

# Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

ISSUE 635  
28 January 1983

20p

50th Anniversary  
of Hitler's  
coming to power

See pages 8, 9, 10

# SUPPORT WATER WORKERS



**"We have got a justifiable claim. We don't want to have to strike, but the government have forced us.**

"Our families will be affected just like everyone else. They don't knock down the price of foodstuffs, they're sky high now."

Jack Steel who works in the greases and oils plant at Beckton sewage treatment works summed up the feelings of all water workers whose first national strike

**By Steve Feely**  
(AUEW Beckton sewage works, personal capacity)

started on 23 January against the scandalous 4% pay offer.

The unions had put in a claim for 15% to give comparability with the gas and electricity industries and to

keep up with inflation. Scottish water workers are now joining the struggle against an offer which includes a totally unacceptable 'no-strike' clause.

This claim would have cost the consumer less than 3.5p per week. Under the 1981 pay deal the employers promised to study our case for comparability. As John Feely, a shiftworker, pointed out, "We want them to honour the 1981 agreement."

The government and their National Water Council (NWC) yes-men say they can't compare the water industry with gas and electricity, even though Beckton has its own small power plant

and gas production unit, operated by water workers and many people here have worked in gas or electricity! Len Stride, a storeman, said, "I worked in a power station for 16 years for the CEBG. There is no difference in skill levels."

Conditions are atrocious. "The smell's the worst thing. There's filth everywhere. You can't wash down everything 100%," fitter's mate Dickie Chapman said.

While even the former head of the NWC, Sir Robert Marshall, said in the Sunday Times that the 4% offer was deplorable and

*Continued on back page*

## Prepare Election Campaign Not Witch-Hunt!

Despite the opposition of the Labour Party rank and file—expressed many times over in resolutions and letters going into Walworth Road—the NEC on Wednesday took the scandalous decision to go ahead and prepare a formal "case" against the members of the *Militant* editorial board, with a view to their being expelled from the Party.

Labour Party members will be appalled at the disgraceful priorities of the NEC. Incredibly, there was hardly any discussion on the election campaign that the party should be preparing. It was almost as if there was no General Election looming as the NEC spent the bulk of the meeting discussing ways and means to expel socialists from the Party.

At the NEC, Jim Mortimer made it clear that there had been two meetings between legal advisers and himself, Michael Foot, Denis Healey, Sam McCluskie (Party chairman) and Russell Tuck (organisation committee chairman), although left winger Eric Heffer, vice-chairman of the Party, was not invited. It was on the basis of the legal advice, apparently, that the General Secretary made his proposals to the meeting.

A resolution was passed committing the NEC to "give written particulars" on any alleged involvement in the "Militant Tendency", which, having been previously declared "ineligible for affiliation", thereby apparently renders its "members" liable to expulsion.

In a previous document presented to the last organisation sub-committee, Jim Mortimer pointed to the

By John Pickard

doubts and inconsistencies arising from the fact that the members of some organisations "whose application for affiliation has been rejected under the 1973 decision have not been regarded as ineligible for individual (Labour Party) membership." That inconsistency should be resolved, he argued, before any expulsions went ahead. But at this NEC meeting only two weeks later the General Secretary argued in his paper that this inconsistency "is of no relevance", pushing the 1973 Conference decision onto the organisation sub-committee for their examination, meanwhile getting on with attacks on the *Militant* editorial board.

The case was to be prepared on those five, it was stressed, because they were the "easiest to identify". The General Secretary pointed out that in fact for the NEC to be consistent all members of the "Militant Tendency" were liable and in fact "must" be expelled. But, he said, that would take

*Continued on page two*

Don't stand  
on the  
sidelines...

Become a  
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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.





# TORIES DECIMATE DOCKLAND

Bermondsey, typical of many Inner City areas has been devastated by the current crisis.

The traditional industry of the area was the docks; my own father spent most of his life on the Surrey docks.

Throughout his time on the docks he and thousands of Bermondsey dockers were involved in struggle to secure and improve their conditions.

But under capitalism these struggles were only able to win reforms. These reforms count for nothing now the docks are shut. It is true that severance was paid to the dockers who left but no jobs were left for the youth.

When I left school my dad did not bother to get me a 'book' to work there because it was obvious I would never start on the docks; there are men approaching forty with the book but know they'll never work again on the docks. When the docks moved, the local shops and other service industries suffered accordingly.

The end of the docks also seemed to herald the exodus of industry from Bermondsey and the surrounding areas. The following firms soon closed: Richmond Pork Sausages, Percy Duffs, Cross and Blackwells, Courages, Bank Side Power Station, Jacobs Biscuits, Bricklayers Arms Depot and Metal Box.

I worked for the last two. I was a freight guard at the Bricklayers Arms Depot from 1976 to 1978. By this time 'the Brick' was already on the way out.

The parcel depot was slowly dying, with crocodile tears from the NUR leadership. A sign of neglect for 'the Brick' was when London Bridge signal box took over the South East signalling. 'The Brick' was left with its semaphore signal.

I worked at Metal Box from 1978 till the closure last year. This was a classic case of an investment strike. Most of the equipment was pre-war and useless. Break-downs were common.

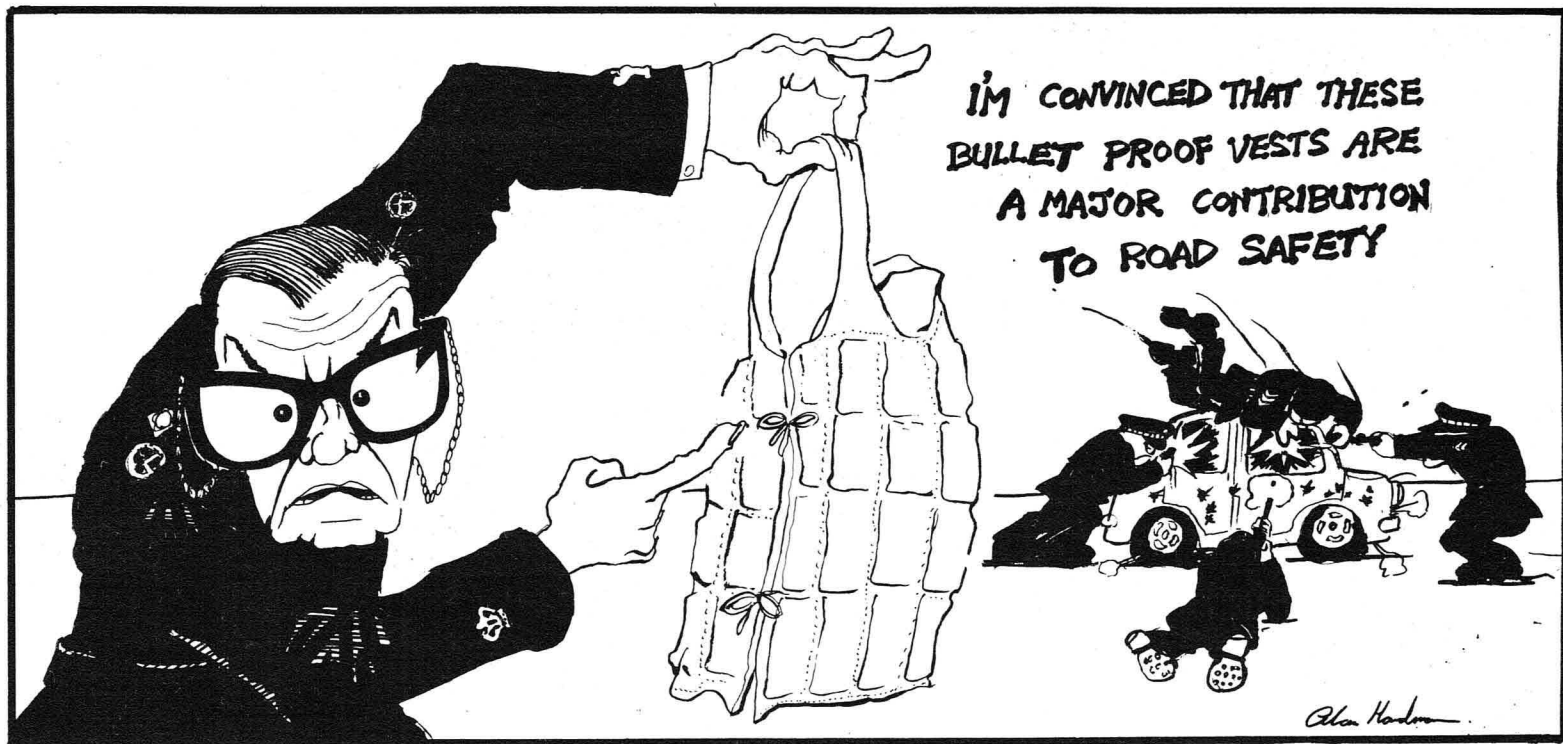
These closures are only the tip of the iceberg as most firms still in the area are on short time and laying people off. The council cut-backs on council building and repairs have added to the unemployment of building workers.

Parts of Bermondsey are an industrial wasteland ripe for property speculation with Tom King and the London Docklands Development Corporation anxious to exploit the situation—if we don't stop them.

**By Bob Law**  
(Bermondsey Labour Party)

BERMONDSEY Labour Party canvassing. Help required on: 30 Jan, 11 am, 133 Lower Road (LP HQ Bermondsey) 1 Feb, 7.00 pm, 133 Lower Road.

For further details contact Dave Fryar, 743 8275, Ann Colthart, 231 9572, Peter Tatchell, 403 1790.



# Police Strengthen Iron Fist

**Behind London police chief Newman's soft talk of more community policing, there lies the iron fist. His new proposals for policing London would actually mean more repression on the streets.**

The Special Patrol Group would become an anti-burglary patrol (in addition to their other roles). What will that mean? A return to their practice of sealing off streets and conducting house to house searches for stolen goods, 'undesirable elements', passport checks for blacks and Asians?

**By Jim Chrystie**

Newman also proposes that the Immediate Response Units be renamed District Support Units, so now every area can have its specially trained elite squad on call.

In recent years the demand for democratic control of the police has grown. Newman has responded with purely cosmetic proposals.

Local, unelected consultation committees will be appointed. But even then, he insists, the police chiefs could ignore their suggestions whenever they wanted.

The reason why the police authorities are so opposed to

democratic control of their activities is because of the political role they are more and more having to play. Manchester Chief Constable Anderton has explained that in the future:

"Basic crime such as theft burglary, even violent crime will not be the predominant police feature. What will be the matter of greatest concern to me will be the covert and ultimate overt attempt to overthrow democracy, to subvert the authority of the state." (BBC TV Question Time, 16 October, 1979).

The strategists of capital know their system will lead to more crime.

Contrary to Tory propaganda, Marxists do not support crime. We do not accept that burglary is any

answer to mass poverty. But capitalist society is organised robbery of workers with the loot going to the rich.

We want to end that system and what terrifies the ruling class is the growing opposition to their rule. The bosses want to have a free hand to deal with the labour movement. In February 1980 the Association of Chief Police Officers even called for restrictions on the right to demonstrate on the flimsy grounds that: "business is disrupted and the public bus service thrown out of schedule".

The labour movement must fight back against all threats to hard-won rights and extend democratic control over the police force. Newman's proposals will not

reduce crime. Instead the labour movement must campaign for an end to the system which breeds crime, and ensure that the Labour government carries out the proposals which the London Labour Party put forward in its last election manifesto:

- ★ Locally elected police committees to appoint senior police officers and scrutinise operational questions.
- ★ Abolition of the Special Patrol Group, Special Branch and Illegal Intelligence Units.
- ★ Independent complaints procedure
- ★ End all files on non-criminal activities.
- ★ Right of Police to join a TUC union.

## Witch-hunt

*From page one*  
too much time and effort—collecting all the evidence, preparing individual cases, organising hearings—not to mention the admitted opposition of the majority of the Constituency Labour Parties—for perhaps hundreds of Party members. Michael Foot, in the discussion, however, did not rule out further expulsions in the future.

When he spoke, Tony Benn issued a warning—pointing out the fact that the NEC was preoccupying itself with expulsions when there may be a general election only 16 weeks away. "It would be an act of plain lunacy," he said, to go ahead with expulsions just before an election.

He also pointed out, in answer to an earlier comment of Foot's, that the NEC, not Militant, were responsible for the legal action being started, because the NEC had tried to disguise their political attack by constitutional measures. Laurence Coates, LPYS member on the NEC, also made the point that had legal action not been threatened when it was, then the five editors would already have been expelled, because the terms of the original resolution last year was that they be expelled "forthwith".

From the NEC decisions, Jim Mortimer is now in-

structed to prepare "a case against the five members of the editorial board", with a view to their reappearance at the next NEC in February. The General Secretary is

The Labour Party NEC agreed to endorse Peter Tatchell as prospective candidate for the Parliamentary by-election in Bermondsey, although there were still four right wingers—Golding, Boothroyd, Dunwoody and Ken Cure—who were opposed.

The NEC also discussed the question of the constitution of the NEC—because the right-wing dominated organisation sub-committee had brought forward proposals and suggestions that the NEC composition be re-examined. The right wing have made no secret of the fact that they would like to clear all the left MPs out of the CLP section, by electing the CLP section at regional conferences. They would also like to bring on representatives (inevitably from the right) from the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Against the wishes of the Party leader Michael Foot, the NEC decided to go ahead to examine these proposals, although the decision only went through after a 13-13 tie.

still trying to pretend that the measures do not constitute a

witch-hunt: at his press conference afterwards he declared that the NEC were not "encouraging denunciations" in Constituency Labour Parties. Nevertheless, the vast majority of Labour Party members will be appalled that Labour Party headquarters is preparing to spend so much time, money and effort snooping around and preparing individual "cases" against these five.

It is a scandal that the General Secretary's office is being turned into a witch-hunting campaign in the months running up to a general election.

The five facing expulsion have over 120 years' membership of the Labour Party between them. They are being hounded for their ideas, no matter what Jim Mortimer says. For the grass roots of the Party, one member expelled for his ideas is one too many.

The majority of Labour Parties are fed up to the back teeth with the NEC and its obsession with expulsions, registers and declarations. But it is up to these same Labour Parties to put pressure on to force the NEC to drop the witch-hunt. The NEC and Party staff must spend their time more usefully—planning a campaign to kick the Tories out, to bring back a Labour government in the coming election.

## Where the Tories dare not tread

Anyone would think that the Tories were the most popular thing going next to ET, the way they've been getting publicity on the television recently. The newspapers have even manufactured opinion polls giving them top ratings.

But the millions of working class families up and down the country that have suffered Tory policies know different. As is clear from Thatcher's visit to West Yorkshire and the visit of Norman Tebbit to a car factory last week, both show, wherever the Tories come face to face with workers they are met with anger and hatred.

Hundreds of West Midlands workers demonstrated against Tebbit's visit to the Jaguar car factory last Thursday. One worker held a bike over his head to taunt Norman Tebbit for his most famous speech.

Tebbit managed to provoke the first strike at the plant for 2½ years, and there was a threat of a com-

plete walk-out if he set foot on the shop floor itself.

As one shop steward said: "Why doesn't he visit some of the factories which this government have been responsible for closing."

Massive publicity also surrounded Thatcher's visit to West Yorkshire last week. But what of the factories she didn't visit?

A demonstration organised by the Labour Party and Young Socialists pointed out some 60 factories that weren't on her route. This number of firms have closed down in the Sowerby Bridge area alone, throwing 11,000 out of work.

Thatcher also "forgot" to visit the nearby Morley firm of Hailwood and Ackroyd. Here, 380 AUEW members are out on strike for parity with their sister firm, Clayton Dewandre of Lincoln. (See page 15)

Thatcher's boast of inflation coming down is also hollow. It means nothing to the workers who have recently lost their jobs, or to the workers at Hailwood and Ackroyds where an increase of 18% is needed just to reach the 1980 wage levels! A victory achieved by them would give a lead to workers throughout the area.



# 800 Protest against police

Provocative police tactics on the mass protest on Saturday January 22 over the death of Colin Roach has intensified the anger of the black population in Hackney, East London.

The area has become a tinder box, that could explode at any moment. According to Ernie Roberts, Labour M.P for Hackney North, "The situation is so serious that unless there is a full public enquiry there will be a complete breakdown of law and order."

The latest trouble began at the end of a 800 strong demonstration, when the police began to wade into the crowd, snatching people at random and bundling them into police vans.

Both demonstrators and

onlookers, including a number of Labour councillors, were enraged by the provocative and vicious methods employed by the police. Twenty two people were arrested on Saturday, bringing the total of people arrested protesting about Colin's death to 47.

Saturday's demonstration was the third and largest major protest over the death of Colin Roach, who died mysteriously in the foyer of Stoke Newington Police Station on 12 January.

According to the police, Colin walked into the police station, pulled a shotgun out of a shoulder bag, put in his mouth and pulled the trigger.

But this explanation is vigorously disputed by local

people, and by Colin's family, who do not believe that their son committed suicide.

Neither Colin's family, nor the local labour movement have any confidence in the police's version of the events. Stoke Newington police are notorious for their record of harassment of the local black population. Even Colin's family have complained bitterly about the way they have been treated in the police station.

There is now mass support locally for an independent inquiry, to get at the real truth. They are determined not to let the police get away with any cover-up, as was attempted over the New Cross Massacre.



Police wade into demonstrators on the January 22 protest

# LPYS AGAINST BRIGHTON TORIES

"Tories out! Change the system", will be the resounding cry echoing through Brighton on Saturday January 29, when the Southern Region Labour Party Young Socialists start their annual conference by staging a "Youth against the Tories" demonstration.

All the indications are that the demonstration and conference will be very well attended, with Young Socialists and local Labour Party and trade-union activists participating.

The conference will be set against a background of record levels of youth unemployment, cuts in local leisure facilities for young people and generally very little prospects for youth in the Brighton area. For example the local Tory County Council have just axed £2 million from the education budget,

meaning further cut-backs on school meals, colleges and equipment.

Therefore, Brighton LPYS has organised a systematic campaign to ensure that every youth in Brighton knows about the demonstration and as a result Brighton YS builds its membership.

Hardly an area has not been fly-posted. Names of people interested in joining the YS and going on the demo have been collected at the dole and tech college. Factories and union offices have been visited as have local fire-stations because Ken Cameroon, General Secretary of the Fire Brigades Union is speaking at the conference.

The conference itself will reflect the further growth of the LPYS in the Southern Region. A record number (26) of resolutions will be discussed and a record number of delegates (60) will attend.

The conference will see debate on wide-ranging issues, ranging from unemployment to blood sports, confirming the fact that it is only the ideas of the LPYS which represents the interests of youth. This is borne out by the growth of membership of the Southern Region LPYS over the last year as more and more youth join the LPYS seeing it is only our ideas that offer them any future or way forward.

**By Martin Smith**  
(Brighton Labour Party Young Socialists)

**Southern Region LPYS conference**  
Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 January (at the Foyer Hall, Brighton Conference Centre).

**Demonstration.**  
Assemble: 10.30 am at the Level, Lewes Road, Brighton. March starts: 11 am.

the Tories a few things about enjoying themselves.

In Sunday's debate on education, a school student from Hayes described how in her class of 8 there are 4 books to go round. This means that they have to take it in turns to take them home and it take 2 weeks to do every piece of homework.

In all, over the two days, the conference showed that LPYS members in London are prepared to continue to campaign for socialist policies and for a labour victory if there is a general election this year.

**By Jane Lithgoe**  
(Newham North-West LPYS)

# Unions against witch-hunt

The ludicrous decision to attack the LPYS in an election year, when up to one million young people would be able to vote for the first time, was pointed out at a London

meeting of the TGWU Vehicle Building and Automotive Group District Committee. The Committee passed a resolution against the witch-hunt, and as the mo-

## BACKING MILITANT

DONATIONS from youth to *Militant's* Fighting Fund this week include: £150 collected at London Region's LP Young Socialists' Conference, £10 from a YS member in York and £2 from J Mumzwa Ardwick YS. Cathal Quinn of Reading LPYS gave £2 for his copy of *Militant* and school student Said Malik paid £1 for his to a Cardiff *Militant* seller. T King of Bermondsey YS, in the thick of a by-election campaign donated £1 to the best campaigning weekly socialist newspaper.

Students, L Gallagher and C Thompson (Cardiff ULC), gave £5 each and S Kezic £1. It's hard living on a student grant but those comrades want to get rid of the Tories as much as you.

Labour Party members who contributed to *Militant's* funds this week include: Salisbury Cllr C Lamberth (£5), Leicester Councillor, G Parmar £2, Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Gosport, Bernie Bond (£1) and G Fox of Bolsover CLP who paid £1 for his copy of the *Militant*. Collections were taken amongst members of Southampton Labour Party, Hayes LP and at a meeting of Leeds City and Woodhouse Labour Party. Follow these examples and help build the *Militant*.

# Strange background of Observer's 'sleuth'

By Bob Wade

The right wing of the Labour Party have found strange bedfellows in their campaign against *Militant*.

A lengthy article appeared in the *Observer* (28 November) attacking the *Militant* with the usual tales of 'Trotskyist conspiracies' etc.

The article was by a certain Peter Shipley. Shipley's 'concern' for the Labour Party, however, can be judged by his political background. He is in fact a top aide to Mrs Thatcher at No 10 itself, as a member of the Downing Street Policy Unit! Previously, he worked full-time for the Tory Party in the research department at their Central Office, and was involved in activities with the extreme right wing of the Tory Party.

Indeed, according the anti-fascist magazine *Searchlight*, he was at one time listed on the National Front's membership roll (no 8699), although Shipley

denies he was in the NF.

The *Observer* article was taken from his forthcoming book on the *Militant*. It is to be published by the Foreign Affairs Publishing Company. This firm is run by former Tory MP Geoffrey Stewart Smith. Among this character's unsavoury credentials, is that he was a former leader of the British section of the World Anti-Communist League. As *Militant* (issue 602) pointed out, this international group is not just made up of ultra-right wingers, but also of fascists, Nazis and members of military juntas, who have carried out atrocities worldwide (see 'Left & Right').

The fact that rabid reactionaries such as these, including one of Thatcher's top aides, are spending so much time and money attacking the *Militant* speaks volumes. The excuse of the Labour's right wing for its campaign against *Militant* is that *Militant* is an 'electoral liability'. This is obviously not a view held by the upper echelons of the Tory Party.

# LONDON

The opening debate at last weekend's London LPYS conference started things off in a lively manner. Over 350 delegates and visitors heard the delegate from Battersea point out that the Tories introduced a new form for claimants which was so complicated that some people had trouble even finding out how to unfold them!

Out of 50 issued by his office 25 had to be sent back because they had been filled in wrongly. Another delegate said that there is even a box to tick if you're blind.

Tony Benn, now almost an annual speaker at the London conference, underlined the importance of the LPYS in "recapturing the ideological ground lost to the Tories in recent years".

The collection for the LPYS campaign fund raised over £200 showing that

although many LPYS members are unemployed, on YOPS, or at school or college, they are prepared to contribute their money as well as their time to socialism.

At Saturday evening's *Militant* readers meeting, about 150 people heard Tony Saunio outline the responsibility of comrades to become active in the struggle for socialism as well as the role that *Militant* supporters had played in building the LPYS.

The well attended disco on Saturday night showed that the LPYS can also show



ALLIANCE FLOP

At last week's third re-launch of the Alliance there seemed to be more chance of the Cosmos landing than the Alliance taking off, weighted down as it is with Liberals and SDP leaders' record of failure.

upon the LPYS budget by Labour's right wing. This was the result of a resolution passed at the Suffolk Area Conference of the Agricultural Trade Group of the TGWU, held on 22 January.

One area of the country's largest union, the TGWU, has called upon the union to donate money to the LPYS campaign fund, and thereby make up the cut inflicted

tion's seconder stated, the real intruders and conspirators in the party were the Gang of Four who went off to set up their own party.



# ads

**NEW RATE**  
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 All advertisement copy should reach this office by SATURDAY.

## MILITANT READERS MEETINGS 'WHAT WE STAND FOR'

**Militant Discussion Group.** Tuesday 8 February at 8.00 pm on "Nationalisation and workers control" at Commercial Inn Smallbrook, Shaw, Oldham.

**GLASGOW:** 'Which way forward now for the labour movement?' Speaker: Peter Taaffe (Editor, *Militant*) at McLellan Galleries, Glasgow, Thursday 3 February, 7.30 pm.

**BISHOP AUCKLAND:** Speaker: Kevin Gent. Thursday 27 January, 7.30 pm, at Henknowle Estate Community Centre, Bishop Auckland.

**LEEDS** 'How to win a socialist government' on Tuesday 15 February at 7.30 pm at Trades Club, Saville Mount, Leeds. All Labour supporters welcome.

**Militant Trade Union School** Sunday 13 February, 10.00 am—4 pm at AUEW Buildings, Margaret Street South, Aston-Under-Lyme. Speakers: Jon Ingham (AUEW) on 'Which way forward for the trade unions'. Gerry Lerner (TASS) on 'Workers control and management'.

## CLASSIFIED

**SHEFFIELD,** Hillsborough LPYS Public Meeting: 'Jobs not bombs'. Speaker, John Goodby YS National Committee on 9 February, 7.30 pm at Winn Gardens, Hillsborough (below 1st Tower Block).

**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.  
**SANDIFORD:** Every Sunday. Contact Gavin Dudley, 0632 652906.  
**GATESHEAD:** Every Sunday. Contact Tom McGuinness, 18 Lumley Gardens, Gateshead (Lumley Gardens 783262).  
**WASHINGTON:** Details, Washington 478424.

**SOLIDARITY** night with the people of the Middle East: Iran • Palestine • Turkey Programme includes: Film, slides, speeches. Thursday 3 February at 7.30 pm at Mountbatten Building H.W. University, Grassmarket, Edinburgh. Organised by: International Solidarity Front for Defence of Democratic Rights in Iran (Edinburgh Branch)

**CROXTETH COMPREHENSIVE** desperately needs teachers qualified in the following subjects: woodwork, metalwork, engineering and childcare, to offer their services free of charge to help educate the pupils at the school. Contact Phil Knibb (Chairman of the Action Committee), 051-548 8923.

## MARX CENTENARY RALLIES

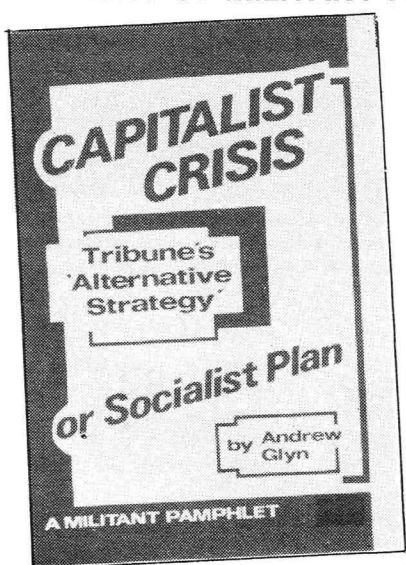
This year, on 14 March, is the centenary of the death of Karl Marx, the co-founder with Engels of scientific socialism. Throughout his life, Marx provided the working class movement with an analysis of capitalist society as a preparation for its emancipation.

Now, more than ever, as capitalism enters a further period of economic crisis, Marxism becomes an indispensable guide to action in the struggle for socialist change.

*Militant*—Labour's Marxist paper—has therefore organised a series of regional rallies to commemorate this event, and explain the relevance of Marxism today.

- ★ LONDON Sunday, 20 March
- ★ BIRMINGHAM Saturday, 19 March
- ★ NOTTINGHAM Sunday, 13 March
- ★ LIVERPOOL (to be announced)
- ★ LEEDS (to be announced)
- ★ NEWCASTLE (to be announced)
- ★ GLASGOW (to be announced)
- ★ HUMBERSIDE Saturday, 19 March
- ★ SWANSEA (to be announced)

## REPRINT OF MILITANT PAMPHLET



'CAPITALIST CRISIS'  
 —Tribune's 'Alternative Strategy' or Socialist Plan  
 —By Andrew Glyn  
 Price £1.20 (inc p&p) from World Socialist Books, 1 Mentmore Tce, London E8 3PN

# £50,000 needed by April 9

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 9th April
Eastern	97		2700
East Midlands	70		2850
Humberside	19		1500
London East	79		3300
London West	117		1650
London South	95		2500
Manchester & Lancs	124		3000
Merseyside	60		3100
Northern	19		3750
Scotland East	46		1850
Scotland West	10		2800
Southern	157		4000
South West	55		2000
Wales East	40		1500
Wales West	61		2000
West Midlands	36		2800
Yorkshire	79		3700
Others	211		5000
<b>Total received</b>	<b>1382</b>		<b>50000</b>

# All Socialists need Militant!

By Clare Doyle

**If you were a top man in Letraset for a few years and then faced redundancy, you would stand a chance of getting a £700,000 golden hand-shake.**

**If you were in the right place in the Irish government in 1982 you might have stood to gain £100,000 for giving up your job!**

But what steelworker or shipyard worker will get anything like this kind of money when they are thrown on the scrap heap? They know they can get nothing from this society and that's why employed and unemployed are backing *Militant*.

This week for example, we have received a pledge of support against the witch-hunt from the Yorkshire Regional Committee of UCATT accompanied by a £10 donation. TGWU 5/826 branch have sent £5 and members of City and Woodhouse Labour Party (Leeds) donated £4 at their latest meeting.

Mr J F Harris from New Addington writes: "Have enclosed £5 towards your next fund. I hope the *Militant* newspaper will continue. All socialists need such a good paper".

A subscriber in the Isle of Man—Pat Bridson—received an appeal sheet with her copy of *Militant* and promptly passed it round amongst her comrades on the island. She collected 10 signatories and £5!

Every reader could do the same. Special letters are available as well as appeal sheets and they should be circulated widely in the movement.

J Etherington of the EEP-TU (Walthamstow) is the latest example of readers pledging themselves to a regular sum for *Militant*—in his case £3 a week. Unemployed readers like C and D Sullivan (I.O.W.) scraped together all of £10 last week and P Beale on the dole in Sutton in Ashfield also gave £1.

Two OAP's—I Newton (Ruislip) and Charlie Alom (I.O.W.) gave £3 and £2.20 respectively this week. They don't want another winter of Tory rule.

London Transport engineer, D Marsden, knows his job is on the line and has given £10 for the *Militant* to fight the Tories with. Post Office engineers in Newcastle know *Militant* fights privatisation so they too sent us a donation.

Steel worker Bill Gray from Scunthorpe gave £3 to fight the massive closures in his industry. Miners K Marriot of South Normantown and "Tig" of Sutton did the same. NALGO members in Knowsley want cuts reversed and sent £3; Merseyside SOGAT members want the print industry nationalised and sent £2.50.

A fireman in Lewisham donated £3, a COHSE shop steward gave all his £25 expenses and a Canterbury Post Office worker gave a "tenner". A Dublin Post Office worker—B Tracey—also contributed. (Could he work on the top floor of the O'Connell street building, listening to tapes?)

Derby T&GWU member—M Roberts, Midlands UCATT member—G Ransford and T&G Airport worker—'Ginger' Evans gave £1 this week, as did subscribers A Trotter, and S Lovett and A Harrison of Walsall, E Joseph of Walthamstow and S Doyle, Plymouth.

*Militant's* Fighting Fund is only just picking up steam again after the magnificent efforts of last year. But all our bills have to be paid, not least, one or two legal bills! One donation that must be a good omen is £10, from Lambeth solicitor, Mike Fisher! Also many thanks to a Lancs. supporter who sent us £20 and N Gokhani of Leicester who saved up

"Christmas tips" of £15 for *Militant*. 'Fivers' came from, amongst others, D Sang, T Jenkins, T Tattersall, and D and K Galashan.

D and J Sellers of Leeds gave us their pools winnings!—Unfortunately not tens of thousands but £5.50! Nevertheless, an example, maybe, to follow?

Other strange ways the *Militant* has come by money this week is "sale of glass jars" in Blackburn (\$1.80), "sale of ashtray" (Tyneside) £1, "unbought dailies" (E London) £2, "Bus fares" (Durham) £1, New Year Dinner (W London) £27(!), Teas and food (I.O.W.) £1.70 and from Barnsley we got £5 from "Sale of a bike—not Mr Tebbitt's!"

Supporters in Norwich collected over £52 at a public meeting there. The ideas of *Militant* have massive support amongst Labour's

Youth and growing support in the Labour Party (see p. 3).

But, such is the reputation of the *Militant*, that even where it is sold on the streets or outside factory gates to people who have never read the paper before, sellers receive £1's in extra pence on the price of the paper—especially if they ask and especially if they rattle collecting tins!

March sees the centenary of Karl Marx's death and we will be producing a number of commemorative articles for sale. If you have any ideas of things you can make and sell, now and at Easter Conference of Labour's Youth, let us know.

Ideas and initiatives for fund-raising are as welcome as the cash—but we do need the cash! £50,000 by April 9th! Please help!

# Who is top paper-seller?

Answer: Maggie Thatcher!

When she visited Bristol last week, the comrades were delighted to report that they sold out of papers. There isn't anything else that she's good for! All sellers should keep a lookout for this 'comrade' visiting their area and order extra papers accordingly!

More seriously, the way to fight the Tories is to get more and more people, involved in the labour movement, armed with socialist policies. The best way to do that is to get *Militant* on sale in as many places as possible. LPYS and Labour Party branches should use *Militant* as a recruiting sergeant when they are out canvassing on the streets and estates.

The Tories have nearly all the dailies to pour out their lies and filth about us; we

must use *Militant* to its maximum potential. Every sale and donation paves the way for a more regular *Militant*; other papers may bewail their falling sales and financial crisis but we can only go from strength to strength with the active participation of our readers.

Are you a *Militant* seller already: if not why not? Tear off the slip on the back or phone the Circulation Department on 01-986 3828. *Militant's* poster 'Smash the Tories' is available to boost your sales; these are available free (though donations are welcome to cover postage) from the above address.

Send in reports of your sales.

By Dave Farrar





## YOUNG WORKERS - Come to YS conference!

“Miner to stand as Tory candidate”—so runs the headline in this month’s *Conservative Newline*, the monthly paper of the Tory Party.

Of course, it is headline news when a worker even joins the Tory Party. The last time a miner stood as a Tory candidate was 28 years ago in 1955!

In contrast, the Labour party Young Socialists is an organisation of young workers including hundreds of miners, engineers, sparks, hospital workers, etc. At present the LPYS are preparing for their annual conference and are aiming to get a record number of

By Ed Waugh  
(Chairman, Northern Region LPYS)

young workers along.

“It is the first LPYS event I’ve been to and I think its great”. That was the response of Mick Main, a miner from Northumberland at the 1982 LPYS conference. Mick was one of the 200 or so union sponsored visitors to last year’s LPYS conference.

The problems facing young workers including; low wages, apprenticeships and training, youth unemployment and how to fight Tebbit’s anti-union laws—all will be debated at conference.

Young workers should approach their union branch secretary and ask to be sponsored to the conference. In the Northern Region circulars have been sent out to all affiliated unions and Labour Party branches, asking them to sponsor a young member to conference. This is being followed up by phone calls and most importantly personal visits to union branch secretaries and factory convenors.

Our efforts will be focused on the mines in Nor-

thumberland and Durham, the shipyards on the Tyne and Wear and the steelworks on Teesside.

Nationally the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE) have circulated their 3,000 branches with letters asking branches to sponsor young workers to the LPYS conference.

The LPYS National Committee have produced 100,000 leaflets, 10,000 posters and 20,000 trade union letters to advertise the conference which are available free to branches.

What is your branch doing to make sure the 1983 LPYS conference breaks all records and is bigger and better than ever?

## Manchester Inquiry

For nearly three years the Manchester City Labour Party has been in dispute with the majority of the Labour Group that controls the City Council.

The dispute is over the City Party’s clear ‘No Cuts’ programme which has been carried by a substantial majority at the annual Policy Conference since 1980. Under an agreement between the Labour Group and the City Party the decisions of the Policy Conference are binding on the Labour Group.

In 1981 thirteen Labour councillors were expelled from the Labour Group for voting against cuts. In the run up to last year’s May election, the City Party refused to put 24 sitting Labour councillors on the panel of candidates because they were not committed to party policy. The Labour Party NEC intervened and restored the thirteen councillors to the Group, but also put the 24 councillors back on the panel. Including one who had joined the SDP!

Last year the whole Council was up for election and Labour, fighting on a ‘No

Cuts’ manifesto, won 69 of the 99 seats.

Things again came to a head, this time over 350 ‘voluntary’ redundancies in the Direct Works Department, which were designed to overcome a, as yet unexplained, misbudgeting of £900,000 in the Housing Department. In order to encourage ‘volunteers’, time limits were set on enhanced redundancy payments. These redundancies are the latest of a series of cuts which have reduced the Direct Works from 5,000 to its present level of 3,500 employees.

In line with the election manifesto, 28 Labour councillors voted against these redundancies and have since been threatened with disciplinary action by the majority of the Labour Group.

While this has been going on the City Party has been drawing up its panel of candidates to fight this May’s elections. Again a number of right-wing councillors were rejected because they did not support party policy. In the majority of cases appeals were made to the Regional Executive; as a result they were put back on the panel.

However, in a few cases there were no appeals and that should have been the

end of the matter. But it is not. The NEC have decided to hold an enquiry into the City Party, and for good measure the Labour Group has been included.

Apparently a number of unspecified complaints have been made against the City Party and therefore John Golding, Russel Tuck and David Hughes, the National Agent were in Manchester on 21-22 January to ‘sort things out.’ The City Party had not been informed of the allegations or of who has made them.

The leader of the Labour Group hopes the enquiry will put the right-wing councillors on the panel—this, despite the fact that they have not got the support of the CLPs or City Party, and under rule the NEC has no power to put them on the panel.

This dispute is about the democratic rights of the party to pick candidates who will fight for party policy and against Tory cuts. The NEC enquiry looks very much like an extension of the right wing’s witch-hunt.

The City Party has agreed to publish its case within the labour movement as part of a campaign against possible right wing attacks.

By John Byrne  
(Councillor,  
Longsight Ward)

## Stop the witch-hunt

The opposition of Constituency Labour Parties to attacks on the LPYS and the witch-hunt rolls on.

Two CLPs more have come to the defence of the LPYS. Norwich CLP passed a resolution overwhelmingly, which condemned right-wing moves against the LPYS, seeing it “as the next step of the attack on Labour’s Left which began with the witch-hunt of the Militant Tendency.”

Huntingdon CLP also opposed the attack on the LPYS saying “we believe that the LPYS has a crucial role to play in fighting for socialist policies and in particular winning the youth vote for Labour.”

And another two CLPs have added their names to the long list of parties already against the witch-hunt. Arundel CLP passed unanimously a resolution which regretted “any attempts to witch-hunt individuals or groups from the party” and were “implacably opposed to any return to a system of bans and proscriptions.”

Similarly Barnsley CLP has urged unity in the party “based upon a commitment to Clause IV” and says any witch-hunt will play into the hands of the Tories and SDP.

## SOCIALIST YOUTH

## Boost ‘Socialist Youth’ sales

‘Socialist Youth has always fought for the democratic rights of ordinary Labour Party members. It has supported the right to re-select MPs, to put control of the manifesto in the hands of Party Conference, and for Labour officials and MPs to get paid no more than the average wage of a skilled worker.

That’s why *Socialist Youth* and the LPYS are determined to defend the socialists in the Labour Party and fight the real enemies—the Tories and the big business interests they represent.

## Pat Wall, Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Bradford North.

The *Socialist Youth* sales campaign is picking up momentum. In Wales orders for *Socialist Youth* have doubled from 441 to 880 in less than two weeks.

The Regional conferences of the LPYS will be debating how to increase sales over the next few weeks. These regions should follow the example of Wales.

20,000 sales drive leaflets have been taken out by LPYS branches for the *Socialist Youth* week of action, from 5 — 13 February.

Mansfield LPYS have organised a day of action on Saturday, February 12, followed by a *Socialist Youth* rally on February 16. They are also planning to visit local pits and factories asking the shop stewards committees to take out an

order of *Socialist Youth*.

*Socialist Youth* is essential reading not only for ‘socialist youth’, but also every member of the Labour Party or trade union movement. It is the voice of Labour’s youth.

The February edition will include features on Labour’s commitment to pay 16-19 year olds a £20 grant, and an interview with Jim Mortimer (Labour Party General Secretary). Order your copies NOW!

Orders to ‘Socialist Youth’, 150 Walworth Rd, London SE17.

By Peter Mumford  
(Asst. Editor,  
*Socialist Youth*)



# LEFT and RIGHT

## Praise God and pass the missiles

If you live in Ballymena, Northern Ireland, don't worry about the Bomb. The local Democratic Unionist Party—Paisley's pals—have got it all worked out. At a public meeting on nuclear arms the mayor, Sandy Spence explained there was no chance of a nuclear holocaust because "there would have to be people on earth for the coming of the Lord."

Not convinced? Well DUP Alderman McAuley took this in-depth analysis further: "What I am suggesting is a Sovereign God has permitted these weapons for a purpose." What's this purpose, you ask?—"I don't know, but one thing I am sure of, and that is whatever the purpose it will be for His glory." One thing Alderman McAuley can also be sure of, is that if there is a nuclear holocaust, there won't be much point for 'the Lord' to visit earth—we'll all meet him on his home ground.

## The rich are getting richer

The next time your boss bleats on about 'the recession and the need for everyone to tighten their belts' etc when it comes to wages, remind him of this. The new year has shown yet another increase in sales at the top end of the market. Christie's wine sales are booming with 'Chateau Laffitte' going at £520 a dozen. Their pre-Christmas auction saw 96% of their jewellery go for £1¼ million. Caviar sales are up 32%. Savills, the top people's estate agents, are having no problem selling houses for between £150,000 and £500,000. It's strange how the rich never seem to 'price themselves out of a job'.

## 'Beano' faces new competitor

The height of political intellect is to be found in a new magazine produced by the Westminster Young Conservatives, *Westminster Review*. The YCs will no doubt get a great deal of political education from this new publication, especially the centre page article. The first edition has a "centre-page pull-out of Margaret Thatcher for devotees to pin on their wall." And no doubt to dribble over too. Future issues will include a "Tony Benn dart board" for the chaps and chappesses to take out their frustrations on. But much awaited will be "a full colour photo of a Cruise missile in flight". It is not certain if the little YCs are also meant to pin this on the wall, or just run around the room with it making rocket and bang-bang noises.

## Tory hands across the water

As *Militant* predicted, the Tories' 'fight against fascism' during the war with Argentina was purely temporary. They are now once again openly fraternising with some of the worst military dictatorships and nazi murderers throughout the world. Tory MPs Patrick Wall and Keith Best, along with former Tory student leader Peter Young, were recently guests of the Taiwan government for the mis-named 'World Freedom Day' conference. Their costs were paid for by the Taiwan government; the same government that has murdered thousands of trade unionists and is a one party state.

The conference itself was organised by the World Anti-Communist League (issue 602) and no doubt representatives of the Argentinian dictators were present at this meeting of international reactionaries and neo-fascists. It seems the Tories not only have trade to share with military dictatorships but ideologies too.

## FIFTY YEARS AGO

In the week the Serpell report comes out, it is useful to look at how the bosses profited when they owned the railways. A 1933 report showed that in the previous 12 years £514 million had been paid out in dividends. From 1921 to 1932 £1.5m had been given to directors, who between them also had directorships in 600 other companies.

But workers in the private railways did not get the same benefit. Over the same period the wage bill had gone down by £450 million, as 137,900 workers were made redundant. And in 1933 the bosses began by demanding a further 10% cut.

# Film • Theatre • Reviews

## 'October'

*October* has always been one of Eisenstein's more controversial films. It was made in 1927 to mark the tenth anniversary of the Russian revolution, and is partly based on John Reed's book *Ten Days that Shook the World*.

Carl Wiper of Northumberland Nalgo reviews Eisenstein's *OCTOBER* on the 85th anniversary of the Russian film-maker's birth.

It was a massive undertaking for its time. The film literally has a 'cast of thousands'; parts of Leningrad were completely taken over for the filming. So much mess was created in the Winter Palace that one of the porters told Eisenstein: "Your people were much more careful the first time they took the palace."

The film concentrates on the events from February to October 1917 in Leningrad, and re-enacts the main events of the revolution.

What makes the film particularly memorable is its use of the 'montage' technique of rapid cutting between certain significant images to give an overall impression of a scene. A dramatic example of this is when the workers' demonstration is suppressed and the bridges over the River Neva are raised to cut off their retreat.

We see the machinery raising the bridges, feet running, a girl's body falling off the bridge, and a horse and a carriage hanging in mid-air from the end of the bridge, and all these sequences are inter-cut, flashing quickly from one to the other, to create tension.

This is not just done as a clever trick. Eisenstein wanted to create what he called "intellectual cinema", that is, using images on film to convey political ideas. For example, pictures of the advance of Kornilov, who aimed to protect 'God and Country', are intercut with statues of Christ, Buddha and other, increasingly primitive gods, as well as military badges and medals.

Many more examples of Eisenstein's technique could be quoted, and they make the film seem modern even today. It shows that the Russian revolution was a catalyst, inspiring creative ideas in art as well as other fields. By comparison, the recent Warren Beatty film, *Reds*, which also deals with the revolution, seems melodramatic and hackneyed.

Unfortunately, *October* was also affected by events in other ways. Its making coincided with Stalin's rise to power and the expulsion of Trotsky from the Communist Party.

Although the film was completed by November 1927, it was not shown publicly until March 1928, with nearly a quarter of its footage cut out, including



Lenin at the Finland Station, denouncing the capitalist government which replaced the Tsar—scene from 'October'.

scenes with Trotsky; in the present version, Trotsky, organiser of the insurrection, is relegated to a minor role and is wrongly shown disagreeing with Lenin about the timing of the October uprising.

Despite this, *October* is well worth seeing if you get the chance. It could go with a discussion on the Russian revolution, or on a socialist view of art. It lasts 104 minutes and can be hired for £25 from Contemporary Films Ltd, 55 Greek St, London W1 (01-434-2633).

## 'THE MESSIAH'

A marvellous antidote to all those sickly Nativity plays is provided by the National Theatre of Brent in their latest offering, 'The Messiah'. The two (sometimes three) person company, which brought us the full panoply of the Zulu wars, the Charge of the Light Brigade and the 1857 Indian Mutiny, this time is on the road to Bethlehem, including, for the first time ever on stage (!) the birth of Jesus; this is quite some feat as the man playing the fourteen year-old Virgin Mary complains.

Hilarity, farce and some quite beautiful arias from Handel's *Messiah* are mixed in with some sharp comparisons with other religions, who also happen to celebrate a mid-winter feast. After a stay at the Tricycle Theatre, Kilburn until 12 February, the show may go on tour. See it if you can. It would make an excellent social night out for your LPYS.

By Jim Chrystie

## 'SAM THE MAN'

This fast moving hilarious and thought-provoking production traces the history of the Labour Party from 1945 to the present day.

Edwyn Wilson of Leyton LPYS reviews *THE RETURN OF SAM THE MAN* by C.A.S.T. Theatre Group.

"Samuel Keir Hardie Muggins" represents the middle class reformists within the party. 'Sam' claims to be a champion of the working class but is portrayed as hypocritical throughout the piece. 'Freda Half Nelson' is the female equivalent.

The play takes us through the post-war arms build up, Suez and nationalism in a succession of quick fire sketches and songs.

This is followed by a brilliant sketch about Clause Four as successive Labour Governments introduce moderate reforms and a Welsh miner asks desperately, "but when are we going to have socialism?" Ireland has Wilson talking about nationalism and switching conveniently to capitalist internationalism when the Common Market rears its ugly head.

Maggie takes power, 'Freda Half Nelson' becomes Shirley Williams and forms the SDP.

The overall standard of the show is very good. CAST underline the reformist mistakes of past Labour governments, but instead of concluding on a positive note, they suggest that the future of the Labour Party spans from 'Healey to Hattersley'. Apart from this weak conclusion their high quality

material is presented enthusiastically and is well worth travelling to see.

### 'SAM THE MAN' TOUR

#### LANCASHIRE JANUARY

Monday 31st at 8pm at the Trades Hall, Fenton Street, LANCASTER

#### FEBRUARY

Tuesday 1st at 7.30pm at the Quarry Bank Community Centre, SKELMERSDALE

Wednesday 2nd at 7.30pm at the Trades Club, St. Peter's Street, BLACKBURN

Thursday 3rd at 8pm at the Trades Club, 730 Chadwick St, BLACKPOOL

Friday 4th at 8pm at the Rosemount Working Men's Club, Stacksteads, Bacup, ROSSENDALE

Saturday 5th at 7.30pm at the Students Union, Preston Poly Tech, Flyde Rd, PRESTON

#### LONDON

For two weeks, Tuesday 8th to Saturday 19th at the Half Moon Theatre, 213 Mile End Rd, E1 (Tel. 790-4000)

#### YORKSHIRE

Tuesday 22nd at 8pm at the Trades and Labour Club, SHEFFIELD

Wednesday 23rd at 8pm at Riley Smith Hall, LEEDS UNIVERSITY

Thursday 24th at 8pm at the Trades Hall, Saville Mount, LEEDS

Friday 25th at 8pm, SHIPLEY (venue to be announced)

Saturday 26th, HUDDERSFIELD (venue to be announced)

#### MARCH

#### WEST MIDLANDS

Thursday 3rd at 8pm at Lanchester Poly, Students Union, COVENTRY

Friday 4th March at Joiners Square Community Centre, STOKE

Saturday 5th at 8pm at Stritchley Studios, Stritchley, TELFORD

#### LINCOLNSHIRE

Friday 11th-Saturday 12th at Grantham Live Arts Sports Centre, GRANTHAM

Sunday 13th Charnwood Arts Centre, LOUGHBOROUGH

#### SUSSEX

Friday 18th at 8pm at the All Saints Centre, Friars Walk, LEWES

Further information from CAST, PO BOX, 294, London NW1. Tel. 01-487-3440.



A rail network shrunk from 11,000 miles to as little as 1,600 miles, smaller than that of desperately poor Bolivia or tiny Denmark. No trains north of Glasgow, or west of Cardiff, with towns the size of Bradford with no railway station.

This is one of the 'options' put forward in the majority section of the Serpell Report on the future of British Rail.

The fact that this is more 'moderate' than the minority report shows the short-sighted stupidity of large sections of the ruling class, prepared to desolate transport for immediate profit.

David Howell, Transport Minister, has not yet given his open approval to any of the options, but after all the Tories have an election to fight soon. The overall aim of the Report, to recommend huge 'economies', is in line with current Tory transport policies of public service cutback, together with privatisation of profitable services.

Even the less extreme options call for reduced subsidies. All the proposals cast a vulture-like eye at the unprofitable provincial services outside London.

On the main commuter lines, they aim to economise by putting up fares by 40% on season tickets, leading either to inflationary increases in costs for workers or building up the businesses of the growing band of private coach operators on the more profitable services.

The Report questions the cost of maintenance of rolling stock and track equipment, and even asks whether money could be saved by lowering safety standards which are "too high"!

### The railways have been starved of investment

A glance at the facts dispels some of the myths Serpell encourages. The high maintenance costs are largely due to the age of some rolling stock and locomotives, due to years of low investment.

Track maintenance is at a new post war low level with 775 miles in arrears on maintenance. The number of rail speed limits is at an all-time high with a big increase in journey time from London to Birmingham due to poor repair. There is even one line closed (between March and

By Roger Shriver

Spalding) due to lack of renewal. *France spends more on its repair and new track than Britain spends on railways as a whole!*

The Serpell serpents use the sins of the past to justify the sins of the future. Chronic neglect has led to increasing chaos on the railways. While investment in Britain has been practically nil over the last few years, even countries such as Nigeria have invested £495.6 million, or Italy with £167.4 million.

Far from recommending an improved investment plan, the report then rejects even BR's timid proposals for a "high investment railway" and recommend sticking to cost cutting operation which save money by jettisoning workers.

### Road transport more costly

The Serpells of the world say road transport is more efficient. But is it? The increased road building and maintenance costs of Britain's crumbling motorways alone would cost millions.

The real costs of relying on road transport are hidden. BR have to pay for their own repairs after the inevitable wear and tear. Lorry firms don't have to pay for motorway repairs, but costs have to be met nevertheless, if the roads are not to become mere death traps.

Road transport cannot be as productive as modern rail for freight, therefore industry's costs in reality would be larger. Add to this reliance on one fuel, petrol, the increased cost in hospital treatment for road accidents, increased pollution and lead poisoning. Serpell just looks at the immediate profits and calls on the Superman of free enterprise to rescue us, with presumably free enterprise gas masks, medial treatment, toll gates etc.

# British Rail-SERPPELL SERPENTS SHARPEN THE AXE

Apart from Sir David Serpell, the former member of the British Rail Board, the other three members of the Serpell committee were:

★ Leslie Bond, a director of the multinational Rank Organisation

★ P.J. Butler, senior partner in the consultants Peat Marwick Mitchell

★ Alfred Goldstein (the writer of the even more extreme minority report), senior partner in the consulting engineers, Travers Morgan.

It was obviously pure coincidence that the two firms who received £500,000 of taxpayers' money for reports were Peat Marwick Mitchell and Travers Morgan, whose main experience incidentally is, you guessed it, road building.

Also, their ability to discuss the future of the railways is questionable. When Richard Hope, the knowledgeable editor of the *Railway Gazette*, met the Travers Morgan group for preliminary discussions, he told *The Observer* (January 23); "I was not very impressed by them, it was like talking to schoolboys about puff-puffs."

This attitude is laughed at even by the capitalist class of countries like West Germany where they realise the need, even from a capitalist viewpoint, of a thriving public rail network.

The fact that Serpell, as an ex-British Rail Board member, can produce such

garbage shows the folly of taking a 'joint' approach between the unions and the Board. The rail unions must spearhead the fight against Serpell. Even though the government and BRB are sitting on their hands at present, the proposals represent a real threat for the future.

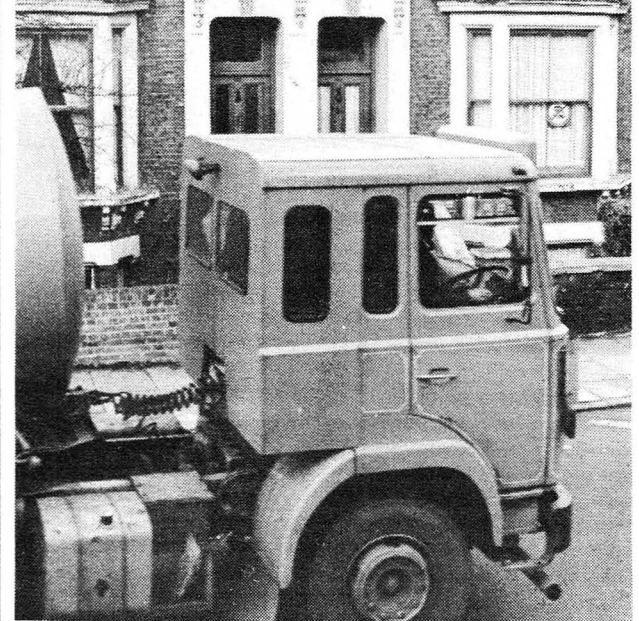
### What Serpell wants:



More queues. Less services are proposed with fare increases of up to 40%.



Cuts in maintenance—and therefore safety standards. The report says safety standards are 'too high'!



More juggernauts on Britain's already congested and crumbling roads.

## SIGNING ON IN BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham has one of the highest figures of unemployment in the country. Recently the area has received news of 1,150 redundancies in the car components industry. The West Midlands region is now estimated to be losing 1,000 jobs a week.

Now, another 1,250 jobs are to go in the electrical division. Unemployment has a devastating effect on the lives of workers and their families. Young people in

By Mark Spence  
(Yardley LPYS)

particular suffer from unemployment, with the majority of school leavers joining the dole queue.

Tony Daly, from Birmingham, has been unemployed now for two years: "I have applied for about 40 jobs and have had several interviews, but very few replies."

He is now on emergency payment of £22 a week. Out of that he has to pay rent, electricity, etc. But he doesn't blame the DHSS strikers, who were forced to

take strike action by the Tories.

"I owe £148 rent and £19 electricity at the moment. I am threatened with eviction. I don't have no social life except going to town at the weekend and just walking around."

Thousands of unemployed youth face the same situation. Because of Tory cuts there are virtually no recreational facilities, so they are forced to hang around the streets. Tony himself is constantly harassed by the police because he is a Skinhead.

For most unemployed youth, when they go on the dole, their lives drastically change: "When I was working I had to get up at

5.30am. When I began to sign on I went for a run, at 5.30, came back and had a wash, which meant that I had to spend the rest of the day doing nothing, so now I just stay in bed until 11."

Like thousands of working class youth Tony was forced to join the Junior Army, which he said could be compared with Borstal or the Birmingham prison, Winson Green. "Because you're under 18 they think they can treat you like dirt."

It is ironic that Tony's parents moved to Birmingham in the 60s, like many others, to escape the poverty and misery of unemployment in Ireland.

Now their dreams have

turned to nightmares. Out of the Daly's nine children only the youngest is working, and she is on a so-called 'Youth Opportunity Scheme', her second one of this year.

There is no future for youth under this Tory government. It's no wonder that there has been a rise in crime figures and the number of youth, some still at school, who sniff glue.

Many, rather than leaving school to join the dole queue, are staying on in the sixth form, or going to college.

Especially in a city like Birmingham, with thousands of students, Tory cuts have a major effect. Many

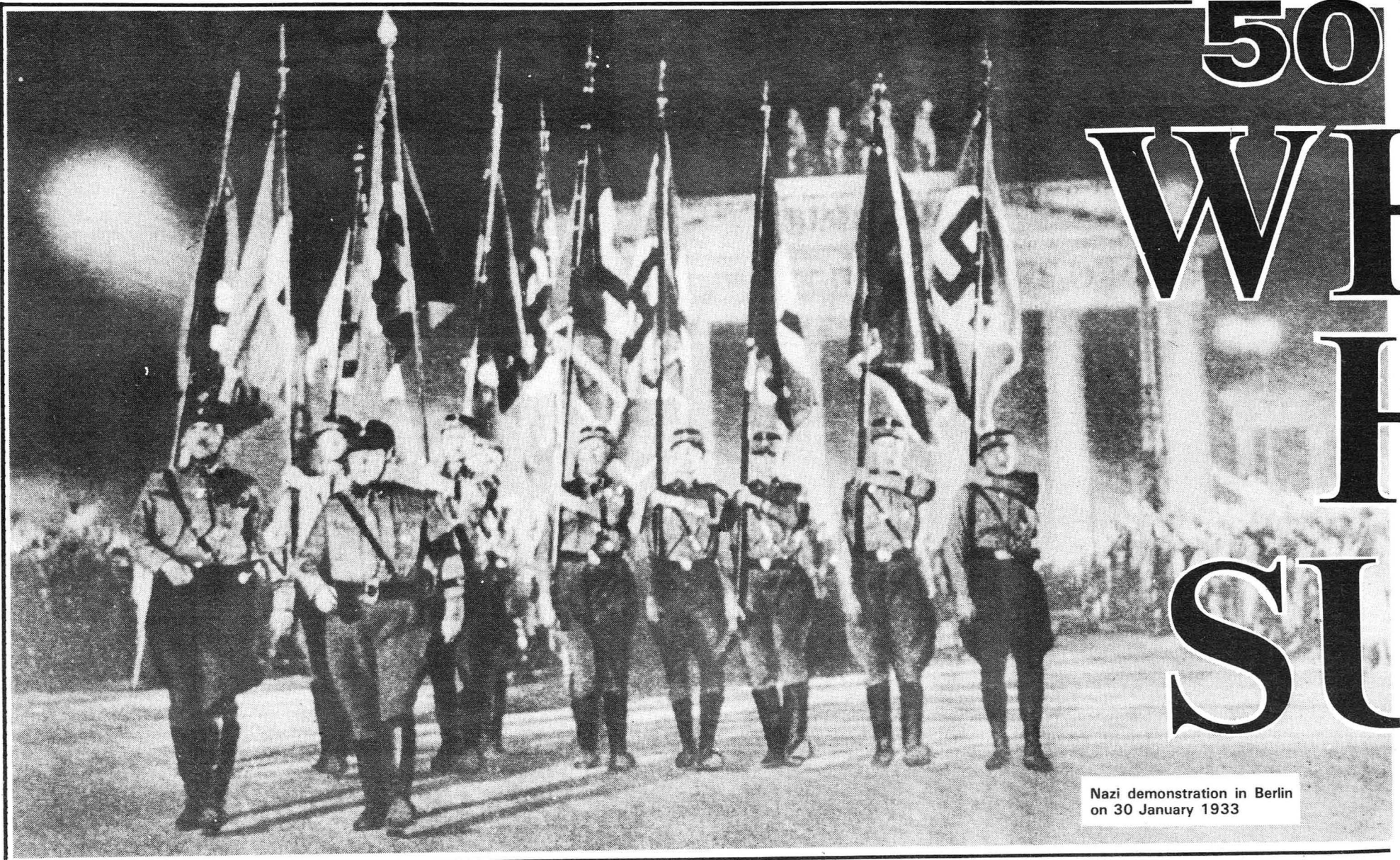
students don't get grants and have to pay for equipment and travel out of dole money. The Labour Party's policy of a £20 a week grant to all FE students will have tremendous support from students.

In Birmingham we are planning to visit a college a week, explaining our policies, and the £20 grant.

At one college, we distributed hundreds of leaflets and collected seven names of people interested in joining the LPYS.

The only way forward for youth now is to join the LPYS and fight for socialism. This is the only way out of this Tory nightmare.





Nazi demonstration in Berlin on 30 January 1933

# 50 W H S U

**T**he defeat of the German working class, on the coming to power of Hitler, set the world workers' movement back for many years.

In tracing the background to the events in Germany, we can see clearly the class forces at work, the role of the German Social Democrats and Stalinists which led to the terrible defeat of one of the most powerfully organised labour movements in the world.

In the wake of the Russian revolution, the German working class overthrew the Kaiser and attempted a revolutionary overthrow of capitalism in 1918.

But it was German Social Democrats who came to power though they had actually opposed the insurrection and the revolution. They had no intention of consummating the revolution. Their programme was based on the 'inevitability of gradualism'. Having raised themselves above the level of the workers, they had abandoned the Marxist programme on which their party had been based for decades.

Noske, Ebert, Scheidemann, the leaders of the Social Democracy, conspired with the German General Staff to destroy the revolution and restore 'law and order'. The Berlin workers were shot down in January 1919 and the revolutionary leaders Luxemburg and Liebknecht were murdered by reactionary officers on the direct instigation of the Social Democratic leaders. The Soviets established in the revolution were eliminated and Germany became a democratic capitalist state—the most democratic in the world, according to the boast of the Social Democrats.

At this stage the capitalists were compelled to lean on the labour and trade union leaders in order to save their system from complete collapse. Grinding their teeth, they were forced to make

tremendous concessions to the working class.

The workers won the eight-hour day, trade union recognition, unemployment insurance, the right to elect shop committees and universal suffrage for men and women. The agricultural labourers who lived under semi-feudal conditions in East Prussia under the Junkers, won the right to organise and similar rights to those of the industrial workers.

Recovering from the first shock, the big industrialists and landowners began to prepare for the offensive against the working class. Their attitude was exemplified by that of Krupp, the armaments magnate who arrogantly informed his workers: "We want only loyal workers who are grateful from the bottom of their hearts for the bread which we let them earn."

By February 1919, Stinnes, another of the iron and steel magnates of the Ruhr, was declaiming openly: "Big business and all those who rule over industry will some day recover their influence and power. They will be called back by disillusioned people, half dead with hunger, who will need bread and not phrases."

The former minister Dernberg, representative of big industry, declared openly: "Every eight-hour day is a nail in Germany's coffin."

Already in these early days the capitalists began to finance anti-labour leagues composed of ex-army officers, criminals, adventurers and other social riff-raff. The Nazis were at this time, one small anti-labour group among others.

They commenced a campaign of terror, which included assassinations of left-wing, and even capitalist democratic politicians. They commenced a campaign of breaking up working-class meetings. "The National Socialist movement will in the future prevent, if need be by force, all meetings or lectures that are likely to exercise a depressing in-

fluence..." declared Hitler on 4 January 1921.

As in Italy, so in Germany, the courts, the army authorities, the civil service, the heads of the police, gave every support to these reactionary groups. The state acted in complicity and in collusion with them. When the Munich Chief of Police, Pöhner, was warned of the existence of "veritable organisations of political assassination," he replied: "Yes, yes, but too few!"

But at this stage these fascist groups had no mass base. They comprised an insignificant social force, composed only of the dregs of society.

The middle class looked to the workers' organisations to show a way out. The capitalists used the fascist organisations to show a way out, as anti-labour auxiliaries, and a reserve for the future.

Dealing with the development of the Nazi movement, Hitler admitted: "Only one thing could have broken our movement—if our adversary had understood the principle

and from the first day had smashed, with the most extreme brutality, the nucleus of our movement."

In the revolutionary crisis of 1923, caused by the inflation and the occupation of the Ruhr by France, the middle class looked towards the Communist Party which had succeeded in gaining the support of the majority of the workers.

But the revolutionary situation was bungled by the then leaders of the German Communist Party, Brandler and Thalheimer, and by the wrong advice given by Stalin in Moscow to the leadership of the Communist Party.

Brandler admitted subsequently at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Communist International:

"There were signs of a rising revolutionary movement. We had temporarily the majority of the workers behind us, and in the situation believed that under favourable circumstances we could have proceeded immediately to the attack..."

After the possibility of seizing power had been lost,

the leadership of the International tried to put all the responsibility on the shoulders of the German Party. But the German leaders had looked for advice to the leadership of the Communist International in Moscow.

Stalin's advice was catastrophic. He wrote to Zinoviev and Bukharin at the time: "Should the Communists strive to seize the power without the Social Democrats, are they mature enough for that? That, in my opinion, is the question...Of course, the fascists are not asleep, but it is to our interest that they attack first: that will rally the whole working class round the Communists (Germany is not Bulgaria)."

"Besides, according to all information the fascists are weak in Germany. In my opinion the Germans must be curbed and not spurred on."

This, when they had the majority of the workers behind them! Thus tragically, the German revolution was ruined and the basis laid

for a subsequent increase in fascist influence.

Scared by the perspective of 'Bolshevism' in Germany, the America, British and French capitalists poured in loans to prop up German capitalism. These loans resulted in a capitalist boom on a world scale, which particularly affected Germany.

**T**he boom in Germany lasted from 1925 to 1929. The capitalists of Germany, coining enormous profits out of the rationalisation of German industry, did not need the fascists and the support for the Nazis declined. They received only sufficient funds to keep them in existence as a reserve weapon and to prevent their disappearance from the scene altogether.

Then came the world slump of 1929-33. The workers' standard of living dropped. Unemployment rose to seven million and more. The middle class were ruined in the economic crisis, and they found their standards dropping lower than the levels of the working class.

The industrial workers had the protection of their union contracts and unemployment allowances within limits, and could thus resist the worst impositions of the combines and monopolies. But the middle class was helpless.

The industrialists were alarmed at the prospect of proletarian revolution. They now began to pour fabulous sums into the coffers of the Nazi Party. Krupp, Thyssen, Kirdoff, Borsig, the heads of the coal, steel, chemical and other empires in Germany supplied Hitler lavishly with the means of propaganda.

The final decision to hand power over to Hitler was taken at the home of the Cologne banker, Schroder (who according to the Nazi racial laws was a Jew!). Enormous subsidies such as no other political party in Germany had ever received, were rained upon the Nazis

The March 5 election, four weeks after Hitler was made Chancellor, was held in an atmosphere of unbridled intimidation and terror.





# Years ago..... WHY DID HITLER SUCCEED?

50 years ago this week, on January 30th 1933, Hitler was made Chancellor of Germany, and immediately the Nazis began the destruction of all the trade unions, parties and organisations of the working class, and any other opposition. Hitler's victory was a devastating defeat for the strongest and best organised working class in the whole world.

But his victory had nothing to do with Hitler's "charisma" or "tactical skill", as later historians were to claim. The mass of the working class opposed Hitler and were always prepared to fight. As is shown by this article—extracted from TED GRANT's pamphlet *The Menace of Fascism, what it is and how to fight it*—the real reason for the success of Hitler lay in the failures of the leaderships of the workers' organisations, especially the German Communist Party.



by the capitalists. They considered the time had come to destroy the organisations and rights of the working class.

Explaining what the subsidies meant, Hitler pointed out that "Without automobiles, airplanes and loud speakers, we could not have conquered Germany. These three technical means enabled National Socialism to carry out an amazing campaign..."

In the General Election of May 1924, the Nazis received 1,920,000 votes with 33 Deputies. But in December of the same year, after the Dawes Plan had restored some stability to the German economy, they received 840,000 and the decline of the Nazis went even further. In the elections for the German President in 1925, General Ludendorff, the candidate of the Nazis, received only 720,000 votes, losing 120,000 votes and two seats.

Then came the world slump and the frightful crisis of German capitalism. Within two years, at the General Election of 14 September 1930, the Nazi vote rose to 6,000,000.

The fascists had drawn to their banner large sections of the despairing middle class. The failure of the Socialists in 1918 and the Communists in 1923 had driven a formidable proportion of the middle class from neutrality or even support of the workers to the side of the counter-revolution with its denunciation of 'Marxism' i.e. socialism.

Immediately the election results were known, Trotsky and the Left Opposition—who considered themselves part of the Communist International although they had been expelled—issued an

appeal to the German Communist Party to immediately organise a united front with the Social Democrats to prevent the coming to power of Hitler. Only thus could they hope to protect the rights of the working class from the threat of the Nazis.

The Trotskyists warned of the tragic consequences which the coming to power of the Nazis would mean,

The British Trotskyists were expelled from the Communist Party in 1932 for advocating the united front between Social Democrats and Communists in Germany as well as in Britain.

"It is significant," wrote the British Stalinists in the *Daily Worker* of 26 May 1932, "that Trotsky has come out in defence of a united front between the

sky gives always one reply: 'The German CP must make a bloc with the Social Democracy...' In framing this block, Trotsky sees the only way for completely saving the German working class against fascism. Either the CP will make a bloc with the Social Democracy or the German working class is lost for 10 to 20 years:

"This is the theory of a

exclusive, but on the contrary are mutually complementary. They are not antipodes but twins. Fascism is a shapeless bloc of these two organisations. Without this bloc the bourgeoisie could not remain at the helm."

The Stalinists even went to the extent of inciting Communist workers to beat up Socialist workers, break up their meetings, etc. Thaelmann openly put forward the slogan: "Chase the social fascists from their jobs in the plants and the trade unions."

Following on this line, the organ of the Young Communists, *The Young Guard*, propounded the slogan: "Chase the social fascists from the plants, the employment exchanges and the apprentice schools." Even the organ of Young Pioneers, catering for the children of the communists, the *Drum*, called upon communists' children to "Strike the little Zoergiebls in the schools and playgrounds." (Zoergiebl was the Social Democratic chief of police).

This line was not confined to Germany. The tiny Communist Party of Britain advocated the break up of Labour Party meetings. Pollitt wrote in the *Daily Worker* on 29 January 1930:

"There should not be a Labour meeting held anywhere, but what the revolutionary workers in that district attend such meetings and fight against the speakers, whoever they are, so-called 'left', 'right', or 'centre'.

"They should never be allowed to address meetings. This will bring us into conflict with the authorities but this must be done. The fight can no longer be conducted in a passive manner."

The leaders of the Com-

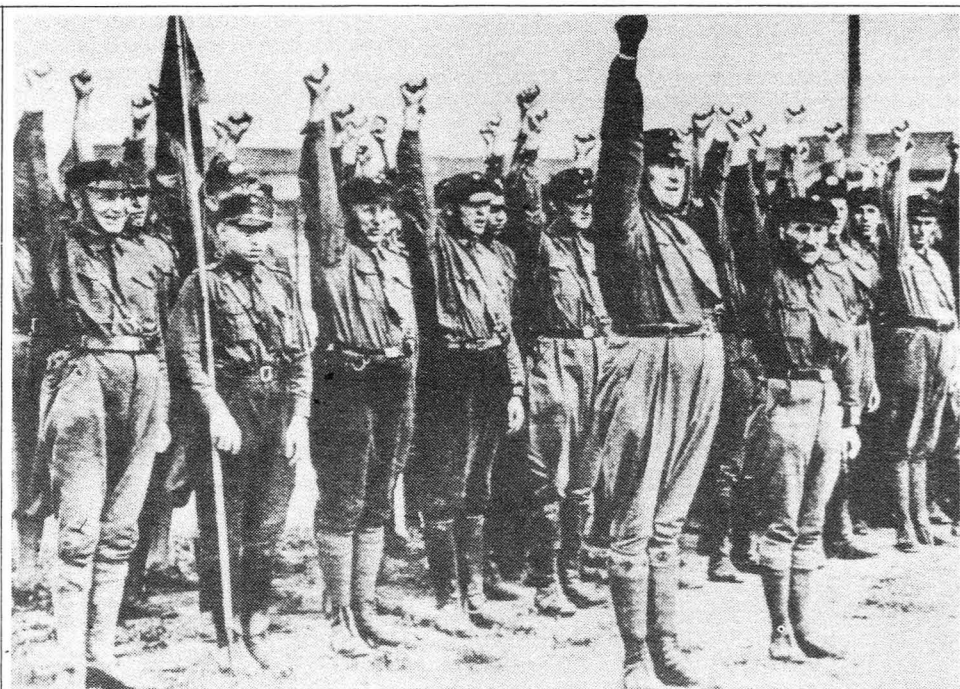
munist International went to the extent of advocating that the German CP unite with the Fascists against the Social Democrats. The Social Democratic Party was in power in Prussia which consisted of two-thirds and the most important part of Germany.

There was a traditional saying in Germany: "He who has Prussia has the Reich." The Nazis organised a plebiscite on 9 August 1931, in an endeavour to throw the Social Democratic government out of office.

Had they succeeded in this, they would have come to power in 1931 instead of 1933. The German CP leadership decided to oppose the referendum and support the Social Democrats. But the leadership of the Comintern, under the direct influence of Stalin, demanded that the CP participate in this referendum and called it a "Red Referendum".

At the Executive Committee of the Communist International, Piatnitzky even boasted: "You know, for example, that the leadership of the Party opposed taking part in the referendum on the dissolution of the Prussian Landtag (State Parliament). A number of Party newspapers published leading articles opposing participation in that referendum.

"But when the Central Committee of the Party jointly with the Comintern arrived at the conclusion that it was necessary to take an active part in the referendum, the German comrades in the course of a few days



The workers' defence organisation, the Reichsbanner, had hundreds of thousands of members and was armed. Yet the leaders of the labour movement refused to let the Reichsbanner be used against the Nazis.

not only to the German, but to the whole international working class movement. They warned that it would make war against the Soviet Union inevitable.

But the Stalinists took no heed. Their policy in Germany was that fascism or 'social fascism' was already in power; that the main danger to the working class was Social Democracy, who were also fascists—"social fascists".

Communist and Social Democratic Parties against fascism. No more disruptive and counter-revolutionary class lead could possible have been given at a time like the present."

Ernst Thaelmann, in his closing speech at the 13th Plenum of Communist International in September 1932 said:

"In his pamphlet on the question, How Will National Socialism be Defeated? Trot-

completely ruined fascist and counter-revolutionary. This theory is the worst theory, the most dangerous theory and the most criminal that Trotsky has constructed in the last years of his counter-revolutionary propaganda."

The fountainhead of this policy of the German CP, Stalin, gave the line to the German Party. "These two organisations (Social Democracy and National Socialism) are not mutually

Continued on  
 next page



# HITLER

From page nine

roused the whole Party. Not a single party, except the CPSU, could do that..."

It was a mad adventure of this character which disoriented the workers and facilitated the success of the Nazis. The refusal of the leaders of the mass workers' organisations to carry out a revolutionary policy against the fascists, resulted in this mighty working class movement, with a Marxist tradition of 75 years, being smashed and rendered impotent before the Nazi thugs.

**I**t is important to bear in mind that the Nazis won only a small percentage of the German workers: the overwhelming majority were opposed to them. In 1931 the Nazis obtained only 5% of the votes for the shop committees in the factories. This was after a terrific campaign to penetrate the working class.

In March 1933, after the fascists were placed in power, despite the fact that the terror had already begun, they got only 3% of the votes in the elections for the shop committees! Despite the false policies of the leaderships, which led to a certain demoralisation within the ranks of the workers and helped the fascists' attempt to penetrate their ranks, the overwhelming majority of the workers remained faithful to the ideas of socialism and communism.

The workers were anxious and willing to fight the Nazis to prevent them coming to power. Millions were armed and trained in the Socialist and Communist Defence organisations. This was a legacy of the German revolutions.

The organised working class constituted the mightiest power in Germany...had they only had the necessary policy to fight for the defence of their organisations and pass to the counter-offensive to take power. But the leaders betrayed the workers in Germany as they did in Italy.

As the danger of a Hitler coup grew closer, these misleaders declared that the Nazis were on the decline. The Socialist leaders declared, as if plagiarising their Italian counterparts: "Courage under unpopularity."

They urged the necessity to support the decree laws of the Brüning government, and to support President Hindenburg as against the danger from Hitler. They scoffed at the ideas that a highly civilised country like Germany could fall under the domination of fascist barbarism. Fascism could come to power in a backward country like Italy, but not Germany, with its highly industrialised economy!

At first, they scoffed at the crudities and insane ideas put forward by the Nazis. They urged the workers to laugh at them and disregard their provocations. It only gives them publicity, they said. It can't happen here.

Constantly they underestimated the danger from the fascists and appealed to the very same state machine which was protecting and

shielding the fascists.

But as the fascist menace loomed nearer, sections of the Socialist workers and the trade unions began to form defence groups in the factories and among the unemployed. But the German TUC, the Labour Federation, refused to support this: "...the situation (was) not sufficiently grave to justify the workers preparing for a struggle to defend their rights."

On the eve of the Nazis' accession to power, Shiffirin, one of the leaders of the Social Democrats, wrote: "We no longer perceive anything but the odour of a rotting corpse. Fascism is definitely dead; it will never rise again."

The line of the leaders of the CP was, if anything, even worse. They declared that fascism was already in power in Germany and that the coming to power of Hitler would not make any difference.

In the Reichstag, Remmele, one of their leaders, declared, on 14 October 1931: "Herr Brüning has put it very plainly once they (the fascists) are in power, then the united front of the proletariat will be established and it will make a clean sweep of everything." (Violent applause from the communists.) "We are not afraid of the fascist gentlemen. They will shoot

# 50 years ago... WHY DID HITLER SUCCEED?



elections the central organ of the German CP, *Rote Fahne*, had declared: "September 14 was the culminating point of the National Socialist movement in Germany. It will be followed only by weakening and

signs of the disintegration of the Nazi movement appeared, President Hindenburg, the army leaders, the bureaucracy and the great industrialists and landowners handed power over to Hitler.

Even at the thirteenth hour, the Socialist and Stalinist leaders gave no fighting lead. On 7 February 1933, Kunstler, head of the Berlin Federation of the Social Democratic Party, gave this instruction to the labour workers:

"Above all do not let yourselves be provoked. The life and health of the Berlin workers are too dear to be jeopardised lightly; they must be preserved for the day of struggle."

This, when Hitler had already come to power in January 1933.

The Communist Party leaders cried: "Let the workers beware of giving the government any pretext for new measures against the Communist Party!" (Wilhelm Pieck, 26 February 1933).

The leaders of these parties did nothing even after Hitler came to power. And the German workers wanted to fight. On 5 March, the night of the elections, the heads of the Reichsbanner, the military organisation of the Social Democracy, asked for the signal for insurrection.

They received the reply from the leaders of the

Social Democratic Party: "Be calm! Above all no bloodshed." The mighty German labour movement was surrendered to Hitler without a shot being fired.

The struggle for a united front by the Communist Party; the formation of such a united front of struggle in 1930, would have transformed the whole future course of events. The middle class would have followed the lead of the workers' organisations.

Had the fascists been confronted with the organised might of the workers, they would have been smashed. Cravenly capitulating to the "authorities", the leadership allowed Hitler to score a very cheap victory.

The reformists and Stalinists are the same in all countries. In later years the responsibility was shouldered onto the German workers, but at the Brighton Congress of the TUC the Chairman, Citrine, defended the trade union leaders in Germany for their failure to call a general strike in 1933. He said:

"Shortly after the elections the campaign of terror developed. The socialist movement and the trade union movement were virtually suppressed on 2 May. There has been a great deal of concern about the apparent absence of resistance to the advent of the Nazi dictatorship.

German trade union leaders and German Socialist leaders were openly attacked and criticised on platforms because of the absence of effective resistance. All he could say was that he knew from first hand knowledge that very adequate means of resistance were prepared...

"All he could say was that a general strike was definitely planned and projected, but the German leaders had to give consideration to the fact that a general strike, after the atmosphere created by the Reichstag fire, and with six and a quarter million people unemployed at the least, was an act fraught with the gravest consequences, consequences which might be described as nothing less than civil war.

"He hoped they would never be put into a similar position in this country. He hoped they would never have to face that position." (*The Menace of Dictatorship*, page 8).



The SPD paper *Vorwärts* announces the appointment of Hitler. But still no appeals to SPD supporters to oppose the Nazis.

their bolt quicker than any other government."

In 1932, Thaelmann, in a speech to the Central Committee, condemned "the opportunistic over-estimation of Hitler fascism." As early as the first victory of the Hitler movement at the polls in the 14 September 1930

decline."

Within three years, the Nazis had succeeded in winning the bulk of the middle class and obtaining over 13 million votes.

Just at the time when the Nazis received their first check at the polls and lost two million votes, and the

February 1933. the Nazis begin to round up Communist and Socialist officials.



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# STRIKE WAVE IN ITALY

The letter printed below from an Italian socialist gives an idea of the growing anger among the Italian working class. Two weeks of demonstrations throughout Italy reached their peak in the one day general strike on 18 January.

Over 10 million were estimated to have taken part in the strike called by the major trade union federations, the Communist Party-influenced CGIL, the Socialist Party union CISL and Christian Democrat UIL. A massive demonstration of half a million marched through Milan totally paralysing factories like Pirelli. They were protesting at employers' threats to ditch the wage indexation scheme and also at cuts in social security and health spending.

The bosses' federation, Confindustria, threatened to withhold new contracts unless unions agree to a major reduction in the 'scala mobile', the index-linking scheme giving automatic rises in line with the inflation rate which at present is running at 16% officially. The

## Workers mobilise to defend wages

new government of Fanfani brought forward the deadline for acceptance from 31 January to 20 January when they threatened to introduce their own scheme which would knock about 50% off the value of the rises.

The government have been trying to gain acceptance from union leaders by promising that if the new proposals go through they will give tax concessions and reduce the increase they plan in prescription charges. But as workers have been in action for weeks against tax increases and £5,000 cuts in pensions and health service spending, this is hardly seen as an improvement in workers' living standards!

The demonstrations in Turin brought Fiat workers out on strike for the first time since a bad defeat for workers there over two years ago. The Italian working

class are showing their collective strength once more.

### Letter from Italy

*"You must be following events in Italy. It has suddenly exploded. There are local strikes in different areas every day. On 18 January there is a strike of industrial workers on a national level.*

*"The union leaders are trying to control the situation, but they are playing with fire. The Socialist Party (PSI) leaders have stupidly set themselves against this movement. The Communist Party (PCI) leaders have been unwillingly forced to give support. The result is a growth in support for the PCI and some workers are returning to it.*

*"If elections were held now the PCI would almost certainly gain and the PSI would lose. Craxi has mis-*



Italian workers display their militancy.

*sed his chance. The workers' demonstrations have suddenly taken on new vigour. Their main slogans are 'For a general strike!' and 'Down with the Fanfani government!'*

*"It is becoming an openly political struggle. In the South especially, school students have joined in the demonstrations and even in Milan we have seen some. In Rome last week the police attacked the workers for the first time for some years.*

*"Another point is what is happening amongst the police. Two years ago there were elections among the police to elect their union representatives. Then the CGIL-CISL-UIL (the class unions) got a majority but with a very low turnout. Now the CGIL-CISL-UIL police union (CIULP) got 70% of the votes with a 90% turnout."*

From a Socialist in Italy

## EL SALVADOR



San Jose Refugee camp in San Salvador.

## 5,480 murdered in 1982

The loss of life in El Salvador continues unabated. Every six months, the US Congress has to 'certify' whether progress is being made in improving human rights there. The certificate is needed to allow the US Administration to continue supplying massive economic and military aid to the Conservative government of Alvaro Magana. But it is a formality used in an attempt to pacify those in America who are against U.S. involvement in El Salvador.

Since October 1979, 36,000 people not directly involved in the fighting have been murdered by the security forces and right-wing death squads, in a country

with a population of only 5 million. 3,000 people have disappeared and are presumed dead and several thousand more soldiers and guerrillas were killed in combat. Yet total aid this year for the country the size of Wales is estimated at £152 million. El Salvador is now the USA's third largest recipient of aid.

According to the *Financial Times* 21.1.83 "Washington is determined to hold the line against what it views as a Communist threat in its backyard even if it means effectively sanctioning gross human rights abuses in the name of anti-Communism."

What American capitalism accuses communism of, they are more than guilty of

themselves. In the name of 'freedom' they trample over human rights in El Salvador and elsewhere, propping up the most reactionary military dictatorships, to protect their own privileged position. "Only 5,840 people were murdered in 1982," according to the El Salvador Human Rights Commission, compared to almost 14,000 in 1981. But the Vicar General of San Salvador has stressed that the figures have to be treated with caution. So many people have now been killed that there are less candidates. "But not one single member of the security forces, not one, has been sentenced by a court and the figure only includes the area of San Salvador, since it's no

longer possible to cover the whole country."

A recent US delegation to El Salvador was told that there was sufficient evidence to bring to trial two soldiers for allegedly shooting a U.S. tourist in the back at point blank range, but that no case had been presented by the military authorities. A stupefied member of the delegation asked, "Do you mean to say that we are arming an army which is killing innocent people and we are powerless to do anything?" American capitalism will continue to support such reactionary regimes until the workers in America and elsewhere rise up and prevent it from doing so.

## PORTUGAL

PORTUGAL is facing one of the gravest economic crises in its history. The country had been limping along without a government and President Eanes gave Portugal's crumbling democratic Alliance until January 15 to form a government.

Not surprisingly, no-one was prepared to take over the crucial finance ministry. The situation has been made more serious because parliament has not processed the 1983 budget yet and the budget of a caretaker government cannot be voted through parliament. Ministries had to scrape by on piecemeal funds, in a country of 400,000 state employees and a weighty industrial sector dependent on a number of ministries for financing and planning.

Portugal ended 1982 with a balance of payments deficit on £1.8 billion—the worst in its history. In December the outgoing government made a discreet approach to the International Monetary Fund. But already the foreign debt, excluding very short term borrowing, was about \$12 billion for 1982—equivalent to more than 50% of gross domestic product. If short term borrowing of less than six months was included it would bring the debt up to \$15 billion.

A stop gap administration has now been formed—the 15th since 1974. It is unlikely to last long and there may be a snap General Election later in the year.

## Greek workers pay for bosses' crisis

The recent devaluation of the Drachma marks a further abandonment by Greece's PASOK government of their election promises.

The PASOK government was elected on a popular left-wing programme of a sliding scale of wages, reduction of the working week, increased public expenditure, and 'socialisation' (workers participation) in industry.

Yet these policies have been dropped by PASOK leader Papandreou and the government is dancing instead to the tune called by the capitalists. As *Militant* explained in the January 14 issue, in order to 'buy time' from the capitalists, Papandreou has implemented an incomes policy.

Now, to placate the capitalists further he has announced a wages freeze, and in an attempt to stimulate investment and the export trade, the Drachma has been devalued by 15.5%, and negotiations are taking place with the EEC for Greece to be allowed to erect import controls.

Money is also being switched from public services to handouts to entice private investment. As one government official said, although it is denied by the PASOK leadership, "Taken together, all the recent measures have all the hall-marks of an IMF prescription." (*Guardian*, 11 January).

Papandreou has learnt nothing from disastrous experiences of the 1974-79 British Labour government. The government is making workers pay for the bosses' crisis.

It is the Greek capitalists who have starved the country of investment, which has dropped back to the level of 1973. \$2 billion is still being directed abroad every year, and \$1½ billion is still being lost annually in tax evasion. Papandreou is continuing his plea that the measures are just to ensure "a breathing space"—first he will solve Greece's crushing capitalist crisis and then go on to implement the PASOK programme!

But the Greek workers are tiring of waiting for 'tomorrow'. However, workers disillusionment with the PASOK leadership will only be temporary. The ranks of the PASOK membership transform the leadership, linking the election programme with the taking over of the commanding heights of the Greek economy, thus breaking the rule of capital.

By Bob Wade

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# Letters

IEWS? COMMENTS? EXPERIENCES?  
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## Tory Priorities!

Dear Comrades

The ruling class cannot hide the crazy values of capitalism. Constantly we are faced with grotesque examples.

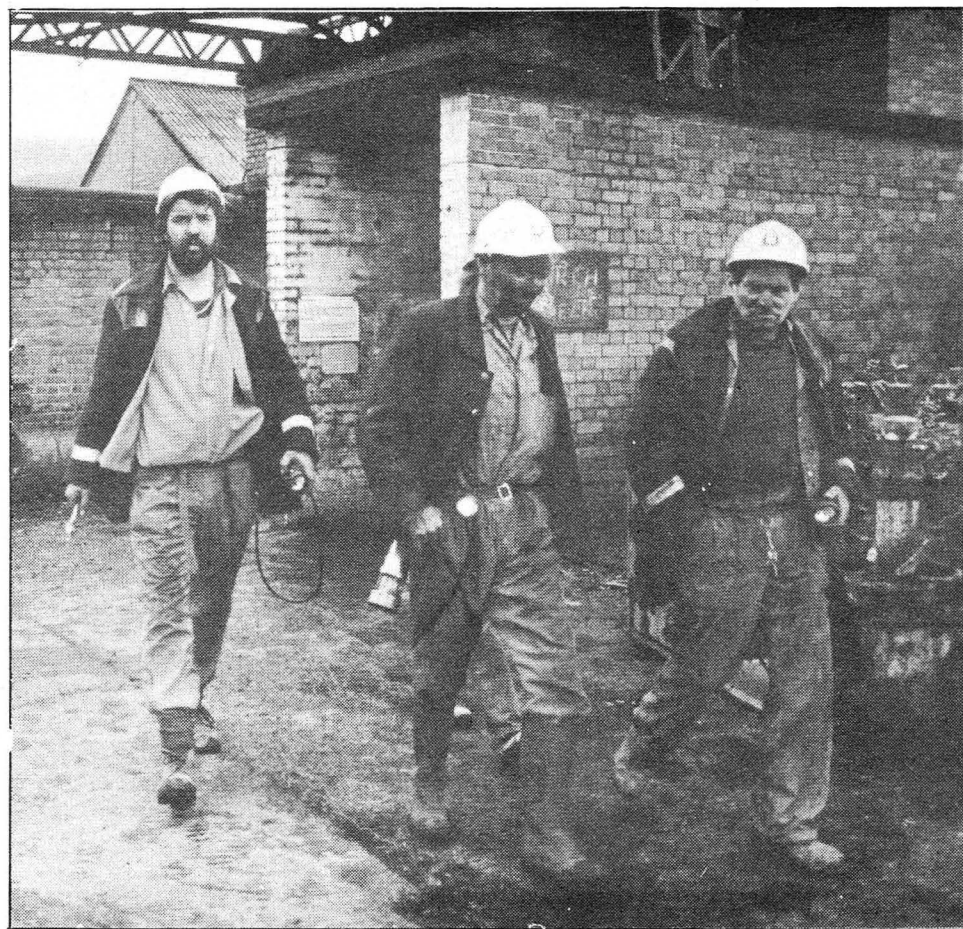
Watching a TV programme on the gaming machine industry in Wales we learned that South Wales is one of the leading areas in the world for the manufacture of these machines, even exporting them to Las Vegas.

More use of microtechnology, it seems, is made in this industry than in any other in the area. Ironically the first half of the programme was devoted to the coal industry which is being starved of investment threatening the whole future of the South Wales coalfield. What a ridiculous sense of priorities!

This is what happens when production is based on pro-

fit. A planned economy would mean that modern technology could be used in vital industries and services, for the benefit of all in reduced working hours, increased living standards—greater educational facilities would soon make gaming machines obsolete in any case.

Dave & Carol Warren  
Swansea LPYS



The South Wales coalfield—starved of investment while the gaming industry booms

### Why all these questions?

Dear Comrades

Having recently been made redundant, for the first time I went down to the local dole office, not knowing quite what to expect.

Well, the first interview was quite harmless and I was given my signing-on card without any trouble. But just as I was about to leave, thinking all was well, the girl behind the desk said, "Oh yes, there's one more form to fill in, but do it in your own time."

When I got home and looked at the form I could hardly believe it. It was the new BI or Supplementary Benefit Claim Form, which is divided into 12 sections, and has a total of 75 different questions.

At the beginning it says, "English may not be your first language." So why present such a lot of questions? Filling the form in is like sitting an exam, especially if your English is a bit shaky. Perhaps it's to fit in with the 'colour check', they want to carry out on claimants.

The form continues with questions like 'Why did you leave your job?'. And it pries into your home life by asking questions about the people you live with. In section 5, 'for married couples', the man has to answer questions for the woman—so much for sexual equality!

On the section about savings, not content with asking whether you've got more than £2,000 saved up and leaving it at that, they want to know exactly how much is in your bank account, cash savings and so on.

Why is this form so detailed? Is it to meet people's needs more efficiently? Is it to speed up the operation and get people's money to them on time? More likely it's intended to intimidate and confuse people, especially immigrants, and discourage them from claiming benefit.

But I'm sure the DHSS are very efficient at storing every detail on their multi-million pound computer centre complex in Newcastle. Remember, 1984 is just around the corner.

Yours fraternally  
Alan Baker  
Newham NE LPYS

## Not the end of the Blackstuff

Dear Comrades

*Boys from the Blackstuff* (reviewed 14 January) was brilliant but ultimately frustrating because of the pessimism which ran right through it, not just the last

episode.

Alan Bleasdale portrays the horrors of Britain under the Tories as it probably has never been shown before in 'dramatic' form, but apparently sees no way out that doesn't end in either

### Marxism and religion

Dear Comrades

Brian Foster's letter on Marxism and religion raises two interesting points. One is the use of Marxism as an instrument for transforming society and its conflict with religious beliefs. The second point concerns the attitude to freedom of religious expression by a society which would be in his words, democratic Marxist.

On the first point, Marxism is the only scientific form of socialism—it analyses society and its classes, and from that analysis presents the guidelines whereby that transformation of society can be achieved. Being based on an analysis rooted in science it cannot bring God or any particular saint into the equation any more than a physicist could do so in his science.

An astronomer may believe in the Holy Ghost in his private life but he cannot introduce it into his theoretical work. As Descartes replied to the King of France, when asked where the Almighty figures in his theorems: 'I have no need

for that hypothesis.'

In relation to religious beliefs in a socialist society, I think Brian would agree that in the countries he mentions: E. Europe, USSR, and Cuba, monstrous distortions of socialism, not only is religion barely tolerated...Marxism is ruthlessly suppressed. The bureaucracies of those countries fear any form of opposition. That is why religious thought is policed: like any train of thought not in line with the ruling caste—most of all socialist thought!

A socialist society would have nothing to fear from religious beliefs and would see no need to hound them. In a socialist society all men's creative instincts, desires and talents would flourish, consequently his desire for a paradise in the next would diminish in proportion to this rapid increase in standard of living, improvement of well-being and fuller realisation of self in this world.

In the meantime we must take society beyond the cramping and stifling limitations of capitalism. This we cannot do without the indispensable tool of Marxism.

Yours fraternally  
Reg Lewis  
Garston CLP  
Liverpool

### Sanctity of the family — the Tory reality

Dear Comrades

After reading an article in the 'Guardian' (10 January) I feel really angry. The article centres on strippers in the North East where

unemployment is high.

With their husbands out of work and little prospect of finding a job with decent pay, working class women are forced to work as strippers in social clubs and pubs. Most of them are married with kids, or single parents, and don't want their parents and friends to know how they earn their living. What

madness or death.

Or perhaps he does? Why else show George Malone's house packed with people waiting to speak to a dying man who hardly has the breath to put two words together? A dying Socialist though, who must always have given them a vision of what life could be like if only we took our destinies into our own hands.

Alan Bleasdale has said that the series is complete. It

isn't! It left the players trudging away separately—to what? Does Bleasdale really think that the Tories are going to go on for ever? Someone had better sell him a copy of *Militant*.

Millions of us have never stopped fighting back and never will. The boys had better turn round, face us and join us. The best episode is waiting to be written.

Yours fraternally  
Myrna Shaw

### Dole queue condemns children

Dear Sir

Some of the consequences of unemployment are obvious results of not having enough money—for example fuel disconnections, rent arrears, not being able to afford holidays and so on.

Other less obvious consequences are just as devastating. A report has just been completed by the Director of Social Work for Strathclyde Region, the largest authority in Britain, which shows that the recent growth in unemployment has resulted in a 30% increase in families seeking social work help.

Of children coming into care 70% came from families with unemployed parents and in almost two thirds of all child abuse cases the father is out of work. The Chairman of Strathclyde's social work committee, Albert Long, sums it up by saying; "Record numbers of children are coming into care and are being abused as a direct result of unemployment. I am very pessimistic about the future."

Many people would echo Councillor Long's words about being pessimistic when they see so many leaders of the Labour Party and the unions missing opportunities to expose the Tories and using up their energies attacking the left in general and *Militant* in particular.

If there is to be a General Election this year then it is more important than ever that the slogan within the movement becomes 'Unity to defeat the Tories'. Any other course of action will let the Tories off the hook and raise the possibility of another five years of Thatcher. And that would condemn more and more families to poverty and more and more children to a life in care.

Yours fraternally  
Jim Cameron  
Secretary, Social Work Dept. Shop Stewards Committee, Strathclyde personal capacity

### Old people neglected

Dear Editor

I have just watched 'Where's the Key?' (BBC 13/1/83), a play based on the true story of a woman left to cope single handed with her senile hyperactive mother. The play showed how little the NHS and Social Services have to offer the elderly and their relatives.

Elderly people spend their later years with the constant worry 'Where can I go when I can no longer cope? I don't want to be a burden on my family.' The only answer is an NHS and Social Services which can provide a wide

### 'Militant' wrong on legal action?

Dear Comrades

At the General Management Committee of Rochdale Constituency Labour Party held on January 13th, 1983, the following resolution was passed. "This GMC deplors attempts by any groups or Labour Party members who resort to legal action to settle differences within the

range of care from home helps, warden controlled housing and day centres, to hospital care readily available for the physically and mentally ill.

In that play, the daughter who was finding it impossible to cope was offered a place for her mother on a long hospital waiting list for a temporary period and antidepressants for herself.

Children owe it to their parents to join the fight against the Tories who are cutting expenditure, and to demand that a future Labour Government restores the cuts and establishes a well financed and equipped NHS and Social Services.

Yours fraternally  
Anne Mooney  
Rochdale

Party.

"We reaffirm that Annual Conference is the Labour Party's supreme court and we register our utmost disapproval of the *Militant* editorial board's threat to drag the Labour Party through the capitalist courts."

I hope you will be able to print this resolution in your paper.

Yours fraternally  
Barry Haslam  
Secretary  
Rochdale CLP

kind of a society is it that forces women to do that?

Furthermore, it is a direct result of Thatcher's policies that leaves them little choice. So much for the hypocrisy of Tory philosophy on the sanctity of the family! It not only forces working class women to sell their bodies, but it also creates a climate where unemployed workers,

with nothing to do, go to such places.

Only under socialism will sexism and the exploitation of women be stopped, and both men and women achieve true equality within society and within their personal relationships.

Yours fraternally  
Ellie Stein  
Tower Hamlets NUPE



# Great Rail Carve-up

By Martin Elvin

**“Great Rail Carve Up!—The Workers’ Response” is the title of a pamphlet launched late last year by the Horwich Loco Works Joint Action Committee in anticipation of the decimation of the rail industry advocated by the Serpell Report. It is therefore very timely.**

**Horwich is one of the workshops threatened with closure when British Rail announced a major onslaught on BREL (British Rail Engineering Ltd) last April.**

The pamphlet, plus leaflets and press statements have been sent to other works, union journals, Labour councils and MPs. The campaign is directed towards working people, hoping to “convince railway trade unionists and the labour movement of the need for further action.”

It indicates the unity of all the unions within the works; an example which must be followed by every main works and by the rail union leaders too.

The Horwich workers’ decision has been proven all too tragically correct with a recent management announcement that they want 212 voluntary redundancies added to those already agreed. “Since the decision to rescind the closure of Horwich Works, the unions agreed to management demands of 6,000 voluntary redundancies nationally”. This, Denis Green (works convenor) points out is equal in terms of job losses to the partial closure of two works and the total closure of one. 494 were agreed for Horwich, of which approximately 270 have taken place.

Denis Green and the others are critical of the Railway Shops National Council for accepting any job losses. “The battleground after the shelving of the closures should then have been investment not voluntary redundancies”.

## ‘Greedy workers’?

The pamphlet outlines the devastating effect closure would have upon the local community. About 1,661 would go at the works, under BREL’s original proposals. As Denis Green put it, “Horwich exists as a railway town or as a monument to this government.”

In a section entitled *Greedy Workers?* it states, “Some people in the government have held British Rail workers responsible for ‘bad industrial relations’ resulting in ‘falling traffic orders’. This is a tissue of lies. Railworkers living standards have plummeted downwards over the last few years. In 1976 the train drivers were sixth in the league table for average manual earnings. By 1982 the ASLEF members have slipped to 19th position. The same story holds true for NUR workers.”

Let the facts and the *Financial Times* speak for themselves: ‘production lost through industrial troubles’ fell from, ‘486,757 man hours lost in 1978 to 25,328 man hours in 1979 alone’.

## Strangling the railways to death

Not only are these lies answered in the pamphlet, but the real problems, of chronic lack of investment clearly demonstrated. They explain in a section entitled *Strangling the Railways to Death*, “Capital investment in world railways (mostly the USA and Western Europe) exceeded £14.6 billion in 1980,—up by 22% compared with 1979. Yet the UK was the odd one out,—investment went down”. In the same year \$2½ billion was spent on new track by West Germany, France and Italy to name but 3 countries, while in Britain virtually nothing was spent on track renewal.

They show that while West Germany invested £1,219 m in their railways in 1980, Britain invested a mere £316 m—less than South Africa, Nigeria, Italy, India or even Spain.

“This diabolical starvation of funds has led to freight traffic moving by rail to collapse to an all-time low. The percentage share of freight carried by train has declined from 42% in 1953 to 12.9% in 1979. This was

by far the greatest fall in the whole continent. The total for all European railway freight rose from 433 billion kilometer tonnes in 1965 to 535 billion kilometre tonnes in 1977. It is almost as if BR occupied a different planet from the rest of Europe.”

It is a similar picture for passenger traffic. Between 1967 and 1979, every country listed in the pamphlet saw an increase in passengers, with USSR top at an 83% rise. Only BR showed different, with a 7% fall in the same period.”

The fact is that the Tories have no intention of making a major investment in the rail network. What they really intend to do is to privatise the major inter-city routes and close down as much of the network as possible.

Neither is it just railway workers affected by the “Cancer of Privatisation” as they describe it, “If you work for an unprofitable sector of nationalised industry (say steel) you are closed down. If you work for profitable sectors, (say, Telecom) you will be sold off to private shareholders and may still end up redundant. Either way, under the present government, workers cannot win”.

## ‘The cancer of privatisation’

Most alarming of all is the latest outrageous schemes from the government’s Think Tank (Cess Tank might be better) for ripping up the track and converting them to roads. This would mean the loss of 200,000 jobs.

The Horwich Works Committee have learned lessons from the disastrous joint approach peddled by the rail union leaders and also pursued with tragic results in the unsuccessful

campaigns to save steel plants in the past. They point the finger of blame fairly and squarely at the BRB, the Tories and the capitalist class as a whole. The companies, Wimpey and Tarmac, strong supporters of the Tory Party, would of course pick up new contracts for road building.

The multi-national motor manufacturers would also benefit. In the meantime, the rail equipment manufacturers—BICC, GEC, Hawker Siddley—are waiting in the wings in the hope of a massive hive-off of the more profitable bits of BR...”

## Invest in the railways

Contrary to the Tories’ claims, they argue, there is more money that could and must be directed to the rail industry. Out of £70 billion in pension funds only £6 billion are presently invested in UK manufacturing; most of the money going to buy works of art or property speculation. Last year £2.5 billion in untaxed profits, interest and dividends was exported by multinationals operating in North Sea oilfields.

The Horwich pamphlet puts forward policies they believe should be demanded of a future Labour government. These include “a more progressive taxation system”, the re-imposition of controls that halt the export of capital, and proceeds from North Sea oil to be invested in this country. Restrictions on the level of borrowing by the nationalised industries should be lifted, whilst the banks and financial institutions should be forced to invest in the nationalised industries. There must also be a general re-

direction of funds into public transport whilst the money being used to keep over 3 million on the dole would be used to create proper jobs.

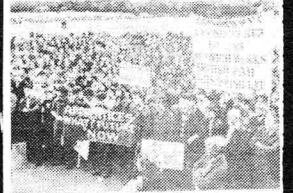
However a future Labour government attempting to resolve these problems will face total opposition from big business. It is therefore essential that a future Labour government in carrying through the policies advocated by the Horwich workers link these to a clear programme for the nationalisation of all major industry, the banks and financial institutions under democratic workers’ control and management. The leadership of the unions within the rail industry need to follow the example set here. The power of the rail unions and the Triple Alliance must be used to defend jobs now, linking that to the political and economic struggle.

**“Working people cannot ride round in posh Rolls Royces like the Tories do. We must prepare to crush their plans now—before its too late.”**

**“If you work for an unprofitable sector of nationalised industry (say steel) you are closed down. If you work for profitable sectors, (say, Telecom) you will be sold off to private shareholders and may still end up redundant. Either way, under the present government, workers cannot win”.**

If you want to help the Horwich workers in their campaign to defend jobs, please write or telephone: Keith Sherrington, 7 Shaftsbury Ave., Lostock, Bolton (Tel. Bolton 292611); Ron Hardman, 46a Gloucester Ave., Horwich (Tel. Horwich 691310); Stan Davis, 51 Fernhead Ave., Horwich (Tel. Horwich 692503).

## HORWICH LOCO WORKS



## GREAT RAIL CARVE UP THE WORKERS' RESPONSE

...the workers' response to the Serpell Report... the workers' response to the Serpell Report... the workers' response to the Serpell Report...

JOINT ACTION COMMITTEE

Joint Action Committee pamphlet produced by Horwich workers.

## HORWICH LOCO NEEDS YOUR Campaign Bu



## HORWICH LOCO THE WAR

...the workers' response to the Serpell Report... the workers' response to the Serpell Report... the workers' response to the Serpell Report...

Leaflet produced by Horwich Workers.

## LEFT LINES

...the workers' response to the Serpell Report... the workers' response to the Serpell Report... the workers' response to the Serpell Report...

LEFT LINES is produced by supporters of the Broad Left for railway workers c/o 54 Battersea Rd., Easton, Bristol.



Horwich workers demonstrating to save their jobs

Photo: John Smith (IFL)



# Industrial Features



## HARLOW

Even experienced, hardened sewer men were reduced to the shakes after the major part of an eight-month old human foetus was found amongst the sewerage, just before Christmas at the Ryemeads works near Harlow.

But it isn't just the occasional bizarre discovery that gives the conditions of the jobs horrifying twists nor even the regular 25 million gallons of human waste processed every day.

There are also the unknown chemicals, in large quantities, which suddenly appear in the sewer network which could not only cause the works to go septic (taking six months to repair) but create poisonous and obnoxious fumes which are a constant danger.

"All manual workers at the Ryemeads works are out on strike", workers at Ryemeads told me. "They've got no choice. We are fighting for parity with gas and electrical power workers."

"We think our jobs are comparable. We don't like striking. We have no option. Our normal basic money is between £79 and £86 a week, which just doesn't reflect the essential nature, the unpleasant aspects and the responsibility of not only maintaining fresh, clean water for the nation but effectively dealing with the millions of gallons of human waste."

By Bob Edwards

## BASILDON

PR Bates and Derek Smith (GMBATU) spoke to John McKay.

"If the strike is called off now, it would be a complete waste of time" said one picket at the sewage works in Basildon Essex.

Pickets were worried that the leadership might accept a totally unsatisfactory offer from the employers and the Tories who are standing behind them.

There is bitter anger at the Thatcher government, and the pickets who assembled before daybreak on Monday were later discussing the Falklands, inflation and unemployment. They realise it is the Tories who are stopping the pay deal going through and who are now trying to disband the Water Council leaving the 29,000 water workers bargaining on a weakened localised basis.

The improved pay offer is viewed with contempt. It is definitely not enough, but has lifted morale as it has proved that the Water Board can improve the offer.

Derek Smith the safety rep explained what a filthy job theirs can be. "Sometimes we have had guts and even arms coming through the pipes from the hospital. French letters as well. Someone has to do it. All we want is decent money for doing the job. Mind you, we are lucky."

# WATERWORKERS



Waterworkers vote at a mass meeting in Liverpool.

Photo: John Smith (IFL)

"The lads are sick. We've reached saturation point on negotiations. Seven and a half per cent over 16 months is just not good enough."

"Many are prepared for a long drawn out struggle. Talks of 1/2% changes are ridiculous. We'll stay and fight it out for 15%."

"We learned a lesson from the NHS dispute. Rather than individual days of action we want an all out struggle with emergency cover only."

Ray Gray, NUPE steward, Howdon, Wallsend

"We are not like the other sewage workers, who actually have to wade through the shit. We also have to get up at two in the morning to dig holes and fix pipes while everybody else is in bed. A lot of people don't realise the work we have to do."

This strike has been coming for years. Last year Water workers received 9.2%, well below the rate of inflation at that time, but were promised that this year's pay award would compare them with workers in other industries. The study showed they came 61st in the pay league table for manual workers. They deserve comparability with other workers like the gas workers.

"After a few weeks, all sewage will have to be pumped into the River Thames," the workers

## WEST LONDON

At Mogden Lane sewage works in West London all the NUPE and GMBATU members were out, as were two EETPU members.

The pickets explained "the rest would follow if troops were brought in." Under the present offer the lowest paid worker, on £78.20 basic a week would receive after deductions a £1.86 rise.

Even the highest paid grade (of which there are very few) would only receive another £2.04 after deductions. But this is London

pointed out, "we have spent 25 years cleaning up the Thames but this strike can set that back to square one in a couple of days."

They've already had a 24-hour strike to warn management and the government but they have paid no attention. "Nobody wants to strike but we have to. Thatcher is using the unemployed to undermine the position of other workers." Many of the water workers families are themselves affected by unemployment. One told me "my son-in-law and my son are unemployed".

The NHS dispute is being discussed on the picket line. "We only hope that the health workers dispute and the water strike will take votes away from the Tories at the next General Election."

rate. Out of London, Rickmansworth for instance they only receive £75 basic. An arbitration award, made in 1966, of £11 for handling contaminated water is also under threat.

Management are also trying to impose a productivity scheme to cut wages and jobs. "Someone's got to fight this government. The TUC should be giving a lead. We came out for 7 weeks in 1970. We are not afraid to fight" they said.

## 'We've no option but to strike'

One man well prepared for industrial action by water workers is Sir William Dugdale, chairman of the National Water Council, the negotiating body for the industry.

His ancestral home, the 1,000 acre Merevale estate, not far from Birmingham, just happens to have its own water wells and even his own sewerage system. Of course, Sir William is a very busy man. A member of Brooks, Whites, the MCC

and the Jockey Club and a director of the Phoenix Assurance company he has his work cut out.

He is chairman, also, of the Severn Trent Water Authority. And, with the mere £6,000 a year he receives for his one day a week duties, as Water Council chairman, he is fully aware of the need for restraint by all who work in the Water Industry.

By Jeremy Birch

## DERBYSHIRE

Roy Davis spoke to Trevor Finch GMWU Branch Secretary Chesterfield Water and Robin Holmes GMWU Steward

"Our wives think we've been holding out on them when they read in the press we've been earning £140 a week!

"It's a joke. We've got a meter reader of 13 years service who takes home just £74. There's a skilled grade two mains layer with five kids who takes home just £82 and that's if he managed to get a good bonus!

"We must get an increase on basics, we don't want to rely on bonuses, which are being cut now we've gone from an earnings related bonus to a national one. Nor do we want to rely on overtime which many of us get very rarely."

"When you're on standby you never know when you're going to get called out of the house. It messes up your family and social life, yet you find yourself praying the phone will ring so you can take the kids on holiday once a year!

"We want comparability. You're out in all kinds of weather and when you're up to our ears in muck and water in the trenches you often find that the electricity and gas men who are there with you are earning far more."

"Maggie's got no friends amongst waterworkers. Our back's against the wall, we are fed up with promises, they just get broken. There was a four to one vote in favour of strike action in our national ballot. Derbyshire is

## DURHAM

"The mood of the men is very militant, their attitude to the 4 per cent pay offer is one of disgust. The offer in cash terms means about £3 a week, before deductions."

"Myself and all the men I know take home about £80 per week which if you take into account the cost of electricity, gas and food is not very much these days. What we want is similar grading to workers in gas and electricity who earn about £20 per week above our rates."

"The effects of a strike are as yet unknown but one or two factors are certain. Clean water coming through the tap will be untreated and will therefore have to be boiled—big areas will be without water. Clean water is vital to the modern economy; for example the chemical industry relies heavily upon clean water."

"I'm confident that we could win a victory in this dispute, the strength of feeling is there. If our leaders take a forthright stance then the dispute could be over relatively quickly with the full 15% in the bag."

"Troops would find it very difficult to cope. The Catterick barracks relies upon civilian water workers. We could find that the troops would have no water while they are doing their utmost to maintain a supply for the population! There is really very little that the troops could do. If they are not careful they could do even more damage."

"What we need is to stand firm, such a stance would ensure victory."

From an interview with Doug Mayers, a Durham water worker, who represents the Northern Division on the NUPE National Committee.

100% solid. There would have been murder if Eddie Newall had accepted this 16 months deal.

The men are so angry they didn't agree to automatic emergency cover. But we would consider any case on its merits. We've checked that the local hospital has its own filtration system. There are about 50 kidney machines in the Chesterfield area and we'll do our best in an emergency.

NALGO has told its people not to scab on the dispute. After all our battle is theirs. They are guaranteed 10% above what we achieve.

If troops come in NALGO members have been told not to co-operate. The troops won't be able to do too much. Our area water men are the only people who know exactly where key points are in the draining system. They are not marked accurately on the plans and the maps.

We are not scared by Thatcher. Our families need us to have a decent basic wage and we're going to win this one!



# Industrial Reports

## USDAW Presidential Candidate Speaks to Militant



**Jeff Price, Broad Left Candidate in USDAW presidential election spoke to Dave Cotterill**

**Our union's members are the second lowest paid group of workers in the country, only hospital canteen and laundry workers are paid less.**

The minimum wage, established by Wages Councils for an adult worker is £67.50, but the vast majority of employers are not paying this. The Tories are even cutting back on wage inspectors so there will be no chance of them enforcing the legislation anyway.

We are campaigning for a £90 minimum wage with a 35-hour week. Even government figures for subsistence level wages estimate that a married man with two children needs £95 a week. It's really a modest claim—in fact below the official poverty line!

At the same time we are in the middle of a big trading war, so the major stores want to expand hours into the evenings and on to Sunday trading. Late night shopping on a Thursday and Friday was common, but now they want to be open 'late' every night.

In the large shopping centres you may find shop workers are members of a dozen different USDAW branches. We want to bring them together to determine wages and working conditions, so larger outlets could protect those in the smaller establishments through joint action. The branches need to be brought back to life, with full-time officials playing a

major role.

We want a national campaign on low pay, using members' willingness to fight for decent wages, but overcoming the lack of economic power that low paid workers have. My own branch is calling for USDAW to organise a national conference inviting all other unions who organise low paid workers, to establish a target for a national minimum wage and the cutting of hours. The conference could plan a campaign including a 24-hour general strike by all low paid workers.

Two thirds of our members are women, mainly part-time workers, the most vulnerable group in the union and in society. USDAW should be at the forefront in defending rights at work and in society. We want to encourage women to participate by organising union meetings during work hours. Nursery and creche facilities should be established in larger workplaces properly run and monitored by the union.

We also want to end the scandal of young people, many on government schemes, being used as cheap labour. Our union must recruit these young people, and fully involve them as activists.

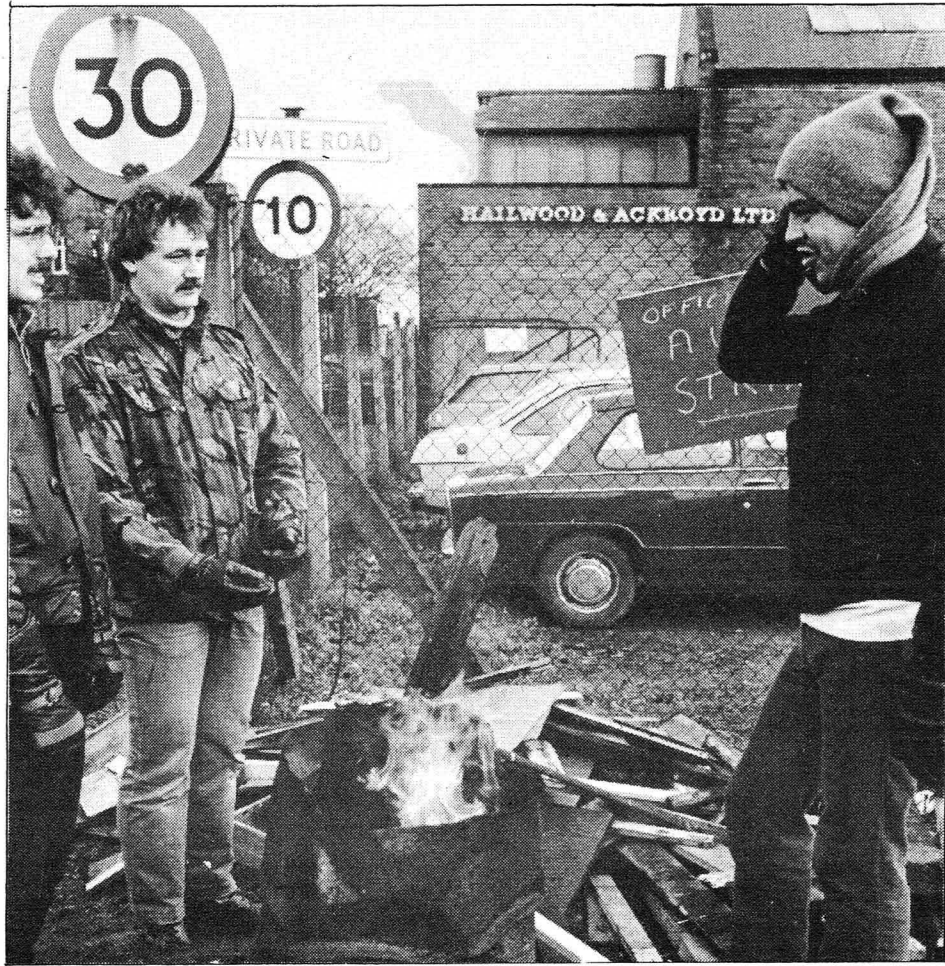
### USDAW BROAD LEFT RALLY

- \* End low pay in USDAW
- \* For a fighting democratic union

Sunday, 30 January  
1pm-5pm  
County Hall, London  
Nearest tube and train station:  
Waterloo

#### Speakers:

- \* Tony Benn MP
- \* Ken Livingstone, Labour leader GLC
- \* Audrey Wise, PPC Woolwich East
- \* Jeff Price, USDAW Broad Left Presidential Candidate
- \* Plus E.C Broad Left Candidates



The strikers at Hailwood and Ackroyd, mentioned on the front page, are asking for parity with their sister firm. A £50 difference in wages exists between the two firms, which are both owned by the giant

American Standards. Enthusiastic picketing has ensured that all trucks have been turned away, except the wages van, which was allowed through. The Leeds District Committee has made the

strike official with support coming in from all over, including two well received shelters from the AUEW, delivered by the Transport and General Workers Union.

Photo: John Smith (FEL)

## GEC OPENSHAW

**"Management must have been deliberately looking for a confrontation" and "incompetent management—that's what's behind this strike," commented pickets outside GEC Higher Openshaw, Manchester.**

In November, management began to instal an "on-line" computer system, initially in the production department. Although they said they were prepared to negotiate an agreement with the unions they have so far refused to even discuss payment for operating the equipment.

And although they claimed no individual would be pressurised into operating it, fourteen Production Control workers were suspended without pay for refusing to do so.

A mass meeting of the 550 staff employees (members of ASTMS, AUEW-TASS, MATSA and APEX) on 12 January decided on strike action until the suspended workers are re-instated and "meaningful negotiations are resumed". Management still refuse to talk but the mass meeting on 20 January saw the workers even more determined.

"It's become a matter of principle now," said Les Hadfield, MATSA chairman, even though some of my members in stock control are on as little as £60-70 a week gross."

The possibility of future redundancies as the computer system is more widely used has also been mentioned, although nothing definite has been said by GEC. Openshaw has been transformed from an important engineering area to one of high unemployment, with recent closures of Laurence Scott, B & S Massey and Francis Shaw. The men and women at GEC are now all the more determined that new technology shall benefit the workers and not just the bosses.

Shop floor workers have supported through donations, but according to John Byrne (AUEW steward) they have been laid off without pay. The unions at GEC Trafford Park have pledged their support and money, according to John Manning, chairman of the Joint Staff Unions Committee, and drivers of deliveries from other parts of GEC, BRS and other road haulage firms have been refusing to cross the picket line.

Several other unions and Labour Parties have already made donations and Reg Sidebottom has been delegated by the strike committee to approach all sections of the local labour movement for support and money. So far, said John Manning, the only deliveries to cross the picket line have been from Williams Haulage and the strike committee is trying to get in touch with their steward.

Donations and offers of help should go to: P Tipton, 34 Salisbury Drive, Dukensfield, SK16 5DL.

**By Vivian Seal**  
(Ardwick LP)

## FIGHT STEEL REDUNDANCIES

**By Chris Weldon**  
(ISTC Tinsley Park No 2, personal capacity)

**Before Christmas, the British Steel Corporation announced plans to make redundant 1,700 workers in the public sector in South Yorkshire.**

Redundancies have also been announced in the private sector and more are to follow in the nationalised plants leading to a total of 3,000 at least redundancies planned in South Yorkshire this year.

Private and public steel workers must unite and fight these redundancies in the same spirit as in the 1980 steel strike. Trade unionists will remember the Valentines Day picket of Dunford Hadfield where miners, steel workers, railwaymen and engineering workers stood shoulder to shoulder and closed down that firm.

Only the determination shown on that day and throughout the 13 week dispute will enable steel workers to save their jobs and stop South Yorkshire becoming another disaster

area, like Shotton, Corby or Scunthorpe.

Since 1979, 20,000 jobs have been lost in Rotherham and Sheffield in the steel and engineering industry. Not one more job can be allowed to be don't even mention South Yorkshire when they talk about the big five plants. There is speculation there may be a merger under the Phoenix Two programme with Tinsley Park, Dunford Hadfield and the Lonhro organisation being involved.

We must not allow the Tories to sell off viable parts of the steel and engineering industry to their friends in big business, raffling off thousands of working peoples' jobs so that big business can cream off their profits and starve the industry of the investment it needs as they've done in the past.

We've already seen private firms like Brown-Bayleys Edgar Allens and other parts of the Aurora group go to

the wall because of the starvation of investment. We can't allow any more sacrifices to these Tory butchers.

We must support the Action Committee resolutions that will be put to the membership at the mass steel rally on 29 January, calling for no movement of machinery, workforce or materials. It also calls for private and public sector steel workers to unite and fight. Both public and private sector workers must show the bosses that there will be no redundancies in South Yorkshire.

We must fight for the election of a Labour government that will renationalise without compensation all sites sold off and also nationalise the remainder of the private sector together with the steel stock holders under workers control and management to meet the real needs of society for a steel industry.

## 'Snowdown won't be another Kinneil'

"Our fight as it stands now is about job losses but not only redundancies. It's about youngsters not coming into the industry, either technical or mining.

"On the technical side Canterbury College Mining Department is being run down, so if no one is brought into the industry for these jobs (mechanical and electrical apprentices) all three Kent pits Snowdown, Tilmantone and Bet-

*P Devereux, surface rep, washery plant operator, Snowdown NUM and P Jacconnelli, washery picking belt attendant, spoke to Eric Segal*

teshanger are affected.

"So as the older generation retire the industry is contracting. If we, in Kent area, don't show a lead now

the NCB will run all over us. And in years to come there won't be any nationalised industry, just a few super pits which may go back into private hands.

"It's not our future we're fighting for, it's our kids. We don't want Aylesham to become a ghost town and Snowdown to be another Chislett or Kinneil.

"At Kinneil they promised the same thing as Snowdown, transferring so

many men and leaving about 300 working. They went to the next seam but never reached it, they stopped two hundred yards short, said it wasn't workable and shut it down.

"At Snowdown the NCB are going to a break in the seam. They'll say sorry, lads, it's no good and shut down the District, the same as the South West and Southeast District where all the coal is anyway.

## South Wales Threat

On Tuesday 25 January, the National Coal Board announced they would be putting no more investment into two South Wales pits, Blaengrwrch and Lewis Merthyr which would then be expected to close within twelve months. The two collieries together employ over seven hundred men.



## Shipyard workers prepare to fight

**British Shipbuilders announced last week the first wave of their redundancy plans. The bulk of the proposed 2,639 redundancies are to be concentrated in shipyards in the North East.**

The Wearside shipyards are to lose 650 jobs, the most savage cut backs in fifty years. This means that between 1982 and March this year, 1,010 jobs will have been lost in this area. On the Tyne 530 full-time and 460 temporary jobs are demolished.

Yet this is probably only the first phase. There is now a threat of complete closure of the Tyne ship repair group with yards at Wallsend, Jarrow and South Shields, employing 1,200 people. Despite 'slimming' these yards down from 3,000 five years ago British shipbuilders now state that 'voluntary redundancies have dried up.'

They want now to discuss compulsory redundancies. In addition they want to reduce the cost of idle time to a maximum of £68. Given these concessions they are prepared to "persevere with Tyne Ship repairs to see if we can win any or some of the large jobs in prospect and then review the future of the company in March." A really magnificent gesture!

The same scene is spelt out in respect of the whole of British shipbuilding. Firstly there must be cuts in the workforce, then a radical relaxation of working practices must take place, and wages must be frozen.

Then, after all this British shipbuilders still state that "further labour reductions cannot be ruled out if the target level of orders is not achieved." The Austin and Pickersgill joint shop stewards committee have pointed out in a Yard bulletin that acceptance of these proposals will lead to all the workforce being exposed to the threat of unemployment.

We also risk returning to

the system prior to 1969 when we were known as a casual industry with regular indiscriminate pay-offs after launches and sea trials which resulted in the pools of temporary labour which move from yard to yard sometimes only working for 6 months a year.

In our yard the Joint Shop Stewards Committee have issued a bulletin to every worker, and all shop stewards have been

presented with the summary of British Shipbuilders' report. Separate shop meetings have taken place for the different trades to explain in detail the issues.

Immediately following these meetings, a ballot is to be held on opposing compulsory redundancies for any action to retain the current Blackpool agreement. In the shop meetings it has been clearly explained that any action means all out strike

action.

Acceptance of compulsory redundancies will mean:

★ The fear to complain about bad working conditions

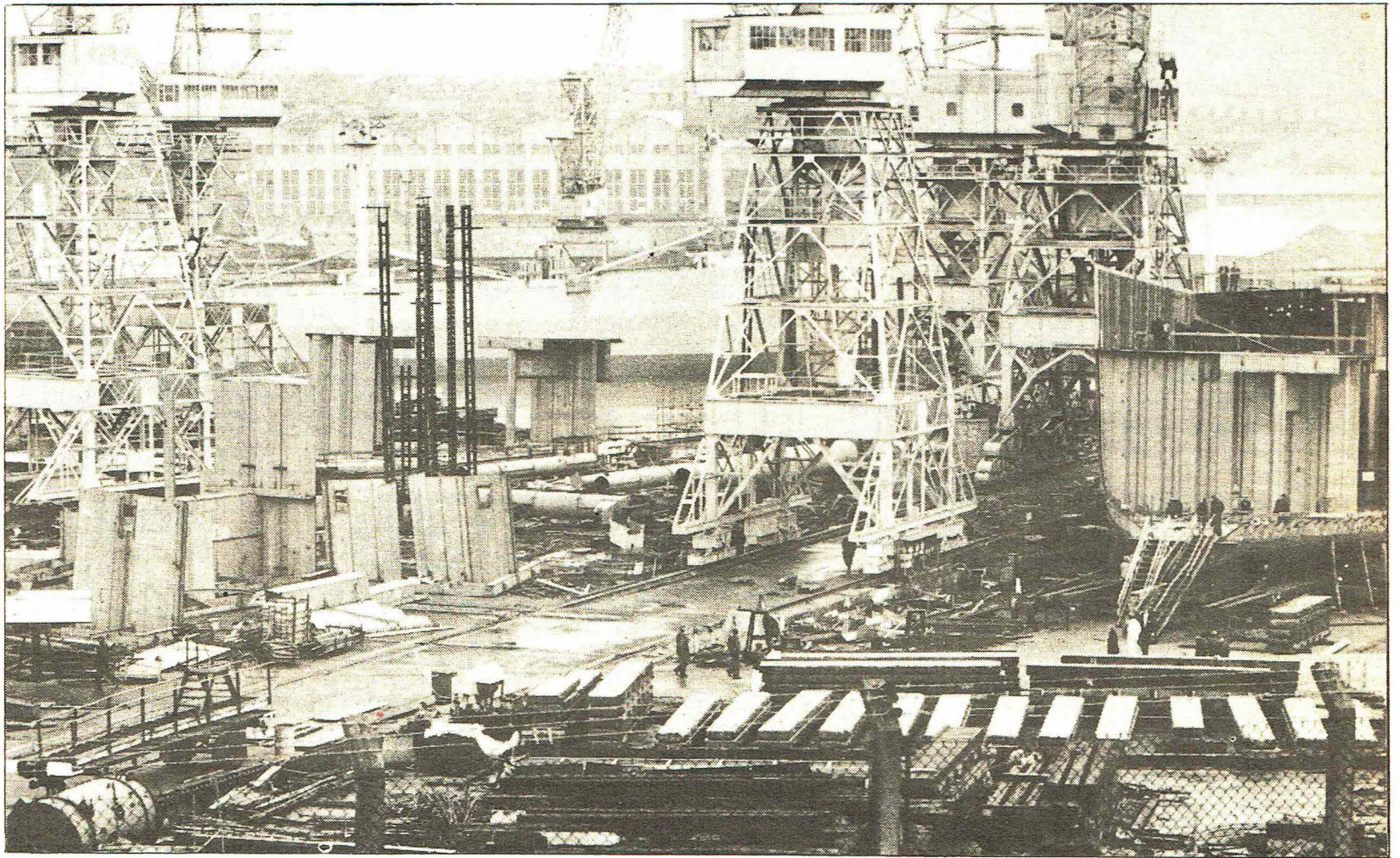
★ The fear to fight for and obtain reasonable wage increases

★ The abolition of guarantees of employment, of consultation and recognition of collective agreements setting the industry back twelve years.

Only the unity of shipyard workers can resist these savage attacks. Only national all-out strike action will be sufficient to stop Robert Atkinson and British Shipbuilders.

**By Tony Carty**

(Chairman, Austin and Pickersgill shop stewards' committee, personal capacity)



**STOP PRESS: Workers at Austin and Pickersgill (above) decided on 26 January by 1537 votes to 486 to strike in opposition to redundancies. Photo: Militant**

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that he would not have accepted the guideline, the new regime are determined to hit our living standards deeply and permanently by breaking up the NWC and taking on the areas separately in any future pay deals.

This plan must be fiercely resisted. One of the main demands of the strike must be to keep national negotiations, and maintain the unity of all water workers or any gains made this year could be stripped away in future deals.

The strike has been inevitable for months. The new offer was a contemptible 7.3% over sixteen months. As John Mahony, power house cleaner, said "If they do that every time, they gain a year pay deal every three years. We work an annual pay deal only"

The other unions not directly involved must give full support to this strike. Any white-collar staff working normally must realise that their own wages and jobs could well be next on the Tory chopping block, and they must join the fight alongside their fellow workers.

The craft union leader-



**East London picket line**

Photo: D Doran

ships must not sit on the fence in this dispute. The maximum unity is essential. We should be fighting jointly for our pay deals so the bosses cannot use divide and rule to resist our claims.

The water unions must stand firm for the full deal. Without a doubt the Tories and the press will turn their propaganda taps on full during this dispute, and the union leaders must energetically counter this, explaining to water workers and the rest of the working class the importance of the strike to defend our living standards and our negotiating strength.

There must be regular bulletins and mass meetings at works and district levels to keep workers fully informed on the progress of the strike.

The strike has already openly become a political conflict. The government are ready for a long struggle even contemplating the use of troops. The TUC must give unambiguous backing to the strike and prepare now to mobilise the full support of the working class if the strike continues.

We can see the support on the picket lines growing, we are now organised and our attitudes are hardening. We don't trust the Tories. You

know a Tory is lying when you see his lips move. We've got to force a deal out of them.

The Labour Party must follow the lead given by members of the Labour Party Young Socialists and back the water workers struggle by helping on the picket lines. Beat the Tories' plans and give them another push out of office!

Stand firm for the 15%! Defend our national negotiations! Full support for the water workers!

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