

# Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

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After  
Blackpool

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# TORIES WRECK HOPES OF YOUTH

The Tories will be meeting in Brighton this week. They will be demanding more profits, higher incomes, and less tax for the rich. It's to give them an "incentive".

To encourage the poor to work harder, on the other hand, the Tories will be threatening to pay them even less.

This is the economics of the Tories and the people they speak for, the City gamblers, the board-room misfits, and the idle rich who claim the right to rule the country.

They will be living it up in Brighton's posh hotels and restaurants. But for working people in Brighton the future is bleak.

For youth the situation is especially grim. But that does not mean they are prepared to put up with the Tories.

"Youth and the workers should fight back and not let the Tories walk all over them," says Simon, aged 18. "Only Labour can fight for working people, the Tories can't."

"Tebbit says he's a working class bloke. Working class blokes don't get into top positions in the Tory

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By  
Martin Smith  
Brighton Young  
Socialists

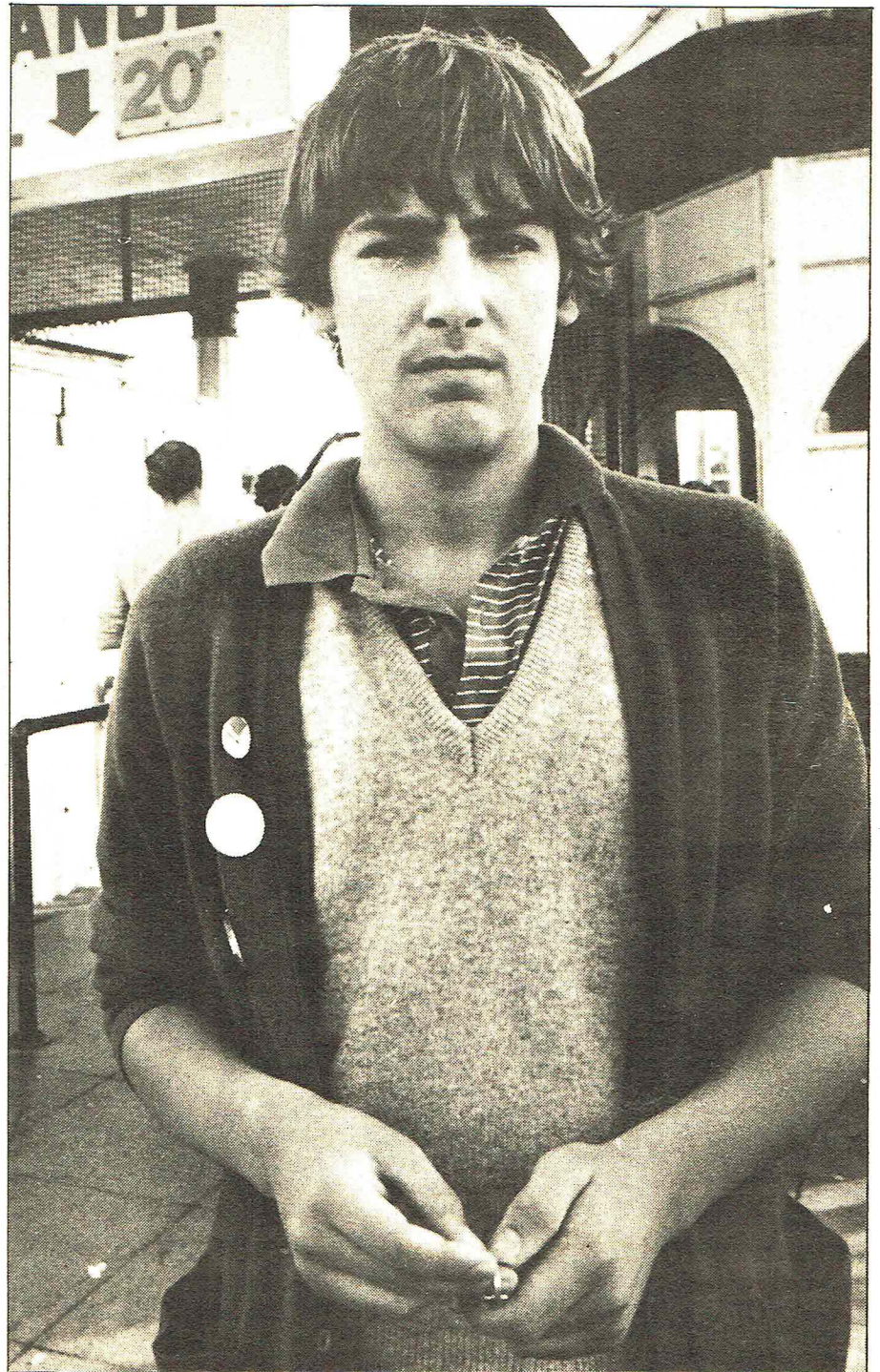


Photo: Denis Duran

"Things are bad in Brighton!" Dorian (above), interviewed by Martin Smith, by the pier last Sunday thinking about the Tories and the future for young people

## Tory Conference... Land of rope and glory!

In April 1979 Thatcher indignantly rejected Labour's warning that the Tories planned to increase unemployment.

"We Tories believe in policies that will create real jobs...we say Labour isn't working. They are the party of unemployment."

Two and a half years later the record is clear. Thatcher's government has

created a nightmare for working people. Their "achievements" speak for themselves:

**UNEMPLOYMENT:** one in every ten jobs has gone since 1979. Adult unemployment passed the 3 million mark for the first time ever. Over a million have now been out of work for a year.

**LIVING STANDARDS:** The amount of money people have to spend after allowing for inflation fell by 2.3% last year, the biggest

annual fall since the war.

Ten million people, a fifth of the population, are "experiencing a poverty stricken life," according to a government-financed study.

**TAX:** The Tories promised tax cuts, and they kept this promise...to the rich. In 1979 a married man with two children earning the national average wage was paying 41.59% of his gross wage in tax. By 1981 this increased to 46.3%.

So savage has been the

Tory policies that even families with incomes £22 below the official poverty line are paying tax.

At the top it is a different story. Executives with ten times the national average earnings now pay 52.4% in taxes, whereas in 1979 they were paying 66.1%.

**INVESTMENT:** For 2½ years investment has fallen. It is 20% down since the

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Don't stand  
on the  
sidelines...

Become a  
*Militant*  
supporter

I want to help in the campaign to defend the paper and stop the witch-hunt. Please send details of how I can assist.

Name .....

Address .....

Send to *Militant*, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. Telephone 01-986 3828.



## Back us with cash!

When they heard their union's votes at Labour's Blackpool conference had been cast in favour of the anti-*Militant* register, a group of TGWU workers at Haringey Stadium, North London, immediately had a whip-round for our Fighting Fund.

One of them made a special trip to *Militant's* office to bring the cash and

ask how they could help.

Workers everywhere, trade unionists, Labour Party members, and Labour voters are angry about a witch-hunt aimed at throwing people campaigning for socialism out of the Labour Party. But to help us fight a purge, your anger must be translated into cash! Send us tenners and fivers if possible; but every pound and pence helps as well. We appeal to you, too,

to take a collection among your workmates.

*Militant* is not going to be closed down. We will not be sacking any staff. We will be stepping up the fight for socialist policies. For that we need a more frequent paper—and more staff.

As we go to press, however, we are still £12,000 short of our £35,000 target for this quarter. Make sure we hit the target! Send a fiver today. This quarter's books will be open until Tuesday morning, 12 October. Help us fight the witch-hunt and build the *Militant*.

# After Blackpool... No Expulsions!

**There was a powerful desire for unity expressed at Blackpool last week.**

But unity clearly means different things to different people. To Labour's ranks it means coming together to defeat the Tories and return a Labour government on socialist policies. To the right it means—purging socialists and dumping socialist policies. The hypocrisy of the right's argument is clear.

But there are also some who claim to be on the left who use the "unity argument" to justify the register. Michael Foot, Jim Mortimer, and others have argued that moves to expel the *Militant* are necessary to achieve party unity and defeat the Tories. Only *Militant's* "inner core", allegedly in breach of the constitution, would be expelled—then everything would be fine.

This argument, however, was torn apart by the right wing at Blackpool. They have made it clear that they want a massive purge, the expulsion of *Militant* parliamentary candidates and a general purging of the left.

How can such a move unify the party? Ninety per cent of the CLPs voted against the register, and will resist expulsions and attempts to veto parliamentary candidates selected by constituencies. In the trade unions (as we show in our other reports) there is a storm of opposition to the "flexible mandating" policy of right wing general secretaries like Sidney Weighell, who are prepared to vote against their own union's mandate.

To go ahead with a purge in the face of massive rank and file opposition is a recipe not for unity but for tearing the party apart.

Perhaps Michael Foot

thinks the capitalist media will be satisfied with the expulsion of a handful of *Militant* supporters? But isn't it already clear that Fleet Street and the television will keep up the pressure for moves against the left—and will exploit the deepening divisions within Labour's ranks for all they are worth in the run up to the general election? A purge, as we warned, can only play into the hands of Thatcher and her big business backers.

According to the right wing the register is merely a question of upholding Labour's constitution. It has nothing to do with policies or ideology. This is bunkum.

The truth is, the right's loyalty to the constitution ends at clause II which deals with organisation. Their real complaint against *Militant* is that we campaign for Clause IV part 4 which calls for the nationalisation of the means of production. We not only support this basic socialist aim, but we spell out what it would mean in practice under conditions of a diseased monopoly capitalism—the nationalisation of the big monopolies and banks, workers' control and management of industry, and a socialist plan of production.

"But *Militant* is organised," scream the right. No matter that right wing groupings like Solidarity, the Manifesto group, and all the rest of them have officers, publications, funds, secret meetings, and membership lists.

The difference is, according to Austin Mitchell in the *TV Eye* debate, is that Solidarity "has no policies" and "no money"—and, we might say, very few supporters amongst Labour's rank and file.

According to this interpretation of the constitution, groups are allowed to organise "if they are un-

successful". But if they are successful in winning support from Labour Party members—chuck them out!

When they were opposing re-selection, the right wing of the parliamentary Labour Party claimed a divine right to hold their seats for ever. Now they are claiming that they, and they alone, have a divine right to organise within the party.

But it won't wash with Labour workers. The rank and file will fight, and fight, and fight, to defend their right to make policy, to select their own representatives, and against socialists being purged from the party.

Neither Labour Parties nor active trade unionists will accept the expulsion of socialists for the crime of fighting for socialist ideas. And it is Labour's ranks who will have the last word.

*Militant* is confident of its support. We are in the party



No running for cover: Ray Apps, still very visible, outside conference after the decision on the register.

and of the party—and the right wing will not cut us off.

"Militant plot escape"! read a *Daily Mail* placard at

the Winter Gardens. But we can assure the capitalist press: reports of our disappearance are premature!



## Witch-hunt threatens socialist policies

**"Policy needs purging too."**

This was the demand of *The Times*, the mouthpiece of big business and the City, in its editorial at the end of Labour's conference.

This confirms our warning. The real aim of Labour's right, and behind them the strategists of British capitalism, is to use the register and the witch-hunt against the Marxists as a weapon to eradicate the Party's radical policies.

They are horrified by the process which has been taking place within the Labour Party. It is being reclaimed by the working class, who are demanding the right to determine policies and choose their own representatives. Naturally, the prospect of a Labour government which will challenge their wealth and power fills the bosses with fear.

They want to turn the

Labour Party back into an acceptable alternative government — acceptable, that is, to big business. They want a government that will restrain the working class, not carry through radical change. They want Labour leaders who will do their dirty work for them in driving down workers' living standards to bail out capitalism.

That is what big business are attempting through the pressure of the millionaires' press and the other media.

The Register, Blackpool's "critical decision", according to *The Times*, "gave the impression of a return to stability and moderate control." So far, so good.

And "the power" (of the union block votes—Ed.) "has been wielded to good effect to change the balance of control in the party." Well done the right wing!

The Editor of *The Times* is like the headmaster of Eton giving a half term report on a difficult class: "Work improving, but could do better."

It is the policy that's got to be looked at, lectures *The Times*.

"Those resolutions passed by a two-thirds majority become the official policy of the party, though they will not automatically be included in Labour's election manifesto...now that there is a right-centre majority on both bodies (NEC and Shadow Cabinet) there will be a greater readiness to ignore or at least blur the decisions of conference in preparing the election programme."

*The Times* is encouraged by the fact that "senior members of the shadow cabinet have already made it clear that they do not expect the manifesto to adopt in full the resolutions passed by a very large majority on unilateral disarmament." If it were to be included, they advise, it should be "hedged around with qualifications".

They are more satisfied with the right's achievements on economic policy. "There

will be less need to fudge conference commitments because a good deal of progress has already been made towards a strategy of imprecision." Influential speakers, they note, did not spell out the details. "The less specific the commitments now on...more public ownership and greater intervention in the economy, the better it will be."

### Editorial

From Denis Healey's comments on the need for "an understanding with the unions", *The Times* deduces that "there would be another social contract". To come up to standard on this subject, however, the Labour government would need a much more rigorous policy for "wage restraint".

The message from *The Times* is unmistakable. The

representatives of the ruling class, through the press and the media, will keep up unrelenting pressure on Labour's right wing to jettison all radical and socialist policies.

If Michael Foot, Neil Kinnock and Jim Mortimer, the Party's new general secretary who introduced the register, thought that by launching a witch-hunt against the Marxists they would gain a sympathetic hearing for Labour's policies from the capitalist media they were sadly mistaken.

The battle over the register is not a battle over organisational and constitutional points. The witch-hunt against the *Militant* is being used as the instrument of a purge of Labour's radical policies.

Perhaps Michael Foot did not understand this. Now *The Times*, speaking for big business, has made it brutally clear. The fight for socialist policies, therefore goes hand in hand with the fight against the witch-hunt.

## Regional Campaign Against Purge

Regional labour movement conferences are being organised for 27 November in nine regions to rally Labour Party and trade union opposition to the witch-hunt.

This was decided on Tuesday at a meeting of the Labour Steering Committee Against the Witch-hunt, which was elected at the 2,500-strong Wembley conference on 11 September.

The campaign to build support for regional conferences will aim to take the issues to trade union organisations. Already, many shop-stewards committees, district committees, and branches have registered total opposition to any expulsions.

The Conferences will be held in Birmingham, London, Liverpool, Newcastle, Bradford, Brighton, Bristol, Cardiff and Glasgow. Details will be published as soon as arrangements are completed.

The Steering Committee is also initiating a campaign for a more representative Labour Party National Executive, and will circulate model resolutions opposing expulsions, bans and proscriptives, and any attempt to remove prospective parliamentary candidates.

### Northfield by-election

After the Steering Committee met, one member, Terry O'Neil president of the Bakers' Union, criticised John Spellar, Labour's candidate in the Birmingham Northfield by-election.

Spellar, an EETPU official and Chapple's right-hand man, seconded a witch-hunting resolution at Blackpool. He was "beyond McCarthy," and Terry O'Neil said he could not advise anyone to vote for him.

Terry's anger at people like Spellar, who want to enforce "tolerance" in the Party with bureaucratic thought-control, is understandable and is shared by many workers. However, *Militant* has always made it clear that it will campaign for all duly selected Labour candidates, regardless of political differences.

Our aim should be: defeat the Tories and SDP in Northfield, but build the party's membership, win support for socialist policies, and work for a better candidate in the future.

**WEIGHELL RESIGNS:** As we go to press, there is news that Sidney Weighell, who faced censure or dismissal at the NUR Executive, has resigned. Clearly, the reaction from within the unions to the "flexible mandating" and horse-trading of NEC seats at Blackpool has already begun to make itself felt!

**BRIGHTON KEMPTOWN BY-ELECTION:** Despite all the press attacks about Kempton Labour Party adopting a Marxist parliamentary candidate, Labour came within five votes of taking the Tory Kingscliff seat on the District council on 30 September. The previous councillor, who died, had a 280 majority. On the basis of this 7% swing to Labour the party would take Kempton in a general election.

# LPYS DEMO

## 16th OCTOBER -



# What the Tories plan for your future

From the 31st August 1983 the Youth Opportunities Programme (YOP) will be replaced by the Youth Training Scheme (YTS).

YTS is a year-long scheme designed to give every school-leaver aged 16-17 an opportunity to train with planned work experience and training. But what kind of training is being offered and who will benefit?

For the last year there have been a number of pilot schemes run by the Manpower Services Commission (MSC) and many schemes under YTS will be run from this year.

This year employers are being given a lot of incentive to run these schemes, up to £2,200 per trainee in fact, whilst the young person employed receives an allowance of only £25 per week.

Many of the schemes, particularly in London, are being run by the Local Authorities, the Health Service, a few big employers and by the Training Boards in conjunction with the local Further Education colleges. This year, it is already apparent that many of the schemes are replacing the first year of the apprenticeship.

Whilst there are more training places available and in many cases they have been very well organised and planned, the main aim of the scheme has been to depress wages of young people and take away any job protection that an apprentice might have had.

The miserly training allowance of £25 per week is contrary to all that the unions have fought for over the years to get apprentices a decent wage. The apprentice strikes of the '60s could well appear again as young people find themselves forced to live on such a low allowance, with no guarantee at the end of their year's training that there will be a proper job.

Next year, the Tories have promised to provide 460,000 places on the scheme. They intend to do this by extending the allowance of £1850 (including £1300 for the trainees allowance) to firms who agree to take on trainees.

A firm who normally takes on, for example 2 apprentices, will be encouraged to take another 3 as trainees. The firm will then be paid £1850 for each of those 5 school leavers, and the firm can decide whether to pay them all the £25 a week allowance, or to pay some the £25 and others the agreed union rate.

So either way, school leavers will be discriminated against and have their wages

### By a Careers Officer

(NALGO member)

forced down.

Where will all these schemes and places come from?

This year an abundance of schemes and places are springing up, claiming their £2,200 per trainee. But next year that same financial incentive won't exist, so where will the schemes come from?

The construction industry in the past has laid down a ratio of one apprentice to 5 skilled workers. The ratio of 2 apprentices and 3 trainees will mean that many companies won't be able to take advantage of the scheme because they aren't big enough, or if they do take on the trainees then we have to ask if they will be properly trained and supervised.

Another glaring gap in the scheme is that there is no provision for 18 year olds, so if you are 18 next year then it's tough! many disabled school leavers stay at school until they are 18 so most will not be eligible for any training under this new scheme.

### Dole after a year

The TUC and trade unions are supposed to be involved in the scheme and their approval given. But what really is their involvement?

At present, under the YOP scheme, the unions are consulted before a scheme is set up in a place of work. That's all very well for the bigger companies where the unions are organised—but what about the hundreds of smaller companies who have work experience places but no organised union structure?

The MSC, CBI and Regional TUCs meet on a regional basis to approve schemes. The bigger schemes are usually discussed but the smaller schemes which have been approved by the MSC appear on lists to be approved on block.

Apart from the worry of the smaller firms exploiting young people, many of the bigger schemes are blatant job substitution.

The Area Health Authorities and Local Authorities that have large numbers of young people on schemes, have been subjected to enormous cuts and cut-backs in staffing levels because of the Tory cuts in public spending.

So these young people are



YOP schemes, as above, have often given little training in skills. And the new YTS scheme will not provide the basis for a secure job.

working as auxiliary staff, nursing assistants, clerical etc

Finally, what happens at the end of their one year training scheme? Some people will be taken in but the majority will return to the Careers Offices, the job centres back on the dole, rejected again by the heartless policies of this Tory Government.

If a training scheme is to work it has to be planned, organised, run and supervised by the trade unions and by the trainees themselves, with a guaranteed job at the end.

The Trade Union movement must be committed to recruiting these trainees into their ranks, to organise and campaign for a minimum wage, proper training and a guaranteed job.

## INSIDE A YOPS CENTRE

Thanet YOPsters have had the opportunity in the last couple of weeks to hear leading local trade unionists explaining why they should join a union.

Thanet, comprising holiday resorts like Margate and Ramsgate had 1 in 5 unemployed in August, and is one of the least unionised areas in the country.

It has been a difficult area of work for recruitment to the YOPs Trade Union Rights Campaign. The usual leafletting in the high streets and outside the YOPs centre has failed to capture the imagination of the young workers.

Undeterred, we went inside and contacted the manager of the local YOPs

Centre (where they collect their money) and after some persuasion got him to agree for us to talk to the 120 YOP workers over a period of a fortnight in their 'Social Skills' hour.

After initial hesitancy, many youngsters agreed that in general unions were a good idea, but wondered if it was worth them joining.

After an hour's discussion the comments had changed from 'all unions want to do is get you to strike' to questions such as, 'what can they do to improve working conditions?', and 'how much does it cost to join'.

One point was raised repeatedly and serves as a warning to the trade union

movement. "They (adult workers) aren't interested in YOP workers. They think of us as scum". You can imagine how delighted and surprised they were when told how large sums of money (in Thanet alone over £100) has been raised by the local labour movement to send them to their demonstration in Liverpool.

Our experience in Tory Margate proves that patience, perseverance and honest answers to basic and difficult questions have won YOPsters to local unions. If it can happen in politically backward Thanet it can and must happen elsewhere in the country.

## 100 factories visited

The build up to the national LPYS/YTURC Liverpool demonstration and festival is now well under way in the Portsmouth area. Over a hundred factories have been visited to raise money for our coach.

Already money has come in from 2 factory collections. Over £11 has been collected in Mc Murdo's and some £20 at Power Brakes. In addition we have received £10 AUEW District Committee, £14 AUEW Gosport No 1 branch, £5 UCATT Gosport branch, £10 TGWU Passenger 2/43 branch, £25 SOGAT Solent branch, £20

Gosport CLP, £3.50 collected at Smurfit, £5 Hilsea branch LP, £5 Rowner branch LP, £3 Fareham Central branch LP, and more still coming in.

### Good response from labour movement

Nearly £30 was raised at a concert with another planned before the demo. We also expect to raise over £60 from a 12 hour sponsored monopoly.

Two local meetings have been held and many of the

schools and colleges, doles etc. leafleted. the TGWU have agreed to print a joint YTURC/TGWU bulletin to be given out at the dole and on YOPs schemes.

We have been invited to speak at shop steward courses, and when all local TGWU stewards met to discuss the day of action on September 22 we were invited to talk for a few minutes about the YOPs campaign. The response from the local movement has been really good and shows the support that exists for the YS and already some factories are talking of sponsoring some of their young

members to go to Liverpool.

We must now build on the work we have done to fill our coach and to recruit more young workers into the YS from the demo. Those right wingers in the party who argue the YS should be closed down would get little support from the active trade unionists in our area.

The YS and YTURC are now established as campaigning organisations out to fight for the rights of young people in all areas—actions speak louder than words. Our work has proven the support we have.

By Andy Allenby  
(Southern Region LPYS Committee)

# NORTHERN IRELAND: Terrorism a blind alley

## Two young residents of Divis flats sent us an eye witness account of the effects of the explosion on 16 September

"Two of us were on a paper sale in West Belfast on 16 September when we heard about an explosion in Divis Flats.

We came down the Falls Road to the flats and saw crowds of people standing at their doors. The police and army were out at the bottom of a corridor, and had blocked off Cullingtree Walk.

We stopped outside my home and then split up. I went in. Only then did I find out my sister had been hit by a piece of shrapnel, along with some other kids.

They had been playing in the park about 50 yards away from the blast. I heard also that Stephen Bennett, a boy I knew who was only about 14 or 15 years-old, had been killed and another badly injured.

P. went on round to his grandfather's home, which is in Cullingtree Walk, but was not allowed through. There he saw Stephen Bennett's body lying on the ground, where the police had covered it.

The damage was very bad, windows smashed and broken; the drainpipe and pillar ripped to pieces. The explosion had torn the concrete off the steel rods in the pillar.

Shrapnel was buried everywhere. He had a terrible feeling about his grand-

parents because they are deaf. It must have given them a terrible fright. He found out that two soldiers were seriously injured and six children as well; such stupidity.

Later on, the next day, the facts started to filter

through. The Provisional IRA said they didn't do it, and then the so called Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) claimed responsibility. The shocked mood of the people turned to anger against them. Also news came that the second boy,

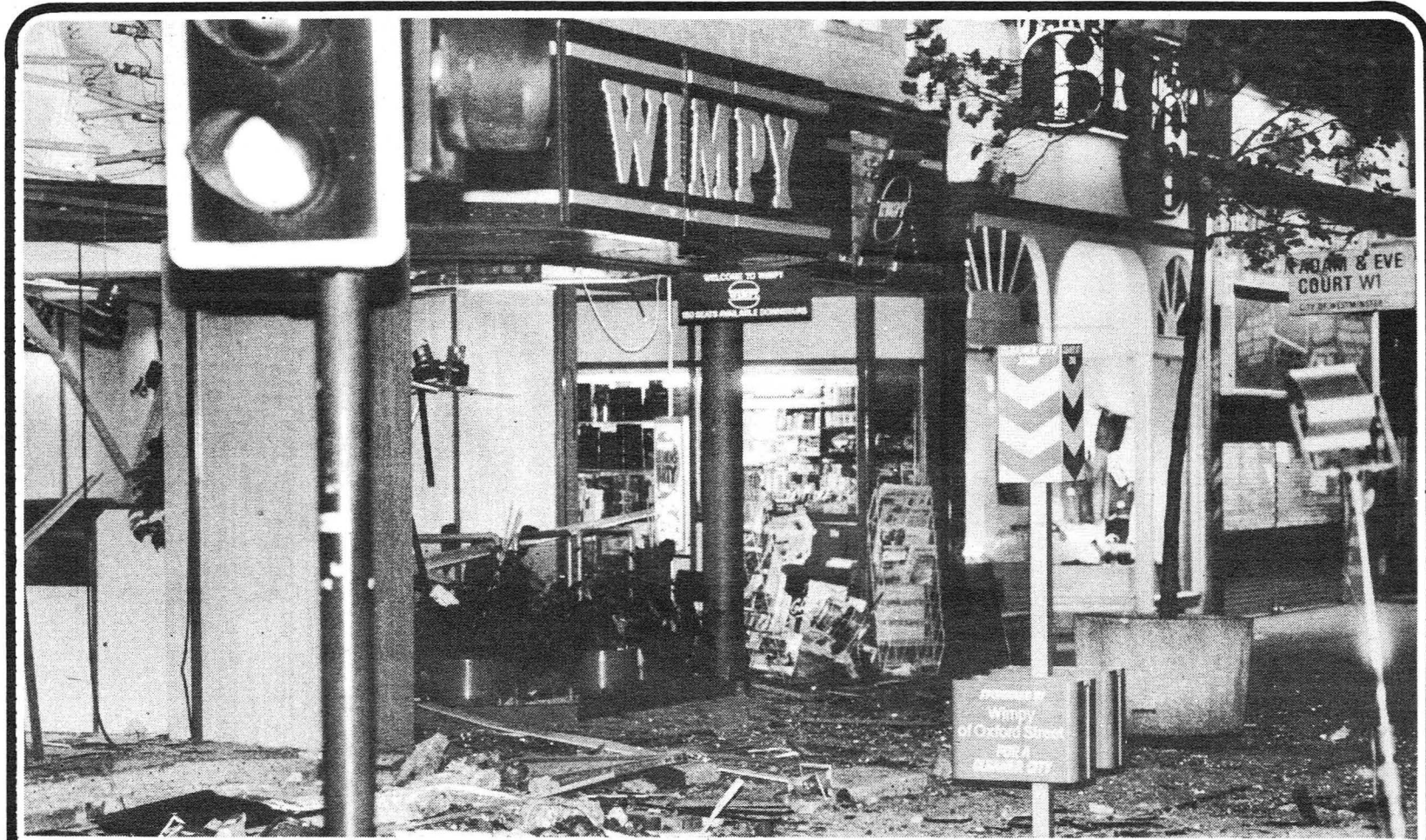
Kevin Validay, one of 22 children, had also died.

It was then that a march was held; about 50-100 people came out from the flats and chanted slogans against the INLA. Even the Provos, trying to be seen as the upholders of nationalist

justice, spoke out against the INLA...yet these people use the same methods as the INLA. It is necessary that these organisations be seen for what they are and that working class people fight the real battle for socialism.

The marvellous response

of the workers of Northern Ireland, on 22 September from both Catholic and Protestant areas shows the real priority of most workers. There has never been a better opportunity to build working class unity.



A bomb devastates part of Oxford Street in London; a regular occurrence in Northern Ireland for more than a decade. Terrorist methods have totally failed to solve the problems of army repression, sectarianism, poverty and unemployment. Photo: Carlos Augusto (IFL)

## EDUCATION:

# Workers locked out

**The 4% 'increase' in this years student grant means yet another cut in the living standards of university and polytechnic students when inflation is taken into account.**

With students facing massive increases in hall fees, books and travel, many will not be able to continue their education.

Even though the real value of the grant has been cut by almost a third since its introduction in 1962, many Tories say if they win the next general election, even this paltry amount will be scrapped.

The Tories "Think-Tank", supported by Chancellor Geoffrey Howe, are proposing to abolish the student grant completely, and replace it with state scholarships for the country's 300,000 "brightest" pupils. According to the 'Guardian' (17 September) "the others would be expected to raise the average sum of £12,000 for a three year course".

William Waldegrave, Tory Under Secretary for Higher Education admitted "it could mean limiting the number of students" (speaking at Headmasters' Conference 22 September). With

15,000 of last years graduates still unemployed, what chance would working class students have of repaying £12,000?

Already working class youth are being excluded from higher education by the cost and the Tory cuts. As the Guardian (19th August) shows "last year universities offered 4,000 fewer places, were forced to reject well qualified applicants and increase the grades required. A total of about 20,000 places will disappear because of the cuts."

It is essential that the National Union of Students takes up a massive campaign against these cuts, and for a decent grant to enable workers to be able to afford to go to university.

The election of a Labour President of NUS last Easter shows that students are looking for a fighting lead against Tory education cuts.

A massive turnout of students on the Labour Party Young Socialists demo on October 16th would be a major step forward in the campaign against the Tories. All Labour Clubs should be campaigning for a maximum turnout from their college.

Members of Queen Mary College Labour Club are putting forward a resolution to the first General Meeting of the Student Union, calling for a coach to be booked to take students to Liverpool,

and for a donation to the LPYS funds.

They have also ordered extra supplies of the LPYS leaflet aimed at 16-18 year olds in full-time education to take down to local F.E. and Tech colleges to advertise the march. Undoubtedly these examples are being repeated nationwide, building support for Marxist ideas within the student movement.

**By Peter Mumford.**

## BURY

TV sports commentator Jimmy Hill was picketed by anti-apartheid demonstrators when he spoke at a sportsman's dinner in Bury, Lancs, last week.

Hill refused to sign a petition calling for the release of political prisoner David Kitson who has languished in a South African jail for 19 years.

But he said he would consider signing if the protesters sent him some information on the Kitson case. This has been arranged.

Hill denied any involvement in this summer's ill fated South African soccer tour. He said "I went to South Africa as an observer and left before the tour started. I wasn't paid a penny."

The demonstrators were

pleased with the response to their picket. Forty-three people signed the free Kitson petition as they entered the £12.50 a head all-male dinner. And £6 was collected. As one picket said, "Not bad for the ruling class of Bury."

**By Miles Barker (NUJ)**

## BURNLEY

The growth in support for Militant was obvious looking round the Keighley Green Club in Burnley when 70 people turned up to hear Pat Wall speak before Labour Party conference.

The club committee had generously allowed us use of

their premises after the previously arranged meeting place had cancelled our bookings when they suddenly claimed they "couldn't hold political meetings".

The people who turned up were delighted we could get a venue as Pat Wall gave a tremendous speech pointing out that Militant supporters were not going to lie down and take attacks, but would fight for their right to put their ideas in the Labour Party.

After an excellent lively discussion one local Labour Party member said he had become disillusioned with developments within the Labour Party and had been on the point of leaving but Pat Wall's speech had convinced him to stop in the Labour Party and fight for his beliefs.

**By JP Johnston, Burnley Labour Party.**

# Union mergers — for the workers, or for right-wing union leaders?

Reading the 'Times' on Tuesday 28 September, I was staggered when I read an article about Terry Duffy's proposal for amalgamation between the engineers and electricians. For the purpose as the article said "To form a powerful political counterbalance to the left-wing Transport and General Workers Union".

What will enrage the ordinary members of the AUEW and EETPU is that to satisfy the political organisational whims of their leaders a great number of engineers and electrician

jobs it seems are being prepared for sacrifice. The 'Times' quoting Mr. Duffy said "with the advent of new technology an amalgamation of this kind would assist the members of both organisations and assist the nation."

"Assisting the Nation" presumably means the bosses of industry, as we can see from "The Times" report of Mr. Duffy's subsequent comments. "Present demarcation lines in industry, meant that maintenance jobs required, say 10 electricians and 10 fitters. We could probably do it with less than that

because there would be a different job description. They could amalgamate jobs. There would be no such demarcation lines." If these words were spoken, then they will enrage every engineer and electrician in these unions, and others who work in the engineering industry like the NSMM who have in the past discussed the possibility of affiliation with other engineering unions but reject it because it may mean losing their own democratic structure. Whether or not this merger of the AUEW and EETPU goes through is

a side issue now, the very fact that the leaders can contemplate selling out members' jobs in this manner is enough.

This matter and the question of leadership must be taken up by the members at every level of these unions, right up into next years conferences.

**By Mick Cotter (NSMM maintenance fitter) and Bob Faulkes (EETPU and Hackney Central LP)**



## How to get a profit

Two developments last week showed the parasitic nature of British capitalists. The Bank of England's Quarterly Report stated that half of the 250 major companies it surveyed had paid out dividends that were not fully covered by current cost profit.

And last week saw the opening of a new futures market for buying currency. Now you can speculate away, gambling that the exchange value of the currency you purchase will appreciate. It won't provide one extra job, or help fulfil one social need, but then that's never been capitalism's purpose has it?

## Return of the Hobo

Reaganomics has led to the overcrowding of the railway freight cars; the hobo is back. A recent article by the Daily Mail's American correspondent reported that more and more people are drifting around the country looking for work.

But just in case Tebitt thinks that such 'individual initiative' should be copied by British workers, one hobo interviewed stated that he had not been able to find a job for seven months. And it's not the romantic life portrayed in some Hollywood films. Another hobo lost both legs jumping from a train.

## The Noah's Ark Industry

The advertising industry is surviving very well, thank you. Even if industry isn't making anything they're still advertising it. Like a Noah's Ark in the Flood says the "Times". Total advertising revenue in real terms in 1981 was 3% above the figure in 1978 a highly profitable year and more than 25% over the 1976 figure. Detergent firms like Procter and Gamble (expenditure £25million) and Lever Brothers (£14million) compete in selling almost indistinguishable soap powders. Chocolate firms occupy second third and fourth and sixth position in spending, while booze and fag ads dominate the press and hoardings market.

But rising from twelfth to eighth place come the Electricity Council (£13million) while up from 26 to 22 come the Gas Corporation, (nearly £10million) British Rail go up from 19th to 14th spending £11 million last year. (How much did flexi roasting "save"?) And wouldn't it be better if the electricity and gas industries were part of a coordinated socialist energy policy instead of competing with each other for sales of cookers fridges etc.?

And while we're asking questions, how about the next Labour government introducing workers control and management in those industries?

## 50 YEARS AGO

Writing his regular column for the Times in the 1930's, Callisthenes told his rich readers what they wanted to hear. His article of 13 September 1937, entitled 'The world needs more rich men' would draw strong applause from Thatcher to-day:

"It is of course more common and conventional to deplore the decline in the lower incomes, either by cuts or by periods of unemployment. The human stress and anxiety is there more obviously. But we are inclined to think from a world point of view the decline in the number of rich men is more serious. The clerk who has been earning £250 a year instead of £350 is enduring a trouble which in the main begins and ends with the feelings of himself and his family. But when a man loses a quarter of a million of money it is a loss not only to himself but a serious blow to the future of trade and industry."

Not convinced? Well his clinching argument for the rich was that it was they "who have been able to aid the arts and to encourage the development of the beautiful. It is they who have helped to make more splendid the cities in which we live." Surely that should convince any unemployed sceptic in the inner-cities?

# From Sputnik to space wars

Twenty-five years ago, on the 4th October, 1957, the first man-made satellite, the sputnik, was launched into orbit by Russia.

Sputnik was equipped with a tiny radio transmitter, and such was the excitement at the time, that people bought binoculars, telescopes and even opera glasses in the hope that they would see the tiny object in the sky.

The launching of the sputnik by the USSR was a marvellous achievement for a country which had been, in the early 1920s, the most backward industrial country of Europe. It was a testament, in the language of modern technology, to the superiority of a planned economy—despite Stalinism, and the enormous war devastation—over chaotic capitalism.

In the twenty five years since that date, the launching of a satellite, even with far more complex equipment, hardly rates a mention in the papers. Huge strides forward have been made by the USSR, by the USA, (forced to spend billions of dollars to keep up with the Russians,) by the other capitalist powers, and even by some Third World states.

There is now a huge range of uses to which satellites can be put, in order to improve the conditions and the life of humanity in general. Satellites in a static orbit now cover the globe and provide the bases of modern international communications links.

Domestic TV receivers can now be built to pick up TV transmissions, via satellites, from almost any part of the planet. There are satellites which regularly circle the earth with infra-red, light or radio-sensitive equipment, so that it is now possible for the first time ever to draw literally up-to-the-minute weather maps, geological surveys, crop and pest surveys, fishing surveys, etc, etc.

A whole range of sciences like astronomy and physics have been enhanced by the use of experimentation and observation above the restrictions of the earth's atmosphere. But can it be said that all the available benefits from satellite technology have been made really accessible to humanity?

The strategic rivalry between the USA and the USSR, because of their fundamentally different economic systems, has led to a wasteful race in technology, not even based on the development of useful processes and products, but on the development of weaponry.

Satellites have now become a vital component of military science, providing communications between military groups, navigations systems for military aircraft, ships and missiles, secretive reconnaissance of other countries arms deployment, and so on.

In fact, of the 2,000 or so satellites which have been launched since the first sputnik, over 75% have been

already believe that the Russians possess a 'Killer satellite' which has the capacity to lock onto and knock out other 'enemy' communications satellites by means of a concentrated particles beam—in other words a 'laser'.

By Steve Amor.  
(Stepney and Poplar LP)

Technology is neither military nor peaceful—it depends on who controls it

military, and the trend, far from abating, is increasing.

Military planners have steered space programmes further and further away from civilian use, towards fantastic 'Star Wars' machinery and systems. "The potential for space becoming a more hostile environment is increasing", as one top US Airforce planner

The Space division of the US Airforce has recently been renamed 'Space Command' and has been allocated hundreds of millions of dollars for research. "Cumulative expenditure of some \$2 billion



Over 75% of all satellites have been military. (Above) Planning new space warfare at Aldermaston. (Below) the first Sputnik.



put it.

Quite apart from the more orthodox uses of satellites mentioned above, there is increasing research into the possible use of satellites as fighting machines in their own right. The Americans

on laser weapon research", an article in New Scientist commented, "make it the Pentagon's single largest technology programme."

In a speech he made as chairman of the scientific

and technical board of industry in the USSR, Trotsky, in 1926 said that technique and science do not "develop in a vacuum", but in human society. "The ruling class", he continued, "controls technique and through it, controls nature. Technique itself cannot be called either militaristic or pacific. In a society in which the ruling class is militaristic, technique is the service of militarism."

It is quite clear that the enormous possible benefits from space research are indeed misused and abused in the interests of the ruling class in the West, especially in the USA, and also in the interests of the bureaucratic clique who wield political control in the Stalinist states.

It should also be said, that not only is there a huge waste of resources in the military race between the USA and the USSR, but there is even also a growing commercial rivalry between the capitalist powers.

Even the most backward of the Third World countries can now gain an advantage from stationing its own communications of weather satellite over its territory and there is a growing rivalry between the American space agencies and the European 'Ariane' rocket consortium for what is expected to be a lucrative market in launching these satellites. A rocket capable for launching a satellite has even been developed and successfully tested by a private company in the USA, hoping to go into competition with the government space agency.

It has been estimated that between now and the end of the century, there will need to be at least another 150-200 communications satellites, and up to 300 others for weather research etc. Both the American Space 'Shuttle' and the European 'Ariane' rocket launcher have advanced orders, both military and civilian, running into hundreds of millions of dollars for the launch of at least some of them.

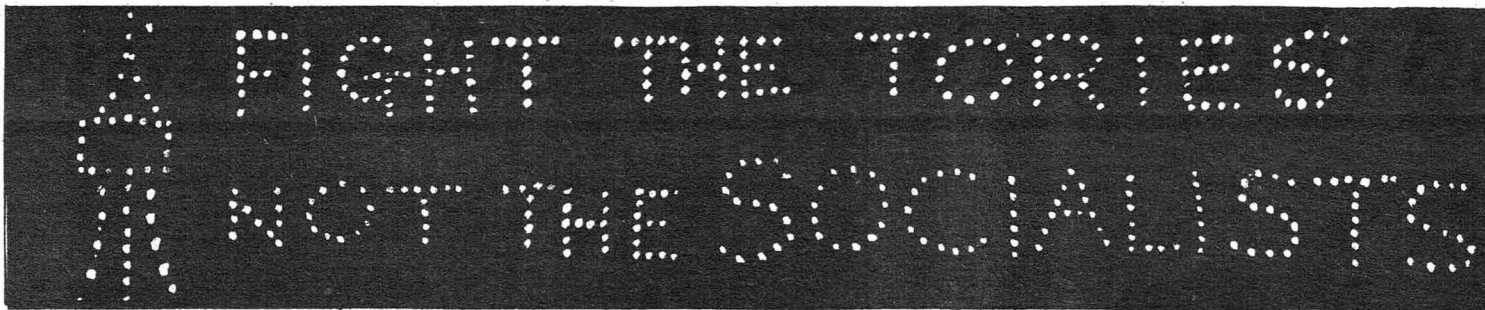
The competition between these two inevitably means that research is semi secretive and much of it wasted by duplication. Economic constraints will lead inevitably to the increasing use of military contracts as the money for civilian contracts becomes less and less available.

Mankind has begun to develop science and technique in space. But in order to wrest the control of these developments from those who distort and misuse them, in order to realise what Trotsky referred to as "the unbounded possibilities for liberated mankind", the socialist transformation of society is necessary on a world scale.

Science and technique must be taken out of the hands of the military strategists of capitalism and the Stalinist bureaucracies, and put at the disposal of the labour movement.

Only a planned socialist society, on the whole of the planet, can guarantee that there is any future at all for space research, let alone peaceful research. Only the workers of the world can build the stairway to the stars.

# Labour's Conference '82



MILITANT READERS MEETING:

## Why the witch-hunt will fail

In opening the conference Militant Readers Meeting, chairman Tony Saunois graphically illustrated how the witch-hunt would backfire on the right-wing. He read out a letter from a worker who sent £20 to the fighting fund after seeing Monday's debate on BBC's Panorama.

The first speaker, Peter Taaffe, editor of Militant, explained that Militant had grown not through magic formulas, but through the experiences of the working class.

Peter took up the question of the Socialist Party election victory in France, applauded the fact, but pointed out that the government had been forced onto the retreat by big business, as it hadn't taken control of the economy despite its massive mandate from the French workers.

The same fate awaited a Labour government unless it implemented Clause 4 of its constitution and took over the commanding heights of the economy, the top 200 monopolies.

Political editor Ted Grant, explained how the witch-hunt would fail. The witch-hunts by the right-wing in the '50's and '60s were "night-mare days". But the right-wing had succeeded then because the working class, at a time of capitalist boom with rising living standards and low unemployment, were not actively involved with the labour movement.

It was totally different today in the depths of the capitalist crisis, where the ranks of the labour and trade union movement were moving further to the left.

Speakers from the floor—despite requests from the platform for anyone who supported the witch-hunt to speak—all opposed the purge.

Terry Fields, PPC for Kirkdale, said his experiences led him to Marxism, not conspiracies. He told of his experiences as a fireman during their strike in the late '70s, and how today's unemployment had affected his family.

Phil Holt of the POEU, told how he had been guaranteed by Michael Foot that he wouldn't be expelled! During a bomb scare at conference, he had met Michael Foot outside. Phil told Michael Foot that in his biography about Nye Bevan,

he had written about how Bevan and the left had organised a 'secret' caucus in Tredegar. Mr Foot said this was true and told Phil it was alright to set up a similar group in his area, as long as it was on a local scale.

Dave Nellist, PPC for Coventry South East, explained how the city had gone from 'Motor City' to today's situation with a fifth of the male workforce unemployed.

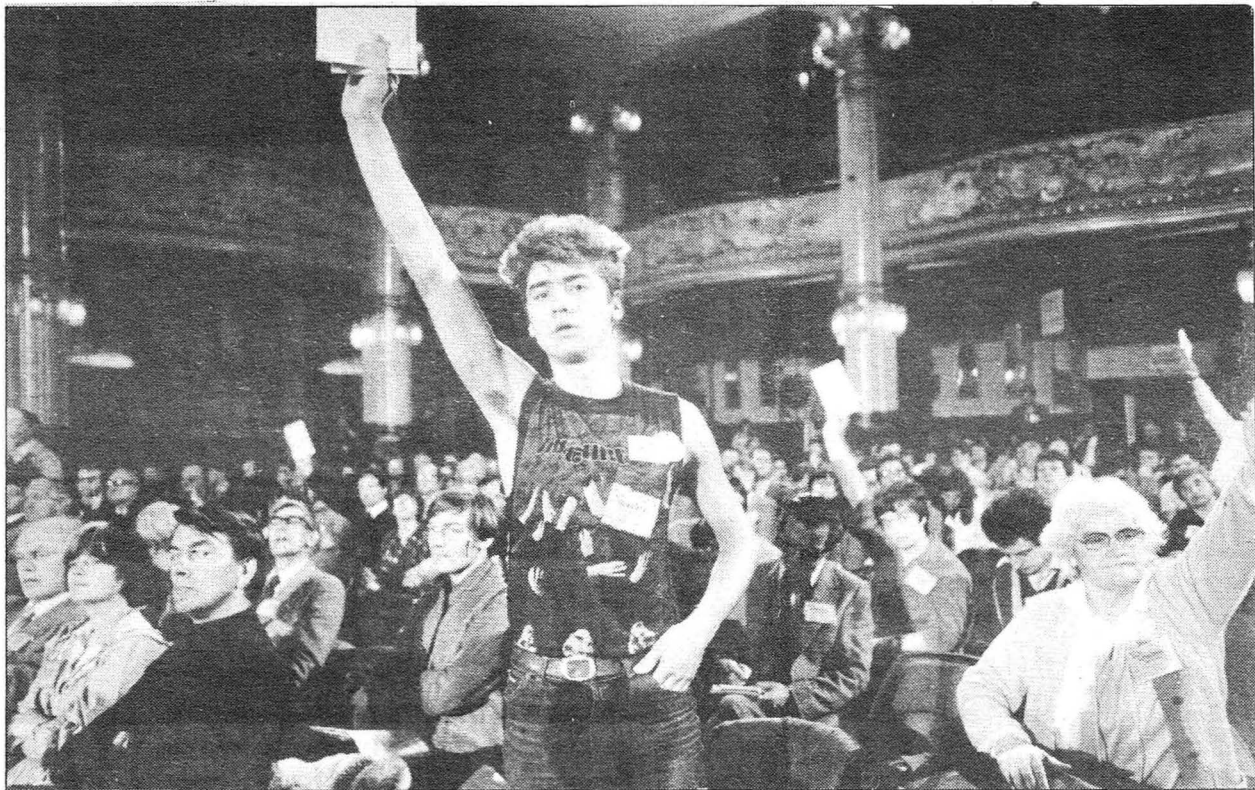
Ron Wallis, of Hull West CLP, said he wasn't a 'Militant' supporter, but urged the left of the party to stand behind Militant and defeat the witch-hunt.

Laurence Coates, LPYS representative on the NEC, warned that now with the NEC in the hands of the right-wing, it was likely that there would be an attack on the LPYS. Already, the LPYS pamphlet 'Ideals of October' had been suppressed, and it was feared that the right-winger John Golding would be appointed chairman of the NEC Youth Committee.

But as Peter Taaffe said in summing up the meeting, the right-wing may have scored a victory but the war was not over—the battle had just begun.

The London daily, the 'Evening Standard', did a marvellous piece of investigative journalism and reported that the conference Militant Readers Meeting was attended by 300 people and raised a paltry £60 in the collection, not to mention a bill for £750 for the room. Their intrepid reporter must have pinched the 'story' from the local Blackpool rag, which carried similar nonsense.

In fact, 600 attended the meeting and the slightly higher figure of £1,641 was raised in the collection. The Standard has been informed of this 'error' and has yet to correct the mistake. But we won't wait with baited breath for the truth to be printed. Otherwise we may die from lack of oxygen.



Delegate to conference for Arundel CLP, Ian Whittle, tries to catch the eye of the chairperson. Ian, aged 17, was the youngest delegate present. Traditionally at the end of conference the youngest delegate present moves the vote of thanks, but a 23 year old about to start university was chosen instead. He was not a 'Militant' supporter. Ian is. Photo: Militant.

## 'Watch the leaders'

**"Watch your leaders; they want watching, everyone of them. I am one myself and the more the rank and file watch me the better I am". So said A.J Cook the miners' leader, in 1921.**

Despite the overwhelming majority for Labour's Programme 1982 (6,420,000 for, 224,000 against) including its commitments to withdrawal from the EEC, the 35 hour week without loss of living standards, and unilateral

nuclear disarmament, the right-wing are already trying to back peddle.

Militant supporters constantly referred to this during the Conference as the real aim of the witch-hunt—to muzzle the socialists and water down the programme, leading to the abandonment of socialism by the right wing.

Clear warnings of this were given at the Conference, with the reversal of the decision to nationalise the banks (first carried at the 1918 conference). Roy Hattersley, writing in the Sunday Times, has pointed to, as is

now fashionable, to the constitution. The Manifesto is written by the Shadow Cabinet and the NEC. This is the right's answer to the democratically arrived at decisions of Party Conference.

And what of the "Inveterate peacemonger" himself? Appearing on Weekend World last Sunday, Michael Foot resurrected the "language of priorities" under the new name of "first things first"...

Disarmament: "I think what we want to do is to get rid of these weapons as soon as we possibly can, but I do

not believe it can all be done in one fell swoop."

EEC: "I think it is much more probable that we will be out than in". There were also clear implications that wage restraint would be back.

The one decision held to is of course to drive 'Militant' out of the Labour Party. Well, it was a conference decision you know!

By Mike Waddington

## HANDS OFF THE LPYS!

Any right wing attempts to hinder or close down the Labour Party Young Socialists will be resisted, warned LPYS leaders.

Speaking at the LPYS meeting on the last night of Labour Party conference, National Youth officer Andy Bevan outlined the growth of the LPYS, covering especially the past two years.

It was because of Militant's clear class programme that its supporters were in the majority in the LPYS, and any bureaucratic manoeuvres in an attempt to change its composition held the danger of leaving the labour movement without a youth section.

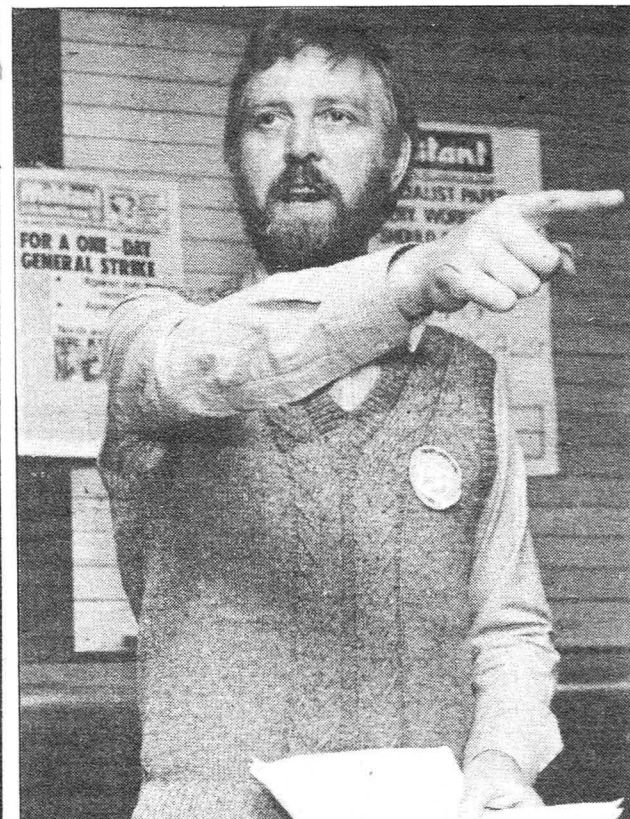
Andy Bevan said, "There are those who say the LPYS should be broadened—we say to them flood us out with young right wing engineers, electricians; if you can find any! There is no mood amongst young workers for the ideas of the right wing". He pointed to the attempts of the right wing to hinder the youth section in the past, during the late '30s. Then, the right wing "smothered the Labour League of Youth

with kindness" in their attempt to break the hold of the left.

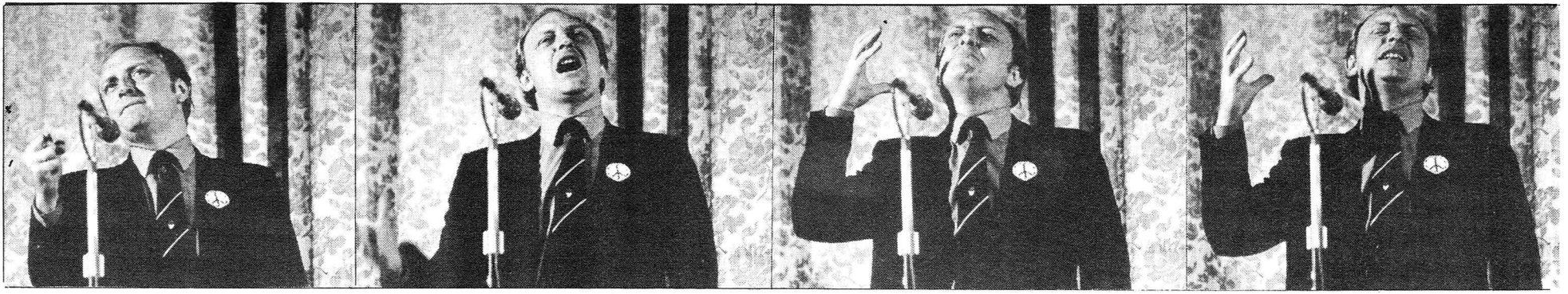
They gave it a massive budget and held mass youth rallies with top labour speakers. The youth flocked to these rallies for a couple of years, but these numbers dwindled away because there was no organisation for youth to join and organise through.

The opposite was carried out on the French Young Socialists, the MGS, in the early seventies. The left gained control of the MGS national committee, only to be dismissed by the party bureaucracy, and an Agent Commission installed in its place. As a result the movement died and whole sections of working class youth were left to the Communist Party and the ultra-left. This will not be allowed to happen with the LPYS.

Andy Bevan's comments and those of NEC LPYS representative Laurence Coates, National Chairman Kevin Ramage and guest speaker Pat Wall were clear—any moves to damage the LPYS will be resisted.



Over 50 people attended the conference meeting called by Militant Irish Monthly. The speaker was Bill Webster (above), secretary of the Derry Trades Council. The floor was opened up for discussion and the question was raised of should the British Labour Party extend its organisation into Northern Ireland. Bill explained that a Labour Party must be built from the grass roots of the movement, and could not be imposed from above. A collection raised £86. Photo: Militant.



“As Professor Hobsbawm...a most sagacious scholar...says’

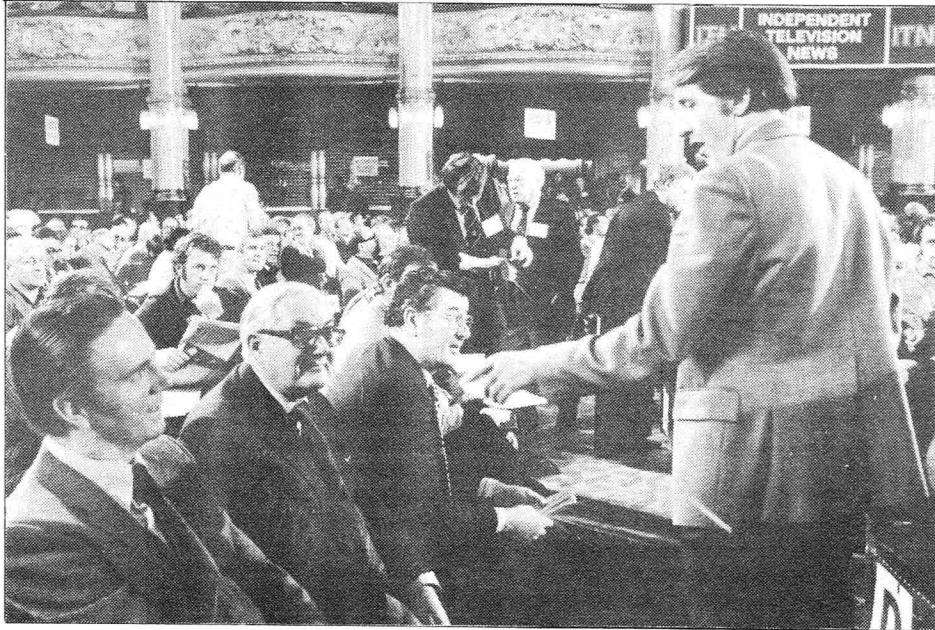
# Kinnock 'Explains'

The first Conference meeting of *Tribune* to be held under the new editorship of Chris Mullen marked a split between the old *Tribune* group, which has come out in support of the register, and the new *Tribune* group, formed by left-wingers like Tony Benn and Dennis Skinner who have come out clearly against the witchhunt.

There was a long, long list of speakers. But everyone was waiting for Neil Kinnock's attempt to “explain his point of view”.

Voting for policies only counted when Labour was in government, he said. Electoral victory, he argued, required party unity. This, he implied, involved getting rid of the “impediments to victory”. By implication this meant the *Militant*, hence the need for the register. Despite calls to “explain the register” and his promising “I’ll come to that”, Kinnock never actually mentioned the register!

Instead, juggling with various definitions of “earnest” and “serious” socialists, he treated the audience to several long quotations from Professor



Dennis Skinner makes a point to Jim Callaghan

Photo: Denis Doran (Militant)

Hobsbawm's book, “*The Forward March of Labour Halted*”. This “sagacious” but pessimistic CP academic, it seems, claims that there was a big swing to the right in the country and therefore the left should beat a retreat and compromise with the right. These arguments, which got more and more tangled up as Kinnock blustered through his self-justifications, cut little ice with the audience.

Joan Maynard, chairing the meeting, came right to the point: “There's only one division that matters within the Labour Party,” she said: “between socialists and non socialists!” Taking up Kin-

nock's complaint about the left's alleged “hit-lists”, Joan replied that it was Kinnock himself who had started the hit-lists going when he had attacked Tony Benn for standing in the deputy leadership election. His abstention had been in reality a vote for Denis Healey. The volume of applause left no doubt of the audience's support for this devastating answer to Kinnock.

In his biting speech, Dennis Skinner spoke of the destruction of workers' lives caused by the “casino economics” of the city speculators. Every MP, every councillor, every

labour representative, he said, when they vote on any issue should think about the struggle going on amongst working people.

Referring to Kinnock's complaints about hit-lists, Dennis Skinner said: “Everybody is on somebody's hit-list, Neil—apart from those who ride along the middle of the road. Like Professor Hobsbawm...who's hit-list is he on, Neil?”

The red flag itself was not brighter than Kinnock's face during these devastating answers to his attack on the left.

The resolution, which included a call for the nationalisation of the arms industry and resources directed into socially useful products, was passed despite opposition from the NEC. But the SOGAT resolution against Cruise and Trident and for unilateral disarmament received the two thirds majority necessary to make it party policy.

When this result was announced there was wild cheering and a standing ovation, much to the consternation of the right-wing. Notably, Michael Foot remained seated.

ponents of unilateral disarmament were: the right-wing. Jim Morell, GMWU, and John Boyd, AUEW, spoke against the resolutions bringing up all the old red herrings about ‘balance of power’, the ‘Eastern Bloc’ etc.

The answer to this came in the debate on nuclear disarmament, which ended as a victory for the left of the Labour Party.

The debate was opened by Militant supporter Sue Beckingham, delegate for Bristol SE CLP. She moved a motion which states quite clearly it “calls on the next Labour government to carry out the unilateral disarmament of nuclear weapons.”

And Sue was cheered when she attacked Callaghan, Healey and other cabinet ministers who secretly agreed the updating of Polaris.

It became quite clear in the debate who the real op-

## INDOCTRINATED EXTREMISTS?

Jaqueline Sabin, chairman of Gloucester City LPYS, explained why she came to conference and what she thinks of the witch-hunt.

“We're not a blackspot for unemployment in Gloucester, but we've got 10.8% unemployed. Added to this the council have been cutting back.

“At a time when they are undercutting on grants, they spent £3,000 on a survey to find out how they could save money on floor cleaning at schools. Their conclusion? They won't clean them so often. It took them £3,000 to find that out.

“Meanwhile, in one school they have to shift the library out of its portacabin during the holidays into the corridor so they can save money on the rates—you don't have to pay rates on

the portacabin when its empty.

“For youth, there's unprecedented unemployment. We're getting things here like glue sniffing which was unheard of. Crime has gone up by 45% in Stroud.

“I came to conference to find out what the Labour Party was going to do about all this. I went to the Solidarity meeting and was disgusted at the comments made by Jim Callaghan about *Militant*. When I disagreed with him I was told by these women present that I had been trained by *Militant*, how to think!

“That's an insult to my intelligence and to the youth and ordinary members of the Labour party as a whole. I came to conference as a member of the YS, an unemployed woman, not as an indoctrinated extremist.”

## 'You can't control what you don't own'

The demand that the next Labour government should nationalise the banks was narrowly defeated.

As the debate indicated it was clear to the rank and file delegates that unless the financial institutions were taken into public ownership, Labour's programme would be sabotaged by the City.

In moving the resolution, the delegate for Coventry North-West told how even the *Financial Times* had described the bank owners as “class based, sleepy, inbred.” He said the vast wealth of the banks was a “mockery of the working people and unemployed” and called on Labour “not to back away, but repossess the fruits of our labour.”

Ken Parker, Cheadle CLP, warned that unless the banks were nationalised, the “Alternative Economic Strategy would be still

born”.

In replying for the NEC, Doug Hoyle stated that “Never again will a Labour government be thrown off-balance by the city” and “the city must co-operate with Labour's plan”. But the city won't co-operate if Labour's plan doesn't go in their favour—more likely they will do all they can to sabotage Labour, especially as they realise the precarious hold the right-wing have over the movement.

For all the talk of ‘controls’ on the city, the old LPYS adage holds true; “You can't plan what you don't control, and can't control what you don't own”. The delegates understood this, and many shook their heads in dismay when the votes were announced, showing the narrowness of the defeat; For 3,131,000, against 3,361,000.

## EETPU ELECTIONS

At the Labour Herald fringe meeting, the Broad Left candidate in the general secretary elections in the EETPU, John Aitken, outlined his position.

- ★ He stood for;
- ★ election of union officials
- ★ conference decisions to be binding on the union executive
- ★ the end of bans and pro-

scriptions within the EETPU.

He explained how these bans had been in operation for 16 years, with no Communist Party member being allowed to hold office, and described it as “a thorn in the side of our union”.

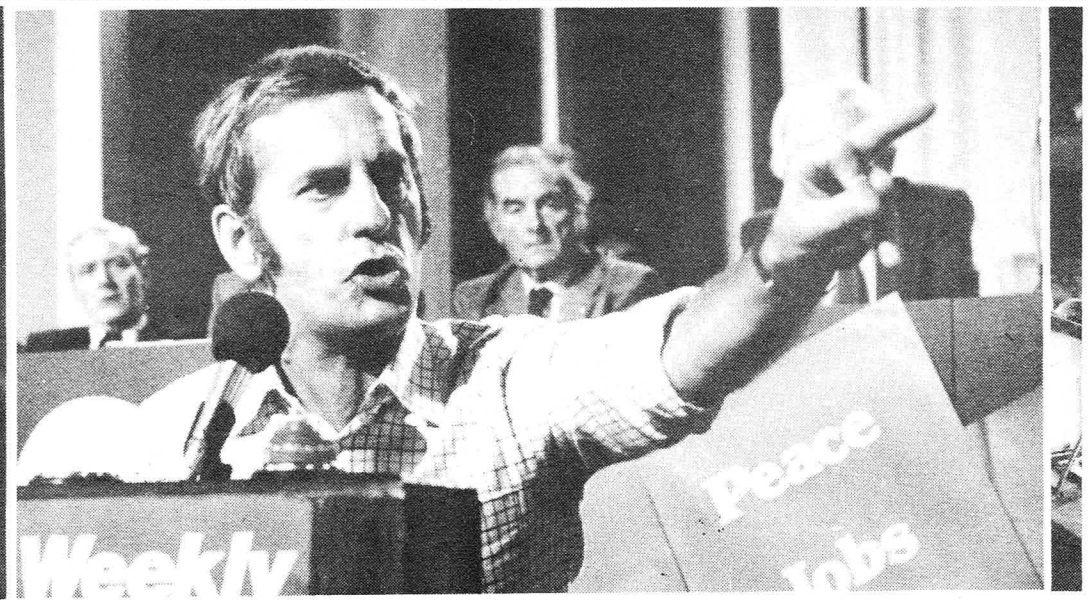
In finishing his speech, he said the fight was to “get rid of the present leadership which has been a disgrace to the trade union movement.”

# Nuclear disarmament gets majority vote



Photo: John Smith (IFL)

Sue Beckingham, delegate for Bristol SE, opened the debate on nuclear disarmament, moving a motion which included the call for the nationalisation of the arms industry. The motion was passed despite opposition from the NEC.



# The leadership has shifted to the right, but

**This year's conference marked a move to the right at the top of the Labour Party. But at the same time it reflected the continued swing to the left within the Labour movement. The majority of rank and file delegates, expressed a determination to fight for radical policies and to defeat attempts to carry through a purge of the left.**

Labour's Programme '82 was endorsed by conference, and a number of radical resolutions were carried, some of them against the NEC's recommendation. The anger of working people against the Tories and a determination to fight them with bold policies broke through in many of the debates, especially in those on the NHS dispute and the fight against low pay.

The conference's decisions, the row about the NEC ballot, and delegates' anger at suggestions from the right that crucial policies would not be included in the next election manifesto all indicate that the right, despite its NEC majority, is far from having a free hand to purge either left policies or Marxist activists.

Monday's NEC ballot produced a 19 to 10 majority for the right. This year the NEC will be dominated by Healey, John Golding, and the hard right. Even on issues where Foot and Kinnoek may vote with the left, the right will have a 15 to 14 majority.

**By Lynn Walsh**

There was no swing to the right in the constituency section, and Audrey Wise came on for the first time.

Joan Lestor was knocked off, undoubtedly reflecting the CLPs' anger at her refusal to support Tony Benn in the deputy leadership election and her recent support for the register. For the third successive year Neil Kinnoek, who must be on the right-wing's slate, got back on the NEC with a reduced vote.

Pat Wall, *Militant* supporter and twice-selected parliamentary candidate for Bradford North, got 103,000 votes, well over double last year's.

But in the trade union section left-winger Eric Clarke of the miners was knocked off, as was ASTMS's Doug Hoyle, in spite of his going along with the right on the question of the register. They were replaced by Ken Cure (AUEW) and very temporarily, Tom Breakell (EETPU). Tom Sawyer (NUPE), who stands on the left, also joined the NEC.

In the women's section, the unions' block votes were mustered to oust Joan Maynard who was replaced by Ann Davis, a Bromsgrove councillor and prominent Solidarity supporter.

Delegates' feelings about this were made clear on Wednesday afternoon when Joan Maynard replied to the debate on local government. As she stood up, she received a huge ovation from the floor. After her speech, in which she said "There are only two sides: the bosses' side and the workers' side, and people have to decide which side they are on!"—she received an enthusiastic standing ovation from over half the delegates in the hall. It was both a tribute to Joan and an expression of anger at the vindictive move against one of the NEC's most respected members.



**Martin Flannery**

Terry Fields (FBU), standing in the trade union section on a *Militant* platform, polled 1,305,000. There was strong support for him in a number of delegations (like ASTMS) in which moves to include him on their slate were only narrowly defeated.

It was also on Wednesday afternoon that the row erupted about the NEC ballot. After rumours about

missing votes and broken union mandates, Arthur Scargill (NUM) and Clive Jenkins (ASTMS) moved a re-ballot for the trade union and women's sections.

In the course of the angry exchanges Derek Gladwin of the Conference Arrangements Committee explained that there had been a "clerical error" in the counting.

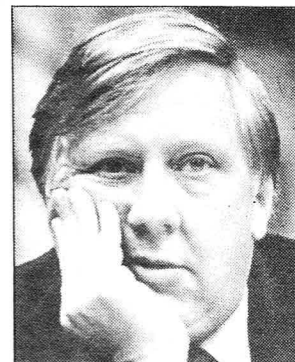
This gave Eric Clarke more than a million additional votes although he was still off the NEC. However, it meant Breakell's rise to fame was short-lived, and he was replaced by right-wing MP Dennis Howell (APEX).

Despite one of the CLP scrutineers alleging that there had not been a proper recount, conference voted against a re-ballot. A show of hands in the T&GWU delegation went very narrowly against a re-ballot, and Bill Sirs was seen rushing back to the ISTC delegates to make sure they voted against an NEC re-vote.

But it became clear in the conference, and particularly in subsequent discussions amongst delegates and on television, that Sidney Weighell had broken his union's mandate in not voting for Eric Clarke. Weighell will now face a storm of opposition within the NUR. There may be moves to censure or dismiss the general secretary by the National Executive, and the membership will undoubtedly want to know why he voted against the representative of one of the union's

crucial industrial allies.

Next year, as a result of decision last week, any horse-trading of NEC votes will become evident to the ranks. All votes will have to be recorded.



**Roy Hattersley**

The angry row at Blackpool, however, makes clear the hollowness of the right's NEC majority. The way the block vote has been used by some general secretaries does not reflect the wishes or the mood of their members. This was also true on the register, which is intended to open the door to expulsions of *Militant* supporters.

Foot got a majority of 5.1 million votes to 1.5 million. But there were splits in most of the union delegations, with some of the biggest unions only voting narrowly in favour of the register. The miners voted 25 to 20 for the register, and the T&GWU delegation, contrary to its own executive's position, voted 21 to 13 in favour of the register. Only eight delegates in these union delegations would have had

to have voted differently for Foot's majority to have been reduced to something like 600,000.

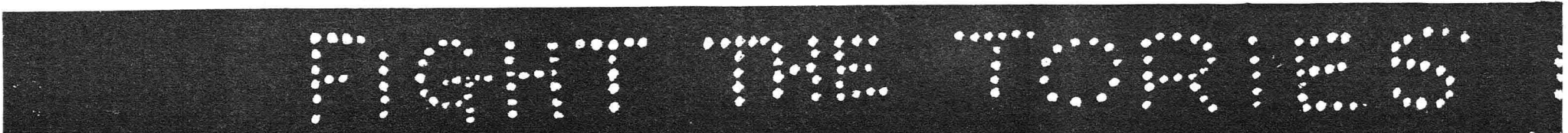
Significantly, a number of unions voted against the register and a witch-hunt: NUPE, UCATT, ASLEF, SOGAT 82, the FBU, the Bakers, the Boilermakers, TASS, and the Agricultural workers (now in the T&GWU).

It is these unions who are in tune with the mood of Labour activists, not the general secretaries who have voted for a purge. Now the right has a majority on the NEC it will attempt to use it ruthlessly. But they will be attempting to launch a purge and reverse, or at least shelve, radical policy decisions on the basis of a rigged NEC.

On policy issues the decisions at Blackpool were overwhelmingly to the left. Yet, here again, there was a sharp contrast between the party's right wing leadership and the rank and file.

Delegates confirmed previous conference decisions on unilateral disarmament, and withdrawal from the EEC, and rejected incomes policy. Conference also voted for bold measures to reverse Tory attacks on the labour movement and passed a number of other radical policies against the NEC's recommendations.

The leadership, however, not only Healey but also other front bench spokesmen, made determined efforts to write in 'escape clauses' for a future Labour





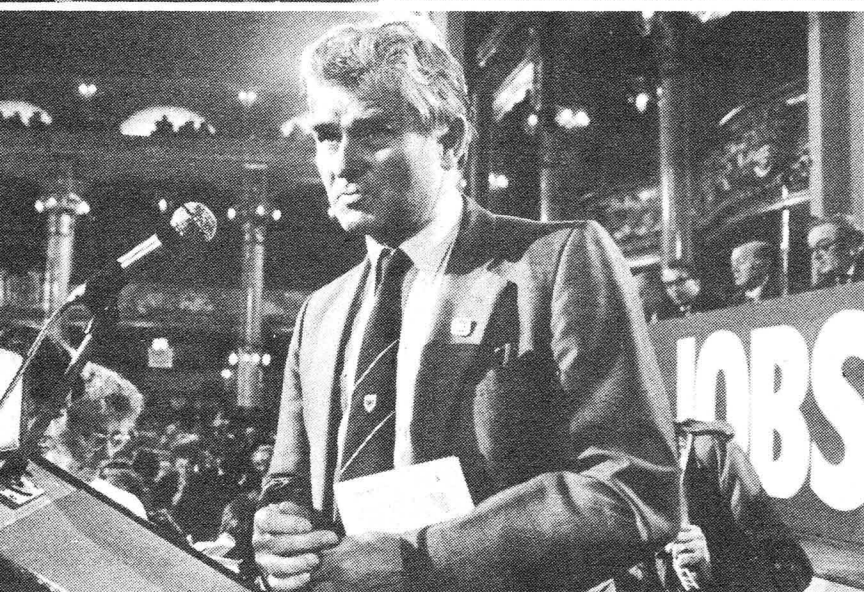


## Scenes at Blackpool

**TOP ROW, left to right:** Joan Maynard, who lost her NEC seat, sits among delegates to follow the argument in conference; Constituency Party delegates give Joan Maynard a warm ovation after her reply to the local government debate (picture by Andrew Wiard/Report); Pat Wall, Shipley Labour Party, comes to the rostrum during the debate on the register.

**BOTTOM ROW, left to right:** Scottish miners' representative Eric Clarke, who was knocked off the NEC, consults with Arthur Scargill; Ray Hill, Monmouth CLP delegate and steelworker, challenges Bill Sirs over steel closures. Bill Sirs of the ISTC gets back to the rostrum to answer; right-wingers Denis Healey, John Golding, and Russell Tuck (NUR), outside the Winter Gardens.

Pictures by:  
Denis Doran



# Labour's ranks are still moving to the left

government.

The tremendous conflicting class pressures which will be brought to bear on the next Labour government were evident at Blackpool. Enthusiastic support for radical policies from the floor of conference foreshadowed the enormous pressure which will come from the working class for Labour to carry out bold anti-capitalist measures. The ifs, buts, and maybes, on the other hand, are a warning of the role which will be played by the Healeys, Hattersleys and others who, backed by the capitalist media, will attempt to sabotage the implementation of radical policies.

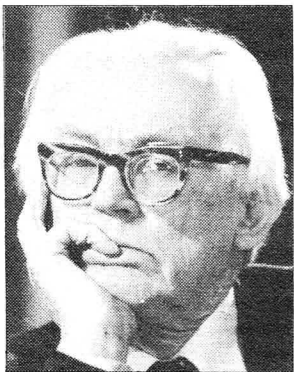
There was jubilation throughout the hall when it was announced that the card vote on unilateral disarmament had produced a two thirds vote in favour. This means it should go into Labour's next election manifesto.

In the face of NEC opposition conference also passed a motion (moved by *Militant* supporter Sue Beckingham, Bristol SE) which called for the nationalisation of the armaments industry under trade union control.

Introducing the main economic debate on Thursday Tony Benn underlined the left policies included in Labour's programme '82, which was endorsed by the conference. Everything in the programme, said Benn, depended on Labour's economic strategy. He received tremendous ap-

plause when he said 'tinkering with the system will not work,' which obviously corresponded to the feelings of most delegates.

As the debate continued, however, it became clear that the lines of the Alternative Strategy were not so clear cut. Conference decisively rejected the idea of return to an incomes policy. But in his reply Denis Healey argued that some way would have to be found to control inflation. Healey confessed that past attempts at incomes policy and social contracts had failed, but he still avoided spelling out what the so-called 'National Economic Assessment' would really mean as far as he was concerned.



Michael Foot

Conference supported the call for the nationalisation of 25 of the top 100 companies. An advance on programme 82, although a bold resolution calling for the nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies and banks was defeated.

The all out nationalisation of the banks, despite the

overwhelming condemnation of finance capital, was very narrowly defeated. Again, the pretext of opposition of bank employees, advanced by ASTMS, was used by the NEC. Instead, the NEC proposed to create a national investment bank, impose greater controls over the financial institutions and tax bank profits.

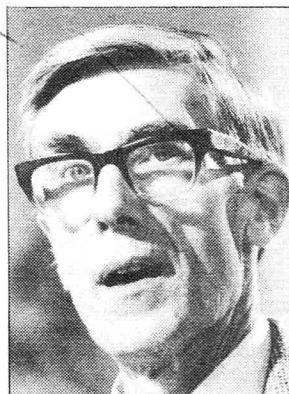
It was agreed too that any sale or hiving off of state interests such as British Telecomms to 'private enterprise' by the Tories would be reversed by renationalising, with compensation on the basis of 'no gain' for the private owners now grabbing them.

The hall was brought to life by the debate on low pay. Conference was almost unanimous on the need to fight poverty wages, but NUPE's resolution calling for a national minimum wage of two-thirds of the average earnings was lost on a card vote. The demand for a 35-hour week was passed despite NEC opposition. The next Labour government should also repeal all anti-trade union laws and find a way of compensating unions or trade unionists for any fines or damages imposed on them. In the local government debate, moreover, conference enthusiastically supported the retrospective removal of any disqualification or surcharges on councillors for trying to implement Labour policies.

Other policies which have provoked the wrath of the capitalist press are the aboli-

tion of private medicine, the nationalisation of pharmaceuticals, the promise of a rent freeze, and legislation to allow councils to implement 'fair fares' on public transport.

There was a demand for unity at Blackpool, but unity on socialist policies with a commitment by the Labour leadership to implement them under the next Labour government.



Ray Apps

The overwhelming feeling was that there should be unity against the Tories, but unity on the radical policies supported by Labour's ranks. Speaker after speaker, and especially *Militant* supporters who spoke from the rostrum, emphasised the need to get out on the streets and the factories to fight the Tories. The Party, like the Labour Party Young Socialists, should become a campaigning party, taking its policies to the factories, the picket lines, shops, offices, and estates to join the fight of working people.

Time and again delegates expressed support for policy statements, composites and resolutions—but warned they would mean nothing unless the leadership was committed to carry them into practice. In the debate on racialism and immigration, for instance, speakers congratulated the NEC on taking its clearest stand yet on this issue. The NEC's statement committed the next Labour government to repealing the Immigration and Nationality Acts, replacing them with non-racist, non-sexist legislation. But, said Najma Haffiz (Birmingham Selly Oak), she was still suspicious about Labour's determination in office to put these proposals into practice.

The same suspicion is in the minds of many Labour Party members, and millions of Labour voters, because of the record of past Labour governments. That is why there was massive applause for Joan Maynard when she said, 'the Tories don't talk about class war because they are too busy practicing it,' and called for the next Labour government to unequivocally defend workers' interests.

On the other hand, when Denis Healey said in relation to the economy that 'trade union general secretaries can't change the laws of arithmetic,' most delegates recognised that Healey meant 'capitalist arithmetic,' or to be more precise, the laws of the capitalist economy, which he obvious-

ly has no intention of fundamentally challenging.

There was comment from the rostrum, for instance, on Roy Hattersley's assertion to the media that the two thirds majority for unilateral disarmament did not necessarily mean that it would be part of the next Labour government's programme.

The right wing, despite its new majority on the NEC has not been able to reverse any of the major policy decisions of recent years. Nevertheless, the right have made it clear that if they retain a commanding position they will work to water down or abandon many of these radical policies.

Labour Party members and trade unionists must work to defend Labour's radical policies. But the only way to ensure they are implemented by a future Labour government is to tie them together through a rounded out socialist programme capable of tackling the problems facing British society. This still remains to be done, as Labour's Programme '82 and most of the resolutions, though some of them go further than before, stop short of a commitment to the socialist transformation of society.

Yet example after example, incident after incident, related by workers at the rostrum prove the impossibility of any solution within diseased British capitalism. We need a bold programme to unify the working class against the Tories and their system.

**At the end of August many thousands of Poles took to the streets to commemorate the formation of Solidarnosc two years ago. They defied the most brutal police methods used in an Eastern bloc country since the repression of the Hungarian Revolution in 1956, ignoring a carefully orchestrated campaign of vilification by the State-controlled TV and Press.**

In addition, many millions of Poles, while not risking the very great dangers of joining the street demonstrations, supported the protest movement by passive resistance in the factories or joining church masses.

The Government's claim that people were fed up with strikes and demonstrations, and their hope that only the most committed activists would protest on 31 August and thus be easy to pick off, have been exposed.

Despite the massive defeat that has been suffered by the independent trade union movement, underground groups of Solidarnosc still exist. This is a symptom of the overwhelming rejection of the Stalinist regime and its politics among the mass of Polish workers, and their desire for genuine democracy on the basis of the planned economy, even if at present they do not have the organisational vehicle for carrying that struggle forward.

Around 1,000 underground newsheets are regularly produced all over the country, some appearing more than once a week. One from Warsaw has reached over 60 issues, and the Silesian "From Day to Day" over 90 issues. These are keenly read in the factories.

Over nine months of Martial Law have failed to solve any of the major problems for the Polish Government. It has demoralised many Solidarnosc members, and forced some to leave the country. But many of the activists are looking for ways to fight back.

The new law dissolving Solidarnosc will establish "independent" trade unions, that will "act in conformity with the 'Socialist' (i.e. Stalinist) system". But any illusions in the Government's promises have been firmly shattered.

As one older worker explained: "no-one believes now that they can be any better off under this system, however hard they work". The evening news reports are generally treated as comedy entertainment and a pack of lies. Supposed "proof" of links between Solidarnosc activists—now interned and unable to answer back—and the American CIA, are treated with contempt.

**Thus any chance of the Government manoeuvring to find support outside the bureaucracy, security forces and the dwindling party membership (as they did in 1956 and 1970) is severely limited.**

Engels's description of the state consisting ultimately of "armed bodies of men" has a deep and sour twist in Poland today. As one Pole remarked in bitter anger, "In Poland we know who are responsible for crime and violence. It's the police!"

Amongst the shortages still rife in Poland, there only seems to be one colour of paint (grey) to cover over Solidarnosc's slogans and posters. However, the amateurish way in which this has been done only reminds everybody of what was writ-

### By a recent visitor to Poland

ten there before.

Single out for general condemnation are the hated Zomo (paramilitary police used against strikes and demos) who now stand behind workers in the factories to 'make sure they work', while themselves being paid double or more of the average wage of £15 a week.

At the beginning of Martial Law, no expense was spared in keeping the Zomo in the most expensive hotels, together with all their weapons and riot gear. Many are generally regarded as common criminals used by the Government as a battering ram against Solidarnosc. They are also reported to be regular customers on the black market, against which the Government is claiming to crack down!

Claims of improvements in food supplies should not be believed. The 300% price increases have led to a drastic fall in consumption. "Here in Poznan, we've always had at least 80% of the food supplies required to meet ration cards", I was told. "But in some parts of Southern Poland, they've often had only 30-40%".

Tourists have been protected against price increases by receiving nearly three times as many zlotys for their western currency. But then you realise that your meat and two veg meal in a second class restaurant, which seemed cheap at £1.25, actually cost over half a day's wages for the average Polish worker.

Food prices of up to £3 a kilo for chops, and up to £4 for sausage, are higher than in Western European butchers. Women are particularly bitter about the situation. One explained:

"Life here is absolutely dreadful. Women must work all the time—for the family in the morning, for wages during the day, shopping and queuing after work and then at home again in the evening. That's why so few women can do as much as they want in Solidarnosc".

Another continued: "As you can see from these prices we only have money for food, nothing else. Young couples must wait ten years on a list for a flat. Till then they must find room with their parents, despite all the problems that causes".

Polish workers face a long, hard struggle to recover the mass momentum and power that was shattered last December. While pockets of activists have regrouped underground, the broad class movement has been dispersed.

It is not surprising that so much faith is placed in the church, against which the government—depending as it does on the passive support of the Catholic hierarchy—cannot easily move. Whilst advocating



Photo: POPPERFOTO.

Warsaw, 31 August: demonstrators hoist Solidarity flag.

# Martial Law cannot solve Polish crisis

Gdansk: riot police fire tear gas to break up demonstration of thousands.



Photo: POPPERFOTO.

compromise and patience, the church comes under the pressure of workers and reflects, in a distorted way, their desire for freedom from dictatorship.

Remarkably in the circumstances, socialism still seems the aim of most activists as shown by the slogan on some bulletins: "Socialism yes—junta no!" Some individuals say that

"all forms of socialism could lead to bureaucracy and our kind of party dictatorship" etc; but in general there is no desire of any return to capitalism. Given the brutality of a Government and system claiming to be "Communist", this shows the instinctive desire of the labour movement for democratic workers' control as an alternative to

bureaucratic dictatorship.

Government attempts to breath new life into the 'Communist' Party have met with little response. A meeting of CP members in the Gdansk shipyard was given front-page coverage—but with no mention of the number of members present.

In reality, thousands nationally returned their cards after Martial Law.

Even before then, the workers in a Poznan factory (over 10,000) held a special celebration in November, when they finally persuaded the last Party member there to return his card!

Meanwhile the daily (party) papers, with names like "Workers' Voice" and "People's Tribune", print ridiculous articles like "Diary of an Oppositionist", which claims to expose the 16 months of Solidarnosc's existence "from the inside" by a former union member "who has now seen the light". Having lost the argument when Solidarnosc was allowed to function, the Government is now trying to rewrite the news of the last two years, with no chance of counter-argument.

The clearing out of all traces of Solidarnosc's existence from their offices and from the factories shows the typical Stalinist method of this regime. But in homes all over the country, workers have kept copies of the old newspapers and in particular those produced by Solidarnosc before Martial Law.

One worker bitterly showed me an article dated 11 December, entitled "Possibility of Civil War." He went on to say: "We should have taken our chance, while the power was in our hands. Now we may have to wait two years before we are in such a strong position again."

It was the lack of a revolutionary socialist programme on the part of Solidarnosc's leadership, as the workers' revolutionary movement surged forward towards a head-on collision with the regime, that doomed the movement to tragic defeat. Any new workers' leadership will need to learn the lessons of 1980—1981, understanding that there can be no 'peaceful existence' between the Stalinist authorities and the worker's movement, in order to avoid suffering the same fate as Solidarnosc.

But at the same time the Government are really in a dilemma. Despite the militarisation of industry, production continues below last year's level (a year of massive strikes), because there is no incentive to work in a society which offers no way forward for its workers. Yet to restore any significant participation of the workers will allow the reorganisation of opposition to the regime.

Workers speak proudly of their brave efforts to fight Martial Law. Last December, for example, a coal train arrived in Gdansk containing the body of a dead police chief. Around his neck was a sign: "To the shipyard workers of Gdansk—a present from the coal-miners of Katowice".

New conscripts to the armed forces, mainly young workers who have been Solidarnosc members, will further limit the Government's base of reliable support to the paramilitary police and the career military.

Sheer numbers of demonstrators forced the Zomo to retreat temporarily in Warsaw on 31 August. But a time will again come when the workers can defeat the dictatorship as had been possible in 1980-81. With the necessary programme, organisation and leadership, they can then set about establishing workers democracy, which would spread like wild fire through Eastern Europe and inspire workers in the West.

# German Liberals stab SPD in back



The German metal workers' struggles in the late 1970s gave notice of their determination to defend their living standards.



New Christian-Democrat Chancellor Kohl and right-hand man Strauss face explosive resistance from the workers.

## Socialists must campaign for overall victory

Brent Kennedy

**"The end of an era" is how one observer described the toppling of the German Social Democratic (SPD) government last week.**

30 FDP (Liberals) ditched the SPD-FDP coalition government they had promised to support, and gave their backing to a new Conservative CDU-CSU coalition. This ending of a 13 year-old SPD-FDP coalition marks the opening shot of a new period of social and political storms. The German "economic miracle" had already run out of steam, now we see the political expression of its end.

Faced with falling profit margins, economic stagnation, two million unemployed and a drop in investment, the capitalist "social partners" are howling for a cut in living standards for those least able to resist—the old, sick, unemployed and the children.

Unfortunately, in the last two years they succeeded in forcing the Social Democrats to start implementing these counter-reforms. Now the ruling class have contemptuously kicked them out and replaced them with a reactionary coalition which they expect to steamroller through even more vicious cuts without compromise.

Thus the period of class harmony and "social consensus" is shown for what it was: a convenient facade which the big business exploiters hid behind.

On the surface, Germany appears to be one of the strongest capitalist economies, with almost the lowest inflation, comparatively low unemployment, a favourable competitive position on the world market and still with an air of prosperity.

But in reality, industrial output has been dependent on increased exports while the domestic market has fallen. Last year the economy shrank by 0.5%;

but if it hadn't been for a 13% surge in exports that decline would have been 2.5%.

Domestic consumption has fallen 2% because living standards have declined for two years, thanks to the "moderation" shown by the trade union leaders in their equivalent of the "social contract".

But German capitalists can no longer run away from the awful facts by turning abroad. Where can they increase exports to? They can't sell capital goods to the recession-hit industrialised nations; they can't rely on the OPEC countries hit by the falling oil revenue; nor can they find a way out through expanding trade with the Stalinist countries which are in debt up to their eyeballs.

**Nil growth of the economy is expected this year**

In May-July, foreign orders for manufacturing industry fell by 8% over the previous three months. Actual exports for all goods fell by 3%.

Nil growth is predicted for the economy this year. The 25% fall in profitability in two years has led to a slump in new investment. Despite predictions of a 3% rise in investments in the first half of 1982, there has been a 2% drop.

Meanwhile the rich are pulling capital out of the country. In the first half of 1981 £700m was invested abroad, and in the same period this year it has risen to an outflow of £3,700m—a real vote of no confidence by the capitalists in their own economy!

The result is falling output and rising bankruptcies. The last quarterly figures show-

ed a fall in industrial production of 4%, manufacturing fell 4.5% and, most ominously, the output of capital goods fell 6%, giving a grim warning of further decline in other industrial sectors.

But the worst expression of the downturn has been the dramatic spate of bankruptcies which has sent unemployment soaring. By the end of the year they reckon 16,000 firms will have gone bust—twice as many as last year when 300,000 jobs were destroyed as a result.

The immediate issue which brought down the government was the expected budget. With the economy failing to reach its target, government revenue had fallen way below state spending, resulting in a budget deficit.

With this year's nil growth and the predicted growth for 1983 halved already, the bosses were calling for a turn to Thatcherism and cuts in welfare spending.

To its shame the SPD, in alliance with the FDP, had already made big cuts in social services.

But these are nothing compared to the savage assault on the welfare state proposed a few weeks ago by the FDP Economics Minister Count Lambsdorf. The SPD leaders had to reject these cuts because of the pressure of the working class on their traditional party.

Eugen Loderer, head of the 2.5 million-strong engineering union, IG-Metall, warned of mass demonstrations and union opposition to any "socially unjust" cuts in the forthcoming budget. He was promptly backed up by the civil servants' and transport workers' unions.

For Chancellor Schmidt and SPD Chairman Willy Brandt there is clearly a limit to how far they can go against the interests of the working class and the wishes of the SPD rank and file.

So now they have reached this limit the ruling class has ungratefully dumped them

for their own parties who will not, they believe, be constrained by such considerations. This precipitate action will spark off tremendous resentment and provoke enormous class battles in the coming period. But given the dire economic outlook the ruling class have no choice.



Helmut Schmidt

Ironically, the choice of issues on which the FDP switched allies has put the SPD leaders in a favourable position to regain lost support by posing as the defenders of all the reforms and welfare gains of the last 30 years. In addition, the cynical manoeuvring of the capitalist parties in changing the government without a general election has alienated the workers and a section of the middle class who correctly understand this constitutional coup as a challenge to democratic rights.

This was shown in the election of the regional government in the state of Hesse last week. The three million voters reflected the popular mood by completely wiping out the presence of the FDP. Losing half their share of the votes to a mere 3%, they were denied the 5% minimum required to get into parliament, and lost every seat.

The CDU were just as disappointed when they failed to gain the overall majority they had expected, and even slipped back. The spare votes were picked up by the "Greens", a campaign of radical middle class youth against nuclear energy, armaments and pollution.

But the SPD, which had

lost much support for its record in office, recovered their share, undoubtedly because their working class supporters were incensed by the FDP "traitors in Bonn" turning the country over to the right without allowing Schmidt to call a general election.

Society has become polarised. The FDP is split down the middle, with only its right wing leaders taking the decision to topple the government. As a result several of its leading figures have resigned.

At the party conference on 16 October there may even be a formal split into two. Already the left wing "Young Democrats" have been disowned as the official youth section by the party bosses, to be replaced by the right wing "Young Liberals". The party leaders are desperate to prevent a general election, knowing that they would be wiped out of the Bundestag (parliament) forever and disintegrate.

The new CDU Chancellor Kohl has therefore put off elections until March, to maintain the FDP votes he needs in the Bundestag. The SPD have been saved from what would otherwise have been an election defeat by this constitutional sleight of hand and are not demoralised. In fact there will now be a revival of SPD support, with a new layer of young working class people joining the party to fight the government.

**All eyes will now focus on the left wing of SPD to provide an alternative**

The SPD youth wing, the Jusos, lost thousands of members in recent years because their leaders didn't wage a fight for a real socialist alternative to the counter-reforms of the SPD leaders. Undoubtedly there will now be an influx of mili-

tant new members. But unless their energy is channelled into an organised campaign for the arming of the SPD with a socialist programme, and unless they are prepared with a Marxist perspective for the long battles at hand in Germany, then they too will drift away.

All eyes will now focus on the left wing in the SPD to offer an alternative leadership to the one whose counter-reforms paved the way for this government. Lafontaine, left-wing mayor of Saarbrücken, declared: "It is not the left wing that was beaten but Schmidt's policies".

At the SPD national committee, a select gathering of trusted party officials and regional representatives, Schmidt joked after the FDP ministers had resigned that "this is the first solely SPD government". But his smile must have turned sour when an unknown voice from the back shouted: "does this mean you're going to nationalise the banks now?"

Never again must the party of the German working class form an alliance with a capitalist party and be forced to do the bidding of big business! The SPD must launch a mass campaign involving millions of trade unionists and youth to paralyse this government of rejected men and force a general election.

The party leadership should publicly admit it was wrong to implement cuts, and lead a massive socialist campaign against the new cuts, or make way for a new leadership. The demand for a repeal of the Constitution to prevent such parliamentary coups, and to guarantee the right of the people to choose the government through immediate general election, should be raised.

Such a mass campaign, with a programme to end the economic crisis and guarantee jobs and living standards, would undoubtedly lead to the coming to power of a socialist SPD government with an overall majority.



# Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN



PHOTO: MILITANT

Part of the audience at September's Labour Movement Conference against the witch-hunt. Interest in Militant has never been bigger.

## Press attacks rebound on Tories — Militant sales are booming!

Dear Comrades,

As the Tory press proclaims that the Left in the Labour Party is a spent force, Militant supporters in Wallsend have completely refuted this, not just in words but in deeds.

To capitalise upon the press coverage over the last few days we have covered all the ship yard entrances on North Tyneside, leafletting in the morning for a Militant readers meeting in Newcastle and selling papers during the lunch breaks.

Then up to the dole to leaflet for the October 16th demonstration. In two days we sold 24 papers, 20 of these to new readers. But the thing that gave us the most encouragement was the attitude and comments of the vast majority of people we spoke to.

At the dole, it was surprising how many unemployed people were watching conference with interest and were keen to seriously discuss policies. It is noticeable that we never discussed how evil the Militant Tendency is but how will the next Labour Government cure unemployment,

bad housing, etc..

Also, at the ship yards, of course, there were the few regurgitated Sun editorial comments but the vast majority of comments were favourable. Many papers were sold to people wishing to find out what Militant stands for because, as one lad said, "The press never seem to mention your policies and if the bosses don't like you then you must be onto a winner". When we follow up next week I'm going to ask if he wants to sell the paper himself.

Yours fraternally  
Ed Waugh (Northern Region LPYS Chairman)  
Norman Hall, (Wallsend CLP)

Dear Comrades,

Labour's right wing have proved how out of touch they are with the rank and file of working class people who vote for the Labour Party.

While on a paper sale in Liverpool City centre selling Militant and giving out leaflets for the October 16th demonstration just 24 hours after the vote to introduce

the register was passed, person after person came up to me and told me to keep on fighting.

"It's not you Militants who should be expelled its the right wing". I was even told that we were the real socialists fighting for socialist policies and we should fight to stay in the party and bear the witch-hunt.

This all happened in just over one hour, 18 copies of the Militant were, sold hundreds of leaflets for the demo were given out and £1.30 was donated to the LPYS for the demo on October 16th. Four people gave us their names and addresses to join the Labour Party.

There wasn't a single right winger in sight. The response we were given proves that working class people won't be fooled by the lies and slanders that come from the Tory media because they know who the real socialists really are.

Yours fraternally,  
Ian Morris  
Kirkby LPYS

Dear Comrades,  
On Tuesday afternoon,

### Open minds turn to Marxism

Dear Militant,

Ironically after hearing right wing M.P. Giles Radice speak at an LPYS weekend school I now feel more committed to socialism than I have in my few months in the YS.

I was disgusted to hear Mr Radice climb up on the platform and proceed to tell of the naivety of the LPYS. He told us we were not to automatically take 'Militant's policies as gospel, and that we were to look at disagreements within the Labour Party with "open minds" before deciding which stance to take.

How could he be so ignorant as to think that the members of the LPYS have anything but open minds. It with these open minds that the LPYS have adopted Militant policies.

Thousands of youths such as myself have joined the Party with open minds and after reasoned thinking have chosen the road to socialism as the only answer.

Surly Mr Radice would be better employed warning people not to take the lies and distortions of the Tory press as gospel. This is what working people need protection against, not socialists within the Party.

I feel it would be nice if Mr Radice could be told that his arrogant attitude at that weekend school has created yet another Militant sup-

porter truly committed to socialist policies and who will not rest until the tidal wave of socialism drowns the public school careerists who know nothing of the troubles of working people.

Yours fraternally,  
D.C. De Ivey,  
Ogmore LPYS

### Expulsions can't be good — the Tories use them.

Dear Comrades

The right always think they're right even if you are right and think you're right. If that does not seem to make sense then read on.

It concerns a report in the 'Guardian' on a Tory, David Milburn from Washington, Tyne on Wear. He thought

the day after the vote for the register, I made my way for Glasgow's city centre with a batch of Militant newspapers to sell outside Queen St. Station. Three weeks before I found it difficult to sell four copies although I was shouting all the slogans I could think up.

I suspected that recent publicity given to us would increase my sales. Lo and behold after a few hours of shouting "Get the socialist voice of the Labour Party, the voice they are trying to expel, the true voice of democratic socialism" forty-one papers left my hands.

One old man commented "There are two types of Tories, Conservative Party Tories and Labour Tories". This comment reminded me of the type of people who are trying to proscribe our paper. Others who bought the paper said that we would probably fight back.

Trotsky wrote "Truth is the motor force of progress", the truth will never go away, with such a basis how can we lose.

Paul Anderson,  
Glasgow Provan.

Maggie was wrong and so openly criticised the government's policies. He said that 'mad monetarism' had caused intolerable unemployment in the North East.

Now then, guess what happened to David. He was expelled for his deviation. They even removed him from the position of council candidate. The Tories are now trying to decide if the expulsion was in the best interests of the party. They are trying to decide if David can once again stand as a true blue council candidate.

I suppose I could be really nasty and ask if they are comparing notes with people not a million miles from Labour's NEC.

Yours fraternally  
Graham Naylor  
Mansfield, Notts.

### The lessons of 22nd September

Dear Comrades,

Sept 22nd was a bitter-sweet day for me. Bitter, because out of loyalty to my union decision I turned in for work as usual instead of being out in support of the day of action. Sweet, because of the success of the rank and file's solidarity.

I cannot help wondering whether the failure of the Finance and General Purposes committee to support ASLEF earlier this year might have influenced the TUC's decision not to call out transport workers.

I can well imagine the TUC did not feel they had the right to call on rail unions for support in light of their historical betrayal of ASLEF.

But the F&GPC alone is not the TUC and the 22nd Sept was not about supporting the TUC it was about the health workers claim.

The 22nd was also an act of defiance by the trade union movement against the Tories' anti-working class laws. The TUC leaders' half hearted organisation indicates their lack of commitment to defeat Thatcher and her policies and underlines their subservience to the Tories by policing the movement and undermining the struggle of all working class and unemployed people. The success of the 22nd will have sent shock waves through Congress House as much as Downing St.

Was not the arbitrary treatment of ASLEF by BR management the most morally justified grounds for mass action the TUC is ever likely to have if it really means business? Its failure to support ASLEF and its lack of leadership over the Health workers leaves me in no doubt where we stand with regards to Tebbit.

Who needs Tebbit any way when you've got Murray, Duffy, Chapple and last but certainly not least, Weighell?

Running transport on the 22nd meant that non-union and scab labour were able to arrive at work as normal thus reducing the effectiveness of the action. Whilst the massive turn out for the London Rally some what justifies the transport workers not being involved in the action, we must face the fact that the despot of Downing St will let us march up and down till the cows come home.

It is only by shutting down industry and commerce that she will take notice. To this end any future days of action must see all transport workers involved, and instead of rallies, mass pickets must be mounted if we are to obtain a successful outcome for the working class.

Yours fraternally,  
Andy Flett  
Waterloo ASLEF  
Personal capacity

### More reports on the NHS dispute and the way forward after 22 September page 15

### Surviving a survivable crash

Dear Comrades,

'The Observer' has recently carried a number of reports on structure and safety standards of the interior of aircraft. A report during the last few weeks revealed that 60 people lost their lives needlessly in the DC10 crash in Malaga.

This was what aviation experts term a 'survivable crash'. The 60 passengers who died were largely hampered in attempts to escape by the collapse of overhead luggage racks and the failure of seats to withstand the crash impact.

Studies carried out recently by American aviation authorities, examining survivable crashes over the past ten years, revealed that loss of life was caused mainly by seat failure and unsafe, highly inflammable furnishings which emitted toxic fumes in the aircraft interior causing death by asphyxiation.

There was a figure of 80% seat failure quoted for the aircraft involved in the crashes. Only the most modern aircraft are equipped to cope with a survivable crash. It is obvious from these figures, that airline companies are putting profit

before safety of passengers by not installing safe equipment and furnishings in their aeroplanes.

There is now a proposal which Reagan is attempting to push through to deregulate the airline industry in America which would allow airline companies to abandon established air safety regulations substituting them with their own rules. Obviously, cut-throat competitors will try to avoid implementing safety rules which will cost them too much money, thereby, endangering the lives of passengers.

The airline industry is clearly a monopoly which urgently needs to be taken into public ownership under democratic workers control and management, not only so that all workers can enjoy the benefits of fast, comfortable travel from A to B and that airline staff are paid a decent wage, but also to guarantee that the safety of passengers is the prime consideration and not the profits of a few capitalists.

Yours fraternally,  
Maureen Boyd,  
Brighton Kemp Town  
Labour Party.

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target Oct 9th.
Eastern	1,263		2,000
East Midlands	893		1,800
Hants & Dorset	772		1,300
Humberside	710		1,100
London East	1,176		2,100
London West	512		1,000
London South	1,252		1,500
Manchester & Lancs	1,138		2,000
Merseyside	1,195		2,100
Northern	1,082		2,500
Scotland East	485		1,300
Scotland West	829		2,300
Southern	1,161		1,700
South West	352		900
Wales East	335		1,000
Wales West	1,583		2,000
West Midlands	866		2,000
Yorkshire	1,225		2,500
Others	5,064		3,900
<b>Total received</b>	<b>21,893</b>		<b>35,000</b>

## Target £35,000 By October 9

# SEND US A FIVER!

“Please find enclosed £2 as a contribution to your fine paper. Being unemployed I am appalled that the right wing of the party considers expelling good socialists more important than fighting the Tories.

“No wonder Maggie Thatcher's so pleased...If the leadership spent more time fighting for socialism instead of against it, perhaps the unemployed world be more confident of getting a government that cared about them. N Bathurst, Devon.”

“Whilst we cannot actually attend the (Wembley) conference, this committee fully supports the purpose of the meeting. The artificial divides in the trade union and labour movement are a curse on the working class.

“Prescriptions and witch-hunts have no place in the Labour Party. We fully support the cry FIGHT THE TORIES—NOT THE SOCIALISTS. Please also find enclosed a donation of £20 to your fund. Yours fraternally, J Burtney, Chairman, Joint Unions Committee, BSC Clydebridge Works, Cambuslang.”

Those in favour of the register, expulsions, and so on will obviously claim that the above views are alien to the movement. Party members, whether supporters of Militant or not, will be able to judge for themselves as canvassing for membership and votes goes on over the next year. We maintain the contrary, despite the press crescendo.

Ruth Herdman, a London nurse, sent us £5 and a west London building worker his day's pay for Sept 22nd, while railmen contributed £8.70. Donations or collections were held at Madeley (Salop), and Macclesfield N.E. LP's, ASTMS (Dagenham) £10, and members of Bradford North CLP collected, after meetings, £16.10. Stirling University Labour Club collected £40 at its first meeting this year, to be split between the Militant fighting fund

By Steve Cawley

and the local health workers dispute fund.

Meetings in Louth, Corby, Blyth, Middlesbrough, Normanton, Grimsby, South Shields, Methyr Tydfil, Washington, and LPYS Branches in Stevenage and Newcastle assisted our funds this week.

We can't mention

## THIS WEEK: £3,243

everyone who's made a donation either at these meetings, or individually, whether it's £20 from a civil servant or 40p from a pensioner. As “representative” names, thanks to East Ham reader £10 from ‘services’, G Cole, W Bridgford, Notts., (proceeds from booklet); P Clarke, Liverpool 8, £5; B Thorneycroft (Norwood, £5); J Wilkins, (Bracknell) £10; S Doran (Frazakely L. P.), £15;

Cllr J Atkinson (Hull) sent £1.60; F&A Cotter (Havant) £1.80; M Allen (Cardiff) £5.80; G Turner (Heywood & Royton) £5; extras on Rugby march (i.e. the town) £3; D Musker (POEU,

Liverpool); D Green (Southampton NUR, £1) and £5 came from a collection at a West Midlands AUEW Branch.

At Labour Party Conference, £1,641 was raised at our meeting, and a further £334 was contributed by delegates and visitors during the week. This collection alone illustrated that a very sizable number of delegates support our views, and that attempts at expulsions will be resisted.

Now, we have £13,000 to get at the time of writing. We appeal to every reader to send us a fiver! How about it?



Before the Militant meeting at last week's Labour Party Conference.

Photo D. Doran

## Publicity boosts sales

Friday 1st October — 10am — paper selling at the gates of Westoe Pit, South Shields.

SALE NO.1:—“So 't hat's the Militant. Go on—I'll buy one to see what all the fuss is about.”

SALE NO.2:—“I think it's terrible for the Labour Party to be talking about expelling people because of their ideas. I think the right

policies always come from a clash of ideas.—No, I've never seen Militant before, but I'll buy one to see what you say.”

SALE NO.3:—“Oh, I'm glad to see you! I've been hoping to get the chance to buy a Militant all week! Did you see ‘TV Eye’ last night? Wasn't it great! Your two really put those right-wingers in their place, I've never

been all that interested in politics until this last week, but I wish you lot were in government! Good luck!”

These were the comments from our first 3 buyers—not miners, but miners' wives going to collect their husbands pay!

By Margaret Reavey.

# 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 READERS MEETINGS 'WHAT WE STAND FOR'

DERBY: Tuesday 11 October, 7.30pm. Speaker: Wayne Jones. Workers Education Association, St. Helen's St., Derby.

MANSFIELD: Tuesday 12 October, 7.30pm. Speaker: Wayne Jones. William IV pub, Sutton Rd., Mansfield.

NOTTINGHAM: Wednesday 13 October, 7.30pm. Speaker: Wayne Jones & Dave Hardy (Nottingham NUR personal capacity). Queens Walk Community Centre, Queens Drive, Meadows, Nottingham.

CHESTERFIELD: Thursday 14 October, 7.30pm. Speakers: Wayne Jones & Cliff Hawley (President Derby NUM—personal capacity). Rooms 3&4, Market Hall, Chesterfield.

OXFORD: Thursday 14 October, 8pm. Speaker: Tom Smith (Coventry S.E. LP). East Oxford Community Centre, Princes Street.

READING Readers' Meeting: 'No to witch-hunts'. AUEW Hall DC rooms, 121 Oxford Road, Reading, Friday 8 October, 8.00 pm. Speaker: Terry Pearce (Wokingham Labour Party delegate to LP Conference)

BATH Militant Readers' Meeting. Thursday 7 October. Labour Party Rooms, Pierrepont Street, Bath. Speakers: Steve Smith (Delegate, Westbury CLP); Brian Ingham (Militant Industrial Correspondent)

PORTSMOUTH: 'Fight the Tories, not the socialists'. Thursday 7 October, 7.30 pm, Portsmouth Labour Rooms, 84 Kingston Crescent. For more details phone Howard Benfield, Portsmouth 699430

COLCHESTER: Sunday 17 October Labour Party Rooms, 7.30pm

BASILDON: Thursday 14 October, Laindon Community Centre, Aston Rd (near Laindon BR station) 8.00pm.

LLANELLI: Friday 8 October. Speaker: Muriel Browning (Conference Delegate, personal capacity)

TRETHOINAS: 20 October, 7.30pm. Speaker: Andrew Price. Pynyrwern School, Trethoinas.

NORTH EAST Marxist Discussion Groups.

FOREST HALL: Details: Dave Metcalfe, 0632 665277.

NEWCASTLE West: Every Sunday. Contact Rob Lowther, 0632 775636.

NEWCASTLE North: Every Sunday. Contact Karen Walker, 0632 732959.

GOSFORTH: Every Sunday. Contact Rob Dennison, 0632 844918.

SANDIFORD: Every Sunday. Contact Gavin Dudley, 0632 652906.

GATESHEAD: Every Sunday. Contact Tom McGuinness, 18 Lumley Gardens, Gateshead. (Gateshead 783262)

WASHINGTON: Details Washington 478424.

## CLASSIFIED

HAMPSTEAD Labour Party Young Socialists: Public Meeting. Defend Union Rights! Defeat Tebbit's Laws! Speakers: Don Pullen (ASLEF Assistant General Secretary); Nick Toms (LPYS National Vice-Chairman). Monday October 11, 8pm. 37a Broadhurst Gardens N.W. 6.

DEBATE The Future of the Labour Party Neil Kinnock MP. Peter Taaffe (Editor Militant) Wednesday Oct 20th 7.30 pm Camden Town Hall (opposite St Pancras Station) Organised by London Labour Party Young Socialists.

CELEBRATE the anniversary of the RUSSIAN REVOLUTION with Ernest Mandel and Bernadette MacAliskey. County Hall, London SE1. Friday 22 October. Doors open 7pm. Admission £1. UB 40 50p. Organised by Socialist Challenge and Revolution.

PIANO for sale. 2'x4'x5'. Needs tuning & transport. Sold to highest bidder. Contact Dave Farrar 01-986-3828.

What Militant Stand for meetings sponsored by the LPYS

SALE: Friday 8 October, 7.30pm Sale Moor Community Centre, Norris Rd, Sale.

BLACKLEY LPYS: Tuesday Oct 12, 8 pm, Moston Labour Club, Moston Lane.

MOSS SIDE: Thursday Oct 7th 7.30 Chorlton Labour Room, 454, Barlow Moor Rd.

HOUNSLOW LPYS: "Youth Against the Tories" Speaker: Teresa Wrack at Hounslow Town School, Pears Rd., Hounslow on 11 October at 7.30pm.

CROSBY LPYS Social Event, 9 October, 30 Ashlar Road, Liverpool 22, 10.00 pm onwards, drinks half price. All comrades welcome

WANTED: Accomodation in East London area. Anything considered. Contact Tim White Box 4, 1 Mentmore Terrace, E8.

# Industrial Reports

## Tory blackmail must be stopped

### Miners' claim

**Miners are banning overtime and balloting at the end of the month on whether to back the NUM's claim on pay and other benefits.**

For several years our union fought for the "£100 a week miner". We still have not achieved this for all our members. If NCB chairman Norman Siddall is "worth" £51,360 a year, miners are clearly worth the £115 a week the union demands.

Other items in the claim are vital, too. For the past 15 years British miners have been the only ones in Europe who don't retire at 55.

The four day working week was first promised us in 1919—yet we now work longer hours than miners did then. The Board's response to this demand was to propose amending the Mines and Quarries Act so that miners would work up to 9 hours a day in a form of flexible rostering!



The outcome of the ballot will have a major effect on the whole future of the industry. Mining is the only nationalised industry not directly attacked by the Tories. Thatcher was forced to back down over pit closures in February 1981, but the NCB has proceeded by stealth since then, and succeeded in partially or wholly closing twelve collieries—half its original intention.

If the Tories and the NCB could split the NUM membership from its leadership they would see this as the green light for closures and redundancies. The Board's linking of pay to "greater efficiency" can only mean job losses.

Members of the NUM realise the need to link the questions of pay and jobs but there is some apprehension especially in the areas most directly affected by closures about placing the issues on one ballot paper when the union already has a clear mandate for action against pit closures.

As the issues are being linked, the campaign to get a majority vote becomes absolutely vital. Siddall and his cronies point out that 56% of miners today were not in the industry during the 1972 and 1974 strikes.

They hope that more miners having mortgages will make these workers reliant

on a weekly wage packet. They also calculate that the incentive scheme has split the union's solidarity as militants in the coalfield warned it would.

All these factors can be cut across with a properly run campaign. The overtime ban will help educate the new miners in how low their real earnings are and in toughening attitudes at the pits, although it may be that a fortnight will not prove long enough for these questions to really sink home.

Since Arthur Scargill's election a new approach to bargaining has been obvious. Gone are the days when Lord Gormley fixed back door deals with the NCB and then sold them to the membership. Now members are to be fully aware of all stages of negotiations.

To counter this the NCB have started a media campaign against the NUM leadership aiming to portray Arthur Scargill as a strike-happy political maverick and contrast him with "sensible" union leaders.

So far they have been unsuccessful. 90% out on the 22 September testified to this. An energetic campaign to spell out the facts to the membership is still necessary to allay fears regarding coal stocks and how long a strike would have to last.

Members active in the '72 and '74 strikes will remember how the Board then quoted lavish figures of stocks but forceful picketing at power stations prevented fuel oil needed to burn coal getting through.

Pithead and area meetings must be organised to break through the barrage of propaganda we can expect in the coming weeks. Members must be made aware that the NCB is not some benevolent institution with the interests of the industry and its workforce at heart. When Coal Board spokesmen deny any hit list it must be pointed out that three quarters of a million jobs have been lost since nationalisation, 500,000 of them during Robens' "ten year stint".

The Coal Board say the money isn't there but last year they gave a 48% "rise" to the banks and finance houses for interest charges. If they were nationalised along with the supply and distribution industries the Coal Board would have more than enough to pay the miners.

On the basis of a planned energy policy a great future could await the mining industry. New technology whose potential is beginning to be shown in the Selby and Belvoir coalfields, introduced with workers control, could easily realise the aspirations of the founders of our union—a shorter working week, shorter hours, and the money that miners deserve.

**By John Dunn,**  
Markham Colliery, North Derbyshire NUM.

### BUILD THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE



Shildon workers demonstrate against closure of the local BREL works in May. PHOTO: John Smith (IFL)

### Railworkers: Reject award

**Railwaymen will be bitterly disappointed by the 1982 pay 'award' of the Railway Staff National Tribunal (RSNT).**

It offers nothing to even maintain the poverty wages that many grades on the railway earn; and the 'rise' is offered at the expense of further attacks on jobs and conditions.

Their recommendation on pay is a 6% increase on basic rates from 6 September instead of the normal date in April. In effect, this makes it worth less than 4% over the year: with no guarantee that the date will not be postponed again next year.

The offer means that railway wages will have fallen by over a third since 1975 but even at that time many railworkers were forced to claim state benefits, and worked the longest hours of almost any industry in Western Europe. The tribunal declares that the only way even this tiny increase can be paid for is by further sacrifices by the workers.

The Board say that not a penny will be paid, without

productivity agreements and the RSNT accepts their argument. Their productivity recommendations include steps towards a complete abolition of guards jobs, saying that guards on Moorgate/Bedford/St. Pancras electric units should only be kept on for other duties after 6 months. After this the arrangement should be 'reviewed', i.e. there should be a 6 months reprieve before the board moves to total abolition.

The union are asked to agree to 3 pilot schemes for driver-only operational freight trains, opening the door to a complete abolition of over 5,000 guards jobs.

Footplate jobs are also attacked in the recommendation for the 'easing' of footplate manning agreements, plus moves to get rid of the remaining drivers' assistants. This, would follow the introduction of flexible-rostering, which is estimated to account for 4,000 jobs. Unions are recommended to agree to the train-man concept, which would make all trains mannable by a single worker.

The RSNT proposals ignored entirely evidence from the rail unions; the decisions are almost entirely in line with the BRB's demands. This body is becoming more and more a transmission belt for Board and government pressure, as a rubber stamp for their policies. The RSNT claims it had to take into account "an unprecedented situation as a result of an irrecoverable loss of revenue arising out of recent industrial disputes." They repeat the BRB statistics that "industrial disputes resulted in losses of £240 million, 75% of all losses, much more than the combined impact of the recession and increased competition" and say "the exceptional losses arising out of the industrial troubles would have provided for a 14% addition to the overall pay bill."

What hypocrisy! Rail workers wouldn't have achieved a rise like that without a fight.

When the rail unions called upon the RSNT to propose support from the government both for the long term future for the industry and reasonable pay

levels, the tribunal rejected these arguments unless the unions agreed to the BRB's proposals.

The blackmail of the board and the government is now being repeated by the RSNT. Accept cuts in jobs, living standards and conditions or there'll be no more money for the industry. In fact, all this has been accepted and still there's no money.

The mistakes of the past must not be repeated. The findings of the Railway Staff National Tribunal, if not opposed, would spell absolute disaster for railway workers. After this NUR special general meeting, our union and the other rail unions have a duty to prepare their members for a united fightback to defend existing gains, improve wages and conditions, and re-build the railway industry.

**By Bill Esmond**  
(Nottingham No. 1 NUR personal capacity)

### ARLINGTON HOUSE: Strikers need support from labour movement.

**Urgent action is needed in support of workers at Arlington House, Camden Town, London, the largest men's hostel in Europe. The scandalous wage rates, such as take home pay of £27 for a 50-hour week, have already been described (Militant 24 September).**

Rowton Hotels, who own Arlington House, as well as four other hostels for homeless people in London and elsewhere, still stubbornly refuse to negotiate on the claim. Instead, they are

considering selling all the hostels they own, and from which they make a cool £500,000 per year profit.

This heartless company has no qualms about profiteering from the desperation of homeless people by forcing them to pay for sub-standard accommodation. Now they are inflicting terrible insecurity on hundreds of men and women, who would return to homelessness unless local councils intervened to take over the hostels.

The TGWU unfortunately wasted much time before

making the dispute official. Last week the workers from Arlington House were forced to picket the Regional Office of their own union to demand their support. They sent a telegram to Moss Evans in Blackpool, but he was too busy to reply!

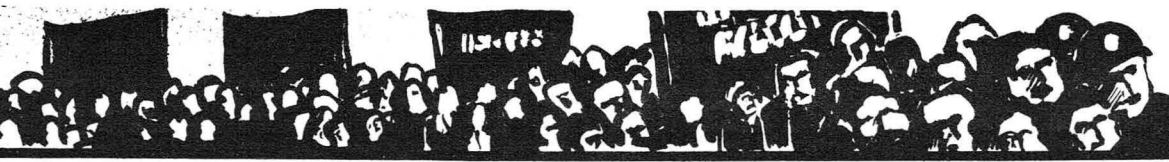
Previously the only support had come from the local labour movement, in particular the Camden Labour Parties, and Camden's NUPE dustmen, who have refused to cross the picket line to collect accumulating rubbish. The local movement is also the only source

of finance for the workers who have literally been existing on a diet of soup.

The strikers live from day to day on the money from the movement, and are homeless, as well as unpaid because of the dispute.

Please send donations and messages of support to Arlington House Strike Fund, c/o Camden Labour Centre, 8 Camden Road, London, N.W. 1.

**By Dan Turner**



# Industrial Reports

## NHS - A strategy for victory

The present industrial dispute in the National Health Service is the third involving strike action over a national pay claim in the last decade.

This year for the first time a common claim has brought unity between different groups of trade unions involved, and has received overwhelming sympathy from the rest of the working class. This has enabled the dispute to be maintained for five months.

We have seen unprecedented determination from a section of low-paid, overwhelmingly women and part-time workers. New layers of health workers have been drawn into taking industrial action for the first time ever, such as nurses, radiographers, technicians and administrative staff.

Health workers have waged a tremendous struggle, but many are asking how is the dispute going to be pressed home by the leadership now in order to ensure a speedy and successful conclusion.

Albert Spanswick said "We could carry on till the next election or even indefinitely." But the energies and loyalty of health workers are not inexhaustible. Without the perspective of victory soon, and with Christmas approaching, it is possible that some health workers may reluctantly become resigned to settling for what has already been achieved.

The worst possible outcome would be for a disintegration of the strike, with a return to work, over the heads of the local strike leaders. This could leave activists isolated, and may even have a damaging effect on the unity built up over the last year's campaign. The Tories would then be emboldened to press on with their plans for draconian cuts and sweeping privatisation. The Tories may not actually implement their Think Tank proposals to dismantle the welfare state but they would wreck the NHS so much as to leave it unrecognisable.

The Tories' intransigence has not been because they cannot afford to increase their offer, in fact the cash saved by industrial action would probably pay for the full claim. They hope to bludgeon all workers away

By Alistair Tice  
(Chairman NUPE Hull  
Royal Infirmary)

from trying to take on their three and a half per cent pay round for the next year and to facilitate the break-up of the health service. As to the dispute, what do they care for the NHS? They never use it, as Thatcher showed recently by paying over £100 for an operation in a private clinic.

The NHS is our service. That is why large section of workers have been prepared to struggle for the health workers. The overwhelming sympathy for health workers and particularly nurses, which has always existed has been turned this year into solidarity action.

**The TUC Health Services Committee must instruct all NHS staff to bring the service to accident and emergency only level**

Health workers have placed self imposed limits on their strike action in order not to endanger patients lives. The dispute therefore was always going to be won by what happens outside the NHS as much as within.

The labour movement support so far has been a source of inspiration and hope for NHS staff. But if further mass support is not mobilised then in desperation some health workers actively involved in the struggle may even abandon the TUC guidelines on emergency cover which could not only have a devastating effect on patients but on working class sympathy. This must not be allowed to happen.

The responsibility for victory lies with the TUC and the wider labour movement. The TUC Health Service Committee strategy in this dispute seems to have been to spread the action so as to lessen the burden and hardship on our members. Now it seems the TUC will do the same with the wider trade union movement. But this is like the Grand Old Duke of York, continually marching us up to the top of the hill only to bring us down again

Each national day of action has given fresh impetus to the dispute, only to be dampened by a long interval till the next. For the members it is back to square one each time. The TUC day of action on September 22nd was the high point of the dispute so far, mobilising millions in industrial action in support of the health workers.

Undoubtedly, many workers welcomed an opportunity to have a go at the Tories at last, after three years of being hammered. But why had it taken the TUC 5 months to make this move? And how much more successful would that day have been had transport workers not been excluded, and if a clear and unequivocal call made by the TUC leaders for a 24 general strike!

When the TUC leadership lifted their little finger, millions of trade unionists responded, defying Prior's Employment Act and the Tebbit Bill proposals. The bosses were impotent to use the law, in fear of provoking an even greater moment of the organised working class.

Yet having aroused our class for action and raise the prospects for victory, there is now to be no less than 6 weeks till the next day of action, and that will only involve transport workers.

During October there will be regional days of action which of course many workers will support. But it will not be possible to mobilise the same degree of support as even the 22nd September, for there workers came out confident they were part of a national movement.

As a matter of extreme urgency the next TUC health service committee meeting must instruct all NHS unions to bring the service to real accident and emergency level only (at present that only exists in less than half the country), by bringing out on selective strike action such groups as CSSD, laundry, drivers etc with emergency cover as determined by the unions.

Following this, on-going solidarity action must be announced. Health workers must win. Victory in this dispute would be a massive blow against this rabidly anti-working class government. It would encourage workers everywhere in the struggle to defend our living standards, services and democratic rights.

to defend their jobs.

We will also be putting pressure on USDAW Executive Council to campaign against all redundancies and to support industrial action if necessary to save USDAW members' jobs.

By Mick  
Wainwright,

(USDAW Blackpool Woolworth Branch Sec. N/W Rep. Woolworth Negotiating Committee)



Nurses leave Epsom Magistrates Court on 30 September

Photo: John Arthur.

## WEST PARK HOSPITAL

About 250 people disturbed the normal calm of Epsom in Surrey on 30 September by marching to the Magistrates Court in support of 57 pickets arrested in August.

The pickets from the local West Park Psychiatric Hospital were arrested on 9 August after a sit down protest at the closure of a ward. Nurses, both male and

female, porters, and ancillary workers were moved in a display of brute force, and locked up for hours in cramped conditions at the local police station.

The action was successful in reopening the ward but charges were still pressed by the police. The demonstration on 30 September included hospital workers from the

many local psychiatric hospitals and elsewhere, and were joined by building workers, sheet metal workers in probably the biggest labour movement march in Epsom for some years. The hospital workers appeared in front of the magistrates bench but the hearing was adjourned and will now be heard later this year.

## Sutton-in-Ashfield

A recent incident at Kingsmill Hospital Sutton in Ashfield, Notts showed the sensationalism and class bias of the gutter press.

A three year-old child's operation was cancelled after the child had been sedated following industrial action by theatre porters.

According to the Sun and Daily Mail the child supposedly had a respiratory arrest and nearly died. These stories led to the local COHSE branch secretary receiving numerous threats and poison pen letters. This is the full story.

On the Thursday a meeting of the local COHSE branch decided to restrict operations to emergencies only, and management were informed on Friday. The

next Monday, theatre porters noticed that the operation concerned was a routine operation and informed the management they would not take the patient into the operating theatre that day.

Only then did they discover that the child had had his premedication (he was not anaesthetised as claimed by the press). Management claimed they didn't have time to cancel the operation, although management had been informed three days previously.

At 2.30 that afternoon a joint meeting of hospital unions decided that in this case they would allow the op to go ahead as it was causing the parents distress, but by then the doctor had decided the child had been under sedation for too long.

Having dozed off for

hours after having the drug, the child fainted on awakening; he did not have a respiratory arrest or nearly die.

The workers in the theatre were so incensed at their unwarranted bad press they held lightning strikes in protest at being blamed for the incident, which they saw as management's fault.

By a Mansfield  
Militant  
supporter

Further reports  
on the NHS  
dispute days of  
action — see  
page 16

## WOOLWORTH'S

On 30 September, it was announced that a £30m bid had been made for the 1100-store Woolworth chain by merchant bank Charterhouse Japhet.

The downfall of Woolworths for many years has been incompetent management right from the chairman down to the store managers. We have seen in the last 3 to 4 years cuts in staffing levels and staff working in diabolical conditions and expected to do the work that two workers used to do.

We would give a warning to Paternoster Ltd., that USDAW members within Woolworths will not stand for any redundancies at all in any of the Woolworth stores.

We showed our determination to fight closures and redundancies in the North West when Woolworths decided to sell 25 stores, and we will show that same determination again. We have already seen action taken in Wolverhampton by USDAW members fighting

# Militant

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## It's our health service DEFEND IT!

Following the massive demonstration on 22 September came the first of the TUC's local days of action on Monday, 4 October on Merseyside

By Josie Aitman

Once again the hospital workers showed their strength on the picket lines, and most hospitals and ambulances carried out emergency cover only. At Fazackerley Hospital, patients joined the picket line to show support.

Two hospitals, Oxford St Maternity and the Womens Hospital, porters and ancillary staff withdrew emergency cover when some workers carried out normal duties against union instructions.

Despite rain, the health service workers were joined by printers, local government office workers, school caretakers and postmen in a 5,000 strong march through Liverpool city centre to rally at Pierhead. Albert Spanswick COHSE general secretary spoke.

Altogether, Colin Barnett the North West regional secretary of TUC and NUPE official reckoned 50,000 people had supported the local day of action. Cammell Laird shipbuilders finished one hour early to give their support but Fords, the docks, buses, and trains stayed at work.

NHS workers and many others in the labour movement are demanding firm national action, not fragmented and local protests, to win this dispute.

### NORTH EAST DAY OF ACTION

As part of the regional day of action in the North East, despite persistent rain, over 1,500 people took part in two marches from Newcastle and Gateshead on 5 October, converging on Eldon Square, Newcastle for a rally.

This followed picketing at all the major hospitals in the region from early morning. At one hospital, pickets had a bitter sweet surprise as a consultant donated a days pay to the strike.

The amount for one day,

was £80, while the pickets received less than 75% of this sum for a week.

Other workers taking action included local authority workers, shipyard workers and postmen.

A picket was hit by a car at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead—The police response was to ask the pickets to stop throwing themselves in front of cars!

By Norman Hall



Nurses join Merseyside Day of Action on Monday 4th October

Photo: John Smith (IFU)

### Triple Alliance Vital

The Triple Alliance between workers in the rail, coal and steel industries has rarely been more needed.

All three industries, so dependent on each other, are threatened with closures and redundancies. Both the British Rail Board and the National Coal Board are now attempting to blackmail workers in their industries to accept job losses and spurious productivity strings as the "price" of a decent pay rise.

Thousands of jobs are now at risk in the steel industry. After hearing the latest threats, Bill Sirs, leader of the ISTC steel union, said that no plant was safe as long as we have the current government and management.

On Page 14 this week, members of the NUR and NUM look at the problems facing workers in mining and the railways and point to the need for united action.

### Glasgow meeting

Over 400 people showed their overwhelming desire to beat the witch-hunt when they attended the biggest ever Readers Meeting in Glasgow on Tuesday 5 October.

There has never been more enthusiasm for the ideas of Marxism up and down the country. Any thoughts the Tories, the press and Labour's right wing had that they could frighten away Marxism by threats of expulsions are fast disappearing.

## Youth Hopes

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Party." Simon should know. He's been unemployed for three months. Since leaving school, he has had three jobs.

In one job he had a bad accident and broke his arm. The non-union firm he worked for were only prepared to give him one week's sick pay. Then he had to start work again because he couldn't afford to take time off.

Will the Tories really concern themselves about these issues! Do they really care about the fact that unemployment now results in at least one suicide every week?

There are 889 resolutions on the Tories Conference agenda only 27 are concerned with unemployment over a hundred are about "law and order"?

What are the Tories real priorities?

Are they really concerned about the prospects of young people like Dorian, who is 16 and whose words echo the thoughts of a whole generation.

"At school, you are given careers advice. They try to tell you it's relatively easy to

get a job if you work hard. That's rubbish.

"There are very few jobs available. What they should tell young people is how to sign on. Many youngsters don't realise the benefits they are entitled to.

"Things are bad in Brighton. During the day, you always see lots of people just hanging around the streets."

Even for those in work it's not the utopia that the Tories paint. A member of Brighton Labour Party Young Socialists explained: "I take home a wage of £54 a week. Out of this I'm expected to keep a wife, a young child and pay the

"I don't ask for much"

mortgage. The only way is by working long hours of overtime.

"The firm, despite making massive profits, keeps down workers' wages by not allowing them to organise in unions. Workers are scared to join unions, faced with the prospect of joining the

dole queue."

And the Tories dare to talk of union 'intimidation'?

"What I want is a Labour Government that will give ordinary people a decent future. I don't ask for much in life, just a decent wage, enough leisure time and a shorter working week, so I'm not always shattered."

Workers are not asking for the earth. But what can they expect under this rotten system of big business and the Tories? No job. No training. No money. No

future. That's why young people from Brighton will be going to Liverpool on Saturday 16 October to join the Labour Party Young Socialists' national demonstration against youth unemployment. It will be a massive display of opposition to the Tories.

"We won't let the Tories walk all over us," says Simon, "socialism is the only way out. We need a complete change from the present system!"

## Rope and Glory

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Tories came to power. Lacking any confidence in Britain's future, even under the Tories—big business has invested £10,637m abroad last year only £6249m was invested in British manufacturing industry.

Thatcher's government has ruthlessly hammered working people. Yet they have failed to revive private profit-making, which is sometimes mis-named "private enterprise".

But what will they be proposing in Brighton? More of the same.

If the Thatcherites get their way, the "Think Tank" proposals for the

total destruction of education will be carried out. Only the Tory Wets fear of electoral suicide holds them back.

But if the Tories remain in power there will be even more brutal attacks on workers' living standards and democratic rights. There is only one conclusion that workers can draw: "Get them out! Now!"

The Labour Party and the TUC must organise action against the Tories. Call a 24-hour general strike to rally mass support for a general election and the return of a Labour government to carry out socialist policies.

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