met the decision of Labour's NEC to introduce a register aimed at 'outlawing' *Militant*.

While the Tory press foams at the mouth demanding expulsions and witch-hunts in the Labour Party, the response of Labour's ranks has been the opposite. Three quarters of the Labour Parties in Labour-held seats in Scotland have already come out against the witch-hunt.

Many other Labour Parties and trade union organisations (listed on page 2) have been added to the list of 170 Labour Parties, and numerous trade union bodies that appeared in last week's *Militant*. Let the right wing try and put a list together of their support!

Even in the constituency of right winger John Golding, who has been one of the leaders of the fight for expulsions, some delegates to the Constituency Labour Party are opposed to witch-hunts (see page 4).

Likewise, many trade unions have replied magnificently to the right wing attack. The National Conference of the NUSMWH&DE (sheet metal workers) passed a biting resolution last week (see page 4) against witch-hunts.

Not only are Labour Parties passing resolutions against the new register and expulsions but Vauxhall and Edinburgh East have sent theirs forward to be discussed at this year's annual party conference.

One leading right winger described the report produced on *Militant* as 'Nec-

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PAGE TWO

# TORIES PROVOKE STRIKE WAVE

The smouldering anger of the labour movement at this Tory government broke out on to the surface with the recent wave of strikes.

By Bob  
Wade

Transport workers, railmen and of course the health workers have been out on the picket lines, with many trade unionists from a wide range of industries taking solidarity action with the nurses and health staff.

The Tories' euphoria over the Falklands victory has been short lived. The eyes of the workers have quickly turned from the South Atlantic conflict and are now trained on their derisory pay slips and working conditions.

As, if longing for those

days of only a few weeks ago, the Tory Fleet Street press have tried to continue the 'national solidarity' of the Falklands war, with cartoons and editorials attacking those trade unionists taking industrial action. But with the conflict ended the labour movement will have none of it!

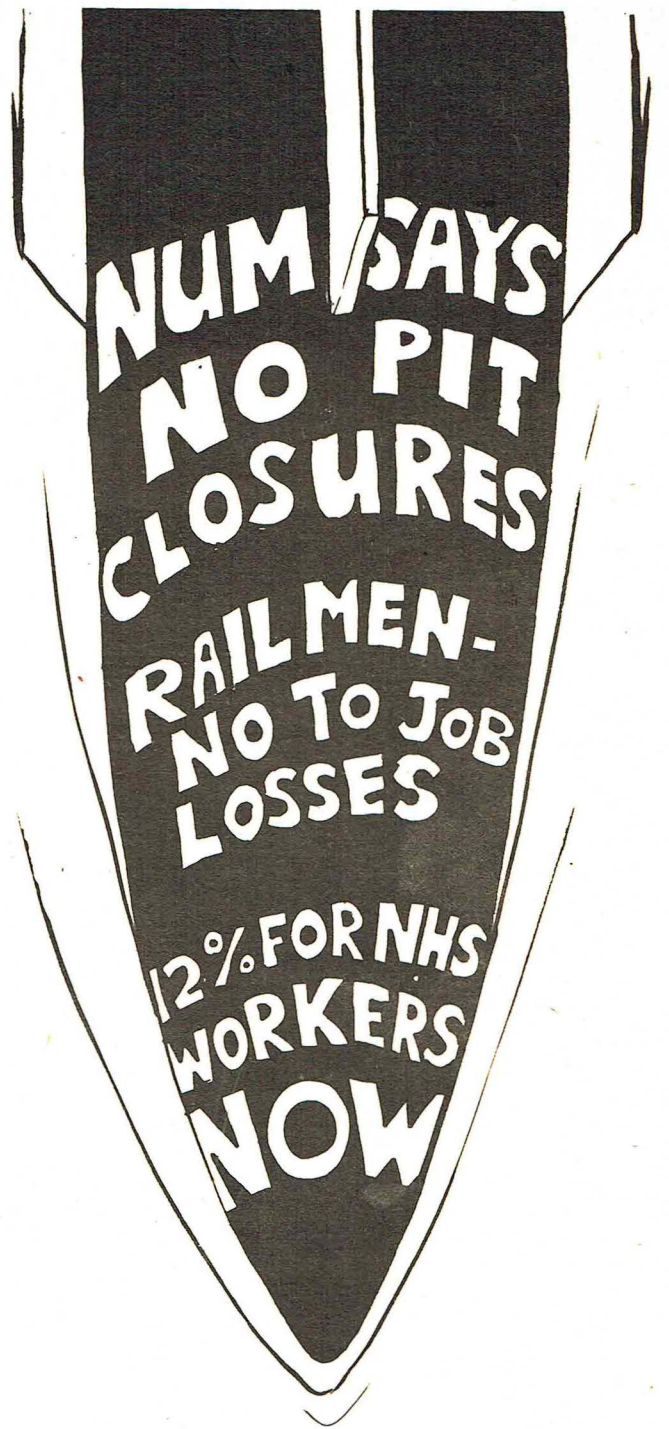
While there may be some disappointment amongst

trade unionists over the decision of the NUR conference to suspend their action, this must not overshadow the battle being waged by the health workers. This dispute has seen the NHS unions coming together in unprecedented united action, with magnificent displays of solidarity by other trade unionists such as that of June 23rd.

Miners, engineers, Gas workers, civil servants and transport workers have joined the picket lines. But if the health workers are to win, this solidarity action must be built upon and action stepped up to force the government to back down.

The TUC health committee have called for a three day strike by the health

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"I TRUST THAT OUR PROMPT AND RESOLUTE ACTION IN THE FALKLANDS WILL SERVE AS A LESSON TO ALL WHOSE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS ARE UNDER ATTACK."

## STOP PRESS ASLEF CALL ALL OUT STRIKE

As we go to Press ASLEF has announced the beginning of a national strike from midnight, Saturday 3rd. Despite the NUR leadership calling off their strike 24-hours earlier, it is clear that thousands of railway workers are determined to stand up against job losses

# TUC MUST CALL ONE DAY GENERAL STRIKE

# Militant

It is almost ten years to the day since the policies of the last Tory government led to the arrest of the five London dockers' shop stewards and their imprisonment in Pentonville jail.

The enormous strike wave that followed their arrest brought millions of workers out on strike and, at the eleventh hour, the TUC were forced to call a 24-hour General Strike—and all in open defiance of the Industrial Relations Act of the day. The Tories were forced to release the five stewards and their trade union legislation was put 'on ice.'

The Tories in power now are beginning to realise that they are no more capable today than they were ten years ago of restricting by legislation the democratic freedoms won by trade unions over many years of struggle.

Several times in the last few weeks, there have been solidarity strikes in support of the National Health Service workers, with pickets of various trades unions to show their support—actions clearly against the Tories' so-called Employment Act. If the rail strike had gone ahead—and it was stopped by the NUR leadership, not by the Tories—there would have been the possibility of further action by miners and steelworkers in support of their fellow workers on the railways.

The *Times* editorial was forced to lament the impotency of the Tories' laws in the face of trade union determination: "Len Murray's action in writing to General Secretaries to encourage their members outside the National Health Service to take sympathetic action with those employed inside is quite unprecedented. It is most clearly a breach of the provisions of the Prior Act on secondary picketing...here is one of its (the government's) very own laws being held up to ridicule on every secondary picket line," (28 June).

## EDITORIAL

For the Tories, the picture in industry is unlikely to get any better. Notwithstanding the temporary retreat by the National Union of Railwaymen, there still is a potentially explosive situation at the present time.

A huge reservoir of frustration and anger has built up against the Thatcher government in the last three years. Flushed with the success of the Falklands war—achieved in reality by the sacrifices of working people, not Tory Ministers—Thatcher is facing, not triumph, but the ever-growing hostility of millions of workers.

The economic situation offers no respite to the sacrifices already made: the recession is dragging on and on, unemployment is likely to go on rising, and workers are faced with higher taxes and public expenditure cuts to pay for the Falklands war. The extremely volatile industrial situation of the present is therefore unlikely to disappear in the short term.

On the contrary, more and more workers will be forced to act through their trade unions to defend their jobs and conditions. Even if the rail and London Transport issues were resolved—which they are not—there is still the possibility of a miners' strike over closures. Other groups of workers are waiting in line to take on the Tories over wages.

It is not ruled out that one or another employer,



Dustmen join NHS workers outside a London hospital. The Tories are no more capable of restricting solidarity picketing today than they were ten years ago.

Photo: Denis Doran

# TUC must call a 24hr General Strike

acting independently of the government, could try to use the anti-trade union laws against 'secondary' picketing, or, under Tebbit's even harsher laws, against solidarity strikes. But if this happened, or if the Tories themselves tried to shackle the unions, there would be an explosion of anger from the rank and file of the labour movement.

A determined opposition by the trade unions would leave the undemocratic union laws of the Tories a dead-letter. The best ally that the Tories have at the moment is indecision...on the part of the trade union leadership and that is something workers' cannot afford.

The trade union leadership must not allow the

anger and bitterness of individual sections of workers to be dissipated in isolated (and hence vulnerable) strike actions. The TUC, along with the Labour Party must now take up the cudgels to demand an end to the Tory government, with its anti-trade union laws and its anti-working class policies.

As a warning to the Tories, the TUC should organise a 24-hour general strike, in co-ordination with the health service workers, but involving all other affiliated unions. A national day of protest can be turned into a day of anti-Tory rallies, meetings and demonstrations.

Instead of attacking the socialists in the ranks of its own party, the Labour

leadership should use the trade union issues to show that it will champion the interests of working people. There must be no humming and haing. The situation demands that there must be an unequivocal statement from Labour's front bench that they stand fully behind the very modest claim of the NHS workers.

**It is now time the TUC harnessed the tremendous power of the trade unions**

The Labour Party must support the fight of the rail unions and the NUM against job losses.

The Labour leaders must campaign not for the Tories

to 'negotiate', but for them to resign, and make way for a government that will represent the mass of the population and not just the rich and big business. A one-day general strike could be the opening shot of a campaign to kick the Tories out and return a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

If the leadership of the Labour Party and the TUC were to mobilise support for such a campaign, there would be an enormous echo of support among the vast majority of workers.

The labour movement has tremendous power at its disposal, against which the Tories are impotent. It is now time the TUC harnessed that power to hasten the Tories from office.

## 'We will defend you'

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tar'. Certainly the press attacks have been 'Nectar' for *Militant* support and sales!

In Barking regular dole queue sales have trebled, and in Cwmbran (home town of *Sunday People* 'mole' Terry Clarke) 40 papers were sold to a meeting of 100. But top of the sales league must be Swansea, where over 100 copies were sold on one Saturday sale.

The reports flooding in from every corner of the labour movement are extremely encouraging and point clearly in one direction—the rank and file of the labour movement want no expulsions or hounding of socialists, they want to get stuck into the Tories!

A full list of Labour Party and trade union bodies opposed to the witch-hunt, numbering hundreds of organisations, was published

last week. This is a supplementary list of organisations opposed to bans and proscriptions.

New Labour Party resolutions.

CLP's: Glasgow Garscadden, Shettleston, Paisley, East Kilbride, Dumbarton C., Dumbarton East, Edinburgh West, Leith, Midlothian, North Angus, South Angus, Huddersfield East, Huddersfield West, Colne Valley, Brighouse and Spensborough, Dearne Valley, St. Helens, Brentwood and Ongar, Hackney South, Croydon NW, Dagenham, Bermondsey, Woolwich, Greenwich, Kingston, Lambeth Central, Wimbledon, West Dorset, Dover, Canterbury, Newbury, Fareham, Gosport, Taunton, Islington South, Barnsley.

District and City Labour Parties: Glasgow City, Lothians Regional Executive, Northern Regional Conference, National Trade Union

Bodies.

NSMM National Conference and National Youth Conference, NUSMWHDE Conference, Other trade union bodies: TGWU: 9/236, 10/157, Hull Engineering Branch, AUEW: Kirkby No 5, Ellesmere Port No 6, Ellesmere Port No 7, Ammanford, Dundee District Committee, North Staffs No 1 Tass, Birmingham precious metals section Tass, NUM: Tower Lodge, and St Johns (S Wales), UCATT PO 253 St Helens, POEU Liverpool internal, ASLEF Glasgow, EETPU Waterloo Liverpool, NUSMWHDE Eastleigh. Shop stewards committees.

Walton Hospital JSSC, Liverpool corporation JSSC, Yorkshire Imperial Metals JSSC, Pendletons JSSC, Priestman's SSC. Trades Councils: East Kilbride, Motherwell, Paisley, Cumbernauld. Labour Party Young Socialists National Committee, National Organisation of Labour Students National Committee.

## Birmingham Right Wing

The right wing in the Birmingham Labour Party have supported the expulsion of *Militant* supporters for a long time. Using such quaint phrases as "Militant joined the Labour Party for the same reason that maggots go into apples."

One of the chiefs among the witch-hunters has been Clive Wilkinson, leader of the Labour Group on the City Council. It was he who almost crossed for ever the thin red line, by signing the statement establishing the Council for Social Democracy, which soon became the renegade Social Democratic Party.

In a recent local radio programme with *Militant* supporters Les Kuriata and Jeremy Birch, he frankly admitted that previously he was the "Chairman of Campaign for Labour Victory and worked very closely with David Owen, Shirley Williams, Bill Rodgers over several years."

When his 'close' friends

betrayed Labour, Wilkinson's loyalty also must have been under strain for as he explained he had to think "very hard about the political future of the Labour Party and whether I should stay within it, or whether I should leave the Labour Party."

**Where does their future lie?**

He also openly stated that at the moment "I will keep on fighting and hope to beat that infiltration. If we don't succeed then in future year's one's got to examine what one's role in politics is."

In other words, if the party continues moving to the left and becoming more socialist, Clive Wilkinson may decide his "role in politics" is elsewhere. The

SDP have deserted already. But clearly some still in the party who are attacking *Militant*, have an open mind about whether their future lies with Labour. Then they have the nerve to peddle that lie that Marxists are the infiltrators. Genuine rank and file members know different.

By a Militant Reporter

## OBITUARY

Tommy and Jackie Smith would like to extend their deepest sympathy to Tommy's sister and brother-in-law Jean and Gerry Farrell, over the loss of their two year old son Paul who died in Alver Hey Hospital, Liverpool, on 24 June. Their grief is shared by all 'Militant' supporters in Liverpool.

# PRESS POISON AGAINST MARXISM

**With predictable timing, just before Labour's NEC meeting last week, the Fleet Street press opened up the sluice gates to let the now customary abuse and smears about *Militant* flow out.**

Unfortunately for them, they had the Falklands and the Royal baby to contend with, so they had less space to build the pro-witch-hunt lobby to some previous levels of hysteria. But they did their best.

When Fleet Street attack *Militant*, they never mention our policies. Instead they stick to emotive nonsense. A typical example could be found in the *People* (20 June); "The *Militants* are wolves in sheeps clothing and their fangs have already drawn blood in many of the constituencies."

We can only assume they are referring to the increasing support for Marxist ideas amongst the rank and file of the Labour Party.

Other Tory rags were not to be outdone. The *Daily Express* (19 June) describes *Militant* as "hard line left wingers behind a succession of constituency revolutions." The *Daily Star*, on the surface a 'Labour' paper despite being part of the same newspaper group as the reactionary *Daily Express*, described a "typical supporter" in its 19 June edition; "...all his waking hours are spent opposing the capitalist state and preaching revolution!"

Cartoonists in some Sunday papers (27 June) reached a new low. One showed *Militant* as rats (*Mail on Sunday*) and another depicted us receiving a message of congratulations from the Galtieri dictatorship (*Sunday Express*) which *Militant* campaigned against long before it upset the *Express*.

Also shown receiving these "congratulations" in the cartoon are Arthur Scargill, Ray Buckton, and even Sidney Weighell.

In the *Sunday Mirror*, Woodrow Wyatt who left the Labour Party as too left wing in the 1960's, well before the SDP, claimed that a *Militant* Labour government would push Britain down the East European road, despite *Militant's* clear opposition to the Stalinist regimes of the USSR and Eastern Europe.

But like the *Mail* and *Express* cartoonists, he can't help showing where his class sympathies lie. He attacks tube and rail workers for their strikes, and tells NHS workers to accept 6%, and to "pipe down and be thankful they have a job". As Mr Wyatt on the same page also defends General Haig, Mrs Thatcher and the nuclear bomb, you can imagine what kind of Labour Party he wants.

But whenever the Fleet Street hacks started drum-

ing their fingers on their desks, stuck for more emotive expletives to attack *Militant*, they did not have to look far for new 'ideas'. The right wing of the Labour Party came to their aid!

Dennis Healey called us 'Militant Moonies', and Peter Shore described the left in general as "like Mao's Red Guards." The so-called "left winger" Neil Kinnock joined in this name calling describing *Militant* as "mobilised dishonesty and organised menace".

Such touching 'concern' for the Labour Party by the capitalist press is total hypocrisy. Owned and controlled by four millionaires, the Fleet Street press have never supported the cause of Labour even when it was under total control of the right wing, with a few exceptions such as the *Daily Mirror* which masquerades as a Labour paper to ensure a market amongst Labour supporters.

## Militant - the only antidote

The *Times* in its editorial (19 June) even had the cheek to talk of what they considered were Labour's "best interests". When has *The Times*, the champion of big business, ever had the 'best interests' of the Labour Party at its heart?

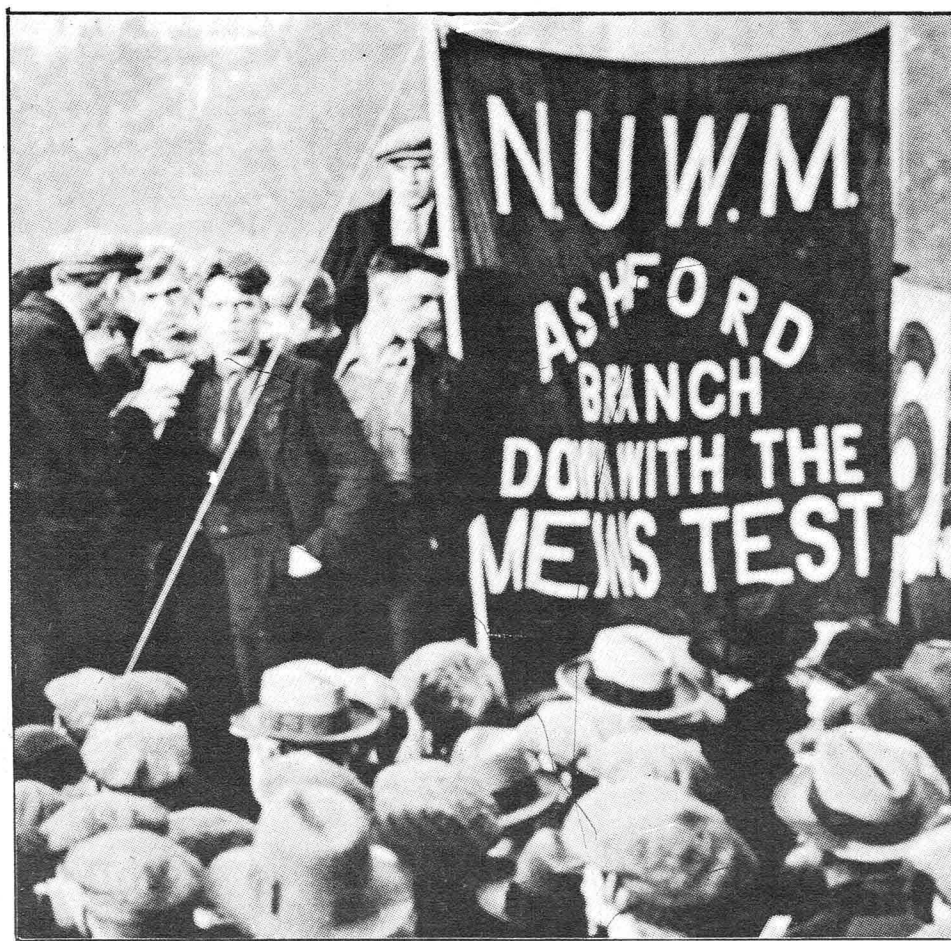
After the NEC decision the press castigated Foot for not going for all out expulsion of the *Militant* supporters. Not that the shrill voices of big business would be satisfied with that. As *The Times*, again in its editorial (24 June) blurted out; "It will not be sufficient just to expel *Militant*".

### The press represent the interests of big business

The capitalist press, representing the interests of big business, want a Labour Party not only purged of the Marxists but the left in general, they want a party which is safe for capitalism.

Throughout its history the Labour Party has been vilified, abused and smeared by the capitalist press, it is no different today. And the labour movement will judge those on the right of the party who echo the editorials in the Tory rags by the company they keep.

By Bob Wade  
(NUJ)



"The long campaign for socialism down the ages must not be reneged on."

## SOCIALISM MUST SUCCEED

Dear Peter Taaffe,

Before my anger at the recent events leads to unashamed fury, I must do something logical and practical. I enclose a cheque for £5: £4 for a subscription to your paper, and £1 for a donation. More to follow.

My mother was the grandchild of a founder of the ILP and an active mill hand (a skilled dyer really) in the Manningham mill strike of 1890, the momentum of which went into founding the ILP (also in Bradford) in 1893.

From her grandparents she learnt about socialism,

as from mine I have learnt my commitment to socialism. The ILP had six principles in their commitment. The Labour Party has only Clause 4, and have been ashamed of that. My mother did however join the Labour Party after the war.

How can their fight be brought nearer to achievement and the socialist reconstruction of society if socialists are to be harrassed as your paper's supporters are now? My mother, the late Evelyn M Lawton (Yorkshire Regional Labour Party Chairman

1982, Bridlington), and myself have been regular readers. I was an active supporter when I lived in Hull.

The cause of socialism must succeed! Labour must become a socialist party if that is to be achieved. The long campaign for socialism down the ages must not be reneged on!

The right calls itself "democratic socialist" but refuses to argue for socialism, and resorts to disciplinary means. They argue against socialists!

Comradely yours,  
David J Lawton,  
Bishopshill, Yorks.

## 55 % OPPOSE WITCH-HUNT

The media use public opinion polls not so much to reflect people's views as to mould them.

Even "inconvenient" election results are ignored by the press. Labour's victory and the SDP's catastrophe in the by-election at Coatbridge and Airdrie reached page 9 of the *Daily Express* for instance. And when BBC TV's *Nationwide* did a survey on *Militant* and the Labour Party, the press seized on one result which suited their Tory designs and ignored the rest.

The poll asked Labour voters whether they would be more likely or less likely to vote Labour if "no action was taken" against *Militant*. The interviewers never outlined this paper's clear socialist policies.

Nobody asked the voters "Do you support the 35 hour week with no loss of pay" or "Who should pay for the crisis, the rich or the working class?"

Not surprisingly given the way *Militant* has been abused by the media who make us sound like a disease "to be taken action against", 51% said they would be less likely to vote Labour if there was no witch-hunt. The press headlined this.

They took less notice of the fact that despite the anti-socialist venom of the press and the muzzling of our views, one in six, (16%) were more likely to vote Labour if the witch-hunt was stopped.

Even more noticeably they failed, with the exception of the *Guardian*, to note the second part of the survey which showed that 55% of Labour voters were

opposed to bans, proscriptions and expulsions with just 38% in support.

*Militant* supporters know they can not rely on the Tory press to be "fair" in its treatment of the witch-hunt, but if *Militant* sellers go on the offensive and sell *Militant* in every factory

"If *Militant* must be witch-hunted out of the party the apparatus is here for the rest of us...those awkward people on the left, for example, who insisted on Labour's policy of unilateral nuclear disarmament, bitterly opposed by Healey, Shore and Hattersley, or those who ignored the leader's advice on the tragic Falklands Follies...If it becomes an offence to support *Militant* will it be an offence for Labour MPs or party members of the secretive Bilderberger Group, of the Trilateral Commission or parliamentary and public relations advisers to capitalist concerns, most of which are bitterly opposed to Labour?"

BOB CRYER MP in the latest issue of 'New Socialist'

"I will oppose any witch-hunt as long as I am chairman of the organisation sub-committee."

ERIC HEFFER MP, speaking at a 'Labour Weekly' Forum in Nottingham in November.

USDAW's recent Eastern Divisional Conference in Norwich backed by National Executive Council member Christina Page, showed opposition to the report of Labour's Inquiry into *Militant*.

It is vital that all USDAW members bring pressure to bear on the predominantly right-wing Executive to stand by ADM (national conference) policy of opposition to witch-hunts and expulsions. Preparations should also be underway for the Broad Left presidential campaign of *Militant* supporter Jeff Price.

By  
George Williamson  
(Eastern Divisional  
Councillor,  
personal capacity)

and office, on every dole queue and council estate, workers will get the truth about *Militant*.

You can bet that within a few months, you would get a different result to the survey, but you can bet your life the press won't print it!

# Militant

Don't stand on the side-lines...Defend *Militant*!

I am prepared to help in your campaign to defend the paper and stop the witch-hunt.

Please send me details of how I can assist.

Name.....

Address.....

Rush to *Militant*, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

# What happened at the NEC?

The decision of last week's NEC meeting regarding 'Militant' is a blow against the whole labour movement.

It means that Labour's right wing have abandoned the struggle against the Tories and have rounded instead on socialists within the party's ranks. And this in the period before what will be a crucial election for all working people.

Following to the letter the advice of Labour's enemies in Fleet Street, those who voted with the majority are pursuing the same witch-hunting course that racked the Labour Party during the 1950s (see pp8-9). There can be no other interpretation, despite the repeated denials of right wingers that a witch-hunt is afoot.

Denis Healey is reported to have said at the NEC, "It's not a witch-hunt—it's a 'Militant' hunt", and numerous other speeches indicate that leading right wingers want nothing less than the expulsion of 'Militant' supporters.

It is, therefore, all the more shameful that the decision to endorse the Hayward-Hughes report, taken by 16 votes to 10, was only possible due to the support of Neil Kinnock and Joan Lester, both of whom were formerly regarded as on the left, and surprisingly also by Alex Kitson.

The same is true of party leader Michael Foot, who was once the victim of the very witch-hunting, and in some cases the very witch-hunters he now supports.

At the NEC meeting,

## By Militant Reporters

Foot apparently admitted that the same charge levelled against 'Militant' today had been made against himself and Nye Bevan in the 1950s, i.e. that they were operating as a "party within a party". The difference, he claimed, was that in their case "it wasn't true."

In a further comment that backed up 'Militant's' warning of a wider purge, Foot said, "I'm not saying that 'Militant' is the only section of the party engaged in this type of activity—other groups may have to be looked at."

This is obviously the aim of the new register of groups within the party. If it ever gets off the ground, its insistence on 'details of membership' will provide the party's right wing with numerous expulsion lists. And if there remained any doubt on that score, it was dispelled when Foot conceded, "I'm not saying that people won't be expelled."

Opposition to the recommendations of the report came from Tony Benn and Joan Maynard, who moved and seconded an amendment rejecting "any proposals for expulsions, or for the registration or de-registration of groups



ABRACADABRA! But Neil Kinnock's oratorical magic will not hide the fact that he is aligning himself with the right wing witch-hunters against rank and file socialists. Photo: Militant

within the party," and further calling upon "the whole party to unite around Labour policy and to campaign for the election of a Labour government."

Tony Benn pointed out that "for years the Labour Party has harboured Tories, Liberals and SDP's in its ranks and in Labour cabinets." It was the "careerist-entryists" that worried the members of his CLP.

He asked if the new register would mean that to become a member of the Labour Party you would have to be approved by someone like Denis Healey, who doesn't support Labour's policies on unilateral nuclear disarmament,

the siting of US Cruise missiles and other issues. The amendment was defeated by ten votes to sixteen.

Neil Kinnock claimed that the issue at stake wasn't 'Militant's' point of view. "It's what they do and how they do it," he said, again pointing to the alleged infringement of Labour's constitution.

Left-winger Eric Clarke (NUM) took up this argument. "Is it that people's ideas are OK," he asked, "providing they don't have the power and influence to put them over?"

What will the party rank and file make of Kinnock's assertion that 'Militant' is "mobilised dishonesty and

organised menace"? ('Daily Mail', 24.6.82). Is it honest to stand for election to the NEC as a left winger and then vote consistently with the right wing on all major issues? Is it honest to maintain, as Neil Kinnock did, that ideas were not the issue and then to vote for the suppression of the LPYS pamphlet 'Ideals of October' because its contents were 'Trotskyist'?

Perhaps those who voted for this witch-hunt at the NEC imagined that the matter would rest there. Nothing could be further from the truth.

This will undoubtedly be a major issue at annual conference in September. The rank and file will not

forgive lightly those who decided to steer the party on to this course of action and away from the fight against the real enemies, the Tories and their Liberal-SDP shadows.

Those who voted to accept the Hayward-Hughes report were: Kinnock, Kitson, Lester, Williams, Boothroyd, Dunwoody, Evans, Foot, Golding, Hadden, Healey, Hough, Russell, Summerskill, Tuck and Varley.

Those against: Allaun, Clarke, Hart, Coates, Heffer, Huckfield, Benn, Maynard, Richardson, Skinner.

## Militant Meetings 'What we stand for'

Glasgow: 130 attended, £140 collected. One man commented, "I've never joined the Labour Party before because of the right wing, but would do so now, and I'd like to support the 'Militant'."!

South Shields: First ever Militant Readers' Meeting in this area attended by 25 people, and a magnificent £57 was collected.

Glenrothes Labour Party: Organised a public meeting on 'What Militant stands for' to answer the Tory press lies, and 20 people turned up. The excellent discussion answered many questions that the press attacks had raised in people's minds.

After the meeting, 15 copies of the 'What Militant Stands For' pamphlet and 6 copies of the 'CIA and the Labour Movement' pamphlet were sold. The Labour Party has also agreed to hold a special meeting in August to enable it to discuss a resolution on the witch-hunt.

In addition to Militant public meetings, many Labour Parties and trade unions are inviting Militant supporters to answer the press lies. Battersea and Houghton Le Spring General Management Committees and three ward Labour Parties in Portsmouth have replied to letters sent out by local Militant supporters.



John Golding (left) with two friends at 1979 Labour Party Conference. Shirley Williams and Ian Wigglesworth, now in the SDP, are trying to destroy the Labour Party from the outside. The witch-hunt, supported by Golding, threatens to destroy it from the inside. Photo: Militant

## 'Solidarity' with who?

Labour's right wing view the attack upon Militant, and their proposed registration of all groups within the party, as a means of turning

the Labour Party back to the right. All the policy decisions of the past few Labour Party conferences are under threat in this new

witch-hunt of Militant, and, if the right wing Solidarity Group has its way, the gains made in re-selection and the election of party leader and deputy leader will be reversed.

The Right are seeking to make the Labour Party a safe haven for the SDP traitors. This was confirmed by a report of a speech by Roy Hattersley at a meeting of the Solidarity organisation in Scotland last weekend when he said that it was time for Labour's old supporters "to return home".

That, in other words, is an appeal for the SDP defectors to come back to the Labour Party, now that there is was a prospect of the left being hounded out.

## SHEET METAL WORKERS UNION

The following resolution was overwhelmingly carried at the National Conference of the NUSMWCDE (sheet metal workers):

"Conference condemns the enquiry launched by the NEC of the Labour Party into the 'Militant'. We believe that this has been most vigorously pursued by those in the party who having lost the debate over policy now seek redress by undemocratic bans and proscriptions.

Within the Labour Party other groups operate and expound their opinion, e.g. Tribune, Manifesto, Solidarity, CLV. If one group is investigated, all should be investigated, particularly in the light of the connection of some groups and individuals with the CIA and NATO.

The 'Militant' newspaper has already been subjected to an enquiry and given a clean bill of health. Further investigation can only have one purpose, namely the re-introduction of the bureaucratic tyranny exercised against Bevan and the Tribune group during the 1950s."

## PAT WALL INCREASES VOTE

The right wing's attempt at a witch-hunt had its first test last Friday and it blew up in its face. At the enforced re-run for the selection of Labour's prospective Parliamentary candidate in Bradford North, Militant supporter Pat Wall increased his majority from 7 last year to 37, defeating the sitting Labour MP Ben Ford by 49 votes to 12.

When Pat Wall won last year, by 35 votes to 28, the National Executive ordered a re-run on some farcical technical 'irregularities'. The right wing's continued manoeuvres fell flat when over a hundred attended the annual meeting in Eccleshill ward it resulted in a left

wing majority.

In the re-run no ward nominated Ford, who only gained three nominations compared to Pat's 21. After the selection meeting two of Ford's supporters came up to Pat and told him that Ford's speech had been so bad that they had changed their mind and voted for him.

Bradford North Labour Party members have made clear who they want to fight the next election for Labour, the National Executive must respect that right.

By Keith Narey

(Vice Chairman, Bradford District Labour Party)

## LITTLE SUPPORT FOR GOLDING

Letter appeared in Staffordshire Evening Sentinel.

"Mr Golding and Mr Boden's opposition to the Militant is not supported 100% in the Constituency Labour Party. I for one as a member of the Labour Party and a delegate to the Newcastle Under Lyme Constituency Labour Party oppose their views.

I feel that Mr Golding and the right wing in the Parliamentary Labour Party are using Militant tendency as a pretext for attacking the left as a whole in the

Labour Party. They see this attack as necessary if they are not to lose votes to the SDP, and to gain floating votes away from the Labour Party.

I think that Mr Golding is mistaken in the views he holds on this matter. I feel that his attitude will have a disastrous effect on the Labour Party. It is not the left losing votes. It is the continual internal fighting which Mr Golding and others on the right are promoting.

Signed W M Finney."

## MILITANT PUBLIC MEETINGS

What we stand for—  
fight the witch-hunt!

(where no venue details, see your local 'Militant' sellers for information)

## WALES

**PORT TALBOT:** Mon 5 July, 7.30 pm, Oakwood Lane Community Centre. Speaker: Alec Thraves (AUEW, personal capacity)

**BRIDGEND:** Tues 6 July, 8.00 pm, council Chambers, Bridgend. Speaker: Alec Thraves

**NEATH:** Thur 15 July, 7.30 pm, Gwyn Hall. Speaker: Alec Thraves

**MAESTEG:** Thurs 8 July, 7.30 pm, Maesteg Cricket Club. Speakers: Alec Thraves, Ian Isaacs (NUM, personal capacity)

**LLANELLI:** Tues 13 July, 7.30 pm, Llanelli Labour Club. Speaker: Alec Thraves

**BEDWELLY:** Mon 12 July

**PONTYPRIDD:** Wed 21 July, YMCA, Taff Street. Speaker: Lynn Walsh (Editorial)

**EBBW VALE:** Fri 9 July, Leisure Centre. Speaker: Tony Saunois

**CWMBRAN:** Fri 23 July

## SCOTLAND

**LIVINGSTON:** Mon 19 July, Speaker: Rob Sewell.

**EAST LOTHIAN:** Tues 20 July, Speaker: Rob Sewell.

**EDINBURGH:** Wed 21 July, Speaker: Rob Sewell.

**DALKIETH:** Thurs 22 July, Speaker: Rob Sewell.

**ABERDEEN:** Mon 9 August

**DUNDEE:** Sun 8 August

## LONDON

**HACKNEY & TOWER HAMLETS:** Thurs 1 July, 7.30 pm, Hayfield Tavern, 158 Mile End Road (nr Stepney Green Tube). Speaker: Bob Labi (London LP exec.)

**LEWISHAM:** Tues 13 July, 7.30 pm, Davenport Hall, Davenport Rd., Catford SE6. Speaker: Dave Farrar.

**SIDCUP:** Fri 16 July, 8.00 pm, St Johns Hall, St Johns Road. Speaker: Tim Harris (Erith CLP)

**CROYDON:** Thurs 15 July, 7.45 pm, Ruskin House, Coombe Road

**CRICKLEWOOD:** Wed 14 July, 7.30 pm, Anson Hall, Cricklewood NW2

**WEST LONDON:** Tues 6 July, 8.00 pm, Ealing Town Hall, The Broadway, Ealing. Speaker: Rob Sewell

**CAMDEN & HARINGEY:** Thurs 1 July

## THAMES VALLEY

**READING:** Thurs 1 July, 7.45 pm, AUEW Hall, 121 Oxford Road, Reading. Speaker: Dave Webb (Hackney Central LP)

**OXFORD:** Thurs 1 July, Speaker: Willy Griffin.

## SOUTH

**FOLKESTONE:** Wed 14 July, Harvey Hotel. Speaker: Steve Morgan.

## NORTHERN

**STOCKTON:** Mon 5 July, Speaker: Brian Ingham.

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

**TEESSIDE:** Mon 5 July, 7.30 pm, Room 9, Stockton YMCA. Speaker: Brian Ingham

**DARLINGTON:** Tues 29 June, Speaker: Bill Hopwood

**NEWCASTLE:** Sun 4 July, 7.30 pm, Bridge Hotel. Speaker: Brian Ingham.

## NORTH WEST

**STRETFORD:** Mon 12 July, 8.00 pm, Old Trafford Centre, Shrewsbury Street, Old Trafford

**BLACKBURN:** Tues 6 July, 7.45 pm, Room 2, Shadsworth Community and Sports Centre. Speaker: Peter Harris (Blackburn CLP)

**HUYTON:** Tues 6 July, 7.30 pm, Dovecote Hotel, Western Avenue. Speaker: Peter Taaffe.

**BIRKENHEAD:** Wed 7 July, 7.30 pm, Labour Club, Cleveland St. Speaker: Peter Taaffe.

**PRESTON:** Fri 9 July, 7.30 pm, Labour Rooms, 98 Deepdale Road. Speaker: Julie Taylor (Liverpool City Councillor)

**BURNLEY:** Thurs 12 August, Speaker: Pat Wall.

**MIDDLETON & PRESTWICK:** Thurs 8 July.

**OLDHAM:** Mon 12 July.

**ROCHDALE:** Tues 13 July.

**LIVERPOOL:** Mon 19 July, AUEW Hall, Mt Pleasant. Speaker: Ted Grant

## WEST MIDLANDS

**BIRMINGHAM:** Tues 7 July, 7.30 pm, Dr Johnsons House, Bull Street, Speaker: Tony Saunois.

**STAFFORD:** Tues 20 July, Speaker: Peter Taaffe.

**STOKE:** Wed 21 July, 7.30 pm, Victoria Hall, Hanley. Speaker: Peter Taaffe.

## EAST MIDLANDS

**KETTERING:** Tues 6 July, 7.30 pm, The Manor House, Sheep St. Speaker: Gary Freeman.

## YORKSHIRE

**BRADFORD:** Wed 7 July, 7.30 pm, Textile Hall, Westgate. Speakers: Lynn Walsh (Assistant Editor) & Pat Wall (Bradford Trades Council President).

**PUDSEY:** Wed 7 July, 7.30 pm, Pudsey Labour Rooms, Greenside (main road near ASDA). Speaker: Pat Wall (President, Bradford Trades Council). Chairman: Mick Johnson (Pudsey LP)

**HULL:** Mon 5 July

## SOUTH WEST

**BRISTOL:** Wed 7 July, 7.30 pm, Wagon & Horses, Stapleton Road. Speakers: Ron Thomas (PPC Bristol NE), Tony Saunois

**GLOUCESTER:** Tues 6 July, 7.30 pm, Labour Party Rooms, Barton Street, Gloucester. Speaker: Bryan Beckingham

**PLYMOUTH:** Tues 6 July

## EASTERN

**CAMBRIDGE:** Tues 6 July, Speaker: Steve Glennon.

**HARLOW:** Thurs 22 July, Speaker: Bob Edwards.

**BRENTWOOD:** Mon 12 July.

**STEVENAGE:** Thurs 29 July, 8.00 pm, Committee Room 1, Stevenage Leisure Centre. Speaker: Steve Glennon.

Send details of your local Militant Readers Meetings. Must arrive by first post Monday morning. And send a report of how your meeting goes!

'Witch-hunt '82 poster' (reproduction of Alan Hardman's 'football' cartoon). 1 for 20p + 12½p p&p. 5 for £1 + 50p p&p. 10 for £1.50 + £1 p&p. 50 for £11 inc. p&p. From Nicki Westcott, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

## STOP CHEAP LABOUR

The Labour Party Young Socialists will fight the witch-hunt tooth and nail. But they won't let the right wing's attempt to purge the Labour Party detract them from the fight against the Tories.

Up and down the country, LPYS members have been out on the streets recruiting new members and conducting many campaigns, especially against the use of youth as cheap labour through the YOP

schemes.

At the 'Youth Against Cheap Labour' LPYS march in Manchester (see article this page) over 100 Militants were sold during the demo.

A very successful march was held last week on Saturday, in Nottingham. Over 300 joined the march, mainly youth, many of whom applied to join the LPYS.

In Coventry on June 19, 120 youth joined the LPYS march under the banner of 'End slave labour—proper jobs for youth!', despite monsoon weather conditions!

However, in Motherwell,

'rain did stop play'. Although the demonstration had to be called off, a very successful meeting was held under cover, with nearly 100 people hearing speakers including Dennis Canavan, the MP for West Stirlingshire, and Frank White, chairman of Scottish LPYS.

And despite the witch-hunt, the campaigns of the LPYS will continue. In Newcastle the LPYS and the YOPs Trainees Union Rights Campaign have organised a march and rally under the slogan of 'YOPs get organised', on Saturday July 17. The march will

assemble at 10.30am at Ellison Place, near the City Hall.

To help build support for this march, the Newcastle and Northern Region LPYS branches are mixing politics with pleasure and have organised a 'Festival of Socialist Youth' for Friday July 9. Besides speeches from leading LPYS members and Dennis Skinner MP, there will be a performance of the *Trial of Thatcher*, the hilarious play by East Kilbride LPYS, and a late bar and disco, all taking place at the Guildhall, Quayside.

## A tale of two meetings

Newcastle has recently played host to Tony Benn and Michael Foot, arguably the two most prominent names in the Labour Party today, and definitely holding diverging political views.

Both spoke at the City Hall, Newcastle. On 9 June, Tony Benn spoke to an audience of 2,000 people while Michael Foot on 13 June attracted only 700, the hall being less than a third full when he addressed the Labour Party Women's Conference Rally.

The capitalist media, endorsed by the right wing of the Labour Party constantly

remind us that ordinary working class people do not want socialism and will not "tolerate individuals who are hell-bent on power." The turn-out at these meetings completely refutes these lies.

The composition of the Foot meeting was overwhelmingly older Labour Party members while the Benn meeting attracted predominantly young trade unionists. The LPYS sent around a circular asking people if they wanted more information about the policies and programme of the YS. We took the names and addresses of over 50

young people—the majority attending their first political event.

The socialists in the Labour Party are beginning to win the battle for socialist policies. It is vital that Marxists are at the forefront of recruiting Labour voters to the party to endorse our belief that working class people do want socialism and want to see a Labour Party that will represent and fight for their aims and needs.

By Ed Waugh  
(LPYS Northern Region Chairman)



Northern Region LPYS members looking far from bored at the summer camp in 1979  
Photo: Militant

## Don't miss the summer camp

Militant supporters and the Young Socialists have been called everything from 'Moonies' to 'Red Guards', along with claims that we are just plain boring, by the Tory press and their Little Sir Echoes in Labour's right wing.

To see through these lies, you only have to come to this year's annual LPYS summer camp. You won't find barbed wire fences, machine gun towers and searchlights, but a holiday of a lifetime. And all for just £20!

The camp is held in the beautiful Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire, which creates a perfect setting for the camp which over the years has proved to be a fine balance of politics and fun. There'll be sessions on labour history, black youth and the struggle for socialism and international topics to name but a few. There'll be canoeing, films, discos, music and the now

famous play by East Kilbride LPYS, the *Trial of Thatcher*.

The £20 covers everything from camp fees to the disco. All you have to bring is a tent, cooking gear (although the LPYS Cordons Bleu Corps will be providing lunches and evening meals at reasonable prices) and most important, yourself.

So come to LPYS summer camp. Send off a £5 deposit (cheques payable to LPYS Summer Camp Fund) or if possible the whole £20. You won't find a group of 'boring automatons' at summer camp. Instead you'll meet hundreds of working class youth like yourself, there for a week of sunshine and socialism.

"Tebbit in clash with Tendency!" This was the headline in the 'Manchester Evening News' following a demonstration outside a Tory Party meeting which was to be addressed by Tory Minister Norman Tebbit.

About 200 Labour Party and trade union members had turned up to picket the Stretford Tories' meeting, which had been discovered by an LPYS member.

The LPYS and 'Militant' supporters formed the largest contingent and the noisiest section of the crowd. The fact that these demonstrators were protesting about jobs and conditions on the government YOPs schemes went unnoticed by the 'Evening News'. They were just upset that the LPYS had 'upstaged' the TUC!

The pains to which the Tory press will go to smear the name of the Marxists in the labour movement is clear. There was not a word of the LPYS demonstration that took place the following day of 150 young people through Salford and Manchester.

This demonstration was significant. Previously it was difficult to hold left-wing activities due to fascist sympathisers in the area. Nevertheless, the YS marched and had an excellent response from the local people. Once again the YS had to face the fact that the Tory party whose friends own the big business press are not prepared to reveal the truth about conditions and about the situation in the labour movement.

**LPYS SUMMER CAMP**  
**31 July-7 August**  
**Forest of Dean, near Coleford, Gloucs.**  
**Cost: £20 (children under 12—£10, under 4—free)**  
**Book now! Send £5 deposit to**  
**LPYS Summer Camp,**  
**150 Walworth Road London SE17**



Fight back with the official defence badge! 20p each or £13 per 100 or part thereof. £1.50 p&p from: Val Pearce, 16 Wagbullock Rise, Bracknell, Beds.



### Prince Werewolf?

Railway, tube and health workers are on strike, Labour Party members are demanding socialism, in fact the lower orders are being totally unreliable. But the Royal Family have come to the aid of the Tory press.

The new Prince is so English for a start. The *Daily Star* say he would be the most English monarch for four centuries. Even though there is the blood of seven nations in the baby, he has more than two thirds British blood (that's more than five pints when he grows up, another boost for British productivity). And the *Telegraph* tells us the astrological signs are good too.

"It was the summer solstice, the longest day of the year, the first day of the new moon (you mean he's a werewolf?—eds), a planetary cusp and the child will be a double Cancerian with both the moon and the sun in the sign of the crab." How fascinating. And so scientific. Coming soon, why Trotsky being a Scorpio means *Militant* are a danger to civilisation as the *Telegraph* knows it.

### Getting the short and long term.

The Newcastle Journal of 17 June announced that the oil equipment firm of William Press had cut 250 jobs from its Wallsend works on completion of two North Sea orders. The best the firm could offer the remaining workers (about 550) was that their jobs were safe "for the fairly short terms." In the same issue of the paper there is an announcement that a £110,000 "golden handshake" had been given to Mr Jack Martin a former director of William Press who resigned from the board last year but remains a consultant. That should keep him secure "for the fairly long term." It's all right to throw workers on the scrapheap, but they can't bear the thought of a poor director starving.

### Battling for profits.

Now the Falklands war is over the way is open for profiteering. Two glaring examples have emerged. Firstly task force widows and families were disgusted at the release of a new board game—"Falklands War". The aim is to sink British Ships, throw an 8 to sink the Sheffield etc. It shows the callousness of the ruling class who call on working class lads to fight a war, throwing them into a horrific situation, and when its over insult them with this type of game.

Secondly "Spunk Modern Collections Ltd" have been quick off the mark with their "Liberation Commemorative set", 3 Falkland crowns plus a "liberation medallion" a mere snip at £15. Somehow with the low level of widows pensions, and the disability allowance for injured soldier I don't think many in the task force will be investing in them. Still profit is profit and to hell with peoples' feelings.

### 50 YEARS AGO

At this time of Royal celebration, let us recall the last Prince of Wales. In summer 1932 he told the unemployed on Tyneside that: "It is deplorable. It is rotten to be out of work." Nothing was done of course, and he ended up as the Duke of Windsor, befriending Hitler. But his concern for the unemployed did not go far of course as to refuse his Civil list hand-out (which totalled £570,000 for all the Royals in 1932).

Prince Charles has voiced similar 'deep concern' about unemployment. And like his great-uncle, last year he accepted a 50% rise in his Civil List allowance. Inflation was the only thing that had changed—This year he is getting, in addition to all his rent from property and income from investments, a cool £550, 445 from the taxpayer. But after all he is having to spend about £17,000 just to feed his polo ponies—more than enough to pay for two maternity nurse wages.

# Welcome to a divided world

Welcome to the world Prince What-syername, but oh, what a different world for you!

You and your mum saw a different side of St. Mary's Hospital to that which ordinary pregnant mums see. And you will live a different life to that which the families of low-paid NHS workers face.

For your mother, there were no long waits in dowdy waiting rooms crowded out with expectant women.

Most women have to wait for hours with their kids running around and after a long wait, you get a 2-minute prod at your stomach, usually by a junior doctor who gives you another appointment in two

weeks time, and with no time for questions, unless you are very bold.

One of the few times I ever saw a consultant in the HNS ante-natal clinic, he was on the phone to Lindo Wing, the private section, where Lady Di's baby was born.

Without a doubt the expert help and immaculate conditions in Lindo Wing are what every mother should get. But of course the Royal Family get the best because they can afford to pay. It cost £126.90 a night for a room in the Lindo, about twice as much per day as many hospital workers get in a week!

Lady Di's delivery conditions were almost certainly better than those of the average NHS patients.

At least I hope so. When

I did my 8 weeks maternity training experience at St Mary's there was only one delivery room which came up near modern expectations, with dimmed lights, easily moveable beds etc.

I hope there was more linen as well. Newborn NHS babies were lucky if there was enough linen to wrap and dress them when they are born. If they mess themselves, especially at the weekend, (which is not after all unknown), the sheets were top and tailed or they remained dirty.

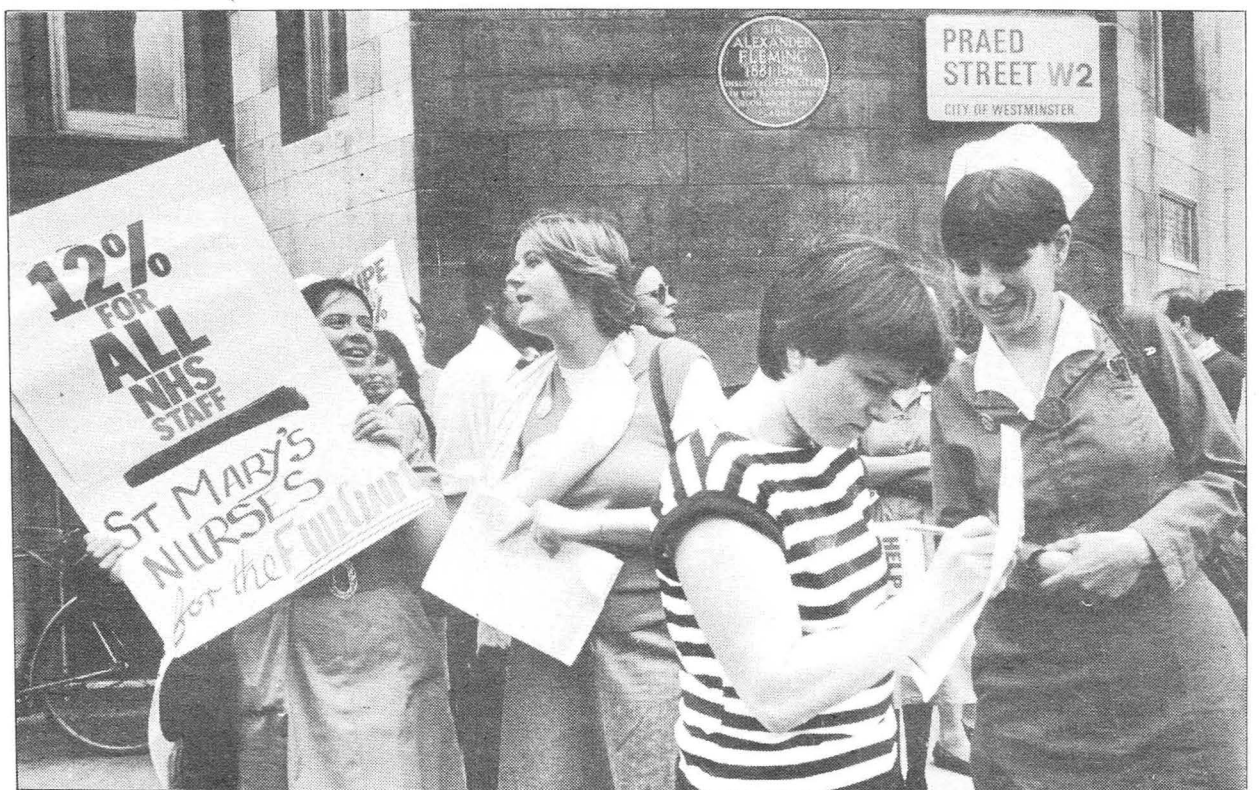
Everything about the birth showed the class splits in society. Lady Di was able to give up engagements when she was two months pregnant and will be able to have a good rest afterwards. Not so for many hospital workers. I have seen many

hospital workers who have had to carry out normal duties when they are pregnant.

Undoubtedly Thatcher and her cabinet colleagues will send a message of congratulations to Lady Di. But what message will they be sending to working people?

They will be sending a vicious message of cuts in the Health Service to all those who can't afford to pay for private treatment. They will be sending the insult of a 4% rise to hospital workers, including the nurses and porters, and ancillary workers who made Lady Di's stay comfortable.

By a NUPE nurse,  
St Mary's hospital



Nurses from St Mary's Hospital, where the royal baby was born, petitioning and picketing for a living wage. Photo: D Doran.

# Class war in the Navy

**'The Royal Navy offers an excellent career to young men who join as ratings with excellent promotion prospects, good pay and job satisfaction'—It must be true. It says so in the recruitment brochure and I was one of the hundreds who got sucked in by it.**

Reality is to serve on the Grey Funnel cruise line and provide comfort and enjoyment for a bunch of half witted officers. In the "service of my country", I cleaned sick off an officers carpet, served drinks at wardroom parties and cleaned the officers' toilets. If I'd joined as a steward, I wouldn't mind, but I joined as an electrician.

Nowhere have I seen class differences more sharply defined, it is constantly waved in your face. We lived on the lower deck in cramped and sometimes impossible conditions, overcrowded and noisy, while the officers enjoyed separate cabins and spacious wardrooms with first class hotel service.

'Conditions maketh

man', and so the wardroom creates the most arrogant, self centred bunch of overgrown schoolboys imaginable and we hated them. All officers were known as "pigs" and if we came across a "decent pig" we would wonder how he could cope with living with that shower in the wardroom.

Junior ratings like myself, would occasionally fall out with petty officers or chiefs but we were always united against the officers. Drink, bad language and petty revenge are safeguards against insanity for the lower deck and all three are symptomatic of the degree of bitterness that boils over from time to time.

Officers find that the water pressure is turned up too high in the WC flush which covers them in their own filth. Or foreign bodies are found in their food not to mention the things they don't find. Consequently officers at mealtimes are always accompanied by a nagging uncertainty and that will continue until they learn to cook their own meals.

The twentieth century has seen many reforms in the services but not one of them has made any real difference to the actual conditions of service. I was ar-

rested once for wearing a raincoat in the rain. Hauled before the officer of the day I was charged with being incorrectly dressed, namely wearing a raincoat when the foul weather flag wasn't flying.

When I explained that it was raining I was shown the ship's log and it revealed that the rain flag hadn't flown all day, so I was clearly guilty and was punished with two hours extra work, along with three dozen others who had been caught out in the same manner. We were sent to the wardroom galley to work, so, as you can imagine, the officers ate well that day!

Petty revenge is no answer. If we'd had a union we could have put a stop to that sort of dirty trick in short order and rectified the whole catalogue of crimes against humanity that our "passengers" in the wardroom inflicted on us daily. Had we organised a joint complaint against the judgement over the raincoats we would have faced a charge of mutiny.

If a man buys a left wing newspaper or joins a political party that isn't Tory or National Front, he is persecuted and eventually checked out, with his career in ruins. If a man links arms with another to right a

wrong it is mutiny.

Yet, when a crack appears in the apparent unity of world capitalism as between Galtieri and Thatcher over the Falklands, service men are bunged in like so much polyfilla. The gutter press is full of claptrap about supporting "our" lads in the war, and what wonderful sacrifices they have made.

Well, let's see what the papers say about a union and basic democratic rights and an end to injustice. It'll be a different story then all right. They'll be 'wreckers that have never done a day's work', 'holding old ladies to ransom'.

To hell with the Tory press, there's never been a better time to win a union for the troops. The TUC and the Labour Party should launch a campaign directed at our workers in uniform.

Raise the issue with rallies and public meetings and put the full facts about injustice before workers in and out of uniform. Give a chance to win those rights, which are commonplace to the rest of us but hitherto unknown for British servicemen.

By Vic Dale  
(7 years in the Navy)



8,000 strong march against police harassment after last summer's riots. Photo: J Woulfe

# BLACK YOUTH UNDER ATTACK

It is black people, above all others, who are bearing the brunt of the Tory attacks.

They are the ones who have been hit hardest by the government's cut-backs in health, housing, education and social services. In some inner-city areas, the level of unemployment among young blacks is now higher than it is in some of the ghettos of third world countries like Jamaica.

But the vicious attacks of the Tories have not simply been confined to driving down the living standards of black and white workers. The Tories have unleashed a succession of vile racist campaigns, as part of a deliberate and calculated attempt to divide the working class to try and isolate blacks from the rest of the labour movement.

The release of fraudulent crime figures blaming blacks for muggings, the call by the Tory Monday Club for mass repatriation and Thatcher's talk of Britain being "swamped by an alien culture," have all served to generate racial tension amidst the appalling conditions of mass unemployment and poverty.

It is the Tories and their system who are responsible for the massive rise in the number of racist attacks and murders. It is they who should be in the dock for the massacre of thirteen West Indians in the New Cross fire and the scores of other deaths that have

resulted from arson attacks.

These racist campaigns have gone hand in hand with a steady intensification of the vicious regime of "internal controls." Blanket raids by police and immigration officers in search of so called illegal immigrants and the checking of passports in schools, hospitals and welfare offices show the scale of harassment and intimidation of the black population.

Last year, there were several cases of blacks being refused hospital treatment until they were able to prove their immigration status. In Sheffield, an Asian woman was refused supplementary benefit on the spurious grounds that she could not speak English.

Even though Tory Home Secretary Whielaw finally abolished the use of potentially harmful X-ray tests, harassment of blacks at points of entry continues to increase.

For instance, the refusal rate for people arriving from India (1980 figures) is nearly thirty times greater than that for old commonwealth (white) arrivals.

One in 140 were refused compared with 1 in 4,400 in the old commonwealth and 1 in 2,800 from America. A black from India is nearly 160 times more likely to be detained than one from the old commonwealth.

When the surviving

Chinese crew from the burning 'Sir Galahad' troop carrier returned from the Falkands, there were no bands playing or welcome home for heroes. They were forced to go through immigration controls by the Tory government which had made them risk their lives to safeguard its interests and prestige.

The Tories could not make it any clearer. They are quite willing for blacks and Asians to die for 'Britain', but don't let us think we have rights here.

Under the Tories there has also been a steep rise in the number of deportations. There has been a 22% increase in the number of deportations and at the present time there are over 400 Filipinos who are being threatened with removal.

But the greatest assault by the Tories on the rights of black people has come in the form of the Nationality Act. Under this law blacks will no longer be second class citizens—they will be third, fourth or fifth class citizens.

Tens of thousands of blacks have been stripped of their legal right to come to this country while others have virtually been made stateless. The act has abolished the automatic legal right of black commonwealth citizens who came here before 1973 to register for British Citizenship.

This means that all the Blacks who fall into this

category could be reduced to the status of aliens with no civil rights at all. This act is a blatant attempt to harass and intimidate black workers in order to prevent them from organising.

Faced with mass unemployment and poverty and brutal harassment by the state, for many blacks life under the Tories has truly become a living hell. The upheavals last summer were in part, a reflection of the terrible despair facing some sections of the black community. But even those dramatic events have completely failed to stem the decline of living standards or check the arbitrary abuse of power by the police and the immigration service.

Nonetheless, more and more blacks are learning the lessons of the past period and are increasingly turning towards politics for a way out. The successful campaigns around single issues such as the New Cross Massacre, the Bradford Twelve, and Newton Rose are a testament to the determination of blacks to fight back.

Gone forever is the passive and resigned attitude of the first generation of blacks who were "grateful for the shelter offered by the mother country." Today black people in sweat shops up and down the country, the public services, in schools, youth clubs—everywhere are organising themselves to fight for better conditions.

## THE PLIGHT OF WOMEN

By Hashida Dave  
(St Pancras N. LPYS)

"She came to marry a Pakistani boy here. But he already had a girlfriend he would not give up. Instead, one day suddenly he gave up coming home. Nusrat knew what was happening but kept quiet because she felt, 'this is the life for a woman', or 'this marriage'. Then one day her father-in-law said to her, 'in this house we have always shared things so if my son won't sleep with you, I will'."

Nusrat is now in care at one of the growing number of refuges. Cases like this graphically illustrate the plight of a growing number of black women in Britain. In a situation where black workers are bearing the brunt of the crisis, it is black women who feel its full impact.

A combination of poverty, social and cultural pressures and language problems has confined women, particularly Asians, to the home and isolated them from the mass of the working class.

Disproportionately high incidents of one parent families among West Indians has meant that they too face a similar plight.

Neither of these conditions is helped by the prejudices and lack of understanding often shown by the men of these communities who may themselves be unemployed or poverty-stricken. However, despite the worsening of conditions black workers have shown themselves to be particularly courageous in demanding their rights as workers.

Grunwicks, Chix and the recent health dispute have shown to what lengths black workers will go to fight for better living standards.

It is vital that the labour and trade union movement recognise the specific problems faced by these women. But it is also vital for black women to understand that the organised labour movement is the only force capable of radically improving the position of women in society and ending racism forever.

### LPYS Black Youth Conference

11 am-5 pm, Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 July at GLC County Hall, Waterloo, London SE7

Speakers include: L Hassan (New Cross Action Committee); K Livingstone (GLC), Liverpool 8 Defence Committee, A Ditta, P Boateng, L Coates (Labour's National Executive), representative African National Congress, plus films 'Blacks Britannica', 'Blood Ah Goh Run', and social. Discussions on: Police, Unemployment, Racism, Tories, Women, Third World, Organising to Fight Back.

## NEW CROSS-FRESH INQUIRY DEMANDED

An appeal is being made by the victims' parents, on 5 July, for a new Inquest into the New Cross Massacre. Throughout the case the police seemed unwilling to consider that the fire started with an attack by racists or fascists.

While the Appeal Court may reject the findings of the last New Cross Inquest (which declared an open

verdict) it could still oppose the setting up of a new inquiry.

The New Cross Massacre Action Committee are calling a Candlelight Vigil outside the Royal Court of Justice in the Strand, WC2, on Sunday 4 July at 9pm, to press for another Inquest—to find the real cause behind the deaths of the 13 black youths.

# When the Right Wing how



Arthur Deakin, General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, was one of the most vehement opponents of Labour's left in the 1950s.

## "Ruthless NEC"

"That NEC (of the fifties) was almost monolithic and totally ruthless and it was aided by an information-gathering, dossier-compiling secret service in the national agent's department and the regional offices, and a trigger-happy Parliamentary Labour Party which would withdraw the Whip from a Member at the drop of a hat.

"They were all keen to ban the *Militant* equivalent of that time, and some wanted to ban *Tribune* as well, but they found that they couldn't do it. There was also an attempt to ban the Tribune Brains Trust, but they discovered they couldn't do that either."

—Ian Mikardo writing in *Tribune*, last week.

## Crosland demanded purge of left MP's

Susan Crosland, widow of former Labour right winger Anthony Crosland was present at the 'national rally' of Solidarity, on which we commented last week, along with supplies of her recently published biography of her late husband. She was selling copies to give the proceeds to Solidarity.

But her book will go down well in Solidarity, since it gives a fresh indication of how the right wing operated when they had control of the party in the late 1950s and 1960s.

After right-wing Labour leader Gaitskell had defeated a challenge to his leadership from Harold Wilson, Tony Crosland wrote to Gaitskell on 7 November 1960, advising him to expel 20 Labour MPs: "Every party must have its extremist wing... But our left is clearly too numerous..."

"To see what should be done, let us very crudely analyse the Wilson vote into its component parts. (a) 10-15 genuine pacifists... (b) 5 personal malcontents... (c) 20 hard-boiled extreme left... This is the crucial

group which must be expelled... (d) 30 'New Statesmen' or ex-ILP... Many of these are intolerable and neurotic people who will always oppose us, but who nevertheless belong to the party and (if we get rid of group c) would constitute a perfectly normal left wing... THE CRUCIAL TASK FOR THE NEXT YEAR IS TO ISOLATE THE EXTREME LEFT AND WIN BACK OR CONSOLIDATE THE LEFT CENTRE" (Capitals sic).

The book points out that Gaitskell won his battle: "His authority was restored. The Left-Centre of the PLP was won back, the extreme left entirely isolated. A handful of MPs had the Whip temporarily withdrawn, but there was no need for expulsions." (p108) One of the MPs who had the Whip withdrawn was Michael Foot, and now the right wing want him to use the method of expulsions to try to strengthen their weakening hold over the party.

## The move to the left inside the Labour Party over the last few years was given added impetus by the defeat of the Labour government in the 1979 General Election.

Since then, successive Labour Party Conferences have shown a move to the left in terms of programme and policy, but also by a democratisation of the Party itself. The rank and file in the Constituencies is much more on the left now than was the case 3 or 4 years ago, and this was shown by the massive 83% vote for Tony Benn in the CLP section in the contest for the deputy leadership last year.

The right wing are unable to reply to these leftward moves by argument, debate and discussion so they have consequently resorted to organisational 'discipline' in order to stifle their opponents. Hence the attack upon *Militant* and the proposed re-introduction of bans and proscriptions.

But what applies today applied in exactly the same way in the early 1950's. The defeat of the Labour government in 1951 created a move to the left in the Constituency Labour Parties which was vigorously opposed by the right wing which, at that time, included almost all of the big trade unions.

For a number of years after the 1951 election defeat, the Labour Party was split by internal debates with the right wing attempting, in the same way that they do today, to stifle their opponents by organisational methods, — "discipline" and expulsions.

In March 1952, 57 left Labour MP's, led by Nye Bevan, voted against the Tory defence proposals when the Shadow Cabinet had merely proposed an abstention. That action, which would have been supported by the overwhelming majority of Labour Party members, was the occasion for the launch of a vitriolic campaign by the right wing against the Bevanites.

Given space to put his views in the newspaper *Tribune*, Arthur Deakin, the General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, launched an attack upon the *Tribune* Group. Deakin condemned what he called "factions seeking to operate as a pressure group within the party". The same issue of *Tribune* carried a reply from the Editor, which could be quoted today against the right wing of the Labour Party launching their witch-hunt against *Militant*.

He wrote: "The most deadly potential enemy of the Labour Party at this stage in its history is intolerance. Everyone knows that varying views prevail within the CLP's, within trade unions, within the PLP, among the leaders and rank and file. Such differences can be resolved by open debate. They can never be resolved by mechanical disciplines."

In August of the same year, Dick Stokes, Labour MP for Ipswich, was quoted in the *News Chronicle* as condemning the

By John Pickard

Bevanites for being "a party within a party". The correspondent of the *News Chronicle* condemned the Bevanites for holding "regular meetings to decide their party line, quite independently of the official party meetings."

The campaign against the left gathered momentum in the press but it cut no ice with the majority of Labour activists. At the Morecambe Conference in 1952, the growing strength of the left was reflected in the election of six Bevanites to the National Executive Committee.

Two right-wingers, Herbert Morrison and Hugh Dalton, were removed, to be replaced by lefts Harold Wilson and Richard Crossman. Nye Bevan, as was usual at the time, easily topped the poll. Gaitskell, the champion of the right, ended up with only one third of Bevan's vote, and only half of the vote of Wilson and Crossman.

Gaitskell later gave an hysterical witch-hunting speech against the left. "I was told by some well informed correspondents" he shouted "that about a sixth of the Constituency Party delegates appeared to be Communists or Communist-inspired. This figure may well be too high. But if it should be a tenth, or even a twentieth, it is a most shocking state of affairs to which the National Executive should give immediate attention."

Although the right wing found no echo among the activists who made up the rank and file of the Constituency Labour Parties, as is the case today they completely dominated the Parliamentary Labour Party. Consequently, the PLP introduced its own witch-hunting motion into its standing orders in order to block the Bevanites.

The motion called for "the immediate abandonment of all group organisations within the Party, other than those officially recognised." The idea that some groups are 'beyond the pale,' and that other groups, be "officially recognised" has a familiar ring about it.

Michael Foot was one of those who heartily condemned the new regime of intolerance being introduced into the Parliamentary Labour Party and the attempt to introduce such a regime into the Party as a whole. In November, he wrote in *Tribune* that the Party was quickly becoming ruled by an "oligarchy"...

"Minorities have the right to speak," wrote Michael Foot, "to argue and to associate freely and even the right to become a majority."

"Make no mistake," he went on, "if the rank and

file of the Labour Party is to be made to bow down before an oligarchy, if the Conference of the Party is to become a meaningless charade, if the Party machine in Parliament is to become all-powerful so that it may suppress theoretical opinion or set at naught the opinions of the Constituencies, then democracy would be left with no answer to the totalitarians."

But despite the objections of the left, the right wing of the Party, supported of course by the Tory media, demanded an end to what they called "a Party within a Party." Morgan Phillips, the General Secretary, called for "privately organised factions" to be disbanded.

In his biography of Bevan, Michael Foot complained of the attitude of the Tory press towards Bevan and the *Tribune*. "Almost every newspaper in the Kingdom attacked Bevan and Bevanism except *Tribune*—so when *Tribune* speaker spoke, that must be suppressed too and the totalitarian unanimity established."

He further commented, "most of the newspapers, *The Times*, *The Manchester Guardian*, and *The News Chronicle*, clamoured all the more strenuously for the expulsions to proceed... all these journals never wearied in exerting the responsible leaders of the party to exercise not only Bevan, but Bevanism."

Unlike today, the trade unions of the 1950s were almost completely dominated by the right wing, and they also brought their pressure to bear upon the leadership of the Labour Party, urging that there be a witch-hunt, or at least restrictions placed upon the left wing.

A *Tribune* article criticising Lincoln Evans, General Secretary of the ISTC, for accepting a knighthood at a time when the Tories were preparing to de-nationalise the steel industry, led to the TUC demanding action against *Tribune*. The NEC of the Labour Party agreed to this initially and a proposal was put to investigate the Tribune Brains Trust, "to see if they were a Party within a Party."

At the NEC meeting where this was discussed, Edith Summerskill, was reported to demand that stronger measures were required, such as "expelling those who are suspected of fellow travelling." Gaitskell was reported (Crossman Diaries) to have told Crossman that expulsions had to take place, otherwise it "would utterly destroy the morale of the right."

Gaitskell also said that "we must consider money, and many of our big backers were asking why we hadn't acted three years ago... Bevanism is and only is a conspiracy to seize the leadership for Aneurin Bevan. It is only a conspiracy because it has three essentials, a leader in Bevan, an organisation run by Mikardo, and a newspaper run by Foot."

The following year, when the NEC banned the paper *Socialist Outlook*, there were hundreds of protests from the CLPs and Party branches and Foot con-

TR

25 MARCH 1955

Editorial Board

Ran  
KEE

ALL OVER the country go into action again in late May or June as elections take place earlier

The National Executive Committee of the Labour Party a meeting this week could have given the best possible encouragement to those workers by nouncing that the proposal to expel Aneurin Bevan from party had been abandoned.

Instead, they have spoken muffled voice. The immediate demand for expulsion has defeated. That is the great But for the rest the decision in suspense, and the Labour ment is condemned to a week of anxiety while fresh sions take place.

However, another week show more clearly than ever is the real issue at stake. The issue is: will the National tive take account of the whelmingly strong protest expulsion among the rank and During the past two we

The *Tribune* defends the expulsions in the 50s, however, *Tribune* MP's, (23 to 21) have in reality decision to witch-hunt the Party.

demned the NEC decision in *Tribune*. "The good name of the Labour Party," he wrote, "requires that this stupid, cowardly and totalitarian edict should be rescinded at the coming Labour Party conference and that the NEC should be instructed not to tamper further with the elementary principles of freedom."

But the most serious attempt to expel Bevan in the 1950s (he had already been expelled once in 1939—see previous issue of *Militant*) took place in 1955 after 62 MPs, including Bevan, abstained on a Labour party Commons amendment which had stated that there was a need to have nuclear weapons as a deterrent to aggression.

The Shadow Cabinet subsequently voted by 9 to 4 on the advocacy of, among others, Hugh Gaitskell and Jim Callaghan, to recom-

"The most intolerant views prevail in unions, and rank resolved be resolved



# nded Bevan

## IBUNE

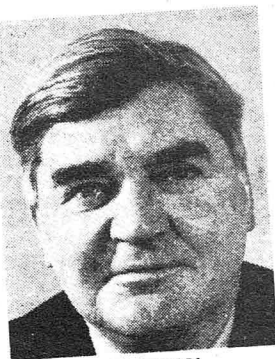
FOURPENCE

Michael Foot, Jennie Lee and J. P. W. Mallalieu

DR. GARBETT  
by  
DR. SOPER  
See page 4

### and file rebuff expellers LEFT-TO WIN

Labour workers are ready to...  
the Tories. A general election...  
tually certain. Critical local...  
in May.



NYE BEVAN

In view of the pressure which Mr. Deakin had exerted on Mr. Attlee on previous occasions it can hardly be doubted what he meant by this language.

It is obviously these elements in the party which have provided the pressure behind the move towards expulsion. They have been narrowly defeated on the Executive and once again it seemed evident, as on the Parliamentary Committee, that Mr. Attlee himself opposed expulsion.

However, the Right-wing move is scotched, but not yet killed. It is more than ever necessary that the rank and file of the movement should declare its will in a manner no one can misunderstand.

can be underlined by stating three simple facts:

1. When the Shadow Cabinet of the Parliamentary Party decided to withdraw the whip they clearly envisaged that this action would be followed by almost automatic expulsion.

2. Mr. Tom Williamson, general secretary of the N.U.G.M.W., issued a statement calling for the most ruthless action on the day before the Parliamentary Labour Party met.

3. A few days later, after the meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party and before the meeting of the National Executive, Mr. Arthur Deakin, general secretary of the T.G.W.U., demanded "a very clear lead" from Mr. Attlee.

#### Stay and fight

Meantime there is other business to be done. When the Shadow Cabinet recommended the withdrawal of the whip from Aneurin Bevan and the Parliamentary Party accepted the recommendation, a considerable number of Labour Party members all over the country sought to express their disgust or dismay by resignation from the party or by similar acts of despair.

That dangerous trend should be halted at once. *Tribune* appeals to all Socialists throughout the country to stay in the party, to fight the Right-wing move, and to be ready to use their energies to ensure the defeat of the Tories at the coming election.

ft and campaigns against...  
s. Unfortunately today...  
ibeit by a narrow margin...  
voted to back the NEC's...  
Marxists from the Labour

mend to the meeting the...  
withdrawal of the whip...  
from Bevan. The clear...  
inference followed that once...  
the matter was referred to...  
the NEC he would have to...  
be expelled from the Party...  
altogether.

In the March/April issue...  
of *New Socialist*, Ian...  
Mikardo describes some of...  
the NEC meetings of those...  
days. "We had a solid...  
phalanx of world-class...  
haters. Jim Matthews, Bessie Braddock, Alice Bacon, Jean Mann, Alice Horan, with Edith Summer-skill as the undisputed Olympic gold medallist. From 1951 onwards there was never a meeting without some violent attack against the left."

As Ian Mikardo...  
describes, it was only by an...  
accident—Mikardo managed...  
to get to an NEC meeting...  
he expected to miss—that...  
Bevan was saved from his

second expulsion in 15...  
years, by 14 votes to 13.

The Right failed in their...  
attempt to expel Bevanism...  
But that did not stop them...  
from organising campaigns...  
such as the Campaign for...  
Democratic Socialism, aided...  
and abetted by...  
mysterious sources of...  
funds, to remove clause 4...  
part 4 of the Labour Party...  
Constitution and turn the...  
party into a radical...  
'Liberal' Party.

Having failed to expel all...  
the socialist elements the...  
right wing nevertheless...  
continued to try to make...  
the Labour Party a safe...  
place for Liberals, careerists...  
and place seekers of all...  
kinds. The Right to this...  
day have never agreed with...  
or accepted the fundamental...  
socialist clause in Labour's...  
constitution.

In the November 22 issue...  
of *Tribune*, in 1957, Michael...  
Foot looked back

on the original witch-hunting...  
resolution passed five...  
years earlier by the...  
Parliamentary Labour...  
Party. "five years ago" he...  
wrote, "the Party passed a...  
stupid anti-libertarian, un-...  
constitutional resolution...  
forbidding unofficial...  
groups."

*Michael Foot could do a...  
lot worse today than to look...  
back over his own writings...  
and the editorials in...  
Tribune, in defence of the...  
Bevanites and Party...  
democracy in the 1950s.*

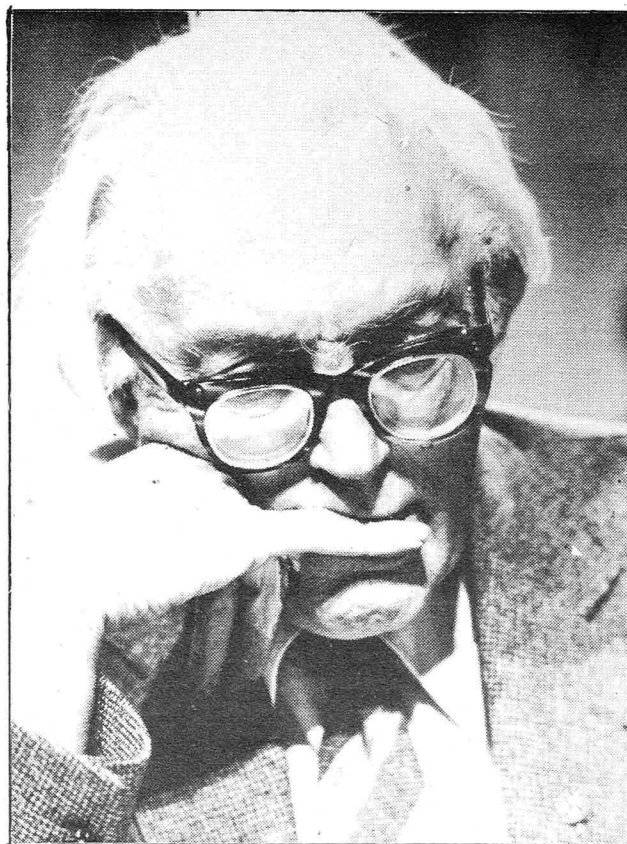
All the arguments that...  
Foot and others brought...  
to bear at the that time, in...  
defence of democratic...  
rights in the Labour Party...  
can and should be used...  
today in defence of the...  
right of *Militant* supporters...  
to put forward their views...  
inside the Labour Party...  
Totalitarianism in the...  
party is no more justifiable...  
today than it was then.

st deadly potential enemy of the...  
party at this stage in its history...  
is...  
e. Everyone knows that varying...  
differences exist within the CLPs, within...  
trade...  
within the PLP, among the leaders...  
and file. Such differences can be...  
by open debate. They can never...  
be resolved by mechanical disciplines."

—Tribune Editorial, 21 March 1952

"The good name of the Labour Party requires that this stupid, cowardly and totalitarian edict should be rescinded at the coming Labour Party conference and that the NEC should be instructed not to tamper further with the elementary principles of freedom."

—Michael Foot on the banning of *Socialist Outlook* by the NEC in 1954.



## Secret files

By John Pickard

Ian Mikardo reported in *New Socialist* that Ron Hayward burned all the files that were accumulated in Transport House by the regional organisers on the activities and speeches of the lefts.

But it would seem that some of the regional organisers continue to write up their own personalised accounts of meetings and speeches for their files. A correspondent wrote anonymously to *London Labour Briefing*, about how regional officials "put on official record things that they would never dare to say if they knew they would be revealed outside the circle of 'top' party people. The confidentiality of the reports gives them a license to write whatever fanciful version of events most appeals to them."

In particular, the anonymous writer gave examples of reports written at London Parliamentary selection meetings, by London regional Labour Party staff.

Reporting on the Uxbridge selection, Janice Muir, Assistant Regional Organiser, wrote about 'M': "M. is, as far as I know, a member of the Militant Tendency, he

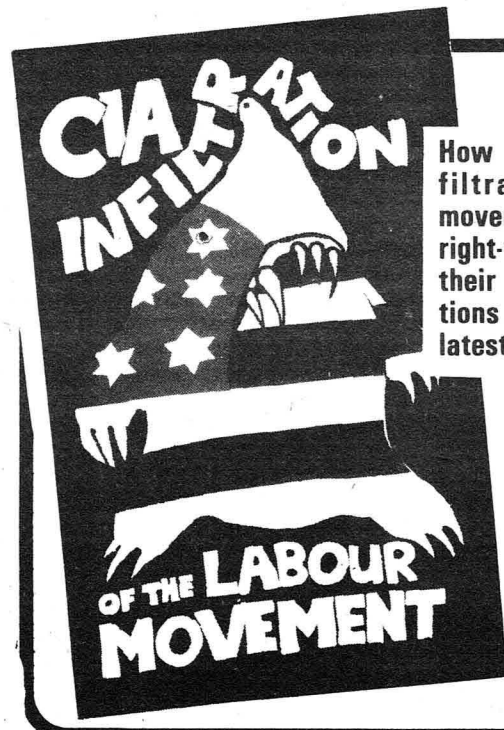
of what is right and wrong." Candidate H was "Bright-eyed and bushy-tailed", but in the Fulham CLP selection conference, the same comrade Jones described candidate 'H' as "Lively, clarity of voice, knowledgeable and dishy."

If these are the kind of reports that are going into the secret files of a Labour Party regional office, they provide an ominous insight into the methods that will be used to keep 'tabs' on all those campaign groups within the Party that will be on the NEC 'Register'.

These reports show a crushing contempt for the rank and file of the party, as well as for the individuals described, and a cynical disregard of the Labour Party's real socialist aspirations.

Now that the enquiry into *Militant* has been completed, the right wing are demanding more enquiries into the CLPD, the LCC, London Labour Briefing, etc, etc. Enquiries and secret files will be flying around like snowflakes in a storm.

Party members, however, will be demanding that there is an opening up of the files accumulated by the Regional officers and National Office. There must be no return to the secret-police methods of the 1950's.



How has the American CIA infiltrated Western labour movements? Where do Labour's right-wing organisations get their secret funds? These questions are taken up by *Militant's* latest pamphlet (£1 post free).

Send cash with orders to World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

The Russian intervention had enormously reactionary consequences internationally, allowing the US government, Thatcher, and other Western leaders to justify a new spurt in the arms race.

The confusion caused among workers throughout the world by Russia's bureaucratic military invasion in defence of a bureaucratic military regime more than outweighed, in any international calculation of the effects, the gain of securing the abolition of landlordism and capitalism in Afghanistan.

The people of this remote, poverty-stricken country cannot but gain from the development of a planned economy. This is the only possible escape ladder from centuries of backwardness and domination by the imperialist powers, who, when it suited them never hesitated to invade the country and establish puppet rulers. However, the existence or non-existence of a deformed workers' state in Afghanistan can hardly be said to have more than a negligible effect on the international balance of class forces.

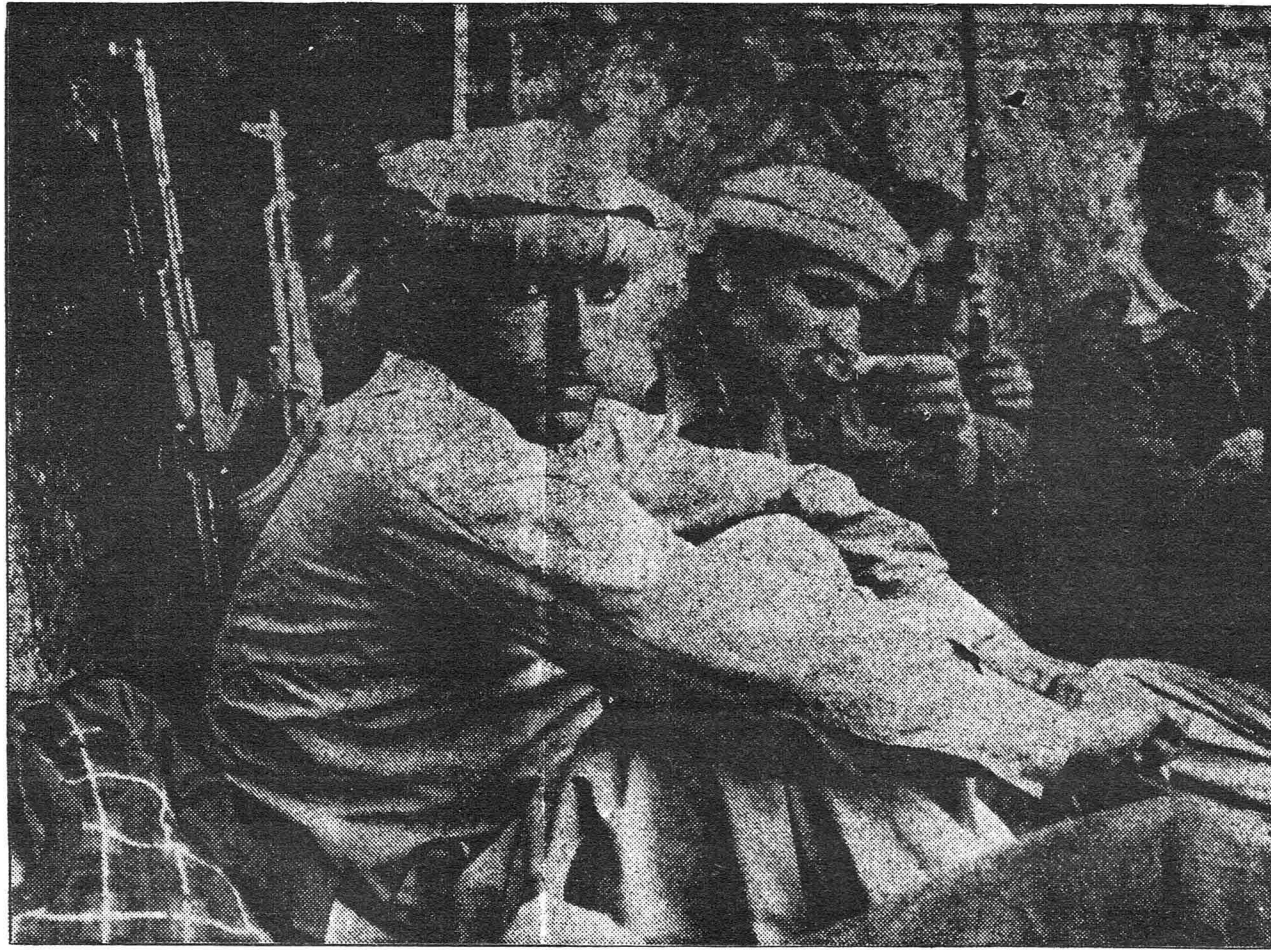
The US and other Western capitalist leaders raised a storm because it was a very timely propaganda gift, providing an opportunity to step up their 'Cold War' propaganda against the Russian bureaucracy. When Doud's landlord-capitalist regime, rotten through and through, was overthrown in April 1978, Western imperialism quietly accepted the formation of a proletarian bonapartist regime.

Yet when the Russian bureaucracy intervened to prop up its unexpected client when it faced collapse in 1979, the Western leaders raised an enormous hue and cry. In their inner councils, they accepted that the Russian bureaucracy had invaded for defensive reasons, to protect its southern flank, and not as the first step of a push into the Middle East or the Indian sub-continent. Nevertheless, the outcry was a warning from imperialism that Russia should not attempt to meddle in Iran. And the first direct Russian intervention in a state outside the Eastern bloc gave the West the opportunity to whip up fears about the danger of Russian 'imperialism' and aggressiveness.

For these reasons Marxists could not support the Russian invasion of Afghanistan. But once the invasion had taken place, there was a new situation. There could be no question then of calling for the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops. Withdrawal would not undo the damage. The suspicions aroused among workers in-

# AFGHANISTAN

BY LYNN WALSH  
(Second of two-part article)



Rural guerrilla fighters (above) have been unable to overthrow the regime.

## Regime is building basis of support

ternationally about the motives of the Russian bureaucracy would not be wiped out. On the hand, withdrawal could undoubtedly have led to the collapse of the proletarian bonapartist regime and the restoration of the rule of the landlords and capitalists in Afghanistan.

Slowly but surely, the regime's forces, with the massive backing of the Russian army, are gaining the upper hand. In March, for instance, reports came out of a battle which resulted in the death of 1,000 of the opposition forces, including at least 200 experienced Mujahidin fighters. The Russian commanders have developed more flexible tactics in combating the guerrillas, concentrating on gaining control of the towns and key communications and attacking guerrilla forces only when provoked.

While using the big stick when necessary, moreover, the regime has also dangled the carrot in front of the

rural population. This is possible because of the relatively progressive role of the planned economy, especially compared to Afghan's previous feudal backwardness, even under the direction of a bureaucracy based on a privileged elite.

The Karmel leadership has modified and toned down the reforms which the previous Amin leadership attempted to implement at breakneck speed. Together with ruthless repression, the implementation of the land reform, compulsory literacy classes (including women), and other radical changes threw the country into turmoil and threatened the very existence of the proletarian bonapartist regime.

Babrak Karmel, no doubt with the Russian bureaucracy's advisors guiding him, has attempted to conciliate the mullahs, sections of the landlords and other potential opponents, inviting their leaders to participate in a

'National Fatherland Front.' The land reform is going ahead but more cautiously, with concessions being made to the mosque and also to the landlords who agree to mechanise and sell their food products to the state. Literacy classes are no longer compulsory for women.

Earlier this year, *The Economist* (27 February) grudgingly conceded that the regime was gradually consolidating a basis of support: "Villagers who keep the guerrillas out of their areas can choose their own leaders, administrators, even governors. They can ask for money to build mosques and seek advice on their crops. There have been hints from the Ministry of Tribes that the Pathans may soon be given a degree of autonomy. Health centres are being built; so are kindergartens, libraries and schools. Consumer goods are subsidised. The Russians are buying themselves relative peace in some areas."

In time, when the regime is consolidated, the Russian forces will be withdrawn. But the question of democracy will remain. Against the control of the planned economy by a bureaucracy based on a privileged elite, Marxists would raise the need in Afghanistan for workers' and peasants' councils to take control of the economy

and the state into their own hands.

However, it has to be recognised that the extreme weakness of the working class in this still primitive land inevitably means that the future of the peoples of Afghanistan will be linked to the development of the class struggle in the country's much more powerful neighbours. India, in particular, has a powerful working class, and society there is rotten ripe for change. In Russia, the development of the planned economy has created an enormously powerful, highly cultured working class, increasingly pushing against the bars of Stalinist bureaucracy.

Under a national bureaucracy in Afghanistan, economic progress will be at a snail's pace, even with Russian backing. But who can doubt that the situation would be totally transformed by the formation of a workers' state in India or Pakistan, or by the overthrow of the bureaucracy and the restoration of workers' democracy in the Soviet Union?

[Developments in Afghanistan were covered in *Militant* on 11 and 18 January, 15 and 22 February, and 18 July 1980; and on 30 January 1981.]

'PALESTINE  
NATION  
WILL NOT  
JUST  
DISAPPEAR'

In launching its attack into Lebanon, the Israeli government clearly calculated that they would be able to achieve a quick and decisive victory over the PLO.

Given the enormous weight of military manpower and firepower brought to bear, there is little doubt that the Israeli ruling class have the capability of destroying the PLO militarily, even if that means a bloody conflict in the streets of Beirut.

But the war, which has assumed major proportions, much greater than a 'police operation', will have repercussions well outside and beyond the original aims of Begin. On the wider international plain, the resignation of Alexander Haig as US Secretary of State was provoked in part by US ambivalence over the Middle East.

Historically, the USA has been the most important backer for Israel, militarily, economically and diplomatically. But on the other hand, there is a growing fear of social revolution in the Arab Gulf States, perhaps increased now by the Lebanon war, and this would tend to push American imperialism towards putting some curbs on Begin.

In Israel itself, workers have become increasingly horrified at the sheer scale of the war devastation and the cost in human lives. The murderous attacks by the Israeli airforce and artillery against Lebanese and Palestinian civilian areas have had a profound effect on opinion in Israel.

There has been an unprecedented anti-war movement—compared by some to the anti-Vietnam war movement in the USA—with a demonstration of 10,000 in Tel Aviv. Israeli workers will realise that for all their sacrifices in lives and economic hardships, and despite all the horrendous suffering of the Arabs in Lebanon, Begin will not have moved an inch nearer to a solution of the Palestinian question.

"A nation of half a million Palestinians will not just disappear", said one Israeli speaker at the anti-war rally. When the 'Lebanese' Palestinians are added to the millions of others in Jordan, Syria, Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, there remains a nation of some three and a half million and their national aspiration will have to be fulfilled in one form or another, if there is ever to be any genuine Middle East peace.

By Peter Jackson

# 16 Month Rowntrees Strike

# South African Workers call for direct links

The issue of how to support the struggle against apartheid oppression in South Africa has been debated in the British labour movement for many years.

With the growth of the independent non-racial trade unions in SA this debate has become more important. In particular, the question of direct links between workers and unions in Britain and SA has become a major issue in the trade unions, Labour Party and Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM).

In June of last year the AAM Executive expressed its opposition to 'direct links between British and South African workers'. But in a reply to the AAM Executive Coventry South East Labour Party clearly explained the need for direct links.

The main objection against direct links is that it will 'provoke further harassment' of SA trade unionists. But this, Coventry SE pointed out, is a somewhat defeatist argument. With 250 strikes from the beginning of 1980 to mid 1981 alone, it is clear that SA workers are beginning to push back the regime and are prepared to confront their oppressors.

The SA authorities will clearly launch any attacks they consider possible to defeat this movement. Nothing is more likely to restrain them than the direct involvement of workers internationally in these strikes, with the increased publicity and threat of solidarity action such links would encourage.

Also the objection was made that visits by trade union leaders on 'fact finding' trips, especially those paid for or sponsored by the SA Government or by employers, should be opposed.

The proposed visit by Bill Sirs and Terry Durry last year was one such case. When Bill Sirs talked of bringing black workers out of 'the dark ages', even before going to South Africa, he showed that SA workers could expect little genuine solidarity from him.

However, while such trips should be opposed, this is no argument against direct links in general. As a number of the independent non-racial trade unions in SA have made clear, while opposing this trip, they 'strongly favoured fraternal contact between workers in SA and workers in other countries, at all levels, provided this is guided by the interests and requirements of workers'.

These unions (the Metal and Allied Workers Union, the Engineering and Allied Workers Union and the National Union of Motor Workers of SA) urged the following guidelines: visits

to South Africa and visits overseas should be based on the concrete needs of workers; visits should involve not only top officials, but also plant-based worker representatives; and the aim of visits should be to strengthen ties between organised workers to carry forward the struggle of SA workers for democratic rights.

These unions went on to say that several visits had already taken place, and had been very valuable, and would be encouraged in the future.

The General Workers Union—another independent non-racial union—has also supported fraternal visits. Thus support for direct visits and visits by the non-racial trade unions in South Africa is clear.

## Offensive against trade unions

This issue has now become urgent with the offensive that has been launched by the authorities and bosses in South Africa, with sackings and redundancies aimed at the trade unions and especially trade union activists.

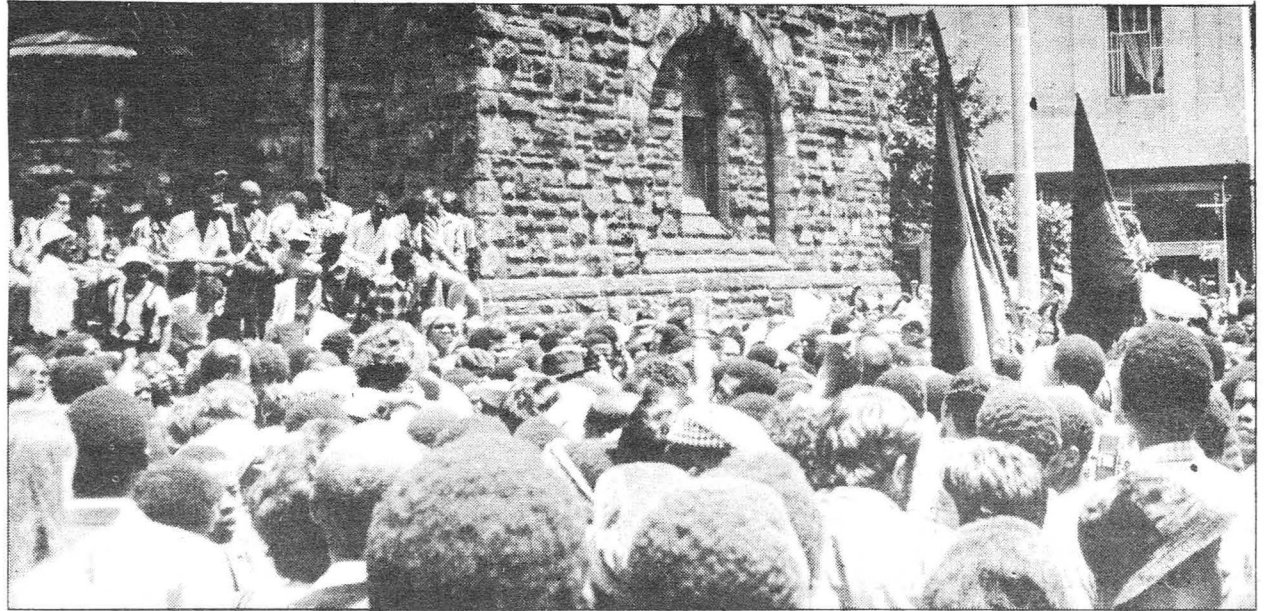
These attacks have been complemented by state action. The death in detention of the trade union leader Neil Aggett in February, the closure of the offices of the South African Allied Workers Union and mass arrests of SAAWU activists have now culminated in a major new attack. SAAWU leaders Thozamile Gqweta, Sisa Njikelana and Sam Kikine, were charged on 6 May with offences under the notorious Terrorism Act. This represents an attempt by the regime to intimidate and curb the independent trade union movement in South Africa.

With the growth of the independent trade unions' membership from 70,000 two years ago to over 200,000 today, the bosses and the government are desperate to strangle the movement before it becomes too strong.

The fear of international big business is clear to see. In an article in the *Financial Times* (26 May 1981), the trade unions were headlined as 'the biggest threat' to the regime. A government minister has described the demand for a minimum living wage as a threat to the capitalist economy!

## Rowntrees strike

The strike led by SAAWU at Rowntree-Wilson in East London SA, brought the need for direct links and visits clearly to the fore. This strike for union recognition and reinstatement of victimised workers has been going on for 16



The support for the new independent trade union movement amongst black workers was shown at the demonstration for the murdered white trade union activist, Neil Aggett (above). For the first time in years the flag of the banned African National Congress was raised in the centre of Johannesburg.

## NATIONAL DEMO

- York, Saturday 3 July
- Reinstate Rowntrees strikers
- Recognise SA Allied Workers Union
- For international workers' unity against the bosses' apartheid regime

Assemble behind York LPYS banner, 1.30pm, Heworth Green car park

months. The workers have been sacked and blacklisted and the strike has become a test case in the employers' offensive.

The importance of this strike makes especially regrettable the decision of the leaders of the TGWU in Britain not to send a delegation to visit the Rowntree-Wilson workers in South Africa.

The Transport and General Workers Union, as a union organising Rowntree workers in Britain, was specifically invited by SAAWU to come to visit the workers in order to strengthen international support for the strike.

The decision to refuse

this request appears to have resulted from confusion over the question of direct links.

The leadership of the TGWU claimed that their refusal is in accordance with the policy of the exiled leadership of the SA Congress of Trade Unions. But it is obviously in conflict with the needs of the active rank and file in South Africa.

It is clear from the vicious repression aimed at SAAWU that the South African authorities need no pretext to attack trade union activists.

As SAAWU members heroically struggle against the regime, hundreds have been arrested, others face starvation after being sacked. To turn down their appeal for a delegation on the grounds that it might provoke police harassment is clearly mistaken.

Nothing would be more likely to strengthen SAAWU and restrain the regime than a visit by a Transport and General delegation to show that attacks on trade unionists, and the 'terrorism' trials, will provoke retaliation from British trade unions.

Already in Transport and General this issue has been taken up. A resolution has been passed by No.6 (North-West) Region of the union, requesting that the leadership's decision be reconsidered and a visit made. No.1 region (London) is also reported to support a delegation being sent. It is to be hoped that this will have the desired effect and that a visit will be made.

Also the GMWU and USDAW organise Rowntree workers in Britain, and the issue of a visit, if requested by SAAWU should be raised in these unions.

At its recent conference USDAW has already expressed support for direct links and for the Rowntrees strikers in SA.

Returning to Britain, armed with the latest facts and arguments straight from the SA workers' lips, a delegation would be able to refute the employers' propaganda and strongly argue the case for solidarity action by trade unionists in Britain, along lines discussed and agreed with the SA workers. This may mean the difference between the suc-

cess or defeat of the Rowntrees strike.

The differences in the Transport and General clearly show the need for this issue to be fully discussed by the British Trade Union movement, enabling direct links at every level to be built up, which would be an enormous help in the common struggle of British and South African workers against exploitation.

**By Jerry Cope**  
(LPYS representative  
AAM National Committee)

**SOUTH AFRICA'S IMPENDING SOCIALIST REVOLUTION**  
Perspective of the Marxist Workers' Tendency of the African National Congress

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

# Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E6 3P

## The importance of working class history

Dear Comrades,

There have recently been contributions to our paper by, or on behalf of members of the older generation. I believe that this is important, as to turn our back on our history and our traditions would be tantamount to selling our principles as they are among our strongest assets. I would therefore like to give my own contribution.

While in hospital recently I was talking to a veteran of the Second World War. He spoke to me of his experiences and the horrors he had witnessed. I then explained the stance that we have on war and with particular grave relevance of the war of capital in the South Atlantic.

He then said to me, "If I had my time over again I wouldn't have fought then. The only people who gained were those 'upstairs'."

He then told me of when he was evacuated from Dunkirk. After he passed totally demoralised streams of bedraggled and pathetic refugees he came across a group of expensive cars. He thought to himself, "What the sod are they doing here." It turned out that they belonged to governmental officials and big businessmen.

"They got on the ships first. Sod everyone else, the troops and the refugees. Those b\*\*\*\*\*ds were given the red carpet treatment. War doesn't help us, it just helps the rich."

This letter is just further evidence of who war is for, its not for us, the working class and especially youth, its for the rich, who gain their profits at the expense of workers' deaths and our international disunity as the one true international nation, that of the working class.

Yours fraternally  
John Holt  
TGWU 2/529  
Basingstoke.

## Answering the smears of the 'People'

Dear Editor,

I have just read and re-read the so called "investigative" report in the *Sunday People* on the Militant Tendency and am absolutely appalled by the filthy lies it prints, claiming to "lay bare...the ruthless and sinister picture of the Militant's aims."

I have been a member of the Labour Party for 11 years and a *Militant* supporter for nearly seven. This whole sordid article was an insult to the intelligence of *Militant's* readers. According to Terry Clark, we are supposed to be so naive that we can be deceived into being enlisted as members of an illegal organisation and of being financially bled!

Every penny I have given to *Militant* for several years I have given willingly, because I believe in *Militant's* programme—clearly set out in the pages of its paper (nothing secret or sinister about that) and I donate it to enable the Labour Party and working class movement as a whole to create a truly socialist society.

Yours fraternally  
Trixie Richards  
Barry CLP  
NUT Secretary, Cardiff  
SEA.

## A good issue!

Dear Comrades,

Thanks for the best issue of the paper (19 June) that I've read yet.

Especially for *The American way of life under Reagan*, the excellent article on the Disunited Nations, giving clear outlines for use in arguments; for the clear explanation of the way the EEC doesn't work, the NHS reports on the industrial pages (especially the bit by the incinerator operator), for a really diverse and interesting letters page, for the excellent report on the use of Depo-provera in the 3rd World (something the feminists have been campaigning

about for years, and maybe will soon start realising there's nothing that can be done about it until we get rid of capitalism), and even the article on boxing was enlightening on a subject I'd never even thought of relating to Marxism.

Issues like this must surely start broadening the support for the tendency and for Marxism, with articles that so many different people, interested in different subjects, can relate to.

In short, a great issue, in fact I feel like framing it and hanging it on the wall!

Thanks again  
In Comradeship  
Rowan Metcalfe  
Little London  
Marsham

## What a few minutes of TV time can do...

Dear Comrades,

May I, through the paper, thank the two *Militant* supporters who spoke on the recent edition of *Question Time* (17/6/82) about the beliefs of the Tendency.

Although not given adequate time to go into any great detail, so impressive were they that the following morning at my workplace I sold seven copies of the *Militant* to fellow workers who wanted to know more and approached me, without any soliciting on my behalf, whatsoever.

This surely proves that the ideas of the *Militant* do appeal to the workers when they can be got across to the workers without distortion. When a supporter of *Militant* is elected to parliament to campaign for socialist ideas from the platform of Westminster, where more people can be reached, the policies will be found to have a broad appeal to the workers of this country, who, at the moment are being fed the lies and distortions of the 'free' press.

Yours fraternally  
Graham Spencer  
Derby

## Please sir, am I a Militant?

Dear Sir,

As a newly enrolled member of the Labour Party and also a subscriber of *Militant* it occurred to me that I may fall into that "sinister" category. Seeking an official definition I telephoned Labour Party Headquarters and spoke to an Information Officer.

He stated that one really had to study the historical background of the Tendency to understand the hostility it evokes. There were vague references to "communism"; "The unfairness of groups meeting together and by their greater determination foisting policies on their less committed fellow members"; "Didn't believe in Parliamentary democracy, flouted the constitution of the Labour Party" etc.

On being pressed he conceded that there was no organisation in which one specifically becomes a member. Simply reading the newspaper would not bring me into the "danger zone" (not his words), but attendance at a *Militant* Readers' Meeting could. He stated it is all rather a grey area but suggested that I await the Report now to be issued in which all will be revealed.

To me the whole case against the "Militant Tendency" is a nonsense. If those seeking to become Parliamentary Candidates really had "sinister" intentions they would keep quiet about their intentions, seeking election on establishment approved policies and implementing their true aims when in a position to do so. Their honesty in proclaiming their views, which we have to recognise are held by a minority at the moment is, in my opinion evidence of their integrity.

Yours sincerely  
Len Carrington  
Finchley  
London.



## Tories' attack on railway workers is political

Dear Comrades,

As a member of the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR), I would like to expound some personal observations as to the nature and implications of the pending industrial action being formalised by the executive of the NUR.

Let us first dispel the notion that this is a straightforward wages negotiation battle. This is a political action and should be viewed by the rank and file of the labour movement as such.

There are several factors which lend credence to this idea. First and foremost is the jingoistic euphoria Thatcher's government are basking in at the moment

over her handling of the Falklands war, coupled with the leader of the Labour Party's apparent support for this war, her ratings in the national polls has never been so high.

Having achieved this national fervour, Thatcher has embarked on a union bashing exercise. Firstly with the NHS unions who are not traditionally militant, and now by her blunt refusal to invest in our railway industry, with the NUR, whom once again are not to the forefront in terms of radical trade union activity.

The 5% pay offer by the British Railways Board (BRB) actually means only 3% if certain factors are taken into account, like the change in our annual pay date to September as opposed to April, leaving five months precluded from BRB's fiscal year.

This offer with its strings attached, is a direct policy

of confrontation with the NUR. This confrontation has furthermore been engineered to test the solidarity of the Triple Alliance (ie. NUR, NUM and Steelworkers), and if this Alliance is seen to capitulate we shall have a major triumph for Thatcher and capitalism, possibly leading to a snap general election, which will guarantee her another five years of extreme anti-socialist policies.

In conclusion, if this action by the NUR is defeated and legislation of the 1982 Employment Bill is passed, it will mean a major setback for the whole labour movement for at least a decade. To this end comrades, let us fight tooth and nail for the realisation of a true socialist society.

Yours fraternally  
Danny Bermingham  
Toxteth CLP

## The new twenty pence coin (1)

Dear Comrades

Last week saw the introduction of the new twenty piece coin, which sparked off a dispute by drivers and conductors of the Ribble Bus Co. It seems that because the coin is so small, when passengers tried to use the coin to pay their fares it went straight through the machine used on OMO (one man operated) buses, so the driver was unable to issue tickets.

When this problem was reported to the depot manager his solution to the problem was if passengers were going to use the coin to pay fares, then fares should be collected manually and put in the drivers pockets until the end of their shift.

This led to an immediate

walk out! The drivers did this on the grounds that carrying a large amount of coins around could lead to someone getting attacked and robbed, and if some of the cash was to get mislaid or lost, under company regulations this could lead to prosecution and dismissal.

Yours fraternally  
P Wilkinson  
Carlton LPYS.

## The new twenty pence coin (2)

Dear Comrades,

Lots of people commented on how pretty and useful the new twenty pence coin was, when it first appeared on the streets. Conversations carried on to the new pound coin and whether it would be

beneficial or not. Lots of people nostalgically defend the old pound note. But many were in favour of "progress" as they put it.

But they failed to see the importance of these new coins.

The banks and bosses have seen how inflation is steadily rising and how copper coins are becoming worthless. And despite what Thatcher says she has not got inflation under control. With inflation forever rising the 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p and £1 coin will become the counterparts of the copper coinage, like in France and Italy. The small copper coins will be removed, and the smallest coin in circulation will be the 5p piece.

Sad will be the day the shilling I got as pocket money becomes the equivalent of a ½p piece!

Yours fraternally  
N Waite  
Gateshead East LPYS.

# ads

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

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 11 July
Eastern	1166		2115
East Midlands	887		1765
Hants & Dorset	765		1250
Humberside	312		1075
London East	2020		1960
London West	646		1060
London South	1030		1415
Manchester & Lancs	1128		2020
Merseyside	981		2290
Northern	1086		2760
Scotland East	378		1345
Scotland West	944		2375
Southern	1428		1760
South West	638		885
Wales East	450		945
Wales West	701		1355
West Midlands	1193		2120
Yorkshire	1015		2505
Others	4698		4000
<b>Total received</b>	<b>21466</b>		<b>35000</b>

## The thunder, lightning and floods that swept Britain last week were matched by stormy developments in the labour movement!

Angry nurses and health workers were joined by angry miners, engineers, shipyard workers, civil servants, council workers, all defying the Tories and their law. London Transport workers have reached the end of their patience and railwaymen are out to show they mean to win a better deal.

In the Labour Party too, the gathering storm over the *Militant* finally broke, with the decision to set up machinery to 'vet' the membership. A flood of protests have already gone into Labour's Headquarters and a flood of donations have come in to *Militant* to help us fight back.

This week's total is double last week's! "£1,000 as promised", "£100 bonus payment", "£10 to fight the witch-hunt" (Mrs Wobey, Hackney). Supporters up and down the country have dug deep and taken collections—£200 from East London, £150 South London, £140 from Cardiff, £100 from Ardwick, £50 from Bristol...

Sending a donation has been the immediate reaction of people in the labour movement that we have never heard from before—£30 from V Bennett in Warwickshire, £3 'Anon' Worcestershire, £20 from Cllr Dease, £6 from S Barrett (Hitchin), £20 from Dr S Imong of Exeter Labour Party and £2 from 'Frank' of Formby (who would "joyfully dance on Thatcher's grave" since he has had no money—unemployment or social security—since leaving his Job Creation Course five weeks ago).

Labour Party Young Socialists have collected for us: Newham YS sent all of £22.40, Cardiff South East £8 at a social, Littlehampton £10 "which demonstrates our opposition to the witch-hunt against *Militant* and the threat to the LPYS in general". Members of

Kirkdale CLP donated £6 and £7.10 was raised on a 'Defend *Militant*' petition circulated at a YOPs rally in Clydeside.

The first ever *Militant* Readers' Meeting in South Shields raised £57.59 and a Marxist Discussion Group in Selly Oak £7.50. The donations from trade unionists are listed elsewhere and individual contributors cannot possibly all be mentioned by name—not because they are "secret conspirators", but because there are so many of them!

Just a few of those giving £1s are: Sunderland readers G Robson (unemployed) and Edith (a housewife), E Rhodes of Leicester, R Metcalfe (Norfolk), T Dury (Lothian), Cllr R Steventon (W Bromwich), K Albison (Oldham Labour Party), H Ross (GMWU Hackney), S Turner (SOGAT Sheffield), T Carden of Glasgow UCATT and G Brumwell, Secretary of UCATT's Yorkshire Region, J McGuinness (Hover, Cambslang), M Dwyer (UC Hospital NUPE), and T&GWU shop steward A Whitehouse. M Griffith of Notts E CLP must have paid £1 for his *Militant* making a donation of 80p.

We express thanks to everyone who has helped this week but especially to those who responded to our appeals for tenners and fivers. They include: R Barnes (a Labour Party member in Liverpool) who gave £10, D Smith (a housewife in Nottingham) and P Pemberton from Cambridge. C Sandler of Oxford sent two tenners and B Bilmore gave three

# Double our cash to fight witch-hunt

## THIS WEEK: £3955

fivers. A "small businessman" in Barnsley gave £5 as did J Peach of Cambridge whilst Elaine and Paschal from Portsmouth also gave a fiver as a "wedding present".

**We now need £1,000 a day to reach our 11 July target!** Just 100 tenners or 200 fivers would do it! New appeal sheets are out now to help every supporter "give a fiver and get a fiver" at least! We have so much to do, to stop the witch-hunters in their tracks and only three months to do it!

We need far more than originally envisaged when our second quarter target was set. If you live in East London, whose black line has gone off the end of the Fighting Fund chart, accept our congratulations, but don't stop! Imagine you never had the half share in the £1,000 donation and do it the hard way!

It's got to be two weeks of frantic activity everywhere—appealing for support from every quarter, selling raffle tickets and having bumper collections at the big 'Defend *Militant*' meetings. Other activities to raise funds can still be planned to take place between now and 11 July, too!

Last week we had money raised from: a jumble sale and bazaar in Southampton (£59), local draw in Notts (£33 so far), "sponsored marathon" by West Ham reader (£33 also), a sponsored run in Macclesfield and a swim in Stirling (each £13), "cycling instead of taking the bus" in Cambridge raised £5 and selling stickers at the Wales Miners' Gala £18.60.

Intended as enjoyable occasions as well as making a profit for *Militant* were the barbecue in Manchester which raised £14, Teesside curry evening £17, Sheffield social £15, Italian meal in Brixton £20, discos organised by Merton and Strathclyde supporters £24 and £22 respectively and Miners' Gala 'do'—£43.

*Militant* fights for every worker—nurses, hospital workers, railwaymen, bus-workers—their fight is our fight. But also our fight against the witch-hunt is your fight. Give a donation now before 11 July. We need double again this week and next!

By Clare Doyle

## 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.

### MILITANT MEETINGS AND SOCIALS

**CHESTERFIELD** Militant Readers' Meeting. 'Tebbit and the unions—the fight for union rights'. Speaker: Dave Nellist (Labour PPC, Coventry South East). Thursday 1 July, 7.30 pm. Rooms 3/4, Market Hall, Chesterfield.

**BATTERSEA:** 'Support the Health Workers'. Speakers: Arthur Hautot (sen. COHSE steward, St James) and Maggie Pountain (NUPE steward, Charing Cross). Thursday 1 July, 8.00 pm, Battersea LP rooms, 177 Lavender Hill.

**JARROW** Marxist Discussion Group at 182 Charles Street, Boldon Colliery, Tyne and Wear at 7.30 pm. Sunday 27 June Sunday 4 July. For further information contact Kath Eglington, 182 Charles Street, Boldon Colliery.

**CHESTER-LE-STREET** Marxist Discussion Group. 11 July: 'Is Russia Socialist?' At Chester-Le-Street Labour Club. For further details phone Washington 478424.

**PRESTON** Militant Readers' Meeting: 'How to fight the cuts'. Speaker: Julie Taylor (Liverpool Councillor). Labour Rooms, 98 Deepdale Road, Preston. 7.30 pm, Friday 9 July.

**CARLISLE** Marxist Discussion Group Thursday July 8th, 7.30pm, NUPE office, 62 Lowther Street, Carlisle. "Marxism and the British Labour Movement", speaker Ray Physick. For further details phone Carlisle 21068.

**Food! Drink! Music!** Lewisham 'Militant' social. All for only £1.50 on 3 July, 8.00 pm, at 27 Irford Close, St Norbert Road, SE4. Buses 184, P3, 122, 141, 171.

**COVENTRY:** 'Marxism—Labour and the Trade Unions' on Wednesday 30 June, 7.30 pm at the Queen, Primrose Hill Street, Hillfields, Coventry. Speakers: Glyn Robinson (full-time officer, Yorkshire and Humberside COHSE, personal capacity); Tom Smith (AUEW deputy convenor, SCG, BL, personal capacity). Chairman: Dave Nellist (Labour PPC, Coventry South East)

**ASHINGTON** Militant Meetings. Sunday 11 July: 'The future of the Labour Party'. Sunday 25 July: 'The Falklands crisis—what next?' Venue: The Ladies Room, Ashington Leisure Centre. 10.30 am. All welcome.

**GATESHEAD**, Felling and surrounding area. Marxist Discussion Group held every Sunday evening, 7.00 pm. Transport available. Anyone interested please contact: Tom McGuinness, 18 Lumley Gardens, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, or tel 783262.

### Classified

Festival of Socialist Youth at Guild hall, Newcastle on Friday 9th July, 7.30pm till midnight. Speaker: Dennis Skinner MP and 'Trial of That-

cher', performed by East Kilbride LPYS. Followed by disco and late bar. All welcome.

## 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'.

## WHAT WE STAND FOR

The attacks against 'Militant' rarely mention our policies. Find out what the media and right wing are so scared of. Only 30p (post free) from Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.



## FIGHTING FUND DONATIONS

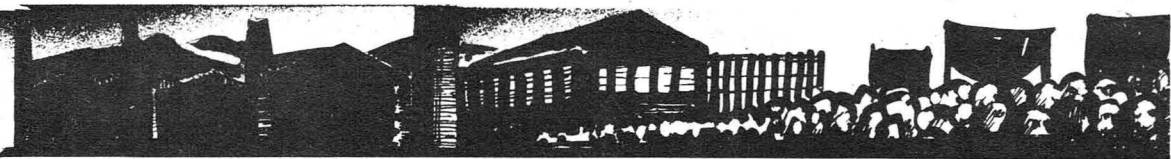
Cut out and send to 'Militant', 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

Enclosed is my donation of £. . . . . to back 'Militant's' campaign against the witch-hunt

Name . . . . .

Address . . . . .

# Industrial Reports



## DERAILED BUT NOT DEFEATED

### West Midlands

**After spending every night for a week trying to convince the members to back the strike, along with other active West Midlands members, I feel let down by the Conference decision.**

When the strike call was first made, many NUR members were uncertain about striking. Fear of closures and redundancies weighed heavily. After all, 150,000 jobs have gone in the last 15 years.

But as midnight on Sunday approached, especially after Peter Parker's threatening letter to each NUR member, railwaymen understood that it was the credibility of the union at stake.

An LDC representative (shop steward) from

Tyseley carriage and sidings, where the strike was 100% solid, even on the second day when everyone knew it was ending, explained that management would think twice now before picking on Tyseley again.

None of the reports in the Tory press about the numbers coming into work can be believed. It only takes one driver, one guard and one signaller to run a train and the drivers weren't on strike anyway, but no inter-city trains went anywhere. Running trains to nowhere carrying no-one is still good propaganda for BRB though.

In the Birmingham area only three local services ran. Saltley depot and power box, Duddleston carriage sidings, Wolverhampton and New Canal Street workshops and Tyseley workshops, carriage sidings and S&T staff were all out solidly.

At New Street, no more than 20 out of 160 guards broke the picket line though unfortunately the power

box was not closed. But catering staff, mainly women workers at New Street, were all out except for part-timers and supervisors, and they are the lowest paid rail staff.

The basic rate for a catering assistant is £60.15 (with the MEL extra £63.85) and they aren't even allowed any overtime. The reason Travellers Fare has made a profit every year since nationalisation isn't due to dynamic management, but cheap labour.

Now we have to go back and work on the membership, get them prepared to take action if necessary, if the Tribunal offers no improvement.

But this has only confirmed the need to step up the campaign, to make the NUR into a real fighting organisation on behalf of railmen.

**By Mick Atherton**  
(Vice-President, West Midlands District Council NUR, personal capacity)

### North East England

**Railwaymen throughout the North East will be extremely disappointed at the news from Plymouth of the suspension of the rail strike.**

The strike began at midnight amid enormous press speculation that there would be massive union revolt throughout the North East. In fact, in many North East depots, in particular at Shildon, there was a 100% turn out with the Confed unions fully supporting the NUR strike.

They clearly understood that it was the NUR's threat of action that forced British Rail to withdraw closure notices on Shildon earlier this month. At Newcastle depots there were a few workers who defied our pickets, but in the whole Newcastle area these numbered less than 20.

In one area of Yorkshire, covered by the North East division, about 56 men turned in, but at lunchtime a representative phoned strike headquarters, asking that if they came out on strike, would we live and let live, and not proceed against them with any action.

There were calls all day for action against strikebreakers, for removal of cards and a refusal to work with those in-

dividuals. Certainly LDC's in the Newcastle area have said that when they go back they are going to negotiate the isolation of blacklegs.

But the whole area was very solid behind the union, and in areas where people were working there was growing confidence among active workers that they could be got out within 24 hours.

Enthusiasm for the strike was growing, as was the determination to win, just at the very time the suspension of the strike was announced.

**By an NUR member**

### Eastleigh/Southampton

A week before the strike the local press did their best to undermine it. Scores of "round robins" against the strike made headlines especially in the British Rail engineering works in Eastleigh.

Management in BREL gave pass-outs to people wanting to go to a scabs' meeting. Plans were drawn up and publicised in the local press for scabs to form up in the car parks near the works and then to march into work en bloc.

But the local leadership of the Eastleigh Joint Branches Strike Committee organised back. Pickets were organised, so on Monday each entrance to the works was well picketed. In spite of all the publicity and pressure, less than 150 workers went into the works, out of a membership in Eastleigh 2 and 3 branches of the NUR of 1,200.

On the traffic side in Eastleigh the strike was

99.9% solid, the stations, depots and yards being well picketed. The verdict from one leading NUR member "the strike has been very well supported, way beyond expectations."

"According to the press, the men who defended the Falklands are heroes, but if you defend your job, you are a Trotskyist! That's all wrong, especially since we have gone on the picket lines this morning, with over a dozen men who have seen active service in the army or navy." In the Southampton area also, the strike was fairly solid, with no trains running and 100% support at the Redbridge Permanent Way depot, though some workers went in at Southampton Station.

### St Pancras/Euston

Such was the feeling of determination at St Pancras and Euston on Monday that a telegram was sent to the NUR Conference to confirm that the strike there

was solid.

Rail Workers considered the BRB offer "derisory". But the strike was also about job security and neglect by the bosses shown by the fact that viaducts on the Paddington to South Wales line are falling down, which has been pointed out to management but nothing ever happens.

Contempt was expressed towards Sir Peter Parker for his "Michael Edwardes tactics" of individually writing to the membership to try to head off the strike. "I just chucked it in the bin," said one worker. The membership was determined not to see the union weaken and any attempt to break the closed shop was considered to be a direct attack on the union.

The NUR also sent out letters to its members, but one of the pickets felt that the NUR was too slow in preparing its members. "The NUR didn't send any letters out to its members about the strike until Friday night, because up till then the leadership didn't want the strike."

### Bristol

"Rail strike falters," boasted the 'Bristol Evening Post' with a sub-head, "many cross picket lines."

They went on to claim that dozens of railwaymen in the city had defied pickets, which was a lie, and that 150 maintenance men had worked (they are AUEW members who were

not called out on strike).

In fact there was 95% support in Bristol on both Monday, when pickets were on, and even on Tuesday when, dismayed at the NUR Conference decision, workers did not put pickets on.

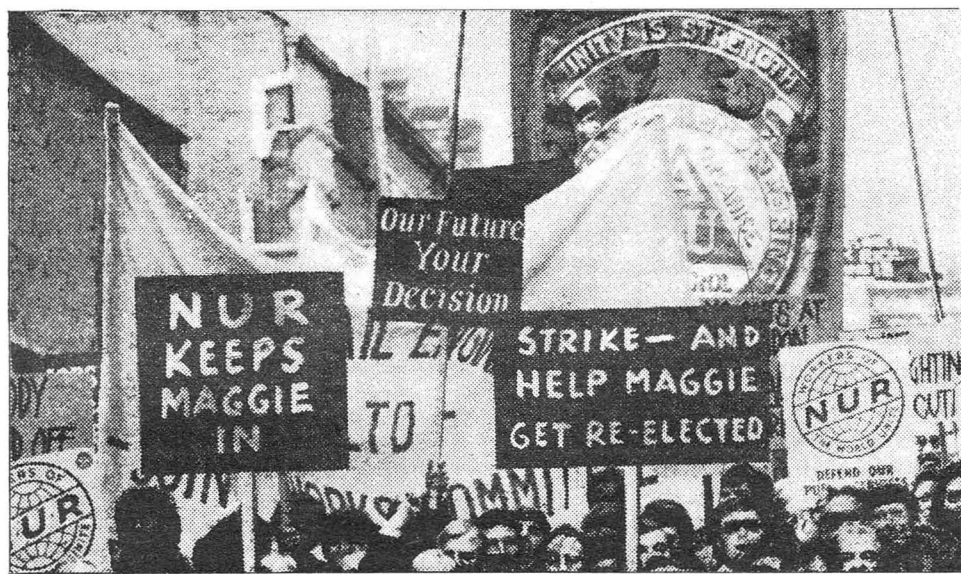
The suspension of the strike without gaining any concessions has greatly disappointed NUR members. They were reluctant about the strike at first

and annoyed with union leaders at the lack of information on the pay claim and strike decision.

They were annoyed by the seemingly amateurish organisation of the first all-out battle in living memory. Nonetheless the suspension is seen as a set-back by those who participated in the strike.

**By Richard Sheppard**  
(NUR)

### Spot the difference!



Above: The Daily Mail version. Below: What the demonstrators were really saying.



Photo: Militant.

The press, as usual, did their worst to stir up public antagonism to the rail workers' case before the strike was due to start. Accusations of "dictatorship" by the NUR abounded, though strangely no paper accused the NUR conference of "dictatorship" for calling off a strike which was getting overwhelming support in most areas.

They also tried to split

and demoralise rail workers. The 'Daily Mail' (28 June) carried a picture of rail workers demonstrating in Swindon against the threats to the town's British Rail Engineering works.

Two banners in the photo they used (above) read "NUR keeps Maggie in" and "Strike and get Maggie re-elected." Very strange. No one who was on the demonstration can

remember any such banners. Possibly the 'Daily Mail' reporters or photographers have very good eyesight, but just possibly there has been a far from subtle distortion of the truth, the re-photographing of history.

If you want the truth about workers' struggles, don't go to the Tory press, read 'Militant', the workers' paper.

## London Transport tubes

Since last December, the transport system of London has faced breakdown. When Lord Denning and his Tory cronies ruled London Transport's cheap fares illegal, LT doubled fares and reduced the number using buses and tubes in the capital.

Now to cut costs further, they have been planning to cut London's services and ultimately our jobs. And the rail unions have been fighting back. On 11 June, management informed us that they intended to introduce new duty sheets on underground services which

meant cuts.

Straight away union circulars were sent to all depots instructing drivers and guards not to operate the new sheets. Over the weekend news started to filter through that workers who were to change the programme rolls for the operation of signals had been sent home for refusing to change the programme. Piccadilly line workers started to book off duty in protest.

The next Monday (21 June) more crews turning up for duty refused to book on the new services, and most of those who did

booked off when the situation was explained by union members.

That evening ASLEF called out its members on indefinite strike with NUR members joining us. Together with the national rail strike, London was nearly paralysed on 28 June. Although NUR conference called off the LT strike too, we are still determined to save our jobs and our public transport.

**By Stan Godwin**  
(ASLEF SC 3)



# Industrial Reports

## • HEALTH WORKERS •

### United, we can win

#### N. Ireland

The 23 June day of action was a great success in Northern Ireland, with two large rallies organised by local trades councils involving thousands of industrial workers.

In Belfast, the shipyards shut from 12 to 2 and workers supported the march. Engineering workers at Sirocco and other big

plants, dockers, water, gas and civil service workers, firemen, showed their backing in action.

Shop stewards at Royal Victoria Hospital in West Belfast left their picket lines and crossed into East Belfast to leaflet the predominantly Protestant shipyard workers, showing their determination to extend the unity shown in this dispute to the whole of the working class.

Workers though fear that the TUC call for a 3-day

strike in three weeks' time could be too little, too late. They fear that if the leaderships of some of the unions keep dragging their heels, the mood of optimism could possibly be lost.

This must not happen. A clear lead must be given to get the maximum unity of the working class behind health workers and others in struggle. United we can win.

By Micky Duffy  
(NW Belfast JSSC)

#### Coventry

Kitchen staff at Walsgrave Hospital in Coventry showed us their pay slips when LPYS members visited the picket line on Wednesday 23 June.

Weekend working is compulsory, but even including Saturday and Sunday, one pay slip showed only £48.81. For a week including a bank holiday, we saw a slip showing £61.59. Members of the NUM giving their support reckoned some miners could earn that much in one shift.

One of the kitchen staff told us, "The people attacking us for taking action should see our wage slips and come and work on the

washing at 120 degrees."

At Whitley Hospital contingents of secondary pickets converged from Massey Ferguson, Keresley Colliery, Gas Board workers (GMWU), city council manual workers (NUPE) and West Midland Transport (mechanics, kitchen staff, cleaners and clerical workers).

A shop steward from Massey Ferguson explained how at a mass meeting of three thousand, only three had voted against a £1 per head levy for the NHS workers. So the odds on the Tories defeating health workers are about 1,000 to one!

Workers from each delegation read out messages of support or brought greetings from

their members. On behalf of Coventry South East Labour Party, Dave Nellist, the prospective parliamentary candidate, said those in the Labour Party who wanted to expel Militant should be on the picket lines instead of attacking Militant.

"Princess Di can pay £126 per day for her hospital bed, but how many health workers earn that much?" Dave received the loudest applause when he called for the TUC to draw the whole strength of the trade union movement into this battle by organising a one-day general strike.

By Pete McNally  
(Coventry North East CLP)

#### Canterbury

The strongest support on 23 June at St Augustines Hospital, near Canterbury, came from Tilmanstone Colliery. Many miners along with other workers joined NUPE, COHSE and NALGO nurses and ancillary staff in a picket.

Many nurses carried on as normal, feeling they had a moral obligation not to strike, not because they oppose strikes but because of the nature of their work. In many cases 'normal' staffing levels are so low anyway

that the already exploited nurses had no other choice but to cover the shift.

This makes it even more essential for workers in all industries to support the health service workers. There is no doubt about the enormous psychological boost given by the support of other workers.

We have a duty to support staff in the NHS, the biggest gain won from the capitalist class in the post war era.

This pathetic and divisive

pay offer shows the government's vicious attitude towards workers it thinks it can walk over. The working class must prove them wrong by supporting their action for a 12% pay rise. A victory for the health workers is a victory for the whole of the working class.

By Ian Morris  
(Canterbury LP, personal capacity)

#### Hull

The biggest march through Hull for years! 4,000 hospital workers and other trade unionists gave their answer to Still's latest pay offer—still derisory and still divisive.

Earlier in the day flying pickets of nurses had brought 2,000 workers at Drax power station out in sympathy. On this fourth one day strike more health services workers took action in Humberside than before.

Dockers in Grimsby and Immingham came out for the day. Strike action in several Hull factories swell-

ed the numbers on the march which ended in an enthusiastic and rousing rally.

There is now a real mood of confidence and optimism that this dispute can be won. Action in the NHS must now be stepped up, and the latent sympathy of the rest of the movement turned into practical solidarity action.

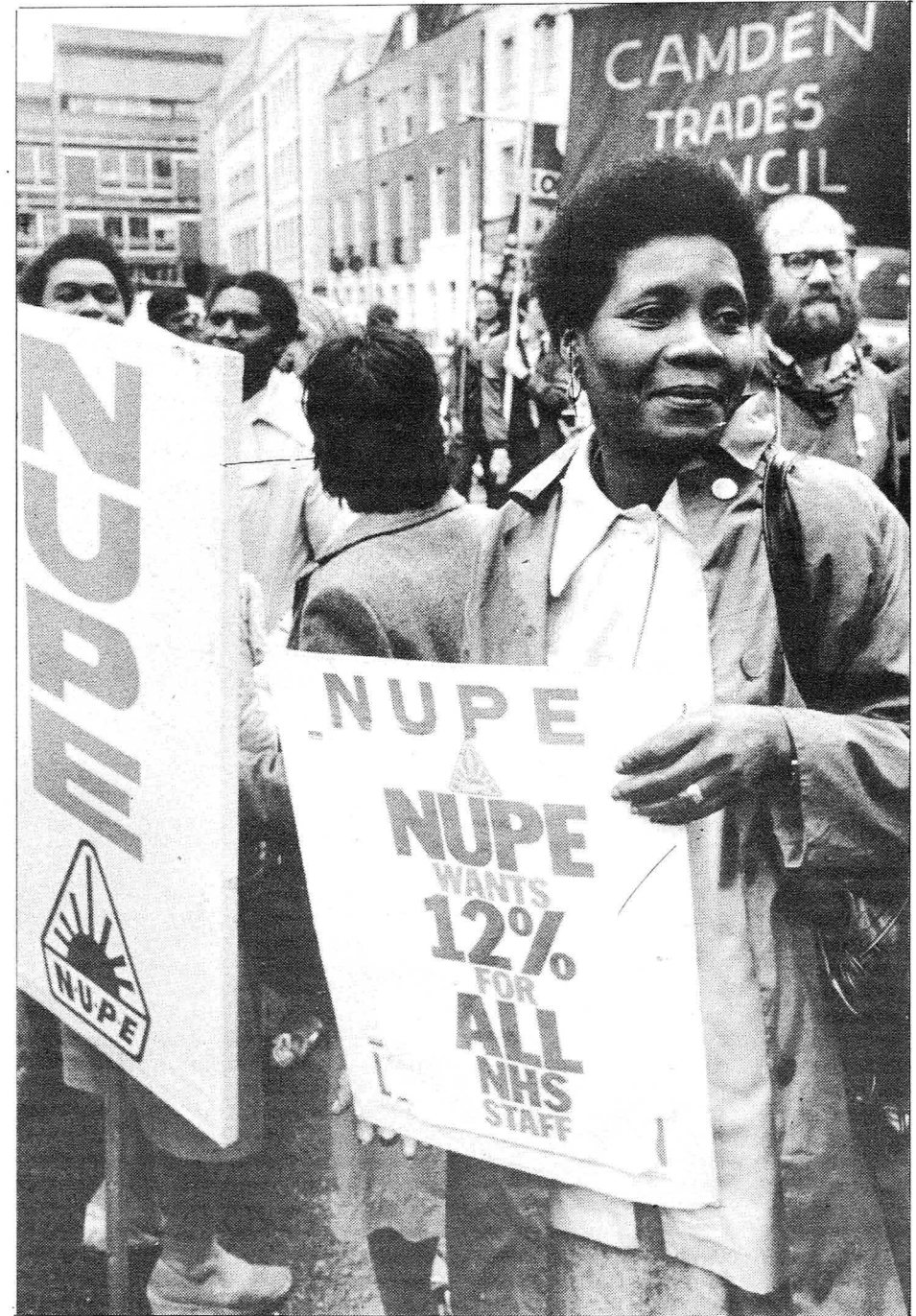
In this way not only can the health workers win their 12% pay claim, the Tebbit Bill can be turned into a dead-letter and the Tories brought to heel.

## CASH FOR A WORKERS' PAPER

'Militant' is under attack from the Tory press, the same people who insult workers forced to struggle for their jobs and wages.

Trade unionists have expressed their thanks for our support in cash in the week ending 26 June. Many thanks for the following donations.

★ The excellent sum of £566 raised at the Annual Conference of NALGO.  
★ £50 Shop Steward's com-



Pickets outside a West End hospital on 23 June. The one-day strikes have been very successful, but the TUC must now pull the entire working class behind the dispute.

Photo: D Doran

## THE STEEL BOSSES THREAT

Workers at British Steel Corporation's Tinsley Park works were keen to join the 23 June strike in support of the health workers, just two weeks after being laid off for one week because of no work.

We heard rumours that NHS union pickets were to be on our gates on the morning and the feeling was we should not cross the lines "We can't let the health workers get isolated like we

were in our 13-week strike" said one brother while another said "we owe management nothing, we owe the health workers everything."

It didn't take long for management to hear the rumours either, and the plant manager called for the chairman of the shop stewards' committee. Management were told that the plant's multi-union committee would ask their

members not to cross.

Management then told the union that if production stopped on the 23rd, workers should not bother to come back until the next Monday as we would be breaking an earlier agreement.

As our members had recently lost one week the shop stewards committee reluctantly decided that we could not ask them to come out now and miss three full shifts. Instead we would hold a massive collection at the plant.

But all the shop stewards are very angry at management going back to the 1930's idea that if you strike, you get locked out. We all realise this threat could be used in our own dispute or if the triple alliance is implemented.

We must make all our members aware of this threat and fully prepared to defend our union rights in a united fight.

By Chris Weldon  
(ISTC Tinsley Park No. 2 branch, and Rother Valley LPYS)

(NATTKE) £3, D Smith (TGWU) £3, R Wilson (AUEW) £2 and—particularly welcome at the present time—an NUR Divisional Officer donated £2.

Militant is calling on every union branch, shop stewards' committee, area, district and National Committee—to back us in the campaign against the witch-hunt.

Show YOUR support by moving a donation be given or by taking a collection at your workplace and at any meeting you attend. Use the new appeal sheet and send it in with the cash.

Take copies of the Militant to sell and help us to build a paper that fights for every worker.

mission donated straight to Militant by a NUPE member in Hull.

★ "GEC Sponsors, Manchester" gave £20, AUEW steward £5. Liverpool NGA Militant supporters £8.60, COHSE Conference delegate £51.50.

★ Collected by South Wales Miners' £16.60, Doncaster Broadsworth NUM members £8, C East (POEU) £13, N Folley (NALGO) £6.50, P Gaffnie

## NUR Strike called off but...

# NEW RAIL BATTLE LOOMS

The decision to call off the national rail strike was a shattering blow to the rank and file activists of the National Union of Railmen.

However, the new action called by ASLEF could mean the NUR being drawn back into the struggle, with the rank and file filled with a new confidence to take on the BR bosses.

The first national strike by the NUR since the General Strike was called off just as their tremendous power was beginning to be revealed.

Despite the lies of the media, in all the major areas of the country, the strike was solid.

This strike did not come out of the blue. It arose out of the general onslaught against railway workers conducted by the Tories and the British Rail Board (BRB) over the last 2 or 3 years.

The immediate issue was an offer to the predominantly low-paid railway workers of a '5%' increase (in reality a 3.1% rise as it was payable in September and not April) tied to

By Richard Sheppard

(NUR, Bristol No.4 personal capacity)

vicious productivity strings. Parker is trying to do at British Rail what Edwardes has done at Leyland; reduce living standards, shed workers by the thousand, tear up long standing agreements and work practices.

Sooner or later a stand by railway workers was inevitable, if Parker, the BRB and the Tories were all to be thwarted.

Certainly in some areas NUR members were apprehensive and uncertain at the timing of the battle and some railway workers were, it is true, opposed to the strike call, given its timing.

Nevertheless, maximum unity would have developed rapidly once a strike began to gather momentum and the issues were explained fully to every railway

worker. But rather than preparing the membership for militant action, the NUR leadership have spent much of the past year or so arguing instead in favour of damaging productivity deals, and urging concessions to management.

A strike looked probable last August when at the 11th hour an agreement was reached with the BRB. The struggle over Flexi-rostering arose out of that deal. NUR and ASLEF members should have stood shoulder to shoulder at the time.

The NUR leadership however refused to accept the deal in the mistaken belief that this would lead to favoured treatment on pay for NUR members and the workforce gaining financially from the productivity they sold. ASLEF members rejected Flexi-rostering and took strike action to defeat it. The NUR Grades Conference for both guards and locomen also rejected it.

In order to overcome fully this legacy of the past a massive campaign among the membership was vital.

Yet the only campaigning which most members saw was that conducted by the management.

Two letters against the strike and threatening reprisals were sent to the homes of every NUR member. Propaganda that went largely unanswered.

A feeling also existed among railwaymen that the NUR General Secretary Sid Weighell was less than enthusiastic about the strike. The initiative for the strike had been taken by the NUR executive and, while attacking BRB, Mr Weighell was

thought to be distancing himself from the actions of the EC. The Tory Minister Howell even referred in Parliament to alleged remarks of Weighell that the EC was a "squawking left-wing rabble."

Finally, at the Conference, with no positive recommendation to put to the delegates, it was decided to 'suspend' the strike. What this meant was a ceasefire had been called in the middle of a battle with no gains being made. NUR activists will see this as a setback and will view the decision with dismay.

The Tories were crowing about their victory but these rash claims have now blown back in their faces within a matter of days. The delegates decided to 'suspend' the strike pending further negotiations through the Rail Staff National Tribunal.

But their decision has now been superseded by the decision of ASLEF to come out over their wage claim and the BRB's demands for job cuts. Their action could be supported by the majority of NUR members.

Railway workers know they have reached a decisive moment for their industry. Now the chance is here for NUR and ASLEF to go forward in a united struggle to safeguard jobs, pay and conditions and force the Tory axe men to back off.



Photo: Denis Doran

## Strike Wave

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

unions, but called it in three weeks time! Many workers fear that this is, as one picket put it, "too little, too late" (see page 15). The momentum and enthusiasm that has built up could be dampened by a three week gap.

The health workers have shown their preparedness to fight, especially in areas such as Northern Ireland and the North East. The health unions and the TUC must now escalate the action, keeping up this momentum, with an immediate call for accident and emergency cover only.

But the TUC could go further. There has been widespread support for the health workers, and their stand has been popular with the public in general.

The solidarity action has already shaken the government into increasing their derisory 4% offer. Alongside an emergency only action in the hospitals, the TUC should call a 24 hour general strike, holding meetings up and down the country, not only explaining the health workers' case, but also campaigning against the Tebbit Bill and

other anti-working class government action.

Even the unions involved in the National Health Service have enormous power, and the Financial Times correspondent, referring to the July 5th meeting of the NHS unions commented that it "will embrace almost every major union in the country, and a strike call from that meeting would amount to mobilising for a general strike."

But a 24 hour general strike would be fundamentally different from the one day NHS strikes already held. It would grip this reactionary Tory government by the jugular, not only helping to get a victory for the health workers, but marking the beginning of the end of Thatcher and Co.

It is now up to the TUC to give a firm lead and to channel the anger of workers into a determined and united fight.

- ★ Full support for the NHS claim!
- ★ No more job losses in the railways or public transport!
- ★ No more pit closures!
- ★ For a 24-hour general strike!

## Beat witch-hunt -Back Militant

*Militant* supporters have responded to the news of a witch-hunt by doubling their donations to the fighting fund! In the last week, donations have flooded in—see pages 13 and 15. A collection after Pat Wall's speech at the Marxist Weekend School raised £275 and *Militant* supporters on the CPSA National Executive raised £135.

But the deadline for the £35,000 fighting fund target and the summer draw is the 10th July: to beat the witch-hunt and build the *Militant* we now need £1,000 a day! Send your tenners and fivers in today! Use the new 'Defend the Militant' appeal sheets. Your fight against the Tories and the bosses is our fight!

## Back the paper that backs you

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