

# Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

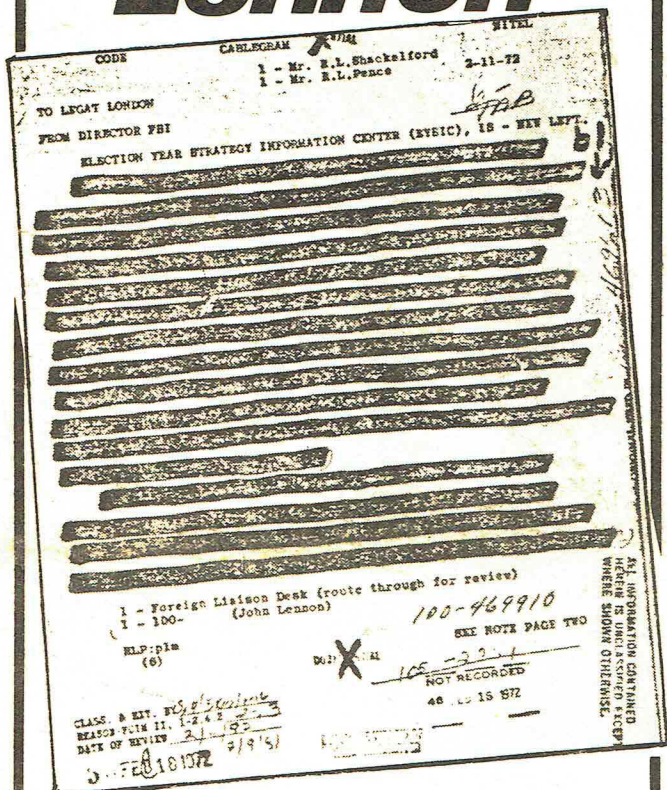
ISSUE 644  
1 April 1983

20p

**THIS WEEK:**  
Labour Party Young Socialists  
Conference special  
Pages 7, 8 & 9  
Socialism or War, p. 9  
Greenham Common, p. 5

**EXCLUSIVE**

## London Embassy spied on Lennon



The above photostat of a document released under the American 'Freedom of Information Act' shows that Act's limitations. All you are allowed to see is: To Legat, London, From Director FBI. All the content is censored.

The Legal Attaché at the United States' London Embassy was involved in the extraordinary surveillance directed against John Lennon by the FBI in 1972.

By Philip Andrews

The part played by "Legat, London" emerges, probably through a bureaucratic blunder, from heavily censored documents released under America's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Prompted by a new book in the US, the British press recently drew attention to the FBI's campaign to "neutralise" the former member of the Beatles pop group and engineer his deportation.

The FBI conducted a campaign against Lennon on orders from President Nixon, who saw enemies in every direction. Nixon feared John Lennon was about to whip up a radical campaign against him before the 1972 Republican convention in Miami.

FBI and Immigration

Department files show that special agents kept watch on all aspects of the lives of John Lennon and Yoko Ono. In July 1972 the "local Law Enforcements Agencies covering MIREP" (Miami Republican convention) were provided with information on Lennon "with regards to subject being arrested if at all possible on possession-of-narcotics charge."

The FBI also considered the possible arrest of Lennon on charges of "inter-state transportation of obscene matter." The "obscene matter" concerned record albums on which John and Yoko appeared in the nude!

The FBI's programme under which Lennon was targeted was known as "COINTELPRO", short for counter-intelligence. The US Congress' Church Committee, set up after the Watergate scandal, described COINTELPRO as "covert action" designed to undermine individuals or groups seen by the FBI as a threat to the established order.

Lennon came in one of the five targeted groups, known as the "New Left". The Church Committee commented that it could not find "anyone at the FBI (who could) even define 'New

Continued on page 3

# YOUNG WORKERS FIGHT AND WIN



Wayne Wintrup and five other young workers won wage rises of up to £27.

Six young workers in Ipswich have shown how you can fight back...and win!

Aged between 16 and 19, they saw and pack timber for the firm of Anglo-Norden Shipping. Wayne Wintrup aged 18 described the working conditions:

"It's a container we're working in. I'd say it was quite dangerous because the roof is still not bolted on. One end the door is open and the other has been cut off.

"We supply our own work clothes. I reckon boots last about six months; because we're working in the

By Denis Doran and Teresa McKay

open they get wet and after a while they just rot. It's freezing working in the winter; when it snows it just gets everywhere. Your hands go blue and you can't feel them."

The six young workers were not prepared to tolerate this:

"We joined the union to get a basic rate. I was working 40 hours a week for £43 and we wanted more. So we

went on strike and we lost our jobs.

"Then they started putting this advert in the paper saying they wanted experienced machinists at £88, plus bonus. I've been working here for three years, so I reckon I've had a bit of experience, but I'm still classed as a labourer.

"So the union told them that if they could employ people at £88 a week they could pay us that. But they were going to give us just £10 extra—£53 basic.

"We didn't want that, so in the end we got £70 basic and we agreed to that. We were on strike for one week."

The TGWU made the strike official, and the six manned a picket line. The company threatened that if

they couldn't get the skilled machinists they were advertising for, they would transfer all the work to Sweden. But the strikers stood firm, and with the might of the TGWU behind them, with the threat to stop all lorries, they forced the firm to climb down.

The result was a massive victory—all six re-instated and the wages up to £40 a week for the 16-year olds, £55 for the 17-year olds and £70 for those 18 and over, a rise for them of £27.

Conditions are still terrible, but this small group of youngsters has set a shining example to the whole labour movement and to youth in particular, that there is hope, and gains can be won if the strength of the trade union movement is mobilised.

## Militant meeting sabotaged

Don't let Labour's right-wing damage the ideas of socialism. As part of their witch-hunt, they have decided that the ideas of Militant are too dangerous to be heard by young workers.

To enforce this thought-control, they have prevented Militant from holding their usual readers' meeting at the LPYS annual conference.

Such manoeuvres will not prevent the ideas of Marxism being heard. We are confident that those ideas will be reflected in the conference.

But the right-wing also hope that by their manoeuvre to hit our finances. They know at the readers' meeting delegates and visitors have in the past expressed their support for the ideas of Marxism and really fighting back against the Tories, by giving us cash.

Make sure that the right-wing don't succeed on this count either. We are asking every, delegate, visitor and LPYS branch to make a substantial donation to Militant at the LPYS conference. And continue to campaign against thought-control by getting your LPYS to donate regularly through the year in the fight for socialism.

Become a  
**Militant**  
supporter!

Name .....  
Address .....

Send to Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace,  
London E8 3PN





# Militant

## FRENCH CRISIS: What message for Labour?

In 1981, the French Socialist/Communist government came to power with a crushing absolute majority of votes.

President Mitterrand won because of the crisis of the capitalist system and the two decades of right-wing governments which had solved nothing.

Mitterrand promised fundamental changes towards socialism. He began with reforms, but, because of the economic crisis, has been forced down the road of counter-reform, with a savage package of austerity measures, the toughest for years.

The measures include:

- ★ A levy of 1% of all taxable incomes.
- ★ 8% increases in electricity, gas, telephone and rail prices.
- ★ Tax increases on drink and tobacco.
- ★ A compulsory loan to the government by all taxpayers, adding 10% to all tax bills.
- ★ A limit of 2,000 Francs being taken abroad (making foreign holidays virtually impossible).
- ★ Spending cuts for local authorities and nationalised industries.

Earlier Mitterrand had reshuffled his cabinet, dismissing the left-wing member of the CERES group, Chevenement, and assembling a more "centre-left" combination.

These two steps mark the culmination of a steady process of retreat since the government came to power in June 1981. Unemployment at two million is higher now than it was even under the Giscard-Barre regime.

After initial reforms, the government bowed to the pressure of big business and adopted a more "orthodox" policy in a vain attempt to "restore the health" of the ailing capitalist economy. In June 1982, a wage freeze was imposed, a number of proposed reforms were cancelled, others postponed.

Now this austerity package

will mean higher unemployment, up at least 140,000, and after thirty years of rising living standards, a fall of between 1/2% and 1% in real disposable incomes. Economic growth this year is now likely to be zero, rather than the 2% previously forecast.

The cause of all this is the growing capitalist financial crisis, especially the 93 billion franc trade deficit and the 9.5% inflation rise. Things came to a head when the franc began to lose its value relative to the German mark. To prevent the European Monetary System from falling apart, after much haggling, the franc was devalued, the mark up-valued and other currencies adjusted. Now the French workers are presented with the bill.

### Temporary reforms clawed back

As always when left-wing governments adopt deflationary policies, they are just "temporary", to allow the government, as Mitterrand put it, to "beat the infernal machine of inflation and the unacceptable trade deficit and indebtedness it brings."

In reality, however, they are the inevitable result of leaving the economy under the control of the big privately-owned monopolies, where the laws of capitalism thus continue to operate.

British workers will be reminded all too clearly of the last Labour government's austerity packages, introduced under pressure from the International Monetary Fund. In the case of both Mitterrand and Callaghan, the packages were accompanied by wage restraint



policies and the "postponement" of reforms promised in the election manifesto.

Right-wing politicians and newspapers have not been slow to rub their hands with satisfaction at this evidence that "socialism" doesn't work and has had to be abandoned. Former Thatcherite Prime Minister Barre commented that many of the measures "go in the right direction".

"The miracle, as the critics always predicted, turned out to be a mirage," gloated the *Sunday Times* (27.8.83). "Last week, after three devaluations of the franc within nine months, the last shreds of illusion blew away."

In fact it is not "socialism" but rather the lack of it which is responsible for Mitterrand's retreat. He has demonstrated, as Callaghan did in Britain, that a capitalist economy cannot be made to work in workers' interests by a policy of state "intervention". Temporary reforms can be granted, but the logic of the economic system forces the government to claw these back with measures like last week's.

Industry and finance are run by businessmen to make profits. In a time of recession especially, they cannot "afford" to see even a small proportion of these profits being used to provide better social services and higher living standards. On the contrary, they demand the opposite, and that is what Mitterrand has now given them.

Some of the left within the Socialist Party, the CERES group, led by the dismissed Minister Chevenement, are arguing, like their counterparts in the Labour Party, that the solution lies in import controls, withdrawing from the EMS and banning the export of capital.

Such a "Fortress France" policy, however, is no alternative at all. Protectionist policies will only deepen the recession, reduce further the volume of international trade, push up prices on the home market and lead to counter-measures by other capitalist countries.

The only real alternative is the socialist one, spelled out by *Militant* when Mitterrand came to power:

"It is...vital that the government should use its majority to take over, with minimum compensation on the basis of proven need, the assets of the 200 families who



dominate the French economy.

"On this basis it would be possible to create a socialist plan of production which could eliminate unemployment and the poverty which besmirches France at the present time." (*Militant* No 558, 26.6.81)

There will undoubtedly be many French socialists echoing these ideas, as they reassess the role of their government.

The Socialist Trade Union Federation, the CFTD, has accused the government of sacrificing its essential goal of reducing unemployment and claimed that the measures went against the spirit of earlier economic and social commitments.

Much less critical, however, are the Communist Trade Union Federation, the CGT, which agreed with the government's general aims

and described the new measures as indispensable to tackle inflation, reduce the foreign trade deficit, and finance industrial development. It lamely added that the government should hit the rich harder and exempt more of the lower paid.

### Rank and file response

From the workers' parties has come not even that much criticism. The Socialist Party supported the measures with a hope that the government would "reinforce its fight against unemployment". The Communist Party paper *L'Humanité* merely listed the measures under the headline "Ten Government Measures" and blamed the right

Mitterrand's new 'austerity' policies may have been accepted by the leaders of the workers' parties, but recent struggles at Renault and Citroën suggest the rank and file's response will be different

and the bosses. "The path chosen is a good one" declared CP leader Marchais.

There will be a very different reaction from the ranks. In the recent period strikes have broken out in the Renault plants at Billancourt and Flins and Citroën at Aulnay-sous-Bois, over wages, the effects of automation and trade union rights. The Renault workers won a 10% increase.

The next Socialist Party Congress in October will show none of the "unanimity" of Valence (the 1981 Congress). The Communist Party, which still has two cabinet ministers, will be shaken by these events.

Whilst it claims a growing membership, the CP suffered heavier losses than the Socialists in the recent municipal elections. The main reason for this is that the PCF strongholds are the main centres of the French working class which are worst hit by the economic crisis and where the disappointment is greatest. Almost everywhere their vote fell, and they lost St Etienne and other major industrial cities.

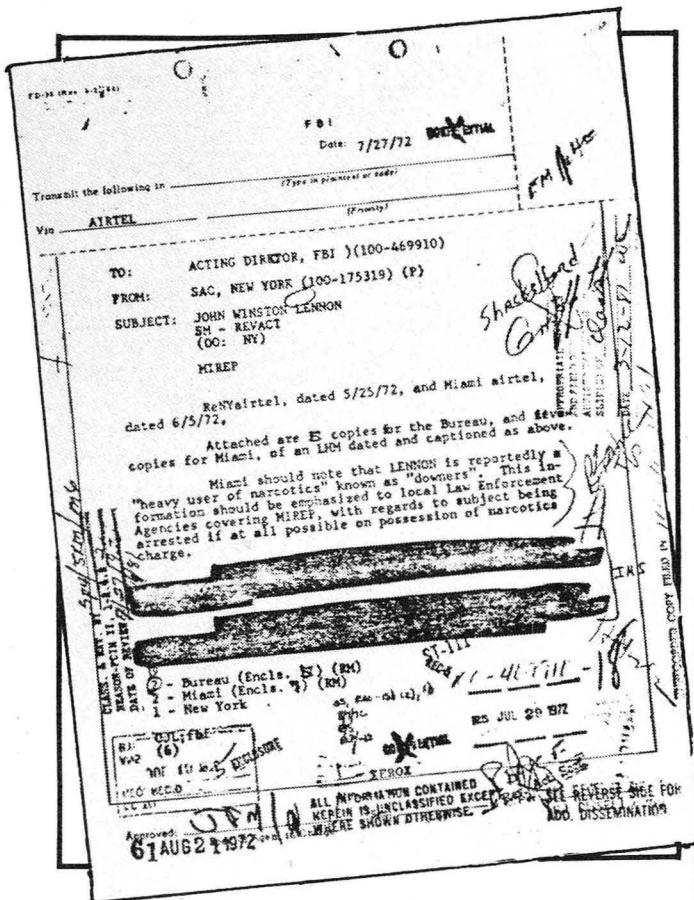
At a later stage, the CP leaders may break from the Socialists in an attempt to avoid the electoral consequences of their role in the government. They have a history of such sharp U-turns.

A split in the coalition may, however, come from the other side, from the right wing of the SP leadership who have traditionally been bitterly hostile to collaboration with the CP. The electoral decline of the CP and "a shift to the right within the electorate" may be used as the pretext for an alliance with the so-called "centre".

Such a strategy would, however, run up against the opposition of the ranks of the SP. They see the price they may have to pay for their leaders' failure is the return of a right-wing government in 1986. There will be a sharpening of the struggle for a genuine socialist policy within both the workers' parties.



# London Embassy spied on Lennon



This facsimile shows how the FBI tried to frame Lennon on a drugs charge.

Continued from page one

Left', except as 'more or less an attitude'."

COINTELPRO has generally been regarded as a domestic operation directed at American citizens. In John Lennon's case, however, the target was a British citizen temporarily resident in New York. And the documents obtained under FOIA show that the surveillance extended to Britain.

Several of the FBI files show that the information on Lennon was passed both to and from "Legat, London". Generally, the actual names of case officers gathering information are deleted before documents are finally released to the FOIA applicant.

In the case of one document, however, a "Routing Slip" which accompanied information on Lennon, the censor appears to have made a major slip-up. At the bottom of the file page, in an area usually heavily deleted, appears the name 'J.T. Minnich, LEGAT, London.'

The Foreign Office List of accredited diplomats in London shows that John T. Minnich was accredited as the US Embassy's Assistant Legal Attaché from 1961. By the time of the operation against Lennon, Minnich had, according to the London Diplomatic List, become full Legal Attaché.

Minnich's name was dropped from the February 1974 list, indicating that he was moved from London after 13 years at the time the Church Committee was conducting hearings on the FBI's COINTELPRO activities.

This example of FBI surveillance being directed against a British citizen and extended to Britain through the US Embassy in London underlines the need for the labour movement to conduct its own independent enquiry into the activities of the intelligence services, particularly those operations which are clearly directed mainly against the left of the labour movement.

Publication of details of

the FBI's operation against John Lennon has been made possible by the Freedom of Information Act. But the heavy censorship of the documents released under FOIA also reveals the extreme limitations of the Act. When A.J. Weberman of New York petitioned for the files on Lennon in 1981, 199 of the 281 pages requested were "withheld in their entirety".

The documents which were actually released were all stamped "All information contained herein is unclassified, except where shown otherwise." In the case of the cablegramme from the Director of the FBI to LEGAT, London, dated 11 February, 1972, shown on our front page this meant every single significant line of the document was deleted. Other important documents were also completely blanked out by FOIA censors.

The American FOIA was passed by Congress as a reaction to the methods of the Nixon administration, particularly the Watergate episode. However, step by step the FBI, the CIA, and the administration generally have worked to limit the scope of the Act.

Experience of the American FOIA must be borne in mind in relation to calls for a Freedom of Information Act in Britain. The Labour Party Study Group on the security services, chaired by Jo Richardson, is recommending, among other things, moves to bring the intelligence services in Britain under parliamentary control.

Their report recommends the repeal of the Official Secrets Act and its replacement by a Freedom of Information Act. It accepts that there should be provision for withholding certain information which might prejudice the "interests of national security". But the lesson of the Lennon files is that unless it is the access to secret information which is rigorously defined and backed up by pressure from the labour movement, "freedom of information" will mean as little as the blanked out Lennon files.

# DARLINGTON VICTORY

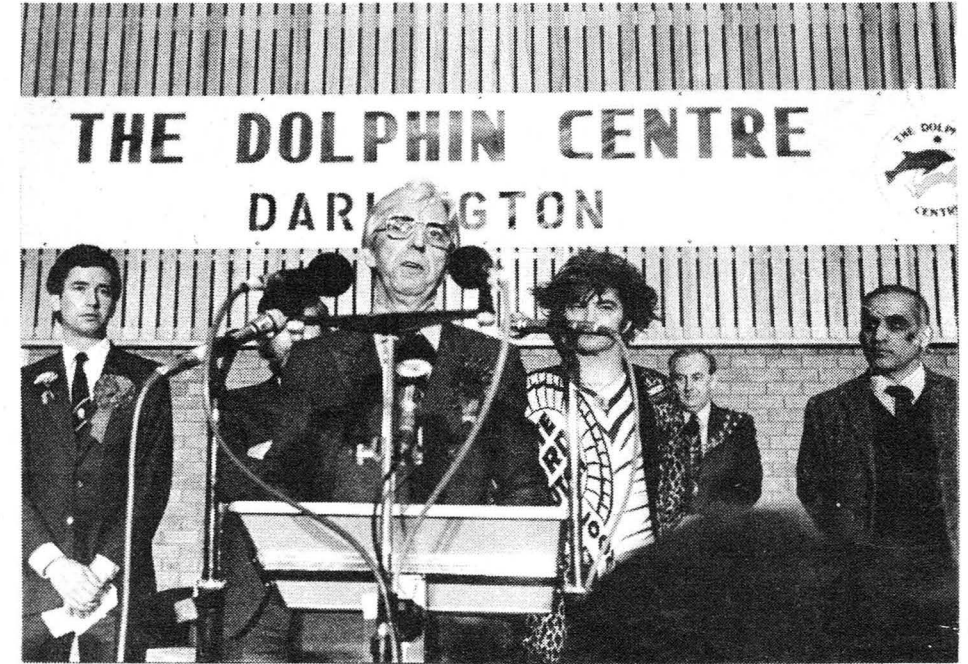
The Darlington by-election was an important victory for Labour. At the start of the campaign the media was predicting the coming death of Labour.

This wishful thinking on behalf of big business has yet again proved an empty dream. Labour's majority nearly doubled over the Tories.

The combined Liberal/SDP bandwagon didn't do much better than the Liberals did on their own in 1974.

The key events for Labour's victory were on the weekend of March 12th. On Friday night Michael Foot spoke at a meeting of 1,000. On the Saturday Darlington witnessed a mass demonstration against the closure of the nearby Shildon works. This concentrated voters' minds on unemployment and made the contest a political election rather than a personality cult.

This is the best battle ground for Labour. The Tories said Britain needs more of the same. Then things will come right. The SDP, as things got worse for



Ossie O'Brien, new Labour MP at the Darlington Count.

Photo: John Smith (IFL)

them, talked less about politics and more about tactical voting. They tried and failed to hurt Labour with the witch-hunt.

On the doorstep there was a real hatred of the Tories. It is still the case, however that many Labour voters, and especially youth, are not completely convinced about

Labour's policies.

A youth leaflet was produced demanding a future and explaining the Labour Party policies and what the Tories really stood for. This helped win the youth vote; all the polls show that the young people in Darlington are pro-Labour. But they have to be convinced to vote.

Among the hundreds of canvassers was a determination to win. In Darlington there was none of the backstabbing that lost Bermondsey. At the celebration social there were calls for an end to the witch-hunt, between the well earned pints.

By Bill Hopwood

# RIGHT WING MANOEUVRES IN BLACKBURN

On March 22 Blackburn CLP had its 1983 AGM. This meeting took place against a background of extensive national and local press coverage following the so-called 'Gregory report' concerning the activities of Militant supporters in the Blackburn area.

However, of the 94 delegates eligible to attend the AGM, three were barred, those from Sadsforth Ward, the ward which the local press calls Militant's "power base".

The reason given to the meeting was that after supposedly receiving an anonymous complaint regarding the ward's previous AGM, the Shadsforth ward were forced to re-convene their ward's annual general meeting the day after the constituency's AGM. This meant that automatically Peter Harris (a prominent Militant supporter) who has twice in the last two years represented Blackburn CLP at Labour Party annual conference) lost his position as CLP Political Education Officer, Youth Officer and also lost his chairmanship of the Ethnic Minorities committee.

Even though the comrades concerned submitted a letter, detailing at least three other wards who had committed serious breaches of the rules at their own AGMs, with grave unconstitutional errors, to the officers of Blackburn CLP, the North West region party organiser and General Secretary Jim Mortimer, no action was taken except against Shadsforth Ward.

Permission was refused to even read out a short letter to the GMC explaining their case. This means that still eleven weeks after Mr Gregory's "report", those named have not officially

been allowed to write or speak one word in their defence.

The events on the following night at the Shadsforth ward re-convened AGM made a mockery of the procedure. The meeting was packed but those who attend regularly noticed many present who had not been seen for months on end at a Labour Party meeting. One person, who voted, had resigned from the ward nine months before.

The results of the ballot was that by one vote Peter Harris was removed as GMC delegate.

A similar situation had also occurred the previous week at a re-convened Labour Women's council AGM. There, at least 20 women, who have never attended any Labour Party Women's meetings, came along and effectively removed every Militant supporter from the officers' positions.

So committed are these newly arrived officers that their first move was to propose and agree that the women's meetings should now only be held monthly instead of fortnightly as had been the case. This surely points to the amount of work these committed sisters are prepared to do.

Of course, the local press have been jubilant, running a large headline of "Militant defeated", but this bears about as much reality as Mr Gregory's report. There are now, in fact, more Militant supporters on the GMC than last year. Far from being on the defensive the Blackburn Militant supporters are campaigning with more success than ever before.

On Friday every local factory was visited in order to raise finance for the LPYS conference and to explain the events surrounding the witch-hunt. On Saturday, as well as the normal paper sale

in Blackburn town centre, they also had sales in other areas and in the nearby towns of Accrington and Darwen. On Sunday a successful estate sale was held, with approximately 80 papers sold and half a dozen applications for the Labour Party collected.

As regards the issues of expulsions it appears that the EC of the party, which has moved to the right since the AGM, are waiting to let Militant supporters do the donkey work during local elections, canvassing and leafletting and then can draw up a list for the proposed expulsions.

However the Blackburn Militant supporters are confident that if given the chance to put their case in the labour movement, no expulsions will follow.

By 'Militant' Reporter

# South West reject witch-hunt

At the South West regional Labour Party conference, the witch-hunt was decisively rejected.

At the beginning of the conference, for the first time in many years, the standing orders report was referred back. The reference back was moved in order to discuss emergency resolutions dealing with the expulsions of the Militant Editorial Board from the Labour Party.

The conference had a stronger presence of active trade union delegates, who voted overwhelmingly for left policies, including the demand that unilateral disarmament be included in the manifesto. The Regional Executive Committee were also

called upon to organise a regional demonstration against the scandalous level of unemployment in the South West.

Conference cheered and clapped as—by 296,000 to 133,000—a resolution moved by Bristol North East Labour Party, and seconded by ASTMS calling for an end to the witch-hunt was passed.

Following this an emergency resolution moved by Bristol South-East LPYS calling for the re-instatement of the 5 members of the Militant Editorial Board to the Labour Party was carried by 240,000 to 157,000.

The left had a united fringe meeting, chaired by Chris Mullins, editor of Tribune, with speakers—Tony Benn, Lynn Walsh and

John Gardener. The packed meeting of 100, with many others unable to get in, indicated the determination of the rank and file to fight the witch-hunt.

On the other hand, the Solidarity fringe meeting was attended by 11 people, three of whom were Militant supporters!

Elections to the Regional Executive Committee also gave the left a majority. This was after two re-counts of challenged results. The left majority included four Militant supporters. Several long-standing right-wingers were defeated.

By Bryan Beckingham



# £50,000 needed by April 9

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 9th April
Eastern	1796		2700
East Midlands	1382		2850
Humberside	693		1500
London East	1952		3300
London West	826		1650
London South	1419		2500
Manchester & Lancs	1503		3000
Merseyside	1688		3100
Northern	1233		3750
Scotland East	646		1850
Scotland West	1026		2800
Southern	1905		4000
South West	873		2000
Wales East	498		1500
Wales West	688		2000
West Midlands	1396		2800
Yorkshire	1549		3700
Others	1026		5000
<b>Total received</b>	<b>22,108</b>		<b>50000</b>

# Double our money now

**THIS WEEK:  
£2334**

By Steve Cawley

**We still have another £28,000 to collect to achieve our £50,000 target.**

If each reader of the paper sent us just £1 for the remaining two weeks, we would go well over our target. So whilst £28,000 might seem a lot to raise, if there are tens of thousands of contributors—the task is easy.

Another thousand pounds this week from public meetings, and the successful Marx Centenary rallies held last week, as well as hundreds of individual donations took our overall figure over the £22,000 mark.

The money from the Marx rallies included £250 from London, over £100 from the West of Scotland, and more on the way from East Scotland, over £250 from Merseyside, over £100 from Brighton, and a similar amount from a meeting in Sunderland, £50 from Plymouth and nearly £40 from Harlow.

Labour Party members at the East Midlands Regional meeting contributed nearly £40 after expenses, at the *Militant* meeting, with

thanks particularly to NUM delegates C Hawley (President N Derby), B Walker (Newstead Branch Sec) and B Moody (Welbeck). £15.50 collected on an appeal sheet from the North West LP Conference has just reached us, along with £20 from Wythenshawe CLP.

Thanks also to the comrades who collected £7.36 in paper extras outside a Darlington election meeting; that's an example for everyone to follow, but don't wait for the general election comrades!

Workers to support us this week included: delegates and visitors to the Women's TUC, (£50), members of Hull AUEW No 12 branch, those on the Moss Moran Lumis Site in Fife, (£30), and expenses from W London, Coventry and Saddleworth.

Thanks to a London reader for £50 back pay, a Leicester comrade in memory of Sue Beckingham (£10), B and C Rice (Fife) £12, Zorba (Manchester) £6, E Furey (Salford, SOGAT '82) £5, Marden LP readers L Arnell and E Scott, P Day and R Brooker (both Brighton fivers), and R Hartil (Bristol

South LPYS).

A Kent SCPS member forwarded expenses, and D Robson (Liverpool 7) sent an extra £3.60 with orders for badges and posters. Fivers included those from A Georgiou (Hastings), J McDonald (Southampton), M Brown (Derby) and F Fitzgerald (Dagenham LPYS). We can't unfortunately mention everyone else, but thanks to T Ulney (unemployed, Basildon), A Davey (unemployed, London), G Dawkins (Eastleigh), J Bealey, a Notts engineering worker who is prepared to send us £1 per week, and to S Yen and S Hatch (Liverpool).

Young Socialists in Brent and Coventry sent the proceeds of collections and donations and the secretary of Preston LPYS sent a personal donation from expenses. Thanks also to students in Cardiff, Portsmouth and Plymouth, and to individual students at Leeds and Aberystwyth universities.

To those who have thought about giving us a donations, but haven't done so yet, what about it? Like one trade union general secretary this week who gave £5, you can remain anonymous, or, if you want to see your name in our col-

umn, we'll do our best.

We're hoping there'll be a good response at the LPYS conference this week to our appeal. Last year's fund-raising was criticised by some national officials of the Labour Party, but presumably members of the party are allowed to do as they want with their own cash? It's precisely to fight this thought-control that *Militant* was founded in the first place.

We stand for socialism, where it's votes rather than money that determines the political papers' ability to publish and circulate. If you agree with us, or if you just agree with our right to publish, give your agreement concrete form—give us a donation today. With another £28,000 we can do wonders against Fleet Street's millions.



**KARL MARX CENTENARY BADGE**

Only 20p each (in red, white and brown). Bulk orders: 20 for £2 + 50p postage/packing. Send cash with order (cheques payable to *Militant* to *Militant* Badges, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

**NEW POSTER**

Historic 'Murmansk' poster featuring Bolsheviks' appeal to British troops who invaded Russia after the revolution. 25p each (+ 15p p&rp) or 20 for £3 (including p&rp). Available from E Phillips, 66 Sprindale Road, Broadstone, Poole.

# LPYS-SELL THE MILITANT

In every period, especially when the movement is under attack it is youth who show the way forward, and it has been the members of the LPYS that have powered *Militant* to record sales already this year. We are asking all LPYS members to make a special effort to gain new sales and sellers for us this year. We are aiming to go twice weekly within the next period but that will only

be possible if all the stops are pulled out: selling on the streets, on the estates, at the factory gates and in the organisations of the movement.

If you would like to become a seller or reader of our paper contact Andy Beadle at the conference. Some of the areas to have doubled their sales are: Hounslow, Brent, Barnet, Aberystwyth, Blackburn,

Preston, Dundee, Mid Lothian, Southwark and West Kent. Can you emulate these sellers? Have you approached your local newsagent or bookshop to sell *Militant*? If not, why not? If you wish to become a seller contact: *Militant* Circulation, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN or phone 01-986 3828.

# ads

**NEW RATE**  
CLASSIFIED: 10p per word, minimum 10 words.  
SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per 2 column centimetres.  
All advertisement copy should reach this office by SATURDAY.

## Militant readers meetings

**CARLISLE:** Marxist Discussion Group held fortnightly. For further information contact: Ian Campbell on Carlisle 21068.

**HALIFAX** Marxist Discussion Group. Fortnightly Wednesdays, beginning 6 April at 7.30 pm at AEU Club, St James Street, Halifax (near Halifax bus station). For more information phone Phil Crossley, Halifax 822814.

**BLACKWOOD** Marxist Discussion Group. Telephone Blackwood 220051.

**ASHTON UNDER LYNE** Marxist Discussion Group. Tuesday 12 April. 'Role of a Marxist shop steward'. Phone 061-344 5505 for details.

**BENFLEET.** Monday 11 April at 7.45 pm, Richmond Hall. Speaker: Danny Purton (Harlow LP, personal capacity).

**RAYLEIGH** Speaker: Keith Dickinson (Militant Editorial Board). At Room 5, Civic Suite, Rayleigh Council Offices, Rayleigh High Street (opposite the church). On Monday 25 April, 8 pm. All welcome.

On the centenary of Marx's death, 14 March 1983, Peter Taaffe spoke on Swansea on the relevance of Marxism today, of Militant in the labour movement. Tape cassette available £2.25. Orders to D L Davies, 10 Page Street, Swansea. Profit to Militant Fighting Fund.

**WRITE OFF THE TORIES WITH US**

*Militant* biros with slogan: "Read Militant, Tories out, Labour to power on a socialist programme." Normal price 20p (plus 20p p&rp). Bulk orders: 10 at £1.30 (post free).

**NEW MILITANT LEAFLET**  
Out now! It's an election year special! Advertise your local readers' meeting with this new leaflet. Free, from 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

**CLASSIFIED**

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# GREENHAM COMMON

## Tories threaten democratic rights

**For over a year the 'Women for Peace' have been camped outside the American Airforce base at Greenham Common in Berkshire. Berkshire.**

In that time they have been harassed, intimidated and obstructed by the police and dozens of them have been charged with breach of the peace or obstruction. Some of those charged have been bound over, others fined or jailed and there are still charges pending for the most recent cases.

### 'Legal' intimidation

The determination of the authorities to stifle what is an entirely peaceful protest took a new turn this month with the decision to evict the peace camp from Greenham Common itself. It had been assumed that because Greenham Common was 'common land', that any member of the public had access to it, but a recent decision by Newbury council in effect revoked the common rights to the land.

The decisions of the courts now effectively deny the right of peaceful protest in Greenham. Quite apart from the fact that the labour movement has taken a stand in favour of unilateral nuclear disarmament and against the siting of cruise

missiles, and to that extent are in accord with the protest itself, it has now also become an issue of democratic rights.

The attempts by the courts to stifle peaceful protest at Greenham poses a threat to the democratic rights of the labour and trade union movement. Socialists, as well as supporting the campaign for unilateral nuclear disarmament, should vigorously oppose the use of the police and the courts against this protest.

However, the determination and the tenacity of the Greenham women in the face of prolonged harassment and intimidation by the police and courts, have only strengthened the sympathy for their protest. Most working class women would not be in a position to leave their families and children to join the camp, but because there is a general and deeply felt fear of nuclear war, especially among women, the Greenham Common protesters have found an echo.

### 'Women only'

But at the same time, even most women would argue that it is naïve to pretend that wars arise from sexual differences and the oppression of women in society. The idea of a 'woman only' protest stems from the notion that the war-mongers, the generals and the heads of

state are men, and that women are peacemakers.

It is actually a reactionary idea, harking back to Victorian illusions, that women are innately pacific whereas men are innately aggressive. Wars and the oppression of women in society are both the products of the class nature of society.

### Labour and the peace movement

Wars do not arise by accident, or by 'male aggression' but as a result of clashes between the competing interests of different national capitalists, or conflicts between one social class and another. Leaders like Margaret Thatcher and Indira Gandhi have proved to be just as callous in defence of the interests of their class as any men have been.

The working class, organised in the labour movement, is the only force capable of overthrowing the system which creates war and the oppression of women: failure to recognise this will only isolate sincere activists, weakening and undermining their cause.

It would, therefore, be completely wrong for the 'peace women' to follow the tactic of standing their own candidates in elections—this would mean opposition to the Labour Party, the only party whose conference voted overwhelmingly in favour of opposition to Cruise and for unilateral

nuclear disarmament. Recently, Simone Wilkinson, a member of the CND executive, stood as an independent candidate in a by-election on the Isle of Wight, even though the Labour candidate, a *Militant* supporter, stood on a unilateralist programme of 'Peace, Youth and Jobs'.

The peace camp has provided a focus for the peace movement, gaining wide publicity, but unless it is linked to a more general strategy and struggle—for socialist change—it cannot stop nuclear weapons being based at Greenham or anywhere else. Despite understandable frustration at the record of previous right wing Labour governments, and the present attempts of the same right wing to water down Labour's commitment to unilateralism, the Greenham protesters should link their campaign to the more general struggle of workers in the labour movement, for a new society, for peace on a socialist basis.

It is also vital that the labour movement itself should show a willingness to link the issues together, to provide a channel for the present wave of sympathy and support, so that the energy and enthusiasm of the last year of protest can find an effective expression.

**By Maggie Hatherly**  
(Eastleigh LPYS)



Young Socialists'-eye view of Saffron Lane Estate, Leicester.

## Campaign for decent housing

SAFFRON LANE Estate in Leicester, is one of the most run-down and neglected areas in the city.

It is an area which now has 40% unemployment, and apart from one youth club, has absolutely no place where youth and older unemployed alike can go.

Recently, it was revealed in a local newspaper that many of the houses on the estate are structurally deficient, and the council is now faced with the problem of deciding whether or not to pull them down, or to launch a massive rebuilding and renovation scheme, both which cost money that the council hasn't got.

In fact, the estimated cost is no larger than the whole amount of money collected for housing in the city.

What has angered many local people though, is that in spite of the uncertainty over the houses, the council are still carrying out a modernisation programme. Many houses have had new windows installed—the only problem being that they were upside down!

For the majority of residents, living on Saffron Lane is not very enjoyable. One old lady we talked to told us that when she first moved to the estate it was beautiful. There were plenty of spaces and fields for the children to play on, and peo-

ple were proud of their houses.

Now, she's scared that the houses next door (which have been empty for a year) will get rats, and the growing mound of rubbish dumped in the gardens smells a lot too.

The Leicester LPYS branches, and the local YCAU recently organised a march and rally on the estate, mainly on the issue of unemployment, but also on the housing question too.

The demonstration was very noisy and colourful, and a well attended rally knew exactly who to blame for "the Saff's" problems—the Tory government.

Local people gave tremendous support to the march, by donating money and so on, and we found a real sympathy and interest in our ideas. If the labour movement as a whole, and not just the youth sections, had organised a campaign, the result would have been enormous.

As a result of the successful march, there are now many people on the estate who are interested in the activity of the local LPYS and YCAU branches, and soon there is a possibility of an LPYS branch based in that one area.

**By Di Walters**  
(Leicester South LPYS)



Demonstration at Greenham Common

## Introducing your neighbourhood Militant..

IT WAS a normal Friday night's drinking across the town with my mates. We were discussing the things we usually do on a Friday night...such as why the particular pub we were in was not shut because of the water strike!

Or how super YOP Gordon was getting on in his ninety-ninth scheme. Everyone was asking Harry the electrician what his first week down Rotherham was like (his factory closed down at Christmas so he had to take Tebbit's advice and leave his family and friends on Tyneside).

I had been arguing with Harry the bricklayer about paying the political levy to the Labour Party; actually he had only been winding me up but I had taken the bait. So there we were each drinking a pint of our favourite social sedative when I heard a political discussion coming

from another group of lads.

Three of them were debating the state of the country with unpleasant references to Thatcher and the rich in general. I wondered whether or not to chip in to the conversation. Sometimes you are liable to be made about as welcome as a Sunderland fan at St James' Park if you try and argue with strangers in some Newcastle pubs.

However, I couldn't hold myself back when I heard one of them suggest the Labour Party stood a better chance of being elected if the 'Militants' were kicked out. I waded in and introduced myself as a 'Militant', offering to answer any questions they had about us.

The gist of what they were saying was that they hated Thatcher and what she was doing and that they couldn't see how the rich could do anything for workers. They

only look after themselves.

But they wanted answers and an alternative and saw the Labour Party as the only alternative. However, the disunity of the Labour Party was criticized. The only answer to that they could see was provided by the press—expel the 'Militants'.

I convinced them they were wrong by explaining that it's the bosses who control the press and they aren't very well going to tell the truth about the Labour Party, are they?

When they saw I was just an ordinary working class lad like themselves the conversation really got going. They didn't disagree with one policy of *Militant* and didn't once call me extreme, because in reality they had already been discussing the same ideas and coming to the same conclusions themselves.

They hadn't read Trotsky

but one of them commented that "real Communism is brilliant, its just been corrupted by the leaders in Russia, we wouldn't let it happen here".

My discussion in the pub perked me up and proved that *Militant's* assertion that millions are looking for socialist answers isn't just optimistic talk. I was in a pub in Newcastle—there are over 60,000 in Britain.

One of the lads parting comments capped it all! He shook my hand and said "I've always thought that we need a revolution in this country and its good to find out other people feel just the same". Too right mate I thought, when are you going to join us? I'll sell them a paper next week.

**By John Hird**  
(Gateshead East LPYS)



# LEFT and RIGHT

## Save Jeeves

A message to any millionaires amongst our readership. When Bowaters' in Knightsbridge made a faithful member of their staff redundant they generously paid for a whole advert in *The Lady* to get him a new position. You may have missed that issue of *The Lady*. Perhaps you prefer *The Tatler*. Anyway, can you help?

"Our butler" said the ad "is being made redundant and seeks similar employment with a company, luncheon club or executive apartment, ideally in the London area. He is most presentable, conscientious, competent and highly recommended". Help keep Jeeves off the dole queue. It's up to you.

## Old Shep joins Old Nick

Shepard "Shep" Stone has been rewarded for his services to "freedom" by becoming a honorary citizen of Berlin. The *Militant* pamphlet, *CIA Infiltration of the Labour Movement* shows what Old Shep's idea of freedom is. As one of the heads of the American Ford Foundation, he helped finance the pro-NATO, pro-US imperialism, pro-H-bomb Institute of Strategic Studies with Denis Healey after a meeting of the infamous Bilderberg group.

Stone had been in the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the CIA, and later on the staff of the US military government in Berlin. After this job finished he helped organise many journals, foundations and conferences funded by CIA or other secret US based funds. As well as being an "agent of influence" in European labour movements, Stone joins a very select band of people in his honorary citizenship. Tsar Nicholas the First was one of his most illustrious predecessors. Is this an omen for the future?

## SDP abandons "one person, one vote"

Remember the 'one person one vote' cry of the Social Democrats before they split away from the Labour party? How they wanted every Party member to have a vote in selection procedures, even if those members never came to meetings and heard the arguments. Well, when they split away they adopted this 'democracy' in the SDP. But now they have changed their minds, especially after the Darlington disaster.

The *Daily Telegraph* (March 26) reports; "...flaws in the system have been shown up. The principal one is that party members who have not heard hopefuls speak at selection meetings can take part in the ballot and consequently the decision can lie with those unaware of the qualities of those seeking nomination...(members) ignored the fact that Mr Cook's role (the Darlington SDP candidate) on television had been to ask questions, while in the campaign he was expected to answer them."

## FIFTY YEARS AGO

When the working class took power in Russia more than twenty capitalist countries sent in their armies to try to strangle the infant Soviet regime at birth. They failed. Faced by Bolshevik agitation every army suffered mutiny or discontent. That did not stop the officers from trying to get some crumbs of comfort from the campaign.

Fifty years ago, in April 1933 the British top nobs held a memorial dinner for veterans of the campaign. There they could gnaw platefuls of venison dreaming of what might have been. At the meal, one of the four surviving campaign medals was triumphantly produced. On the front it showed the Angel of Victory, her shield decorated with a union jack, and surrounded by her defenders; British, American, French, Italian, Serbian and Russian soldiers. On the back there was the double-headed eagle of the Tsarist regime.

But as the *Evening Standard* lamented: "As soon as the medals were issued, they were melted down. For the inscription on the medal announced that it was "in memory of the liberation of the northern provinces from the Bolsheviks". Before it could be issued, the Allied forces had been evacuated."

# • REVIEWS BOOK REVIEWS •

## Dynamic 'real life' novel

Anne Murray (Woolwich Labour Party) reviews 'The Canvas Prison' by Gordon De Marco. Pub 1982, Germinal Press, San Francisco, price £3.50. Available from Compendium Books, Camden.

**A combination of political documentary with the "hard boiled" detective style of writing is not what I expected from an American private eye novel. However, this book is full of surprises.**

It mixes real characters and happenings with fiction. Set on the West Coast of America in 1949, the fictional hero, Kovacs, follows in the footsteps of Chandler's hero Philip Marlow, and emulates his tough talking, and hard bitten ways.

The difference is that he is a political radical with a deep loathing for the capitalist system and a healthy mistrust of the Stalinist Communist Party. He was involved in the San Francisco general strike of 1934 and looks forward to the day when workers no longer have to struggle.

The plot is concerned with the incarceration of radicals, dissidents and communists in mental hospitals, and the use of psycho-surgery to alter their behaviour and rehabilitate them into the American Way of Life.

This is what really happened to actress Frances

Farmer. Later she wrote a book describing her experiences, *Will There be a Morning*. A film based upon her life story is now on release.

In the novel, Kovacs hopes to find and free her before she is given a lobotomy. She 'suffers' from a contempt of the bosses of Hollywood and a sympathy for socialism. Her disease is defined as "classic schizophrenia paranoia which has been translated into political terms, so that the patient believes that the free enterprise system is the enemy."

Much of the information given about the mental health system in the US is based on fact, and indeed shows that Russia is not alone in treating its dissidents as mentally ill.

While searching for Frances Farmer, Kovacs comes into contact with some of the "Hollywood Ten", who are being witch-hunted by the Un-American Activities Committee. He hears many discussions about the role of the CP leadership in union disputes, and their betrayal of the working class in the protracted struggles of the time. He is also impressed by the political and trade union activists who refuse to be cowed by their corrupt leadership or by repressive government legislation.

The book is written in the style of Chandler and owes much to the work of Dashell Hammett, but this writer deals with his characters in

relation to the society in which they live and the class conflicts of the time. The pace is lively, the plot never flags and the fictional characters are as real as the historically based figures.

The book ends on a note of hope and optimism with

the belief that no matter how repressive the government, the working class will fight on until they triumph in the end. I hope the output continues from this author as good socialist fiction is too rare.

## How not to fight fascism

**Socialists may be attracted to a new book to be published in April, *The New Fascists* by Professor Paul Wilkinson.**

However, while the information in the book on the resurgence of international fascism may be of use, if the reader is looking for an explanation and analysis of fascism and how it can be fought—forget it.

Professor Wilkinson is a Tory. For him capitalist 'democracy' is the norm. Any deviation from this line is therefore 'extremism', and he continually plays the normal Tory card that 'left extremism is as bad as right extremism' etc. While dealing with the Nazi groups, Wilkinson continually makes side-swipes at the left.

For example, he describes the Red Brigade terrorists as "neo-Marxists". The learned professor should spend some time reading Marx—not one sentence of any of Marx's mammoth writings gives one iota of support to the tactics of individual terrorism.

Wilkinson's Tory outlook on life also colours his interpretation of history too. Thus the first chapter deal-

ing with the rise of Hitler has only one paragraph dealing with the massive financial backing Hitler received from the bosses.

And the demise of the National Front in Britain in the late '70s is due according to Wilkinson to the campaign by the "mass media". Presumably to his way of thinking, it had nothing to do with the mobilisation of thousands of workers around the Anti-Nazi League and the labour and trade union movement that drove back the NF!

He is sceptical of anti-fascist counter-demonstrations. His answer is a campaign of 'civic education' and more 'community policing'.

Wilkinson represents the 'liberal' wing of the Tory Party and his book will no doubt be popular among Tory wets, to show they are 'making a stand' against fascism. Serious anti-fascists, however, will look to other books and the ideas of socialism and the mighty organisations of the labour movement to stamp out the scourge of the swastika.

By Bob Wade

## Militant pamphlets

Andrew Glyn's pamphlet *Capitalist Crisis: Tribune's Alternative Strategy or Socialist Plan*, first published in 1978, is the best criticism of the *Alternative Economic Strategy* from a consistent socialist point of view.

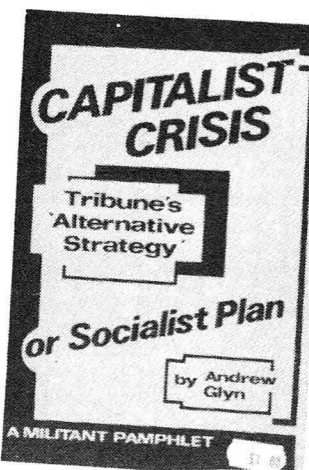
In 1978 the *Alternative Economic Strategy* (AES) was campaigned for by Tribune and the left of the Labour Party. Nowadays both right and left leaders of the Labour Party formally support it.

The 1982 Programme incorporates the main points of the AES. It is therefore all the more important to look again at this programme and see if it offers a way forward for working people.

The background to the pamphlet is the world economic crisis, superimposed on the particular problems of British capitalism. Andrew Glyn gives socialists all the facts and figures they need.

The heart of the pamphlet is its socialist criticism of the AES. At the time of the first edition, there were widespread illusions in the possibility of North Sea oil reserves saving the day—illusions destroyed by the pamphlet.

Similar illusions are now being peddled about import controls being a panacea to



£1.20 including p&p

the run-down of British industry. This pamphlet also punctures those illusions.

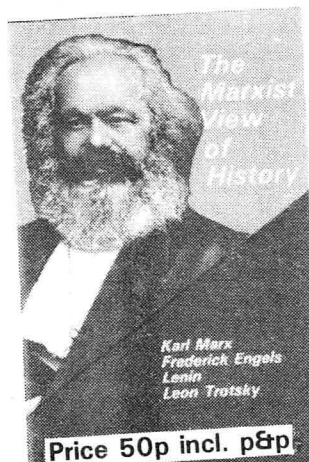
Not all the proposals of the AES are sidetracks for the movement. The demand for nationalisation of the banks and financial institutions is one that every socialist would support.

But, as the pamphlet points out, "It is essential not to be misled about what it could achieve within the essentially capitalist framework, which the AES accepts—that is with the overwhelming majority of the means of production in industry in private hands." The Mitterrand government in France has found this out the hard way!

In a crisis of capitalism every real reform comes up

against the economic realities of the capitalist system and the social power of the bosses. In this situation the AES "by attempting to go part of the way towards a socialist programme, this strategy is not 'transitional' to such a programme but is transitional to a tremendous disaster."

Andrew Glyn's pamphlet is a weapon to re-arm the movement on socialist lines. The new introduction takes up the lessons of the French Socialist government and the holes in Shore's reflationary package. Every socialist should have a copy.



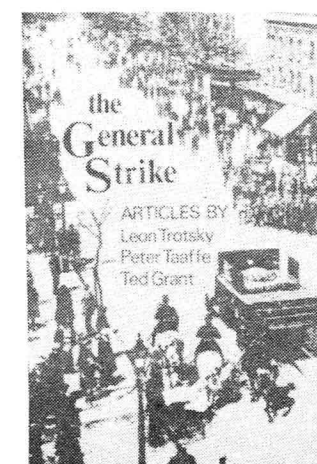
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In time for the Marx centenary, this latest *Militant* pamphlet presents a basic outline of the theory of Marxism in the words of

four of its greatest practitioners. The compilation is ideal for comrades new to the ideas of Marxism.

It includes: Lenin's *Three Sources and Component Parts of Marxism*; several of Engels' letters where he outlined the basic principles of historical materialism; the core of Marx's preface to *Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*, where he laid out his world view in a few paragraphs; and Trotsky's *ABC of Materialist Dialectics*; as well as other supplementary writings.

A valuable pamphlet for discussion groups and for anyone interested in Marx's ideas as a guide to changing society.



£1.20 including p&p



# LPYS Conference '83

## Build Labour's youth...

The Tories say youth have priced themselves out of jobs—the coming General Election will give youth the opportunity to vote the Tories out of theirs!

At this year's national conference of the Labour Party Young Socialists, the discussion on the document "Youth for Labour" and on the general election will be one of the key debates.

The past four years of Tory rule have been a nightmare. And the future proposals of the Tories show they are determined to continue the course of cutbacks, privatisation and mass unemployment. The Tories must go, and be replaced by a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

Yet, as is clear from the Bermondsey by-election youth today are not 'guaranteed' Labour supporters, because of the experience of past Labour governments especially 1974-79 which presided over doubling unemployment and cuts in living standards and social services.

Indeed, in the 1979 election, for the first time there was a swing amongst the youth vote away from Labour. And no wonder, when the 1979 Labour election manifesto had only the following to say about youth:

"Britain has the best Youth Programme in Europe. We have the Youth Opportunities Programme, which guarantees every school-leaver either a job or a training place or employment experience. We are supporting a great range of opportunities for young people. Labour will expand the Youth Service to meet the social and recreational needs of young people."

The section on animal welfare was five words longer!

The frustration of youth is also illustrated by the scepticism towards political parties. The figures for electoral registration show a graphic picture. In 1981, 14.2% of those eligible to vote in Inner London were not registered, rising to 21% of 18-29 year olds, and a massive 47% of unemployed under 30.

This apathy amongst an age group traditionally loyal to Labour is a warning, but it also has its positive side. In reality it is a rejection of the record of all previous governments that have propped up the capitalist system. Behind the figures lies a desire for a real change

By Kevin Ramage  
(National Chairman, LPYS)

in the conditions of life.

In the elections due to be held in June or the Autumn of this year, youth will be the key, with 4½ million first time voters. But with the low figures of electoral registration, the despair that boiled over into the riots of 1981, and mass unemployment, the overwhelming majority will have to be positively won to voting Labour.

Relying on past loyalties will pave the way to defeat. Labour must offer a real alternative to the day to day problems confronting youth, but also if youth are not to see this as 'politicians' promises' they must be convinced that a Labour government will mean the sweeping aside of capitalism and a complete change in society.

Following the riots of 1981 the LPYS launched the 'Youth Charter', a series of ten demands taking up the problems of youth. The campaign waged by the LPYS around the 'Youth Charter' has had a major im-



A section of the successful LPYS demonstration in Liverpool against youth unemployment in October.

Photo: Militant

pact on party policy. A Campaign document which will form the basis of Labour's next manifesto has

been drawn up jointly by the Labour Party NEC and the shadow cabinet.

The section on youth is Labour's most radical policy ever, largely due to the pressure of the LPYS. It includes a commitment that the next Labour government will pay £25 a week (at 1983 prices) to all over-16s in full time education, for a full 52 weeks in the year. It also includes a commitment to disband the SPG. These are the type of policies that will win youth—and older workers—to Labour in the next election.

Unfortunately the commitment to discuss with the TUC Trade Union rights for members of the armed forces was agreed by the NEC but rejected by the shadow cabinet. No doubt pressure from the rank and file will bring this demand back to the fore.

On Youth Training, Labour's policy calls for a 'new' Youth Training Scheme implying criticism of YTS as proposed by the Tories. Labour recognises that mass youth unemployment is not due to youth pricing themselves out of a job as the Tories claim.

Labour recognises that the future of youth is bound up with them organising in the

trade union movement but unfortunately at this stage Labour is only committed to paying Youth Trainees £30 a week, only £5 more than the Tories.

One of the main jobs of the LPYS over the next period will be to convince the labour movement that cheap labour government training schemes are being used to undermine the power of organised labour and drive down workers' wages generally. Therefore a major campaign is necessary to commit the labour movement to fighting for trade union rates of pay for all youth.

The LPYS are perhaps the only section of the labour movement to have grown in the last year. There are now 493 branches. The LPYS have given a lead in fighting the Tories. They have successfully campaigned to win youth to the Labour movement, despite the temporary setback of Labour's right wing—who seem more intent on witch-hunting socialists than building the party—cutting the LPYS budget by £11,750.

The task now before this year's LPYS conference and before the branches as a whole is to prepare, politically and organisationally for

the coming General Election. The document "Youth For Labour" is essential reading for every LPYS member, every activist within the labour movement, and to young people new to the struggle against the Tories.

Every LPYS branch should be approaching its constituency Labour Party now discussing and drawing up election campaign proposals to ensure the full mobilisation of the youth vote. For this, special youth leaflets need to be drafted, as well as plans laid for a major election rally specifically aimed towards youth, and ensuring that there is an LPYS speaker on every election platform.

The best answer that can be given to the Tories, the capitalists that have condemned youth to a miserable future, is for the LPYS to prepare for our biggest ever election campaign, and start now the task of winning members in every factory, workplace, college, school.

From 493 branches at present to 600 should be entirely possible in an election year. With 25 active members in each of those branches, this will be the basis for the first time in decades for establishing a mass socialist youth movement.

## THE LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS DEMAND:

- ★ No cuts in apprentices pay
- ★ No cuts in supplementary benefit
- ★ Trade Union rates of pay for YTS Trainees
- ★ A 35 hour week
- ★ Five weeks paid holiday
- ★ Free travel to work
- ★ A new deal for youth—all school leavers guaranteed a job, a decent wage or the right to training on full pay; or the right to stay on at college with a decent grant.
- ★ Scrap Nuclear weapons—cut defence spending and transfer spending to the NHS, Education and Social Services.
- ★ A massive scheme of useful public works—including rail electrification, new hospitals and schools, and a programme to build one million new homes a year and investment into industry.
- ★ Nationalisation of the top 200 companies that dominate the economy along with the banks and finance houses, under workers control and management with compensation only to be paid on the basis of proven need.
- ★ For a socialist plan of production
- ★ Tories OUT! Labour to power on a socialist programme.

# ...and kick the Tories out!



# Militant

## NEW HOPE FOR BRITAIN?

Labour's new campaign document "The New Hope for Britain", based upon Party Conference resolutions, will undoubtedly attract the support of millions of workers suffering under the effects of four years of Thatcherism. It promises.

- ★ Unemployment down to 1 million, through a crash programme of public expenditure and investment.
- ★ £30 a week minimum for unemployed youth.
- ★ Child benefit up to £8.
- ★ 50% increase in local authority housing investment.
- ★ Freeze on rent rises for a year.
- ★ Renationalisation of privatised firms.
- ★ Prescription charges to be phased out.
- ★ Repeal of Tebbit's anti-Trade Union laws
- ★ No Cruise missiles

The Tories and the economic system they stand for are graphically denounced in the document for its "ruthless and devil-take-the-hindmost individualism."

Thatcher, it declares,

"truly represents the readiness of the Conservative Party, old and new, to act in a crisis to protect the interests of a small and privileged class. She represents the competitive system in its most callous manifestation. She worships the profit motive—the money test. Nothing else, no other value in life is allowed to count."

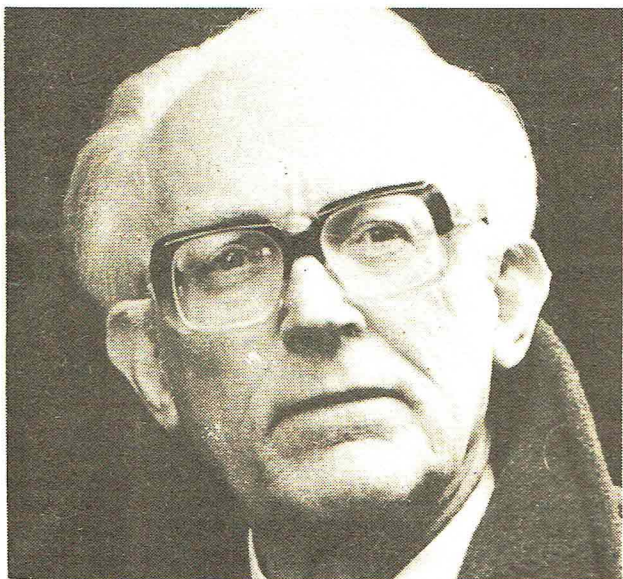
Militant supports this programme and will fight to see it implemented. If Labour wins the election, the party ranks must see that there is no retreat under capitalist pressure.

Across the English Channel, however, in France, a country one third richer than Britain, Mitterrand has demonstrated that a programme more radical than this one cannot be implemented if the power and wealth of big business is not broken.

Unless the capitalist system is overthrown and socialist policies introduced, the French experience will be repeated in Britain under the next Labour government.

Only in a democratically planned economy in which the top monopolies are nationalised under workers' control and management can the promises of this programme be made real.

Photo: Militant



Michael Foot, who presented Labour's new programme on 29 March



Photo: Militant

## Racist laws must go!

Despite the poor weather, nearly 10,000 people joined last Sunday's march through central London to protest against the racist immigration and nationality laws. Taking part in the demonstration were supporters from the Indian Workers Association, the Colin Roach Campaign, Kashmiri workers groups, the Newham 8 Defence Committee and the

Muhammed Idrish support group, along with Labour party, trade union and LPYS branches.

Earlier in the day a delegation from the march delivered a petition to 10 Downing Street, calling on the government to repeal the present legislation on immigration.

However, the marchers had no illusions in the Tories. The anger of black

workers against the Thatcher government was evident throughout the march. The main slogan was "Black and White, Unite and Fight. Kick The Tories Out!"

The Labour movement must now mount a mass campaign to ensure that the next Labour government is pledged to repeal the Nationality Act and the 1971 Immigration Act, and all racist legislation.

**COWLEY:**  
They treat us like robots

Management attempts to rob workers at Cowley assembly plant, Oxford, of their so-called "cleaning up time" have resulted in a strike.

It is one of a series of disputes which have broken out in Halewood, Longbridge and other car factories, and in the docks.

Small signs of an upswing in the economy from the depths of recession means workers are no longer prepared to be kicked around by the employers who have used unemployment to savage us over the past few years.

BL management at Cowley are ignoring our anger and trying to further worsen our living standards and work conditions. In their search for profits they are trying to keep lines working for an extra hour each week.

Day and night shift workers voted to withdraw labour until that decision is withdrawn. The convenor said it was the most decisive vote he had seen in his 23 years at Cowley!

Management's pernicious policy to tie the workers from bell to bell like a robot, which reminds us of a 19th century employer, has been on the file waiting to be imposed at the right time.

Intoxicated by many successes such as low wage increases, dismissal of militant shop stewards, increases in the line speed, BL have sunk to the lowest level to do the meanest thing just before the Easter holidays. This time BL has misread the minds of the workers, who are not prepared to sacrifice this elementary "privilege" attained many years ago.

The management were taken by surprise, and blamed union leaders for making the industrial action. They were threatening dismissal of senior shop stewards. British Leyland may embark on a propaganda campaign to institute divisions among the workers and turn them against the union leadership.

The motive of BL management is to make hay while the sun shines, that is impose "discipline" while they think the union is weak, in anticipation of an unquestioning attitude from workers. Workers' rights and privileges must be upheld. The union's leadership at national level must support our cause.

Management are recruiting workers at the present, increasing manning levels for the first time since the early '70s. We are prepared to fight to ensure that the employers don't land us with totally uncivilised work conditions.

**By a Cowley assembly plant worker**

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# Socialism or war



The massive CND rally in Hyde Park, 1981.

Photo: Militant

**In a recent MORI opinion poll, 51 per cent of young people said that they believed they would see a nuclear war in their lifetime.**

The sabre rattling of Thatcher and Reagan and the upswing in the nuclear arms race has brought back the fear of a new world war to the minds of many youth.

This anxiety has been clearly reflected in the huge growth of support for CND and the monster demonstrations that have taken place against Cruise missiles and nuclear weapons.

The debate on peace and nuclear disarmament will therefore be one of the most important at this year's LPYS conference. The Labour Party Young Socialists support and are campaigning for unilateral nuclear disarmament and the conference will be urged to firmly support the Youth CND festival to be held in London on May 7.

The fact that the Labour Party is the only major political party committed to scrapping Cruise and Trident and to unilateral nuclear disarmament would win a huge echo amongst working people if campaigned upon in the coming general election.

This century there have been two world wars—World War Two left 50 million dead. Since 1945 not one year has passed without a war being fought in some part of the world; there have been over 130 armed conflicts resulting in some 25

**By Nick Toms**

million dead. These small but monstrous conventional wars continue today in the Lebanon, Western Sahara, Central America, South East Asia and between Iran and Iraq. Only a year ago Britain was at war with Argentina over the Falklands.

The United Nations, the world's supposed 'peace keeping dove', has been powerless on every occasion to intervene. In the Lebanon all the UN 'peace-keeping' troops could do was to take the numbers of the Israeli tanks as they rolled past. The UN has failed to prevent a single major conflict at any time in any part of the world.

Wars are not fought for fun of glory, nor do they happen 'by accident'. Wars are fought for spheres of influence, raw materials and control of markets. In the words of the Prussian General, Von Clausewitz, 'War is a continuation of politics by other means'.

In periods of economic growth, when there is plenty of booty to go round to keep all of the capitalist powers happy, then 'peace' has prevailed with disputes between rival capitalist countries being resolved through 'diplomatic channels'. But when crisis strikes and the booty dries up with markets becoming scarce, then capitalism goes to war. War is an inherent part of the capitalist system.

Today the world is dominated by the super powers of American Imperialism (based on private property) in the West and the

Russian Stalinist regime (based on bureaucratically planned economy) in the East. It is the basic antagonism between these two fundamentally different social systems that underlies the arms race and the threat of nuclear war.

## What future?

**"After 11 years of education leaving school this summer should be a time for looking forward to a future in society. But many of us will be looking towards FE colleges to keep us off the streets over the next couple of years. Not because we particularly want to go to college but it's simply a case of no choice. It is for this reason the LPYS demand for a £25 grant for all 16 to 18 year old FE students has gone down well amongst my friends at school.**

**"Many of my school mates blame and hate Thatcher and her government but many would blame society as a whole. Just because they hate Thatcher has not meant that they have automatically gone over to supporting Labour. That's why it is vital that the Labour Party campaigns around socialist policies in order to prove to youth that they are serious about offering a future."**  
—Nina Jordan (Ladywood LPYS, Birmingham).

Detente is a fiction. It may be possible to obtain on occasions temporary agreements between the rival powers to limit arms spending and even to arms reductions. This is because of the huge drain arms expenditure makes to the economies of

both sides. However, history has shown that agreements even between rival powers are not worth the paper they are written on.

In the conflict between two irreconcilable class systems it is even more impossible for any long term agreements on limiting arms expenditure or arms reductions to be achieved.

World war has so far been prevented, not because of detente, but firstly because the capitalists realise that a world war would mean a nuclear war which would lead to the destruction of not only the source of their wealth, industry and the working class, but of themselves as well. They would gain nothing and almost certainly lose everything from such a conflict at this stage.

The capitalists claim that it is this so-called Mutually Assured Destruction (appropriately initialled MAD) that has preserved world peace up until now.

However, they continually try and alter this balance in their favour. This is what Reagan is trying to do at the moment with his crash arms building programme. There is frequent talk amongst American generals of the need to possess a first strike capability against the USSR. Given the bloody history of capitalism over the past hundred or so years then who can possibly trust Reagan, Thatcher and their class to preserve peace?

The second most important reason for the 'peace' since 1945 is the immense strength of the organised working class. It is the

democratic rights and power of the working class in the capitalist countries that has kept in check the 'madmen' who would wish to unleash a nuclear war.

Both the first and the second world wars took place only following the defeats of the working class. The second world war came only after the victory of fascism in Germany, Italy and Spain and the resulting destruction of all the democratic rights of working people i.e. the right to strike, the right to organise, the right to vote and the right to free speech.

If the labour movement fails to take power in the coming period then it is possible that the capitalists, faced with a deepening crisis they are incapable of solving will follow the example of their counterparts in Chile and look towards establishing a military police dictatorship as a solution.

The rise to power of a Pinochet type figure in an 'advanced' western capitalist country with his finger on the button could seriously raise the prospect of a nuclear war and the destruction of mankind.

The struggle for peace and disarmament is intrinsically linked to the struggles of the working class to build a socialist society.

The LPYS are fighting and campaigning for unilateral nuclear disarmament. But even if this was achieved under capitalism, it would not permanently guarantee peace. The capitalist class would still possess the technology to make nuclear arms and whilst capitalism still exists

## YTS file

**"The government's controversial Young Workers Scheme is estimated to have created only about 13,000 new jobs by January...A memorandum to the Commons Public Accounts Committee...says the net cost per person taken off the unemployment register in the first year of the scheme was about £5,355.**

**"Under the new scheme employers can receive subsidies of up to £15 per week if they employ young people for less than £45. It reflects the government view that wage rates are a factor in the high level of youth unemployment."**

—Financial Times (March 1)

## YTS file

**"It seems probable that like the Youth Opportunities Programme and the Young Workers Scheme it (YTS) will put downward pressure on pay rates of youth workers."**

Extract from the Tory government's 'Northern Economic Review' on YTS proposals.

## YTS file

**"Readers of our Bulletin will be aware that Youthisd has over the last 12 months changed its views on the MSC (Manpower Services Commission) programmes for the unemployed...in the past we maintained that on balance they were beneficial to the young unemployed...our current belief (is) that existing MSC schemes are not only inadequate in scale and nature, but are being used quite deliberately to cut young people's wage levels."**

—from the February edition of the bulletin by Youthisd, an independent charity set up to campaign on behalf of young people.

the threat of war is always there. If a world war was to break out and they had no nuclear weapons to start with they would soon be shelling them out like peas from a pod.

It is only through the overthrow of capitalism in the West and through the political revolution in the East to end the rule of the Stalinist one party regimes and the building of socialism internationally that world peace can be guaranteed.

Today our task is to make that a reality through building a mighty socialist youth movement as a step to ensure the victory of the working class internationally.

The conflicts under capitalism between nations would be replaced by building fraternity between all the peoples of the world. Humanity would have ended its prehistory and through the building of socialism internationally would have begun the development of genuine civilisation.

# Conference '83

# LPYS



# What future for Palestinian revolution?

## Palestinian workers on the West Bank now face a two pronged attack.

In the most recent disturbances they have found themselves not just up against the brutal military policy of the occupying Israeli Army, but also against organised vigilante groups of extreme right wing Jewish settlers, kidnapping and terrorising Arab protesters.

All the main Arab towns and cities on the West Bank have been rocked in recent weeks by the largest protest for a year, against Israeli occupation and the continual confiscation of Arab land for settlements.

The response of the occupying authorities has been brutal repression. Shopkeepers who joined in the protests have had their shopfronts welded shut by Israeli soldiers. Deterrent sentences have been meted out to youths involved in the protests. Three Palestinian girls, for example, were fined up to £1,400 and given suspended prison sentences for throwing stones, while other youth were given up to eight months in jail.

Despite the harshness of the measures, it is inevitable that there will be more and more explosive outbursts as the position of the Palestinian population worsens. While the economy of the West Bank Arabs is suffocated through lack of resources, many Palestinians are forced to travel daily into Israel to make a living.

### Brutal Occupation

Meanwhile nearly half of the total land area has been confiscated to make room for the Jewish settlements, lavishly financed, supporting a population one-thirtieth that of the Arabs. The Israeli government is planning the expansion of the existing settlements and the creation of new ones, so that Palestinian leaders have complained that if nothing is done, soon "there will be no Arab West Bank left to fight for".

But despite the intransigence of the Begin government, the new protests show the enormous resilience of the Palestinian masses. Including southern Lebanon, Israel now occupies land including about two million Palestinians and, by their numbers and their circumstances, they will be forced time and time again onto the road of struggle for their national and economic emancipation.

**The international labour movement must stand foursquare with the struggle of the Palestinian masses for their rights.**

A different question however, and one that has been raised regularly in the British labour movement, is the extent to which socialists should support the Palestine Liberation Organisation. At this year's LPYS conference, for example, there will be calls for the recognition of the PLO as "the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people". But socialists, although suppor-

By John Pickard

ting the struggle of the Palestinian workers and peasants, are under no obligation to extend their support to a leadership which has conspicuously failed to "legitimately represent" the interests of the Palestinians.

### PLO defeated militarily

The war in Lebanon has left the PLO militarily crushed and dispersed among various Arab states. Nowhere does the PLO now have an independent base, as it formerly had in Southern Lebanon. In all the states where the Palestinian militias have found themselves, they have been disarmed, confined to isolated barracks and effectively silenced.

The PLO newspapers and broadcasting stations that once operated from Beirut no longer exist and no Arab governments will allow the same freedom of propaganda on their own soil—and least of all the only significant 'front-line' state, Syria.

The PLO is now in a blind alley, after having followed incorrect policies and political methods for two decades. Despite the unanimous declaration issued after the meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) last month, it is clear that below the surface, the PLO is deeply split.

The Arafat wing, the majority in the PLO, now want to follow a policy of diplomatic dealing, though the medium of King Hussein of Jordan, with the USA, after Reagan's declared support for "self-government by the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza in association with Jordan".

### Political Blind Alley

The declaration that came out of the PNC meeting was carefully worded and deliberately ambiguous, reflecting on the one hand a public condemnation of the 'Reagan Plan', yet leaving at the same time, enough freedom for manoeuvre for Arafat and the PLO leadership to negotiate with the USA, via King Hussein.

With the elimination of the last independent base of the PLO, Arafat now depends on the diplomatic hand-outs of the Arab and other governments more than ever before and his move towards a guarded recognition of Israel in return for the Reagan plan is an attempt, from a standpoint of his impotency, to salvage something out of the debacle of years of misleadership by the PLO.

The 'hard-liners' in the PLO who have criticised this turn by Arafat have no real solution themselves. A new turn to individual terrorism, against Israeli Jews would be a disaster for the mass of Palestinians, and would in the long run strengthen the hand of Begin in Israel.



PLO forces withdraw from Beirut, August 1982



Arafat, with the late President Sadat of Egypt, prepared to accept the American "Peace Plan"?

But, as the war in Lebanon also showed, there can be no military defeat of Israel. The Syrian government, while supporting the 'hard-liners' in their attacks upon Arafat have been at the same time careful enough to keep the Palestinians in Syrian-occupied Lebanon on a short rein, so as not to provoke war with Israel, a war which they would certainly lose.

Nevertheless, in the final analysis 'recognition' of the PLO by Reagan, or the EEC for that matter, is entirely secondary. If Reagan and King Hussein agree "self-government for the Palestinians in association with Jordan", it will not be a means of achieving national and social liberation for the Palestinian masses.

Reagan has no more interest in the mass of Palestinians than he has of the mass of Vietnamese or Nicaraguans. King Hussein, for his part, has hands dripping with the blood of Palestinians; not least among his 'achievements' being the slaughter of thousands of Palestinians in 'Black September' 1970. Arafat, the so-called "legitimate representative" of the Palestinian people, now apparently wants to bestow the same "legitimacy" on his diplomat Hussein, the butcher of Palestinians.

A Palestinian federation with Jordan is unlikely in any case. It would be bitterly opposed by Israel, and by the Arab regimes afraid of an independent, revolutionary Palestine. The only basis upon which such a federation could be achieved at all would be by the establishment of a Jordanian military occupation in order to check the legitimate demands of the Palestinians for national, and, especially, democratic and social rights.

In other words, Reagan and Hussein offer a future little different to the present.

### Federation?

The PLO leadership is in an impasse today precisely because, as Marxists pointed out, they have always had an orientation away from class and social issues. The PLO, to ordinary Israeli workers, is associated not with social revolution but with individual terrorism and with the financial and diplomatic support of reactionary Arab states, which, incidentally adopt the worst repressive measures against their own workers and national minorities.

Despite the massive potential support—and in the absence of any alternative, the majority of Palestinians

do look to the PLO for leadership—there has never been an orientation by the PLO leadership towards the mobilisation of the Palestinian masses, towards class struggle.

### PLO leaders ignore class struggle

Afraid to injure the sensitivities of their reactionary sponsors, the PLO leadership have turned their back time and time again on the developing social struggles in the Arab states—struggles that are in reality just as important for Palestinian emancipation as is the struggle against Zionism. The leadership, instead have always preferred dubious diplomatic sponsorship and the mobilisation of only a small minority of Palestinians in the various 'militias'.

Yet there have been many opportunities for struggle on class lines. If the PLO leadership had had a revolutionary programme or perspective, then King Hussein would have been overthrown in Jordan in 1970. Similarly in Lebanon. When the civil war broke out there in 1975 it was, in its early stages, fought on class lines; yet the PLO tried its hardest to stand aside.

Thus, recently in *Le Monde*, Abdel Jawad Saleh, a member of the PLO executive committee at the time, commented: "We did everything possible to steer clear of the Lebanese civil war. Many times Yasser Arafat tried to reach an understanding with Bashir Gemayel (then leader of the extreme right-wing Phalange militia—JP), even if it meant becoming alienated from the Lebanese Left, but all to no avail."

### Mass Movement on West Bank

Yet despite the incorrect orientation of the PLO leadership, the greatest real potential force for the Pales'ian people has always lain in the masses themselves. Last year saw a massive movement of opposition to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank. Strikes, demonstrations and clashes took place in every sizeable town and city.

Despite the toll—30 were killed, 300 injured, 4,000

convicted by special military courts or detained without trial—that movement rocked the Israeli ruling class far more than the twenty years of activity of the PLO militias and diplomats. The arrests, harassment, torture, dynamiting of suspects homes, night searches, humiliation and vandalism have failed to break the spirit of the resistance but have welded the West Bank population more firmly together.

Moreover, such has been the scale of popular support for the protests that they have found an increasing echo within Israel itself. A mass movement of West Bankers fighting for their rights has far more effect on the outlook of Jewish workers than a Katyusha rocket lobbed by an isolated militiaman from twenty miles away.

### Crisis in Israel

The crisis on the West Bank has become intertwined with the more general crisis in Israel, over the economy, the future of the state, the war in Lebanon, and so on. There is a huge gulf in Israel between those who support the imperialist policies of Begin on the West Bank, in Gaza and in Lebanon, and the growing number of workers, especially the youth, opposed to these policies. (See articles in *Militant* February 18 and 25, 1983).

Under pressure from the mood in Israel, the Israeli army was even forced last year to put some Israeli soldiers on trial for acts of brutality against Arabs on the West Bank. The main Labour opposition newspaper recently commented that the situation there was like the "Wild West" where "Arabs who violently opposed Israeli rule were quickly dealt with by measures whose legality was questioned even by the Israeli courts, while Jewish settlers who acted violently were treated with 'official forgiveness'."

In the present social and political climate in Israel, where, for example, many Israeli youth are going to jail rather than do their military service in Lebanon, a new wave of mass opposition in

*Continued on next page*



# No easy victory for US in Nicaragua



Militiawoman receiving rifle instruction. Managua, last September.

The US regime last week escalated its campaign to destabilise the radical Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

Around 2,000 of former dictator Somoza's National Guard, trained by the CIA, invaded Nicaragua from neighbouring Honduras. Their aim was to spark off revolt inside the country and overthrow the government.

In 1954 a CIA force also used Honduras as its base to overthrow the then radical government in Guatemala.

They hoped for a repetition in Nicaragua.

But this time it will be no easy victory. None of the workers or peasants wish to see the return of the National Guard thugs. Despite austerity and the absence of workers' democracy the Sandinista regime has considerable support. Since it overthrew Somoza in 1979, there have been vast improvements in health and literacy amongst the mass of the population.

The regime's armed forces are the largest in the area. Its

50,000 strong army, backed up by 300,000 in the militias is a formidable force.

Latest reports indicate that the invasion from Honduras has so far been contained. But this will not be the end of the matter. To the south another force, headed by former Sandinista military leader, Pastora is threatening to invade from Costa Rica.

Plans to bring about the downfall of the Sandinista regime have been a long time in preparation. In November 1981, the *Washington Post* reported Reagan approved a National Security Council plan to destabilise Nicaragua.

## Covert operations

The plan called for "support and conduct of political and para-military operations against the Cuban—Sandinista support structures in Nicaragua and elsewhere in Central America". The covert operations outlined, aimed to "build popular support in Central America and Nicaragua for an opposition front that would be nationalistic anti-Cuban, and anti-Sandinista".

It would "support the opposition front through formation and training of action teams to collect intelligence and engage in para-military and political operations in Nicaragua and elsewhere".

The build up of this counter-revolutionary force has been well documented. Even before the CIA plan was formally approved, the *New York Times* reported, 17 March 1981, the training of over 600 Nicaraguans in Florida. Five months ago, the US magazine *Newsweek* published details of the US government's preparations for a secret war against Nicaragua.

## International opposition to US intervention

Recently a joint Honduran—US army exercise took place just six miles from the Nicaraguan border. A battle-fleet of 36 US ships staged manoeuvres in the region three weeks ago.

The international labour movement must denounce the attempt to overthrow the Sandinista regime.

But in reality the latest intervention shows the comparative weakness of US imperialism in its old backyard. Formerly the US sent its own troops to overthrow any regime it disliked. After the debacle in Vietnam, there would be furore in the United States if American battle troops were sent into the revolutionary quagmire of Central America.

So the US has to resort to destabilisation, training puppet armies, and giving vast sums to corrupt governments fighting against guerrilla armies. They hope that by these means, to extinguish the spark of revolution.

But military measures can never indefinitely preserve the old corrupt regimes. They have not decisively defeated the guerrilla movements in El Salvador or Guatemala. And it seems that their gamble in Nicaragua will probably fail.

By Jim Chrystie

## French car workers' message to Mitterrand

The French working class are beginning to warn President Mitterrand. We expect socialist policies from a Socialist Party government.

In the second round of the recent municipal elections, the left held control of most major cities, but the first round saw a big loss of votes for the Socialists. Just as forceful a message has come from the industrial arena, in particular strikes in the car industry.

Some 50,000 workers were involved in strikes at two major Renault car factories in January in moves which forced the bosses to concede on major demands. The strike began at the Flims plant (about 30 miles from Paris) when painters in the spraying workshops downed tools demanding a 350 franc (about £35) monthly increase.

### Bosses' tactics

The bosses tried to divide the workforce by shutting the factory and locking out non-striking workers, but this backfired on them when many of those locked out workers themselves joined the strike. On 11 January, 400 painters at Renault Billancourt in Paris walked out in support of Flims workers. Within days 4,000 mechanics in Billancourt's

engine workshops voted massively to strike.

The dispute was not only about pay but in protection of jobs and against worsening working conditions. Management recently imposed more "cost effective" spraying techniques and materials which meant that special gloves had to be worn as protection from chemicals. This makes the handling of tools and equipment considerably harder yet the bosses refuse to modify the speed of the production line to take account of this.

### Productivity Increased

The arbitrary introduction of new technology also caused a strike at Renault in October 1981. This ended when the bosses assured workers that manning levels would be maintained. But just over a year later Renault's bosses told painters that 50% of their jobs must go "due to new technology".

Management have had an attitude of contempt for workers from the outset. Despite productivity increasing by over 6% during the past year there has been no parallel improvement in wages or conditions. At the end of 1982 the bosses offered an 80 F a month increase (not much more than £1 a week). The strike forced them to concede 150 F (£15 a month) but even this won't be given to all. Many

workers who were locked out will have to make up days lost by working weekends.

Only the fear of escalation stopped the bosses using brutal methods against the workers. Jean Vigier, chief of External Relations at Renault commented "it is impossible to foretell the future but we can't use the CRS (riot police) to get strikers off the premises."

Renault workers will remember the CRS removing occupying workers from the factory in the revolutionary upsurge of 1968 which resulted in one young worker dying. The bosses this time tried other strike breaking tactics such as dismantling obstacles erected by workers on the production line.

### Lack of union lead

Workers matched the determination of the bosses despite vacillation by the unions' national leaderships. The 'Communist' led CGT confederation discredited itself by apparently wanting to end the strike on any terms the bosses offered. Their leaders said success could only come through "negotiation and dialogue". But the strike only began when such dialogue had proved fruitless.

Workers were also disgusted at Socialist Party Prime Minister Mauroy who told the capitalist press "the main difficulties are those

posed by immigrant workers...who...have been stirred up by religious and political groups operating according to rules which have little to do with the realities of French society."

### Immigrant workers

In fact these very immigrant workers are those most aware of "realities of French society". They have bad living conditions and are often unable to claim welfare benefits, and have become one of the most militant sections of the labour movement.

As the local branch of the CFDT union confederation told Mauroy. "The problem lies in everyday matters facing workers and uncertainty about the future. The conflict is led by workers who refuse to accept the working conditions they are forced to endure."

Instead of blaming "religious fanatics" for the Renault conflict the government could gain enormous respect and loyalty from the working class that elected them by leading the fight against the bosses as bitterly as the bosses attacking the workers.

By a member of the MJS (Young Socialists), Paris

Continued from page 10

the occupied areas can have a profound effect. More and more Israelis will come to the realisation—if they have not already done so—that the continued military subjection of two million Palestinians is not a tenable policy in the long term.

### Link to Arab Revolution

Support for the rights and aspirations of the Palestinian masses, therefore, does not have to mean support for the policies and methods of the PLO who have failed to "legitimately represent" the interests of the Palestinians. The future of the Palestinian working class is tied up with that of the other Arab peoples, but it is especially bound up economically, politically and geographically with the future of the Israeli working class.

Palestinian workers do not need 'leaders' who base their hopes on the support of Ronald Reagan or King Hussein, but leaders who would raise the banner of internationalism, identifying and campaigning on the common economic and social interests of Jews and Arabs; a leadership that would raise the banner of socialist change, a Socialist Federation of Middle East States, as the only means of satisfying the national and social rights of all the peoples.

It is the duty of activists in the labour movement in Britain, precisely because they support the struggle of the Palestinian masses, to point in this direction, as the only way forward out of the morass of wars, deprivation and oppression in the Middle East.

By John Pickard



# Letters

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

MILITANT, Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## Ray gun Reagan

Dear *Militant*,

Reagan is showing himself in his true colours now he hopes he has the go-ahead to put missiles on German soil.

He resumed his old war cry of 'Better dead than red'. With power in the hands of such a dangerous man I fear for the future.

By the evening news they had worked round to it being the Russians who posed the nuclear threat, and in today's papers it was not even mentioned.

Joan Mayer  
Burnley,  
Lancs.

### 'Protect and burn to death'

Dear Comrades

A local anti-nuclear group recently exhibited a home-made fall-out shelter in the foyer of Norwich City Hall.

The shelter was designed to comply with the government booklet 'Protect and Survive'. Lots of these shelters have been shown up and down the country as part of the campaign to show the futility of protection against nuclear war.

In this example the message really hit home. A fire officer ordered it be removed—as a fire risk!

Yours fraternally  
John Sillet  
Norwich



Unilateralism is in the news this week, from Reagan's rantings to the Greenham protestors. Not to mention equivocation on the issue in Labour's manifesto unveiled this week.

### Loyal to socialism

Dear Comrades,

As a recent recruit to the Labour Party I have joined because of the publicity *Militant* has gained and to assist in defending the left of the Labour Party against the right wing.

I have fought right wing Labour since 1955 when I joined the Communist Party. At this time I did a week-

end round selling the *Daily Worker*.

I stood for the council, my vote consistently growing till I was finally elected in 1968.

This was done by consistently taking up individual problems and delivering a newsletter *The Spark*. In this I reported the issues taken up and the resulting answers from Town Hall officials.

I hoped that my example would encourage the rest of the Party to do something. It had little effect and was the beginning of my disillusionment.

I was in the Communist Party over 25 years. I left because of the anti-Sovietism over Hungary, Poland, Afghanistan.

I might not agree with some of the comments in *Militant* but I think *Militant* is loyal to the working class, and socialism.

Yours fraternally,  
Colin Lee,  
Birkenhead CLP.

den re-decoration of the school hall on the occasion of the visit of Norman Tebbit to a dinner given by Grantham and District Conservative Association. The hall has not been fully decorated for 14 years—just one wall was painted 9 years ago.

Alderman Newton, Chairman of the education committee is a local Tory!

Parents and staff have been turned out of the hall

so that the work may take place. It was planned to hold meetings to discuss 3rd year options there.

We have tried to publicise the matter locally but you can imagine what coverage we get on such issues!

Fraternally,  
Jan Whitlaw,  
Newark,  
Notts.

### School-hall scandal

We print here a letter passed on to us by Dennis Skinner MP.

Dear Dennis,

I thought you might like to know that there is a great deal of anger amongst the staff of William Robertson School, Welbourne, Lincs. This arises over the sud-

### Golding's moles

Dear Comrades

John Golding does not have a monopoly of support in his constituency although he might wish he did.

150 local people went on the YS demo last October and two new LPYS branches have been set up. We have just had a meeting of 120 local trade unionists and workers at which Peter Taaffe (*Militant* editor) spoke and over £100 was collected.

The success of *Militant* is shown by the fact that only twelve months ago a similar meeting attracted only 20 people.

Witch-hunters be warned!  
M.F. Delgarno  
Newcastle-under-Lyme  
CLP, personal capacity

### Thanks, comrades

Dear *Militant*

I would like to express my thanks to members of the Young Socialists and *Militant* supporters throughout the country who helped with the recent elections in USDAW.

During the course of the campaign we held many meetings up and down the country, talked to shop stewards, branch secretaries and union activists.

Although I lost by a substantial majority, we have a good base to build from and the Broad Left made gains in the executive council elections.

We still have much to do but we will succeed. The right wing in USDAW represents the past. The Broad Left represents the future.

Yours fraternally  
Jeff Price  
USDAW Broad Left  
Presidential candidate

### Government rent raid

Dear Comrades,

I am unemployed, and today I got a form from the dole office saying that from April my rent will be paid direct to the landlord, by the council. I will still be allowed to cash my giro for £25.70 a week, but payment of rent in being taken out of my hands.

No doubt the Tories will argue that we unemployed can't be trusted to manage our own financial affairs, and the state must do it for us.

Not satisfied with humiliating us on the dole, they have to take away the basic freedom of a tenant to withhold rent. This means that jobless tenants will be robbed of the one weapon they have against bad landlords—the rent strike.

Yours fraternally,  
Theo Simon,  
Devonport LPYS.

### On the sites

Dear Comrades  
Any budding building workers out there?

The total intake under Tebbit's Youth Training Scheme will mean an extra 500 jobs for young people in construction.

General craft operatives and clerical trainees will receive nine weeks off the job training and thirty-nine weeks 'planned work experience'.

There will be no guarantee of a job at the end of it. They'll get £25 a week for doing jobs that other workers are paid much more for.

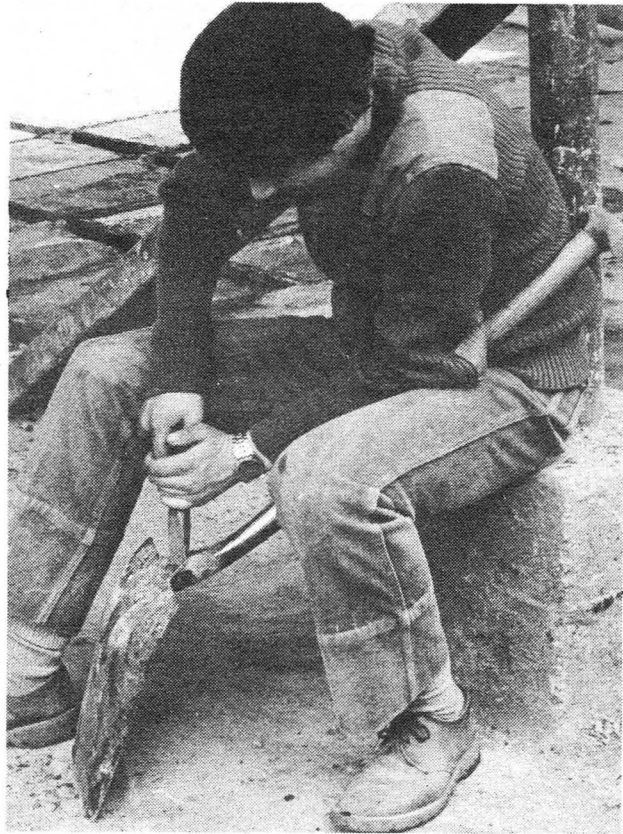
The construction industry

has one of the worst safety records going. Is it fair to throw inexperienced sixteen-year-olds into that without proper preparation and controls?

The only way to get decent pay and conditions for all school leavers is to kick out the Tories and YTS.

We need a massive programme of useful public works to provide construction jobs—with trade union controlled conditions and rates of pay (not the shameful EETPU apprentice rate).

Yours fraternally  
Bernard Klose  
N. Notts LPYS  
& TGWU 5/91  
personal capacity



A YOP worker in Wallsend; Tyne and Wear

### 'Giss a decent wage'

Dear Comrades,

Standing on the picket line outside Charlie Forte's Grosvenor House Hotel on Sunday evening I saw one or two strange sights.

The first one was a well known actor, the 'star' of many a Labour Party broadcast; dressed up to the nines.

When I asked him what he was doing there his reply was, "I'm going in. I'm a

member of Equity" and he proceeded to cross the picket line.

The next was 'Yosser Hughes' of 'Giss a job' fame, also dressed up to the nines, who crossed the picket line without accepting a leaflet. Obviously he's not in need of a job at the moment!

I would advise comrades to join a picket line of a 5-star hotel. You never know who you're likely to meet!

Yours fraternally,  
R Jennings,  
West Herts CLP.

### Up the Wear Valley

Dear Comrade,

Last week's article (BREL Shildon) is correct in its emphasis on damage which could be caused to the areas of Bishop Auckland and Shildon.

What many people forget is that the rail link from Darlington does not end at Bishop Auckland. It continues for another 25 miles to Eastgate where a cement works provides much-needed employment.

The APCM cement works extensively uses British Rail links to the rest of the country—the closure of either railway or cement works would affect thousands more workers.

Back in January APCM made a £26 million bid to take over a rival, Aberthan Cement. Should the deal come off no one should be in any doubt it will be used to cut jobs.

Fraternally,  
K Gent,  
North West Durham  
CLP.

### Miners' ballot

Brian Ingham's article on the miners' ballot (issue 641) was excellent. I offer a small qualification to his statement: "In this ballot even the right wing leaders of the NUM campaigned vigorously for strike action."

This was not the case in the Leicestershire pits. Everytime Jack Jones (NUM area secretary) was asked about the ballot he turned it into a plea for the government to give the go-ahead for mining in the Vale of

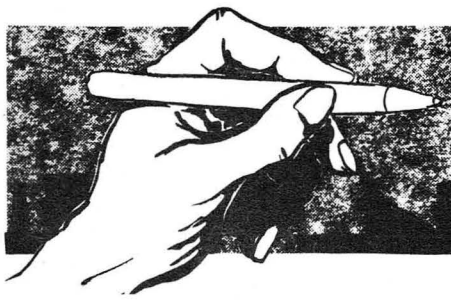
Belvoir.

On the eve of the ballot he repeated this plea: "Our men are in a difficult situation because our collieries are closing down anyway, but there is a lot of bitterness and an announcement on the proposals for the mine at Ashford could make a great difference to the voting pattern."

Such 'leadership' may explain, at least in part, Leicestershire's 82% vote against industrial action.

Yours comradesly  
John Merrell  
Leicester West CLP





## workers' viewpoint

# 'Destined' to be a secretary

Right from the word 'go' I was destined to become a typist of some sort.

I was encouraged from all quarters that it was in my best interests to learn to type and work in an office (even though now, I have six 'O' levels and two 'A' levels). "It'll be something to fall back on," they said.

I distinctly remember going to see the careers officer at school several times with various ideas for my future. "I'd like to be a journalist," I said. Laughter from the officer: "Far too much competition in that field. Why not be a typist?" "I'd like to be a social worker." "Oh no," she replied, "You need very high qualifications for that, it will be much easier to get a job in an office." I signed up for the typing class!

After leaving school I went to a Further Education college to improve my typing and shorthand skills. There were some intriguing classes: 'Secretarial skills', for example, mainly consisted of convincing the class that part of their duties as a secretary would be to 'cover up' for the boss, i.e., tell lies on his behalf when he doesn't want to see someone or when he's forgotten something. Above all, we were told, we must be able to keep secrets, i.e. when the boss is making redundancies and you know about them but you cannot tell anyone. I rebelled against these ideas, but was marked, "A disruptive influence in this class."

### 'Too ambitious'

We were told to write down the type of job we wanted to do when we left college. I wrote down 'Personal Assistant', for which I was told, "You're very ambitious, young lady!" in a mocking tone. It is a wonder she didn't make me write 200 lines saying, "I must not have ideas above my station." I remember another tutor telling us: "Yours is not to reason why; yours is but to do or die"!!! Talk about subservience!

Once out into the big bad world of commerce I got a miserable job in a poky office. After bus fares and board were taken off my meagre wage there was not much left. After six months I managed to get a job in a much pleasanter office where the pay was better. Here I was a clerk-typist.

The hours of work were 8.45 am until 5.00 pm but we were so busy that I used to start at 8.30 am and not

By Ruth Campbell  
(Stoke)

leave before 5.30 pm on most days. That is, until I was told off for being two minutes late back from lunch! When I pointed out that I had worked many hours of unpaid overtime the Managing Director said there was no flexitime agreement at the company and that it was my fault if I had come in early. After that I kept strictly within my hours. This same man often came in the office at 3.00 or 4.00 pm having just had a round of golf, with a business friend, of course, and several gin and tonics.

### Sexual harassment

I had, with this same boss, my first experience of sexual harassment. I was about 18 and had been with the company for only six months. A customer rang up to say that he urgently required a small sample of some material which we sold, for a test. If the test proved okay he would put in a big order. As the company was not far away, I promised that I would get the sample to him somehow. Unfortunately, it so happened that the only person in the office with a car was the Managing Director and after some persuasion he said he would take the sample down. To my surprise, he asked me to go with him and give the sample to the person concerned myself.

My boss had had a drink and no sooner had we driven around the corner than he put his hand on my knee. I froze in my seat and pushed his hand away after which he asked me if I would like him to make love to me. I said, "No thank you." I was desperately trying to change the subject, until we reached the firm. The return journey was made in silence. It seems almost laughable now, but at the time was very frightening.

### Wage 'negotiations'

The wage structure was one of divide and rule. Wages were negotiated on an individual basis, i.e. "I'm offering you 10% but don't say anything because the others are not getting that much." This he said to everyone but each person getting a different amount.

The percentage was usually made higher if you spread subtle rumours that you were looking for another job. There was no union and it was made clear that anyone joining a union would be out on their ear.

I was even threatened with the sack because I insisted on not being a member of the BUPA (private health care) scheme. I stuck to my ground and wasn't sacked. By this time I was secretary to one of the directors and also looked after a range of products and was reasonably efficient. Basically the boss was too idle to have a change of staff.

### Director's perks

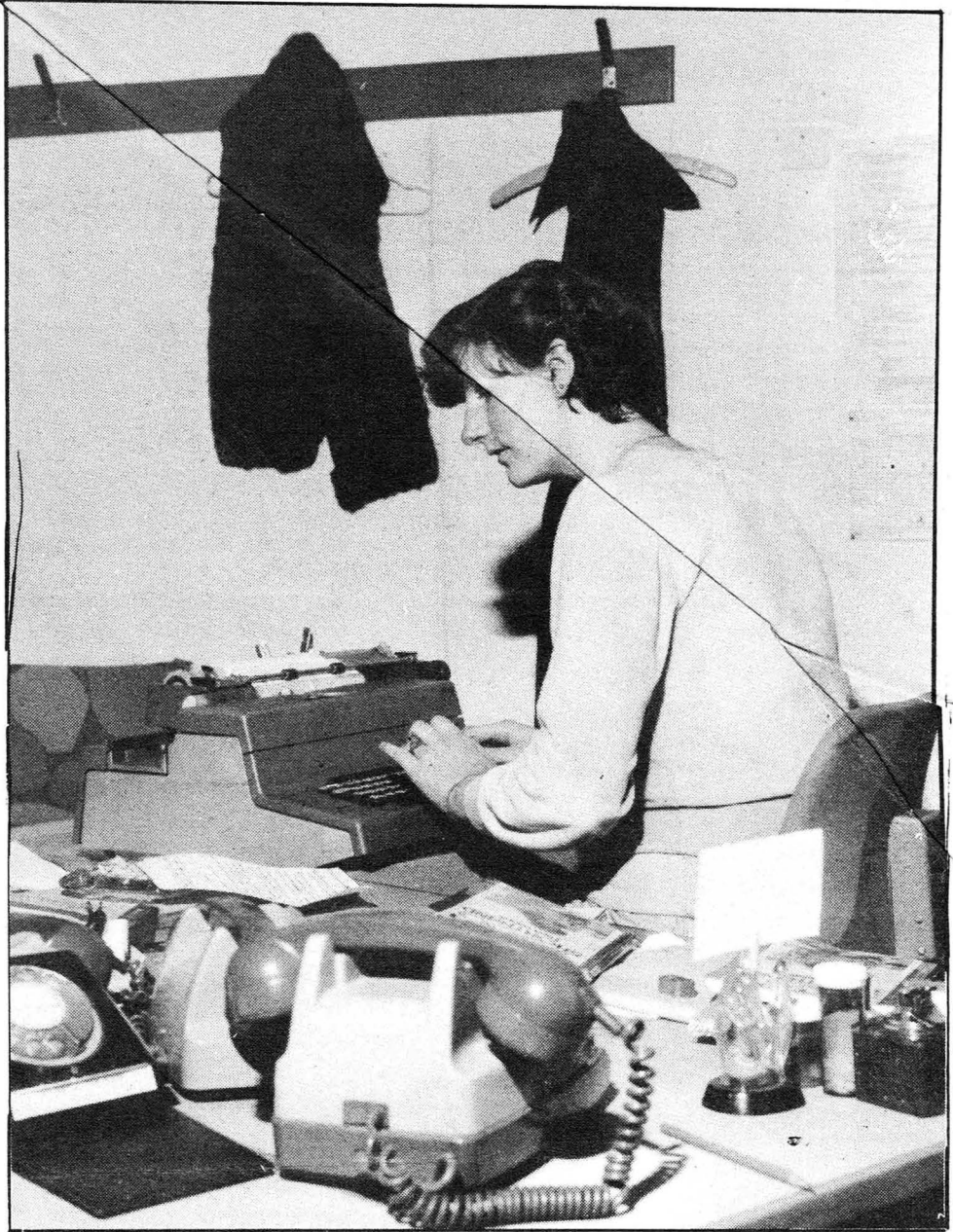
As you can imagine I had little respect for the Managing Director and even less for the Chairman who held a controlling majority of shares in the company. His wife was also a director and was paid a fee but in the 3½ years I worked there I only saw her on two occasions.

The company owned a country cottage in Wales, a caravan, a boat and a Range Rover but only the chairman and his family were allowed to use these. The company also used to pay the telephone bills of the top notch in the company and their golf club fees—about £200 pa at the time. All the directors had a new car approximately every two years. Incidentally when Thatcher was elected my boss was dancing around the office like a schoolboy, rubbing his hands together and bragging about how much money he would be getting through tax cuts.

### Timed on the toilet!

When the opportunity arose I left the company. The people I had worked with were a great crowd but the disgust I felt for the management, more and more, clamping down on the staff led me to leave when I was offered another job. It even came to the point of the managing director sending out memos saying that the girls were spending too much time away from their desks going to the toilet etc.! After I had left I heard they had made a girl redundant (a bilingual secretary) and in the same week taken on a YOP.

The job I went to offered more money and on reflection perhaps I should have stayed and tried to organise the staff into a trade union. Instead the staff that have been able to have taken on other jobs and the others just keep their heads low for the time being anyway.



## YOUTH TRAINING

11.2 million people are unemployed in the EEC. 42% of them are under 25.

Politicians are terrified of the political repercussions of so many young people being out of work. They fear a repetition of the riots in Britain in 1981, possibly of a much larger and more violent nature. They are pinning their hopes on research that shows the effects of unemployment to be "corrosive rather than explosive". However if these youth are won to the labour movement then they will indeed be a force to be reckoned with. The TUC could invest some of its money on recruiting unemployed youth to the trade union and labour movement.

Together, Britain, France, and Germany are spending nearly £8 billion a year on policies for their 16 to 18 year olds to keep the unemployment figures down and attempt to stave off revolt.

Despite all the money spent on various youth 'training' schemes, youth unemployment has worsened.

Only one third of those on the Youth Opportunity Programme have got jobs, the other two-thirds return immediately to the dole queue. At the same time as money is pumped into youth train-

many the number rose from 450,000 to 650,000.

The Tories try to argue that 'youth have priced themselves out of the market' yet there is no evidence to prove this. In Britain youth pay rose as a percentage of earnings between 1967 and 1975, since when the gap has widened and also youth unemployment has increased. If youth have priced themselves out of the market it does not explain why unemployment rates for female youth are so much higher than male rates even though girls are usually paid less.

ing schemes, the number of apprenticeships has declined.

Between 1967 and 1980, the number of apprenticeships in Britain fell from 236,000 to 100,000; in Ger-

### Heather Rawling

The number of young people entering apprenticeships has fallen by more than half since 1979.

Year	Number
1977-78	110,100
1978-79	113,600
1979-80	100,000
1980-81	90,000
1981-82	60,000
1982-83	45,000 (estimated)

(From Hansard 20.1.83)



# Industrial Reports

## NUT CONFERENCE

## The 'no politics' days are over

**In the pleasant surroundings of Jersey, the National Union of Teachers conference faces the unpleasant realities of Tory Britain.**

"The very basis of the 1944 Education Act, equality of opportunity for all children is under serious and sustained attack...if present (government) policies are maintained for any length of time the damage already done will become irreversible and the education service as it has developed since the second world war will have ceased to exist"

The "Crisis in Public Education" memorandum from the National Executive shows the overwhelming damage done to education but, fundamentally all it recommends is "working together with parents, other trade unions, voluntary bodies, the TUC Education Alliance and other education pressure

groups to seek to persuade both national and local political figures, regardless of party affiliation, of the vital role of education." The Executive does pledge support for local action against redundancy, misuse of fixed term contracts and for "further advance on class size. When it is believ-

ed such a possibility exists, divisions should consult with the Executive as to appropriate steps".

Overall the national response to cuts is timid. Yet a major national campaign could mobilise teachers and parents at a level no government would dare ignore. In the fight for the establishment of state education there was no such timidity.

A serious campaign including industrial action is required. The alternative is a demoralised teaching force and further danger to the union and the children we serve.

Amendments offer an alternative. They included calls for an increase in the strike fund, for national class size action and for implementation of NUT policy that it is no part of a teachers job to cover for absent colleagues.

Other amendments demand action against school closures and the voucher system, while Islington clearly states "the union should work unremittingly for the defeat of the present government in the forthcoming election."

The 1983 pay claim was for a substantial increase plus a restructure to allow automatic movement from Scale one to Scale two. It became one for 12%; the offer stands today at 4.9%.

Overwhelmingly amendments for 1984's claim call

for a flat rate rise of £1,000 as a step towards restoring the huge fall in teachers' salaries since 1975.

The decision by 1982 conference to press for movement from Scale 1-2 is extended by Liverpool and other associations to movement from Scale 1 through to Scale 3. Other amendments call for the establishment of a basic scale and above scale payments for responsibilities. This would end the discrimination in promotion between secondary and primary schools.

For the first time for a decade, the government is spending more on defence than education. A major debate will flare up on the dry issue of whether conference can even discuss nuclear disarmament. But if we don't take a stand on this we are betraying our pupils. We must take up "political" issues. What problems facing us are not political? Cuts? Closures? Erosion of pay?

The union, despite its "non-political" tag will be holding its most political conference ever. The question of formally recognising this through political affiliation cannot be avoided much longer.

**By Felicity Dowling**

(Liverpool NUT)



Croxteth school in Liverpool typifies the problems facing NUT members. For two years parents and teachers have been fighting to keep the school open, and since last summer, 35 unemployed and retired teachers have been supplying the tuition for the school. A national demonstration has been organised for 16 April with Tony Benn as main speaker.

PHOTO: MILITANT

## NUR election

# DEFEND OUR INDUSTRY

**The crushing victory of Jimmy Knapp in the recent election for General Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) will be seen as the closing of an era.**

The days of Weighellism, the policies of the recent past of collaboration with the British Rail Board, have been rejected.

On a 92% poll, Knapp received 63% of the votes cast. His 90,078 votes were 2½ times higher than his nearest rival Charlie Turnock (backed by Sid Weighell) who got 35,353 votes, under a quarter of the total.

In fact, Jimmy Knapp's majority is 5,000 larger than Weighell's when he won in 1975, when the NUR was larger in membership. This will be seen by railworkers as a breaking of the right wing stranglehold on the union for the last two decades.

Jimmy Knapp's election campaign based on the slogan "Together for a new start" coincided with the new mood for change in the

NUR and the need to join together with ASLEF to fight the BRB and the Tories. Many ASLEF members will also be pleased at the outcome of the election after the experience of the strikes last year. There is a growing understanding amongst all railworkers of the need to unite against attacks by the BRB and the Tory government on pay and conditions.

In the coming period no area in the rail industry will be exempt from the cuts. To repel these attacks and make Brother Knapp's election slogan meaningful a fully rounded out programme for railworkers is vital. Issues cannot be fought successfully in isolation, one by one.

It is precisely such a programme that is being advocated and campaigned for by the Broad Left within the industry, such as:

- ★ No to productivity deals.
- ★ 35 hour week without loss of pay.
- ★ £90 minimum wage.
- ★ No to all job losses.
- ★ Massive new investment.
- ★ Workers' control and management of industry.

★ An integrated socialist transport system.

With the election of Jimmy Knapp who the Broad Left campaigned for from the start, the job of the Broad Left is just beginning. The regular election of the General Secretary and all other officials and the right of every branch to send a delegate to the AGM, instead of the token 77 delegates as at present must be pressed forward as vigorously as ever.

With the change of General Secretary the opportunity is now open for the strengthening of the Triple Alliance. This has come at an important moment with a new round of cuts and closures threatening the future of the steel and coal industries.

If the Triple Alliance was properly developed it could play a key role in defending jobs and services and forcing the earliest return of a Labour government—one committed to unabashed socialism.

Many NUR members are justifiably proud of the traditions of democracy and the pioneering role played by

the union in establishing and building the Labour Party. Many have therefore been appalled by the attempts of some of the leadership, particularly Weighell to use the NUR in the past few years, to spearhead a witch-hunt against socialists in the Labour Party, demanding their expulsion.

We must ensure that the change in NUR leadership means a safeguarding and extension of the democratic reforms achieved within the Labour Party in recent years, full support for unilateral disarmament, no incomes policy or wage restraint and for the union's vote to be cast in future NEC elections for those Labour Party members who support such policies.

The NUR can now play a major part in ensuring the return of a Labour government committed to socialist policies, so vital to the interests of railwaymen and the working class as a whole.

**By Bob Russell**  
(NUR Willesden No 1 branch, personal capacity)

## Back-door Tory attack

**ALL firemen will soon lose about £25 a month from their wages in a back-door move to cut our take home pay.**

The Home Office have declared their intention to raise pension contributions of firemen from 6¼% to 10¼% of gross pay from 1 May without increasing benefits.

The pension department is not complaining about lack of funds. Our pension scheme is covered by the 1947 Fire Service Act and is changed by parliament. Money is paid straight in and straight out, it is not a fund where monies are invested. It should follow that increased payments would benefit those who have retired or who are about to retire.

Someone, somewhere must be paying less and that someone is, no surprise, the government. The firemen won a pay formula after the 1977/78 strike which puts us near the top of the wage league and acts as a thorn in the side of the Tories who realise that reneging on this would land them in a national strike. They are trying to recoup the pay through the back door.

Negotiations have been based on a government actuary's report. His findings were based on mere assumptions and are not worth the paper they are written on. Our contributions go up with every pay rise anyway.

It has never been expected that pensions should come 100% out of contributions. They have been seen as compensation for the type of job we do, the physical danger which sees many firemen forced into early retirement. Pensions are seen as an important part of our pay and conditions and also as a way of paying compensation to the hundreds of widows and orphans of workers killed on or off duty.

We have to preserve the gains of the past five years. The national executive of the Fire Brigades Union must convene a recall conference as soon as possible and give the kind of leadership we need to win support from other unions and the general public in an election year.

Thatcher should be made to realise we have an axe to grind. When we have sharpened it, it should be used on her government.

**By Pat McNamee**  
(London FBU member, personal capacity)  
**& Dale Quinlivan**  
(Merseyside FBU)

**P.S. The National Executive of the FBU have agreed to recall the annual conference of the union on 26 April and recommend programme of industrial action in the form of a series of one day strikes.**





# Industrial Reports

## Fords workers win world-wide support

**“We are pleased with the official status of the strike, we expected the dispute to be made official but really in our heart of hearts we didn't quite believe it would be.**

“The mood amongst the lads is on the whole good, we knew it wouldn't be easy or short, but we knew we either had to go through to the end or curl up and cringe,” said Halewood workers.

Many workers at Ford's feel angered at the way media bias is being used by management. Recent reports that Halewood's transmission plant were laid off as a result of the dispute is simply not true. “They were laid off because there was no need for their production, they were going to have a long Easter and as far as we can tell the lay-off was planned

six or seven weeks before the strike.

“One development that hasn't been trumpeted in the media is a meeting a few days ago in Valencia, Spain of unions in all Ford's plants internationally, every nation being represented. They agreed that no production transferred from Halewood would be accepted, a real step forward in the battle, even if they didn't go over the top by supporting our dispute with direct action.

“The Cowley dispute strikes a chord with many Halewood workers. After four years of having to take what management have thrown at them they're in dispute over a similar problem to what we had a few years ago over preparation and clean up time. That was negotiated away; there was a riot in the stadium when it was announced and there's still a bit of bad feeling.

“Our dispute is playing a vital role because we're in the front line. We have taken a bad time in the press and

on TV. Lots of blokes have been feeling angry. Only *Militant* as far as I can see has really made our points.

“But just these last few days things have been a bit different. We have had only one letter recently, telling us not to come in to the plant for our rebate as we hadn't worked a full week. The media have been less than keen to attack us, no poison and little propaganda. It's as if we've been in limbo for a week.

“The resolve is still there but people have been left to stew in their own juice. On top of that nothing has come from the union. We should be having regular mass meetings to keep people's spirits up and our minds clear.

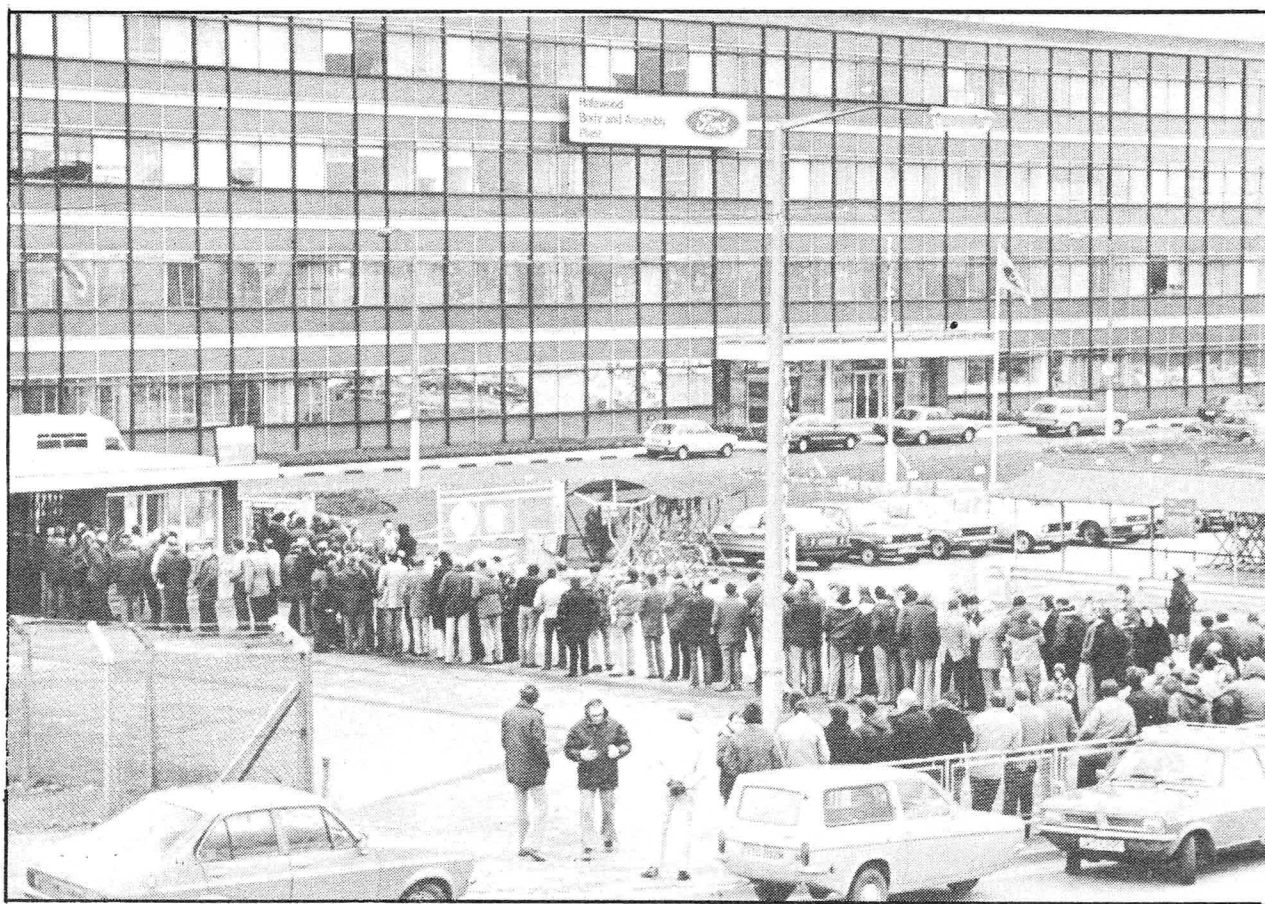
“They can't be allowed to win. Halewood is a testing ground for the AJ (After Japan) system of working practice. Even though we don't yet know all that that entails, what we do know is more than enough to make victory crucial.

“If they win here it will go through everywhere else. This system stinks. They want to do away with material handlers and janitors. Blokes will be cleaning out their own areas and suppliers will be delivering stock direct to the point of use, instead of the material handlers humping it round to the shops inside.

“That loss would mean 300 or so jobs plus the janitors. They also want maintenance men to take jobs as line operatives, only doing maintenance when something is needed, then back on to the line again.

“Management are quiet about the rest so you can imagine what it means. We can't let defeat even enter our consideration. The support is still there. With support from the rest of the combine we'll come through on top.”

**Jim Hollinshead (GMBATU) spoke to Ford's workers**



Halewood workers on strike, queuing up to collect tax rebates for the time they have been in dispute.

## Irish workers fight multinational

**“Multinational” to most workers, especially the unemployed, means exploitation on a gigantic and sinister scale.**

They often appear a monstrous alien force against which the working class is defenceless.

But they can be taken on, and defeated by fighting internationally. Solidarity action by fellow trade unionists in another country can guarantee victory to a workers' struggle.

The 14 Ranks Flour mills workers, jailed for 2 weeks in Dublin, now released and occupying once again for

their jobs need the support of the British labour movement. Rank's management, having starved Irish subsidiaries of investment, shut those mills, hoping to flood the ready market from the parent company in Britain. There will be no new jobs for British workers but hundreds gone in Ireland. Redundancy payment agreements were also renegotied on.

The company's refusal to pay the terms of the '78-'79 agreement led to the occupation. The Forcible Entry and Occupation Act was then invoked to jail the workers. A stand was being made by the bosses to stop the rising tide of occupations in Ireland.

A week earlier the workers in Clondalbin paper mills won an historic victory after a fourteen month occupation for the nationalisation of their plant. Ranks' workers were released after 2 weeks pickets, a number of unofficial stoppages and the overdue call by the ITGWU executive for a general strike of their membership unless the men were released. Placards “Nationalise the mill” and “Sit in and win” are now pinned to the gates.

What can be done? Official support must be won. And the labour movement in both Britain and Ireland, must block any attempt to flood the Irish market with

imported flour; former supply quotas must be maintained. A flour industry is needed in both Ireland and England. Ranks' tactics of shuffling their cards under the table are not. All trade unionists must recognise the multinational's move as divisive and aimed at profit maximisation not the interests of workers.

Skilful and determined mobilisation can win this struggle and enormously strengthen other workers who decide to take on one of the giants.

**By Phil Duffy**  
(Dublin Central Labour Youth)

## Carrefours

WORKERS at Carrefour's Holdings are taking part in a national strike for increased pay of 7% or above and maintenance of their current sick-pay scheme. For several years now Carrefour's, a major retail company with hyper-markets in six different parts of the country, have held wages down and used unemployment and the large number of part-time women workers, to try and hold down wages.

During this period however, they have used the profits from their major store in Caerphilly to open up five new hyper-markets in other parts of the country. Workers ask if Carrefour's can pay shareholders a 20% rise in profit why can't they pay more than the 5 1/2% that they have offered to their workforce?

The average hyper-market

workers' increase would be £5.30, less than the increase in dole payments this year. Management also want to ditch the supplementary sickness scheme and come in line with the new government schemes which would be a worse deal for the workers.

Shop stewards campaigned in every Carrefour hyper-market and obtained a vote of 4 1/2 to 1 against the company's offer.

Carrefours employ 420 in Caerphilly and approximately 2,000 nationally, this is the best answer that retail workers can give to Tebbit's attack on the wages and rights of the whole retail industry.

**Brian Muller**  
(TGWU Shop Steward Carrefours)

## COEDEL

### Save the 'gold mine'

THE NATIONAL Coal Board always claims it is only considering closure of pits and other concerns which are exhausted or have proved unprofitable. But the threatened closure of Coedely coke ovens shows this is a lie.

These ovens produce the best foundry coke in Europe and despite years of under-investment and insufficient subsidy Coedely has made a profit every year since 1962. It has been called a “little gold mine”.

Amazingly the NCB and National Smokeless Fuels (NSF) are considering closing the works. This would be a terrible blow. Youth unemployment in this area is already 68%. Nearby Thomastown would be reduced to a ghost town. The NCB have offered no alternative work and there is nowhere else to work here.

Management simply say that markets for foundry coke have disappeared. In fact it is the subsidies to coke which are vanishing—as a direct result of Tory policies. It is no coincidence that the decision on closure comes at

the time when the subsidies introduced by the last Labour government come up for renewal in April.

The government have no intention of renewing the coking grants and local management are just following their dictates. Other enterprises will then have to pay through the nose for lower quality imported coke which gets greater subsidies than those in Britain.

Alternatively the Tories may be considering selling off Coedely to private enterprise. Is this the first step in a broad plan for closures and privatisation of coking works as a forerunner to similar plans for the pits themselves?

Workers will decide on what action to take later this week when the final decision is known. A few years ago the NCB drew back from closure of Nantgarw coking works as a result of the militant stand taken there. A similar fight here must have support throughout the mining industry.

**By Steve Morgan**

## MILITANT NATIONAL MINERS' MEETING

Ian Isaac (Secretary, St John's, South Wales)  
John Dunn (Branch Committee, Markham, Derbyshire)  
will speak on:  
“Lessons of the Ballot”

John Cunningham (Ellington Colliery, Northumberland)  
Stan Pearce (Lodge Committee, Wearmouth, Durham)  
will speak on:  
“Building the left wing at rank and file level”

Peter Taaffe (Editor: *Militant*)  
will speak on:  
“The fight for the socialist alternative”

(All NUM members will be speaking in their personal capacities)

Chairman:  
Tyrone O'Sullivan  
(Secretary, Tower Lodge, South Wales)

Saturday, April 9th 11.00 am to 5.00 pm  
Main Hall, Centre Against Unemployment,  
Bridge Street, Sheffield (near Sheffield City Centre).



# LPYS Conference '83

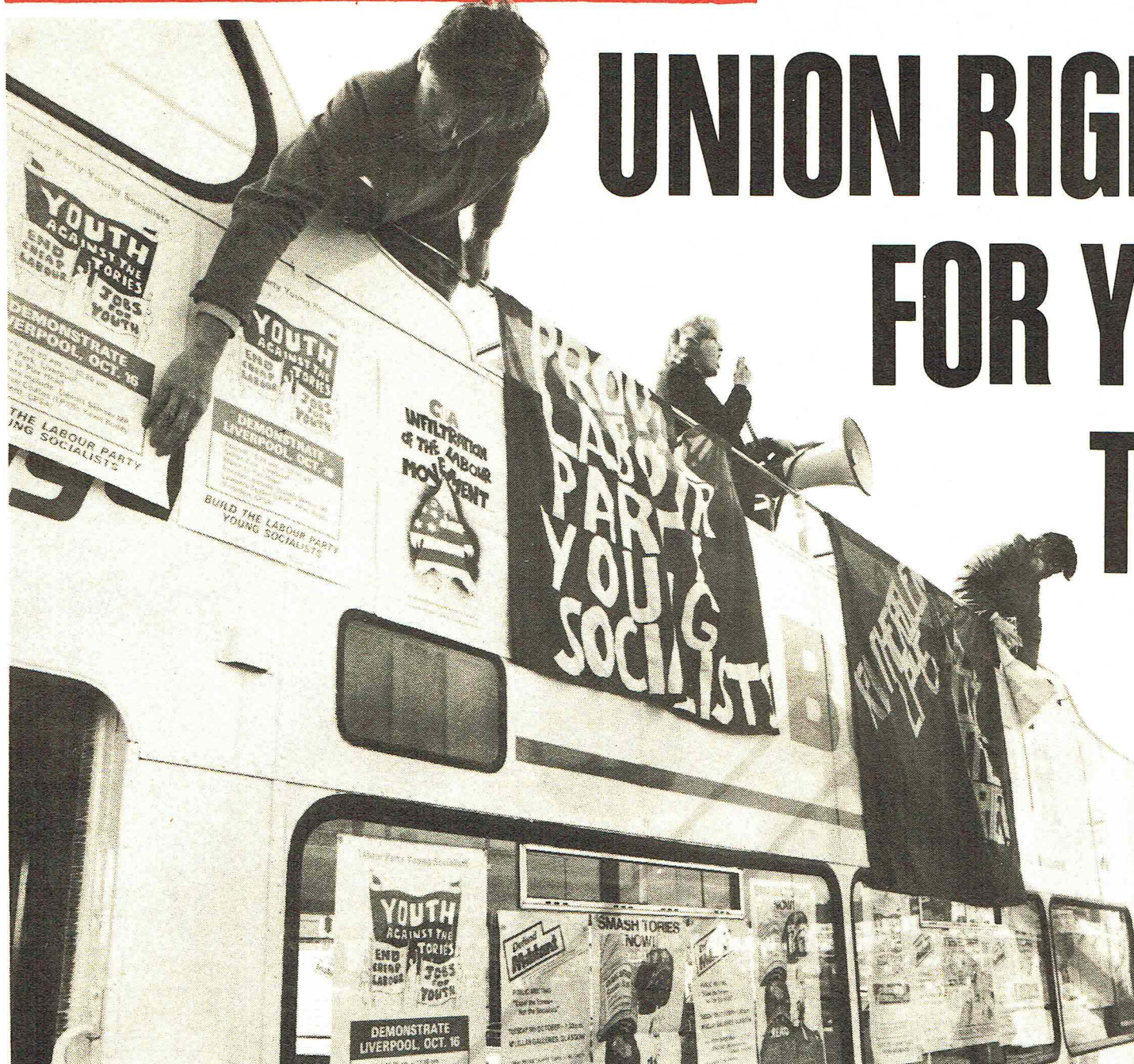


Photo: Militant

## UNION RIGHTS FOR YOUTH TRAINEES

The 'Campaign Bus' used by Young Socialists in Glasgow to build support amongst youth for the October 16 LPYS demo.

### In July of 1981, a wave of riots starting in Toxteth in Liverpool, spread out across the cities of Britain.

The image of the police fighting crowds of youths, overshadowed by burned out buildings dramatically lit up by the flares of petrol bombs was symbolic of the anger and despair of youth.

One of the immediate consequences of the 1981 riots was the announcement of a massive expansion of the Youth Opportunities Programme by the Thatcher government. The Tories frantically attempted to give the impression of tackling the problem of youth unemployment.

But far from solving the problem the situation facing youth has got steadily worse. In Britain currently 50% of school leavers and 1 in 4 teenagers are jobless. In Croxeth, Liverpool, school leaver unemployment is running at 94.6%. This situation will be aggravated when nationally, a further 582,000 school leavers enter the job market this summer.

The Tories are aware of the potentially explosive nature of youth unemployment. Unable to provide jobs for youth the Tories are developing the Youth Training Scheme (YTS) to remove youth from the unemployment register, cynically glossing over the problem of youth unemployment and no

By Willie Griffin  
(Editor, Socialist Youth)

doubt hoping to improve their chances of victory in this general election year.

The parasitic British bosses have always lagged behind their competitors in investing in training for youth. Between 1967 and 1980, the number of apprentices in British industry fell from 236,000 to below 150,000; in Germany the number increased from 450,000 to 650,000.

A recent analysis of 322 manufacturing companies in London and the South East showed that 32% had cut training programmes in the last three years. Yet at the same time a report by the Engineering Industry Training Board warns of a shortage of skilled workers in a few years time because of the record low levels of new apprentices being started.

If the future depends on the training of youth then clearly it can't be left in the hands of the employers and the Tories.

The new Youth Training Scheme aims to provide 460,000 training places, including 300,000 in industry. YTS will involve all 16 year old school leavers, employed and unemployed and some 17 year olds. The scheme will last one year and include 39 weeks "work experience" and 13 weeks off-the-job

training.

The employer will receive £1,850 per year for every unemployed young person they take on for training and £1,850 for every employed school leaver they take on providing the ratio of employed to unemployed is at least 2:3. Employers will receive a further £100 per young person as a managing agency fee, making a total of £1,950 for each trainee.

The YTS has been advertised as a "£1 billion training scheme to put British business back on its feet". But what has YTS got to offer working class youth? Youth Trainees will be treated as cheap labour being paid an allowance of £25

per week, the same as the YOP allowance in 1982. The quality of training on YTS can be measured when you compare the £550 it will cost to train someone on YTS compared to £6,000 a year it costs to train an apprentice.

For apprentices and youth with jobs, it is clear the intentions of the Tories are to use YTS to drive wages down. The numerous examples quoted on this page show this.

Even the supplementary benefits are being cut for the first time since the dark days of the 1930s! Unemployed 16 and 17 year olds living at home are having their benefits cut by 16.4% from £18.90 to £15.80. One reason the Tories are cutting the dole money is undoubtedly to make the £25 a week paid on YTS seem more attractive to youth.

There is an intense debate in the ranks of the labour movement over what attitude should be taken to YTS. But given the support of the leaders of the Labour Party and the TUC, YTS will become a fact of life for 460,000 young people later this year. The Youth Trades Union Rights Campaign (YTURC) believe it is the responsibility of the trade unions to protect and improve the rights and conditions of every trainee on YTS. A lead has already been given by the Agricultural Section of the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU). They have refused to

### YTS file

ICI'S Wilton Plant on Teesside has taken on 192 trainees instead of the normal intake of 50 first year apprentices. They will be paid £40 per week which is less than the £54 previously allowed under the AUEW national agreement. Only 50 of the trainees will go onto the second year of the apprenticeship.

negotiate a cut in the wages of agricultural apprentices. The TUC should endorse this action and insist that there are no cuts in apprentices' wages.

Strong union organisation can lead to negotiating improvements in the status, pay and conditions (including health and safety training and protection and proper disciplinary and grievance procedure) and the quality of training of young people on YTS. The Youth Trades Union Rights Campaign will be campaigning throughout the trade union movement for a massive recruitment campaign to organise the 460,000 young people who will take part in YTS.

Youth are sick of cheap labour schemes and unemployment, but if youth are to fightback union organisation is only the first step. It is also necessary to have a clear programme that will offer an alternative to cheap labour schemes and unemployment.

### YTS file

"An alarming number of youngsters are being killed and maimed while working under the Youth Opportunities Programme...The death toll in a two year period is 11. More than 40 have lost a limb in the same period and 5,000 have been injured..."

"Derek Cain, 17, got a six month YOP job, working for £25 a week at a waste paper merchants. He was not expected or required to operate the dangerous paper shredding machine...The inquest heard that Derek...died of head injuries after switching on the high powered spiked blades." Daily Express (February 26).

### FE Colleges need better facilities

Militant spoke to students at Central College of Further Education in Liverpool about the conditions at their college and the money they receive for attending college.

When asked if they received sufficient money to live on they felt they were living below the poverty line. They felt that the maximum grant award of £340 a term was insufficient to live on and that the minimum award, which the majority of students were on, of £28 a term was a pittance!

When asked about the conditions they said, "The prices in the canteen are very high and the food is not of good quality. The canteen is badly planned in that it is too small; the food is expensive (18p for a cup of coffee) and there is no provision for vegetarian meals".

"There is no common room for the students to meet in and the library is always overcrowded and noisy. The library is badly planned (it's built over the metal workshop), it is small with a bad selection of books. There are no quiet rooms to work in; the library is often shut at dinner time and closes at 4.30pm because of a shortage of staff."

John Dunne, a member of the student union executive at Central College, said "Like all other FE colleges Central is suffering from the drastic cuts in education. Yet the Tory/Liberal controlled council in Liverpool has proposed another £880,000 cuts for next year. Universities and Polytechnics have swimming pools, gymnasiums, sports halls, pool tables, pinball machines, juke boxes, large libraries, cheap food, washing machines, shops, bars, music halls, sports equipment, concerts, etc. etc. FE colleges have none of these: we haven't even got an adequate amount of toilets. We would like to know why when we spend as much time in lectures as university and polytechnic students do".