

Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

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20p

HOW TORY ANTI-UNION
LAWS WERE BEATEN
p8-9



STRIKE BACK AT TORY ATTACKS

Health workers march in Manchester, 10 July, at demo called by NW Region TUC and Labour Party



Photo: John Smith (IFL)

ASLEF...

'They won't smash our union'

The TUC must give its full support to ASLEF in its battle with the Rail Board and government.

This is a vital struggle for all trade unionists. ASLEF has been singled out for attack now, but other unions will find their heads on the chopping blocks later if the BRB and the Tories are allowed to win this dispute.

At the time of going to press, the dispute has been

referred to the arbitration body, ACAS, but it is unclear what new proposals they have to offer. Until it is clear that the BRB are prepared to withdraw the new flexible rosters and guarantee that the eight-hour working day remains, the strike must continue.

Already the last week has been a considerable success for the rail drivers. In the face of a barrage of media propaganda about the number of railway workers

(continued on p16)

HEALTH WORKERS..

'Dedication won't pay the bills'

By Myrna Shaw
(NUPE)

'Mrs Thatcher probably spends more in a week on her hair than we earn.'

This comment from a domestic worker from a London hospital whose wage slip for a 40 hour week showed £40.06 take home pay summed up what our action is all about; a fight to end the scandal of low pay.

The Tories care neither for the patients who use the NHS nor its workforce

whose low wages, long hours and dedication subsidised the Service for so long.

But the dedication doesn't pay the bills! Nurses, as well as ancillary staff, have said enough is enough.

The hypocritical outpourings of Fowler, the Tory Health Minister for us to be reasonable falls on deaf ears when the Tories double standards are revealed.

Judges, generals and top civil servants received an in-

crease of over 18%. The chief administrators at St. Georges Hospital, South London, got an extra £4,734 a year to take him over £17,000 without a murmur of complaint!

MP's 'only' got 3%—but 4% of their salary gave them an extra £500 a year. Give us an MP's wage and we will settle for 4%!

It is this anti-working class Tory government that is being unreasonable, but for them and the people they represent a public health service is not necessary.

They can get expensive private treatment when they want, and help their rich

(continued on page 16)

FIGHTING FUND REACHES TARGET

'Militant' supporters up and down the country have shown we will not be beaten! Just three weeks ago, we were half way to our 2nd quarter's Fighting Fund target of £35,000.

Last week, all the stops were pulled out and over £11,000 poured in. Now we are over our target for the first time for a long time!

This is the answer to those who want to root the 'Militant' out of the Labour Movement: the more they attack, the more workers rally to support us! See some of the excellent donations on page 13. Examples from the last minute rush and the final chart will be in next week's 'Militant.'

Meanwhile, very many fraternal thanks to all those who contributed.

Reject
A L I E N
Rosters



In the night... Alone on the footplate
no one will hear you scream

Militant

MORTIMER'S LETTER - Register your circle of friends

On his first day in office as National Agent of the Labour Party, it was reported that Ron Hayward burnt the many secret files and dossiers on the Left, that had accumulated over the years. On Jim Mortimer's first day in office, July 1st, he has reopened them.

His letter to CLPs and affiliated organisations, seeking their cooperation in registering all non-affiliated groups in the party, has an Orwellian ring to it. The register, it states, will apply "to any organised group of Labour Party members who operate as friends or pressure groups for other causes."

The clear and disgraceful implication is that local Labour Party officers should act as 'thought police' to check on whether groups of 'friends' are operating as a pressure group, and if so, to seek their registration or expulsion. This goes against the grain as far as the democratic traditions of

Labour are concerned, and the rank and file will be appalled by it.

Witch-hunts are implicit in the whole tone of the letter: "no group need fear expulsion from the register," it says, "without discussion..." In other words, the Right-wing controlled party apparatus will discuss...and then expel!

The Hayward-Hughes recommendations make it quite clear that *Militant* is not eligible for registration, but the register will be used to police the whole of the Left, not just *Militant* supporters.

There is, naturally, a huge loophole for the right wing organisations in the party, in the statement that

those organisations that include both members of the Labour Party and non-members of the Labour Party, shall not be required to register. Thus, under the smokescreen of protecting CND and the NCCL, right wing groups will be allowed to do their campaigning unhindered.

The Bilderberg Group, to which Denis Healey belongs, includes Tories and international representatives of capitalism. The *Labour and Trade Union Press Service*, associated with Labour and Trade Union right-wingers is also supported by SDP traitors and is funded by NATO. The *British Atlantic Committee* to which Denis

Healey belongs, is also supported by Ted Heath and Lord Carrington, and is financed by the Foreign Office. Yet these reactionary organisations will be exempt from registration!

In other words, where groups of party members or groups of friends lobby for this or that cause, they face registration or expulsion, but where the right wing campaign against Labour Party policy—alongside the bitterest enemies of the Labour Party—they are exempt from the Inquisition. The rank and file will be justifiably horrified at the spectre of this totalitarianism faced by the Labour Party.

The right wing are deter-

mined to tame the rank and file of the party: that is the rationale behind the Militant Enquiry and the attacks on the Left. The moves to the left in policy and democratisation must all be reversed, the Right argue, to make the Labour Party a safe place for SDP politics.

Some of the right have openly called for the SDP to "return to the fold"; others are campaigning for a Labour/SDP coalition after the next election. The attack on democratic rights in the party is a pre-emptive strike to stop the howls of protest from the rank and file. The Right wing are prepared to destroy the Labour Party rather than

see it become a genuine democratic socialist party.

The letter from Jim Mortimer, asking local Labour Parties for information about groups should be rejected by local Labour Parties. There must be no return to proscribed lists or prescribed lists. The CLPs and affiliated organisations must ensure that Labour Party conference specifically rejects the new register of groups.

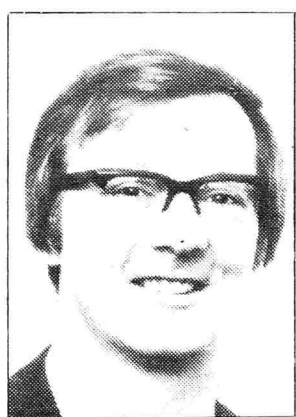
But whatever manoeuvres and organisational methods the Right choose to employ, there are some grounds for confidence in the future. Michael Foot wrote, in his book on Bevan, "The fact was that, leadership or no leadership, group or no group, Party or no Party, Standing Orders or no Standing Orders, Aneurin Bevan could not be chained. It was not perversity or ambition, it was his nature."

Like in the 1950s, the Right will learn that, Register or no Register, ideas cannot be gagged or hounded out of the Labour Party.

Where groups of party members or groups of friends lobby for this or that cause, they face registration or expulsion, but where the right wing campaign against Labour Party policy—alongside the bitterest enemies of the Labour Party—they are exempt from the Inquisition.

MORE ORGANISATIONS OPPOSE WITCH-HUNT

We have been notified that the following organisations have passed resolutions against witch-hunts within the Labour Party, or against the register: CLP's Newcastle West, Haltemprice, Batley & Morley, Sheffield Altercliffe, Sheffield Hillsborough, Sheffield Brightside, Keighley, Withington, Moss Side, Wythenshaw, Loughborough, Nuneaton & Bedworth, Warwick & Leamington, Selly Oak, Erdington, Luton West, Cambridge, Hornsey, Wood Green, Enfield North, Ilford South, Tooting, Vauxhall, Chipping Barnet, Brentford & Isleworth, Mid Oxon, Chertsey & Walton, Worthing, Honiton, Edinburgh Central, Tottenham, NE Derbyshire. TRADE UNIONS AUEW—Sheffield District Committee,



Ken Woolmer, the Secretary of Labour Solidarity. His own CLP of Batley and Morley has come out against witch-hunts.

Eccleshall No 1, Coventry No 25. AUEW/TASS—Salford DC (also sent

resolution to 6 GMC's) NUPE—Bexley General, (Also the 'Luton AUEW' listed previously should be 'Luton No 1 AUEW'), NUM—Hadfield Main Armthorpe, UCATT—Shotton, Doncaster. ASTMS—Flintshire, POEU—West Yorks Political Committee, FBU—Cheshire Brigade Committee, COHSE—Yorkshire Regional Executive, Rosslynlee Hospital Branch, ASLEF—National Conference, Stratford, Glasgow. NUR—Newcastle 1, Glasgow 5, Paddington 1, Euston 1, SOGAT—London Central. West Scotland Political Committee. CPSA—24 members of NEC signed a petition to LP NEC 17 members of DHSS SE London Branch Committee.

Best ever Readers' Meetings

Right wing attacks build support for *Militant*! That can be the only possible conclusion from the attendances and collections at *Militant* Readers Meetings up and down the country.

In Birkenhead (the Labour MP Frank Field is in favour of expelling *Militant* supporters) 180 turned up to hear Peter Taaffe, while 130 attended a meeting the night before in Huyton (Harold Wilson's CLP).

From Scotland to Devon the support rolls in! East Aberdeen CLP invited a *Militant* speaker, and 10 copies of the paper were

have attacked Pat Wall over 100 turned up to each meeting. Many other meetings large and small have taken place, but amongst them, the 25 people who donated £84 to the fighting fund in Cambridge have set an example to the rest of the country as to how to build support for the *Militant* and defeat the witch-hunt. Every reader should follow the example of John Stafford from Lincoln who wrote in:

"Dear Comrade, Enclosed is a cheque for £2. Please send me two copies of each of the next five issues of *Militant* weekly paper.

I would like to know that as a member of the Labour Party and GMWU shop steward, I support your fight to retain Labour Party membership regardless of the leaderships recommendations. Keep up the good work. J Stafford."

We appeal to all our readers: Don't just read the paper—help other people to read it by selling it to them! Take out a subscription for a few copies now, or increase your regular order!

By Militant Reporters

bought after the meeting, with two people promising to take out a regular order, and now Richmond ward in Aberdeen is inviting a speaker. While in Devon, Honiton CLP sent a sharp resolution to the Labour Party NEC.

In Birmingham and Bradford (where the right wing

Bakers Union protests to NEC

The Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union was one of those that recently came out against the witch-hunt now underway in the party.

A letter sent to Walworth Road, marked "For the attention of the National Executive Committee" makes the union's position crystal clear:

"At our Annual Conference held in Bridlington, our Union discussed fully the possibility of the Party carrying out witch hunts

against individual members of the Party. It was the overwhelming view of our Conference that such a policy would be a disaster for the Party...

"We remember only too well the persecution of comrades like Nye Bevan and others—some at present on the NEC—on the flimsiest of excuses and feel very strongly that the Party must avoid any repetition of that sad episode in our history.

"Naturally we are also concerned that any attempt at a witch-hunt affecting as it inevitably must individual members of the Party—

many of whom have done tremendous work for the Party over the years—could interfere with the present right of trade unions affiliated to the Party in electing their Party delegations. That we would have to resist.

"Similarly we are concerned with the repeated denunciations of the Labour Party Young Socialists. The LPYS has given tremendous support to the Party over the years...Certainly our union will never forget the help given by the LPYS in our national strikes of 1977 and 1978 as well as in the local

disputes we have had since.

"Having just put our Political Levy on a sound basis we are looking at how we can best assist the Party in its endeavours to ensure the return of a Labour Government committed to the policies decided at Annual Conference. Any attempt, however, to strangle the LPYS financially could lead to us diverting part of that money to help the LPYS to function.

"...Our Union rejects expulsions and proscribed lists as the tools of people who have forgotten how to debate and are scared of losing the argument.

"We ask the NEC to think very carefully before embarking on this dangerous road. A return to the proscribed list and witch-hunts would aid the Tories and the SDP and demoralise whole sections

of Party supporters and trade unionists. Our Union urges the NEC not to go along that road.

Yours sincerely
Joe Marino
General Secretary"

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

Durham miners gala

Skinner slams witch-hunt

By Ed Waugh
(Gosforth LPYS)



Dennis Skinner, speaking at the Durham miners gala, turned to Michael Foot (hidden on the right) and asked if he was listening. When he acknowledged, Dennis Skinner told him that it was not the Militant Tendency he should attack, but the 'unemployment tendency'—the Tories. Skinner's remarks were very well received by the crowd at the meeting

Photo: D Doran

NEC SUBCOMMITTEE

PAT WALL ENDORSED

The NEC organisation sub-committee meeting on July 12th finally agreed to endorse Pat Wall for Bradford North and opened the way for the endorsement of Peter Tatchell in Bermondsey.

There was a general discussion at the meeting on the endorsement and suitability of candidates and since Tony Benn's motion to endorse Peter Tatchell received only 4 votes, with 10 against, there was a compromise, agreed unanimously, that there be a fresh selection conference, with Peter Tatchell being allowed to stand.

He will probably be re-

selected with an even bigger majority than before, since the Bermondsey party membership objected strongly to the NEC stonewalling in the first place. Indeed, the whole labour movement had reacted against Foot's personal intervention on the NEC to block Peter Tatchell and there had been a groundswell of resolutions and letters, including many sponsored by *Militant* supporters, supporting his endorsement.

When it came to discussing Pat Wall's selection in Bradford North, the right wing on the committee put up a stiffer resistance. Despite Pat's bigger majority—he was selected originally by a majority of 7 and subsequently re-selected by a majority of

37—the Right were still opposed to his endorsement.

The Right argued that Pat should not be confirmed at all, some of them, including Michael Foot, arguing that the issue should be left until the general issue of *Militant* was resolved. It may be a clue to the thinking of the right wing that frequent references were made to clearing up the issue "after the party conference": perhaps the Right are planning to strengthen their grip on the NEC and then, by controlling the witch-hunting 'Register', set about a serious purge.

The Right on the NEC now openly talk in the meetings about expulsions—not if they should happen, but *how* and *when*. Even Neil Kinnock was reported to have said that

Pat Wall "would have to choose between *Militant* and the Labour Party."

Despite the opposition of the Right, Pat's selection was endorsed by 9 votes to 6, with Neil Kinnock abstaining. Rob Clay, whose original selection for Sunderland North had been questioned by the NEC, was also endorsed after the CLP had selected him a second time.

Party members will feel pleased that Pat Wall has at long last been endorsed by this committee—as he should have been in the first place—but there is no doubt that the Right will now be planning a further attempt to block him when it comes to the full NEC.

By Militant
Reporters

Constituencies Oppose Register

By Militant Reporters

At the July meeting of Hackney Central CLP, Jim Mortimer's letter to CLP's about the new Register of groups was totally opposed, with a resolution, moved by delegates who were not *Militant* supporters, to take no part in this attempted witch-hunt.

The GMC further agreed to back the September 11th conference by sending 5 delegates and circulating all affiliated wards and trade unions. The CLP also gave its 100 per cent support to ASLEF after hearing a speaker from the union, backing it with a £50 donation.

The GMC of Middleton, Prestwich and Whitefield CLP also passed a motion "totally opposing the register of groups" within the party. The motion was passed virtually unanimously, without prompting by the one *Militant* supporter

present and with delegate after delegate denouncing the NEC decision.

The mover of the resolution, himself a victim of previous witch-hunting, pointed out, "If the constitution of the Labour Party is to be interpreted so narrowly, it means that any time a right-winger talks about a 'mixed economy' he should be expelled, as Clause IV of the constitution is quite clear—we should take the whole economy into public ownership."

A speaker representing *Militant* has been invited to the next CLP meeting to which all LP members will be invited. Delegates have also invited speakers to their LP and TU branches.

Honiton CLP in Devon

sent a strongly-worded resolution to the NEC denouncing the Register: "The NEC decision to accept the report to curb the *Militant* Tendency hailed as a victory for the moderates, will cost the Labour Party the next General Election—what political stupidity—what timing—one day we announce Labour's Programme 1982 and the next day we give the media a treat with the *Militant* Report...Do not blame the left for our poor show-ing at the polls.

"The enemies of the Labour Party are the full time workers paid as Members of Parliament who spend their time on TV, the radio and Press demanding the expulsion of people from the party. The

Shores, Silkins, Hattersleys, Healeys and their 100 full time MPs organised in a Moderate Tendency Grouping are destroying party unity by their continuing campaign against members who want a socialist alternative to the Tories."

The original NEC resolution that set up the *Militant* Enquiry urged that particular areas should be looked into, Bradford being one of them. Now Shipley East LP branch in Bradford have passed a motion objecting to the fact that during the Hayward-Hughes enquiry, "no party members in Shipley were consulted".

The Shipley CLP itself passed a resolution opposing the introduction of proscribed lists, expulsion of party members and a letter to that effect, signed by the CLP executive members, was sent to the NEC.

This year was the 99th Durham miners Gala, and it turned out to be the largest for many years.

Many thousands turned out to hear the new president of the NUM Arthur Scargill as well as Dennis Skinner MP, Eric Clarke, secretary of the Scottish miners, and Michael Foot.

When Dennis Skinner spoke, at one point he turned to Michael Foot and asked if he was listening. When Michael Foot acknowledged, Dennis Skinner then told him that it was not the Militant Tendency who should bear the brunt of attacks by the Labour Party leaders but the Tories and their decaying system—the "unemployment tendency."

He also told the audience that a little bit of extra-parliamentary activity "does you good, if you do it often enough" and asked why it was that more Labour MPs were not on picket lines supporting workers in struggle.

Arthur Scargill also

received tremendous applause every time he attacked the Tories and outlined the demands of his union, such as a reduced working week and retirement at 55 for miners. In his closing remarks he warned that as President of the NUM he opposed witch-hunts inside the Labour Party, making it clear that it is the Tories the Labour Movement must be fighting and not militant Labour Party members.

Both Dennis Skinner and Arthur Scargill were extremely well received when they opposed the witch-hunt. They were frequently interrupted with applause. When Michael Foot spoke he was given only a lukewarm response from an audience drastically thinned after Scargill had finished.

Seeing Militant supporters selling stickers and papers and recruiting to the Labour party the average Labour voter at the Gala was obviously unimpressed at the talk of witch-hunts of socialists inside the Labour Party.—and Michael Foot could not fail to have noticed this.

LABOUR MOVEMENT

CONFERENCE 11th SEPT

SUPPORT GROWS

It has been a bad week for the 'Solidarity' organisation. Batley & Morley, the CLP of Solidarity Secretary Ken Woolmer MP voted against the witch-hunt! Belsize ward branch of Hampstead CLP (home of Solidarity circular signatory Mary T Goudie) voted 17-1 against the register!

Already nearly 500 resolutions have been passed in the labour movement against the witch-hunt or the register.

The Labour Movement Conference on 11 September has been called to turn these resolutions of sympathy into resolute action to stop the witch-hunt of socialists and to launch a united socialist campaign against the Tories.

The conference will provide the forum for the open discussion of ideas before Labour Party conference in

preparation for the critical debate on the *Militant Tendency Report*—the debate that will decide whether the run up to the next general election will be taken up with purges and witch-hunts or a real fight against the Tories.

UCATT in the Manchester area are circulating information about the conference to all their branches, as are the Salford area of AUEW/TASS. TGWU branch 1/724 is supporting the conference and the first delegations have been notified. Shaw ward of Joel Barnett's CLP are sending 4, and Hackney Central CLP (their MP Stanley Clinton Davis is a leading Solidarity supporter) are sending 5. This conference gives the ranks of the labour movement their chance to be heard. Be there!

By Mike
Waddington

WEMBLEY CONFERENCE CENTRE
LONDON NW1

"Fight the Tories, not the Socialists"

Sponsors include:

Wavertree CLP; Brighton Kemptown CLP; Bradford North CLP; Isle of Wight CLP; Coventry South East CLP; Bradford District LP; Bakery, Food and Allied Workers Union Executive; Labour Party Young Socialists National Committee, TGWU Sussex District.

And in personal capacity: Bob Wright (AUEW); Les Huckfield MP (NEC); Joan Maynard MP (Vice-Chair, Labour Party); Jo Richardson MP (NEC); Ernie Roberts MP; Ken Livingstone (GLC leader); Kevin Roddy (CPSA President); Rod Fitch (PPC Brighton Kemptown); Terry Fields (PPC, Kirkdale); Derek Hatton (PPC, Wavertree); Tony Mulhearn (PPC Toxteth); Dave Nellist (PPC, Coventry South East); Terry Harrison (PPC, Edge Hill); Cathy Wilson (PPC, Isle of Wight).

Speakers will include: Ken Livingstone (Leader of the GLC); Les Huckfield MP; Pat Wall (twice selected Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Bradford North); Terry O'Neill (President of the Bakers Union and Candidate for the NEC); Peter Taaffe (Editor of *Militant*) and other leading figures from the labour movement.

Delegates (maximum 5 per organisation, £1 each delegate) are invited from CLP/LP branch/trade union branch/shop stewards committee/LPYS branch/tenants association.

Further information/application for delegates to LMC, c/o 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

THE WITCH-HUNT SPREADS

**Pssst!
Wanna be
an MP?**

The left group in the London Labour Party, 'London Labour Briefing,' are extremely concerned that one of its supporters, who is employed as a secretary in the National Agent's Department at Labour Party HQ, is currently under threat of disciplinary action by General Secretary, Jim Mortimer, as a result of her openly admitted activities with 'Briefing.'

'Militant' has warned that the present anti-left hysteria around the new 'Register of non-affiliated Groups' will inevitably be turned against left groupings in general, not only against *Militant*. The charges now being made against Pauline Ashbridge seem to confirm this beyond doubt.

Pauline has been formally charged with "assisting in the unauthorised publication of reports which (she) had reason to believe had been taken or copied from the files of the Labour Party Head Office."

The charge refers to the publication by 'Briefing' of reports submitted to the National Agent by Regional Organisers about MP selection meetings. The reports, the authenticity of which

Agent about selection meetings anyway? Straightforward factual reports would not need to be secret.

At a time when the NEC is acting on a Report into 'Militant,' penned jointly by the National Agent, David Hughes, and the former General Secretary, Ron Hayward, which states, "There shall be no secret organisations in the Labour Party," is it not ironic that left activist Pauline Ashbridge could be threatened with expulsion from her job for assisting in revealing the truth about secret and highly contentious communications within the Party's officialdom?

'Briefing' is emphasising that Pauline Ashbridge has denied responsibility for any 'leak.' In fact, she has not even been charged with actually taking or copying anything—but merely with "assisting in the publication" of leaked material which was sent anonymously to 'Briefing.' Her crime is to have assisted in the layout of the material at a 'Briefing' editorial session!

No other member of the 'Briefing' editorial team has been singled out for disciplinary action.

Ashbridge is therefore being treated in an arbitrary manner simply because senior officials of the Party can 'get at' her as she is on the Party payroll.

'Briefing' is annoyed that this kind of action is even being contemplated within the Head Office of a party committed, in terms of its programme, to Freedom of Information. Can it be right that critical comments about candidates for selection as MPs can be made without these reports being available to the candidate themselves or the organisations responsible for selecting them?

Even more disturbing is the question, what kind of reports are being submitted on rank and file Party members whose views the Regional Organisers don't approve of?

The view of many Party members will be that instead of taking punitive action against secretarial staff who indulge in activity with 'unauthorised' publications on the left of the Party, the new General Secretary—who was appointed with the votes of the left on the NEC—would be better occupied in urging his National Agent to curb the highly irregular and

outrageous comments submitted under the heading of 'Organisers' Reports' by his senior regional staff.

The charge against Pauline Ashbridge is a scandal. 'Briefing' is termed an "unauthorised" publication. As well as 'registered groups', is the next step the establishment of a list of "authorised publications" as well? This case is yet another indication that the witch-hunt against 'Militant' is a pre-requisite for an indiscriminate purge of all "unauthorised" trends of opinion in the Party.

STOP PRESS: The following statement has been issued by London Labour Briefing: "On Monday 12 July, the Staff Negotiating Committee of the NEC decided to ask the NEC to draw up a code of conduct for staff. The matter relating to the position of the 'Briefing' supporter accused of assisting in the unauthorised publication of the reports was closed. The issues now at stake are the keeping of secret reports on parliamentary selection meetings and the rights of staff employed by the Labour Party to take part in political activities."

Reading the recent articles on how the right wing hounded the left, particularly Bevan and Cripps in the 1930s, George Brown's name keeps cropping up.

He was in the forefront of the moves to have left-wingers Bevan, Cripps and Straus expelled, indeed Brown seconded the motion endorsing the expulsions at the 1939 Labour Party Conference.

Well, ever wondered how our George got to Parliament? His memoirs (*In My Way* p.38-39) betray the truth, admitting that his speech seconding the expulsion brought him to the attention of the leadership of the movement.

He relates the following, "George Dallas (Chairman of the 1939 Party Conference) sent for me. He told me that he had been nursing the Belper Constituency in Derbyshire. It had been a Labour seat in 1929 but had been lost in the debacle of 1931. The former member had not stood again, and George Dallas had been adopted in his place. He was sure that he could have won Belper had there been an election in 1939, but there wasn't and his wife now felt that he was too old to think of standing after the war. Would I like to take his place?"

"What nicer thing could be said to anyone! Of course I said that I'd love to stand for Belper, so very quietly and stealthily I was paraded there and given letters of introduction to the right people to make sure that when the selection conference came the right decision should be made."

There you have it! Parliamentary seats dispensed from the pockets of neo-feudal Barons to 'safe socialists,' men with 'common sense' and so on.

Funny, but I can't quite remember George denouncing this brand of nepotism!

By Mike Waddington

By a Militant reporter

has never been denied, contain highly contentious references to individual candidates.

Both *Militant* (see issue 608) and *Tribune* have recently carried articles condemning these reports, following 'Briefing's' exposure of the material. One of the issues which 'Briefing' has correctly sought to raise is why should Regional Organisers need to submit secret and confidential reports to the National

When Healey supported Pat Wall

By Jim Christie

Pat Wall was not the first member of the Labour Party to warn that the ruling class would be prepared to go to any lengths, including support for violence, to try to prevent a socialist Labour government from carrying out policies that would end capitalism.

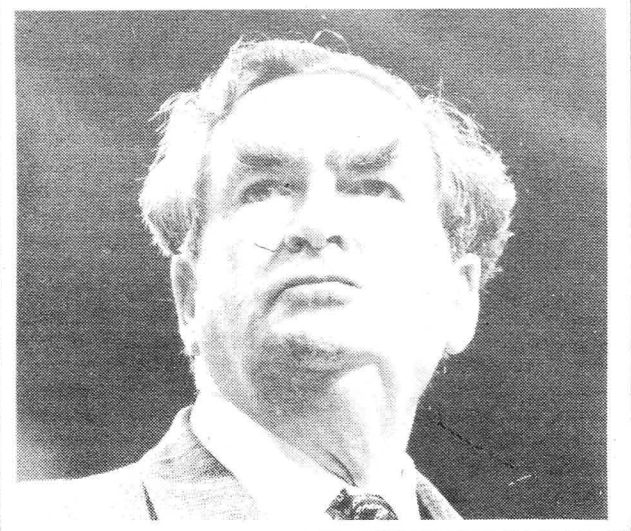
Denis Healey, then a major, said as much at the 1945 Labour Party conference. He warned the conference that: "There is very great danger, unless we are very careful, that we shall find ourselves running with the Red Flag in front of the armoured cars of Tory imperialism and counter-revolution".

In his speech, Healey concentrated upon what he described as the 'socialist revolution in Europe'. Major Healey told the conference: "It is most important that the Labour Party should have a clear foreign policy of its own, which is completely distinct from that of the Tory Party. The significant fact is that the socialist revolution has already begun in Europe and is already established in many countries in Eastern Europe and Southern Europe. The crucial principle of our own foreign policy should be to protect, assist, encourage and aid in every way that Socialist Revolution wherever it appears..."

"The upper classes in



Then and now. Major Healey, 1945 (above): "the crucial principle... should be to protect, assist, encourage and aid in every way that Socialist Revolution wherever it appears." Denis Healey, 1982; in parliament he "warned that the government should not try and bring Gen. Galtieri down, as he could be succeeded in power by a 'Peronist' dictator which would seek cooperation with the Soviet Union and Cuba," which would be worse." (*Morning Star*, May 14)



every country are selfish, depraved, dissolute and decadent. These upper classes in every country look to the British Army

and the British people to protect them against the just wrath of the people who have been fighting underground against them

WHY WE WILL WIN

By John Taylor
(Wem, Whitchurch, and Shawbury Labour Party)

I live in a "traditional Tory" area of Shropshire, where at the recent local elections Labour collected approximately 150 votes and the "Tory" independent 1500. So you can see why the very small number of *Militant* supporters in the area expect, and get, a poor reception from the locals.

So when two of us put forward a resolution to the local branch condemning the witch-hunt we expected it to receive a poor reception. At the branch we had a very heated debate, in which the Chairman offered to resign on our behalf. He then received a vote of con-

fidence, he then stepped down so that he could participate in the meeting, we then decided to start the meeting again and tried to keep calm.

After a calmer debate in which *Militant's* finances, structure, "subversive activities", and image in the media were all questioned, a vote was taken. Out of twelve members at the branch meeting eight voted for the resolution, and two against.

All I am trying to say is don't lose heart, if we can win a vote in our area so decisively, it shows that the witch-hunt must fail!

for the last four years. We must see that it does not happen."

Healey's subsequent record does not live to these aspirations. After 1945 he became the Labour Party's International Secretary, and helped channel the desire for fundamental social change onto safe lines which did not threaten capitalist rule.

For saying much the same thing as Healey, Pat Wall, in a speech earlier this year was vilified by the Tory Press and a number of Labour right wingers. Wall's speech was even deliberately twisted to make it sound as if he was advocating violence, rather than pointing out how the threat to democratic rights came from the Tories.

But then the ruling class and their shadows in the labour movement know the difference between Pat Wall and many of those who have spoken in similar vein in years gone by; there's no divide between Pat's words and his action!

Tribune STOP THE PURGE RALLY

Tuesday 20 July 7.30pm

**Camden Town Hall,
London NW1**

(opposite St Pancras Station)

**Tony Benn Jo Richardson
Arthur Scargill Pat Wall**



The platform during one of the debates at the Black Youth Conference. Speakers from left to right; Leila Hassan of the New Cross Massacre Action Committee, Chandra Dasgupta for the LPYS, Sam Brown, chairman, Rod Fitch, Labour Parliamentary Candidate for Brighton Kemp town, Kevin Fernandes and Andy Bevan, Labour Party Youth Officer. Photo: Militant.

Recruit black youth to socialism

Black youth need to get involved in mass, organised, political activity, together with the labour movement, if their problems are to be solved.

By Kevin Fernandes
(London LPYS
Regional Committee)

a means of achieving better conditions for blacks "in the here and now". But, in effect, it was put forward as an **alternative** to the building of a united campaign for decent conditions.

The confused ideas of "positive discrimination" were rejected by black youth attending the conference, who saw that it did not even represent a reform for the black working class. Pointing to the experience of the USA (where "positive discrimination" policies are in practice) a number of comrades showed that "Positive discrimination" only benefitted a small minority of well-educated blacks, leaving the mass of black youth as the unwanted rejects of the system.

Not only could we not trust the system to give jobs to blacks (just as we cannot trust the Race Relations Act to protect us) but the very struggle against the bosses, who were causing unemployment, could be set-back by divisions over "positive discrimination". This scheme, in times of mass unemployment, could only divide workers, in a scramble for the few jobs the system offers.

The poverty and harassment bearing down on black youth were the causes of the upheavals of a year ago. The LPYS was the only organisation to carry out mass political activity during the riots—seeking to provide a political route for

Committee to launch new enquiry

Between July 5 and 8 an appeal was held at London's Law Courts to get a new inquest into the New Cross fire. The appeal was called by relatives of the thirteen young blacks who died in the massacre.

The court ruled against a fresh inquiry and dismissed the appeal to quash the open verdict decision of the inquest held last year.

The grounds for the appeal were that the coroner had not taken notes of the inquiry proceedings and when summing up evidence

the spontaneous activity of the youth.

Of course the LPYS is not new to the struggles of black youth; since the LPYS national demonstration against racism, in Bradford, in 1973, the LPYS has been in the forefront of campaigning nationally against racism, and for lasting changes in the conditions of black youth.

In every major city last summer, LPYS members were on the streets, giving out leaflets, discussing, attempting to show the need for an organised, political campaign to win the just demands of youth. These ideas, a year later, were shown to have been correct. Black youth need to find a different method of struggle.

In part, the YOPs Trainees Union Rights Campaign, initiated by the LPYS, showed the way forward. Meetings must be organised in every school, college, factory, depot and workplace; on the housing estates, in youth clubs and unemployed centres—to organise black youth in a militant political campaign, linked to the labour movement—for decent jobs and conditions for all, for an end to police harassment, and defence against racial attacks.

Such campaigns need to be started up now, particularly in the build up for the LPYS "Youth against the Tories" national demonstration on October 16th. A movement can be built in such a way, to kick out the Tories, and return a socialist Labour government which will solve the problems of black youth.

The conference has laid the foundations for the mass involvement of black youth in the political struggles which will affect their future.

to the jury, had simply read from police statements!

The decision of the law court shows that the police and the courts cannot be relied upon to find the real facts behind the killing of thirteen black youths, and conduct a search for racist attackers.

The New Cross Massacre Action Committee is to launch an international commission of enquiry to investigate the fire, and to make sure that the truth is found out.

Tory school vandals

The Tories have already made clear how little interest they have in the provision of state education.

To underline this, it was revealed last week that the 'cash limits' on local government expenditure will, if implemented, lead to the loss of 62,000 teaching jobs between now and 1985. That is equivalent to getting rid of all the teachers in Greater London!

Their proposals would mean compulsory redundancies for 29,000 teachers with the rest of the job loss coming through so called 'natural wastage'.

The magnanimous Tory Sir Keith Joseph is also negotiating to make redundancy terms more attractive to teachers under 50 in order to increase the numbers prepared to take voluntary redundancy.

This latest round of attacks must be seen against a background of declining financial support for education. The cuts in public ex-

penditure over the last few years have, we all know, affected the standard of education on offer to the mass of pupils in state schools.

The official body responsible for overseeing educational standards—Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI)—have recently produced detailed evidence of just how severe these cuts are. Their evidence shows that staffing standards have already deteriorated with the loss of 10,000 teaching posts in England and Wales between September 1980 and September 1981.

We already have 20,000 teachers registered unemployed without this proposed new round of redundancies. More than a third of the local education authorities (LEA's) which HMI examined had also cut back in real terms on expenditure on books and equipment and increasingly schools were relying on parental contribution to provide basic educational items.

They also point out that "overall the stock of school

premises is continuing to deteriorate and failure to maintain the fabric of some buildings has already presented at least two LEA's with heavy repair and renovation costs."

The report reveals a widening gap between the educational provision of one LEA and another. Pupils in some parts of the country are being offered better levels of staffing, books etc than others and although the higher spending authorities are not identified evidence suggests they are usually Labour-controlled authorities.

The labour movement must recognise the threat posed to education by the threatened redundancies of more teachers. Class sizes will increase still further, the pressures on teachers worsen and consequently the quality of education will decline if these measures go unchallenged.

By Anita Dickinson
(Ealing NUT).

MILITANT PUBLIC MEETINGS

What we stand for—fight the witch-hunt!

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

LONDON

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

CAMDEN: Thurs 22 July. Speaker: Bob Labi (London LP exec.)

WATFORD: Thur 29 July 8pm, Watford Central Library, Speaker Bob Labi (London LP exec.)

SOUTHWARK: Mon 26th July 7.30pm Penrose Hall, Penrose St., SE 17. (Off Walworth Road). Speakers: Keith Dickinson (Editorial Board), Theresa Wrack (LPYS National Committee).

SCOTLAND

EAST LOTHIAN: Tues 20 July. Speaker: Rob Sewell. Tranmare Hotel, Haddington Road, Tranet.

DALKIETH: Thurs 22 July. Cross Keys Hotel, Hight St. Speaker: Rob Sewell.

EDINBURGH: Wed 21 July. Trades Council, Picardy Place. Speaker: Rob Sewell.

ABERDEEN: Mon 9 August

DUNDEE: Sun 8 August

NORTH WEST

MANCHESTER: Sun 18 July 7.30pm, Sydney Building, Polytechnic Students Union, Oxford Road. Speaker: Ted Grant (Political editor)

BURNLEY: Thurs 12 August. Speaker: Pat Wall.

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

WALES

CWMBRAN: Fri 23 July, 7.15pm The Old Assembly Hall, Victoria St.

EASTERN

HARLOW: Thurs 22 July. Speaker: Bob Edwards.

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

CANVEY ISLAND: Wed 21 July 8pm. Labour Hall, Lionel Road.

NORWICH: Thur 29th July 7.30 Norwich Labour Club. Speaker: Keith Dickinson (Editorial Board).

SOUTH

THANET: Selby Guest House, 7 Union Crescent, Margate, Thursday 22 July 7.30pm.

WEST MIDLANDS

STAFFORD: Tues 20 July. Speaker: Peter Taaffe, United Reform Church, Mount St. Stafford.

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

STOURBRIDGE: Monday 19 July 7.45pm. Swan Hotel, Hadley Road, Stourbridge, Worcs. Speaker: Jeremy Birch.



Vatican helps arm Argentina

When the Pope travels abroad, he always speaks in favour of peace. But with its considerable wealth, Vatican financial interests are invested like any other in the capitalist world. And it now transpires that whilst the Pope was making his visits to Britain and Argentina, the Vatican Bank, was indirectly helping finance arms sales to Argentina.

The Vatican Bank was the fourth largest shareholder in Banco Ambrosiano, and gave its head Roberto Calvi a substantial loan. During the Falklands conflict, Calvi used a Peruvian subsidiary to try to arm Argentina with Exocet missiles. Since then Calvi committed suicide hanging himself on Blackfriars bridge.

And Archbishop Marcinkus, head of the Vatican Bank and one of the main organisers during the Pope's recent visit, is now threatened with a new posting. But he should feel quite at home; they are talking of sending him to Chicago.

Tory double-speak

This Tory government are magic. They manage to turn every phrase into its direct opposite. "There is much to be said for a British public whose assets included not only housing and life insurance but also stocks and shares" said John Biffen, Tory leader of the House of Commons last week.

But he wasn't proposing that all the assets of private industry should be nationalised with democratic workers control and management. Well, he wouldn't would he. He was, in fact, advocating extensive denationalisation in what he called an "irreversible shift in the economy to the private sector."

The same day a Commons report announced the results of the floating of shares on the market place last year of British Aerospace. In a flurry of publicity, they recruited 158,000 individual shareholders at the beginning. Now, only ten months later there are 27,000, a reduction of 83%. The number of small shareholders with under 100 shares fell by 93% from 44,000 to 3,300. The big fish eat the little fish again. Hardly "power to the people" is it?

Tough at the top

Comparability is out for wage bargaining say the government. British workers have about the lowest pay and longest hours in Europe, but that's just tough. The government may cast a more favourable eye on a report by the CBI, the bosses union, which says British executives are the fourth lowest paid in Europe. Not only that but the cost of living in the style to which executives have become accustomed is atrocious. The CBI moan that a three course business dinner for four with vintage wine costs £95 in London, a good quality flat in Central London up to a £1000 a month and luxury hotels up to £60 a night. It's tough at the top. With bosses flexi-rostering, in by 11, not home until three, it's surprising they don't go on strike.

Political wisdom of new Ambassador to USA

Meet Sir Oliver Wright, who will be British ambassador to the USA from September. He is going to give up his Victorian manor house in Surrey, and the job he had been offered as Master of Christs College Cambridge, "a quiet rural life doing nothing and getting paid for it" for the cocktail parties in Washington, which he thinks are marvellous. He is an adaptable man, having been ambassador in Rumania and South Africa, and private secretary to Tory premier Sir Alec Douglas Home and to "socialist" Harold Wilson.

There's only one thing bothers him. "When I joined the diplomatic service in 1945 there was not all this controversy over foreign policy. Debates like do we or don't we have Trident or get out of the Common Market were confined to the negotiator. Now a diplomat has to be aware that everything is up for debate for everyone. You must listen to public opinion" he says with deep regret.

Film Review

'ROSIE THE RIVETTER'

All comrades should try to see this film. It provides an excellent basis for discussion on unemployment, both male and female, and on the way the ruling class uses propaganda to manipulate male and female roles in society according to the changing demands of the profit system.

The film takes the form of a series of reminiscences by American women workers who were drafted into industry (mainly the manufacture of armaments) after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour in World War Two. Female workers were needed by the thousands to fill the jobs of men in the armed forces.

Suddenly it was "discovered" that women were capable of highly skilled, purposeful jobs, riveting, welding, working in steel furnaces and in shipyards. They were urged to 'help their country and their menfolk' by putting their energy behind the war effort. The (relatively) high rates of pay in these heavy industries with their strong union tradition, were undreamed of for women, many of whom (particularly black women) had had no experience of anything other than domestic work at slave labour rates.

To many class-conscious workers the attractions of doing dignified well paid work were very great. But on the negative side, women workers had to cope with the occupational health hazards faced in heavy industry at a time when there was scant regard for the concept of 'safety at work'. One female worker who forgot to remove a metal hair clip was blown to pieces on a production line. Altogether, more workers were killed in the USA in industrial accidents than died at Pearl Harbour.

Despite the jingoistic songs and advertising that were broadcast urging women to show they cared for their men and their country, many women refused to work in such hazardous conditions or they joined the union and fought to enforce safety regulations.



Most women today find themselves in low-paid jobs, such as school dinner lady (above). But during the Second World War they were drafted in to do well-paid jobs in industry.

Predictably, at the end of the war, the propaganda machine of the ruling class changed its tune; the US government, the President, the industrialists and labour leaders joined in chorus to sing the praises of 'Rosie the Rivetter' whose services had been gratefully received, but were no longer required. A woman's place was in the home, the office, the department stores, in all the low-paid, dead end jobs.

The guardians of the national morality suddenly discovered that irreparable harm was being done to the children of working mothers. Capitalism could not have coped with hundreds of thousands of ex-service men on welfare.

The women in the film had been politicised as a result of their experience. But they were lacking the political leadership of a party of Labour with a socialist programme; thus they failed to see the need to join with male workers in in-

dustry and with the returning troops to fight for a new economic and political system which alone could have guaranteed a decently paid and dignified job for all workers, black and white, male and female.

All of the women in this film left their jobs with a deep sense of having been exploited, not by the men who moved back into them after the war, but by the barons of industry and their lackeys in government and the media, who were quite prepared to flatter women and compose songs in praise of women and then discard them without a second thought when they became surplus to the requirements of capitalism.

One criticism could be made of this film: at one point, it comes close to idealising, almost glamorising, the heavy industrial work usually done by men. Obviously there is more satisfaction to be gained out of helping to build a ship than standing on a produc-

tion line making plastic flowers.

But there are many aspects of work in heavy industry which should not be done, by men or women workers; planned investment in technology could be used to eliminate repetitive and dangerous tasks, thus freeing the minds and bodies of workers for more creative ends.

Real job satisfaction will only be possible under socialism when workers democratically decide what will be produced and have established conditions of work which are not to the detriment of other aspects of their lives.

Film available for hire from The Other Cinema, 79 Wardour St., London W1V.

Anne Millward, Twickenham CLP, reviews the film 'Rosie the Rivetter', directed by Connie Fields, 1980

DOCKLAND TAKES OFF

Whilst walking home on a pleasant Sunday afternoon I saw this large four-propellered aircraft wheeling round the Isle of Dogs. My first thought was that it was going to crash, then I realised it was trying to land.

To understand my horror you have to understand that the Isle of Dogs is a London landlocked island, 1½ miles by 1 mile, with a population of 13,000, consisting almost completely of 50% housing and 50% derelict docks.

My worst fears were realised on reading the *Sunday Times* business section. A certain Bill Bryce of

Brymon Airways was flying 50-seat Dehavilland Dash 7 in and out of West India Docks, to show the possibilities of building an airport in London dockland.

Once again the London Docklands Development is behind this hairbrained scheme; the main advantage of an airport being that it would save business commuters the trip to Heathrow or Gatwick and also presumably avoid the wrath of people in the green belt around London who are being threatened with 3rd London airports. The promoters of this new scheme

promise that their will be no night flights but what about babies trying to sleep, people on shift work etc.

Hopefully the idea will not get past the permission stage, but as they have presumably got permission to practice flights, who knows. The proposed airport is no small venture as there are 'hopes' for a million passengers a year!

I am confident that if it was up to the people of docklands they would say no to further exploitation by the development sharks who want to use the Isle of Dogs and surrounding docklands as a banana

republic. By abolishing these 'enterprise exploitation zones' the next Labour government could free the local populations from the greedy (and dangerous) whims of the entrepreneurs and put the future of the docklands into safer hands, those of the labour movement.

By Dave Farrar
(Tower Hamlets Labour Party)

Who'll benefit from new scientific miracles?

By Steve Amor

(Stepney & Poplar
Labour Party)

Bio-technology could transform our world. Properly developed the potential usefulness of artificially created organisms is limitless.

Bio-technology is based on the development of entirely new strains of micro-organisms like bacteria and fungi which can be used in industrial and chemical processes.

The importance of yeast for producing beer and wine is well established. But now entirely new organisms can be created through microscopic "engineering" of gene material—the chemicals which carry the hereditary 'code'.

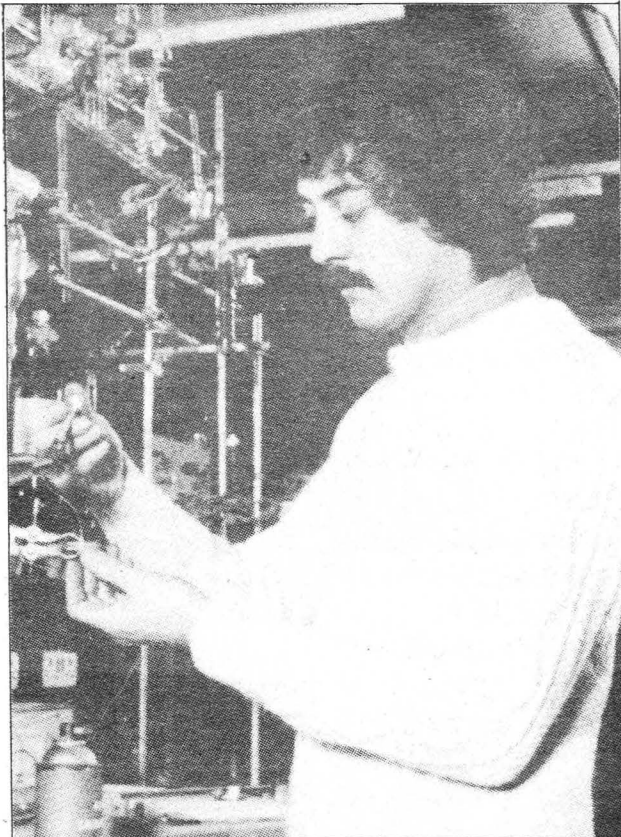
Twenty-five years ago scientists laid the foundation of the discovery of what are called monoclonal anti-bodies which produce special proteins, useful in the chemical and medical industries. A *Sunday Times* article, 27 July 1980, showed today's potential: "in an economically depressed world, verging on collapse as a result of a growing scarcity of key raw materials and an ever-increasing dependence on oil, it seems too good to be true that a totally new technology should offer a miraculous alternative to traditional supplies in every key area of human need."

But how is capitalism treating these new developments? What uses are biotechnological discoveries being put to? Charles Reece, research director of ICI, has pointed out that "our understanding of the interactions between chemicals and biological systems is in the stone age."

Great advances

But look at what has already been developed. Synthetic insulin, Interferon (leading to new lines of research in the treatment for cancer) diagnostic assessment materials, a micro-organism which can manufacture alcohol from plants making it cheaper than petrol, an organism with the capacity to "eat" oil slicks, and a bacteria that makes methane gas fuel from organic waste in the brewing and dairy industries.

It is envisaged that cereals such as wheat and rice will be able to be genetically engineered to extract their own fertilizer from the air. But before these



ELF the French petroleum company is building a research centre at Toulouse with laboratories for 400 researchers into bio-technology (above). It is expecting that its investment in the new enzyme technology will enable it to move away from dependence on oil refining and towards plant-refining as a new source for profits in the agricultural and chemical industry.

developments can be utilised on a world-wide scale the control and research in biotechnology has to be wrested from the interests of capitalism, whose prime

aim—above any consideration of social value—is profit.

Earlier this year, a meeting of 200 businessmen were told by a top manage-

ment consultant that the market value of new biotechnology products will be \$65 billion (£35 billion) a year by 2000. Each of the areas of food, energy and health care were broken down into their values in billions of dollars. Some speakers at the meeting even warned that "the predictions erred on the conservative side", and that profit predictions over the past few years had been grossly underestimated (*Financial Times* 25 February 1982).

Vast potential

It is in the specialised field of genetic engineering that commercial interests are centred. In 1980, four companies led the field, three in the USA and one, which uses American money, but is based in Geneva.

All are small specialist companies attracting top scientists. (Cetus, the largest at that time with only 250 staff was valued in 1980 at \$300 million. Genetech, another firm, would have cost \$100 million to buy; about \$1 million for each employee).

Typically enough in the last five years, British capitalists have taken out very few patents. In 1980, Sir Keith Joseph, then Secretary of State for Industry, was so impressed by the bio-tech industry on a visit to America that he authorised the establish-

ment of a company in Britain. £12 million was made available through the National Enterprise Board.

But while commercially useful projects are being supported by big business, other socially useful lines of research are not being treated with the same interest. Years of research on health care bio-technics, involving important and exciting prospects for synthetic insulin, have appeared not to impress the austerity of Thatcher's regime, which has demanded cutbacks in research.

Sir James Gowans, Secretary of the Medical Research Council (MRC), has said recently that important areas of research are being held up because of government cuts in academic spending. Continued research, unhindered by government austerity, could probably solve many unresolved development and safety problems. But there is always doubt, however, that in the hands of capitalists desperate for profit, bio-technological development may ignore safety measures.

Although still in its infancy, it has a vast potential future development, for improving the quality of life. The mass of the world population could benefit enormously from the developments that biotechnology and science in general have to offer. But it will not do so as long as it remains in the hands of big business.

POLICE ON THE PICKET LINE



Police chiefs reaction to new improved equipment for 'crowd control' at recent Defence Ministry's Equipment Exhibition. Photo: Militant.

"Here come the secondary pickets." "Yes that's right. Is it alright if we join you?" No, it wasn't the miners coming to join us on the healthworkers' picket line...but 2 local policemen, come to keep an eye on us. These policemen were quite friendly... "just doing a job" and so I got talking to one of them and began asking him how much he got in his last pay rise.

"About 13%, I think, yes we did well out of Scarmen in our last 2 pay rises, but that's over now. We've had our bite of the cherry. We'll have to wait a long time before we get anything as good.

"We haven't got a proper trade union you know, there's the Police Federation, but that's like a tiger without any teeth. If we get disciplined, we have to go into the room on our own without any representation and our point of view isn't listened to.

"There was a lot of talk about trade union rights last

year, when we talked about affiliation to the TUC, and a lot of the lads supported the idea. But that would make it difficult for us on picket lines such as this. We wouldn't be impartial.

"I come from the East end of London and I'm working class. I like my job. I like to think its about helping the community. The police force shouldn't be brought into politics.

"Mind, you lot are having a bit of trouble in the Labour Party," (pointing to my *Militant's*). "I'm not surprised you're having trouble with Healey...all his

money etc".

I gave him a copy of the paper ('didn't carry money on him'). But my discussion showed how police are becoming politicised under the impact of the class struggle. Given a bold class appeal individuals and sections of the police need not be the reliable tool that the bosses and Tories want them to be.

By Heather Rawlings

(Leicester West CLP)

Prudom killing

The massive police manhunt in Yorkshire ended last week with the shooting of alleged triple killer Barry Prudom.

By Bob Wade

Given the cold blooded murder of two policemen and worker George Luckett, and the shooting of his wife Sylvia, workers will be indifferent to the killing by police of Prudom. Indeed, workers in Yorkshire will be relieved that Prudom's rampage has been ended.

But no matter how hideous the crime, a police killing cannot be justified. It can set a dangerous precedent, creating the atmosphere that anyone who takes up a gun and commits a crime, for whatever reason, will face an instant death penalty from armed police.

For example in March, 1979 in Essex, an 18 year old armed youth went berserk and held up pub hostage until he was shot dead by police. There is no way that this sad case can be compared with the cold, calculating actions of Prudom, yet they both received the same 'justice'.

The manhunt also showed the vast array of weaponry now available to the police, from automatic rifles to stun grenades. This massive display of police weaponry shows the in-

creasing paramilitary nature of the police. The police linked up with the military in conducting the manhunt.

Again workers may argue this was necessary to catch the killer, but it has dangerous precedents for the labour movement. During the first Brixton riots, there were reports in the magazine *City Limits* that a military 'liason' officer was working from Brixton police station.

The paramilitary methods being practised now against criminal individuals, rioters and over the past decade or so against terrorists, serve as a warning for the labour movement.

As *Militant* warned repeatedly in the past, the tactics that have been tried and tested in Northern Ireland are now appearing on the British mainland, in the form of guns, riot shields, tear gas, plastic bullets and surveillance techniques. These new tactics and equipment will not be for sole use against the criminal element, but will be used at a later stage against the labour movement when it moves into action to change society.

10th Anniversary of 'PE

Like Thatcher nine years later, Edward Heath came to office in the 1970 General Election after fraudulent promises of "a better tomorrow".

In reality, Heath was determined to attack the living standards of workers, and one of the main weapons in his armoury was a new anti-trade union Bill.

By Wayne Jones

Heath could not avoid an attempt to take on the unions. The long post-war boom of capitalism was coming to an end. Profits were being squeezed. Concessions gained by the trade unions in the 50's and 60's could no longer be tolerated by the bosses and the increase in wage levels, spending on social services etc would have to be curtailed.

Thus the power of the trade unions, that had fought and secured the increased living standards of that earlier period, would have to be dealt with. The trade union leaders alone could not be relied upon by Heath to police their members. The state would have to be used.

The Tories laid plans for a complex network of legal constraints on the trade union movement, (the Industrial Relations Act) which if accepted and fully implemented, would have left the working class defenceless against an onslaught on living standards.

Yet, within three and a half years, every major plank of this structure had been smashed, the Tory government lay in ruins and Ted Heath was ingloriously booted out of office. This was achieved by the active, protracted, and often unofficial, resistance of the massed ranks of the labour and trade union movement.

The incoming 1974 Labour government merely swept away the ashes of the corpse of the Industrial Relations Act killed stone dead by the industrial muscle of the trade union rank and file.

But above all the momentous battles against this legislation, the most damaging body blow was the struggle around the "Pentonville five" when five dockers were jailed in July 1972. This battle was the culmination of two years of unrelenting pressure and activity by the trade union rank and file against the IR Act, including numerous strikes.

This whole stormy period saw the government proclaim a State of Emergency 5 times in 3½ years. In four years from July 1970 more than 5.6m working days were lost in protest, avowedly political, strikes against the Industrial Relations Act, and the government's counter-inflationary policy. 1972 saw 23.9m in days lost in strike action—the highest since 1926!

In December 1970 the Tories issued their Industrial Relations Bill, under the supervision of Robert Carr the Secretary of State for Employment.

The Bill was a bosses' charter, designed to strip away long established trade

union rights and to put the trade unions at the mercy of a Special Court, the National Industrial Relations Court, headed by Sir John Donaldson, which had the powers of the High Court.

Trade unions were obliged to register with a special government appointed Registrar of Trade Unions. Failure to comply (register) with the government's rules for 'good behaviour', enshrined in the Registrar, would deprive the unions of immunities protecting the right to strike.

The Bill further prescribed a series of 'unfair' industrial practices such as 'blacking' and sympathetic action in support of other workers, for which the unions could be legally penalised. Penal sanctions included heavy fines and imprisonment.

The majority of collective bargaining agreements would be legally binding and legal protection was given to non-unionism. The closed shop was outlawed, and strike action was to be discouraged by instituting compulsory strike ballots and a 60 day 'cooling off' period.

Even before the Bill was published the trade union rank and file were mobilising to resist its implementation. On Dec 8th 1970 over 600,000 workers stopped work, unofficially, for the day and over 1m were involved in the Day of Action, in protest against the Bill coming to parliament. No national newspapers were printed yet Vic Feather, TUC General Secretary, denounced this stoppage.

The TUC at this stage rejected proposals to sponsor strikes against the Bill on the grounds that it would harden anti-trade union attitudes.

On Jan. 1st 1971, over 45,000 Midlands workers struck and marched against the Bill.

The TUC finally organised a demonstration for Feb. 21st in London. Over 200,000 took part to 'Kill the Bill', the biggest demonstration since the Chartism movement of the 1840's.

The movement amongst the organised working class against the Government's policies grew. Marches, strikes broke out all over the country. In 1971 over 13m days were lost through strike action and the temperature of the class was still rising!

By the end of February 1972, after two months of struggle, the miners had avenged the defeat of 1926 by a united national strike that left Heath's Incomes Policy in tatters. Weeks later the railway unions were to deal the Tories and the IR Act another heavy blow.



The dockers are out. They have magnificently carried out the trade union injunction 'An injury to one is an injury to all'. The arrest of five dockers under the Industrial Relations Act has been the last straw. All are out in London, Liverpool, Cardiff, Glasgow, Bristol, Felixtowe, Leith, Chatham, Great Yarmouth, Middlesbrough, Ipswich, Barry and even King's Lynn. In Manchester, dockers' foremen, clerical staff, delivery clerks, tally clerks, grain workers, crane drivers have joined in—every section of the dock workers is absolutely solid. This applies to all the ports.

Not only the dockers, but their fellow trade unionists, are replying to the provocation of the Government, employers and their courts and acting in solidarity with the dockers.

Lorry drivers in London announced immediate solidarity with the dockers and many have already come out on strike. According to reports on the radio, Midlands Cold Storage workers at the depot picketed by the dockers which was working is now closed.

favour of the rich have all incensed the workers.

The Industrial Relations Act was intended as a reserve weapon in the hands of the ruling class — as Heath and Co. said, 'as a court of last resort'.

The purpose of the Act has been stymied by small employers using it without concern for the interests of big business or the state. Consequently, the Act has boomeranged and exploded in the face of its authors.

As the Times, the voice of big business, sarcastically observes, in working out who is to replace the disaster, Heath, as Minister... Mr Carr is confined by his authorship of the I.R. Act as a disordered slot machine, produces a succession of unforeseen results, mostly raspberry flavoured, Mr Carr remains tied to it.

This shows the complete falsity of the argument that the government cannot intervene in the process of the law — a law for which they are responsible — and release the dockers.

As if they were to carry out the law, they would have to arrest every worker on strike, for contempt of court. Carr and MacMillan have declared about 'the law of the jungle' and 'force' being used by the dockers. As if the capitalist system and its laws are not based on the law of the jungle and force, against the working people and their capitalist rivals abroad!

As if the only defence of the workers against the jungle law of the employers and their government were not the strength of their organisation!

The rights of the working class were not given by benign Tory governments. They were only

call 24 hr general strike

The Militant broadsheet published at the time of the Pentonville 5 struggle. It stated: "The rights of the working class were not given by benign Tory governments. They were only gained in a century of struggle against unjust laws. The right to strike, the right to vote, the right to organise, the right of free speech, were only won by the struggle of the working people. To maintain these rights depends on the vigilance of the working class and the strength of their organisation...these events take place around the anniversary of the Tolpuddle case. The 5 dockers are the new Tolpuddle martyrs."

Now again the Tories are trying to shackle the unions, in the form of the Tebbit Bill. This time, the trade union movement must not allow the Tories to even create martyrs!

They were forced to have a secret ballot after an enforced cooling off period of 14 days in order to test the backing for their wage claim which was well above the governments 8% norm. But the railworkers crushingly supported their claim and their leadership by a vote of over 5 to 1. The government were forced to back down, conceding an increase of nearly 14%.

In the meantime, however, a dispute was brewing in the docks.

From 81,000 in 1951, the number of registered dockers had slumped to just over 43,000 in 1971. The decline of British industry and the introduction of containerisation and other changes designed to improve productivity meant that most ports had a surplus labour problem.

Dockers were concerned about their future. The Temporary Unattached Register introduced to de-casualise the industry and give a measure of stability to dockland was becoming more of a pool of permanently unemployed dockers on half back pay of £20, under half the dockers weekly wage.

At the same time, previously traditional dock work of loading and unloading cargoes was being done off the docks in groupage container depots

by firms not employing registered dockers, in other words at lower rates of pay and worse conditions. There was also a proliferation of non-registered docks and wharves springing up as employers avoided their legal obligations of the registered ports and employed cheap labour.

Impatient at the failure of the union leadership to address themselves to this problem, the unofficial but powerful and well organised National Ports Shop Stewards Committee decided to carry out a campaign of 'blacking' of containers from off-the-dock depots. Containers were transported by lorry to and from the docks, so the lorries were blacked.

Unofficial action by the dockers began to mushroom

In Liverpool the dockers 'blacked' Heaton's Transport, setting up pickets at the Dock gates to stop the lorries. Heaton's appealed to the NIRC against this 'unfair practice'. The court fined the Transport and General Workers Union £5,000 and then another £50,000 when the union refused, in line with TUC and TGWU na-

tional policy, to pay up or attend the Court.

By this time blacking had also begun in Hull, London and Manchester.

After a narrow decision, the TGWU Executive on the advice of the TUC, began to retreat and attended the Court, claiming that the union has no jurisdiction over the stewards who continued to 'black'.

In Hull, Walter Cunningham, the Hull Shop Stewards' leader, was named in a court order to lift the blacking. He refused. Faced with imprisonment and heavy fines solidarity flooded in from all over the country.

In June the spotlight shifted to London after the failure to intimidate Walter Cunningham or break the solidarity of the Hull dockers. On the 12th the NIRC ordered dockers to stop picketing Chobham Farm Cold Storage Depot or else face the wrath of the law, including imprisonment.

Warrants were issued for their arrest on the 15th and within one day the docks were out all over the country. 35,000 were on strike.

But this proved merely to be a dress rehearsal for the real thing one month later. The three indicted dockers, Bernie Steer, Vic Turner and Alan Williams, were rescued by the timely in-

tervention of the hitherto unheard-of 'Official Solicitor'.

However, picketing continued around the country against the transport firms on the 'Cherry Blossom List'. Once again, writs were served on Steer and Vic Turner, the leaders of the National Shop Stewards Committee, plus five other dockers who were picketing the Midland Cold Storage Depot in Stratford, East London.

The Tories calculated that this inter-sectional dispute within the TGWU, between the dockers and the lorry drivers, both of whom felt their livelihoods threatened, would cut across solidarity action.

But rather than crushing the power of the working class, that power was revealed more vividly than ever and it was the Tories who received a hammering by spontaneous strike action on a scale not seen for decades.

Having failed to comply with the requests of the Courts the arrests were set in motion, five dockers being named: Bernie Steer, Vic Turner, Tony Merrick, Cornelious Clancy and Derek Watkins. The jailings took place on Friday July 21st.

"Just before 5pm Chief Superintendent Alec Robertson, Commander of

PENTONVILLE 5' struggle

HOW THE TORY LAWS WERE BEATEN

Hackney Division appeared with a sergeant major's baton and a pair of brown gloves. A bulky man, he walked with such apparent coolness that the dockers shouted 'here comes John Wayne'. He was accompanied by two inspectors. The dockers began chanting Sieg Heil and lifting their arms in a Hitler like salute." (*The Times* 22 July 1972).

The dockers formed a protective cordon around those to be jailed but the dockers' shop stewards appealed for the arrest to be orderly and peaceful. Immediately they were arrested a second line of leaders had been prepared in advance of court action, just as militant as the first, and ready to step into the shoes of the jailed pickets.

Two hours earlier Hull dockers and others from all over Humberside had already walked off the jobs after a phone called from London informing them of the imminent arrest. Buses were organised immediately to take pickets to London to picket the jail.

By night fall over 26,000 dockers were out. Vic Turner had not yet been found. In London the dockers began immediately organising solidarity action.

Ian Olley (TGWU activist at the time) who still works on the London docks today takes up the story:

"We walked off the job straight away, not even stopping to make safe the ships ready to sail which was the usual practice when a strike was called. We stopped every Tate and Lyle lorry at the refinery on the docks.

"We got to the Charrington Brewery just as they were clocking on, gave out leaflets we'd had hastily printed up. They agreed to hold a meeting and they came out later.

"From there we went to Whitechapel Main Postal Sorting Office. The Security man tried to stop us entering but we just brushed him aside and appealed to the workers.

"The meat market at Smithfield was next. We arrived there about 11pm. As we were travelling round news was coming in all the time of more and more workers coming out.

"At 3am Saturday morning we arrived at Covent Garden. The shop steward called the workers together at 6am when most of the workers had arrived for work and we appealed for support. We didn't need to take a vote, the feeling was unanimous—they just put their barrows away and went home. By this time we had been up for about 48 hours but the response everywhere was tremendous."

"The lorry drivers who had earlier been picketing against the dockers immediately withdrew their picket lines on hearing of the arrests and promised support to the dockers. The same evening hundreds of pickets had descended on Pentonville prison where the men had been taken."

Future Labour renegades, such as Prentice, attacked the strikers

The response of the Shadow Secretary for Employment, then Labour MP Reg Prentice, was not so sympathetic, "they were wrong to organise picketing and backing against the policy of their union. They were even more wrong to defy the court. The IR Act is a bad law but it is the law and nobody can claim to be above it.

"Trade unionists should not rally round these men as though they are latter day Tolpuddle Martyrs. They are just not worth it."

Fortunately his advice was ignored by trade unionists everywhere who continued on Saturday to down tools and picket the prison.

In Fleet Street electricians turned off power to the presses and no national newspapers appeared after the Saturday edition as the print workers followed their lead.

Writing in his diary, Sunday 23rd July, Terry Turner, a Hull docker, noted that the "support for the Pentonville five has been truly tremendous—not because they are dockers but because they are trade unionists. As well as all Bri-

tain's ports being idle, newspaper workers, miners, car workers, lorry drivers and many other workers form various industries have come out in sympathy with the five jailed men."

By this time the missing Vic Turner was found wearing a picket's armband outside Pentonville nick! On Sunday Vic Feather went to Downing Street but the government remained adamant.

By Monday morning all the docks and half the fishing ports were at a standstill and stoppages had taken place in the building industry. Several provincial papers were also so hit.

The joint executive committees of the AUEW, four sections representing nearly 2 million workers, had met and decided to press the General Council of the TUC for a one day general strike. They also decided to call out the AUEW members on Monday July 31st whatever the TUC decision if the men were still in prison.

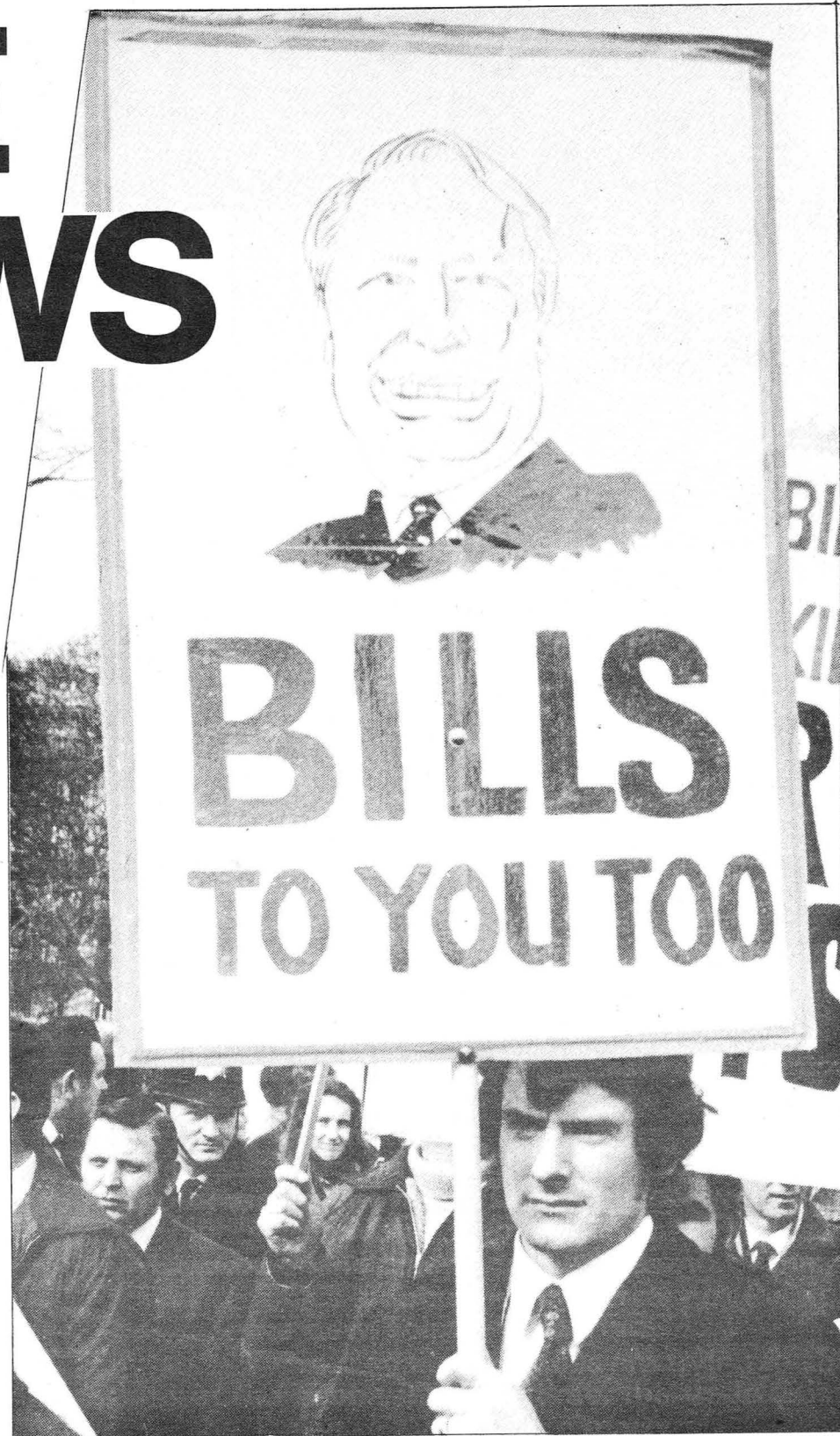
On Tuesday 25th, Terry Turner noted that "hour by hour support for the five men is growing. Dockers and other trade unionists from diverse sections of industry had a big procession in London today. Their was a rally at Tower Hill and then the five men's army of supporters marched through London to Pentonville Prison.

"Some industries, are having token one or two day stoppages in support of the five dockers. Other more militant workers are coming out indefinitely. Now the jailed dockers support includes that of dustmen, engineers, factory workers, fish dock workers and many others.

"All are out on strike, or threatening to strike to show their solidarity as trade unionists."

At Pentonville the 24 hour picket of hundreds remained with all the roads blocked off and a 'picket village' grew up made of makeshift wood and tarpaulin huts with hundreds of banners lining the wall opposite the prison gates.

Buses were stopped and the drivers, having pledged their support, lifted bodily from the cabs and carried from their vehicles to the accompaniment of cheers.



A trade unionist gives Heath a blunt message on the massive 1971 anti-Industrial Relations Bill 'Kill the Bill' march. Photo: Chris Davies (Report).

The buses remained in the road, immobilised, later to be towed away.

On Wednesday the 26th the TUC General Council met and under enormous pressure from mounting rank and file action decided by 18 votes to seven to call a one day General Strike the following Monday 31st.

The strike call was moved by Hugh Scanlon of the Engineers and seconded by Jack Jones of TGWU. David Basnett and Frank Chapple voted against. There were 6 abstentions.

But even before the TUC's formal decision, it was clear that this threat was enough for the Tories to cave in, and they released the Five again, by the intervention of the mysterious but useful Official Solicitor. Donaldson denied that the Official Solicitor was a "political or industrial fairy godmother!", but workers saw him as a face-saver for the government's retreat.

Meanwhile, back in the real world, London buses had been halted, railworkers at Waterloo voted to come out, action by groundstaff at Heathrow had cancelled all of BEA and BOAC flights, steelworkers and aircraft workers had come out and in Hull at a meeting of over 300 shop stewards from

Hull's industries a decision was made to grind the whole of the city to a halt until the five were released.

French, American, West German, Dutch, Indian and Italian dockers offered support to 'black' British ships and the International Transport Federation representing 6 million workers called on their affiliates to support the British dockers.

Upon their release, the five made short speeches of thanks, after being carried out shoulder high and joining in with the crowds singing a verse and chorus of the 'Internationale'.

"The government were inept, powerless, immobilised and impotent, politically and morally bankrupt in this situation", Harold Wilson, correctly for once, stated in the House of Commons. The IR Act had been, effectively, broken.

By such action ten years ago the working class showed the ruling class that democratic rights won over centuries of struggle cannot be swept away with the stroke of a lawyer's pen. It was the mass class action both nationally and internationally by tens of thousands that brought the release of the dockers.

Today the situation for capitalism is more critical

than ever. Despite the defeat of the early 70s the Tories are compelled to try to emasculate the trade unions. Hence the battery of new anti-trade union laws either on the statute books or in the pipeline.

Yet the Tories have not dared to use these sanctions against the working class for fear of the explosive consequences. Thousands of workers openly defied Priors "Employment Act" by picketing alongside health service workers in recent weeks.

Despite mass unemployment and a fall in membership in some unions the trade union movement is even more powerful today than ten years ago. A strong and determined opposition by the trade unions, and especially the TUC leadership would push to one side all the anti-trade union legislation of the Tories including the draconian proposals of Tebbit.

The accumulated hatred of three years of Tory government would be then ventilated if the bosses or Tories attempted to move decisively against the organisations of the working class.

Now as then, the mighty labour movement would not tolerate Tory union laws.



May Day 1958: Greek and Turkish Cypriot workers march together.

CYPRUS Left can win election landslide

After eight years of wrangling between the so-called representatives of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities, the people of that island are not one step nearer their goal of ending the foreign military occupation of 40% of the country, liberating the island from its domination by the imperialist powers, uniting the republic and letting the refugees return to their homes, farms and jobs.

All the much vaunted diplomatic efforts of the dis-United Nations have come to nothing.

With a Presidential election looming in the Greek sector later this year or early next, and with the sweeping victory of PASOK in the Greek elections raising the hopes of socialists for a similar turn to the left, workers' eyes will naturally turn to their own parties, the Communist AKEL and Socialist EDEK, to form a united front which could gain an absolute majority on a socialist programme.

Unfortunately the leaders of AKEL—the biggest party with 33% of the votes—have once again rushed to prop up the discredited capitalist politician, Kyprianou.

Although EDEK leader Lyssarides will stand for the Presidency, the leaders of AKEL will campaign for the workers not to vote socialist but for the liberal capitalist candidate. On several occasions AKEL could have formed a government itself but has always installed the choice of the ruling class.

The reason given for AKEL's recent agreement with Kyprianou was its "struggle for an independent, sovereign, territorially integral, federal, non-aligned and demilitarised Cyprus where Greeks and Turks will live harmoniously." Their programme is "democratic co-operation around an

By Brent Kennedy

anti-occupation, anti-imperialist liberation programme" with "the national bourgeoisie which wants Cyprus to be a truly independent state, free from all imperialist presence..."

In fact the Cypriot capitalist class is impotent and bankrupt through and through.

Cyprus may only have a small population, but the danger which the national and foreign ruling classes see is that a united movement towards a socialist Cyprus could ignite the workers and peasants in Greece and Turkey and spark off a chain reaction of revolution in the whole unstable region of the Eastern Mediterranean.

This signifies the importance of the labour movement of this small island. It was precisely the working class, organised in the PEO trade unions and AKEL, which first took the lead in the fight for national liberation from British Imperialism before the Second World War.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s this movement completely united the workers of both tongues (one third of the PEO members were Turkish Cypriots) and in a series of successful, bitterly-fought strikes showed its power to lead society in a united campaign for independence which would

— but only by uniting on a programme of socialist change

guarantee equal opportunities for both communities.

But once AKEL gave up the leadership of the people to the Greek Cypriot capitalists, this unity was destroyed. The British colonial power was able to play its classic game of divide-and-rule—a game which imperialism still directs through Kyprianou and Denktash.

Even in its progressive role against direct colonial rule, the Greek Cypriot 'national' bourgeoisie played a reactionary role in alienating the Turkish Cypriot national minority. Had AKEL not given up the leading role of the working class, the present division of the island would not have existed.

In a tiny economy like that of Cyprus in this age of the world domination of finance capital, of monopoly production, a world division of labour etc, there can be no serious talk of a 'national bourgeoisie' challenging imperialism. The small Cypriot firms only survive by exporting specialised agricultural goods to Europe, or through supplying orders of goods to the Arab countries that are too small for foreign monopolies to bother about.

Even for this they rely on disgracefully cheap labour, unacceptable in Western Europe.

The Greek Cypriot capitalist class has consistently played a thoroughly teacherous role. In 1974 all the main bankers and businessmen backed the military coup by the fascists and the National Guard whose intention was to make Cyprus a pet poo-

dle of the Greek junta. Only members of the workers' parties fought to defend democratic rights and national independence.

In the war against the Turkish army they proved their utter incapacity to wage an anti-colonialist struggle. In the peace that has followed they have become millionaires by cutting wages by 25% and pulling huge handouts from the state.

Now they want to abolish the cost-of-living index which partly compensates for price rises, and to link wage rises to productivity at a time when they are slowing down new investment.

The profiteers on both sides of the Attila Line are now discussing how to carve up the island in a 'Bi-zonal Federation' which would effectively mean two governments nominally sharing the same name and waving the same flag. But this must be seen, in effect, as a legalised partition. This would keep the working class of both languages completely separated and allow reactionaries on both sides to sow racist mistrust, whilst allowing the Greek Cypriot capitalists to get their land, hotels, and factories back.

The reunification of the island is impossible on a capitalist basis. Under successive capitalist governments, the Turkish Cypriot workers and peasants were subjected to terror campaigns by fascists and the state. Their justified fears could only be overcome by decisively purging the state machine of those who took part in the coup, arming the workers through the trade unions to defend workers' lives, and replacing the ex-

isting police and army with an army composed of both Greek and Turkish Cypriot working class youth, with officers elected from the ranks.

In addition, a planned economy would be needed to guarantee jobs, houses, land and decent living standards for all on a completely equal basis. **Only the prospect of a workers' democracy could attract the minority, as only a socialist plan of production could sufficiently raise the level of the productive forces on which these economic and democratic rights depend.**

So it is only the united working class which can solve the national problem in Cyprus, guaranteeing cultural and language rights to the minority. If necessary, an autonomous area for the Turkish Cypriots would have to be created, if they so desired, though with the right of free movement and the right of all refugees to return to their homes.

A socialist programme to solve the national problem requires a class offensive against the capitalists whose system is responsible for the problem. The objective conditions for such a struggle are now becoming more favourable than at any time in the last eight years.

From 1975-80 the Cypriot economy enjoyed a remarkable boom, averaging 10% annual growth. But this has now come to an end, and cannot be repeated.

For the workers the prospects are declining living standards, as wages fail to keep pace with inflation, and unemployment.

The working class is an overwhelmingly powerful force in Cyprus. A massive 85% of workers are unionised, the majority in the left wing PEO federation.

But that power has continually been held back by the conservative, AKEL-dominated bureaucracy. As a consequence of their alliance with their famous

'national bourgeoisie' they agreed to unprecedented wage cuts after the 1974 war, and they agree with the need for a prices and incomes policy.

But now the bosses will be forced to drive down wages even further. This will provoke a revolt by the rank and file of the unions with demands for action to secure wage rises that will force them to question their present full-time leaders.

In the North things are still worse. The self-proclaimed 'saviours' of the Turkish Cypriots have revealed themselves as colonialists who have imposed a military dictatorship, turning the area—literally!—into a captive market for Turkish big business, and plunged the islanders into abject poverty.

The Turkish Cypriot capitalists form a paltry, backward force which is too weak to take society forward at all. Owning only a handful of small factories, they live off import-exports. Too weak to compete with their Greek Cypriot rivals they wanted to set up an exclusive area within which they could exploit 'their' workers unchallenged. But having been the lap-dogs of the British they have now become the curs of Turkish capital.

With opposition to Denktash growing, the Turkish Generals are preparing to clamp down further. Until the fall of this puppet statelet, the Turkish Cypriots face nothing but misery and servitude.

The left could sweep the board in the coming election in the South—but only if it unites on a programme of socialist change, for the nationalisation of the banks, the bigger factories and mines and a state monopoly of foreign trade. This would be a basis for uniting the Greek and Turkish Cypriot workers and peasants and driving out the Turkish generals with the support of the workers' movement in Greece, Turkey and internationally.



A horrifying slaughter among Lebanese civilians has resulted from Israeli bombardment.

Israeli soldiers recoil from Begin's war

By John Pickard

Despite press censorship and a huge weight of government propaganda designed to show its popular support, there are deep and growing misgivings among Israeli workers about the aims, the conduct and the costs of the war in Lebanon.

The Begin government has been mounting a guerrilla war of censorship against the Israeli press in an attempt to hide the scale of the conflict and the casualties suffered by Lebanese and Palestinians. But the real picture is being brought home, not least by Israeli soldiers who are themselves appalled at their government's policy.

One correspondent from the *Jerusalem Post* described how in the war zone he was surrounded by angry soldiers, including officers, who accused the press of "allowing this war to grow out of all proportion to the original goals, by repeating official explanations we know to be false."

In so far as the Israeli operation was aimed at removing PLO rockets and artillery from within range of northern Israeli towns and villages, it had the backing of the majority of the population. But the scale of the casualties and suffering inflicted on the Arab civilian population is creating revulsion among Israeli workers who supported the intervention when it started.

Casualties are already estimated at 15,000 dead and, it is reported, they

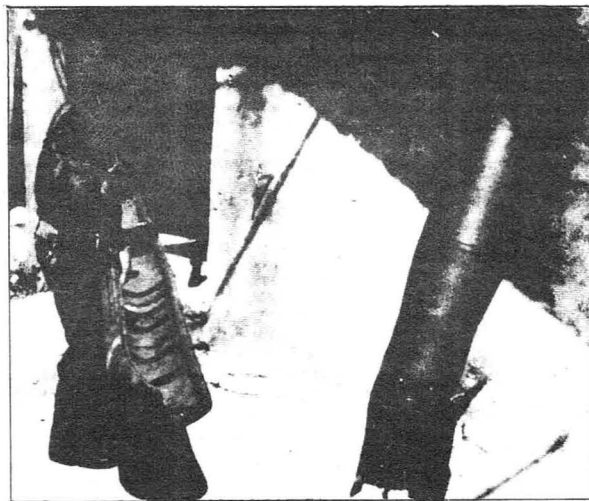
have been made worse as a result of the widespread Israeli use of cluster bombs which are specifically designed as anti-personnel weapons. The cluster bombs can even incorporate a means of penetrating buildings and apartment blocks before their smaller shrapnel bomblets explode so that deaths and severe injuries have been caused to civilians sheltering in their homes.

Rubbing salt in the wounds of the hundreds of thousands of homeless, the occupying Israeli forces have interfered with the supplies of Red Cross foods and medicines sent from outside Lebanon. Last week the Israeli military even cut off the water supply of West Beirut for three days, increasing the likelihood of epidemic among the beleaguered population.

In Jerusalem, the leader of the Labour Opposition called upon Begin to lift the siege of West Beirut. In reality, the Labour leadership are not very much different in their policy outlook to Begin himself—and some on the right of the Labour Party were vehemently opposed to lifting the siege.

But these statements are an indication of the pressure building up against the war. The left of the Labour Party have become more outspoken against the war and the 'Peace-Now' Movement has been revived on a big scale.

A new anti-war movement, known as 'Soldiers against Silence,' has been set up, consisting of serving soldiers and officers and reservists who have come back directly from the fighting.



Cluster bombs—used against civilians.

The anti-war demonstration of 50,000 in Tel Aviv was the largest ever in Israel during wartime. *The Times* reported that a group of soldiers from an armoured unit had even set up a permanent camp outside Begin's personal residence in order to mount a 24-hour anti-war vigil.

Some of these soldiers complained about the manner in which their military superiors unnecessarily provoked skirmishes with the Syrian army in Lebanon: "The battle with the Syrians was totally unnecessary. We forced them to enter the fray. Any army can do a number of moves, as a result of which the opposing army will begin to fight. And we did precisely this." (*The Times* June 29th 1982)

Israeli workers in and out of uniform will learn, if they have not learned already, that the bloodshed and suffering in Lebanon, although it will have destroyed the military base of the PLO, will have done nothing at all to solve the issue of the Palestinian Arabs. There are 600,000 Arabs within the borders of

Israel itself and another one and a half million on the West Bank and Gaza.

The West Bank Arabs have made clear time and again in protests and strikes that they are not prepared to sanction permanent Israeli occupation. New protests have begun over the Israeli intervention in Lebanon, raising the spectre of more popular unrest on the scale that engulfed the West Bank a few months ago.

Israeli workers have no interest in keeping Israel a permanently armed camp, forcibly holding million of embittered Arabs. What is more the Israeli working class will now be asked to make great economic sacrifices to "arm the camp."

These issues will come back into Israeli politics with a vengeance. In the final analysis, this war, which has already cost up to \$3 billion (15% of Israeli GNP), will not have pushed the Palestinian issue out of the minds of Israeli workers, but brought it to the fore.

Poverty in Colombo slums

Poverty in Colombo

We have been hearing a great deal in the press recently about the appointment of the new nannie for young Prince William of Wales. The new Royal Baby will lead a fortunate and pampered life with the best food, clothing, housing and education that money can buy.

If this child had been born in Sri Lanka, however, as the son or daughter of slum dwellers in Colombo, it would be a different story altogether.

A report recently published by UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) called *The Gardens: A report from the slums and shanties of Colombo, Sri Lanka* outlines in graphic and stark detail the horrific conditions which children and their parents can expect to live in. The Colombo slums are known as 'The Gardens' because, as the rich moved out of the city centre, their former grand houses were divided up into tenements for the poor and today's slums were built in the large gardens of their former occupants.

The report describes the hopelessness and despair which capitalism at its worst has forced upon these people:

"Mrs Chandrasilie's baby of ten months is malnourished, his eyes made to seem abnormally large by the smallness with which his face is drawn, his sparse hair greying, his legs widest at the knee. A month ago, soon after being sterilised, this young mother's milk dried up. To her, the two events were cause and effect. Whatever the reason, there was no money for commercial baby milk. And so, eventually, she carried her light son the two miles to this clinic. Here he will stay under the care of one of Colombo's public health nurses until he has put on weight again.

"Mrs Chandrasilie's home is a shanty, built on a marsh. This year the rains came early, and the two-roomed hut is ankle deep in muddy water. Leeches now, as well as cockroaches share her bedroom. She cannot cook at home and has to buy hot rice from a nearby stall. To bring her son to the clinic, she has borrowed a blouse and skirt from her sister.

"Her husband, sacked from his job last year during the failed general strike, now gets only casual work,

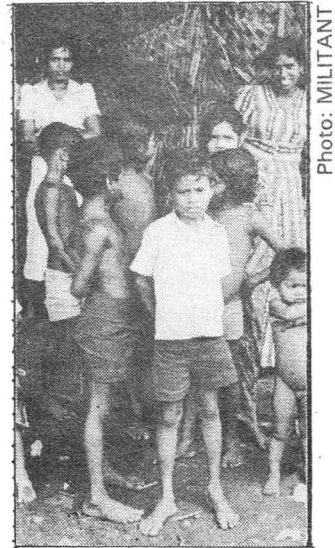


Photo: MILITANT

occasionally driving somebody else's bullock cart. Mrs Chandrasilie herself also works, from six in the morning until six at night on a building site, carrying cement on her head. She is paid \$1 a day of which 23 cents goes in bus fares. The remainder is not enough for regular and nutritious food, let alone for pencils and exercise books and decent clothes which would be needed to send her other children to school.

"The oldest child, a girl of nine, is working full-time.

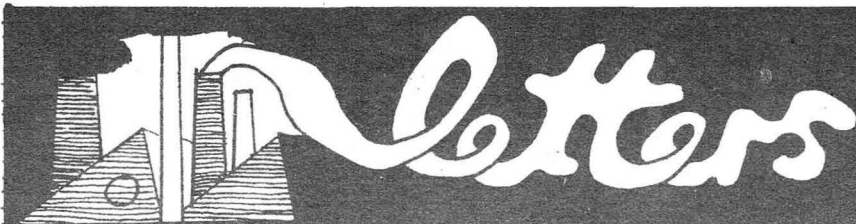
"It is what is happening to the nine-year old girl, as well as leaving her baby at the clinic, which causes Mrs Chandrasilie to break down outside the clinic. The girl is working thirteen hours a day seven days a week as a servant in a middle class household. For this she is paid 25 US cents a day.

"Yesterday, two plates were dropped as she took them from the table. Last night, she came home with new bruises rising on her face.

"Mrs Chandrasilie's shoulders come forward in her sister's blue blouse and her head sinks. Her teeth bite into the lip but nothing now can stop the tears as she sits defeated for a few moments on the floor outside the clinic."

This document, as well as cataloguing the crimes of the capitalist class against the suffering, toiling masses of Sri Lanka, also serves to reinforce the socialist viewpoint that aid of the type meted out by UNICEF is almost completely useless. UNICEF may be able to provide a better sewage system for the slum but what good is that if you are still living in a slum? Only the international and united struggle of the world working class can eliminate forever the 'Gardens' of Colombo and make the world a better place for our children to live in.

By Maureen Boyd



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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E

Scientific Socialism explained

Dear Comrades,

I am writing in reply to "a student" in the 25 June issue of *Militant*, who asked the question "...what is meant by 'scientific socialism'?"

In answering this we should first ask what is science and why the scientific method of analysis is so powerful?

A scientific analysis begins with observed facts and draws its conclusions from these facts. True, science doesn't start with any prejudiced view of events, it sets out to observe events. A scientist is not a priest, he does not enforce his view of events on nature and society.

On the contrary, he observes nature in a logical sequential manner to determine the true course of events. This is why the method of science is so powerful because of its unbiased investigation of phenomena.

Marx adopted the scientific method and used it to analyse society and the economic system of capitalism, then from his observations of world history and the interactions of different groups within society he developed his theory of class struggle and that all other societies had only progressed by the overthrow of one class by another—"the history of all hitherto existing societies has been the history of class struggle." Therefore capitalism would be finally overthrown by the struggle of the working class against the capitalist class.

The philosophy of Marxism is dialectical materialism which is a truly scientific analytical method which as Trotsky said "...takes experience as its point of departure and always returns to it."

Marxism is a method not a fixed, immutable dry collection of theories but living changing ideas which return always to the scientific method.

Marxism is not dogmatic, it is a method which seeks the true course of events. Marxists are not afraid of uncovering the truth like the idealist philosophies of the capitalist system. Marxists are ardent seekers of the truth. How on earth, as the student suggested, can truth be dogmatic?

There are no absolute truths as his semi-religious viewpoint concludes. Events, interactions and objects are in a constant state of flux, there are no certainties. How can events or objects be dogmatic?

Dialectical materialism is as powerful a method today as it was in Marx's day which is why the capitalists are so frightened. They seek to bury the truth in a vain attempt to hide the rotting corpse of their system. They try to alleviate their crises by concocting 'new' theories which only serve to heighten the class struggle and so sound the death knell for their system.

Yours fraternally
Ian Wells
Maesteg LPYS.

We don't need secret conspiracies

Dear Comrades,

The recent talk about controversy and secret conspiracies involving the *Militant* Tendency prompted me to write reminding readers of the existence of a secret organisation known as the Freemasons, and remind them that as this group are today made up of local businessmen and dignitaries it wouldn't be the left of the Labour Party that are involved with this lot, with their funny handshakes and all.

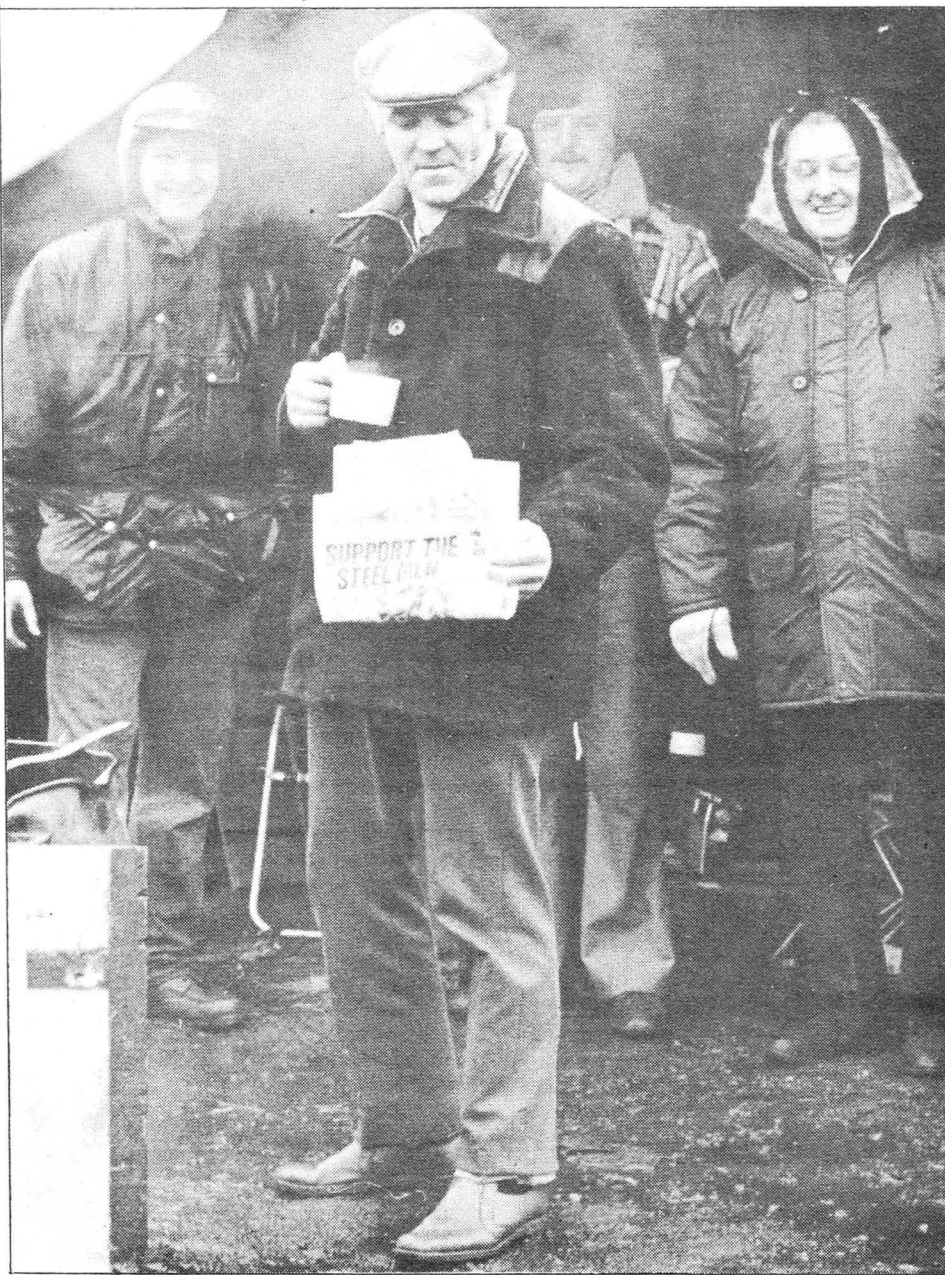
Militant supporters of course do not need conspiracies to spread our ideas—neither do we use funny handshakes to identify ourselves! We can clearly identify ourselves by putting forward Marxist policies to the labour movement. And it is through this that the ideas of Marxism have grown from the voice in the wilderness in the '60s to a voice that makes the capitalist tremble today, as we challenge their outdated society and fight to change it with the new socialist society.

Yours fraternally
Pete Giblett
Harrow, Middlesex.

We need a party revival

Dear Comrades,

I have never been a member of any political party except the Labour Party. Whilst I do not support the *Militant* deviation, I feel that if they are proscribed it will be difficult for me to remain a party member. I can remember



Support for *Militant* among striking steelworkers in 1980. Photo: *Militant*.

that nearly all our best leaders—Foot, Bevan, Stafford Cripps—had to wander in the wilderness, being forced there by party hacks who had as much life and zest at that time as the hacks have today! Too much old port and claret,

and farmhouses and farms in the country—they have little in common with real people. There will be no changes for good as men are afraid to make them. Since '45 there has only been a mild euphoria at the best in the Party. We need discord

and disharmony if we are to produce fighters capable of contending with those 'vermin' that Nye Bevan spoke about. We need a revival not an inhumation.

Yours sincerely
Harry Talbot
Dulwich CLP.

'Militant' will carry the banner of socialism

Dear *Militant*,

I have just become an old age pensioner and for forty five years I've been waiting for 'socialism in one country', meanwhile supporting and working for the Labour Party to help achieve that end, all to no avail. Instead we witness yet another sell out by the right, and by people who were at one time rebels themselves and on the receiving end of the witch-hunts! Where are the Maxtons and Lansburys today?

For many years I read and contributed to *Tribune*, but now it seems that only *Militant* is left to carry the socialist banner onwards. All power to your elbow. Please find enclosed a cheque for £16 for one year's subscription to *Militant*.

Best wishes
J Bowden
Amesbury, Wilts.

An historical contradiction

Dear Comrades,

What an absurd situation! The great socialist philosopher Marx fled to this country to escape the witch-hunters and found freedom. He died here, being buried in Highgate cemetery. And now we have a hard core of influential rightists in our Labour Party trying to stifle freedom and witch-hunting the *Militant* Marxists!

Yours fraternally
Cllr Fred Bailey
Bideford, Devon.

Tribute to a life-long fighter for socialism

Dear Comrades,

We were saddened to read David Lawton's letter (issue 608), in which we learned of the death of his mother, Evelyn Lawton.

We were active in York Labour Party and LPYS until 1975, and were always encouraged by Evelyn Lawton's honesty and tenacity. She was a source of great inspiration when she spoke to a YS meeting of her family's work for conscientious objectors in hiding during the first world war, of her own work for the ILP, and of her work in Britain for the International Brigades during the Spanish Civil War.

We were privileged to witness her instinctive and forthright support for the Clay Cross councillors—and others engaged in struggle against the Heath government—when some members of our Party suffered cold feet.

There was one memorable occasion when several leading right-wingers on our GMC were advocating a "softly-softly" approach in not giving prominence to the

Labour Party's left-wing policies. Evelyn brought the house down and silenced all opposition by asking, "Mr Chairman, why don't we just adopt Tory policies? Then we'll win every election!"

Evelyn Lawton spent her whole life fighting capitalism and Stalinism, and always identified with the youth of the Labour Party. We know we are not alone in saying that her example will remain with us for the rest of our lives.

Yours fraternally
Tom & Teresa Hogan

Call for debate by the Child Poverty Action Group

Dear *Militant*,

Several of our members who happen also be active in their local Labour Party have told us of the opposition they have met from supporters of *Militant* when trying to win support for one of Child Poverty Action Group's policy positions. This is the abolition of the married man's tax allowance, with the proviso that the resources thereby saved should be diverted

principally into the child benefit scheme.

We are surprised to discover that such opposition existed, especially when there would otherwise appear to be such a broad agreement on the question, both inside and outside the labour movement. I wonder, therefore, whether you would consider holding a debate on the question in the columns of your paper. We would certainly welcome the opportunity to state our case to your supporters, and then to answer any criticism or questions that may arise.

Yours sincerely
Jean Coussins
Deputy Director,
Child Poverty Action Group.

Editor's reply: Yes, this is a good idea. Articles putting both points of view will hopefully appear in a future issue.

Stop youth exploitation

Dear Comrades,

The message of the East Midlands LPYS demo on the 26 June in Nottingham was that the fight for real jobs for youth is the fight for socialism.

The Tories seem to think

that they are doing youth a favour, by giving us YOP schemes for slave wages. Well, we have higher expectations than that.

Around Hyson Green where the demo began there's massive levels of youth unemployment. Just going through the comrades in our LPYS shows the plight of youth today.

Bernie Klose has been on the dole for a year now. "I keep looking around for something, factory work, office work, labouring, but it's always the same, 'sorry, there's no vacancies.' I heard of one local factory that took people on in summer, so I went down. The only trouble is they have a 2 year list of people waiting for jobs. I gave up all my spare time building for the demo because I realise Thatcher will never offer me anything and that it's only by kicking out the Tories and getting a socialist Labour government that things will get better."

Even for those Comrades "lucky" enough to have jobs things are not much better. Simon has worked in the same furniture shop since he left school three years ago. He takes home the princely sum of £45pw for 40 hours including Saturday. His pay rise for next year is 2p an hour!

We demand real jobs for youth, we demand a future, we're the LPYS, join us, we're fighting for socialism NOW.

Yours fraternally
John Fahey
North Nottingham LPYS

Celebrate Sandinista victory

Dear Friends,

As you probably know, July 19 will be the third anniversary of the Popular Sandinista Revolution, which overthrew fifty years of tyranny and exploitation at the hands of the Somoza Family in Nicaragua. To commemorate this historic event the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign is holding an evening of celebration and music at York Hall in Bethnal Green, London E6 on Saturday 17 July, at 7pm, with the bands *Talisman* and *The Republic*. Tickets cost £2.50, unwaged £1.50.

Primarily the evening will be a celebration, but we also wish to use it to raise funds to send to Nicaragua to alleviate the crisis caused by recent widespread flooding.

Yours fraternally
Kieran Maule
Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign.

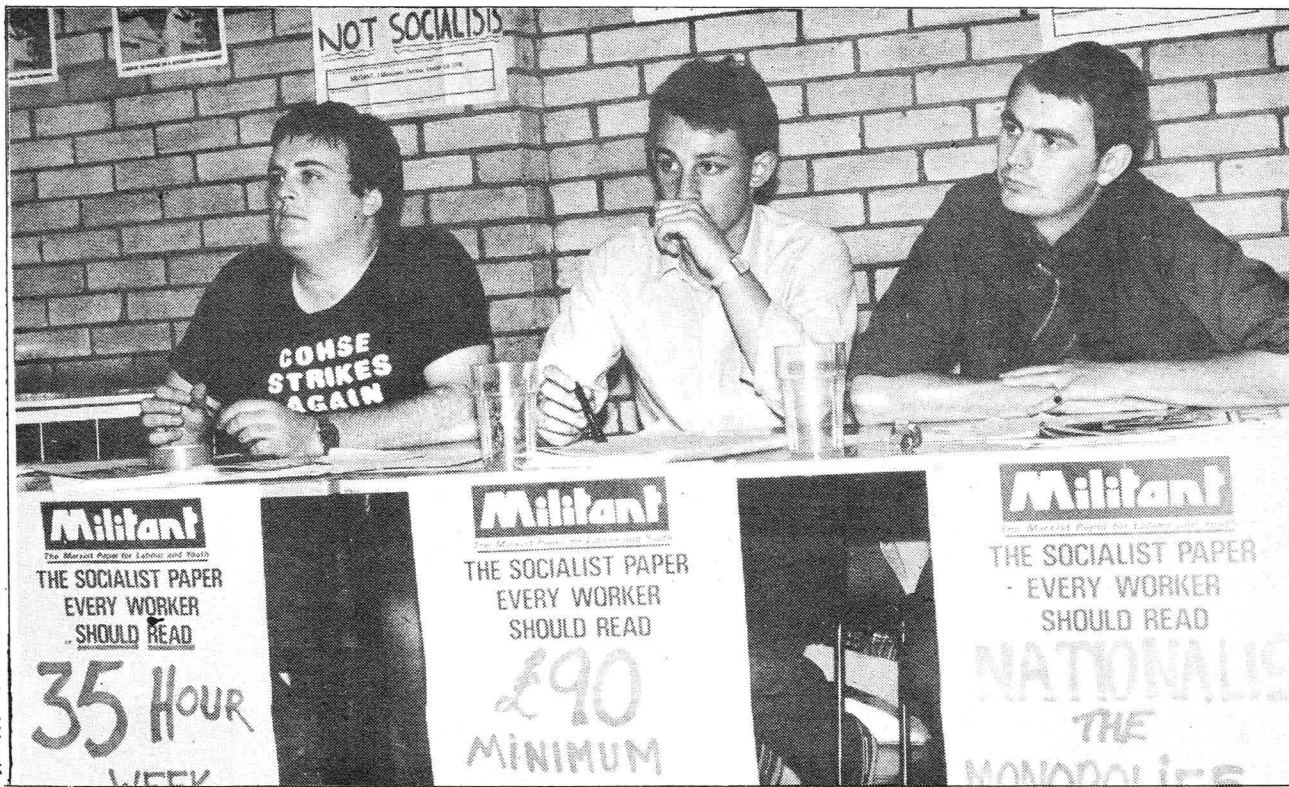


Photo: John Woulfe

Platform speakers at Militant meeting against the witch-hunt held in Ebbw Vale, Michael Foot's constituency

We asked for £1,000 a day - and we got it

A record response to our appeal this week shows the determination of our readers to turn the attacks against us to maximum advantage.

It also shows what the ordinary Labour Party members think of our ideas, and our right to put them forward in the movement.

Thanks to TGWU 5/909 Branch for a £20 donation, and to workers at Self-Changing Gears (Coventry) for contributions on an appeal sheet. We've had more money in from delegates to NGA conference (see last week's issue), and a South London shop steward donated £45 commission.

Collections at Labour Party meetings in the West of Scotland raised over £50, and £21 came from members in Edgehill CLP, Liverpool. Royton &

By Steve Cawley
Heywood Women's Section members donated £15, and a number of delegates to the recent Labour Womens Conference gave us their expenses. Thanks to Shepton Mallet LP members (£5), R Davies (PPC Caerphilly) £10, and to Jo Richardson

MP, and S Bell (PPC Middlesborough) for their help.

The largest amount from a LPYS branch this week was from Littlehampton, £70 from their annual fete, at which it had been agreed half the proceeds would go to *Militant*. Thanks also to Queens Park (Glasgow) LPYS (£23), Brighthouse Folk Nite £15, Stafford (£6), and Birkenhead, Coventry SW, Harrow, Huntingdon, Stockton and Dunfermline LPYS Branches, and to supporters in Trent Polytechnic Labour Club.

Successful meetings are being held daily in different parts of the country, with

leading speakers putting over our ideas. In addition to money on its way from last week, we've had collections from Ealing, Bristol, Plymouth, Kettering, Reading, Chesterfield, Blyth, Blackburn, Huyton and Teeside, amounting to over £400, before expenses. Thanks to all our supporters who have given what they can, whether it's £20 (TV fee, Tony Mulhearn, PPC Toxteth) or 20p (many school students and single parents put this amount aside for us each week).

For amounts of £20 or over, collected over recent weeks, thanks to M Meggy (Cardiff), A Loftus (W London), P Green (Sheffield), J Burridge (S London), S Leckey (EETPU, Scunthorpe), J Teague (NUT, E London), "an avid reader (Bristol)", R Sulatycki (W London), T Atkinson (Leamington), M Richie (IRSF Leicester), B Fee (EETPU, Hull), Manchester readers G Hailey and D Hardid, D Whitehead and B Stevenson (both Scots LPYS members), C Knight (Tunbridge Wells), Bristol readers M Hulin and P Graham (St Pauls LP), J Wheeler (S London), F Moran (Birkenhead), and Eastern readers M Neal (Pitsea LP) and J Lickorish (Ipswich).

Scunthorpe supporters' raffle and party raised £70, and a Bradford North supporters' appeal sheet £19.35, M Wainwright (USDAW, Woolworths Committee), sent £5, and a stall at a Labour Party fair, Hants made £17.55. Socials, parties, or discos were held in Queens Park (Glasgow), York, Lewisham, and Pollok, and a film night in Wandsworth, netted over £130. And other readers held jumble sales, provided teas and coffees, put pennies in jars, and so on.

Thanks to all our readers, especially those in West Wales, who've really made our financial stability a priority this week. Now you've found it so easy to raise cash for *Militant*, please carry on in this spirit.

**Record Week
£11,042!**

How £437 was raised in one week

One week to go and £400 to raise! that was the task, before supporters of the *Militant* in West Wales on Saturday 3 July. With *Defend the Militant* appeal sheets and copies of the *Militant* papers in hand, the comrades visited factories, offices and individual sympathisers in the LP and the TU's.

By Monday we had collected nearly £110 mainly from activists who understand that if the witch-hunt were to get off the ground, they would be the next in line. So these comrades—from NUPE officials to unemployed members of the LP—gave willingly. Many said they intended to get delegations to the Labour Movement Conference on 11 September which everybody who was approached thought was an 'excellent idea'.

The next place of attack was the local Civil Service. A number of supporters in the CPSA soon passed the

appeal sheets around the DVLC Swansea, and some £28 was collected from activists there.

A supporter at UMIT Superheaters, a small subsidiary of BSC, passed the Defence Fund sheet around his works and collected a magnificent sum of £13.50 with 'more to come'. By the Wednesday donations were being collected everywhere. Phil Lloyd of the POEU raised £38 from members in the Post Office.

A donation of £10 was given by a UCW member at his first *Militant* readers meeting in Bridgend. Alec Thraves donated £13 paid to him for a radio broadcast as a victim of the witch-hunt. By the Friday the £250 mark was reached, helped on the way by an excellent fund-raising event organised by supporters in Llanelli who put on a Caribbean Night which raised £25. A further £55 was raised by supporters in the Llanelli LP and TU movement.

By Saturday evening the grand total of £437 had been reached. One thing this campaign has brought home for the supporters of *Militant* in West Wales is the potential that exists amongst activists in the labour movement for raising cash, once the issues are put to them. Overwhelmingly they are opposed to fight the witch-hunt and in most cases, support the ideas of *Militant*.

Last but not least, it is farcical for the right wing of the Labour Party, aided by their friends in the media to say that the ideas of Marxism turn people away from the party. Let the right wing campaign on their ideas and see how much they would raise! Those who donated are no Russian agents, no CIA or MI5 agents, but only workers: the only source of income that *Militant* has or wants.

By Roy Davies
(EETPU Personal capacity)

ads

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

MILITANT MEETINGS AND SOCIALS

ASHINGTON Militant Meetings. Sunday 25 July: 'The Falklands crisis—what next?' Venue: The Ladies Room, Ashington Leisure Centre. 10.30am. All welcome.

GATESHEAD and surrounding area Marxist Discussion Group. Every Sunday evening transport available. Programme: 18 July Tribune's Alternative Strategy, 25 July Britain in crisis. For further details contact: Tom McGuinness, 18 Lumley Gardens, Gateshead. Ring Gateshead: 783282.

ISLE OF WIGHT Militant supporters weekend school Saturday/Sunday 24/25 July. London Hotel, Upper Hight St, Ryde. Speaker: Ted Grant. Saturday 2pm: 'Socialist view of war'. Sunday 2pm: 'Lessons of France and Greece for the British labour movement'. Social Saturday evening.

Classified

BERMONDSEY YS disco and buffet late bar. Sat 24 July, 8—late, 133 Lower Rd., London SE 16. Contact Janet Toms: 403 3981 for details. Tickets £1.50.

South Africa—13,000 black goldminers struggle for a living wage! South African Labour Education Project presents: 'We Live Like Dogs'—the struggle of black migrant miners on the South African mines. Available for hire from SALEP, 28 Martello St, London E8 3PN. (Tel: 01-241 0434). £12 to LPYS branches/Labour Party Women's Sections. £16 to other labour movement organisations.

WRITER, political, working on final investigation magnum opus seeks active assistant, preferably resident. Bases country-by-sea Isle of Man and UK. Preferably no ties as travel Europe, USA, Antipodes also involved. Only qualifications, energy and common sense. Please write briefly, with telephone number if possible to Box no 1, 'Militant', 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

Accommodation wanted. Unfurnished flat in London, willing to share required from September 1982. Contact Mark Perkins Oxford: 44644

GREET LABOUR'S CONFERENCE

Get your Labour Party or YS branch, trade union or shop stewards committee to place their greetings to Labour Party Conference in the pages of *Militant*. This year more than ever *Militant* needs your support.

Rates for greetings:
Semi-display: 3 column centimetres £3
6 column centimetres £6
Display: one-sixteenth page £10
one-eighth page £20
quarter page £40
Closing date for copy is 14th September, but send your greetings as early as possible to the Circulation Department, *Militant*, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

MILITANT SUMMER DRAW

Militant Supporters Association would like to thank all those who bought tickets. Congratulations to winners and commiserations to losers. Will the winners please contact Steve Cawley, 'Militant', 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN, to arrange collection of prizes.

1st prize. Rack Stereo: Howard (Grimsby)
2nd prize. Music Centre: Allom (Ryde, IOW)
3rd prize. Music Centre: T Mole (London)
£25 worth of books to: W Kenyon (Wimbourne), J Everitt (Ramsgate), B Deane (Bristol), Ms McKay (Basildon), Mrs Torley (Airdrie), R Beer (London), Spencer (Nottingham). A Dodds (Glasgow).

Registered promoter: D Smith, 73 Armond Rd, Witham, Essex

Defeat the witch-hunt



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, Berks.

FIGHTING FUND DONATIONS

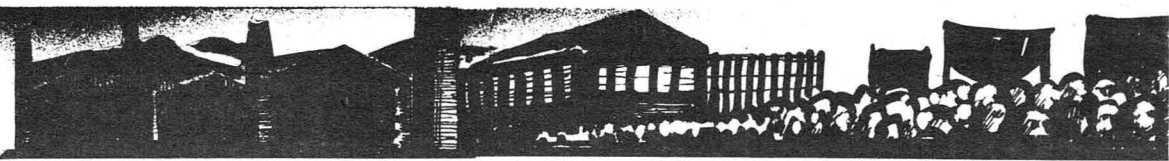
Cut out and send to 'Militant', 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

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

Name

Address

Industrial Reports



HEALTH WORKERS - 'The summer of solidarity'

Isle of Man

For over three months health workers have shown an unprecedented unity that has forced the Tories to increase their original measly 4% offer.

This unity must now be built on, and action stepped up if our full claim is to be won. Already many hospitals and some whole areas are reduced to an accident and emergency service only. COHSE calculates this is the case in up to 700 of Britain's 2,600 hospitals.

In Coventry the 70 sterile supplies unit workers who supply all of the city's hospitals are out indefinitely supported by a local levy of 75p per week from part-time and £1.50 from full time workers who will provide accident and emergency cover only on a rota basis.

This must now be implemented nationally together with indefinite strike action in the stores, sterile supplies units and laundries.

At national and local level joint action committees must be built (if not already done) to co-ordinate activity, ensure regular communication between the members and counter the Tories' and the media's propaganda. The TUC National Health Service Committee must meet at least weekly and publish a lively, informative broadsheet.

This must be complemented locally, by Joint Shop Stewards Committees, organising regular mass meetings, rallies and demos to keep up pressure and maintain morale.



An incinerator operator at work, at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, in Gateshead. Health workers are paid a pittance for long hours and dirty work. Photo: MILITANT

We must then appeal to the rest of the working class to organise action alongside us. This is the key to victory. Already many miners have taken strike action on our behalf. They know health workers cannot easily use industrial muscle.

They recognise the importance of the NHS. For instance in a ward of 10 in a hospital in the Rhondda, 8 of those were miners. But also postal workers, rail workers, civil servants and many others who have taken sympathetic action and levied members on our behalf recognise that a victory for us is a victory for all workers against low pay

and the Tories wages onslaught.

The TUC Health Services Committee has appealed to the TUC to organise support for our three day stoppage. The TUC responded by asking local and regional officials of the 6m workers in unions where health workers are organised to take sympathetic action with us.

This will most likely mean joining demonstrations, visiting picket lines and leafletting. This is welcome but not enough. The TUC must begin now to plan a national campaign to organise a one day general strike of all

workers, involving all ten million TUC affiliates including a clear instruction on a specified day in the very near future to all national, regional and local union officials to organise strike action by their members for 24 hours. On that day a huge national demonstration should take place.

Reciprocal visits could be organised in the run up to the strike with health workers speaking to union branches and factory mass meetings and as in Wales miners, and other workers like rail workers in dispute, visiting hospitals.

In the North East Divi-

sion NUPE has decided to picket all mines, rail depots, major engineering factories, shipyards, in their area to make the three day action as effective as possible. This too should be taken up nationally.

The power and unity of the unions must be used to win the 12%. At a time when ASLEF members are fighting attacks on their jobs, conditions and union rights the power of the movement must be used to break the Tory government and speed their downfall. Make 1982 the summer of solidarity with a victory for the health workers and the entire working class.

The NHS dispute has shown the obstacles workers on the Isle of Man face when they fight for their rights.

The Tories claim that unions are unpopular, yet the COHSE branch on the island has grown from 25 to 500 in less than two years and now includes some workers in private nursing homes. The semi-feudal government's Health Service Board's reaction to this growth is to try to weaken the union.

Without discussion they broke the agreement to deduct at source union subs although this was a negotiable agreement for which they were paid 5% of all monies involved. Now the health authority is putting obstacles in the way of union collectors.

The national health workers' campaign involves the Isle of Man. On the island however the workers face an added obstacle of Trade Union law that Tebbit would envy. Some "essential" employees including health workers are forbidden to strike (and some workers are even forbidden to join a union). So in support of the campaign they are on a work to rule.

The laws of Britain have to be adopted by the House of Keys, their parliament, dominated by so-called "independents". All laws benefiting workers are much watered down and some such as Equal Pay and Redundancy never crossed the water. Even the industrial relations board on the island is dominated by Members of the House of Keys.

When delegates to the conference of the steel union ISTC, meeting on the island heard of these problems there was amazement at such conditions in part of the UK. Delegates agreed to raise the issue when they returned home. Clive Lewis (Scotland ISTC) said "I doubt if ISTC would have come here if we had known."

The island's workers would welcome any help from the mainland and urge Trade Unionists to ensure that work done on the island is trade union labour with proper conditions.

By a Militant reporter

Liverpool

Sefton General Hospital in Liverpool along with Newsham Park and Alder Heys are facing cut backs. Two wards with 48 beds (male and female surgical) face closure at Sefton General Hospital alone.

These wards are meant as back up beds to Royal Liverpool Hospital but with the Royal running at 98% capacity if these wards are closed there will be nowhere for these patients to go to.

An enthusiastic campaign against closure has been organised in Sefton General and the nine different

unions in the hospital have set up an action committee including nurses, porters, medical social workers, cleaners, receptionists and office staff.

Pickets and petitions have been organised and over fifty attended the last labour movement health service demonstration throughout Liverpool. Sefton General Hospital is in the heart of Arundel Ward, Toxteth and the local Labour city councillor Julie Lyon-Taylor and Labour Party members have written to the action committee and organised events to highlight the effect closure would have on Toxteth and Liverpool as a whole.

On 10 July, Labour Party members armed with petitions and leaflets met in the nearest shopping area in the campaign against the closure, and a Labour Party canvass has been organised to explain the issues and to win support from local residents. On 20 July the action committee have organised a lobby of the local area Health Authority at 4.30 at the new Hospital College Liverpool and this will be followed by a meeting in the evening organised by Arundel ward Labour Party with local Labour Party speakers and a member of the action committee in the Toxteth area.

Unity with railworkers

Sue Pearce, a nurse, came to our Cricklewood ASLEF meeting with a message of support from the Labour Party Young Socialists and NUPE.

Two nurses and a health worker came to express solidarity with us on Sunday night on the picket line, and many drivers are now anxious

to join NHS workers on their picket lines. Our fight is the same.

Locomen at Cricklewood met on Monday to discuss strike action and the need to tighten picketing which began in earnest on Sunday night/Monday morning. Many men had

thought there would be no need to picket the depot but some drivers and second men had been sneaking in. But the picket line is also a good place to meet and discuss what is going on.

By Steve Norton
(Cricklewood ASLEF)

CPSA pay battle

The first meeting of the new, Broad Left controlled, National Executive Committee of CPSA took place from 22-25 June 1982.

The major fight for civil service unions this year will be on pay. This is highlighted by the fact that the Tory government is still haggling with the Unions about whether the pay increase for certain grades under the 1982 settlement will be 4.75% or 5.5%.

The experience of this year's pay round; when the acceptance of a wage offer lower than the current inflation rate resulted in a real cut in living standards, has taught civil servants that nothing is achieved without a fight.

Last year's CPSA Executive failed to even mount a Pay Campaign. 1983 will be different. The new Executive, with the Broad Left in a majority is already

preparing a strategy to win. 9 December 1982 was agreed as the date for a Special Conference to discuss the 1983 pay campaign and the Government's attitude to future Civil Service pay.

The recently produced Megaw inquiry proposes yet another system of 'comparability'—but on the basis of the Tories' 'free market economy.' In other words, using 4 million unemployed to blackmail the workers. This inquiry must be rejected.

The NEC agreed to strongly urge the Council of Civil Service Unions to set up Local Co-ordinating Committees, in view of their success in 1981. The battle lines for 1983's pay campaign are being drawn up.

By Bill Boyle

What Militant Stands For meeting. GEC Openshaw, Manchester. Tuesday 20 July, 12 noon. Halfway House (by GEC), Ashton Old Road, Openshaw.



Industrial Reports

ASLEF MUST WIN

Leeds

"Only two drivers and two second men have reported for work in the dispute", TOMMY WOOD, branch secretary of Leeds ASLEF No 1 told 'Militant':

Tommy outlined the lengths that BRB are going to in order to be able to claim to run some services. "A letter received from a guard at the Holbeck depot reads that last week management gave a guard 15 minutes to decide whether to second man a Loco out of a shed."

He also referred to a Bradford University report on the effects on health of being a Locoman.

"The report by the In-

stitute of Transport Studies says that no other rotas are as totally exposed to shift work as are train drivers and that there is no doubt that health is being considerably undermined by the shifts that they presently work.

"Effects include sleep loss, digestive disorders, respiratory problems and depression, to name but a few, on top of the disruption of social and family life.

"The present dispute is now of a political nature and flexible rostering is secondary to the aim of the BRB, assisted by the Government, to destroy a strong trade union. If successful in this sphere, without a shadow of a doubt they will use the same tactics on other unions."

By Bill Wynn



ASLEF members on the picket line at Altrincham station, Manchester.

Photo: John Smith (IFL)

Scotland

Much to the consternation of the BRB and Thatcher, all but a handful of Scottish ASLEF members are behind the strike, which is 100% at Dundee, Bridgeton, Hyndland, Dalloch, Polmadie, Corkehill, Eastfield, Haymarket Edinburgh, Ayr, Thornton and Stranraer depots.

Only two ASLEF members were reported working in the whole of

Scotland—in Fort William. Only four NUR drivers are working at Fort William, and five at Perth, plus an odd individual here and there.

On the picket line, the mood was one of real anger. Every ASLEF member sees this goes far beyond flexi-rostering. Younger members never before active inside the union have ben on the picket line determined to see the strike won.

At the second meeting of West Scotland Divisional Council on 11 July, 180 members turned up to show solidarity.

There was a statement from the chair about support from the labour movement. Seafield NUM donated £100 to our strike fund and a letter was read out from Glasgow Craigton LPYS offering support for ASLEF over the resolute stand on pay and conditions.

SOGAT members on the local rag the Times, refused to print the paper with the BRB's advertisement at-

tacking ASLEF unless the union had the right of reply. ASLEF got half a column reply, a small but important victory.

A very good local initiative was taken by Eastfield Branch. They printed a petition calling on the BRB and Peter Parker in particular to resign, and support for ASLEF. One Saturday at a Glasgow shopping centre they got well over a thousand people to sign it.

By David Chapman
(Parkhead ASLEF
personal capacity)

Edinburgh

STEVE STEWART, Secretary Edinburgh No2 ASLEF spoke to Pat Craven on the picket line at the Haymarket depot, Edinburgh.

"The men here are 100%. No ASLEF men have worked here and only 5 out of 24 NUR members, another 2 at Millerhill, the other Edinburgh depot.

"It's getting through to the men what the issue really is. Flexible rostering is a minor issue. The major issue is changes in working practices, especially the guaranteed day, the pillar for the rest of our conditions.

"And one man operation—we cannot get that

without some incentive for foot-plate staff. The stress on drivers at the moment is severe—many men have come off the main line because doctors consider them unsuitable.

"32 men at this depot are on light duties at the moment with heart conditions, hyper-tension. Nationally there have been ten deaths this year. There is a large element of stress.

"Some of those in other areas who started working are now seeing sense—they see that the future of ASLEF is at stake. Most of the men realise that. I feel that without government interference we'll win. We must, if there is still going to be a railway system."

Sheffield

Ray Jackson, vice-chairman of ASLEF at Sheffield Midland Station spoke to *Militant*. "Since the 8-hour day was won in 1919, there have been four attempts to take back this hard fought gain. Conditions before 1919 were appalling with drivers often working over 20 hours a day and virtually dropping dead at the controls.

"The introduction of flexible-rostering would immediately remove the guaranteed 8-hour day and secondly would lead to virtual elimination of every second man, creating literally thousands of redundancies.

"Of course, management plan to introduce initial rotas very cunningly. A confidential document circulated only to top management advises local managers to put forward initial proposals which appear nice and harmless.

"If it is accepted then as train times change, rotas will change and management will be able to introduce much more harmful unacceptable rosters in the near future.

Militant: BR argue productivity is the key to a viable rail service—can you comment on this?

RJ: Over the past decade the productivity in train miles per passenger driver has increased 150% and per freight driver 100%. Meagre rewards and redundancies have been the only fruits of ASLEF's increased productivity. The main reason for the rundown of the rail service is lack of investment by management and successive governments with no planning of resources and investment. The rolling stock is ancient with most locomotives emanating from the 1950's.

M: The press have accused union officials of being out of touch with their members. How would you react to that accusation?

RJ: Rubbish. We are all active footplaters serving each other. Every one of us has to be re-elected—I'm re-elected every 2 years and can be thrown off just as easily as anyone. At our latest conference it was even decided that the president should be re-elected every five years.

Bristol

In Bristol, out of 18 NUR drivers, only two were going in past the pickets. In the Western region as a whole out of 3,296 ASLEF members 5 were going in to work. In one Midlands depot, Roy Watkins, an ASLEF picket told us, BRB claimed 36 trains had travelled. This consisted of a minor line where one driver did 18 trips there and back!

The local press say Western region is the most militant region over this strike. Roy replied "I'm no militant. I'm just determined that we will stick this strike out. We have no choice.

"We have not been out as in some other areas over smaller issues; we have always been a very loyal workforce, but that loyalty is now stretched to the limit and the loyalty now is to the union. There are very few young drivers here and we were all involved in the strike in 1955 where we actually got quite a hammering. We are protecting what our fore-fathers fought for. There is no way we could go back."

NUR Conference

By a massive majority the NUR Conference carried the following resolution; "That this AGM instructs our Footplate members not to cross picket lines should the ASLEF strike take place on 4 July."

The discussion brought out all the very best traditions of class unity and solidarity of NUR members, whilst exposing the worst prejudices of the right wing.

In moving the resolution, Bob Kettle, Neasden No1 said, "let us forget our differences. This is a trade union principle. When our brothers are on strike we should support them, whether or not you agree with them."

Bro Barber from Hull Branch recalled the 1955 ASLEF strike, when he was a locoman himself. His branch voted by just two votes to go to work. That night when he came in, with his usual driver being an ASLEF member, and therefore out on strike, an NUR driver was booked to work the turn. When Bro. Barber, at that time a fireman, refused to work with the other man, he was sent home by management for the duration of the three week strike.

Shamefully there were a few isolated voices of dissent. There were even two disgraceful resolutions calling for all NUR members to work normally, even to cross

picket lines. The movers of these resolutions were shamed into withdrawing them.

However, there is a lesson for ASLEF here, because a couple of speakers did try to use the ASLEF leadership's refusal to instruct their membership not to cross picket lines earlier that week when the NUR were on strike, as an excuse for scabbing.

These arguments were clearly answered by Bro Shaw, who stated, we shouldn't have to discuss the issue. Bro Green of Ayr made his views clear when he stated, "Even if the discussion of this AGM is to cross picket lines, I will not be crossing them. If my mates are on strike then so am I, and if they're losing money, then shall I."

"Workers of the World Unite," demanded Jack Stokes of Teesside No2 Branch, "The ASLEF are fighting for what they believe in. They believe that the eight-hour day is sacrosanct, something that we shouldn't give up. Stop criticising ASLEF." "I've never crossed a picket line and never will."

By Martin
Elvin

Can your trade union branch or organisation help ASLEF with support, assistance or donations?

Contact the ASLEF strike committee at:
TGWU offices, 203 North Gower St,
London NW1 or phone (01) 387 7242

Welfare state...

THATCHER SHARPENS THE AXE

By Alan Hardman

If you thought the last three years of Tory rule have been bad, then look at what they have lined up for the next three. Their cash limits would devastate what's left of the welfare state.

If carried out it would mean the sacking of 62,000 teachers, 28,000 social service workers, and reducing the fire brigade by 20% and the police by 10%.

This is the conclusion of government working parties, established to forecast the effect of government spending plans, for 1983-4 and after:

***SOCIAL SERVICES.**

"Real reductions in the level of service of at least 6% in 1982-3, rising to 13% in 1985-6, would be necessary to contain expenditure within the cash provision. Withdrawal of services on such a scale would have drastic consequences for clients of social services departments and for the National Health Service."

The government's working party goes on to forecast (on the basis of an overall 10% cut) that 11,000 elderly would lose their places at homes as would 1,400 mentally handicapped and 3,300 children. In addition 28,000 social service workers would lose their jobs.

***EDUCATION.**

The severe cash limits on education would mean a savage deterioration in educational standards according to the government's working party. The 62,000 teachers who would lose their jobs by 1985 would mean that the number of pupils per teacher would rise from 18.5 this year to 19.9 by 1984-5. (Details p5).

The government working party on education also forecasts that to keep within the cash targets, there would have to be a cut of 7% in non-teaching staff and substantial savings in books, equipment and fuel.



Teachers' demo against education cuts, Barking, 10 March 1982

Poorly equipped, understaffed, cold classrooms—that's what the Tories have in store for the foreseeable future.

Not content with that, they would also have to close special schools for the blind and deaf. If it sounds too much like a nightmare, don't think the Tories won't try it if they think they can get away with it.

The only force that can stop them is the organised labour and trade union movement. That is why in order to preserve their profit system, they have pushed Tebbit's Bill through Parliament, to attack trade

union rights.

The Tories will put all the most vulnerable in our society to the wall, if it can get profits for their backers. But their strategy is proving, even in their own light, to be a total failure. Public spending is now a greater proportion of total output than when the Tories took over in 1979.

A high level Civil Service report to the Cabinet recently stated that unless the boom conditions of the '50's and '60's returned, by the end of this decade public spending would account for 43.9% of total output compared to 38.2%

in 1979 (mostly because of increased defence spending). But unemployment would still be over 3 million and real wages would have drastically been cut. In other words far from boosting the economy, attacks on public services have only served to depress it further.

Thatcher may denounce ASLEF and call upon 'the Falklands spirit', but there will be no 'task force' to end unemployment, only increasingly savage cuts in social welfare and education.

5.8% of the gross national product on health in 1980 compared with 7.7% in France, 8.7% in West Germany and even 9.1% in the USA where there is no public health service.

Our fight for decent wages is part of the same fight as that by all workers for decent services. The Tories are to blame for patients suffering.

The Tories aim to "americanise" health care so every one buys his or her own medical protection and

if you can't afford it—tough. A 27-year old housepainter without medical insurance died of burns in Baltimore a few months ago after about 40 hospitals refused to treat his third degree burns over 95% of his body because he had no medical insurance.

Our fight is for a well-financed well-paid NHS to avoid such horrors. Help our action on 19-21 July. Support our right to live decently—and our right to health care.

ASLEF

(continued from front)

working, the mood of ASLEF members has hardened. The threats of lay-offs and sackings circulating all week have only angered ASLEF members.

In the first all-out national strike since 1955, the membership have had to learn quickly about picketing depots, and this halted in its track the slow return to work BRB hoped for. Meetings this weekend stiffened the resolve to stay out with an increasing number taking part in picketing and strike activities.

By Jim Sharkey (ASLEF Polmadie)

Strike HQs, factory visits for support, collection sheets, local appeal letters and many excellent local initiatives have been taken. The ASLEF leadership are now getting a regular bulletin out to the membership, but more should be done to give a clear lead on such issues as picketing and secondary picketing, blacking, and appeals for support from other trade unions, trades councils and shop stewards committees.

At the grass roots, the movement has responded well to the dispute with union branches inviting speakers to meetings and offering financial help. Trade union activists understand this has been from the outset an attack on union organisation.

The National Union of Mineworkers have instructed members not to allow the movement of coal by road where it would nor-

mally go by rail, but this could be far exceeded if there was a vigorous appeal from the union tops to workers at oil refineries, pits, steel works, car plants, container depots, to ensure that nothing normally moved by rail goes by other means.

The TGWU leadership has offered its full support to ASLEF. But other union leaderships have not been so forthcoming. The Union of Communication Workers leaders have scandalously drawn up agreements with Post Office management to handle mail. They should end this agreement immediately. SOGAT must stop the delivery of newspapers by road which would normally go by rail.

ASLEF should strengthen their own arm by calling out underground workers in London (London Transport trade unionists are calling a mass meeting to discuss action over the threat to ASLEF as a whole). Together, the health and rail workers represent a massive movement against the Tories.

The TUC must come down firmly behind the unions involved. Workers will certainly welcome the support given by Labour leader Michael Foot and will want to reject the divisive statements of NUR General Secretary, Sidney Weighell, whose members are also threatened by BRB's proposals.

The unity of the working class is the biggest weapon we have. The TUC should now take the initiative and launch a campaign for a 24 hour general strike to hammer home to the entire trade union movement the real meaning of the attacks on ASLEF, attacks on union rights, jobs, wages and conditions. The entire movement must ensure ASLEF wins.

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HEALTH WORKERS

(continued from page one)

friends in the private sector to leech more profits.

As with all nationalised industries and public sector services, they begrudge spending money on luxuries like the NHS. They continue to starve the service of cash and prey on our consciences to keep the service going.

Hospitals closed, vacancies unfilled, wards understaffed, equipment and facilities worn out and not replaced, nurses forced into private nursing to escape the poverty wages. That is the reality of the cuts the Tory government deny exist.

This government spent