

# Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

ISSUE 632  
7 January 1983

20p

## BRITAIN IN CRISIS

Will Labour's programme work?  
Pages: 7, 8, 9, 10.

# 1983 Resolutions...

# KICK THE TORIES

Thatcher and her ministers have made it clear in their holiday speeches what they have in store for workers in the New Year...more of the same.

There will be no respite in the public expenditure cuts and the dismantling of vital services, no let up in the imposition of increased charges and prices for transport, electricity, gas etc. and no end to the increasing numbers of unemployed.

It will be more of the same to the Tories' big business friends also...as it has been in the last three and a half years, they will continue to get the tax cuts and the concessions wrung out of the sacrifices of workers.

The Tories' attitude towards big business can be gauged by their decision to overrule the recommendation of the Monopolies Commission and to allow the mining finance giant Charter Consolidated to take over the Clydeside mining equipment manufacturer Anderson Strathclyde. Despite the Commission's studied opinion that the take-over "would damage Anderson Strathclyde and the local economy"—in other words more jobs would go to the wall—the Tory junior minister responsible made what was described as a "light-hearted" decision in overturning it.

Labour MPs, not surprisingly, have demanded a special debate in Parliament on the issue, especially in view of the fact that the Trade Secretary, Lord Cockfield, has a considerable shareholding in Charter Consolidated.

The Tories' New Year gift to the pharmaceutical industry is expected to be the shelving of plans to trim £170m off the profits they make out of the old and the sick. Every year the National Health Service pays about £1,700m for drugs but it has been estimated that about a tenth could be saved if unbranded drugs were used instead of the better-known and exorbitantly priced branded varieties.

For the Tories no effort is too great to denigrate the efforts and achievements of nurses, porters, ancillaries and other NHS workers; but for their friends the leeches in the drugs industries, no effort is too great to keep their profits up.

In the last three and a half years the Tories have reduced taxes on businesses and

By  
John  
Pickard

# OUT

## ...and back the paper that leads the fight

Workers will be looking forward to 1983 as the year to get rid of the Tories. Labour's leaders must now turn on the heat against the disgraceful witch-hunt against the Marxists.

That's why every worker must support *Militant's* fight to stay in the Labour Party and argue for real socialist alternatives to Toryism. Help find new sellers for our paper; take our new appeal letter to every corner of the labour movement.

It takes cash to finance a fight-back. Our readers and supporters made magnificent efforts in 1982 and reached the quarterly Fighting Fund targets in full in July and October with record amounts. Now we must have all of the £50,000 for the final quarter. We are aiming for a daily paper and cannot afford delays in building the necessary resources.

To help every area reach its target (see page 4 for latest position) we are keeping the books open until first post on Wednesday (12 January). So...rush your bumper contribution in now and help break another

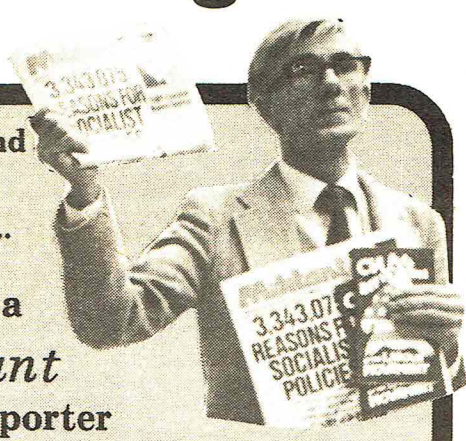
record for *Militant*! If you're too late for the 1982 target, help start 1983 with a bang! It's going to be a tumultuous year and only *Militant* can really make your money work for you and for socialism! Give and collect as much as you can

Don't stand on the sidelines...

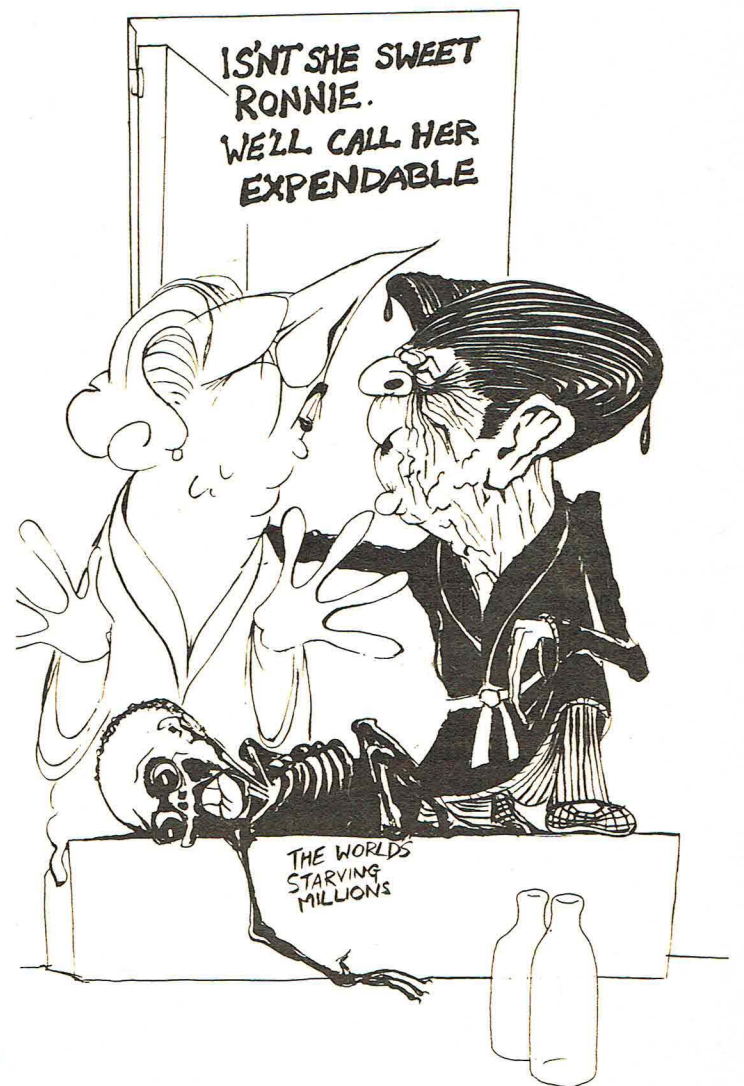
Become a *Militant* supporter

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.



...Another doorstep baby!



## HEALEY CALLS FOR BRITISH CIA

The undercover weapon of American imperialism, the Central Intelligence Agency, (CIA) is infamous for its involvement in plots to overthrow left-wing governments and assassinate labour movement leaders throughout the world.

It was involved in the overthrow and subsequent murder of Allende, together with 50,000 workers in Chile. It spearheaded the attempt to overthrow Castro in

Cuba, Nasser in Egypt and organised the successful coup against Mossadegh in Iran in 1953.

Now, incredibly, Denis Healey, a "Labour leader", has stated that "Britain badly needed something similar to America's Central Intelligence Agency" (Guardian 5th January 1983). Healey's admission that "the CIA had behaved improperly at times" is the understatement of the decade!

The prime function of this murder gang has been to defend the interests of the

continued on back page

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# Militant

## Fish war marks decade of EEC wrangles

It is not without irony that as Britain marks its tenth anniversary of membership to the Common Market, a fleet of trawlers from Britain's EEC partner of Denmark gets ready to sail 'illegally' into British waters.

Membership of the EEC has done nothing to solve British capitalism's economic crisis, and has brought Europe no nearer to a real 'unity' of interests, as Labour's right wing argued; the latest fishing disputes between Britain and Denmark come in a long line of arguments between the member nations of France, Germany, Britain, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Belgium, Luxembourg and Holland.

As usual, the Tories have scored high in the ratings for hypocrisy in this latest dispute. In the 'Cod War' of the mid '70s, the Tories and their class were quick to beat their chests with indignation at the extension of Iceland's fishing limits, goading the Labour government into sending Royal Navy Gunboats to protect British trawlers. Now the tables have turned, it is the Danish fishermen who are the pirates.

The more rabid sections of the Tory press, such as the *Sun* which still seems to be fighting the Falklands war, have even talked of a 'Viking Armada plundering British waters'. But the Tories' decision to mobilise the Royal Navy to 'protect our waters' is a bit late if it

### Sudden Tory concern for ailing fishing industry

has the aim, as they pretend, of defending the jobs of British fishermen.

Since 1970, the number employed in the fishing industry has fallen from above 21,000 to the present figure of 17,000. This was not only through Tory induced bankruptcies but also through the run down of the deep sea trawler fleet after the extension of the Canadian, Norwegian and Icelandic fishing limits.

Also, while the Tories rage over the Danish trawlers, they remain silent over the plight of the Cornish fishing industry, which will suffer from the Tories' lifting of the ban on January 1 on factory ships operating off the Cornish coast.

The depth of the Tories' 'concern' for the fishing industry jobs can also be measured by the fact that they have pushed unemployment in general up to four million during their reign of office.

The Tories' strongarm tactics have more to do with their prestige, and their hopes to restore public faith in the EEC, attempting to show that 'some good' can come out of it. Workers will see through the shallowness of the Tories' arguments, and must not be drawn into the chauvinistic bleatings of the Tories.

The present dispute with Denmark is over the new increased EEC quota of fish allowed to be caught by Britain, which is to the detriment of the Danish mackerel fishing fleet. The EEC member nations have argued for six years over the quotas of fish allowed to be caught by each country, each vying for the better market. In this dispute, Denmark has become the loser, being ordered out of the 'British' mackerel and sprat fishing areas, although they are being allowed to continue in-

### Unemployment has rocketed in EEC countries

dustrial fishing.

The amount of fish involved is minimal, so would hardly compensate, as the Tories argue, for the thousands of jobs already lost in the British fishing industry. More likely, established fishing companies will make bigger profits.

The fish dispute however, gives an insight into the inability of the Common Market to stimulate European capitalism. Its architects argued that EEC membership would boost industry through free trade agreements. This may have been possible in the capitalist boom years of the '50s and '60s. But with the world recession, European capitalism is sliding deeper into crisis. When the European Trade Union Institute predicted in 1980 that European unemployment would rise to 9 million by 1985, they were scorned by the apologists for Western capitalism. But their prediction was an underestimate.

Already in the EEC countries alone, it now stands at 11 million—4 million in Britain, 2 million in the 'miracle economy' of Germany, 2.5 million in France, unemployment at 9% and rising in Denmark, 100,000 in Ireland, the Greek economy set for a massive rise in unemployment with the same pattern, through steel closures etc, in the Benelux countries.

With the growing crisis, they drifted toward protectionism and rivalry, to protect their own markets, with the weaker economies suffering. As the capitalist crisis deepens so the EEC will split further.

It is little wonder that workers are opposed to the EEC. 'Co-operation' under this capitalist system seems to lead to a further reduction of living standards. In the

steel industry for example, far from creating jobs and prosperity, the main role of the European Iron and Steel Commission would appear to have been running the industry down.

Even where Britain ends up in a 'favourable' position through an EEC agreement, there is little to celebrate as far as the workers are concerned. An example is Mrs Thatcher's much applauded 'victory' over the Common Agricultural Policy. After protests from British farmers, food prices were pushed up, increasing farmers' profits, and taxes imposed on EEC imported foodstuffs to ensure the British farmers could not be undercut. The result—the famous EEC food mountains were transferred to Britain. British workers facing the onslaught on living standards with the election of Mrs Thatcher, have had to cut back on food because of the higher prices.

With the election victories of socialist governments in France and Greece, there is now a train of thought amongst some sections of the labour movement, that maybe, with the election of a Labour government in Britain, the EEC could be changed from within to the benefit of the workers. But if those governments fail, like the '74-'79 Labour government, to transform society along socialist lines it will be the capitalist system that dictates the direction of trade and industry and not the aspirations and hopes of the workers.

However, with yet another EEC wrangle it's more likely that the workers' cynicism about the EEC will grow. It is no accident that at successive TUC and Labour Party conferences, support for the Common Market has been minimal.

But simply demanding withdrawal as a solution to these problems is not enough. The labour movement must carefully study the consequences of withdrawal. It has to be said that on a capitalist basis, withdrawal would be as bad as continued membership.

### The labour movement must consider consequences of withdrawal

A withdrawal followed by protectionism to curb EEC imports, as advocated not only by sections of the capitalist class but also some sections of the left of the labour movement (the Communist Party and part of the Tribune group) could provoke a trade war. Given Britain's weakened economic base retaliation by the stronger European economies could be disastrous.

The fact is that after ten years' membership, British capitalism has been increasingly geared towards Europe—2.5 million jobs de-

pend directly on the EEC, with thousands of other jobs linked to the EEC, such as 70,000 jobs in Scotland which rely on US investments channelled through the EEC. The fishing processing industry itself, despite the demise of the British trawler fleets, depends greatly on fish brought into the country by non-British boats (e.g. Fleetwood recently signed a deal to handle 43 Icelandic trawlers).

Retaliation against British exports would do great damage. A massive 43% of all British exports go to the EEC.

There are other dangers for the labour movement too. The enemy of the working people is not just 'foreign' capitalism but capitalism as a whole. Labour must reject the EEC for what it is—a bosses club to aid the exploitation of working people, which has the same aim whether it was based in Brussels or London.

The multinational monopolies have grown, spreading their tentacles of exploitation across the world.

For the international labour movement to fight these monoliths, increasingly there is a need for international, across-border solidarity of the trade union movement. If the labour movement lines up behind its capitalist class on a nationalistic basis, this solidarity would be damaged. The trade unions must cut through the chauvinist propaganda pumped out by the capitalist class and link up with their brothers and sisters, of any country, to work out a plan to defend jobs internationally.

### Fight for a Socialist United States of Europe

When Britain prepared for entry to the EEC ten years ago, *Militant* opposed entry, not from a nationalistic standpoint, but from a class position. We said no to the EEC, exposing it as a bosses' institution, made up of capitalist countries for the benefit of European capitalism. Our call was not a crude 'No' to 'foreigners' interfering with 'our' industries, but a call for the establishment of a federation of socialist democracies, a Socialist United States of Europe. Only through the socialist transformation of society, with the international labour movement, through democratic discussion and agreement, planning resources and trade on a socialist basis, will the wealth of society be directed for the benefit of all.

Ten years on since Britain's entry, with 11 million unemployed in the EEC countries alongside falling living standards, the latest fishing war shows that this demand is not simply an alternative to the Common Market, but a burning necessity.

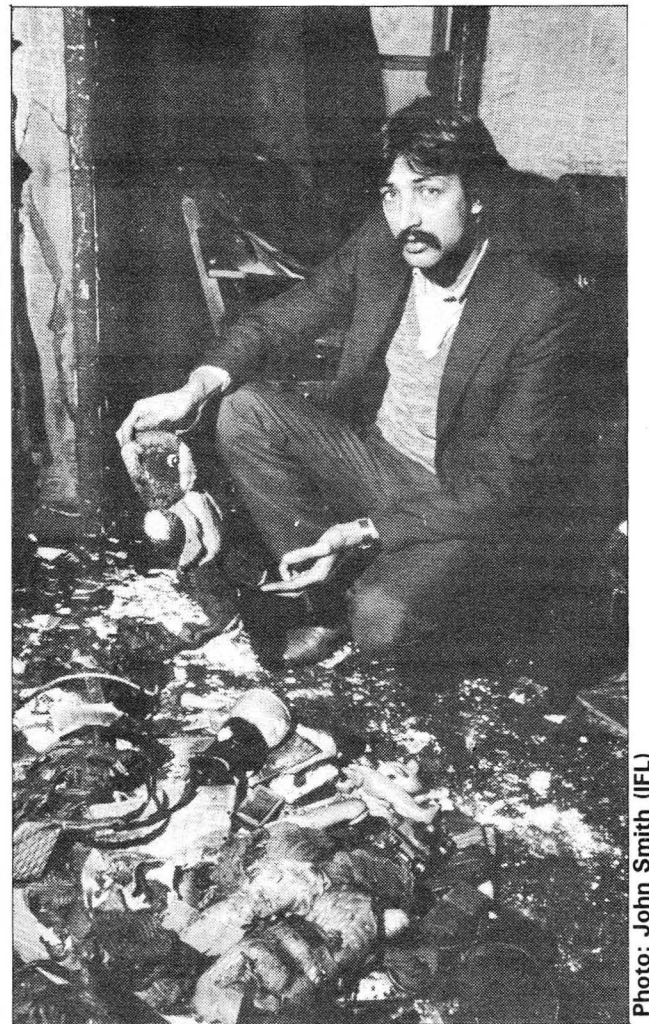


Photo: John Smith (IFL)

Nabil Ahmed sifts through the wreckage of his council house in Bury after a racist arson attack on December 30. He and his pregnant wife and two baby children, narrowly escaped death by throwing a mattress out their bedroom window and jumping onto it. This fire attack continues a long line of racist arson attacks on black and Asian workers.

Fighting racism in Bradford—see page 5.

## TU's oppose witch hunts

It has not only been in the Labour Party branches that the rank and file of the labour movement have expressed their anger against the Labour leadership in launching a witch-hunt.

Besides the many national trade unions that have come out against the witch-hunt, opposition can also be found in many local and regional union organisations.

The 43rd Annual Youth Conference of the Scottish TUC passed a resolution against the witch-hunt. Moving the resolution, delegate Chris Heriot said, "As a firm believer in workers democracy I will be moving a resolution on the Alternative Economic Strategy on behalf of my union, the NUM, at a future youth school even though I have disagreements with it. When have the right wing of our party ever supported conference policies that they were in strong disagreement with? They are the real anti-democrats."

The Overseas Telegraph branch of the Post Office Engineers Union overwhelmingly passed a resolution that, besides totally opposing the expulsion of the Militant Editorial Board, also demanded that "John Golding, our member on the NEC opposes any expulsions and supports the immediate re-instatement of any expelled member."

The 1/854 branch of the TGWU have called for the reinstatement of any Labour Party members expelled because of their association with *Militant*.

The Dalkeith branch of UCATT, the building

workers union, have given full support to their union executive for voting against the register at Labour Party conference.

And the North London branch of the National Union of Journalists have called on the NUJ leadership to protest to the Labour leaders over the 'political intimidation' of NUJ members who work for *Militant*, and also for clarification that, if NUJ members who work for *Militant* are going to be asked to leave their job (and thus go on the dole) in order to remain in the Labour Party, whether this will be extended to any member of the NUJ who is also in the Labour Party and who writes occasionally for *Militant* or supplies the paper with photos or copy through agencies.

### BERMONDSEY CANVASS

"Don't wait for the by-election. Bermondsey needs your help now."

MASS LPYS CANVASS SUNDAY 9 JANUARY, 11am.

Meet 133, Lower Road. If you can't make it this Sunday, canvassers meet, same address, at 7pm every Tuesday.

*Militant* sends its condolences to John and Pauline Elmore, on the tragic death of their son Brian on Christmas Eve.

# Further Education under attack

**This year's National Union of Students conference of the Further Education Sector meets at a time when the Tories are launching a vicious onslaught on further education and FE students.**

Whilst the number of students wanting to go to FE college has increased, especially with the massive rise in youth unemployment, the Tory cuts have led to course closures, rising canteen prices and fewer books.

Because the vast majority of FE students do not receive any sort of a grant, they are worse off than on the dole! Even if you were forced on to a YOPS scheme or on one of the Youth Training schemes, you would receive at least £25.00 a week. If you go to a FE, you can expect to receive nothing.

Even those lucky enough to receive a grant are expected to live on a pittance. If you live in London, which is seen as one of the "best" local authorities, the Inner London Education Authority would offer you a maximum grant of £7.00 a week, according to the NUS 1980/81 grants survey. Even this paltry amount is subject to a vigorous "means-test".

In Wakefield, to qualify for a maximum award of £384 for a year, your parents have to earn less than £40.00 a week.

But the Tories are even attacking these reforms. Norfolk County Council have abolished all grants for students not at university or polytechnic, and Bedfordshire County Council have halved the amount of money they spend on discretionary grants.

The Labour Party Young Socialists have won a commitment from the Labour Party to pay all those who stay on at school or college after 16, a minimum grant of £20.00 a week. This would be a tremendous step forward in alleviating the poverty of thousands of FE students and open up further education to the majority of working class youth.

In the wake of the Tory attacks, FE college student unions have shown their willingness to fight back, clearly indicated in the turnout of FE students on this year's NUS grants demonstration. But to fight back effectively, FEs need strong and independent student unions.

In a bid to prevent and silence FE union activity college authorities have attacked student unions. The col-

lege authorities at Bournemouth and Poole CFE, for example, have imposed a new constitution on the student union, which gives the college principal the power to close down the union, "if necessary", and to cut the number of student union sabbaticals from two to one.

FE colleges need strong campaigning student unions to effectively fight against the cuts, unemployment, the lack of facilities and for a decent grant. For that reason the NUS FE National Committee (FENC) must immediately take up a campaign to defend and develop FE student unions.

## LPYS win £20 commitment

Part of this campaign must be the demand for adequate funding. The FENC must demand parity in funding with polytechnics (£38 per student at the present time) for all FE student unions.

But for local FEs to have full student union rights, the demand for student unions to have full control over their own funds should also be raised. It is often the college authorities or a college lecturer who control the

funds for FE student unions. It is important that FE students control their own funds and are able to use them without any constraints being imposed by the college authorities.

## Full control for FE Unions

If any of the reforms are to be permanently won, however, FE students need to fight for them alongside the labour and trade union movement. The Tories and their big business friends would oppose the introduction of a £20 grant and adequate funds for FE student unions. It is precisely for this reason that FE unions should become and be allowed to be "political". It was after all a Tory government which turned down the NUS demand for a £25 grant for FE students.

FE student unions locally should build links with the labour and trade union movement, in the fight for a decent grant and full student union rights. Nationally, the FENC must campaign for student unions to forge links with trade unions and Labour Parties. Firstly, to commit local Labour councillors to support and secure adequate funding for FE student unions, and secondly,

to make sure the next Labour government carries out its pledge to introduce a £20 grant.

Unfortunately, the FENC leadership are not prepared to do this. At last year's FE National Conference, they rejected proposals from LPYS members to link with the labour movement, arguing that all political parties should be approached in campaigns.

In fact, at last year's conference a majority of the present FENC leadership stated in their election leaflet, "for too long the Further Education sector has been used as a political football by groups in NUS." By appealing to all political parties, such as the Tories, Liberals, and SDP,

## "Non-political" nonsense

who can offer nothing to FE students, and by having non-political campaigns, the FENC have proved incapable on defending FE students.

Failure to see the need to link up concretely with the labour movement has weakened the bargaining position, not only of the FENC, but also of the NUS leadership itself. The claim, which would have cost the Tories more than the miners'

wage claim, was lost because they could see that students, without any industrial muscle, could not force them into granting concessions. It

## Link with labour movement

would have been a different matter, however, if students could rely on the industrial power of the labour movement.

For these reasons, therefore, FE student unions must be "political" and FE students must build links with the labour movement. LPYS members have already undertaken this task by building Labour Clubs in a number of FE colleges throughout the country and by building links between FE student unions and the LPYS.

It is the duty of the 1983 FE sector conference to elect a leadership which is prepared to take the campaign against the Tories, the campaign for a living grant and the fight for a strong student union out to our allies in that struggle—the labour and trade union movement.

**By Anne Petrie**  
(Delegate, Carn-donald Tech.)

## NEW YEAR GREETINGS

**Greetings and best wishes for the new year to all workers active in the struggle to build a Marxist labour movement. Fight for socialism From comrade workers of British Aero-space, Wordford, Manchester division Workers of the world unite!**

**Militant supporters in Cardiff North CLP send fraternal greetings**

- ★ Save steel, save pits!
- ★ Sack the Tories now!
- ★ Workers' control and management of nationalised industries!

**Fraternal greetings to the trade union movement from Liverpool Shipping & Freight ASTMS**  
**No cuts**  
**No witch-hunts**

Fraternal greetings to the labour movement in 1983

Thanks to all who supported NHS campaign NUPE Bath Hospitals Branch

●  
Bradford Trades Council  
No Witch-hunts!  
For a united labour movement and victory over the Tories in 1983

Comradely greetings for 1983 to fellow trade unionists from Arun District Trades Council

●  
TGWU Brighton 1347 Branch send new year greetings of conviction and determination toward a socialist society

**Fight for a decent grant**  
**Forward to socialism in the 1980's**  
UC Swansea Labour Club

**New year's greetings from Royton and Wardle Women's Section**  
**Forward to socialism**

**New year greetings from Stockport Militant supporters**

●  
Growing by campaigning  
Chester LPYS  
Hands off our funds!

●  
Socialist greetings from Llanedeyrn/Pentwyn Branch LP (Cardiff North)  
Fight the Tories, not the socialists!

●  
Comradely greetings from Bromsgrove/Redditch LPYS  
No to the Tories  
No witch-hunts  
Yes to socialism

●  
Liverpool/Croxteth Ward Labour Party fighting for an end to unemployment, bombs, racism and Tories

**To all our readers, sellers, distributors and advertisers**  
**Thank you for record sales in '82**  
**Kick out Mrs T in 1983**  
**From Militant Circulation Department**

An ode to witch-hunters, from Arundel CLP

Those who play at hunt the witch are playing Thatcher's game,  
She laughs and rules at their behest and brings workers naught but shame,  
The witch-hunter divides us all  
When united we should stand,  
Stop it now or else we'll find  
Another term  
For Tories, to wreck and ruin our land.

# 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'

**STOCKTON:** "1983—The year to defeat the Tories"  
Speaker: Tony Saunois at 7.30pm on Monday 10 January at Columba Club, Church Road, Stockton.

**HUDDERSFIELD** Marxist Discussion Group:

Wednesday 19 January: 'Ireland'. 7.30 pm, Huddersfield Library, Children's section.

**NORWICH:** 7.45 pm, Wednesday 12 January. Speaker: Steve Glennon (Stevenage CLP) at the Duke St Centre, Norwich.

**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

#### Militant Children's Party

This Saturday, 8 January, 2.30 pm till 5.30pm and after

Games, puppets, food, tricks and children's own acts on stage

At Vassall Neighbourhood Centre

Corner of Vassall Road & Brixton Road (opposite Brady's pub) 5 minutes' walk from Oval Tube along Brixton Road, 10 minutes' walk from Brixton Tube along Brixton Road. Lots of buses run frequently.

Contact Clare Doyle at Militant offices (986 3828) to say how many are coming (so that there's enough food).

MILITANT DRAW will be taken after the children's party and probably at the SOCIAL IN THE EVENING for those who can stay on and anyone else! Food, drink and music.

## NEW YEAR GREETINGS

1983—  
Scrap the Tories  
Not steelworks  
from Cleveland  
Militants

From  
Littlehampton YS:  
Those who have  
the youth have the  
future. Defend the  
YS and the future  
is bright!

Fraternal greetings  
to all socialists  
Don't let  
Thatcher's rule  
extend to 1984  
Salford LPYS

Sevenoaks LPYS &  
Militant readers  
Fraternal greetings  
to all workers  
Nationalise the top  
200 monopolies

Cammel Laird  
Militant Supporters  
say save  
shipbuilding  
Kick out the Tories

Sack the Tories  
Set the workers  
free  
Forward to a daily  
Militant in 1983  
Moss Side LPYS

Victory to the  
South Wales  
Miners!  
Caerphilly LPYS

Greetings from N  
West LPYS  
Committee  
(Personal Capacity)

S Bush  
I Morris  
S Swinnerton  
C Wolvenden  
D Wilson  
G Wareing  
S Blacknall  
J Hunt  
E Eaves

Stop the witch-  
hunt!  
Labour to power in  
1983! from  
Hanover Ward,  
Brighton  
Militant supporters

Karl Marx  
1818-1883  
100 years later  
let's finish the job!  
Basildon Militant  
supporters

Socialist greetings  
from Huntingdon  
Militant supporters  
Trotsky lives  
where Cromwell  
was born!

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target Jan 8th.
Eastern	1950		2700
East Midlands	809		2850
Hants & Dorset	839		2000
Humberside	581		1650
London East	2490		3300
London West	752		1650
London South	2062		2500
Manchester & Lancs	1517		3000
Merseyside	1665		3100
Northern	2187		3900
Scotland East	731		2000
Scotland West	1351		3000
Southern	2212		2500
South West	654		1500
Wales East	349		1500
Wales West	1085		2000
West Midlands	1307		2800
Yorkshire	1426		3850
Others	3205		4000
<b>Total received</b>	<b>27,172</b>		<b>50000</b>

## GIVE US A FIVER TO REACH TARGET

Give Militant a £5! With £23,000 left to raise in one week, if every reader donates £5 by our deadline this will take us well over our target.

As your New Year's resolution, how about donating regularly each week to build Militant and to make 1983 the year we get rid of the Tories. Help us win the fight against low wages and unemployment.

Mr C Payne from Staines in Middlesex has already promised us £3 each week. This is his investment in the future. What about yours? Only by donating regularly can the paper be built and the resources necessary to win the campaign for socialism.

Make 1983 the year you join our campaign. Don't stand on the sidelines, get involved! The huge sacrifices made already by poorly-paid workers, the unemployed and housewives etc. show how it can be done.

A supporter in Coventry who a few months ago promised us £2,000 has now promised us another £2,000! Supporters in Eastern Region have donated £300 and have promised over £100 more. Donations in memory of Sue Beckingham have raised over £400 to carry on her work.

Christine Butterworth

from Waltham Forest donated £100. Bromsgrove and Redditch Labour Party Young Socialists have donated £30 and in their letter clearly outline why donating this money is so necessary:

"It seems ridiculous to us at a time of mass unemployment and the need for the return of a Labour government, committed to socialist policies, that the Labour Party should be turning in on itself and going ahead with the witch-hunt and the possible expulsions of the Militant Editorial Board and its supporters. We hope that this donation helps in the campaign against the witch-hunting of good socialists from the Labour Party."

In another letter R Carter, an unemployed supporter from Cornwall, who donated £5, said "I would like to give more but Tory levels of "social security" don't allow for such "extravagances" such as money to spend as you wish, just enough to "exist" (!?) on."

These examples clearly show some of the huge sacrifices made over the Christmas period. Thanks to every one of our supporters who made special donations.

There were many donations from trade unions, but to just mention a few; shop

stewards in Hull West raised £50, CPSA members raised £220, £180 of which was raised by NEC members, TGWU 5/909 from Birmingham donated £20, IRSF supporters in Huntingdon donated £15, an NUM Youth Conference in Midlothian raised £16, an AUEW branch in Coventry donated £11.80, a collection from UCATT supporters in East Ham raised £10, and POEU supporters in West Ham donated £9. Over £26 was raised by AUEW members at Lummussite Mossmorran on a sponsored swim.

Thanks to all the Young Socialist branches this week who made donations, especially Grimsby who raised £25 from an Xmas fair, Hackney Central YS who donated £20, YS supporters in East Ham who donated £15, Aberystwyth YS for donating £10, YS supporter in Coventry who donated £7, and Brighton YS who donated £5.

Thanks to Labour supporters from Sheffield who donated £80, R. Phillips in the NUAAW from Poole for donating £40, P. James in Lambeth for donating £39, an appeal to Labour Party members in Littlehampton which raised £27, A Corcoran from Southport in Merseyside for donating his redundancy money £25, M. Barwood from Horsham in Sussex £20, L. Peden from Selly Oak for donating his £20 Xmas bonus, G. Higham from Bootle who donated £15, and F. Armstrong a 73 year old pensioner from Southend who donated £10.

## SINCE LAST ISSUE: £8,648

By Kath White

Thanks to all those who donated a fiver: J. Hull in the CPSA from Colchester, J. Armstrong an old age pensioner from Poole, S. Riley a shop steward from Ford, Dagenham, H. Mott from Peckham CLP, K. Dodds from Manchester South, D. Read Toxteth GMC, B. Parry MP from Liverpool, K. Stuart and E. Loyden from Liverpool City Council, D. Turnbull from Wallsend CLP, F. Andrew from Falkirk, T. Kerr from Govan in the TGWU, T. Sams Maidstone YS, Ann Mennell from Bristol NALGO, J. Houf from Bristol North CLP, P. Smith unemployed from Leeds and G. Cowley from Rotherham.

Thanks also to everyone who donated £1: I. Smith from Felixstowe, T. Harris from Sudbury and Woodbridge YS, D. Mitchell from Ipswich, I. Whyles Whitwell NUM, Gail Picken from Leicester, O. Jones from Southampton, N. Padwick Soton YS, R. Gaston Hull, M. Drearden Dagenham YS, J. Leigh Wigan CLP, F. McGuican Ashington LP, Ismael Arazem from Canterbury, M. Ennis Reading South YS, F. Murphy a Rolls Royce shop steward and A. Bainbridge from Keighley.

Thanks also to the many people who donated this week whose name we couldn't mention but whose donations we very much appreciated. It's up to US—it's our future, let's fight for it. Whatever the size of your donation—send it! Whether it is £20 or £0.50 make sure you send it every week.

Stirling Militant supporters  
Greetings to all in  
struggle  
internationally  
Forward to  
workers' unity and  
socialism

Hayes & Harlington readers  
wish a successful and  
prosperous new year to the  
"campaign for Thatcher's  
early retirement"

Millbrook Ward  
Southampton  
sends new year's  
greetings to all  
socialists  
No expulsions  
Fight the Tories

# Blacks and Asians under attack

## Double oppression

‘In a sense a lot of the problems stem from bad housing and unemployment; the general problems that everybody in the working class community face. But I think that the Asian and Black community are doubly affected.

The new National Health Service charges for instance, ostensibly for visitors to this country; but it means that the whole black community have to go there and produce passports before they can get health service.

Women are entitled to maternity benefit when they give birth, but in many cases for Asians the social security want the marriage certificate and passport.

Even getting supplementary benefit now. There's a regulation stating the need to produce documentation, which means Asian and black people have to carry passports to prove entitlement.

We had a case recently where a woman had been here for 4 years. She split up with her husband, moved to live with her brother and claimed supplementary benefit. They asked her for her passport which was with her solicitor. As a result of this she was disqualified until we interviewed and even then she had to get her passport to satisfy them.

The need to produce a passport even happens for college enrollment now. The reason given is that there is a need to prove ordinary residence.

And you see the problems created by the immigration purge, which is what I call repatriation. It creates a climate of fear. People are afraid that they'll get caught out on little contradictions, and that their families won't

be able to come here because of little contradictions, and the burden of proof is on them not the state.

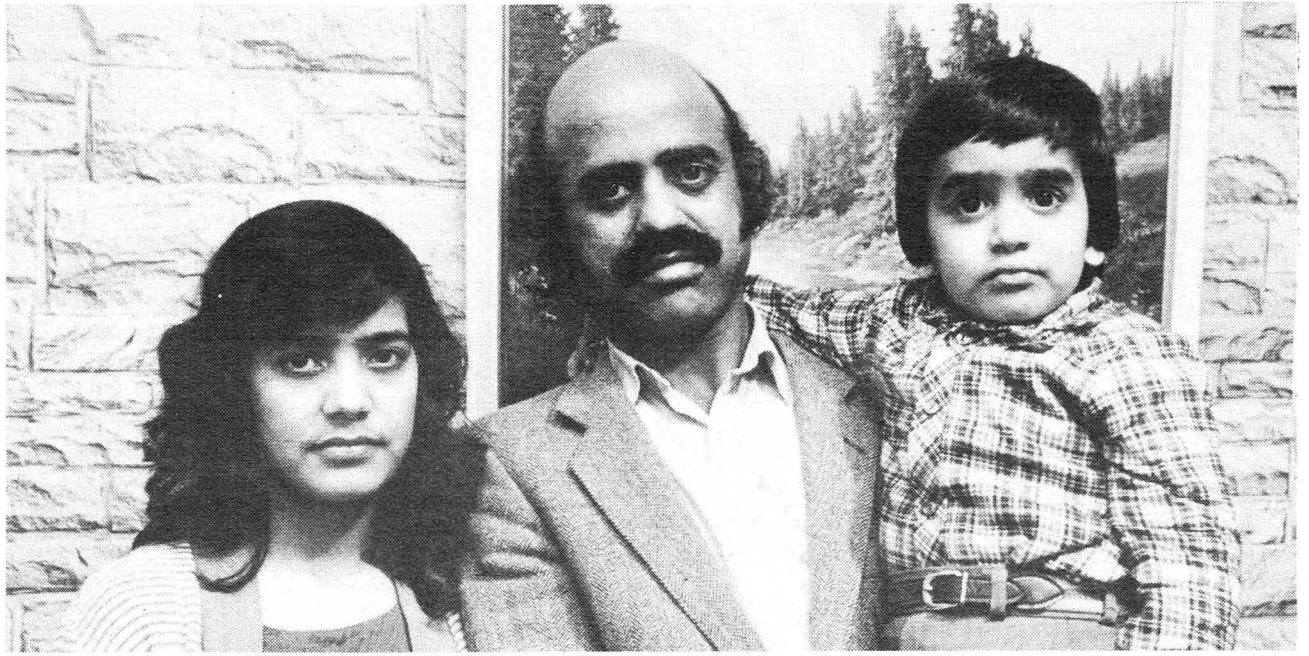
People are actually afraid of the police because they think that they're going to get caught out on some irregularities and deported. Someone came to see me a while ago to ask for advice about particular crime but the real fear wasn't answering questions about this crime, it was that the police would start prying into their personal lives, and the immigration would deport them because of some irregularity which they might find.

Fear of authority is quite common you know. Part of the immigration law is that you have to be employed before you can bring anyone into this country. Well the other day somebody came to me and said "can you get British Nationality if you're unemployed?" Unemployment has nothing to do with it. But the fear has seeped through that you're denied all kinds of things if you're unemployed.

These are the kind of things that are coming up on a daily basis. It doesn't matter whether you're black or white if you live in bad housing it's bad housing and it doesn't change into good housing by your colour.

If you're unemployed, black and Asian people do face discrimination. But today we have to unite against unemployment, because they're all unemployed both black and white, and they have to fight back in a common way. 9

**Interview with  
Masha Singh  
from Bradford  
Law Centre**



Mahmoud Khan and his family

## Deportation threat

**Mahmoud Khan came to England twelve years ago. But the Home Office are trying to deport him to Pakistan, because they now claim that his first marriage, which broke up over six years ago, was 'a marriage of convenience'. Their claim centres around a number of convictions for prostitution against Mahmoud's ex-wife. Despite the publicity she has offered to give evidence that the marriage was genuine, but this was rejected at the judicial review of Mahmoud's case. Mahmoud, whose second wife joined him from Pakistan in 1978 explains his last two years of harassment:**

‘I had been granted British residence on the basis of my first marriage, which broke up in the mid 70's after thirteen months. It was in July 1980 that everything started turning upside down. I was served with a deportation order. I appealed, but it was turned down.

On 29 August I was arrested at about eight o'clock.

I was still in my underpants, shaving. When I asked for time to dress, they said "Well if you're trying to make time like this, we'll take you as you are, in your underpants".

Anyway I was just whisked away to Armley prison in Leeds, the idea being to deport me within days. Fortunately, friends intervened and deportation was suspended. However I was kept in prison for one month.

Then suddenly I was taken to a police station, where I met my (second) wife and son and taken to Heathrow Airport. I wasn't even allowed to see my parents. I had £35 in my pocket. We didn't know where we were going to land in Pakistan: Rawalpindi, Karachi, etc.

Our home is here. Everything was sold in Pakistan because I thought that England was now my home.

It was a nightmare. We were just bundled into the back of the car, with no room to sit because all our

luggage was also in the back, and my son began vomiting during the journey.

Out of the blue a declaration was presented to me, and when I read it carefully, it said that I wished to leave the country of my own free will. I refused to sign. They tried to make me, using all sorts of pressure. They really bullied me, but I refused.

I learnt afterwards that the deportation had actually been suspended that morning, but they were trying to take me unawares.

But our luggage had already gone on the plane, and we didn't get it back for some time. My son did not have any warm clothing. That was October 1981.

We were brought back to Bradford and I was locked up for three months. I had committed no crime. No reason was given. When I was eventually released I was just told to sign on every day before noon or face a £200 fine and six months in prison, and I knew what that was like, it was hell. Anyway I kept signing on for a year;

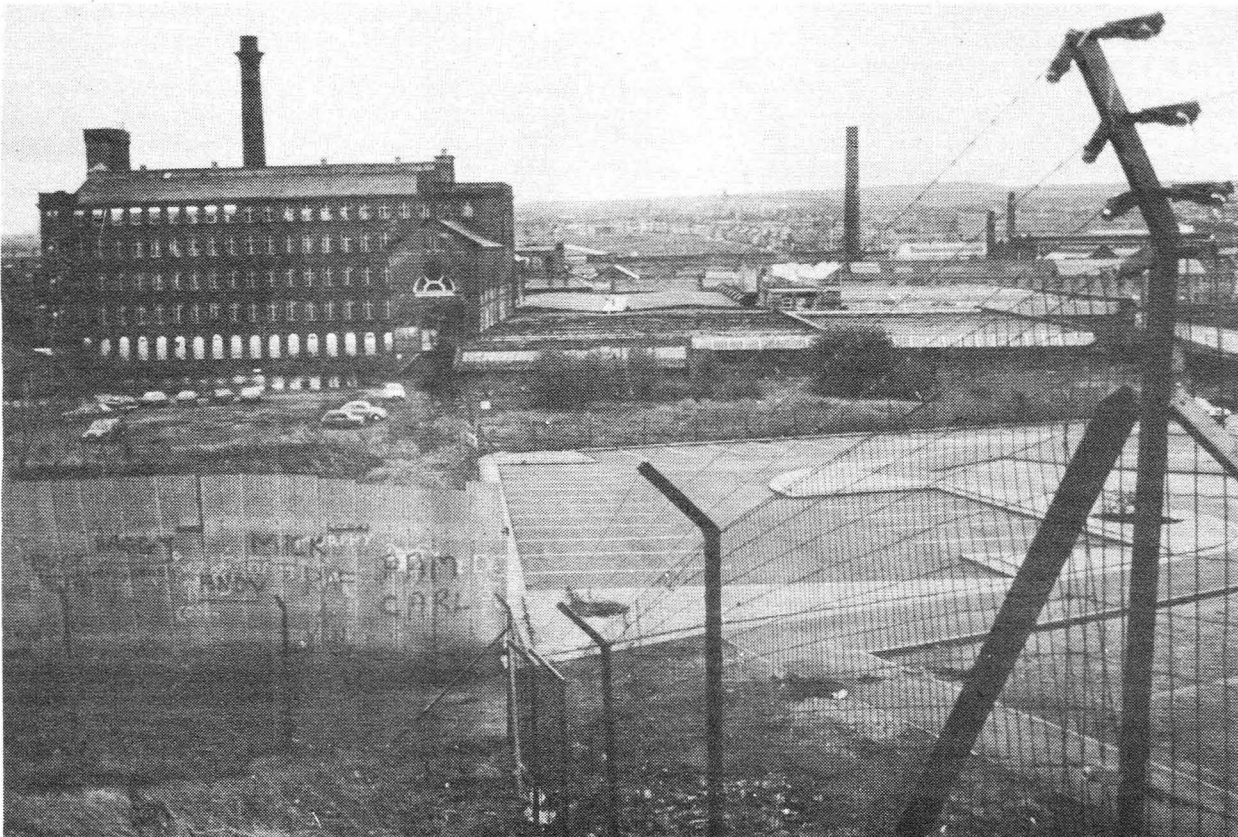
just recently due to the pressure of some people I have had to sign on once a week, on Sundays.

My second wife, my parents and my son have suffered. My father has died because of this trouble. He served in the British Army and couldn't understand this thing. He knew I was innocent. He died because I neglected him, because in our culture parents are to be looked after.

Sometimes I don't even feel like taking my son to nursery, because if he gets used to it and we are deported it will tell badly on him. We are just in a terrible mess. It is totally inhuman. We are just at the mercies of the authorities.

The Court of Appeal hearing has been fixed for the 11 January. If the legal points and public outcry go together then surely we shall win. 9

**Interviews and  
photos by  
D Doran.**



Bradford's industrial wasteland

## POLICE HARASSMENT

In the early hours of Sunday 12 September 1982, Donald Eley, a 35-year-old mechanic and his fiancée were walking home after a night out. As they went past Legram Lane police station there was an incident with a police constable. Other police then appeared. Donald and his fiancée were handcuffed and locked up for over eight hours before being charged with assault.

This incident was reported at a public meeting called by various black defence committees. Other incidents came to light.

On Sunday 14 November the Dacres household was invaded by no fewer than fourteen policemen seeking Stephen Wizard, a member of the household. Three members of the household were charged with offences, varying from assault to obstruction. In addition Stephen Wizard was charged with the theft of a Vehicle Excise License valued at 25 pence. Everyone intends to plead not guilty.

At approximately 3 am on Monday 15 November police raided the home of Mrs

Olivia Hutchinson in Gillington, Bradford and physically dragged David, the youngest member of the family, down to the police station. After eight hours, David was released without a charge, being bailed to reappear at the police station in December. The police have now quietly dropped all charges.

The defence committee wants the police in Bradford to stop any harassment. They have called for the dismissal of the police officers involved and for an independent inquiry into West Yorkshire police.

The labour movement must take these cases up, support the pickets or demonstrations organised and assist in the establishment of an inquiry. Above all we must fight for democratic control over the police authority so that racialism can be rooted out of the police once and for all.

**By Pete Watson  
(Bradford North  
Labour Party)**

**Hands off the LPYS!**  
 Give us a future  
**Socialist new year greetings**  
 Cathy Wilson PPC  
 (Isle of Wight)  
 Tony Beere, Newport  
 Branch LP  
 Sandown/Shanklin branch  
 LP and Island LPYS

Socialist greetings  
 for the new year  
 from Heywood &  
 Royton  
 Constituency  
 (Shaw &  
 Crompton Ward)

Greetings from  
 Barnsley LPYS  
 If thy ever does  
 owt for nowt—do  
 it for socialism!

Thanks to all those  
 who came and  
 helped us fight  
 WMCC election. A  
 victory for  
 socialism!  
 Binley and  
 Willenhall Ward  
 (Coventry SE CLP)

Militant is  
 spreading—from  
 Canvey Island, via  
 Benfleet &  
 Thundersley to  
 Rayleigh. Where  
 next?

SE Essex readers

★  
 100 years after  
 Karl's death—  
 Marxism is even  
 stronger. More  
 power to your  
 elbow with a daily  
*Militant*  
 Basildon LPYS

**Barnsley CLP's New Year  
 resolution is:**  
 "Let's make this the year  
 we fight the Tories"

# NEW YEAR'S greetings

Hands off the YS.  
 Labour to power in  
 1983

Fraternal greetings  
 from Brighton YS

★  
 Kirkdale LPYS  
 say we can do it  
 "Gizza job"  
 Kick out the Tories

**No bans and proscriptions  
 No expulsions  
 Tories out  
 Labour in on a socialist  
 programme  
 Manchester and Ardwick  
 CLP**

Hackney Central CLP  
 send fraternal new  
 year greetings to  
 socialists everywhere  
 Fight the witch-hunt!  
 Labour to power in  
 '83 on a socialist  
 programme!

From the home of the great  
 British sell-out  
 Fight back in the new year  
 with Hartlepool,  
 Middlesbrough and Stockton  
 Labour Party Young  
 Socialists

Greetings to all  
 socialists from  
 Linacre Branch:  
 Bootle CLP  
 Let's expel the  
 Tories in 1983

Blackpool LPYS  
 Support council  
 workers against  
 the Tories  
 Say no to  
 privatisation of  
 council services

Fraternal greetings  
 from Southampton  
 LPYS  
 No bans or  
 proscriptions, but  
 socialist answer  
 and socialist  
 policies

★  
 Greetings to the  
 labour movement  
 from Stepney &  
 Poplar LPYS  
 Kick out Mrs T in  
 1983

**Fraternal greetings to all  
 workers fighting for a  
 socialist future from  
 Macclesfield Militant  
 supporters**  
 Frank Clayton, Mick Eaves,  
 Andy Jackson, Elaine  
 Eaves, Acker Bates, Andy  
 Marshall, Grayham Eaves,  
 Joan Eaves, Mike Lievens,  
 Paul Lievens, Launa Barret,  
 Matthew Eaves, Paul  
 Holmes

**Uxbridge LPYS sends new  
 year's greetings**  
 Forward into 1983 to end  
 witch-hunts and build a  
 mass socialist Labour Party  
 committed to defeating the  
 Tories

Weetwood Labour  
 Party Leeds, best  
 wishes for a  
 Socialist New Year  
 Fight Tories, not  
 socialists!

Include bold  
 socialist policies in  
 all your new year  
 resolutions  
 Bognor Regis  
 Young Socialists

**Swinton and Kirkhurst  
 LPYS and Rotherham  
 LPYS say:**  
**No to redundancies  
 from BSC**  
**No to redundancies  
 from NCB**  
**Make McGregor and  
 Siddall redundant, not  
 workers**

Socialism not  
 McCarthyism in  
 '83  
 Gosport CLP

Worker wages for  
 MP's in '83—  
 Better still MP's  
 wages for workers  
 from  
 Harlow LPYS

**Make 1983 the year of  
 recruitment and attack**  
**Recruit socialists—attack  
 the Tories**  
 Littlehampton branch,  
 Arundel CLP

1983—A year to  
 fight the Tories,  
 Not socialists  
 —New year  
 greetings from  
 Aberystwyth LPYS

Manchester  
 Wythenshawe  
 LPYS's  
 message for 1983  
 Wring out  
 Thatcher!  
 Ring in the daily  
 Militant!

Wokingham CLP  
 send new year's  
 greetings to the  
 labour movement  
 Maggie out in '83

Fraternal greetings  
 to socialists  
 everywhere  
 Tories out  
 Brimrod and  
 Deepish Branch  
 Labour Party  
 (Rochdale CLP)

"Monk Bretton Ward Labour  
 Party, Barnsley, resolves to  
 make this the year we fight  
 the Tories"

**No to expulsions  
 Fight the Tories, not  
 socialists**  
 Fraternal greetings for the  
 new year from Reading  
 South CLP

Thamesmead East  
 branch (Erith and  
 Crayford CLP)  
 sends New Year  
 greetings to  
 Militant. Fight the  
 Tories, not the  
 socialists!

★  
 New year  
 greetings to the  
 labour movement  
 from Cardiff North  
 LPYS  
 'No expulsions in  
 1983'

★  
 Reading for the  
 Cup  
 Smash the Tories  
 up!  
 Fraternal greetings  
 from  
 Reading South  
 LPYS

West Derby LPYS  
 sends seasonal  
 greetings to the  
 labour movement  
 worldwide. United  
 in struggle

**Bilston, Loanhead and Roslin  
 Labour Party sends new  
 year greetings to the labour  
 movement**  
**Expel the Tories—not the  
 socialists**

**LPYS East London  
 Liaison Committee**

★ **Defend Labour's  
 youth.**

★ **Fight the Tories,  
 not the  
 socialists in  
 1983.**

**Forward to  
 socialism**

**Uxbridge South Ward  
 Labour Party sends new  
 year greetings to all  
 socialists. We shall  
 overcome witch-hunters and  
 Tories and move towards a  
 Socialist Britain**

# Them and Us

By Kevin Ramage

**While Thatcher and her scribes in Fleet Street make calls for 'everyone' to sacrifice, the rich have got richer, while working class people have to suffer greater misery and cuts in living standards.**

The *Times* reported in October that 29 top directors were paid over £100,000 a year, including the chairman at firms such as Lucas (£127,145) and Thorn EMI (£108,421) where thousands of workers have been made redundant in the last year. Yet earlier this year the same paper reported that death rates among unemployed men are 50% higher than among men of the same age in work.

In every walk of life, the collapse of capitalism has led to a savaging of working class living standards. According to the government publication *Social Trends*, spending on food fell, especially of meat: Beef and Veal fell by 14% in 1981, Pork by 8%. The amount of fish and eggs eaten has also fallen.

But while consumption of meat, fish, and eggs has fallen in the last 10 or so years, London's 'La Gavroche' restaurant where a meal for two (if you're careful!) costs £80, the manager reports "fantastic business" and that "it has never been better."

According to the

## 1983 BRITAIN IN CRISIS



**"When you get to the top end of the market, you find it isn't affected by the recession. Rich people are still rich..."**

Leonard Nardy, top yacht salesman

*Economist*, 3 in 5 people leave home for their holidays. In other words 2 in 5 don't! And the average spending on a holiday taken in Britain is £74—less than most earn in a week. But Mr Leonard Nardy, sales manager of the top people's yacht company, reports that at this year's boat show one boat went for £650,000, and "When you get to the top end of the market, you find it isn't affected by the recession. Rich people are still rich and they are still buying yachts. In most of these things it is a case of money and mood and these people seem to have the two together."

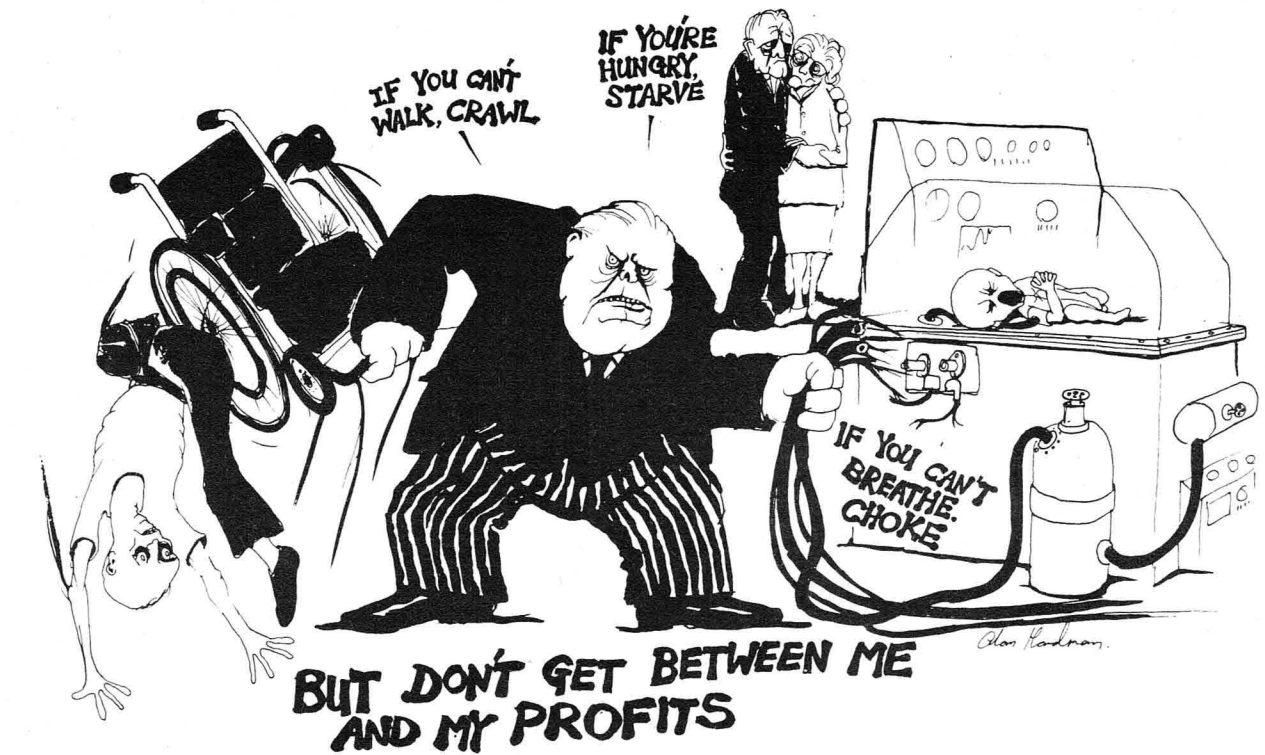
All statistics on "standards of living" (based on numbers of TV sets, cars, telephones, fridges etc) show no fundamental change from 1980 to 1981. Thus the *Times* (8/12/82) concludes: "Life is becoming more comfortable for most people too." But for many households this standing still has only been achieved by spending one off redundancy payments or piling up ever bigger Hire Purchase debts, which have risen from £257 per household in 1979, and

£308 in 1980, to £477 in 1981, an increase of about 90% in a period that prices rose by about 30%.

For many working class people, and especially youth, even becoming what is described as a 'household' is an increasing nightmare. Whereas in 1934-38 the average number of houses completed was 361,142, in 1970 it was 362,226 (of which 176,926 were council, and 174,242 private).

However, by 1981 housebuilding had fallen to 218,033 (77,913 council, 119,158 private) and is expected to fall even more dramatically in the next couple of years. The Tories and their papers will tell us that this is due to 'falling demand', but in England alone 547,000 homes are unfit for habitation, and 3 million need major repairs.

According to the *Times* "only 4 per cent of households lacked or had to share a lavatory." But 4% is 800,000 households. In 1982 in London and the South East alone 26,598 are homeless, many living rough or in temporary hostels, and a further 429,788 are on waiting lists—including over 15,000 in Hackney alone.



A further indication of the effect of falling living standards is the escalation of electricity disconnections in London, from 9,786 in 1977 to 32,977 in 1981. The fall in this figure to 19,569 in 1982 is not due to rising living standards, but the increasing introduction of slot meters.

hours and for women to 37.7 hours (This has actually increased from 37 hours in 1975). Such is the 'progress' of life under capitalism.

The return of mass unemployment as a permanent feature in society, as in the 1930's doesn't just mean statistics. It means shattered lives, broken households, and increasingly the despair of alcoholism, drug addiction, mental breakdown and even suicide. There had been a tendency for suicides to decline in the early 1970's mainly as a result of improving health care, but since 1975 there has been a steady increase in suicide deaths, from 4,176 in 1975, to 4,756 in 1979 (the last available figures), and a long term government study concluded that deaths of unemployed men from accidents and violence, including suicide, are double that of men of the same age in work.

Along with record unemployment, Thatcher has another grim record in her collection; 56,000 in prison—the highest figure this century.

Alcoholism is another increasing curse, not only of unemployed, but among workers increasingly unable to keep up with the pressures of rising bills and falling income. A 'Think Tank' report commissioned in 1978 has been shelved by the Tories because of its devastating picture. It pointed out that three quarters of a million workers are alcoholics, with especially large increases among women and teenagers. While 1 in a 100 suffer from alcoholism in England and Wales, the figure rises to 2 in a 100 in Scotland, and 2½ in a 100 in Northern Ireland.

These figures, of increasing misery and despair are the other side of the coin when 'falling output', 'rising unemployment', 'falling demand' and other statistics are quoted in the press and on TV.

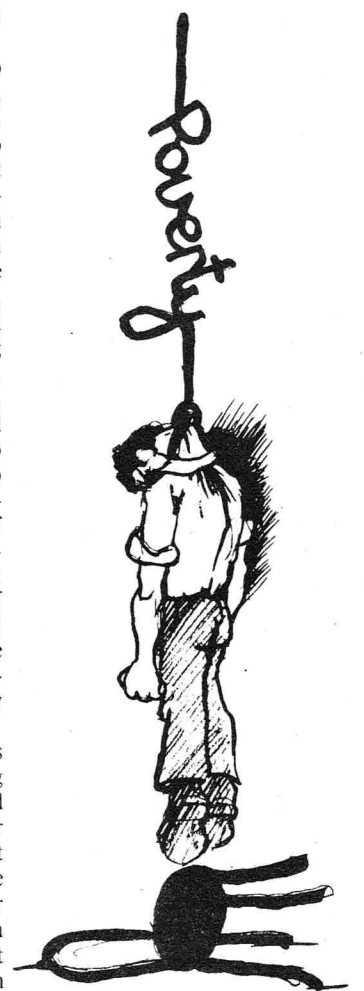
Life under the Tories and the capitalist profit system in 1982 (and will be in 1983) is a life of declining living standards for working class people. A study by the Institute of Fiscal Studies has shown

that while wages rose greater than prices in 1973-81, rising National Insurance contributions and Taxes, have meant that the working class population is worse off.

Wages would have had to rise by 256% to stand still, but have only risen by 234%. Even then these figures do not allow for the fact that the 'Retail Price Index' includes luxury goods which have risen in price much slower than the basics of life such as food, electricity, gas, rents etc. But its not all misery and falling living standards under the Tories.

In the Jewellery business, Aspreys, the exclusive Bond Street firm, report "two good years", while the top peoples auctioneers, Sotheby's claim "The top end of the market is absolutely, incredibly buoyant". At Christies recently a suit of armour fetched £418,000—double its reserve price. Harrods also are happy, with the "very steady sales" of furs.

Like the ancient Romans the ruling class are gorging themselves while all around is in chaos. The labour movement must ensure that 'Nero' Thatcher and co. be driven out in 1983, together with their decrepid system and replaced with a socialist plan of production that can utilise modern technology to the benefit of the whole working class.



**Like the ancient Romans the ruling class are gorging themselves while all around is in chaos. The labour movement must kick Nero Thatcher out.**

**1983  
BRITAIN  
IN CRISIS**



**1983  
BRITAIN  
IN CRISIS**



**1983  
BRITAIN  
IN CRISIS**



# WILL LABOUR'S PROGRAMME WORK?

In this article TED GRANT examines the crisis of British capitalism and the programme put forward by Peter Shore, as Labour's Economic Programme.

Peter Shore's recent proposals as Labour Shadow Chancellor will probably be adopted by the NEC as the economic programme for the next Labour government.

Before dealing with Shore's proposals in the light of the policies of the Tories and the crisis of capitalism, it is necessary to take a look at the world situation.

The recession of 1979 ushered in an entirely new period in the history of capitalism. There are now over 30 million unemployed in the countries of the OECD. In practically all capitalist countries there are cuts in living standards.

There has been a fall in output of manufacturing industry in all the capitalist countries. "Spare capacity" has appeared. Even in "booms" only 80% of capacity can be used. Now, in slump, only 70% of capacity can be used in the countries most affected by the slump, Britain and America.

Thatcher has presided over the destruction of 20% of British Industry

Thatcher is correct in one thing when she says, "We have tried everything and it doesn't work" and "There is no (capitalist) alternative" to the policies which have been adopted by her government. In reality these policies reflect the organic sickness of capitalism on a world scale and especially in Britain.

The ruling class has turned to the "solutions" of the past. By "trimming down" industry they hope to make it "fitter and more competitive". In reality they have wrecked British industry on a scale and on a basis never seen in history before.

Only 70% of capacity is now in use and in relation to steel only 60% of capacity.

In furniture, steel, railroads, machine tools, foundries and construction there is a collapse of investment and of production. Thatcher has presided over a situation where 20% of Britain's industry has been destroyed in three years.

Under capitalism the economy develops through booms and slumps. Each slump was succeeded by a higher development of industry, at least in the past. Before the first World War these booms and slumps generally developed over a period of ten years.

Now these booms and slumps are taking place on a more rapid basis, a slump for every two or three years, followed by a year or two of weak "boom", followed again by a further collapse and a new slump, deeper than the last.

Once the world economy starts crawling ahead again, "demand" will pick up. But because of the policies of the the Tory government, which have meant that what was a recession in other countries has been a depression in Britain over the last few years, it will be impossible for British industry to meet the increased "demand" for goods.

Thus Britain will become an even bigger importer of manufactured goods than it is at the present time. Only by imports could the gaps in the markets be filled on a capitalist basis. Now, for the first time for a century, Britain is importing more manufactured goods than she exports.

The Joseph-Thatcher-Howe cabinet tried to cut the budget deficit in order to go back to the traditions of capitalism in the past, of "sound balanced budgets". But 19th century capitalism has now gone beyond recall. The result of the measures of Thatcher has been the biggest budget deficit in history!

The Tories had overlooked the fact that in modern conditions it is not possible to throw millions out of work without providing

some subsistence. Because of the £18,000 million which is necessary to keep the unemployed alive, their policy has resulted in a bigger deficit, thus preparing the way for more inflation when there will be a new rise in production.

There is the possibility that in 1983, or possibly 1984, there will be the beginning of a new "boom". But this would only prepare the way very rapidly for a further collapse in the productive forces.

Peter Shore's proposals must be viewed in the light of the most serious crisis of capitalism on a world scale, and in Britain, a greater crisis than has been seen in the whole of British history. Yet Shore wants to bale the

**Marxists support all the reforms agreed by Party Conference**

ocean of capitalist crisis with a teaspoon of "planning".

He wants to solve the problem by massive state expenditure, beginning with increased expenditure of £5,000 million in the first year, rising to £18,000m after five years. This, he claims, would reduce unemployment to only a million after five years and would lead to the production of 25 million tonnes of steel.

"Public expenditure", he says in his policy document, "should be increased, tax rates and interest rates cut, the pound immediately devalued statutorily". This he says "is not simply spending the way out of recession," yet the total increased expenditure over the five years would be more than £60 billion.

There will be a cut in VAT income of £4,000 million, a 3% reduction in employers National Insurance surcharge. There will be import controls, exchange controls, price controls.

There will be a 4% cut in interest rates in the first year of a Labour government. In order to carry out the policies there would not be an open incomes policy but "a national economic assessment".

According to this argument there will be 8% inflation in 1986 and a 12% increase in living standards. Incomes will grow 11% in 1983, 10% in 1984, 9% in

1985 and 8% in 1986.

Yet the document hints very strongly towards a restriction of living standards. "Increased purchasing power" the document reveals, "should go into new jobs, not into the pockets of those in work."

This programme shows that neither the Labour leaders nor Peter Shore understand either capitalist or Marxian economics. Marxists would support the programme put forward by the Labour Party, of a massive increase in expenditure on social services, pensions, transport, health, education, a national minimum wage, and the other reforms carried by Labour Party conference.

The 1974-79 Labour government promised similar increases in pensions, social services, transport, education, a cut in inflation and abolition of unemployment. The reality was that in 1976-77 there was a cut of £8,000 million in public expenditure, the biggest cut in history. Unemployment doubled from 750,000 to 1½ million, inflation doubled, and there was a cut in real wages of over 9%.

The attempt to carry through a programme in the interests of the capitalists of incomes policy, eventually failed because of the resistance of the working class to further cuts in the standard of living. Only the so-called 'Winter of Discontent' and the revolt of the rank and file in the unions prevented the fall in living standards reaching 20-25%.

**French Socialist government forced to introduce counter-reforms**

**In other words, from the programme of reforms the last Labour government passed very rapidly to a position of counter reforms in the interests of big business.**

Why should the situation be different now? Indeed, the crisis of capitalism is much deeper now than it was at the time of the last Labour government in 1974-1979.

If we were to examine the concrete example of France, which has one third more industry than Britain and is one third richer, we see that

the Socialist Party government which had a much more left-wing programme than that being put forward by Peter Shore has very rapidly passed from reforms to counter reforms.

At least they nationalised the banks and some monopolies, increasing the share of state ownership from 12% to 17% of industry. In the first flush of enthusiasm the Socialist Party leaders started to carry out their programme of reforms.

They increased pensions, social services, family allowances, reduced the working week and so on.

But the capitalist class sabotaged the programme of the Socialist-Communist government by passive resistance.

This put the stark alternative: either the Mitterand government would proceed more rapidly to take action against capitalism, or they would be forced to capitulate to big business. They capitulated to big business!

Cuts announced on the 21 July 1982 included the postponement of proposed further increases in pensions, family allowances, spending on social security, increased health pensions, and so on.

Daily hospital charges have been introduced, along with heavy taxes on tobacco and alcohol, a wage freeze and incomes policy, control of spending by hospitals, new rules in reimbursement of prescriptions, and so on.

From a position of putting forward reforms, the ministers are now speaking of "rigours", "ethics", "changing pace", "import curbs", a "social contract, i.e. incomes policy.

The leaders of the Socialist Party put the position that "At the moment we must work for our country (i.e. big business—EG) and run the risk of unpopularity even from those who voted for us."

According to the capitalist commentators and the British press, "no right-wing government could achieve" what the Socialist government has achieved in attacking the standards of the working class.

The Socialist Party came to power on a programme like that put forward by Shore, of abolishing unemployment. However, unemployment has increased to over 2 million and at best on the present policies will be higher than 2 million in 1983. Economic growth is projected at only ½% in 1983.





Peter Shore. Photo: Militant

fit of the capitalist is the unpaid labour of the workers.

The surplus extracted from the labour of the working class is invested by the capitalist class for the purpose of producing further profit. Thus there would

### Over-capacity prepares the way for slumps

have been an immediate crisis of capitalism once the capitalist system developed if it were not for the fact that more goes into the production of the *means of production*, that is to say factories, communications, railways, machinery, buildings and so on, than is given in wages to the workers.

But over a period, inevitably this produces over-capacity or "over-production". This "over-production" is eliminated by the destruction of goods, by the wearing out of machinery, by the wearing out of consumer and production goods which again creates a new market. This, in turn, prepares the way at each stage for an even bigger crisis of production of capitalism itself. Shore and his advisers do not understand that the period of boom or rather economic upswing from 1950 to 1975 was due to the expansion of the world market and the world division of labour. It was caused partly also by Keynesian methods of deficit financing, though this was a

### The madness of capitalism means real needs cannot be met

secondary and not a main factor.

But the upswing has now reached its limit and in all countries there is "over-production" and "over-capacity". Where the surplus is not invested for increasing production by increased productivity and the production of more goods, then inevitably there is a crisis of the system itself.

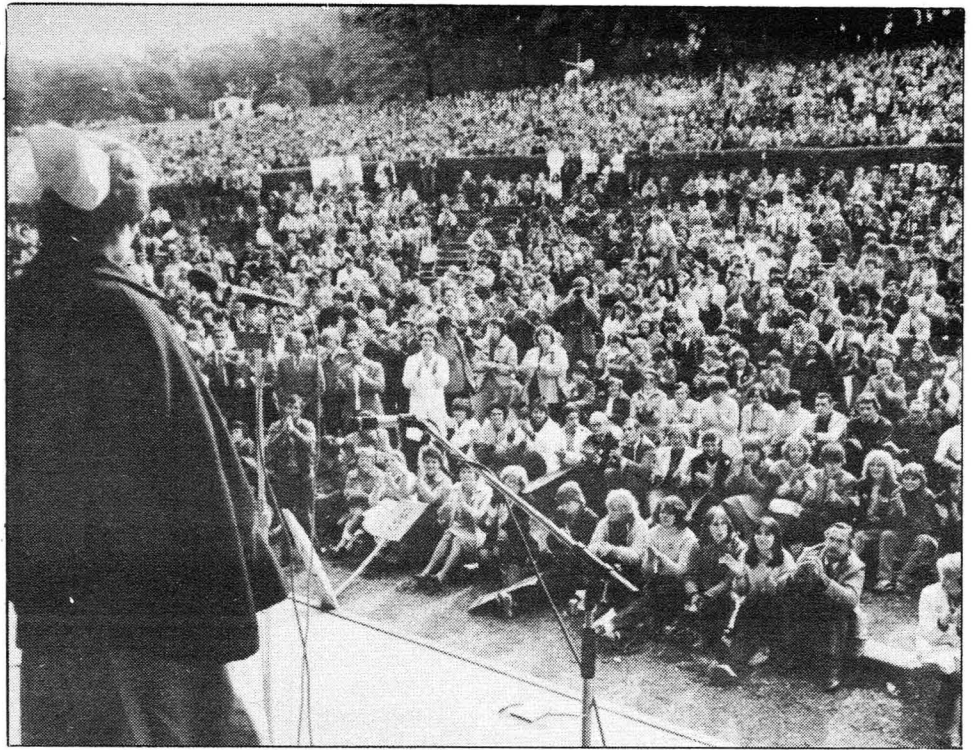
The purchasing power of the working class is limited and must be limited if there is to be profit for the capitalists. On the other hand the capitalists will not invest unless they can make further profits.

This is a dilemma which is only solved by the wearing out of goods, or the destruction of goods, as with the deliberate Luddism of Thatcher in the last period. The EEC, the United States and Japan are deliberately destroying chemical plants, ship-building plants, steel plants and so on for the purpose of making industry more profitable.

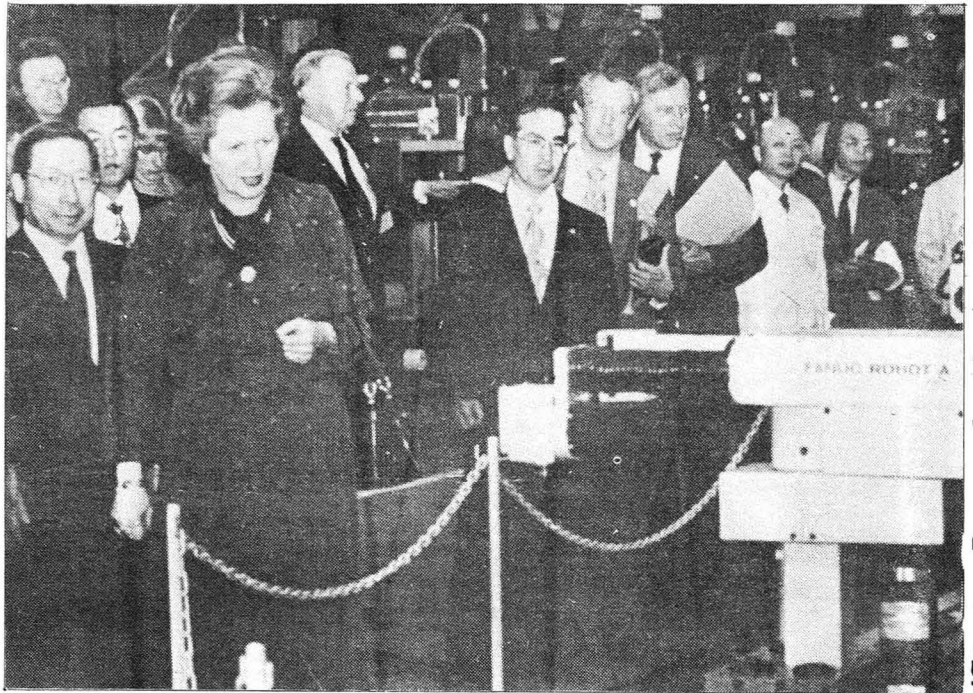
But it is the mad logic of capitalism that though people need food, clothes, housing, furniture and so on, the equipment to produce these cannot be used because the market is limited by the purchasing power of the working class. Therefore the steel plants must be destroyed. Millions must be made idle.

There is a desperate need for homes aggravated by slum housing, yet up to 500,000 building workers are unemployed.

The "solution" of Shore, Foot and other *reformists* is that of increasing state expenditure in order to create "demand". James



Above: Health workers fighting for their living standards attending a rally in Glasgow in support of their 1982 pay claim (Photo: Rick Matthews, I.F.L.) Below: Margaret Thatcher visiting Japan last year. It is an indication of the backwardness of British industry that while the UK has only 713 industrial robots, West Germany has 2,300, the USA has 4,100 and Japan has over 14,000.



(Photo: Popperfoto).

Callaghan, under the pressure of the Treasury and the capitalist class was forced to declare in 1976 that "Keynesianism is dead".

"I tell you, in all candour", he said, "that the option (of spending your way out of recession) no longer exists, and in so far as it ever did exist, it only worked on each occasion since the war by injecting a bigger dose of inflation into the economy followed by a higher level of unemployment".

Michael Foot has now said that his predecessor's words in his first speech as Prime Minister at Labour Party conference back in 1976 "have hung around our necks too long". But reflection on a capitalist basis will create a whirlwind of inflation which almost certainly be followed by an incomes policy.

These policies would mean an absolute disaster for the next Labour government. Marxists support the programme of demands put forward at the last Labour conference: a national minimum wage, 35-hour week, increases in expenditure on health, social services, transport, education, housing, and social services.

Yet not a word of this programme appears in the material of Shore. He is completely ignoring Labour Party conference decisions. Marxists, on the contrary, support all these reforms but

point out that it is impossible, with capitalism in crisis, to achieve them except for a temporary period.

The capitalist system has now reached its limits. We have reached the nightmare world where steel factories are destroyed, textile plants

### Cuts in public expenditure have also cut the market

are destroyed, chemical plants are destroyed, ship-building plants are destroyed—not because their products are not required—but because *from a capitalist point of view* there is "no market" for these products.

The argument that the capitalist state can control the economy is entirely false.

The state can get money from only two sources. It can get money from the pockets of the capitalists by increasing taxes on the capitalists, in which case there will be no investment.

On the other hand, it can get money from the pockets of the workers, in which case the market will be cut. That is the dilemma which was imposed on the Labour government in 1976 when Denis Healey was chancellor. He cut state expenditure and cut the real wages of the working class through incomes policy yet nevertheless, there was no in-

crease in expenditure on industry by the capitalists.

Thatcher has made the same mistake. The state constitutes one-fifth of the market, and cuts in state expenditure and the purchasing power of the workers will not lead the capitalists to invest more for the purpose of increasing productive capacity when they cannot utilise the capacity they already have.

Thus neither alternative will solve the problems under capitalism. Cutting the wages of the workers increases the profits of the capitalists, as is happening on a world scale at the present time, where in practically all capitalist countries the real purchasing power of the masses has been cut, thus aggravating the recession which has existed since 1979.

On the other hand, cutting the profits of the capitalists means that they would invest even less, and without investment the system cannot work and therefore that road also would lead to a blind alley.

But the argument put forward by Keynes and now supported by Michael Foot in the abstract will not be able to be implemented because of the explosion of inflation which would follow as in France and as was the case in Britain in 1974-76. Especially as the policies of

Continued on next page

Jacques Delors, Finance Minister, has said, "The government has no wish to discourage enterprise and initiative in the private sector by punitive tax rates. The creation of new jobs must give pride of place to reducing inflation and the rapidly growing currency deficit."

Such leaders have predicted there will be "rigour and terrible years for the next few years." There have already been two devaluations of the Franc which has sent inflation soaring. Thus most of the gains of the first year have been lost.

### The huge private sector dictates to the tiny public sector

In other words the Socialist Party is carrying through what the Gaullists and the Giscardians failed to secure when they were in power. The Gaullists and Giscardians would not have dared, for example, to abolish the indexation of wages to prices.

But how could they act otherwise when 83% of the economy is privately owned and only 17% is under the control of the state? The laws of capitalist economics

remain: the 83% dictated to the 17% and not vice-versa. Even state ownership of the banks is not enough.

This is the end result of the brilliant victory of the working class in the election of a majority Socialist Communist government in 1981, with 55% of the votes! This was the first time in history the workers parties received a majority of the votes.

Why, with much more unemployment, with a much deeper crisis in the economy, should things be different in Britain? Especially as even the programme for the nationalisation of the banks has been abandoned. Trotsky once pointed out that if one posed the right question one would get the right answer.

In 70 pages issued by Peter Shore and his advisors there is not a word about capitalism and the capitalist system or even a mention of Socialism or Socialist policies. There is only anonymous "industry", not the flesh and blood big business of profits. Shore uses phrases such as "hope in place of despair", and the "pessimism of the Tories" and so on. Not a word about the reality of class society.

The capitalist system is a system for the production of profits, not for the production of goods. The capitalist system can only exist on the basis of the unpaid labour of the working class. The pro-

# ... socialist policies needed

## 1983 BRITAIN IN CRISIS



From page nine

Keynesianism from 1950-75 have resulted in enormous inflationary possibilities being pent-up in the system.

The only reason why Thatcher's and Reagan's budget deficits have not resulted in an explosion of inflation is that the market has slumped. But it is an unprecedented economic feature of modern capitalism that slump (in Britain depression, i.e. massive slump) has not resulted in a fall in prices but a rise in prices has continued, even if more slowly.

These deficits mean however that when the new "boom" takes place, inflation will leap ahead.

In reality, the Labour leaders will have to behave in exactly the same way as the French socialists, unless they break with capitalism.

The laws of capitalism cannot be ignored. The arguments that deficit financing can solve the problem is entirely false.

### World trade has stagnated

Karl Marx pointed out that if you put two pieces of paper currency (whether you call them Deutsch Marks, Pounds, Dollars or any other currency) or two treasury notes where only one should be, then prices will double.

It is impossible to cheat the economy or to cheat history. For this reason, deficit financing inevitably results in an explosion of inflation as we have seen in France during the course of the last two years where there have had to be two devaluations.

Thus inevitably the policy is reduced to the previous two, whether to cut the investment of the capitalists or cut the purchasing power of the masses.

The laws of economics cannot be destroyed by

sleight of hand. The enormous economic upswing of the '50s, '60s, and early '70s was only partially caused by Keynesian methods. The main reason was because of the increase in world markets due to the expansion of world trade at the rate of 12½% a year, in comparison with expansion of world trade of 1½% in the past. This increased the world division of labour.

Now, in 1981, world trade dropped by 1% and it is expected in 1982 that the drop will be 2%.

The Keynesian policies which were an adjunct of the expansion of the world division of labour have also resulted in an explosion of inflation on a world scale which has frightened capitalists and forced them to return to the "orthodox policies" of the past.

Paradoxically, both in the case of Reagan and Thatcher, their policies have resulted in an even bigger budget deficit, thus preparing the way for an even bigger explosion of inflation in the future.

**Any attempt to find an "easy" road out of the crisis of Thatcherism is bound to result in disaster for the Labour Party and the trade unions.**

Even if there is the possibility of a small world "boom" in 1983 or possibly 1984, this will not be long lasting but will prepare a col-

### £150 billion needed to modernise industry

lapse in 1985 or 1986 of an even deeper character than the collapse we had from '79 to '82. On the road of capitalism there is no way out. An absolute nightmare looms ahead for the working class on a capitalist basis.

It has been calculated by serious capitalist economists that it would require an investment of £150,000 million to put Britain on the productivity level of her main competitors. On a capitalist basis it is impossible.

Yet there are resources of undreamed-of plenty which have been developed by the labour of the working class and the development of science and technique.

Peter Shore's last card, apart from budget deficit which would be a disaster, is that of devaluation. This is a card which has been played in France and now, to overcome the effects of the devaluation (an explosion of prices and inflation), the Socialist Party has turned to the methods of "rigour" in a panic, with even worse measures than were introduced by the previous Gaullist and Giscardian government.

Peter Shore and the others on the right wing of the Labour Party do not deal with facts of the past, the present or the future. They do not even seriously study the results of their programme and of their governments in the past.

In 1976 there was a devaluation which resulted in an increase in the price of imported food, raw materials, and manufactured goods. Over a period these price rises will go also into

the goods produced domestically. Thus inflation would be inevitable with devaluation.

However, Shore, in clutching at straws, believes that this will give "industry" i.e. British big business, an opportunity to capture markets in other parts of the world.

But in 1976 there was a devaluation in the pound of 48%. Did this result in an increase in the share of British manufactures on the world market? All that it did do,

### 30% devaluation means soaring inflation

because of the extreme monopolisation of the British economy, was to give the 100 monopolies which control 80% of exports the opportunity to raise their prices and make thousands of millions of pounds at a stroke. Prices were increased by about 48% as a consequence, but there was no advantage gained for British goods and the only consequence was to undermine the capitalists' confidence in the pound, in the economy, and to increase the instability of the political and economic situation in Britain.

**Thus a devaluation of 30%, over a period of some years, would result in inflation of 30%, without in any way solving the problems of British capitalism.**

The partial destruction of British industry has in no way resulted in a "fitter and slimmer" industry, ready for competition from abroad. Figures of investment in real terms are lower than those in 1970. That means that in real terms, investment is lower than it was in 1950.

### British industry suffers from chronic under- investment

Yet three years ago Japan had £30,000 invested for every worker in industry, West Germany £22,500 and Great Britain only £7,500. The measures of the Thatcher government have increased this disparity and as a consequence will prepare the way for disaster for the working class.

A new Labour government which is not prepared to take action against capitalism, against the monopolies, will thus prepare the way for abandonment of its programme very rapidly and return to capitalist or Tory policies in the tradition of the Labour government from 1974 to 79.

Yet this nightmare is entirely unnecessary. If the country was operating at full capacity, over 40% more goods could be produced, in housing, clothing, food, cars and all the other necessities of existence. Operating at 100% of capacity would mean the possibility of a further £50 to £60 a week, of real money, for every family in Britain.

In addition, 4 million unemployed put to productive labour could mean an



Workers will expect tangible gains from the next Labour government, and not more sacrifices to prop up an ailing economic system.

**If the country was operating at full capacity, over 40% more goods could be produced, in housing, clothing, food, cars and all the other necessities of existence. Operating at 100% of capacity would mean the possibility of a further £50 to £60 a week, of real money, for every family in Britain.**

extra £30 a week for every family, including the sick, the old and the widows.

At the Labour Party conference Michael Foot said there would be the possibility under a Labour government of production of 25 million tonnes of steel and reducing unemployment to one million in five years. Shore has repeated this.

### Socialist planning is the only way to overcome the chaos of the capitalist market

On the basis of capitalism this is a complete Utopia. Unemployment will remain hovering around the 2-3 million mark for the whole of the next period if capitalism continues in existence.

Yet the figure of 25 million tons of steel is entirely modest. At the time of the boom there was a projection that Britain would be producing 35 million tonnes of steel in the '80s, but produc-

tion is now round 12 million tonnes, and imports are a similar amount. Import controls would not solve the problem. In fact the problem would be exacerbated. (A further article will deal with the question of import controls.)

Thus the working class is left with only one possible viable alternative, that is the nationalisation of the 200-250 monopolies, banks and insurance companies that control 85% of the wealth of the country, under workers' control and management with compensation only on the basis of need.

That would eliminate the laws of capitalism. On this basis it would be entirely possible to plan production instead of the market being decisive, to plan the production of goods for the satisfaction of human want. Production would run to the maximum of capacity and that capacity would be enormously increased.

It would easily be possible to give a 35-hour week and a £90 minimum wage and then on the basis of micro-electronics and a plan of production, very rapidly, within the space of 10 or 15 years, to go on to an even greater reduction in working hours

and a huge increase in living standards.

All this would be entirely possible on the basis of the productive forces created by the labour of the working class. It is the use and ownership of the resources created by science, technique and the labour of the working class which is at the root of the problem.

Capitalist ownership can no longer solve the problem. In the words of Marx, no system passes from the scene of history until it has exhausted all the productive possibilities that is inherent in it.

Capitalism has now reached this stage and it is absolutely necessary for the advanced layers of the labour movement to recognise that on the basis of capitalism there can only be further declines in living standards, an absolute nightmare.

Not only will we have three million unemployed, but five, even seven million unemployed is possible in the deep slump which will be inevitable, probably in the period of the '80s, in the course of the development of the capitalist crisis, unless the labour leadership adopts a programme that leads the movement to a decisive break with capitalism.

# WEST GERMANY

## 'The class struggle from below'

"It is right for us to march with our parents. It is also a question of our future." So said a young girl of seven or eight interviewed on German TV recently as to the reason why she thought it was right to march in protest at the planned closure of a factory.

Her parents and the other workers are thinking of spending Christmas in the factory if their jobs haven't been saved by then.

The illusions which existed in safe jobs and unlimited profits are rapidly being undermined by the profound crisis of German capitalism.

Unemployment is at its worst level for 27 years. Well over 2 million are on the stones whilst another one million are on short-time work.

The news is full of collapsing companies, including world famous names like Agfa and Grundig. This year, something in the region of 16,000 small firms will have collapsed according to official figures, putting last year's record of 11,500, with 323,000 jobs lost, well into the shade.

Even big monsters like BP, who lost out on the recent windfall profits (Shell's West German oil costs 10 marks to produce but they sell it for the market price of 34 marks) are in the news with plans to sack around 45% of their German personnel. In Hamburg alone, this would mean 900 of the 2,000 workforce.

In the town of Gronau, North Rhine Westphalia where the textile industry predominates, unemployment will soon, according to the bosses own *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* reach every third worker. The deficit of the town is nearly DM2,000 per man, woman and child.

By Greg Powell  
(Hamburg SPD)

The world steel crisis, a graphic indication of the inability of the system to take society forward, is hitting the steel and coal area of the Saar, "at its life-functions" as the *Frankfurter Allgemeine* said. Unemployment here has already reached 10.4% officially. "The writing on the wall," writes the *Faz* "is becoming a probability."

### Workers push for action

For the German bosses "the starkness of events in the west led its electorates (read 'bosses, in the case of Germany)...to look for radical new solutions to radical new problems rather than cling to the familiar, battered centre." (*Economist* 30/10/82) That is why they brought down 13 years of Social Democratic (Labour) government two months ago and are currently challenging the jobs and livelihoods of thousands for the narrow interests of a few.

In so doing they have wrecked any of the "successes" the former Social Democratic leader Helmut Schmidt may have achieved when he said: "We are all working on it and I with all my strength...so that the 'class struggle from above' doesn't materialise, and that thus the 'class struggle from

below will be unnecessary.' The 'class struggle from above,' like a mole burrowing underground for decades, has now hit the surface with the force of an earthquake. More and more workers are pushing for action. Wives of workers have gone to factories to show their disgust at the bosses' move.

This is in contrast to the trade union leaders, revelations of whose role in the 'Neue Heimat' housing speculation scandal involving a whole layer of right wingers, is typical of the role they have played in propping up the capitalist economy.

Whilst metalworkers' leaders in Hamburg went to church to pray for an end to the crisis, their members are looking for answers and actions in the street: demonstrations, petitions, delegations to other factories, etc. New and younger spokesmen and spokeswomen are being thrust to the front in discussions and negotiations.

Naturally, large sections of the workers are hesitant at this stage, with the new right wing government on the one hand and an absolute lack of fighting leadership on their own side. But the tendency underlying this phase is becoming clearer: more and more are joining the trade unions—of the 22 million wage and salary earners now 40.2% are organised in the trade unions (9m), 8 million of them in DGB unions.

### Over 40% of workers organised

Since 1970 the number of demonstrations per year has increased by almost 5 times, but more significantly is the number of workers' demonstrations, particularly in the last few months, workers who one year ago watched the police and youth

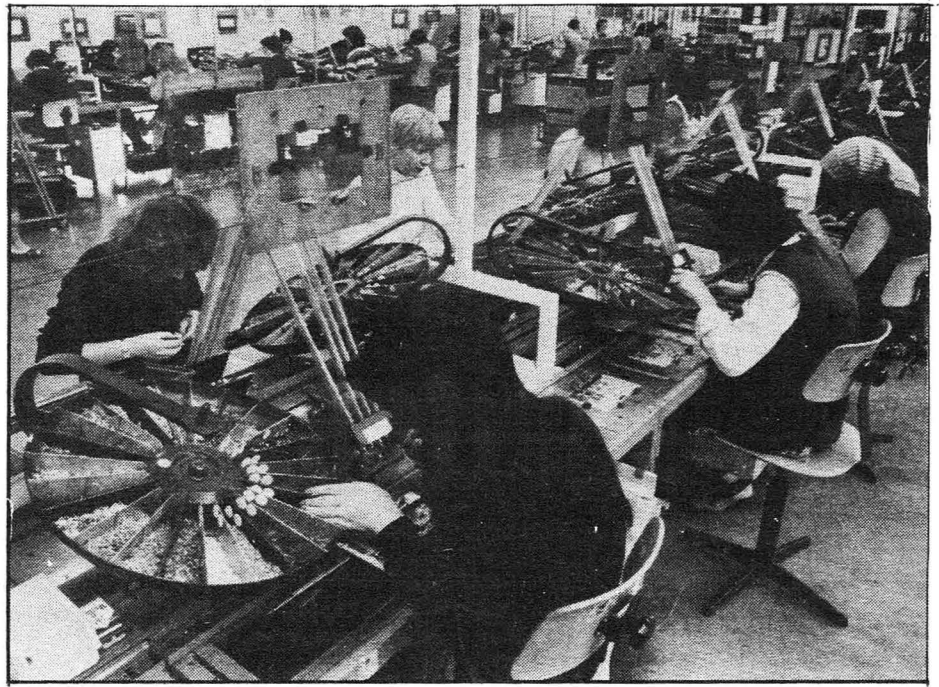
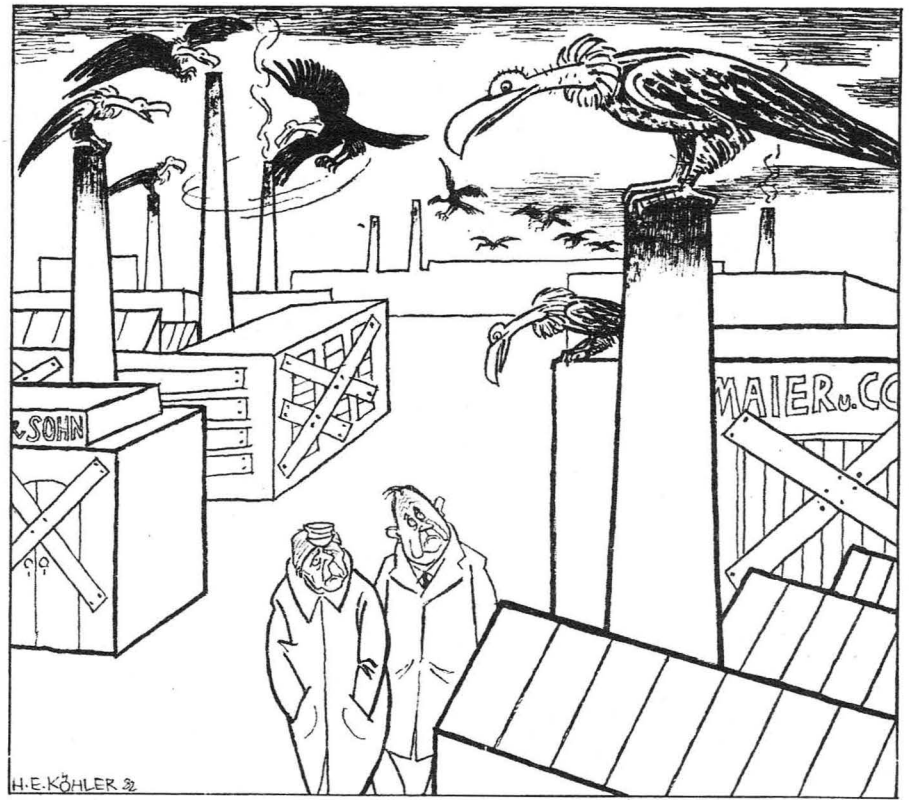


Photo above: Workers in one of the multinational firms threatened, Grundig. Cartoon below from *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, a major capitalist paper shows the German bosses' pessimism.



fighting on TV, the media very energetically painting demonstrators as terrorists and troublemakers. The 'class struggle from below' has definitely left the starting blocks.

Politically, the trend has continued towards the SPD. In fact, there is in the Hamburg party membership figures, definite signs of a polarisation; a smaller increase for the CDU (Tories),

an overall drop for the FDP (Liberals), and nearly a thousand new members for the SDP, completely throwing overboard the long period of dwindling membership. They have been joining on the basis of the fight in the Party to make it democratic and socialist.

It is in this melting pot that Marxism which identifies the real cause of the

crisis, places confidence in the power of the working class to change society and the need for a majority SPD government comes into its own. As in Britain, there is a developing consciousness and confidence, reappraisal and weighing up by the rank-and-file based on the experience of the last ten years. They have a world to win.

## Spanish workers want socialism not monetarism

"The change begins today" said a Socialist Party spokesman on 30 November when Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez spoke to congress in Madrid after formally taking office.

And change is what the Spanish working class in particular voted for in the recent election. After decades of Franco's dictatorship which lasted until his death in 1975, and seven years of right wing government under the capitalist "Centre" coalition UCD, they wanted escape; escape from poverty and from raging inflation.

When Gonzalez unveiled his administration's programme, he promised a

"government of change". He said he would review the country's membership of NATO and the defence treaty with the USA. But noticeably his speech mentioned socialism only once.

Felip Gonzalez said the main aim was economic reform and the fight against unemployment but his weapons would be "moderate monetarism" and "greater efficiency in administration". "The role of the state," he said, "would not be interventionist." In particular there would be no thought of nationalisation, the government would act as a stimulus to the private sector.

While he did not actually call for a new Pact of Moncloa, the previous government's equivalent of the "social contract" he offered a "consensus" on wage settlements which amounts to an incomes policy. To sweeten this pill he promised to reduce inflation, well over the OECD average at 15%. But one of the new government's first acts was an 8% devaluation of the peseta which pushed petrol prices up by 21%, which will have massive repercussions on other prices.

In fact, several of his policy statements resemble closely, proposals in a recent

Bank of Spain report and are similar to those of the Calvo Sotelo government so convincingly ejected from office last month. This is not too surprising when you look at the Gonzalez cabinet. Of the seventeen members, no fewer than six are capitalist economists.

The economic overlord Miguel Boyer who covers economy, finance and commerce, previously handled by two ministries, has on a previous occasion left the Socialist Party to join a more right-wing social democratic group which has now realigned with the Socialist Party.

Boyer has worked in INI,

the state holding company, in charge of research: in the country's largest private industrial group Explosivos Rio Tinto and in the Bank of Spain. He is regarded as a fairly orthodox monetarist.

The Interior Minister is Jose Barionuevo the deputy mayor of Madrid who helped to "reform" the security forces while the defence minister is Narcis Serra who has reportedly had good relationships with Catalonia's military commanders and is supported by the less diehard members of the military. Significantly Adolfo Suarez the Prime Minister under the right wing UCD government has express-

ed full support for Felipe Gonzalez.

The support from capitalist politicians, economists and the more 'liberal' section of a military establishment which has many times threatened to seize power, may please the rich of Spain, but the workers and peasants whose labour they feed off will be demanding action in their interests from the government they elected into office.

By Roger Shriver

# Letters

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

MILITANT, Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## Health for £1,000 per week

Dear Comrades

A new hospital, the Portland Hospital for women and children, is to be opened next June in London. It is up to date with a special baby care unit, two delivery suites, radiology, ultrasound and an intensive care unit.

It's just what the NHS needs at this time of cutbacks. Unfortunately it is just what the NHS won't

get. It's an exclusively-private hospital for holders of BUPA, Private Patients Plan and other insurance policies. It will cost a patient at least £157.20 a night before treatment and drugs. They cost extra!

Meanwhile back in the NHS, the Great Ormond Street Hospital for children has been starved of funds forcing the Surrey branch to close down. Great Ormond Street is the only hospital to offer some form of specialised treatment, so children with rare terminal diseases such as cancer, heart diseases

or cystic fibrosis may be turned away.

There is 'not enough cash' to keep these services going. Isn't it odd that this private hospital with its private bathrooms, telephones, and televisions, doesn't suffer from such a shortage. The Tories could hardly have made it plainer, they want us to go back to the last century when only the rich could get medical treatment while the rest went without or relied on charity.

Yours fraternally  
Karima Karger  
Deptford LPYS

## Private health service workers exploited

Sir

I have read your paper for the first time and find I agree with most of your views. I work in a private nursing home for a pittance of just £32 before tax for 40 hours

on shifts. I have to go messages for residents of the home 'and clean up their mess.

I can go to college on day release two afternoons a week. If I am on day shift, I go to work in the morning and then have to go back at 4.30 to finish my shift; this makes the day 13 hours long.

When I asked the bosses for a rise, they said they couldn't afford it. There are

45 people in the home and it costs them an amazing £175 a week which works out at £7,845 per week in fees! Everyone must unite to get rid of this capitalist government and stop private medicine and privatisation.

Ms A Kelly  
Strathclyde

## The holiday of a lifetime

Dear Comrades

An unusual item of correspondence was received at the last meeting of our ward Labour Party. The Fabian Society has arranged a three week visit to India led by Ali Dubbs MP.

The tour includes meetings with leaders of Congress, Janata, the 'Communist Party (Marxist)', trade unions, Oxfam, businessmen and other national and local dignitaries. Most of the itinerary however, is to be devoted to sightseeing and recreation. Unfortunately none of our members with three weeks to spare were in a position to part with £1,050 (£90 extra for single rooms).

Perhaps other readers would like to avail themselves of this excellent opportunity to meet people who have read about and presided over India's crushing poverty (for most) at first hand—and have the "holiday of a lifetime" into the bargain.

Fraternally  
Andy Beadle  
Deptford CLP

## Proud to support Militant

Dear Comrades,

I have just been to the conference at Brighton, on the 'witch-hunt', and would like to say it was fantastic. It's the first time I've ever been to any conference, and if they're all like that I'll be at every one.

The feeling I got while listening to the various speakers was that of unity. When the last speaker, Brian Ingham, summed up, tears welled up inside me. I've

never felt so elated and proud to be a part of something so strong.

I left that conference more determined than ever to carry on the fight for socialism. The right-wing don't know what they've taken on.

Yours fraternally,  
Gaye Dale,  
Secretary, Isle of Wight  
Young Socialists.

## Stop the swing to the right

Dear Comrade

I am 59 years of age and a Labour Party member. I joined only recently (1980-81) having stood on the political sidelines for most of my adult life.

This I attribute to the fact that up to recently the Labour Party as such had little or no appeal to me as a 'common old working man.' It professed socialism but yet suppressed it. The emergence of the left as a force was the most encouraging aspect in the Labour Party for years.

Therefore when I see and hear Militants threatened with expulsion, registration etc. I am prompted to ask, is it the right's intention to destroy the Labour youth or bend it to its will?

I applaud and support any counter measures by *Militant* to resist this and check the swing to the right which is making the Labour Party as a lopsided square dance.

Only genuine socialist policies and programmes will put 'Metallic Maggie' in the melting pot. Not the 'pale pink' approach by the right whose motivation would appear to be self-preservation at all costs.

Yours fraternally  
Harry Gunn (retired)  
ex-AUEW steward  
Sheffield

## Pure coincidence?

Dear Comrades,

On arriving home from work yesterday, I watched a Labour Party Political broadcast on nuclear weapons. For me it didn't go far enough but at least the issues were raised.

But, lo and behold, what happened next, the 9.10pm news on BBC 1 consisted amongst other things of: (a) The Falklands heroes (b) An

admiral retiring, I think (c) An item about a rusty submarine (d) The launching of a new (presumably not rusty) submarine (e) A piece on NATO. Two things came to my mind. Firstly, is it done deliberately to obscure the partly political broadcast? And secondly when does the war begin? Maybe its me and my conspiracy theory of history, but I think we are being got at.

Yours fraternally,  
Dave Farrar,  
SOGAT '82.

## Sour taste

Dear *Militant*,

Having just moved into our council flat I was concerned about mail that arrived for previous tenants. On opening it to find an address to return it to I found a Christmas card and badge from the 'Annabel Bear Club' run by the infamous *Nottingham Evening Post*, remembered for sacking some journalists a few years ago.

Obviously for young children, the badge read 'We love our Evening Post'—what sour taste that would

bring to the mouths of those journalists to regain their jobs.

How sickening to see such a paper dishing out this stuff to innocent children, encouraging them to read a paper, or to get their parents to buy it for the Childrens Page, when many trade unionists still refuse to buy it.

I bet if the *Militant* started to give away gifts with each copy, or send out cards and badges, we'd be condemned for being subversive, brain-washing children! Who said newspapers are fair and unbiased?

Fraternally  
Andrea Hughes  
Nottingham North LPYS

## Biting the bullet

Dear comrades

I was sitting in my local hospital waiting room when a man came in, about 50 but walking like a 70 year old, shuffling a few inches at a time with a walking stick.

He had been working in a factory lifting and carrying 80lb bags of feathers as big as himself. One day last June he was hauling a bag on a pulley when the pulley snapped and he was flung across the factory, landing on his back. He told me, "Like a

lot of people I tried to work it off". After all there had been redundancies at his place right left and centre.

He carried on despite the pain but by October he could stand it no longer and went to the doctor. X-rays showed that no fewer than four discs in his back were damaged. The doctor told him he had spondylitis, leading to 'natural wear and tear' in his discs. This startling diagnosis has of course nothing to do with the GP also being the firm's doctor.

So he and his wife were living on £22.50 sickness benefit unless he could prove his accident was a 'con-

tributory factor' to his suffering. He was sweating on a letter from the consultant to prove just that.

How many people with health problems are 'biting the bullet' for fear of joining the ranks of the four million? How many more end up with aggravated problems through not seeking prompt medical attention, and how many more are cheated out of their right to a decent level of benefit through no fault of their own?

Yours fraternally  
Paul Gerrard  
Prestwich



Inside an NHS hospital. If the Tories get their way the only resource they will have will be the skill and dedication of their workforce.

Photo: MILITANT

## NALGO and the Labour Party

Dear comrades

It's amazing that certain sections of the Labour Party are trying to expel those who are fighting hardest to gain support for Labour. In my own union, NALGO, *Militant* supporters were in the lead in the campaign to affiliate to the Labour Party. Even though we lost this time we don't feel defeated.

I had to move a motion at my branch AGM that at the next election our NEC should encourage members to vote Labour to ensure implementation of our union's policies. The Branch Secretary and President—both Labour Party members—censored the debate on the advice of the union's Legal Officer who said it would be illegal.

One person—the legal officer or the president—hiding

behind legal niceties can decide what we do or don't discuss. It seems democratic debate is not a high priority for our union. I even got a copy of the TU Act 1913 to prove my motion wasn't suggesting anything unlawful. I wasn't given a chance to put my case but our members shouldn't have to be legal experts anyway just to get a hearing.

Unions in any case, have often discussed illegal actions such as opposition to anti-union laws. I would have thought Labour members in our union leadership would be looking for ways to gain support for the Party. We may have lost the vote on affiliation but that should not prevent us from urging members to vote Labour and join the Party to make sure the union's policy is carried out.

Yours fraternally  
Margaret Manning  
Manchester NALGO  
Local Government Branch

## Tribute to Sue Beckingham

Dear Comrades

Everyone who knew Sue Beckingham will have been saddened by her tragic death. If the bosses spent a fraction of the money they spend on military research on medical research then Sue, and thousands like her need not die of diseases like cancer.

My clearest memories of Sue were when we worked together in Bristol SE Labour Party, she was the Youth Officer of the Party and I was the (very inexperienced) YS secretary. Her help and advice gave me the confidence to carry out organisational tasks within the YS and, more importantly, to put forward the ideas of the YS in

the Labour Movement. There was no activity in which Sue didn't fully involve herself. From collecting items for a YS jumble sale to organising a YS demonstration, Sue would give her help and encouragement.

I shall always have cherished memories of Sue, but this isn't enough. I will rededicate myself to the fight for socialism—a struggle to which Sue devoted her life. This is the only way I know of mourning the loss of a comrade and friend—and it's the only way I knew she would approve of.

Fraternally  
Duncan Bowdler  
Reading South LPYS  
ex Bristol SE LPYS



Print workers protest at Nottingham Evening Post

Photo: MILITANT

# Industrial Features

**Kinneil Colliery is to close. The closure was announced, with a ruthless sense of timing, a few days before Christmas.**

The response of the Kinneil men and their families, was magnificent. All 324 workers came out on strike, and as the last shift came up, they left twelve behind to carry on the struggle with an underground sit-in which lasted until Christmas Day. Delegations were then sent to every Scottish Colliery, to argue their case for strike action on the Monday after Christmas, to stop the closure going ahead.

The NCB claim that the pit is uneconomic. It was being 'developed'—that means that it is not yet actually producing coal, but roads are being driven to reach huge reserves of coal which the board do not dispute exist.

A Scottish Miners' Delegate Conference decided on 28 December not to call for strike action to keep the pit open. This is a terrible blow for miners throughout Britain. Pits in every other coalfield must now be in jeopardy as the Coal Board try to capitalise on their victory at Kinneil. The Delegate Conference instead asked the men at Kinneil to proceed with the salvaging of the pit, the transfer of men and the closure of the colliery.

Explaining this decision afterwards, Scottish NUM President, Mick McGahey, claimed that "we got support from everywhere bar where it counted—from the Scottish miners. We have to deal with reality," he stated and added that he would have "welcomed spontaneous action last Wednesday".

He explained that the conference had recorded its appreciation of the Kinneil men, especially the "heroic 12" who had stayed down the pit until Christmas Day, and he expressed confidence that "we can regroup our forces for the battles ahead".

## Coal Board lied to miners

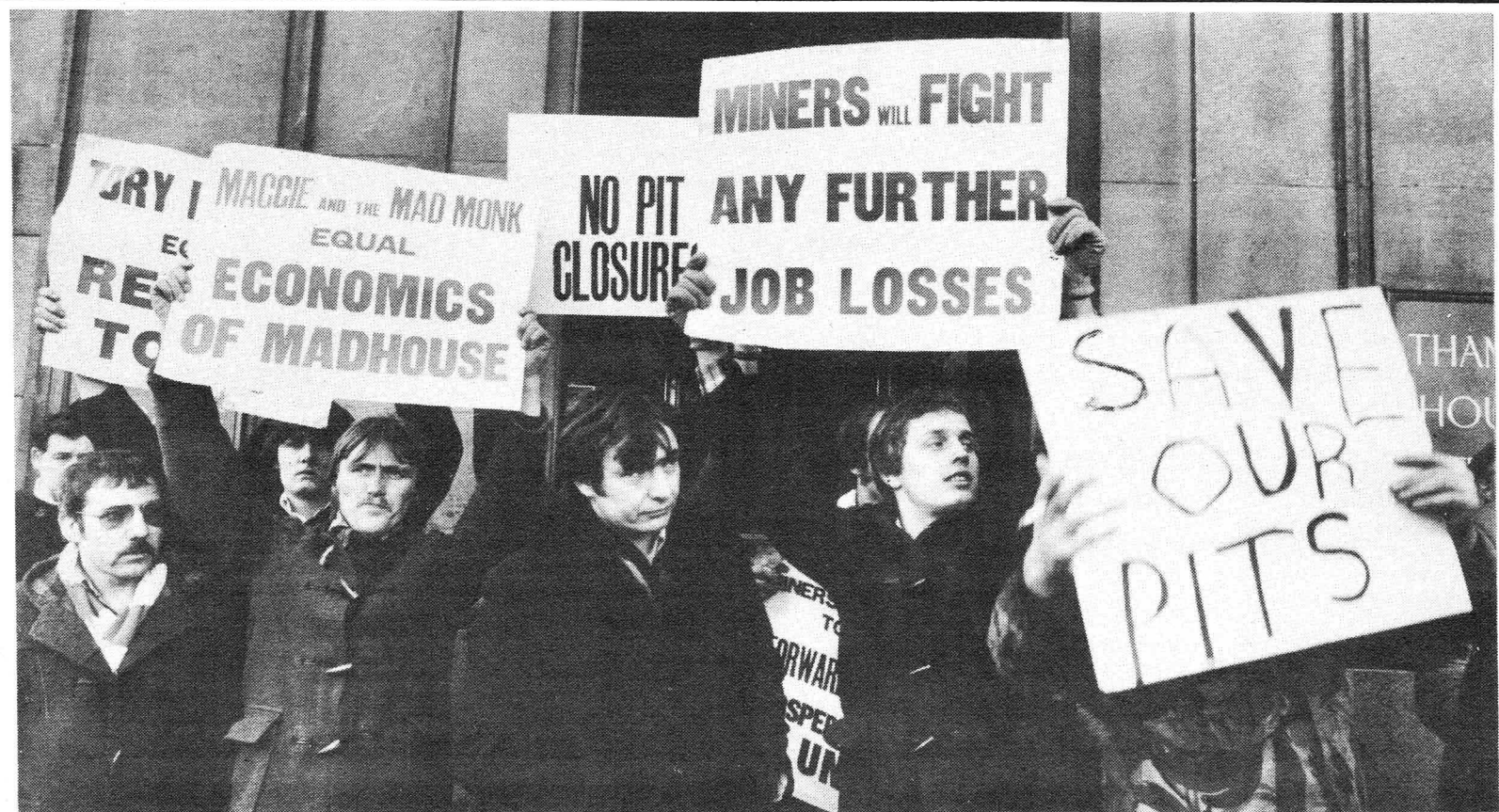
The pickets from Kinneil who were lobbying the conference reacted with fury at the decision. They were adamant that the NCB had been lying to the public and other miners.

In fact, despite NCB claims, the pit is closing against the policy of the NUM. The Board claim they will try to reach the same coal from the Bogside pit on the other side of the River Forth but how much credence can miners put on that after their record of lying to the miners?

Even if, as the Board claim, miners do get jobs and even if they get a protection of earnings agreement, miners lives will still be total-

By Pat Craven

# WHAT HAPPENED AT KINNEIL?



Miners call for action against pit closures in 1981. The battle continues today.

PHOTO: Militant

ly disrupted—and there is no guarantee of work for perhaps a third of the workforce.

The wives in the picket of the conference seemed even more militant than their husbands. They expressed pride that not one of the 324 workers had asked for voluntary redundancy. They were, however, critical of the national union leadership, noting that Arthur Scargill was not at the conference and insisting that he should have been in the front line.

Chris Herriot, Youth Delegate at Moncktonhall Colliery in Mid Lothian explained why he felt the miners had not responded to the strike appeal. Firstly there was the time of year, though this he thought the least important factor. Secondly, was the Coal Board's claim that every man transferred from Kinneil would be guaranteed a job and receive £1,500 disturbance payment. Though these claims are contested by the Kinneil workers, they were widely reported by the press and not enough was done to counter this damaging propaganda.

Thirdly, was a fear that if Scottish miners came out on strike, they would be isolated. In the recent ballot over strike action 69% of Scots miners voted for strike action. Nationally a majority voted against. The decisions of the Executives in South Wales, Kent and Yorkshire to take action on 17 January were not reported to the men. That news could have changed the situation dramatically.

After the delegate conference, Mick McGahey, justifiably had strong words for the Coal Board. They had shown "callous disregard for the festive

season" and he promised that the union will be there to fight again. The union leadership itself cannot, however, escape blame for the situation. The Kinneil men and activists in other pits will be pondering the lessons of this defeat.

It is not enough to blame the management; they are implementing policies dictated to them by Thatcher, policies which have devastated every other industry over the last four years.

The NCB's announcement was a carefully timed declaration of war, a war which the union has known for months was imminent. Rather than leave the brunt of the fighting to the men of Kinneil, the top union leaders, Scargill and McGahey, should have immediately put themselves at the front of the troops.

## Stop the Tory plans

The leadership should have put forward a clear strategy for struggle. For a start they should have followed the example of the South Wales miners who armed the area with a mandate for action as soon as any pit was threatened with closure for any reason other than safety hazard or proven exhaustion.

Instead of waiting for a spontaneous movement from below, they should have been calling immediately, from their positions of national leadership, for national action, exposing the lies of the NCB and assuring the Scottish miners that there would be national backing

for this the first battle in a war to defend the jobs of all miners.

Tactically, while supporting Kinneil's action it would have been better to have delayed plans for an all-out strike until 17 January to join in a united fight with S Wales. But from 20 December until then, there should have been pit-head meetings, press conferences, rallies and every other form of action needed to get the message across particularly to counter the propaganda of the NCB and the media. It has to be said that the NUM lost the propaganda war.

In the event, the Kinneil men quite naturally took action immediately the closure was announced; they had no alternative, given that management were stopping all development work and had already started to salvage the pit. Their action should have been given official support there and then, and they would have been able to play the tremendous role they did, alongside top union representatives, rather than being left to make their own case.

The Kinneil defeat is a real setback, for miners and the trade union movement generally. It will not, however, mean that Thatcher and the NCB now have a green light to crush the miners as they have tried to crush other sections of workers. The struggle will go on.

The spotlight now shifts to Kent and, most particularly, to South Wales where a whole coalfield is endangered by lack of investment. With a correct lead there, the miners nationally can still put paid to Tory plans for destruction of the coal industry.

## Pit safety at risk

By Graham Naylor  
(Bilsthorpe Colliery, Notts)

A lot is said about new and better machinery used in getting coal. Although it cannot be refuted that the new machinery gives the actual face workers a great advantage what is less mentioned is the link between the transporting of the machinery and the high rate of accidents to haulage workers.

The NCB do admit in their 1981/82 report that "haulage and transport continued to be the main source of fatalities despite a reduction from 18 to 13". What has happened? One answer is that the haulage systems have not kept pace with the new, heavy and larger machine parts. Another is that, although the NCB do attempt to give adequate training, when a man is put on a haulage system and proves to be a stickler for safety he can usually guarantee he will be moved to a button job.

It may appeal to some to sit through a shift but to the young lads there is some invisible stigma and of course a certain amount of pride to know you're on the haulage and corners are cut to keep the job. I know this to be true, I once refused to operate a defective haulage only to find myself on a button job the next day. The union did intervene and I was returned to my own job the following shift.

The haulage systems could be made a lot safer if the pressure were to be removed.

A major breakdown at the face means a major panic to rush in any replacement parts to get the face back into production. Of course any breakdown means a loss of bonus.

## Panic for production

This is one of the contradictory situations, that all haste is made to produce a commodity which cannot be sold because of the economic crisis. Fifty million tons of coal stand on the ground while families and OAPs go without heat. Such is the capitalist system that coal can mean loss of life in production only to stand idle while further loss of life through hypothermia goes on!

Only a true socialist system can change this and it is to this end that the unions and Labour Party must work. This can be achieved by true democratic control by workers of all existing work places. Reforms do help but the experience of the past few years with the loss of major reforms prove that they are only temporary. Only socialist change can secure lasting results.

# Industrial Reports



## NHS Court victory for health workers

Amidst tremendous cheers and applause, the case against the Halifax health workers was dismissed. The charge was one of obstruction while on picket duty at Halifax Infirmary in August (see issue 615).

As it turns out however the battle is still not over. When the first court case was heard, the police expressed "regret" that they had to arrest the pickets. Their real regret was shown in that they now intend to appeal to the divisional court against the decision!

The police are obviously not concerned about the thousands of pounds they are costing the ratepayer which could have been used in our local hospitals. Their concern seems only to continue this vendetta against trade union rights.

Throughout, the prosecution witnesses have been contradicting one another. One hospital administrator admitted that the pickets were allowed to search hospital vans to check that all goods were emergency. This negotiated agreement was denied when the arrests took place. Another administrator claimed that no such agreement existed! Such was the anger at this claim that the court had to be cleared because of the uproar!

The police also claimed that the pickets were sat on the pavement, thus causing

By Pete Watson  
(Bradford Trades  
Council)

an obstruction, rather than in the hospital grounds. An Inspector Taylor was stood on the pavement, however, and didn't know they had been arrested until the pickets were brought out to a car! These contradictions and the large demonstrations and pickets in support of those charged led to the charges being dismissed.

The police are obviously not content with allowing trade unionists to win a court case! They are taking the case a stage further. The labour movement should also take it a stage further by giving a no confidence vote to the "Police Inquiry into the Police" about this affair. Only with a labour movement inquiry, the dropping of all charges, no victimisations by hospital management, and with democratic accountability of the police could justice be seen to be done.



Health workers call for justice in the recent NHS dispute. The police in the Halifax court case have a different definition of justice to that of the organised working class.

Photo: Militant

## USDAW - Fight unemployment

By Keith  
Pattenden

Broad Left Candidate  
for Midlands Divisional  
Council

Since Thatcher's victory in 1979, USDAW has lost over 30,000 members through redundancies and closures. Members have seen savage reductions in living standards and working conditions, with more of the same promised in the future by the Tories and the bosses.

Under this kind of onslaught, union members will be looking for a clear lead from the Executive Council to mount a campaign of opposition to any further attacks on their living standards and democratic rights.

Unfortunately, instead of rallying members in preparation for such a counter-attack, many leading officials of USDAW, including General Secretary Bill Whatley, have added their voices to the demand for a

headline "extremists out!") By saying "anyone who heard the debate at ADM could be in no doubt that we were following the wishes of the elected representatives of our members." Apparently, its no longer the resolutions which are passed which form the union's policy, but the General Secretary's judgement of what is said in the debate!

Whatley defends what he calls "a fair method of excluding those who seek to organise a group within the party," no doubt hoping that no one will point to his own membership of the right wing Campaign for Labour Victory or his past association with the "Gang of Three," with whom he shared a platform at the 1980 party Conference, just before they split to form the SDP. There has been hardly

a word said about those USDAW MPs who stabbed the party in the back by defecting to the traitors, including union-sponsored MP John Cartwright.

USDAW members have an opportunity in the forthcoming elections of voting for a leadership worthy of the name, who will put a stop to these hypocritical witch-hunting antics and concentrate their fire on the real enemies of the working class. A victory for the Broad Left candidates for Executive and Divisional Councils, and Jeff Price (a Militant supporter) for President would be a victory for the rank and file. USDAW could then be used once more for the purpose it was intended by its founders—to fight the Tories, the bosses and their rotten capitalist system.

purge of the left in the Labour Party. Despite a resolution passed by the 1982 ADM clearly expressing "its unwillingness for the Party to embark upon a policy of expulsions," the union's delegation at Party Conference voted in favour of the register.

Vote for a  
fighting union

Scandalously, in the November issue of the unions' journal "Dawn", Whatley defends this decision (under the banner

## BAKERS, FOOD AND ALLIED WORKERS' UNION

It will take extra-  
parliamentary activity  
to defeat Tebbit's law.  
Defend the democratic  
gains

No to witch-hunts in  
the party

J MARINO  
General Secretary

T O'NEILL  
National President

Blackpool Trades  
Council sends  
fraternal new year  
greetings to all  
trade unionists  
Forward to  
socialism!

USDAW Blackpool  
Woolworth Branch  
send fraternal new  
year's greetings  
Expel the Tories  
Not the socialists

B'ham 28 Branch  
AUEW  
Fraternal greetings  
Keep up the fight for  
bold socialist policies

We say  
An end to witch-  
hunts!  
Smash the Tories!  
Elect a socialist  
Labour  
government!  
Mid & East Lothian  
Trades Council

The Manchester North  
District Committee AUEW  
sends fraternal greetings to  
all workers for a happy and  
peaceful 1983

New year's  
greetings from  
NE London  
Medical Workers  
branch, ASTMS  
Defend the NHS!  
Fight the Tory  
cuts, not the  
socialists  
Stop the witch-  
hunts!



# Industrial Reports

## MINES-VICTORY OR THE DOLE

**Demands for investment and recruitment were the cornerstones of the decision to take industrial action on 17 January.**

Lodge Secretaries and Chairmen from every pit and unit in South Wales heard Emlyn Williams, President, give the background to the threat of cutting the coalfield in half within the next six to ten years.

It was obvious to every delegate that the Board had now changed their strategy. Instead of announcing the closing of pits one by one or in groups of four or five, they now have adopted a strategy of starving the "peripheral Coalfields" (ie South Wales, Scotland, Durham, Northumberland and Kent) of investment. Already in the last financial year the area has lost 2,500 jobs and according to even dubious NCB figures, only

**By Ian Isaac**

Secretary St John's NUM South Wales Area.

450 have been recruited.

This new strategy means that pits will be deliberately run down, become "single face pits" and then develop low morale amongst men so that the pit dies with little conflict. The response of the South Wales Area is now to resist this strategy by declaring strike action as and from 17 January unless 6 basic demands are met, concerning investment and the protection of jobs.

An appeal has gone out to all Areas to give immediate direct support for the action of January 17. Every coalfield in Britain has at least one, in most cases many more, pits receiving the

"Starve and Die" treatment. National united action is the only final answer to force the government to scrap its "cash limits" and return in earnest to the 'Plan for Coal'; 200 million tonnes by the year 2000.

The response in the area has been enormous as one man said in the St John's Colliery "We've got to do it. There is no alternative. Even men who voted 'no' in the last ballot are backing this one".

### Multinational monopolies lobby

The vote was conducted on one day this time, so that the NCB and their agents in the media had no room to sabotage the vote, as happened in 1980 when the ballot was spread over three days, causing rumours and lies to influence voting. The same happened in the national wages ballot. The vote was announced as lost before

half the coalfield had voted. The lesson has now been learnt. All voting on one day in future! No pit in Great Britain is an island in a sea of pit closures. As reported in Labour Research Dec '82 "over the next eight years the NCB plans to close pits at twice the rate it has over the last eight". 2 million tonnes of capacity every year until 1990/91 or 7,000 jobs a year. Who knows what the plan is after that?

The coalfields of Britain would then be ripe for the picking for the multinational gas and oil monopolies. The process has started with a powerful lobby in parliament to raise the limit on numbers employed on private mines from 30 to 100. Ex-Coal Board director Wilfred Miron and architect of the incentive scheme is already heading a group of private mines in West Wales through the auspices of Moray Oil company, a subsidiary of Texas Oil.

If miners want a decent wage and a future for their families, the fight begins now. Victory or the dole.



PHOTO: Andrew Wiard (Report) III

Building projects in London can be extremely profitable but little benefit comes to the building workers.

## Blackpool Cleansing

**By Kevin Taylor**  
(Blackpool North LPYS)

The Policy and Resources Committee of Blackpool Council held a special meeting on Tuesday 21 December to discuss again the privatisation of the town's cleansing department.

This meeting took place against the background to withdraw Labour Party and trade union conferences from Blackpool. The Transport and General Workers Union have already decided to move to the Isle of Man. Some hoteliers are frightened of losing what for them is valuable trade.

The resolution put before the committee included these points:

★ Instructing the officers to go ahead in looking at tenders.

★ To discuss with the unions any possible deal which might look better than any private tender.

The unions themselves have taken the position that they'll refuse to talk unless the threat of compulsory redundancies and the threat of privatisation are withdrawn. This the council had refused to do because in their words, "We're only

seeking tenders for the service." A Labour amendment to freeze the decision in favour of more talks was lost, with the resolution eventually carried.

The conclusions are clear. Under the present system, no public service, no nationalised industry is safe. The Tories are looking to hive off any public service they can. Southend and Wandsworth are just two of many councils which have sought or are seeking privatisation. The labour movement should therefore be mounting a national campaign against such

moves and should be demanding:

★ No services to be privatised.

★ All such actions to be reversed.

★ Democratic workers' control and management of such services.

★ Reversal of all spending cuts imposed by both Tory and Labour governments.

Only by such measures can we possibly stop these and other attacks on workers' living standards. Socialism is the only way forward for our class. Let's act and act now!

## ACTION AGAINST THE LUMP

**The London Regional Executive of UCATT and TGWU are to close down all new building sites in the City of London from 10 January in protest against the use of sub-contractors and the spread of 'lump' labour, with all the consequences for union organisation, wages, hours and site conditions.**

In many cases now, the only people that Bovis, Sir Robert McAlpine, Taylor Woodrow, etc will employ directly, on a multi-million pound contract are a storesman, crane drivers, banksmen and somebody to clean out the toilet and canteen.

Firms like Wimpey worth £287 million on the stock exchange dictate wages and working rules while at the same time denying all responsibility for the workforce because they don't pay the wages. Workers always have to fight both the shark subbie they're working for and the big building monopoly goading them on and turning a blind eye to illegal practices like 'lump' labour and appalling safety conditions.

Sub-contractors are used to try to cut across union organisation. A united direct labour force with a strong union especially on a big job can win conditions like those of workers on the Thames

barrier. Taylor Woodrow, Wimpey must be quaking in their boots at the prospects of employing direct labour for 9 years on their £200 million Liverpool Street redevelopment!

Building workers want to take on and beat the real enemy, the building firms. In July 1981 Wimpeys paid their workers an average £129 a week. Yet the top director got £1,116 a week. The top director of Wimpeys died recently and left £4.5 million in his will.

This is a fight that needed to be fought and with a resolute leadership it can be won. The joint Regional Committee have taken a bold decision and the membership should back them up.

The key to victory will be an effective joint shop stewards committee, on a City-wide or probably a Greater London basis. This will be necessary to organise the strike on a day-to-day basis, raise funds, get concrete, steel and timber supplies blacked, organise flying pickets if the bosses try to break the strike with scabs, and plan how to spread the strike to the rest of London.

A successful fight to kick out the subbies who are bleeding the industry dry and to end the lump would be an enormous step forward for all building workers.

By JOHN FAHEY

## New Years Greetings

The Swansea branch of the Post Office Engineering Union send fraternal greetings to trade unionists everywhere

Socialist greetings to fellow trade unionists and party comrades for 1983

Our union is against purges & expulsions. We want leaders to fight & smash the Tories. For God's sake—get on with it, or they'll smash us—TGWU Littlehampton branch

The Fire Brigades Union Merseyside and Cheshire Region send new year fraternal greetings to all socialists and trade unions

New year greetings to all workers. End unemployment

Build a socialist Britain Bletchley Trades Council

## SOUTH WALES MINES...

# Fight for a secure future

The issues facing the South Wales miners are not confined to this area. They affect every coalfield in Britain.

By Ian Isaac

(Lodge secretary, St Johns NUM, South Wales)

The lack of investment, the long delays in sinking new pits, maintaining existing ones, and recruitment into existing collieries and incompetent planning by the Coal Board has meant, in reality, the scrapping of the 1974 plan for coal.

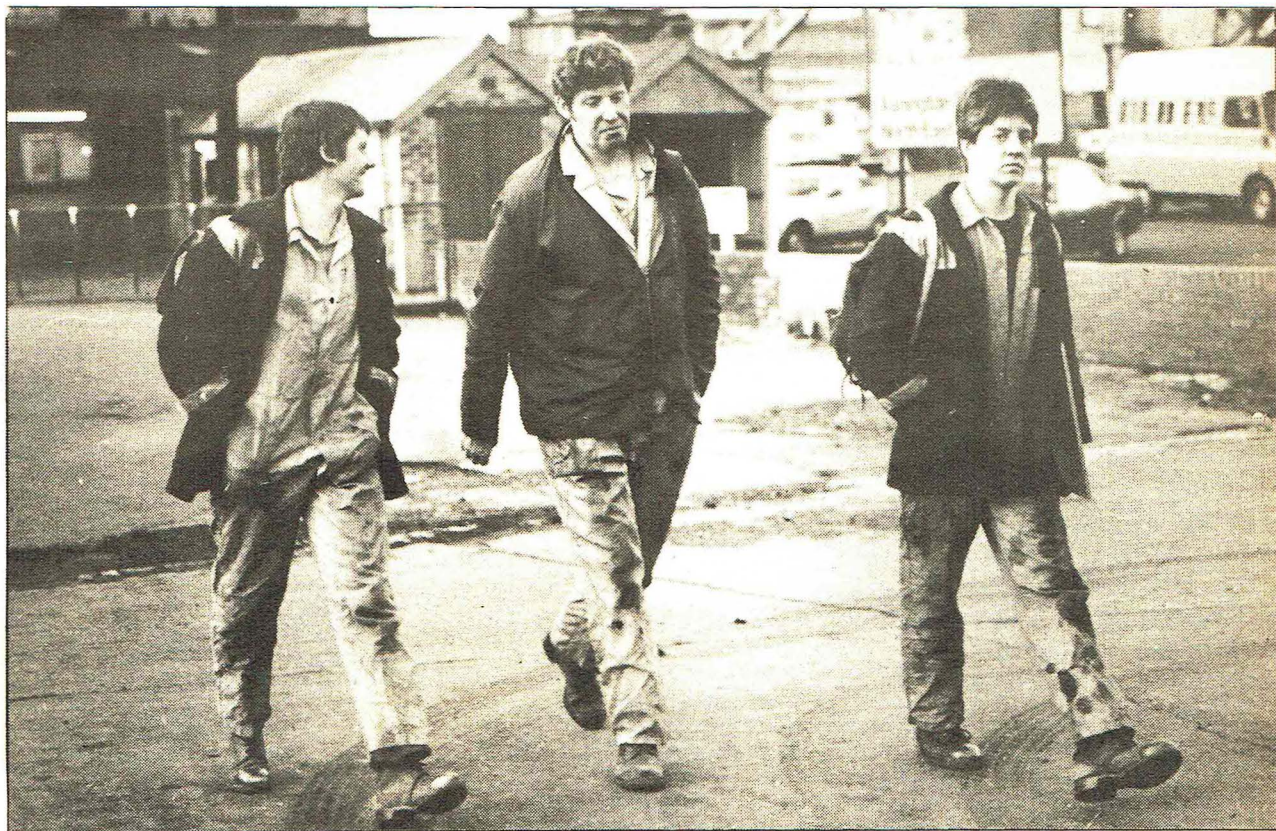
This plan called for 200 million tonnes of coal produced per annum by the year 2000. As a result of management incompetence and the collapse of manufacturing industry, only 120 million tonnes are being produced now.

South Wales miners were disappointed over the decision of the Scottish area conference not to support the

campaign to keep Kinneil colliery open. (See page 13). The board's tactics in announcing closure immediately prior to the Christmas/New Year holidays was designed to cause maximum disunity, which on that particular occasion managed to work.

At a pit that had suffered from lack of investment and had encountered serious geological problems, major investment was required at Kinneil to feed the nearby power station.

The tactics of the NUM are as important as those of the board with an issue such



Miners in every coalfield are threatened by Coal Board plans. United action can stop the closure threats.

Photo: Militant

as pit closures at stake. It should never have been necessary for miners to have to picket members in their own area unless under the direction of their own area conference. At the time of the delegate conference it would have been better for the area leadership to have postponed any proposed action over Kinneil in order to link up with the wider issues in the British coalfield and to combine their fight with the struggle of the South Wales miners proposed for 17 January.

In the meantime the Board could have been challenged to give the date of closure

and to demand the right to discuss in detail the union's proposals for development of the colliery.

The moratorium could have been used to campaign for common action between South Wales and the Scottish coalfields, leading to a national stoppage over the whole issue of pit closures, investment and recruitment which affects every area of the British coalfield.

Despite this temporary setback at Kinneil the Tories and the board should have no false confidence over their plans to run down our industry. The Scottish miners decision not to strike

over Kinneil does not mean that they have turned their backs on other pits or other areas which will need their support in the near future.

We are confident that should it be necessary for the South Wales miners to take action on the 17th in order to preserve their livelihoods and the future of the coalfield then our Scottish brothers will rally to our support alongside other areas who have already taken decisions to call industrial action over pit closures and investment.

The South Wales miners report back conference takes place on 12 January. If by

that date, the Coal Board have not guaranteed the required investment, the decision to take strike action should stand. The national leadership of the NUM should then put itself clearly at the head of such a fight.

If the South Wales area does take strike action, all areas should be mobilised to ensure success. In all areas and in every pit, lodge and branch committees should make preparations for mass meetings addressed by national speakers and South Wales miners in the run up to 17 January. A united struggle can defeat the plans of the board and the Tories.

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## Kick out Tories

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

implemented with gusto. Fares, it has been announced this week, are expected to rise 40 per cent this year. Gas, electricity and postal charges are to go up.

Every serious economist expects that unemployment will continue to increase this year, offering no hope to millions of workers and a whole generation of youth. Being on the scrap heap is bad enough in itself, but the Tories' increased use of snoopers and teams of investigators will make sure that those unlucky enough to be on unemployment or supplementary benefit will be harried and hounded for their trouble...and for what?

It has just been revealed that the massive police swoop (Operation "Sting") in Oxford last year resulted in prosecutions—not for £1.5m as the original claim had it—but for £16,000, a fraction of the cost of the operation itself! Big Business can get away with multi-million tax avoidance, profiteering from the sick and murdering jobs by the tens of thousands but all the ma-

gesty of Tory law still falls on ordinary workers.

1983 will be more of the same...except in one important respect. This is likely to be an election year. Millions of workers have been gritting their teeth and waiting for a chance to hit back at the ballot box. They may get their chance this May or June.

The Labour Party nationally must now gear itself up for the election campaign. The witch-hunt against its own Left must be dropped.

There can be no going back on the policies agreed by the Labour Party conference. A programme of bold socialist change involving permanent and tangible improvements in the living standards of workers, elimination of unemployment and the provision of a real future for youth can ensure that this is the year the Tories get their just deserts—the boot.

The year begins with the Tory government faithfully carrying out policies in the interests of the class it represents. This paper and its supporters will spare no effort to ensure it ends with a Labour government carrying out policies in the interests of the class it should represent: the working class.



HEALEY CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

capitalists by employing every dirty trick against the Labour movement, including the penetration by informers and spies of the Labour Party and trade unions in Britain.

It is hardly re-assuring to Labour Party members that Denis Healey should look so kindly on the CIA, particularly given his past connections with groups like Bilderberg, and the Institute for Strategic Studies. These organisations promoted policies favoured in the Pentagon and by the CIA and were aimed against the Labour movement internationally.

Resolutions should pour into the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party protesting about Healey's statement and demanding the setting up of an enquiry into Labour movement bodies financed by the CIA, or its front organisations.

(Evidence of large scale penetration of the Labour movement is set out in Militant pamphlet "CIA infiltration of the Labour movement" price 80p from

World Socialist Books—1 Mentmore Terrace, E8.)