

# Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

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20p

THE  
TORIES



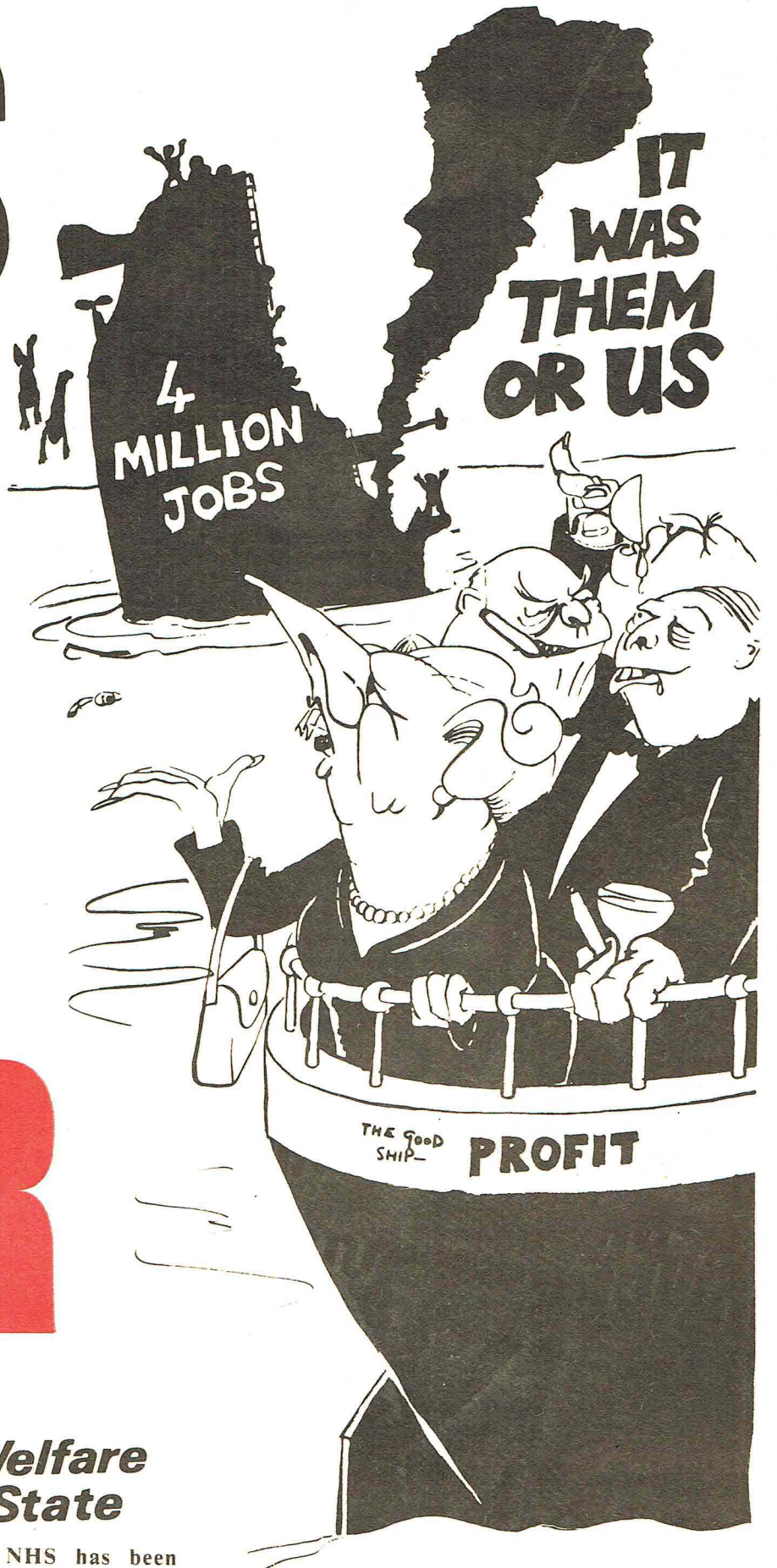
HIDDEN  
MANIFESTO

pages 8-9

## Your Future's at Stake

# TORIES OUT

# VOTE LABOUR



What has four years of Tory rule meant for working class people in Britain? The dole queue, the poverty line, and cut services.

### Jobs

EVEN on official figures, unemployment has risen from 1.2 million to 3 million since Thatcher came to office. In fact nearly five million people who want jobs are out of work (see back page).

More than a million have been without work for a year and over 400,000 for two years. Every day of Tory rule has added 1,395 to the dole queues.

For young workers, the prospects are even bleaker. Unemployment amongst the under 25s officially stands at 28% but for large numbers of young people their only "job" has been on slave

labour programmes such as Youth Training Scheme on £25 per week.

Every day under the Tories, there are 1,806 more people on means tested supplementary benefits. Unemployment pay has been cut through abolition of earnings related benefit. Child benefits have been cut in real terms and the link has been cut between retirement pensions and wages, lowering the real value.

### Welfare State

THE NHS has been strangled. Every Tory day has seen five hospital beds disappear through cuts.

Education has suffered. Every day under the Tories there are 28 fewer teachers.

### Housing

HOUSE building has plummeted. Every Tory day, 312 fewer houses have been started. And hundreds more building workers a day have been forced on the dole.

The Tories have even worse in store unless we stop them. Don't let another Thatcher government take us back to the Victorian era. Vote Labour on 9 June.





# COVENTRY

## DEFECTION WILL NOT STOP LABOUR

**A LAST MINUTE defection by a Labour renegade to the Liberals will fail to impair the success of Labour's election campaign in Coventry.**

A GROUP of canvassers, were walking along the street in Lowerstoke in Coventry, with *Militants* in hand, when an ice-cream van drove by. The driver gave them a clenched-fist salute and then offered free ice-creams to the canvassers. They accepted—two '99's and a cider bar. The driver, Vincenzo Infantino, asked for a regular copy of the paper.

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Brian Hughes, unemployed, told a canvasser in Lowerstoke, "You got me out of retirement for voting. Now I'm going to vote Labour because you're not middle of the road."

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One canvasser Charles Moore, told of a situation in his area: "It wasn't until the end of the second week of the campaign that a Tory voter found the courage to display a window poster in Coventry South-East. Unfortunately for the Tory candidate—Jacques Arnold—this Tory voter's courage is outweighed by ignorance. The poster urges the voters of Coventry South-East to vote for John Butcher, who is Tory candidate for Coventry South-West!"

Reports by Clive Heemskirk

## Tory angers students

"WHEN I was at the London School of Economics I had no grant and I had to work in the evenings and at the weekends—I see nothing fundamentally wrong with that".

This was the comment of the Tory candidate for Coventry South-East, Jacques Arnold, during a debate on education organised by the Coventry Polytechnic Students' Union.

It was greeted with anger by the students there—many of whom were amazed by the brashness of the Tory's reply.

"That's all right if you've got wealthy parents you can fall back on," said one student, "but what about working class students?" The only answer he got from Arnold was an indifferent shrug of the shoulders.

On Friday night (June 3) the *Coventry Evening Telegraph* front page screamed "Keep Nellist Out pleads Labour man". It told how a "Labour Party official" had urged the electorate to vote for the SDP/Liberal Alliance, instead of the Labour candidate, Dave Nellist.

The defector is Fred Davis—his "official" position was in fact party membership secretary, a position he took on May 10; a couple of days later the party was dissolved in preparation for the general election! However, the action of this "official" of only a few days, will be seen for what it is by Coventry workers—a last minute attempt to stab Labour in the back.

The chairman and secretary of Coventry South East Labour Party have been quick to reply to the nonsense espoused by Mr Davis. They deplored his actions describing it as a "desperate attempt to boost the flagging fortunes of the Liberals in Coventry South East."

The Liberal candidate Gordon Gilby has used his new found friend to support his claim that Mr Davis will be the first of many Labour supporters to come over to the Liberals. Coventry SE Labour Party officials have described this as absurd. Labour canvassers have found numerous workers

who voted for the Alliance in the council elections on May 5 who are switching to Labour. Indeed in Mr Davis's ward itself, St Michaels, Labour canvassers have recorded only 1.8% in support of the Liberals.

Mr Davis has used the media to attack the Labour candidate. One such claim made on radio was that Dave Nellist supports the "one party state". Dave Nellist has hit back saying he believes in a democratic socialist society and has always been a severe critic of the totalitarian regimes of the Eastern Bloc, where the dictatorial methods of the privileged bureaucracy were far removed from the true ideas of socialism.

But who is the real anti-democrat? Dave Nellist was democratically selected as the Parliamentary candidate by Labour Party members, in the same manner that Mr Davis was elected as membership secretary. Indeed, Dave Nellist was supported by much of the electorate when he stood in a county council by-election last year and was overwhelmingly elected as their councillor, gaining 50% of the vote. It seems that Mr Davis does not like it when the rule of the majority does not go in his favour. In true sour grapes fashion he turned on his former comrades at a crucial moment.

But this well publicised stunt will not jeopardise Labour. As the party officers have said, "Labour is having an unprecedented, successful election campaign with help from mostly young people and trade unionists enthusiastic for a Labour victory. This back stabbing will have no effect."

## Why we're voting Labour

"We originally came from Perth four years ago. We've got family down here and we came down for better prospects and a better job. I came down on a Saturday four years ago. By Tuesday I had a job. It was a big decision to leave Scotland and come down here, but Scotland is in a real mess."

"The job, in a security firm, paid £43 for a sixty-hour week in my hand. Even if you got promotion for the same hours you had £54 a week, and I had good references."

"I've been unemployed since February. I worked in the bakery and at American Express. I was sacked from there for not putting a sick note in the two days they give you."

—Hamish, Moulescoomb Estate, Brighton.

By Paul Gibbs

## Bill Wilson backs Nellist

THE RETIRING Labour MP for Coventry South East, Bill Wilson, took the platform at a Labour Party Young Socialists rally in the city on Saturday to urge support for the present candidate, Dave Nellist.

The night before when the *Evening Telegraph* carried the news of the "Labour defection" (see article) the paper reported that Bill Wilson and the leader of Coventry City Council Peter Lister, were "unavailable for comment" on the situation. This may have



Retiring MP Bill Wilson

given the impression that they did not support Dave.

But this was quashed when Bill Wilson took

the platform and pledged full support for Dave. He said the Labour Party needed people such as Dave Nellist who had enthusiasm and determination to fight for the youth.

The march, called by Coventry South East LPYS, attracted 350 which swelled to 500 when it marched through the town, and received an excellent response from bystanders. Speakers included Dennis Skinner MP and Ed Waugh of the Northern Regional Committee of the LPYS.

## Why we're voting Labour

"If Thatcher wins I feel like putting the kids in care and giving up the house."

"When I moved in there was fungus on the walls so I had to keep the heating on at night before the children went to bed to stop them getting

cold. My bill was £317.20. When I queried it they said there was nothing I could do. I paid that off but they take £19 a week from me against future bills."

"After that and fares to get the two children to nursery,

I'm left with £16 a week to pay for food, fuel, clothes and everything. I live on fags, and when I have no food, the kids go to my mum's."

—Maureen Winslow, Coventry.



Ten Falklands war veterans attended a press conference organised by their union last week.

They already have their medals. It wasn't for further decorations.

They were there, as one unemployed seaman Mussaid Muhammed said, not for medals, "I got a medal. . . What I want from Mrs Thatcher now is a job".

Mark Metcalfe from Plymouth landed his first job as a seaman on one of the merchant ships that went to the Falklands. He was lucky in one way. He survived twenty-six bombing attacks as a deck hand on the ammunition carrier Fort Austin.

Despite a pretty tough introduction to the job he's only had fourteen weeks' work since. Alan Smeaton, also from Plymouth, has been offered £250 for his medal, "but all I want is a job."

About 600 of the 6,000 seamen who volunteered for service in the Falklands are now out of work said Jim Slater, general secretary of the National Union of Seamen.

Yet another story of Tory hypocrisy.

Under this government seamen are being made redundant at the rate of 134 a month. Just like every section of the working class they are under fire in the Tory blitz.

There is no Tory quarter even for war heroes .

Photo: A Wiard (Report)



# PENSIONERS' PLIGHT

**AT A PENSIONERS' Rally organised by the Tories on the Whitehawk Estate in Brighton only 12 pensioners turned up. This mass meeting was to allow the pensioners to hear their Tory MP Andrew Bowden.**

The reason that not many had turned up, said the MP, was because they were frightened by leaflets being handed out by Labour Party members.

The only terrifying thing about these leaflets was the information on them. They explained that the Tories had cut the link between pensions and average earnings, resulting in a £1.45 cut for a single pensioner per week and £2.25 for a couple. Also, the 1980 up-rating was delayed, costing a married couple £12.30 in less benefit, and that inflation would result in married pensioners receiving a pound less per week.

Pensioners aren't frightened of going to meetings though—300 turned out the week before to hear the Labour candidate Rod Fitch and Michael Foot.

But on this occasion the Tory MP appealed to the audience of 12 OAPs not to take for granted the freedom and rights that people had.

"What a load of rubbish", called out one pensioner. "Out of ten million pensioners in this country, one million don't draw supplementary benefit. This means they're living below the poverty line. There must be a minimum of 6,000 pensioners living in Brighton and Hove, not drawing supplementary benefit."

Another pensioner called out to the MP, "I bet you

never had to draw supplementary benefit. And you don't know how difficult it is to draw it and how demoralising it is."

After the meeting, Fay, a pensioner, said, "Pensioners have to queue and wait for such a long time for hospitals that they can die before they get there."

"We went to Parliament to see Bowden. He didn't even come out to see us. We want decent living pensions. We shouldn't have to claim from the DHSS. For a couple, it should be two-thirds of the average income and half of the average income for a single OAP."

"An elderly person living on their own has to pay the same for gas and electricity as a family. All our amenities should be replaced and repaired. I know it can't be done immediately, but we used to have decent hospitals and also home helps. I'd also like to see free fares, because even with half fares it costs us £1 to go to the seafront and that's without a cup of coffee."

## Pushing Cyril

A pensioner I met here in Rochdale recently really brought home to me what we're fighting for in this election.

She was just out of hospital, suffering from cancer, and feeling 'very poorly'. She is expected to live on £32.94 a week.

"Could that Thatcher live on this?" she said.

Another pensioner told me how Cyril Smith first stood in Rochdale for Labour.

He had knocked on her door and told her that "all working class people should vote Labour." Not so much a Liberal more a way of life!

She had seen him in town recently being pushed into his car by two men.

She said: "I wish we could push you out of parliament like that."



Home-made poster for Labour in Bradford North.

Photo: Militant

SUPPORT for Pat Wall in Bradford North amongst the Asian community, and particularly young Asians, is illustrated by the fact that one lad, Haseez, has devoted the whole of his annual holidays to work for Pat's election campaign.

Several Asian workers on night shifts are giving up their sleep to do full days' campaigning for a Labour victory in Bradford North. None of them were members of the Labour Party before the election started.

The campaign hasn't been all hard fustog for Pat Wall. As a measure of friendship and respect he has attended several Asian social events. Last Sunday, for example, he was the special guest at a Pakistani wedding, attended by over 700.

As one canvasser in an Asian area said, "The most striking thing I've noticed is that even before this campaign began Pat Wall had a large reservoir of support, following years of fighting racism."

"Bradford's trades council, of which Pat is chairman, has been very conscious and active in taking up the question for many years, long before any other section of the labour movement did so. Bradford Trades Council sponsored the LPYS anti-

racist demo in Bradford in 1974.

"What comes across very strongly to me is that the people aren't just anti-Tory, but really pro-Labour and pro-Pat Wall. He is regarded as their ally. Sometimes among the non-English speaking people, they mightn't understand what we say but mention Pat Wall, and that's understood immediately."

In the course of the campaign Pat has spoken at many meetings of health ser-

vice workers, he's spoken at the Hindu Cultural Centre, the Kashmiri Workers' Association, the Indian Workers' Association, the Bangladeshi Youth Organisation, at mosques and at temples.

The Labour Party is the only party that promises to repeal the 1971 Immigration Act and the 1981 Nationality Act. And Pat has pledged to fight racism in whatever shape or form, to end the threat of deportation and the barbaric splitting of families.

# PAT WALL FIGHTS FOR ALL

## Telegraph in brawl with truth

THE TORY press reached the depths when it came to reporting the election rally in Bradford where Michael Foot spoke alongside the Labour candidates, including Pat Wall for Bradford North.

The 'report' in the *Daily Telegraph* was an outright lie.

Headlined, "Militants in brawl as Foot speaks", it spoke of, "...an outbreak of fighting between militants in the audience and Labour Party stewards."

It went on to claim, "After his (Mr Foot's) remarks on Mr Wall militants yelled 'shame' and 'disgraceful' and shortly afterwards more were ejected from the rally by stewards."

This is nonsense. What actually happened—at an enthusiastic and united meeting—was that three Tory supporters were asked to leave after they heckled incessantly.

But then the Tory press can't let the truth get in the way when it comes to attacking the Labour Party.

One thing the *Daily Telegraph* did get right was that Pat Wall was sitting on the "extreme right of the platform" at the meeting. That wasn't good enough for the rabid *Daily Mail*. They placed Pat Wall on the "far left" of the platform (nudge, nudge, know what they mean?).

I suppose it depends which way you look at it, but well, it made better copy didn't it, supposedly describing the setting for the meeting the report explained how the "banners gloated down from the new battalions of the Leninist-Marxist-Trotskyist state."

And what did these "Leninist-Marxist-Trotskyist" banners proclaim? "Vote for Pat Wall on June 9. End the Tory nightmare." Hot stuff, eh!

Stockton Tory  
'Not seen,  
not heard'

LITTLE HAS been seen of Tom Finnegan, the Conservative Party candidate for Stockton South, since it was revealed that he is a former member of the National Front.

Since then he's been dropped by many of the Tories and he is now no longer having any public meetings. His campaign has been reduced to driving around in a car. Even many Tory supporters have reported that he hasn't been seen canvassing and there are almost no posters up in his constituency.

He was spotted recently though, driving down Stockton High Street. He was greeted by cries from the Labour Party Young Socialists out leafletting, of "fascists out" and mock Nazi salutes. Saturday shoppers and young people joined in. Even two lads on a scooter over-took the Tory car with their arms raised in salute. Since then Finnegan has hardly been seen at all!

More reports on the Tories and NF—see page 7.



Over 500 people were arrested at the 'blockade' of the US air base in Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire during the past week. Peace groups and CND supporters were trying to close all entrances to the bomber base and prevent American servicemen from reporting for duty.



# TARGET—£50,000 BY JULY 9.

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 9 July
Eastern	569		2700
East Midlands	656		2600
Humberside	384		1300
London East	715		3300
London West	603		1650
London South	1296		2500
Manchester & Lancs	939		3000
Merseyside	771		3400
Northern	495		3550
Scotland East	323		2100
Scotland West	737		3000
Southern	838		3150
South West	466		2000
Wales East	487		1500
Wales West	313		2100
West Midlands	416		3100
Yorkshire	676		3400
Others	2250		5000
<b>Total received</b>	<b>12,934</b>		<b>50000</b>

# FINANCE A SOCIALIST FIGHTBACK

Whatever the result of this election, ordinary people will need Militant more and more. The case for a socialist alternative will have to be argued as never before.

A recent report from Associated British Foods shows what happens when the bosses' priorities are followed. They state that shareholders' takings have benefitted by getting "15% compound

growth over the last five years in spite of the recession." So agreeing to wage restraint just means more for the shareholders.

Militant is here to put the socialist alternative. But to do that we need the financial

**THIS WEEK: £1600**

backing of all our readers. Trade unionists supporting us this week included: ASLEF member (expenses), UCW readers at the Conference in the Isle of Man (£237 after expenses), also expenses from Macclesfield, extras on sales at Fords Dagenham, and members of Hull AUEW No 12 Branch. Labour Party members in

Birkenhead and Mossley Hill, Merseyside contributed £20 in extras and small donations; thanks, comrades. Gwent College Labour students donated £20 and £50 came from an East Wales jumble sale. Young Socialists in Worsley (Lancs) and Stockton collected money for us.

Individual supporters, such as B Davies (Rhondda LPYS) who gave us £75, and a reader in the Woodhouse Park district of Manchester who sent us £160, apparently do more than most. But every 10p in extras that comes from say a single parent or unemployed worker may mean as much of a sacrifice as the donation of part of a windfall from a comparatively better off reader.

D Todd (W London) sent us £20. Thanks also to G Casey (Walton) £19, C Goldie (Sheffield) £15, and to the following for £10s: J Leech and H Luckin (both helping the Terry Fields campaign in Liverpool Broadgreen), A Duncan (Glasgow gasworker, GMBATU Congress delegate), and A Congera (Kidderminster). J Hunter (AUEW steward, Burnley) won £9 in a raffle and points out the sacrifice that socialists are always prepared to sacrifice financial gain for our cause, which is more than you can say about some of our leaders.

H Ross (GMBATU gas steward, London) gave £4 and D Brandenburger (London) rounded up his subscription by £7. UCW member A Short (Bridgend) sent £6, and fivers came in from Cllr W Turvey (Leicester), N Ognjenovich (Cardiff), N Foley (London) and T Carter (NUPE, Mid Glamorgan). Bolton, Edinburgh, Hull, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Middleton (where an ASTMS member is giving us £1 a week), Rochester, Littlehampton and Cleethorpes are some of the places we've had contributions from in the last five days.

Some readers have raised pounds from sponsored marathons and other runs. If you want to make a donation, why not do it at one of the meetings coming up very shortly in most areas? See the adverts column, or ask your seller for details.

By Steve Cawley



Winning the argument on the doorstep during the election in Liverpool. Make sure the socialist case continues to be put afterwards. Sell and help finance Militant.

# BLACK AND WHITE -and lies all over

What is black and white and lies all over Britain? No not zebra crossings, but the four headed, nine tentacled Tory press monster. During the election, along with the rest of the media they have attempted to throw mud, innuendo, in fact anything they can into the eyes of working people to prevent them voting Labour. Yet the sales of their papers have only gone up marginally and this is mainly due to bingo and other promotions.

Meanwhile, the sales of Militant have rocketed; Dundee sold 60 in one night, Stafford's sales have increased their order by 150% and every area has paid in for at least double their normal sales.

Whilst the press have been worrying about Labour's wild men, our sellers have been out on the doorstep explaining the need for a Labour government to take radical measures to deal with capitalism. We can't afford

full page adverts in the Tory press (they wouldn't let us use them anyway) but we can appeal to working people to sell our paper and build the socialist alternative to the hyenas and jackals of the big business press.

To become a seller of Militant ring 01-533-1822 or write to 1, Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

By Dave Farrar

# ads

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

## PRE-ELECTION MILITANT MEETINGS

### MONDAY 6 JUNE

ASHINGTON: Speaker: Dave Cotterill at 7.30 pm at the Ladies Room, Ashington Leisure Centre.

EALING: Speaker: Bob Labi at 8 pm at the Princes Room, Ealing Town Hall.

BETHNAL GREEN: Speaker John Pickard at 7.30pm at Sporting Life pub, Wilmot Street, E2 (off Bethnal Green Road).

NOTTINGHAM: Speaker: Ted Grant at 7 pm, International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

## POST-ELECTION MILITANT MEETINGS

(further details from local sellers)

### SATURDAY 11 JUNE

TYNESIDE: (7.30pm at 'The Bridge', Newcastle.)

### SUNDAY 19 JUNE

WASHINGTON

### MONDAY 13 JUNE

BRISTOL.

### TUESDAY 14 JUNE

PLYMOUTH (Lecture Room 5, General Teaching Block, Plymouth Polytechnic).

### WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE

TROWBRIDGE (speaker: Robin Clapp)  
STONEHOUSE (speaker: Bryan Beckingham)  
SUNDERLAND  
SE LANCASHIRE  
CLEVELAND (at 7.30pm, AUEW Hall, Borough Rd, Middlesbrough)  
POOLE (at 7.30 pm Kings Arms Hotel, Wallace Down Road).

### MONDAY 20 JUNE

SWINDON (7.30 pm Speaker: Robin Clapp at AUEW Hall, Fleming Street.

### TUESDAY 21 JUNE

ROTHERHAM, SWANSEA, CHESTER-LE-STREET.

### WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE

WYTHENSHAW.

### THURSDAY 22 JUNE

KINGSWOOD.

### FRIDAY 24 JUNE

HUMBERSIDE: (Springbank Community Centre, Wellington Lane, Hull).

### MONDAY 27 JUNE

LONDON: (Speakers P. Taaffe, E. Grant at Friends Meeting House, Euston Rd.)

## CLASSIFIED

### WRITE OFF THE TORIES WITH US

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

MILITANT Marxist Weekend Schools. LONDON 2/3 July Queen Mary College Student Union. NORTHERN 9/10 July. Teesside Poly, Middlesbrough. Fuller details future issues.

INAUGURAL Meeting. Labour CND West Taunton CLP Meeting Rooms. 24 East Reach, Taunton. Sunday 26 June, 2.30pm. "Protect Composite 81". LP members only.

THATCHER'S BRITAIN: A GUIDE TO THE RUINS. £1.50 + 20p postage. A basic analysis of what the Tory government has done to working people. From World Socialist Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

WHAT WE STAND FOR: THE PROGRAMME OF MILITANT 20p each. 30p for one, including post. 10 or more post free. Available from World Socialist Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

BLACK YOUTH RALLY to be held London 2-3 July now postponed. Further details of future venue and date will appear in later issues.

### MILITANT SUMMER RAFFLE

1st prize Video equipment worth over £400. 2nd prize Colour TV worth over £200. Eight other prizes, electrical goods, books. Draw 9 July. Tickets 10p from local Militant sellers.

South Wales 8th Militant

Summer Camp

South Wales Militant Summer Camp August Bank Holiday

Friday 26 August-Monday 29 August For the eighth time we are organising our highly successful camp in the beautiful surroundings of Horton on the Gower Coast (10 minutes' walk from Port Eynon and Horton beaches).

It will provide not only an excellent introduction to the ideas of Marxism, but also a superb holiday for the family. Price £10. Write to 181 Hanover Street, Swansea SA1 6BP.



# Election campaign builds LPYS

**IN THE North East of Scotland the Labour Party Young Socialists have made a strong intervention in the election.**

In Fife the youth campaign has made a significant impact. In East Dunfermline there has been a YS speaker on every platform and the YS has been prominent in organising successful public meetings. In Kelty, for example, over 60 people turned up.

Glenrothes YS, in central Fife, have organised regular canvassing, and on Saturdays, days of action in the town centre. On Saturday there was competition from the Liberal Alliance, who have never been seen in the town centre before. They were soon dispatched by cries of, "Say no to the Tories and the Liberal Tories." After this we sold over thirty *Militants*.

Round the doors the response has been first class, with the overwhelming majority of people voting Labour. So much for the opinion polls putting the Tories in the lead.

On one estate in Glenrothes we sold over 80 papers in two nights. The burning anger at the Tories and their system has been very evident, especially from working class mothers, who realise their children have no future if the Tories remain in office.

Over the last week sales in Fife have boomed and we sold 150 papers. Youth for Labour rallies have been organised—the main one in Central Fife. The preparation for this included visits to local factories, fly-posting and a local leaflet. Already we've got people to join the Labour Party and the Young Socialists, and we're hopeful that not only will Labour win in Fife, but that the YS will attract many new members.

Similar campaigning has taken place in Perth, where the Young Socialists have been showing the way. Canvass teams of up to 15 YS members are going round the doors. This sort of campaigning, although it's going to be difficult for the Labour Party to win Perth and Glenrothes, is an example of how to go out on the doorsteps and convince people of the need to vote Labour and for socialist policies.

By Eddie Donachy



A Labour Party Young Socialist holds an impromptu meeting with workers during their lunch break outside their factory in Bradford. Photo: Militant.

## Bradford

A WEEK'S campaigning activities by the LPYS in Bradford North culminated with the meeting (reported in last week's *Militant*) with Arthur Scargill, Michael Foot and Pat Wall, the Labour candidate.

LPYS members organised a show of support for Pat who we believe will actually voice the grievances and demands of working class people when he is elected. At the meeting (reported in last week's *Militant*) with Arthur Scargill, Michael Foot and Pat Wall, the Labour candidate.

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## Luton

WHEN Luton's Tory MP, Graham Bright, tried to stage his own little 'media event' on 31 May he came unstuck.

He took a film crew to the local station to show him greeting commuters coming off the evening train. He ignored one person in his labourer's clothes as he came off the train—didn't make for nice, antiseptic film copy.

Unfortunately the labourer, Jim Carroll, did not ignore him. Jim had gone to the station to collect his week's supply of *Militant*. Once politically re-armed, Jim and another Labour Party member returned to the fray.

They quickly sold five

In the previous week YS members had accompanied Pat on his lunch-time factory and hospital visits, where they spoke briefly, making an appeal to young workers not just to vote Labour but to work for a Labour victory.

Bradford North LPYS now has over 150 new and potential members, as a result of our campaigning work. Letters appealing for help in electing Pat have gone out to them in the last week.

Even on the night of the Cup Final replay, five new YS members were won at an estate meeting in Eccleshill. New sources of support are now being tapped in the Bengali community and on modern 'Alcatraz'-style estates.

In one key ward, every first time voter has been circulated with a youth leaflet and is being visited. The pro-

papers and distributed scores of 'vote Labour' leaflets to the commuters. They tried to engage the Tory leafletters in 'hustings', but 'Bright's boys' weren't so clever when faced by argument—they refused.

The film crew became perturbed that the *Militant* sellers were disturbing the balance of the shot and asked them to move on. They refused.

Things were getting worse for the Tories. Now people had a choice, it became noticeable that whilst the Labour leaflets were being accepted, a number of Tory ones were lying screwed up on the ground. So the media bandwagon beat a hasty retreat.

By a Militant reporter

spects look good for a massive turn-out of local youth to the eve of poll rally next Wednesday, and for a thriving LPYS in Bradford North.

By Bradford LPYS members

## Plymouth

"SOME PEOPLE I know will kill themselves if the Tories get in again," an old age pensioner told Young Socialists canvassing in Devonport, David Owen's Plymouth constituency.

Owen and the SDP offer no future to council house tenants like her. The windows in her flat were so high up she had to stand on the sideboard to reach them. As a result she has fallen and injured her leg, which then took three years to heal properly.

Now she can hardly walk to the shop because of failing eyesight, and finds it impossible to pay her endless bills from a state pension. But she will still get out to vote Labour on 9 June because, "Labour will fight for the working class."

Another young unemployed woman told us, "If Labour knock down all these houses and build new ones, they'll get my vote." Wherever we meet workers who are planning to vote for the SDP, we explain the policies of the LPYS, and outline the socialist policies we stand for. On at least three occasions SDP voters have come back to Labour as a result. Workers in Devonport want fighters, not fudgers.

By Rachael Harris and Theo Simon (Devonport LPYS)

## PEOPLE'S MARCH

WHEN the People's March for Jobs reached Bristol on 27 May it was met by Tony Benn MP and a number of trade union and Labour Party members.

The response from ordinary workers has been excellent with people coming out of factories to clap and wave, and on arrival in Bristol the marchers were greeted with a gift of £90 from the workers of Bristol Commercial Vehicles, which is due to close down itself in two to three months.

At Westlands Helicopters, a factory gate meeting of 300 heard speakers call for more

investment in the economy and, from a Marcher and an LPYS member, the call for the election of a Labour government on socialist policies.

On Sunday an excellent meal was laid on by the local Sikh community and a Sikh community leader called on people to vote Labour on June 9. Despite this, however, the organisers of the march insist it is "non-political" and attempted to ban all political banners from demonstrations—until told that the marchers themselves welcomed all banners.

The People's March reaches its climax with a mass demonstration in London as *Militant* goes to press (June 5). A full report will appear in a later issue.

## Help needed on Polling Day

**COVENTRY SOUTH EAST**  
Report to Ward HQs:  
St Michaels: 30 Coundon Road.  
Cheylesmore: Cheylesmore Community Centre, Arundel Road.  
Lower Stoke: Pinley Community Centre, The Moorfield, Stoke Aldermoor.  
Binley and Willenhall: Chase Infant School.

**BRADFORD NORTH**  
Report to Main Committee Rooms, 2a Hallings (opp Telegraph and Argus building). cars urgently needed—any queries ring Main Committee Rooms, 0274-727229.

**LIVERPOOL BROADGREEN**  
Report to Ward HQs:  
Tuebrook: 2 Lower Beck Road, Liverpool 6.  
Kensington: NUR Club, Deane Road, Liverpool 7.  
Broadgreen: 24 Pilch Lane, Liverpool 11.  
Childwall: 29 Abbeystead Road, Liverpool 15.  
Old Swan: 85 Fitzgerald Road, Liverpool 13.  
Or ring Committee rooms on 051-264 9116.

**BRIGHTON KEMPTOWN**  
Report to Labour Party HQ, 179 Lewes Road, Brighton.

## A message from the boss

Not all business people are head over heels about a Tory victory. Printed below is an extract from a letter to his 95 employees by Michael Cox, head of Michael Cox Electronics of Hanworth in Middlesex. The letter was pinned up on the firm's noticeboard under the heading "Election 1983—A personal view".

It is generally thought that industrialists want the reelection of a Conservative government, and it is certainly true that large contributions to party funds come from the business sector. However there is at least one businessman who would rather contribute to the defeat of a Tory government as I firmly believe that a second term for the Thatcher government would be a disaster for the country and very likely for the world...

The abolition of all exchange controls have ensured that much investment by large companies takes place overseas. The result is a large loss of confidence and a consequent flood of company liquidations, principally in manufacturing industry. Manufacturing balance of trade figures have just been given for the first quarter of 1983. They show that for the first time since the industrial revolution 200 years ago, Britain had a trade deficit in manufactures of some £600m.

The government has pinned its hopes on the information technology revolution to create new jobs and revitalise British industry. Perhaps they believe their own publicity. I certainly do not. They claim a great concern for education and training. If the much publicised Youth Training Scheme is anything to go by, I wouldn't trust them to organise a stag night in a brewery. This is a real confidence trick on the poor youngsters leaving school this summer with such high hopes.

With their keenness to privatise everything, but particularly medicine and education, they are dividing the country into the haves and have-nots. Some Victorian values may be good but do we really have to go back to the world of Charles Dickens?

After the Falkland's affair, are we not in danger of the Welfare State becoming the Warfare State?...

After such an indictment of the government, it is perhaps fair to say that I have great misgivings about the Labour Party's intention to seek a withdrawal from the Common Market. It hasn't done us a lot of good, but leaving it could prove harmful to Britain's balance of trade. That said, there is more humanity and social justice in their proposals than in the bleak Thatcherite future on offer elsewhere...

## Students for Labour

THE NEWCASTLE Polytechnic Labour Club are canvassing the campus halls which contain about 650 students.

Our first canvass was highly successful. Seven new members were recruited for the Labour Party and LPYS. Labour voters intending to use postal votes in safe seats at home were persuaded to vote here in the marginal Newcastle Central instead if possible. Labour posters were placed in windows throughout the halls.

If the Tories are re-elected the Poly faces devastating cuts. The National Advisory Body was set up by the Tories to find out where spending could be cut on

public sector further education. The proposed 10% cuts for 1983/84 would have resulted in a reduction of over 30% in first year enrolment affecting hundreds of young people.

Our Labour controlled city council has opposed the NAB along with many other Labour authorities. However, the cuts have only been shelved for the general election. If the Tories win they will return to their attacks on the FE colleges where resistance has been weaker and result in even greater inequality in educational opportunities.

By Fred Gent (Vice-Chairman, NPLC)



A Young Socialist outside a Further Education College in East Ham, Newham, urges youth to vote Labour.



# Asian youth campaign for Pat Wall

**THIS ELECTION campaign has been marvellous. It's the first time we've been involved in anything like this. For the very first time we've been involved in socialist politics, instead of feudal village politics.**

We've gone beyond just the elders and actually reached the people. We've met people who haven't been canvassed for 10 years or more. Many of them are not even on the register.

Instead of indirect democracy Pat Wall has gone to the doorsteps. For the very first time we have a Labour Party committee room in our area.

We've had big house meetings, big street meetings and something which I think is marvellous is that at these meetings we've brought the whole community together — Bengali, Pakistani, English, Polish and everyone. The next meeting will be even bigger.

We formed our youth organisation last December because we felt we must mobilise our young people to participate in all aspects of British life, from sport and culture to politics. A group of us had felt this for a long time, against the wishes of many older members of our community.

But all that opposition did was spur us on. So far we have 70 members and every month we produce a newsletter called *Tubo Bangla* (translated this is called 'Youth of Bengal').

We are involved in many things. We teach children free of charge. We act as translators and help people fill in forms free of charge. For example, I have been just now to help someone fill in their tax form.

Some exploit our people. They charge large sums of

money for the things we do for nothing.

We are also involved in a big housing campaign. We live in slums surrounded by derelict land. We want to keep our community together so we are campaigning for the council to build us houses on this land, to get us out of the slums and out of the hands of the money-grabbing landlords, who charge a fortune for a 2-bedroomed bed-sit in which whole families are expected to live.

I myself am married, but we have to live with an uncle. There's nowhere else for us to go. It's like that for most young couples. There are no jobs for us either.

And even with things like medical treatment we are disadvantaged. This is a small area, with a very large population, yet hardly any doctors.

And our schools are terrible too. Run-down, overcrowded and lacking in every way. That is why many of our elders are calling for separate schools. But we are opposed to that. The youth organisations we should be fighting for decent education, not separate education.

In this election the Labour Party has gone to the people and won their enthusiastic support. I feel confident for the future. I'm sure that the members of our organisation and many more will now join the Labour Party. We will have to wait until after the election but I think we should now change our name from the 'Bangladeshi Youth Organisation' to the 'Manningham Youth Movement', so we can have all the young people in the area with us, no matter what colour, creed or nationality.

**Shauket Ahmed, member of the Bangladeshi Youth Organisation in Manningham, Bradford, spoke to Margaret Reavey.**



Canvassing in Bradford last week

Photo: Militant

**"We've had house meetings, big street meetings and brought the whole community together."**

## Unemployed for a Labour victory

### Liverpool

**ANTONY MOORE, aged 21, from Old Swan in Liverpool left school at 16 and worked for one week in a fridge factory but had to give it up because of asthma. He didn't work again for three years.**

He then got a job with a Liverpool housing trust. "When you're working on a decent wage your problems go because you have money. The job lasted a year or as long as the job took. It took 50 weeks and men were cracking up about the two weeks they were going to lose.

"No one in a country like this should be unemployed. What happened to the boom in the '60s and '70s? If the money's not going back into industry, I'd like to know where it is going. The Tories are just looking after themselves.

"Thatcher wants us to get poor, to get to the stage where I'll look at the £6 in my pocket and think it's a bloody fortune, then the

bosses can pick and choose who works for them and how much they pay them. People will work for £25 a week because there's no choice.

"If you vote Conservative, vote Con, you get conned! They'll be giving themselves pay rises and the judges and top civil servants but nothing for us. They don't care about human rights or freedoms like they say they do, but to make sure our money goes in their pockets. Conservatives means conserving everything for themselves.

"When you're out of work you get driven insane, you start thinking there's no way out of it. You hear yourself shouting if someone knocks on the door, what do you want?

"You start lying in bed and thinking it must be our fault and you get to feel isolated. There are about 30 to 35 out of work in this block but I don't know any of them, we ought to be getting together.

"It's about time politics stopped revolving around money and started revolving around people."

### Sheffield

"INSTEAD of moping about, young people should go out and do something positive about getting a job." That's the common refrain from the well-off and the Tories.

Well in Sheffield, the unemployed have taken them at their word. They've recognised they won't get a job, if Thatcher is re-elected, so they've formed the "Unemployed for Labour Victory campaign." They know it's their best chance of getting a job.

They've produced 5,000 leaflets for distribution at the dole queues, which states: "a vote for Labour is a vote for jobs." They've had a good response and are directing their attentions to the Hillsborough constituency, which is a marginal. The local party is giving support, and the aim is not just to win votes for Labour, but to break down the isolation that many unemployed people feel, and to get together and join the Labour Party and the Labour Party Young Socialists.

Staggering back to headquarters after a long day's canvass, one comrade was alarmed when a bus, completely with passengers, suddenly pulled up alongside. Off jumped the conductor, "Is that the *Militant* under your arm, can I have one?" Bemused the passengers sat patiently until the sale and short chat were completed and they set off on their journey once again.

—Bradford

Two woman neighbours were surprised to see each other at a Pat Wall public meeting. One said to the other, "What the hell are you doing here I thought you were a Conservative." The other woman said, "You've got to be joking, what have I got to conserve!"

—Bradford

"I don't think our telly will last the election—everytime that woman gets on the box our dad keeps chucking anything he can get his hands on at her!"

—16-year old girl, Walsall

"I'll definitely be voting Labour. I hate that woman Thatcher. She's turned my father into an old man. He's not yet 60-years old, but since being made redundant he's aged twenty years."

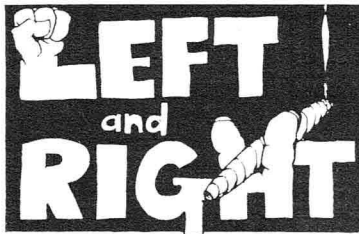
—Young housewife, Glasgow Cathcart

## Sign of the times

JUST as Terry Fields was addressing a factory gate meeting outside Crawford's, a rag and bone man came down the street. Just a sign of the times? Crawford's is due to close by the end of June, so the rag and bone man could have been eyeing up some future customers.

Terry Fields, Labour's candidate in Broadgreen, pointed out that Crawford's bosses were backing the Tories in this election. Crawford's biscuits are owned by United Biscuits, Tory Cabinet Minister Jim Prior's old firm; last year they donated £32,000 to Tory Party funds.

The Tories talk about democracy. Yet no workers were asked if their firm should give money to the Tories. Nor were workers consulted about other decisions made by Crawford's, decisions which have resulted on them going on the dole.



### Union branch backs SDP

A branch of the white-collar, clerical union APEX has followed electricians' union leader, Frank Chapple in backing SDP candidate John Grant. Most of the branch members actually work at the headquarters of the EETPU, the electricians' union. The APEX branch have sent £50 to John Grant's campaign and wished him "every success" against the Labour candidate.

### Tory democrats

What's this, the Tory party infiltrated by democrats? Some of their members have started demanding that their leaders are actually accountable. As a first step they have formed the 'Charter Movement' and gone through Tebbit's proposals on the unions; every time it mentioned 'trade unions' they replaced it by 'Conservative Party'.

They came up with the following quote: "If the Conservative Party is to serve and represent the interests of its members it should ensure that any important decisions are supported by a majority of its members voting in a secret ballot. The methods used by the Conservative Party to consult its members are often totally inadequate."

### Round the Tories' U-bend

Kenilworth Job Centre are refusing to answer queries for one of their vacancies during the election, because it might have "political overtones". The vacancy is for a seven day a week, part-time toilet cleaner. For that Kenilworth Castle is offering the princely sum of TEN POUNDS.

So far, although the job has been advertised since April, no one has taken up the generous aristocratic offer. If the government enforced the UN fair wages policy, the minimum for such work would be £1.61 an hour. But that will run out in September, as Norman Tebbit has abolished the relevant statute.

### Independent Mail man

The *Daily Mail*, which orders its reporters to write pro-Tory stories, has decided that it will after all allow one column to have an "independent" voice. So they've imported American novelist Norman Mailer.

We can rest assured that this fearless American radical will be closely examining the main election issue of unemployment. The *Mail* has given him a suite in the Dorchester (going rate £180 a night). For his three articles, he's being paid \$90,000. Mailer travelled over on Concorde of course. But he does have financial problems. His earnings are such, that he has to pay his former wives (he's now married for the sixth time) £3,300 in alimony.



# Racist record of the Tory

The Tories' cooing noises towards black and Asian workers today in hope of their votes are a million miles from their election platforms of the past.

Their recent patronising advertisement told black workers they were better off with the Tories. In 1964 in the Midlands constituency of Smethwick the Tories put up a racist candidate, Tory councillor Peter Griffiths.

His election slogan—albeit unofficial but used all the same by his supporters with only the mildest of rebukes from the Tory leadership was "If you want a nigger for a neighbour vote Labour".

This episode marked the beginning of the right wing of the Tories openly campaigning for repatriation, often campaigning alongside the fascists, or organising front organisations in which the NF and other fascists participated:

1972—a demonstration was held in London against Asians from Kenya being allowed to settle in this country, called by the "Halt Immigration Now Campaign". Many NF members joined the demonstration. Leading the march were Tory party members Lady Birdwood (who attends many NF and Nazi events), George Young (of the Monday Club) and Harvey Proctor, now a Tory MP. Also on the march carrying a Union Jack banner was Sam Swerling, now an activist in the Conservative Trade Unionists.

## Councillors aid Nazis

In September the same year, Tory MPs John Stoke, Ronald Bell, John Biggs-Davidson and former MP Harold Soref addressed an anti-immigration rally in London.

1976—Tory Birmingham councillors Griffin and Collet led an anti-immigration rally in Trafalgar Square. Collet shared the platform with the leader of the now defunct Nazi British Movement.

## FINNEGAN IS NOT ALONE...

THE TORIES have tried to present the Finnegan affair in Stockton, where a former National Front member has been selected as the Tory candidate, as an isolated incident.

But Finnegan is far from being the only NF member to find his way to the Tories. There are many other similar cases:

★ David White: Five years in the NF, being their parliamentary candidate in Preston. On joining the Tory party in 1979, the local Tory agent told the press, "I have met Mr White and I think we will have him in the party, starting with the Young Conservatives."

★ Philip Hanman: Accepted as Tory candidate for Greenwich in 1979 after previous NF membership. He was only dropped by the Tories following a public outcry when he was

By Bill Dogget

At an NF organised Midlands march in support of the notorious fascist Robert Relf, who had been imprisoned for contempt of court for his infamous "For sale to English family only" sign outside his house, the march was addressed by the Tory mayor of Stafford, Councillor Tongue.

1979—The "Tory Action" group was set up, with support from 20 Tory MPs to "vigorously campaign for the adoption of repatriation as party policy."

The same year the Hooligan and Vandal Action Campaign (HAVAC) was set up claiming support from 46 Tory MPs and also General Sir Walter Walker—the architect of GB'75, a private

army in the seventies—who called on the Tory government to deport "coloured youths who are found to be organised extremists."

In Brighton, Julian Amery MP shared a public platform with Gergio Almirante, a leading member of the MSI, the Italian fascist party.

1981—The extreme right wing umbrella group WISE (Welsh, Irish, Scots, English) which established a bridge between the extreme right of the Tories with fascist groups, held a series of meetings in London. The July meeting was addressed by Harvey Proctor. Among the audience were members of the NF and Tony Malski, reported in the Daily Mirror (May 30) as a neo-Nazi who is setting up an armed paramilitary fascist terror group. Proposing the vote of thanks to Proctor at the meeting was Andrew Fountaine, former leader of the NF.

At the September WISE rally, the chairman was McWilliam, a leader of the New National Front. At the

# Right

October meeting, addressed by Tory MP Ronald Bell, the WISE secretary, Joan Mason, described the NF as a "wonderful organisation".

Other Tory MPs to address WISE meetings were Nicholas Winterton, Michael Brotherton and John Stokes.

For two decades or more the Tories have tolerated the racists within their ranks—and their fraternisation with the fascists.

The reins on the racist elements may be held tightly by the Tory leadership at times such as this election, but the Tories—and the capitalist system they represent—have shown that they are prepared to unleash the forces of racism in an attempt to split and divide the working class when they feel threatened by an advancing labour movement.

Tory Councillor Collet takes the microphone at an anti-immigration rally in Trafalgar Square in 1976. He stands next to the banner of the British Movement, while behind him a BM Nazi gives the Sieg Heil salute.



The Daily Mirror (May 30) reported that the Tory leadership are to carry out an investigation into the Young Conservatives over fascist infiltration. This is not the first time. Last year a similar investigation was carried out into the Uxbridge YCs. In 1981 there were expulsions from the Tory Party following the Portsmouth YCs holding a joint meeting with the NF. Similar cases were reported in Coventry, West London, Petts Wood, South Shields and Preston. Before that in 1979, when Enoch Powell addressed the Banstead YCs, thirty members of the British Movement and the NF were among the audience. The right-wing Tory grouping, the Monday Club, has a similar record. In 1973 the Essex Branch was addressed by John Tyndall of the NF, with the Redbridge and South London Monday Clubs also having NF speakers. The Tory leadership may be able to write off their members who were former NF members as having a 'wayward past', but how do they explain their organisations that have consciously arranged

discovered to have sent forged press statements—supposedly from an anti-fascist group threatening violence—to the local newspapers.

★ Ross McKay: One time Scottish student organiser for the NF. He then joined the Tories and became a Tory councillor in Dennistown Ward, Glasgow.

★ Roy Painter: Tory PPC for Tottenham before defecting to fascists, he became a leading figure in the NF and its split off, the National Party. In the late '70s he was allowed back into the Tory Party.

★ Buster Mottram: The

racist tennis player recently joined the Tories after several years in the NF despite claiming his "policies hadn't changed". He stood for selection as PPC for Billericay, but failed and was beaten by Harvey Proctor (see other article).

The Tories claim of course that unsavoury elements such as these have seen 'the errors of their former ways'. But these former NF members were clearly not simple-minded innocents hoodwinked into membership of fascist groups, but the majority were leading members in those groups.

The fact is that with the shift to the right in the Tories in the mid-'70s in the face of the growing crisis of British capitalism, the Tory backwoodsmen have become more confident in pushing their extreme right-wing views, to the extent that former fascists do not feel they are in an alien environment when they join the party of big business.

Much of the material for these articles was taken from the monthly magazine Searchlight, the excellent anti-fascist journal.

# Thatcher's aid to dictators

IN AUGUST 1980 Cecil Parkinson, then Minister of Trade for Thatcher's government, spoke to a wealthy gathering in Argentina.

He blithely noted the 'remarkable similarity' between the 'changes' that the dictatorship was making and Tory policy in Britain.

On 2 April 1982 Argentina invaded the Falklands and the two countries were at war. Then, and only then, did the Tories criticise the Argentine Junta's sickening record of torture and assassination.

Prior to the war, Argentina was a major customer for Britain's arms industries, and, within months of the bloody recapture of the islands, it was back to 'business as usual'. The Tories approved, and gave the go-ahead for renewed supplies of British made components for use in Argentine military hardware.

This cold cynicism typifies Tory foreign policy. For all their public bluster about human rights and freedoms, Tory strategy is entirely dictated by the pressing demands of British business tycoons, and the desperate need to bolster the power and prestige of the British ruling class. In practice this often means hanging on the coat tails of the USA, and supporting some of the most reactionary and repressive regimes in the world.

★ Chile—Arms sales had been blocked by Britain since the Generals' take-over in 1973, and the torture and murder of tens of thousands of political opponents and trade unionists that followed. Within months of taking office the Tories renewed arms sales and full export credit facilities to the military junta.

★ Pakistan—A brutal dictatorship has ruled Pakistan since the military coup in July 1977. Since then billions of pounds have been given in military and economic aid by the West to help this bastion of 'freedom'. The USA has approved aid of 1.6 billion dollars for arms alone. Britain belongs to the Aid to Pakistan Consortium of Countries which pledged 1.1 billion dollars in aid for the dictatorship last year.

★ South Africa—Thatcher wants 'progress to end South Africa's isolation in world affairs'. To the delight of the many Tory MPs who have business connections with the country of apartheid, the Tories have put that into practice. They've lifted the ban on sales of North Sea oil, and flouted the United Nations embargo on arms sales to South Africa by approving the export of radar systems made by Plessey.

Internationally, they've

used the British veto to protect South Africa from criticism in the UN, and approved a \$622 million loan. The Tories' big business backers have seized their opportunity. Investment by British companies in South Africa was £10 million in 1979, by 1981 this had rocketed to £360 million.

Mrs Thatcher has a personal interest in South Africa. Husband Denis is a director of Quintin Hazell, a company which breaks the government's and the EEC Code of Conduct for European firms in South Africa. Last year their profits rose by 21%, while the number of their SA employees paid below the absolute poverty line more than doubled, from 149 to 351.

★ Turkey—The repressive military regime which seized power in September 1980 is one of the largest recipients of British foreign aid under the Tories. The Turkish generals have jailed nearly 28,000 political prisoners, and thousands more are awaiting trial. Over 200 people have been 'shot while resisting arrest'. In 1981 the Tories awarded Turkey £20 million in foreign aid.

★ Central America—The USA's policy in Central America has been backed to the hilt by the Tories. Their observers were the only official representatives to break the European boycott of the bogus 'elections' held in El Salvador in March 1982. Britain had also condoned US military aid to Guatemala, another dictatorship with an appalling human rights record. Total silence has greeted the recent disclosures of the CIA's blatant attempts to overthrow the left-wing Sandinista government of Nicaragua.

★ Paraguay—One of the longest established dictatorships in Latin America, and the vicious government of the Philippines are now beginning to receive British aid.

★ Gulf States—The Tories bend over backwards to stay friendly with the oil-rich, feudal dictatorships of the Gulf. British servicemen are seconded to 'assist' these despots' bloated armed forces. They are among Britain's best arms sales customers. British soldiers fought for many years against revolutionary forces in a virtually unreported war in Oman.

In February 1983, Thatcher praised the "... British Empire that took both freedom and the rule of law to countries that would never have known it otherwise." To the millions of people enduring life under British-backed dictatorships, that must come as a real surprise.





# The Tories Manifesto

The Conservative Party manifesto is like second-hand car salesman. You have Tories have taken the precaution of keeping in the backrooms of Conservative C... Couched in the bland language of S... all over with deodorant, the Tory man... they have in store for the welfare state... term of Thatcherism.

By Roger Shrives and Paul Coe. Graphics by Alan Hardman

**“THE NHS IS safe with us” claimed Margaret Thatcher at the 1982 Tory conference. She repeated her boast last week.**

**But the Health Service has never really been safe with the Tories and at a time of capitalist crisis it is less so than ever.**

The Conservative Party opposed the NHS from its inception. The rich consultants, backed up to the hilt by the Tory Party managed to get a clause in the 1946 act which set up the Health Service allowing consultants to treat private patients in pay beds in NHS hospitals. They have been trying to erode the service ever since.

The Central Policy Review Staff, the Think Tank, have even floated the idea of completely replacing it with a system based on private health insurance. Profits may be “healthy” in such a scheme, but the old and the sick would be nothing but a “bad risk” paying enormous premiums.

The Tories realise the torrent of opposition they would get if they tried to dismember the NHS at one fell swoop, so they are trying a more “softly softly” approach which nonetheless threatens to eat away at the heart of the service.

The DHSS document released by the Labour Party last week on “Co-operation between the NHS and the private sector at district level” hides its attacks behind the usual bland Tory title.

There have been proposals since 1981 urging regional and district health

authorities to make more use of the “independent” sector. Now they suggest a ragbag of asset stripping and hidden subsidies to the private sector.

The report suggests health authorities should “assess the scope” for **paying between £135 and £200 a week to private nursing homes for the care of elderly patients.** The old would be siphoned off from the NHS with enormous profits going into the capacious pockets of private health firms, either paid for by taxes and rates or in true Victorian fashion by the families of the old people themselves.

Alternatively they suggest just using private sector facilities, again with big profits in store. They add “we know of one company with extensive experience of running nursing homes in Canada which is interested in a development of this sort”. Well, well, fancy that.

They also recommend hiring expensive equipment from the private sector and using private hospitals’ laboratories, again with the subtle hint that “at least one commercial organisation” is keen to provide such services. They suggest that private companies should provide NHS staff accommodation and even recommend **selling off existing staff quarters to private companies to run for a**

profit. When it comes to the private sector using the NHS, they take a less “dogmatic” approach about profits. Health authorities, they suggest, should consider loaning out accommodation and services to the private sphere. They should **normally cover the full costs but a flexible approach may be adopted**, in other words, services could be hired out at under the market rate. It’s strange how irresolute the Tories can be with their friends!

The Tories are also prepared to asset strip the NHS with recommendations to consider **selling off surplus property to the private sector.** First though, they want more money spent on improving decorations, carpeting etc in the private wards. This would presumably, given the restrictions the Tories have placed on spending, be money redirected from the public sector.

Then they suggest if there are vacancies in private wards, **the charge to the private leeches might be held below cost.**

If all else fails they suggest **selling whole wards or wings of hospitals to the “independent sector”** but the private sector would retain **full access** to the main hospital facilities. Again it would be no surprise, given the Tories’ track record if the sale was for well below the market price.

The steady erosion of the NHS has been going on for years. The Tories would accelerate this so that a two-tier health service, one for the rich and one for the rest of us would become a reality. Don’t give them the chance.

★ **End private practice inside and outside the National Health Service.**

# The Leeches R

**WHEN Thatcher and the Tories took over in May 1979, prescription charges were 20p an item. Today after a long series of hefty increases (while the Tories told us they were fighting inflation), you pay £1.40 for every bottle of medicine or a packet of pills.**

That’s where the NHS’s money has come from, but where has it gone? Is it all going on the care of patients, on paying for doctors, nurses, health visitors, hospital porters and cooks and other ancillaries, on new hospitals, new equipment and the other essential administrative costs of the service?

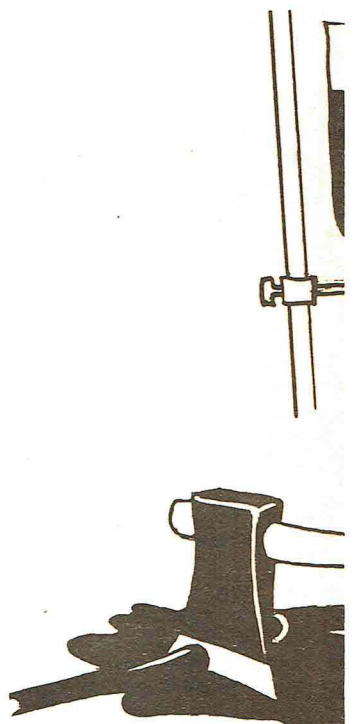
No. In the nineteenth century, the medical profession used leeches as a “cure”. Today the Tories help them thrive again on the blood of the NHS. One group of blood suckers own the banks and finance houses which make a fortune out of all public borrowing. On top of this, the NHS has its own personal parasites in the shape of privately owned and immensely profitable multinational drug companies.

In the middle of this election campaign, a House of Commons

Public Accounts Committee report has castigated what even some Tories consider “excessive” profits by the pharmaceutical giants. Just nine drug companies made £33 million excess profits from the NHS in two years. Three or four of the companies have been allowed profits of up to 35%.

They are **officially** allowed 25% return on the capital they use to research, develop and market these drugs. Of the three, research and development are far below marketing in importance. Doctors are besieged with advertisements daily plugging particular brands of drug. One doctor sifting through his junk mail for one year counted 89 separate mailings to himself alone from one company!

Smaller companies which do not manufacture in Britain are allowed up to 200% profit. Even the Tories own little darling of defence spending draws the line officially at 22% profit. The drugs bosses and the private health merchants are the only groups in Britain to profit from the Thatcher health plan.



- ★ **Pharmaceutical spending accounts for 10% of the costs of the National Health Service, which bought £1,665 million worth of drugs from the top 60 firms in 1979-80.**
- ★ **These firms made £252 million profits from the NHS.**
- ★ **They paid only £36 million of this back in corporation tax (which is supposed to be set at 52% of profits). The multinationals “wrote**

★ **Nationalise the pharmaceutical industry under workers’ control and management.**



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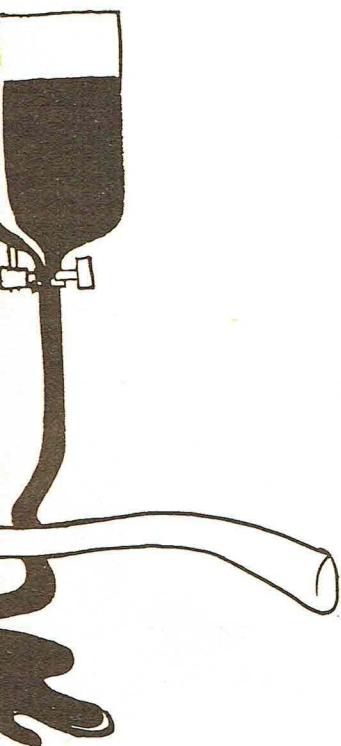
## A Militant BROADSHEET

a contract drawn up by a dodgy  
to read the small print. But the  
ing the small print tucked away  
ntrol Office.

atchi and Saatchi and splashed  
ifesto avoids spelling out what  
if we are landed with a second

nd John Woulfe.

# return



## What Militant stands for

- ★ Reverse all cuts in education and health.
- ★ Build new schools, new hospitals and health facilities and renovate old buildings as part of a massive programme of public works. Hundreds of thousands of building workers on the dole while the education and health services collapse is a mockery of a so-called civilised society.
- ★ For a socialist plan of production, based on the nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies under workers' control and management, so that priorities are for people's needs, not the profits of big business.

off" £200 millions. Just try "writing off" your £1.40 next time you need a prescription!

★ Beechams made £201 million last year. Glaxo £133 million and Fisons an estimated £18.6 million. The NHS is being used to ease these firms over the recession. Isn't it funny that the Tories haven't made a fuss about subsidies as they have with the Coal Board and British Steel?

**TORY MEASURES** on education show their priorities:

★ 18,000 teaching posts have been axed by the Tories.

★ Another 20,000 are planned to go in 1983/84.

★ 500,000 pupils in primary schools and a third of secondary school pupils had a worse pupil/teacher ratio in 1981 than in 1980.

★ Average sixth form sizes have increased by 9% since 1979. Thus although the school population has gone down a million from its peak, there has been no improvement in teacher/pupil ratios.

★ One in six primary schools now have officially unsatisfactory teaching provision. A quarter of primary schools and a third of secondary schools now have officially unsatisfactory book provision.

★ The Tories are dismantling the school meals service. The price was fixed at 25p a day in 1979. Now the price is uncontrolled and averages 50p a day. Nutritional standards have been abandoned and some authorities have abandoned school meals altogether.

**"WE MUST give to every child, regardless of background, the chance to progress as far as his or her abilities allow". This, believe it or not, was what the Tory Party manifesto promised in 1979.**

No one expects Tory manifestos to be honest but this one takes some beating. The abilities of the hundreds of thousands of school leavers go a hell of a lot further than the dole queue or a YOP scheme.

In reality for the Tories, the future belongs only to the rich. They aim to give every child the chance to progress as far as his or her parents' American Express credit allows.

For the child in the state school system, cuts are the order of the day. There are

nearly 400 fewer schools than ten years ago. Since then the school leaving age has gone up from 15 to 16, so there are a million more school students in overcrowded and often ancient buildings.

When Labour lost the 1979 election £500 million more was spent on education than on defence. If the Tories return, they aim by 1985 to spend £4,000 million more on defence than on education. Education spending has been cut by 6% in real terms.

If you have the cash to afford a private education for your offspring, the situation

may be different. Fees range from £1500 for a rather inferior establishment to the really posh school at £4000 per annum. There has been a 25% rise in the kids in private education since 1976, up to half a million. They would be the winners under the Tories, the eight million in state education would be the losers.

The so called Think Tank, the Central Policy Review Staff in a recent document revived the idea of education vouchers as a way of letting "market forces" decide.

This would, in practice, mean discrimination against poorer parents. The scheme envisages giving parents a vouchers as a way of "letting market forces decide" their child. They then use it to buy a year's education at a school of their choice. The school then cashes the voucher in, and the size of the school's income depends on how many vouchers it receives.

The National Union of Teachers believes it would lead to administrative chaos, discriminate against the

poor, and would in fact be enormously expensive. Even ex-Tory prime minister Ted Heath described it as a "crackpot scheme by those who think they can sell education with vouchers like canned spuds in a supermarket."

This crazy scheme has been shelved for the moment, but remains in the thinking of many leading hard-line Tories, particularly as the main beneficiaries would be the private schools whose rich parents would be given a state subsidy.

The Tories are also considering the introduction of student loans to replace student grants. Half the money now available to students as grants would be replaced by a loan, and the rest retained as a grant. Students would repay the loan on starting work.

The prospect of starting work already heavily in debt would only add one more obstacle in the path of poorer potential students. For the sons and daughters of the wealthy, money and future debts are no problem.

## A life or death struggle

SINCE MAY 1979, the Tories have savaged the social services. The Tories shout from the rooftops that they have increased spending on the health service. What they fail to say is that there has been a massive increase in demand for health facilities.

★ There are an increasing number of elderly people in Britain. Someone over the age of 75 costs the NHS eight times as much as someone of working age.

★ Over half the NHS buildings were built before 1945. A recent DHSS report estimates that it will need £2 billion to bring these buildings up to even a minimum standard.

On top of that, the recession and the Tories'

brutal attempts at "solutions" have increased the likelihood of ill health for the working class. The enormous increase in unemployment has pushed millions more below the poverty line, with the beginning of an increase in the old poverty and deficiency related diseases. Unemployment itself leads to more depression and mental stress with a proved relationship between the dole queue and a higher suicide rate.

For those still at work, the attempts to boost profits by speed-ups on production lines are likely to have a bad effect on health. Present spending levels come nowhere near what is needed. The National Association of

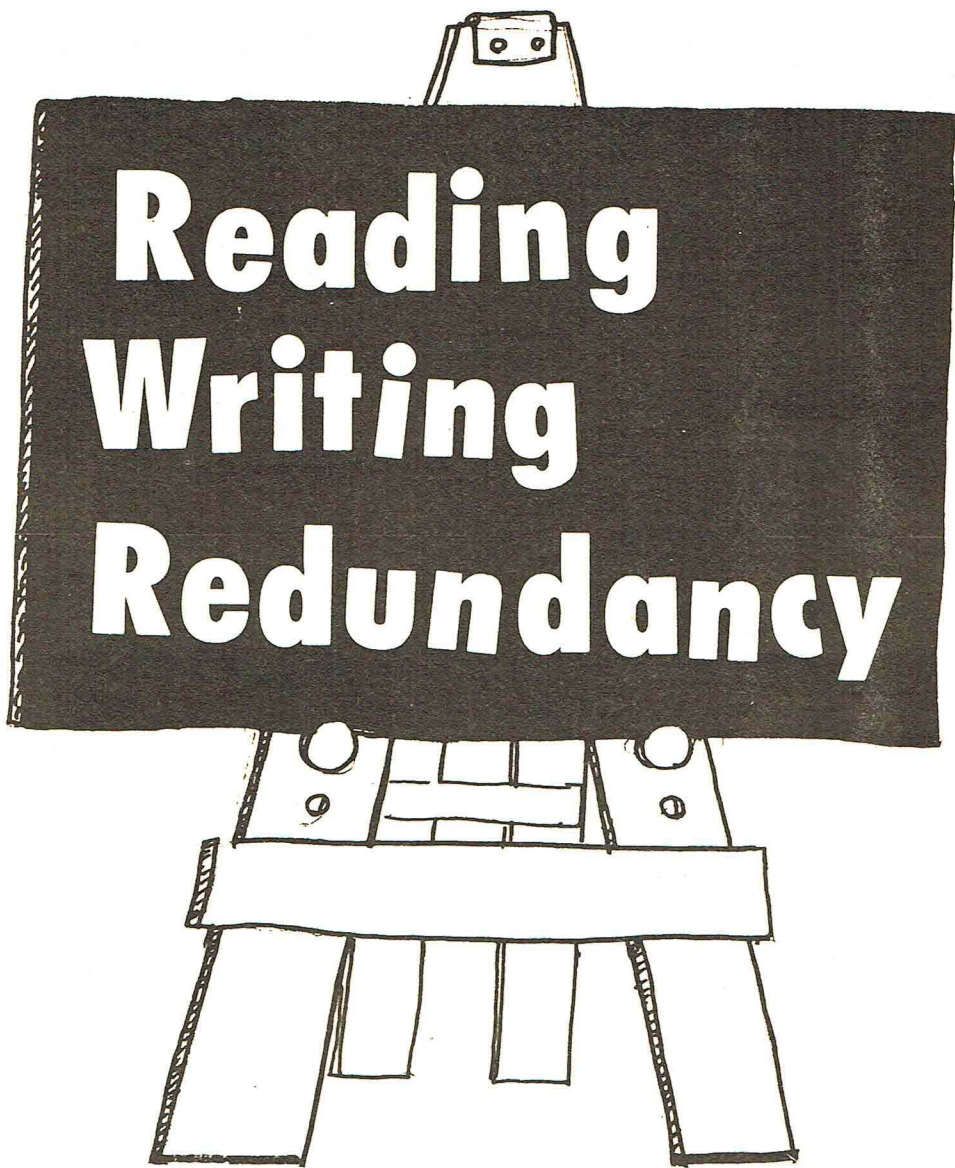
Health Authorities have estimated that an extra £160 million was required in 1982 and 1983 just to stay in line with demand; they got £30 million.

No fewer than 109 hospitals have been closed since 1979 and there are at present 900 unused beds in hospitals in England because of lack of money. Last November the Department of Health and Social Security told regional health authorities (RHAs) not to proceed with hospital developments unless they had the money to run them.

Information from 11 of the 14 RHAs showed that 57 new schemes were under threat as a result. The Victorian hospitals

will remain if Mrs Thatcher with her Victorian values are re-elected.

The true cost of this squeezing of resources is more suffering and needless tragedy. *The Guardian* reported on 25 May the case of 68 year old woman who was refused admission to a general hospital because of a shortage of beds, and was sent home before being admitted to a geriatric hospital a week later. The hospital had no facilities for complex operations or emergency treatment, and she suffered a heart attack and died before she could be moved for emergency treatment.





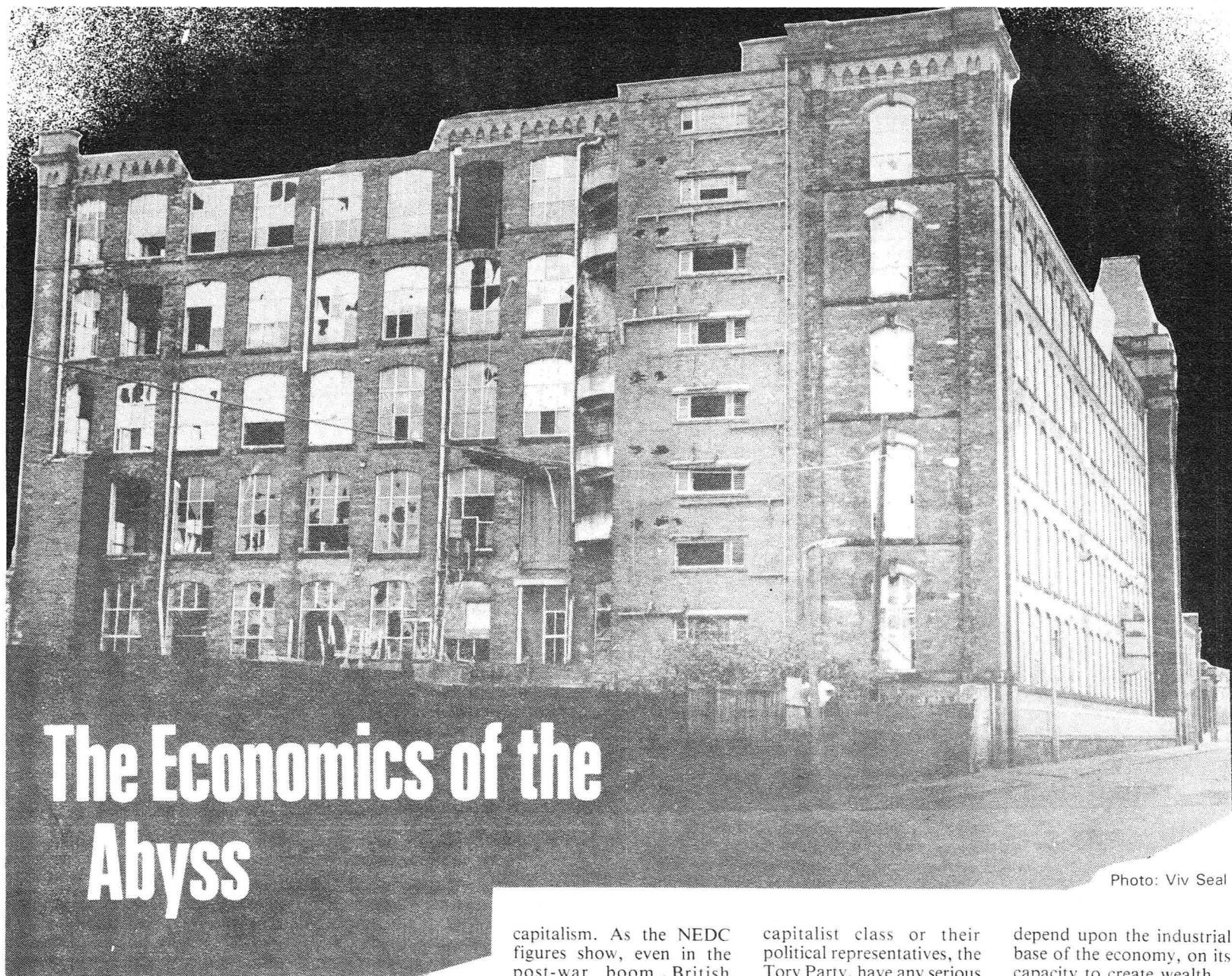


Photo: Viv Seal

## The Economics of the Abyss

Last November the *Financial Times* carried an article about the opening of a new factory by Vickers in Newcastle, to manufacture tanks.

"The factory building is certainly one of the most modern," the article went on, and, at more than a third of a mile long, it was the longest volume-production manufacturing space in Europe.

But, the story continued, "the paradox is that Vickers has not installed any new machine tools...the only computers are for processing wages and some design work.

"Instead, more than 400 light, medium and heavy machine tools, weighing up to 200 tonnes apiece, have been installed. Every one of them came from the old, dishevelled Vickers works at Elswick, nearby on the banks of the Tyne. ...The pride of the new works is a massive vertical boring machine built in 1880 and still doing essential work on tank production."

### The press have deflected criticism away from the Tories

This one article says more about the real state of the economy than all the lies, distortions and false optimism churned out by Fleet Street in this election campaign. Throughout the last four weeks the Tory press have completely underplayed the scale of the threat to employment, living standards and the economy posed by a Tory victory.

The leaked report of the National Economic Development Council gave a

glimpse of the real picture. "Of the 24 OECD countries," the report indicated, "all had higher growth rates than the UK in the earlier period (1964-73) and only Switzerland had lower growth in the second period (1973-82)."

There would have been no cheery economic predictions if this report had been leaked during the life of a Labour government. Imagine the furore that would have been created with the chairman of the CBI saying that people reading the report "would want to get the first boat out of the country."

The press have tried to deflect all criticism of economic policy away from the Tories, blaming everything on the generalised economic crisis affecting all the main Western capitalist countries at the present time.

Since 1974, all the capitalist countries, to a greater or lesser extent, have suffered lower growth, lower investment and increased unemployment compared to the two and a half previous decades. There has been a generalised shift on the part of capitalist governments from the economic methods of Keynesianism, i.e. the use of budget deficits, towards monetarism, which has gone hand in hand with recession, growing unemployment and the clawing back of the improvements in living standards granted in the 1950s and 1960s.

But to the general world crisis has to be added the special crisis of British

capitalism. As the NEDC figures show, even in the post-war boom British capitalism only crawled ahead while the other economies walked or ran. The British economy fell further and further behind its international economic rivals.

The fundamental cause of this decline has been the failure of British capitalists to re-invest profits back to modernise industry. Although British workers work longer hours, have shorter holidays and receive lower rates of pay than their counterparts elsewhere, the failure of British capitalism to invest in the economy has meant that British workers have had to use equipment, plant and machinery ten, fifteen or twenty years older than workers overseas. Hence "new" factories like Vickers.

As a result of outdated production methods British manufactured products have lost their former position on the world market and have even been forced on the retreat in the home market.

But far from arresting the decline of the British economy, the Thatcher government, wielding monetarism like a blunt in-

**It is a sobering thought that in 1982, for the first time since the war, the level of investment in UK manufacturing industry was actually less than the amount required to cover the depreciation of existing capital.**

strument, has made the position much worse. Since 1979 there has been the biggest industrial slump for 60 years, with, in manufacturing, production declining by almost 20% and employment by 22%.

Consequently, while imports of finished manufactured goods have risen by 24%, exports have declined by 5%. For the first time since the industrial revolution, Britain has become a net exporter of manufactured goods.

It does not seem that the

capitalist class or their political representatives, the Tory Party, have any serious hope or perspective for modernising the British economy, for "catching up" on their economic rivals. The government have reduced the competitiveness of British industry by more than 20%.

Eight years ago even *The Times* acknowledged that British industry was behind its rivals to the tune of £100 billion worth of investment. The figure by now would be nearer £200 billion.

While British workers are being asked to make sacrifices in the "national interest", the profit made from their labour is being invested anywhere but in the British economy. Under the Tories, investment in new plant and factories in manufacturing has declined by 36%, and is expected to decline further this year.

It is a sobering thought that in 1982, for the first time since the war, the level of investment in UK manufacturing industry was actually less than the amount required to cover the depreciation of existing capital. In other words, the value of capital stock actually fell.

It is not that there is no money available for investment. In the last three years, £13 billion has been invested overseas in shares alone. A further £16 billion has been invested overseas in factories, machinery and plant.

The capitalist class in Britain seem to have forgotten that the only real source of wealth is production. The well-being of workers' living standards in the broadest sense, including the public services like health, education, transport, pensions etc., all in the final analysis

depend upon the industrial base of the economy, on its capacity to create wealth.

It is the growing inability of British capitalism to do just that which is the root cause of the squeeze on living standards in recent years. On a capitalist basis the British economy cannot afford, and in the future will be even less able to afford, the living standards that workers have a right to expect.

**The Tories talk about the British economy as if it were in a tunnel with light visibly at the end of it. It would be more appropriate, however, to say the British economy is in an abyss.**

The Tories have no programme, and no perspective whatsoever for change. They talk about the British economy as if it were in a tunnel with light visibly at the end of it. It would be more appropriate, however, to say the British economy was in an abyss.

There may be a very weak recovery this year but it makes no fundamental difference to the general long-term decay of the British economy. The weak recovery will give way within eighteen months or two years to a new, deeper recession. The British economy, after a pause, will sink deeper into the abyss.

A Tory victory in the polls, therefore, would inevitably mean further cuts in living standards. It would lead to unavoidable clashes with the trade union movement, much more so than in recent years, raising the possibility of a general strike.

Where there is already enormous anger and bitterness towards the Tories' policies this will increase ten- and a hundred-fold if those policies continue, raising the possibility, as even Roy Jenkins, SDP leader, has said, of social upheaval on a scale not seen since the seventeenth century—the

years of the English revolution.

This election will be seen as a watershed in the development of British society and politics. More than ever before it is clear that workers are looking for a change, for a way out of the crisis they face.

Middle-class and professional voters have never been so volatile and even in strongly working-class areas, Labour voters are less prepared than ever before to have their votes taken for granted.

It will become more and more clear that the real choice facing workers will not simply be this or that government, but which social system will provide for their needs. Tens and hundreds of thousands of workers will draw the only conclusion, that there is no way out on the basis of capitalism and that it is necessary to fight for a fundamental change of society.

### Deflation or reflation means cuts for workers

Many sections of workers have remained unconvinced by the economic policies advanced by the Labour leadership. Few would dispute the need for the reforms outlined in Labour's manifesto—for a rent freeze, for the expansion of the health service, the expansion of education, the development of public transport, increases in pensions and so on.

But an economic policy that leans heavily on the old, "tried and tested" methods of capitalism, i.e. borrowing, devaluation and implicit incomes policy, smacks too much of the failed policies of previous right-wing govern-

ments. The inflation, incomes policies and the resultant disillusionment of 1974-79 have cast a long and dark shadow over Labour's election campaign.

Workers understand that their living standards have suffered by the policies of deflation (monetarism), but they also understand that they would suffer by a switch to Keynesian reflation policies where the only difference would be the means of cutting living standards.

Capitalism, a society in which the bulk of the economy remains in private hands, in which production is geared to a market and not direct need, is patently incapable of offering a secure future for the vast majority of the population.

It is the task of the Labour Party, therefore, to offer the alternative enshrined in its constitution in Clause IV part 4: a socialist society in which the main levers of the economy are state-owned, in which resources are democratically planned and utilised in the interests of the whole population. If the workers of Britain are not to become the permanent 'People of the Abyss', they must be shown, by the Labour Party, where the only road lies that leads outwards and upwards.



## SPAIN

## ITALY

# SPANISH WORKERS DEMAND REFORMS

SIX months after the sweeping victory of the Spanish Socialist Party (PSOE) in the November elections—a victory confirmed in the May municipal and regional elections—there are signs of the developing impatience of the workers with the hesitant policies of the PSOE leaders.

With the workers' parties winning over 50% of the vote in November, Prime Minister Gonzales and the PSOE government were given a mandate to reverse attacks on living standards, get rid of the heritage of Francoism, and usher in fundamental social advances and real democracy.

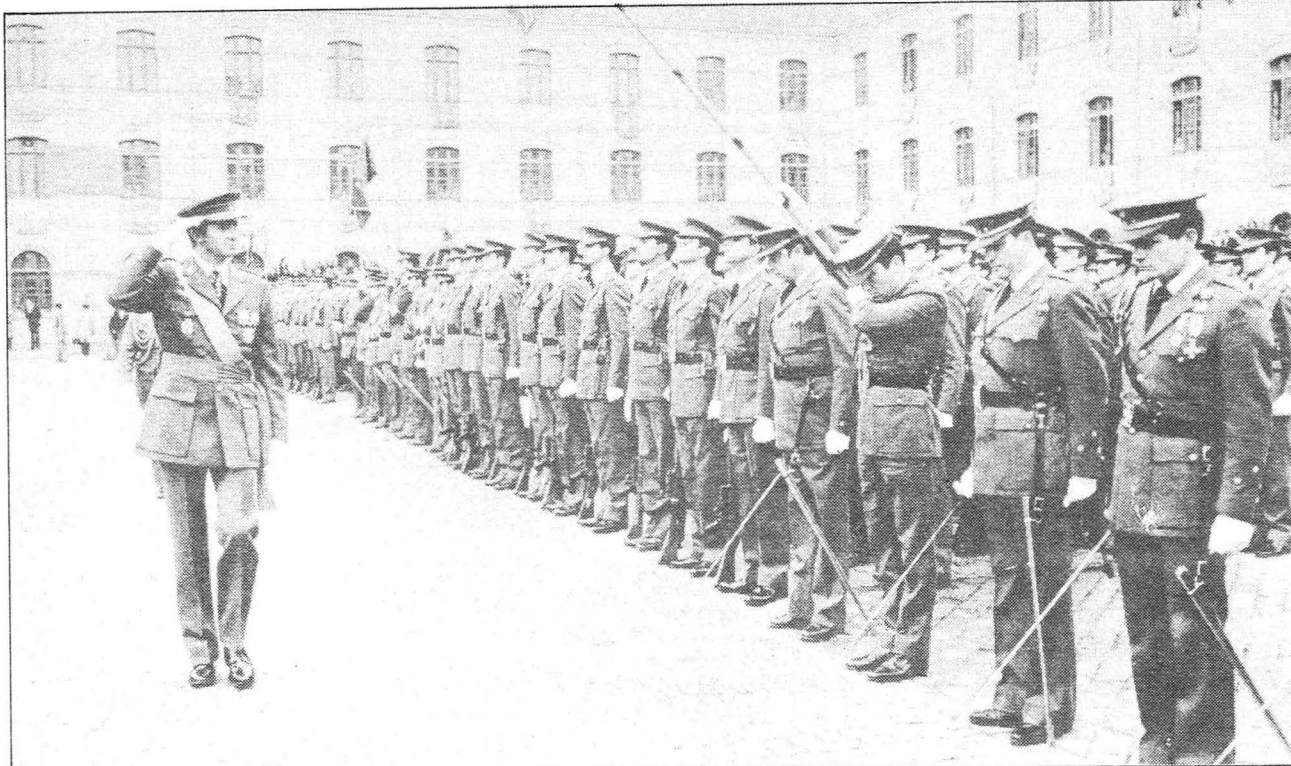
Between 1979 and 1983, under the previous right-wing government, living standards fell 25%. Unemployment rose to 2¼ million, with 60% receiving no benefit.

But, since taking office, PSOE have limited themselves to the extremely modest economic targets of raising the growth rate from 1% to 2%. An agreement signed between the employers and the union leaders has imposed maximum wage increases of 12.5% which, with prices rising even officially at 12%, means no recovery of lost living standards.

Now anger is beginning to spill into the streets, with workers demanding action from 'their' government. There have been three one-day regional general strikes, in Gijon, Vigo, and the steel town of Sagunto near Valencia, against unemployment and threatened closures.

Two weeks of militant strike action by bank workers in April and May, demanding better wages and working conditions brought a climb down from the bank bosses who dominate the Spanish economy, but only after government mediation. A threat of strike action by building workers to secure better unemployment benefits also led to rapid action by the government.

During the municipal election campaign in Sagunto, the PSOE chief Minister of Valencia had to be rescued by police, battered and bruised, from a mass demonstration of workers, furious at the threatened closure of a state-owned steel plant. Even in the police, unions have been formed,



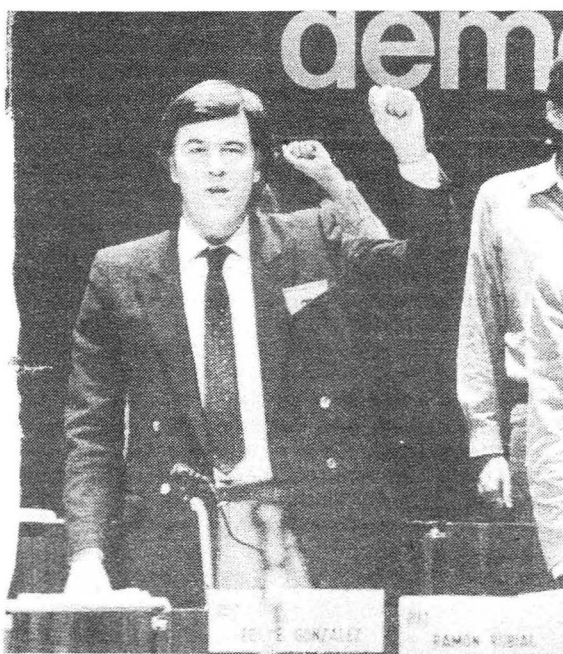
Whilst army officers repeatedly try to stage coups, the rank and file are increasingly coming under the influence of socialist ideas. In the recent elections two 'army' towns of Ceuta and Melilla returned Socialist councils.

and have threatened strike action to enforce demands for better pay, and to remove all army officers seconded to the police.

## Big majorities in most towns

The recent local elections confirmed the mandate for the PSOE leaders to press ahead boldly with radical measures. With an absolute majority vote for the two main workers' parties once again, PSOE won big majorities in most major towns and cities, winning even formerly safe right wing seats.

Even the army towns of Ceuta and Melilla, Spanish enclaves in North Africa, returned PSOE councils, an indication of the influence of socialist ideas in the lower



Socialist Prime Minister Gonzales.

ranks of the armed forces.

In Madrid, PSOE increased its majority. It also won control of 11 out of 13

newly established regional parliaments.

The divided and demoralised right wing, contesting

the elections as a "coalition", could muster only 23% of the vote and clung to office only in traditional strongholds like Burgos. As *The Times* wailed, on behalf of big business, "there is no counter-weight to Senor Gonzales and his party" (10 May).

## Spanish capitalism "fragile"

The expected small upturn in the world capitalist economy, which can temporarily speed the wheels of production in Spain, is likely to bring more workers into action to defend jobs and break through wage-restraint agreements. But as the *Financial Times* (11 March) reports, even the present modest government programme of 2% growth is "straining at the seams" as far as the profit system is

concerned.

In the words of the *Financial Times*, Spanish capitalism is in a "fragile" i.e. non-profitable, state. In the last five years, 30 banks have collapsed—the tip of an iceberg of capitalist decline. Unemployment is projected by capitalist economists to increase to 1 in 5 this year.

The only way to maintain jobs and advance living standards lies in taking the banks and monopolies into state ownership, under workers' control and management, with a socialist plan of production democratically worked out to serve popular need.

Reluctantly, to avert a collapse, the government nationalised in February the Rumasa group of banks and companies—employing 300,000 workers and owned by Spain's largest private industrialist. Even the bankers welcomed this action by the PSOE leaders! Though the government is promising to restore it to private hands when recovered, this action is serving as an example, raising the question of state ownership in the minds of workers in threatened factories.

Within the 'Communist' Party-dominated Workers' Commissions and the Socialist UGT unions, there is a developing opposition to the government's failure to carry through reforms, an opposition is likely to grow in the struggles ahead, spilling over into the PSOE itself.

There is a small warning for the PSOE government in the doubled vote for the Spanish Communist Party (PCE) in the recent elections (7%)—though below the 1979 figure of 12%—and the small decline in PSOE votes. But the PCE, which has suffered three major splits in the last 18 months and is split into squabbling factions, none of which stands on a clear programme for social transformation, offers no way forward.

The answer for the working class lies in the struggle for a Marxist programme in the unions and PSOE, to carry through the socialist transformation of society. Otherwise the way can lie open for the return of a right-wing government more vicious than the last, in cutting back workers' living standards and democratic rights.

By Richard Morgan

## General strike starts election campaign

ON MAY 27 more than 14 million Italian workers went on strike for up to 4 hours in protest against the failure of Italian Industry to reach an agreement on the new collective contracts for engineering workers, and others.

This strike is unprecedented in recent years coming as it does at the start of the Italian general election campaign, with polling set for 26 and 27 June. Only a few months earlier, in January, a strike wave paralysed factories in Milan and mobilised massive

demonstrations up and down the country against the employers' attempts to cut the *Scala Mobile*, the index-linking scheme, won in 1975, giving automatic wage rises in line with inflation.

Having settled a two year long struggle by imposing a cut of at least 15% in the protection given by the *scala mobile*, the bosses went further in carrying out their austerity measures. In a vigorous speech to the annual assembly of the Confindustria (the Italian CBI) the chairman Signor Vittorio Merloni made it quite clear that they had no intention of agreeing to the new-wage

contracts, so triggering off the present General Strike.

The election has been called because of the resignation of the Prime Minister, Signor Amintore Fanfani, who took over only six months ago from Signor Giovanni Spadolini, the first non Christian Democrat since 1946. Fanfani resigned because of the withdrawal from the government of the Socialist Party, without which the Christian Democrats cannot form a government.

The question arises yet again of whether anything can be done in Italy's stalemated politics without the

consent and collaboration of the Italian 'Communist' Party (PCI) the largest in Western Europe, and the second largest party in Italy.

Unfortunately, neither the leaders of the PCI nor the Socialists are offering a socialist lead to Italian workers. Far from putting forward the programme and perspective of socialist change, the PCI are even far to the right of the British Labour Party, supporting de-nationalisation and NATO, for example.

Yet the objective circumstances have never been better to win Italian workers, racked by economic and

social crisis, to the banner of the socialist transformation of society. Corrupt and rotten Italian capitalism, based on the governments of Christian Democracy, is an absolute fetter on the living standards of workers and only survives for want of an alternative.

## Break impasse

With a public sector deficit of over L70,000bn (\$49.3bn), inflation at 17% and the overall deepening crisis internationally, the ruling class are faced with having to implement further cuts

in social security and attack living standards by dismantling the *scala mobile*. These cuts will probably lose votes for the main party of the capitalists the Christian Democrats.

Italian society is in an impasse, shown by the successive overturn of leaders in the government and the continuous stalemate in politics. The coming elections ushers in the opportunity for the Socialist and Communist Parties to join together. If they fought on the basis of a clear class programme for socialist change, they could offer a real way forward for Italian workers.



# Letters

VIEW? COMMENTS? EXPERIENCES?  
CRITICISM? WRITE ABOUT THEM TO  
MILITANT, Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## Unemployed—unionise

Dear Comrades  
I am an unemployed member of USDAW and they have a motto which reads Unity is Strength.

So come on all you unemployed millions, let's stand together and kick the Tories out.

Raise your voices in a message to Norman Tebbit, "Get on your bike Norm—we're coming back stronger than we were before."

Yours fraternally  
Karen Sneddon  
Tunbridge Wells LPYS

## The day we went to Bournemouth...

Dear Comrades  
As a visitor to ASTMS Annual Conference in Bournemouth last week I was appalled at the way in which conference was run from the chair and totally dominated by the NEC.

The strength of feeling among the delegates was shown on the last day when a rule change opposed by the NEC which called for the election of ASTMS delegate to TUC General Council was passed with an absolute majority.

Yours fraternally  
Julian Long  
ASTMS Bournemouth Branch

Comrades  
Whilst attending the ASTMS annual delegate conference in Bournemouth, I stayed at the Tralee Hotel. The workers at the hotel were always cheerful and eager to help—so eager, in fact, that they could be seen serving breakfast at 8 o'clock and behind the bars until 2 o'clock in the morning.

With seasonal lay-offs,

poverty wages and poor accommodation being the norm in the hotel and catering trade, the need for these workers to be organised inside the trade union movement is clear.

The last word goes to one of the hotel workers—as we left the hotel to return home, she raised a clenched fist and shouted, "Up the unions!"

Fraternally  
P Durrant  
ASTMS 621  
Sheffield South  
(personal capacity)

## Fit for heroes?

Dear Militant

As a pensioner of eighty-three I often think back to the OAPs still living who fought in two world wars.

Promised a country fit for heroes—surely this ain't it? They cannot even afford to have a smoke.

Where is all this cheap North Sea gas? They dread the gas bills coming in and with their pittance pensions they have to face bills up to

£80 and more a quarter. Many have to sell their furniture to pay it.

They also have the pleasure of seeing their children, grand and great grand children on the dole.

Now it's up to you voters to help to save our country and its people by kicking the Tories out. Vote Labour to stop us getting that sinking feeling.

Yours truly  
JLD  
Grimsby

## Save the NHS

Dear Militant

A young man from our town was killed recently after his motor bike was in collision with a car. He died two hours after being admitted to hospital.

I was disgusted to hear that his mother has now received a bill for his emergency treatment.

As if it wasn't enough for her to lose a son so tragically, she now has to be clobbered financially.

As the mother of a diabetic child (now grown up), I have had so much to be grateful for. The NHS took care of all her expenses.

If we had had to pay for all the wonderful care she received we would be absolutely destitute by now.

So I say God help all working class people like us if the Tories win the election and we lose our NHS entirely.

Yours sincerely  
Mrs Dorothy Dale  
Isle of Wight

## PUTTING A CROSS IN THE CONSERVATIVE BOX IS THE SAME AS SIGNING THIS PIECE OF PAPER.

1. I hereby give up my children's right to a decent education and to a job after leaving school. I also agree to further cuts in money for schooling. I accept that my child does not need school meals.

2. I empower the Tories to give Brussels millions more of the taxpayers' pounds for the privilege of being controlled by the Common Market bureaucrats.

3. I agree to give the police force sweeping new powers to harass the citizen and pry into the private files of my lawyer, my priest and my doctor.

4. I agree that bombs come before jobs. I accept giving President Reagan final control over my own life and that of my children, and accept his right to start a nuclear war by firing his Cruise missiles from British soil if he believes it necessary.

5. I accept that the Tories may sell off any public asset they choose to their rich friends in the city at a loss to the taxpayer.

6. I am ready and willing to take a further large drop in my family's living standards to finance more tax cuts for the wealthy.

7. I am willing to see more cuts in spending on the health service and I pledge that I will not complain if I have to wait years for an operation in order that more resources be given to private medicine.

8. I acknowledge that I may lose my job and that there will be a further

massive rise in unemployment as the Tories devastate industry.

9. I will not expect the Tories to keep any election promise they make to cut my taxes and acknowledge that the tax burden on ordinary people will once again have to rise, as it has in the last four years.

10. I agree that housing is a luxury rather than a human right and therefore accept that the Tories will continue to slash house-building programmes to ribbons.

11. On behalf of myself, now or in the future, and of all pensioners in my family, I hereby acknowledge that old people have no right to a steady, let alone improved, pension and that further "clawbacks" will be necessary.

12. I entirely accept that the Tories have the right to wind up any Labour-controlled local authority that they take a dislike to.

13. I hereby give the Tories and the state the right to destroy the freedoms won by British working people by drawing up my union's rule book, conducting all union elections, and ensuring that it is not possible for workers to conduct a successful strike.

14. I agree to give the most reactionary Prime Minister in post-war history complete control over my life for the next five years, with which she may pursue her obsession with serving the interests of big business and the Washington warmongers.

Signed .....

**TORIES OUT**

[Sackey and Sackey Advertising Agency]

From the Morning Star, 18th May, 1983

## The ad-man cometh

Dear Comrades

As the election draws near, the hypocrisy of the Tories becomes evident, as well as some of the cover-ups.

Take the advertisement appearing in all the papers which reads, "Putting a cross in the Labour box is like signing this piece of paper."

One one point is a special gem. It says, "I realise that the tax cuts from which I have benefited under a Conservative government may be withdrawn at once." What a joke. When it comes to tax cuts the rich have benefited under the Tories, not the

workers.

Another brick they have dropped is the commercial which shows a youth advertising the Youth Training Scheme. It ends with him saying, "If you don't go on the Youth Training Scheme, how are you going to get on?" Youth will see this as a sick joke.

Then there's the poster aimed at black people. Since when have the Tories treated people equally?

I wonder which section they will insult next?

Yours fraternally  
Chris Fernandez  
Derby North LPYS

## Young and insolvent

Dear Comrades

The following is part of a conversation I had with a 16-year-old girl about to leave school.

At the time I was selling *Militant* in Southampton pedestrian precinct. The girl said, "I know there is no future for me, all my friends think the same. I'm taking exams, but I don't know why, I'll get no job at the end of it, or money."

"I don't care about a social life really, some of my friends are on glue, you've got to do something. If it relieves the feeling of hopelessness then I'll try anything. Why not?"

"The Labour Party is as bad as the Tories, what have they ever done for ordinary people? Tories, Labour, Liberals...all the bloody same."

"Healey, for example, he won't allow nuclear disarmament, anyone can see that, who can trust people like him? Someone told me he earns more than £1,000 a week. I'm not voting for people like that."

The message is clear comrades. If we offer an alternative youth will support us.

Yours fraternally  
Michael Ingram  
Southampton  
Labour Party

## Free. Who, me?

Dear Militant

The first statement of this election made by Maggie Thatcher was, "Freedom (under the Tories) or Marxist socialism."

What does she mean by freedom? When I was unemployed for two years, I didn't feel in the least bit free.

If I went on holiday my Supplementary Benefit was cancelled. If I sold *Militant* or gave out leaflets I was told that I was working and I should, tell my signing-on clerk the days that I was selling the papers.

What she means by freedom is that the bosses can cut our wages, smash our unions, sack us when we refuse to work under these conditions, create unemployment like a magician pulls rabbits out of a hat, cut our living standards by half, spend millions of pounds on nuclear weapons, smash our NHS—and still make massive profits.

If that's Maggie's idea of freedom she can stick it wherever she wants as long as she doesn't try to give it back to us.

Katherine Armstrong  
Aldridge/Brownhills  
LPYS



Photo: D Doran/Militant

Farmworkers' wages are amongst the lowest going yet they have a host of extra expenses living in the country.

## Rural Labour

Dear Comrades

Farm workers and others in rural trades must show what they think of Thatcher and her mob—with a vote for Labour on June 9.

Farming and forestry workers are around the very bottom of the pay scale, many families needing

DHSS subsidies such as FIS to give them the barest living.

This hardship is doubled by the fact that most live in such isolated areas expenses mount as people have to travel to shop or use small village stores with inflated prices.

Bus fares are extortionate and the Tories have also ax-

ed many services.

NHS cutbacks have also meant the closure of many of the old cottage hospitals so people have to travel many more miles to receive treatment. This can cost lives, particularly as agriculture is one of the most dangerous jobs.

Rural workers can soon expose the Tory lies about

excessive rates charged by Labour controlled councils.

Most rural district councils are unfortunately in Tory hands today, and rates are often over £1 a day for the barest of services.

Yours fraternally  
Pat Hull  
GMWU  
Leicestershire



# EAST BELFAST...EAST BELFAST..EAST BELFAST...

## Unite for Socialism

By Lucy McShane

**VOTERS in East Belfast, for the first time, have a chance to cast their vote in favour of a socialist programme.**

The Labour and Trade Union Group manifesto spells out the only alternative to Toryism and bigotry.

The East Belfast constituency is a mainly working class protestant area. It has suffered, like all areas, from the Tories' savage cuts in public services. People in the area are struggling to hold on to the gains of the past.

Many struggles have been going on, such as the "save our schools" campaign against threatened school closures.

But because no Labour Party based on the trade unions exists, unless the struggles are actually taking place through the official trade unions, it is never possible to co-ordinate mass protests without the bigots intervening.

The Labour and Trade Union Group believe that these problems, particularly sectarianism, could be quickly overcome if a socialist Labour Party was established with the full involvement and backing of the trade union movement.

That this would become the biggest political party in the North in a very short period of time is confirmed by our intervention in East Belfast.

If the leadership of the labour movement campaigned for such a party to be built, it would almost immediately break the political hold of the bigots and Tories, who have done nothing for the working class of any constituency in the North.

Our manifesto deals with the main points of a socialist programme. For example, in relation to youth, we demand:

- ★ Proper training schemes for youth with trade union rates of pay
- ★ A guaranteed job for every school leaver
- ★ Free access to leisure centres.

The candidate for Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, Peter Robinson, says absolutely nothing about youth. In fact, the only reference in the whole manifesto to working class interests is in the first sentence. He is described as having "active interests in bread and butter issues."

We take up the issue of jobs, demanding:

- ★ No redundancies
- ★ Cut the hours, not the jobs, share the work with no loss of pay
- ★ Full nationalisation of shipbuilding.

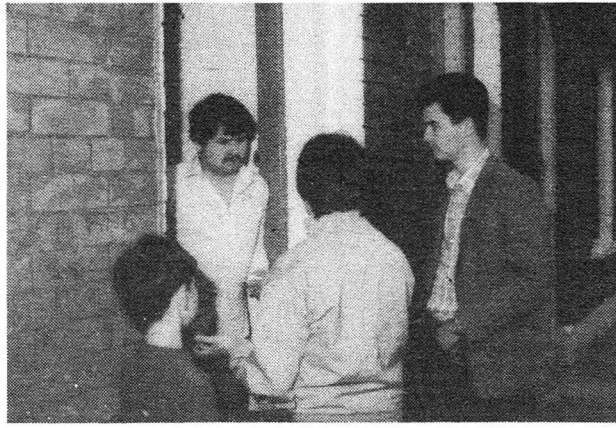
The key difference between our manifesto and any other of the political parties is that we provide a realisable programme to end sectarian divisions in Northern Ireland.

Our message reads, "Whatever group of Tories rule Northern Ireland the working class will face cuts and poverty."

When the Tories and the other parties talk about a "solution" they mean a different thing to us. For us a solution means jobs, decent houses, and decent wages as well as an end to sectarian conflict.

The Tory assembly at Stormont cannot provide this. Neither can John Hume's all-Ireland forum of Green Tories.

The only answer to our problems is for the working class to unite behind socialist policies. We are fighting for socialism in Ireland and for a socialist federation of Britain and Ireland.



## Save our swim!

BELFAST CITY Council will be taking a vote on Wednesday 1 June on the proposed closure of Templemore Avenue Baths in East Belfast.

The hundred-year-old swimming complex is due to be shut down next month to save money. This will deprive hundreds of children in this area of their only opportunity to use such facilities.

The local residents have

set up a "Save our swimming baths" campaign. The campaign urges the leisure chiefs to spend money improving the facilities, not to close it down.

Two years ago the city council leisure services department spent nearly £100,000 fitting a new boiler house in the building!

This pool is a vital amenity. If it is closed the clubs which use it will not be able to get swimming time elsewhere—other pools are too heavily booked.

The East Belfast Young Socialists, who are helping the campaign, are picketing the council meeting on Wednesday 1 June.

Let them see the opposition of the people of this area to the latest Tory cut-back!

By Steven Boyd  
(East Belfast YS)



Labour & Trade Union Group candidate Muriel Tang (left) arguing for socialist answers in East Belfast

## Labour on the doorstep

SUPPORTERS of Labour & Trade Union Group candidate Muriel Tang are encouraged by the response received after two weeks canvassing East Belfast.

In every area of the constituency the story has been the same.

There are bad conditions, a high level of unemployment and no real support for the established parties. But there is a real interest in our programme.

Examples abound of the opposition's rottenness and lack of interest in workers' problems.

One of the candidates, Oliver Napier of the Alliance

Party, promised to get some housing repairs done, but nothing happened. Only after a later visit when he fell through the rotten floor boards was anything done.

Cynicism about the existing political parties led up to 75% of voters to abstain in the last election.

As one worker pointed out, "The problem we face is one of union leaders doing nothing, if they organised politically or had called a general strike we could have kicked the Tories out."

It is only by offering a widespread radical opposition to these parties that the labour and trade union

movement can ensure the youth and workers of the North have somebody to represent them honestly.

As part of our campaign we have produced 10,000 youth leaflets which have received a good response.

One unemployed youngster from a strong loyalist background read the material and underlined the part which he said had convinced him to vote for us.

The section said, "In the past young people were misled by bigoted politicians and sectarian organisations. These people have misled youth into a blind alley and would do the same today."

Last Saturday in Short Strand, Woodstock Road area, which has seen sectarian fighting in the past, within two hours people were wanting information about the Labour and Trade Union Group and fifty copies of *Militant* were sold.

We want to build genuine support for the Labour and Trade Union Group, so people offer help along with their votes.

An example is the divisional council meeting of the AUEW/TASS. A collection was held for the election expenses and a letter appealing for support was sent out of the branches.

The progress of our campaign has been noticeable, but the problem still remains that what we are missing in Northern Ireland is a mass Labour Party.

Numerous people have told us that they like our programme but because we have only one candidate we are not really offering any alternative to the main parties.

The election offers the labour movement a good chance to show the need for class politics in Northern Ireland.

By Alan Morow  
(East Belfast Labour and Trade Union Group)

## Eighty, blind, and no help from Tories

CUT-BACKS in the home help service in East Belfast highlight the hypocrisy of the major parties in this election.

Vicious cuts have left old people with virtually no help. In the Albert Bridge Road area, an 80-year-old blind woman had her help cut from six hours to one hour per week.

In the middle of the campaign this issue has been suddenly 'discovered' by the major parties. The Official Unionist candidate has been publicly attacking the cuts.

But these people, whose parties all supported the Tory cuts, are a bit late in discovering the effects on working class people.

In January the trade unions began to fight the cuts in the home help service. They wrote to all the MPs in the North—Official Unionists, DUP and the SDLP.

To date not one of these parties has bothered to reply. But then there was no election in January!

For the home helps it means less hours and therefore a drastic cut in wages. One of our canvassers met a home help. Her husband is unemployed and gets £13 per week. Yet her hours have been cut to three a week.

As she put it, "We can't help the people in the time we get paid for. We just have to go back outside our official time even though we are not paid."

Last week the unions picketed the health board, protesting against the cuts.

One prominent Unionist councillor on his way past the picket, wound down his car window and gave the true position of these Tories.

He said, "The home help cuts are the fault of the trade unions. If you people hadn't forced higher pay for the health service staff we would not have had to cut the home helps."

He should tell that to the lowly paid home helps in East Belfast.

## ELECTION APPEAL!

Money is urgently needed. This vital campaign has already cost over a thousand pounds.

Please send donations and messages of support to 4 Waring Street, Belfast.



# Industrial Reports

## NALGO

By Roger Bannister

NALGO's conference agenda reflects the growing desire within the union for a strategy to tackle the major problems faced by our members.

Militant action and accountability of the union leadership are two key issues.

Resolutions attacking the privatisation of public services, attacking private practices in the health service make up a large part of the agenda.

Eleven agenda items on pay policy promise a good debate on this topic. Some resolutions seek short-cuts to militant action.

This is particularly true of the resolution from Southampton Health branch, calling for automatic instructions to all NALGO members not to cross picket lines. But the

amendment from the North West and North Wales District placing this decision in the hands of the members concerned is worthy of support.

There can be no strong form of industrial action without a conscious decision of the workers concerned.

The change in the form of election to the TUC General Council has opened the door to full accountability of NALGO's representative, although it is important that conference and not the NEC alone is involved in this process.

The overwhelming tone of the resolutions at conference is to the left. There is clearly a pool of support within NALGO for the drawing together of the left on a national basis.

Such a development is long overdue.

## SOGAT 82' Rejects witch-hunt



Bill Keys, General Secretary SOGAT '82

**SOGAT '82's special policy conference, the first since the amalgamation of SOGAT and NATSOPA, proved to be momentous.**

Delegates overwhelmingly endorsed propositions committing the union to its most radical stand for years.

The tone of conference was set on the first day when General Secretary Bill Keys, on behalf of the NEC, moved an emergency proposition condemning Frank Chapple's endorsement of the SDP candidate John Grant.

The proposition called for the TUC General Council to take steps to remove Chapple from the office of General President of the TUC.

Major propositions were moved by *Militant* supporters.

Bill Mottershead, from Manchester, called for an increase in minimum basic earnings.

Brian Gilliland, Scottish graphical division, proposed that the unemployed be organised into special sections with full union rates, which up until now they had not enjoyed.

My motion from Merseyside, committed the NEC to formulate a national strategy to oppose redundancies and to give full support to all members resisting closure and redundancy.

*Eddie Furey, Manchester, successfully moved a proposition calling for an end to witch-hunts of socialists in the Labour Party. Conference endorsed the opposition of the SOGAT delegation at Labour Party conference to the register of approved organisations.*

Delegates also agreed that a campaign should be initiated against any union concluding private health care deals and to take action, even against our own members if necessary, to fight this practice.

Conference decisions reflect growing militancy as workers search for an answer to their problems.

The membership and the left can take heart from the decisions of this conference.

By Dave Power  
(SOGAT, Merseyside)

## ASLEF — unity against job losses



ASLEF pickets in Altrincham, July last year

FOUR years of Tory onslaught have thrown rail workers into struggle.

The AAD only meets this year because of the courage and determination of locomen last year in thwarting Thatcher's attempt to smash the rail unions in the confrontation over flexi-rostering.

The BRB's productivity proposals still pose the greatest threat to jobs and conditions. Due to resistance locally, flexi-rostering has still not been implemented at many larger depots.

Five resolutions call upon the EC to ensure that flexibility is not extended beyond the present seven to nine hours.

A sixth resolution, number 87 from Willesden, reaffirms union policy and instructs the EC to "reclaim from the BRB the guaranteed eight-hour day as soon as possible." Locomen can be expected to fight back on this issue when they feel the time is right.

The lessons of last year are spelt out in several resolutions on pay and productivity, especially number 60

from Southall, which states, "Further, all efforts be made to obtain unity with the NUR in ensuring that rates of pay shall be kept separate and apart from productivity."

That unity will be essential in confronting the BRB's most dangerous current proposals for OMO and Driver-Only Operations of trains.

ASLEF consistently refused to entertain Driver Only Operation so long as the NUR opposed it.

The decision of the NUR SGM to accept One Man Operation on the St Pancras to Bedford service and permit experiments for Driver Only Operation of freight trains is a dangerous precedent, giving BRB a foot in the door to the elimination of twelve thousand guards' jobs.

Quite justifiably, many ASLEF members are determined to gain the highest possible price for Driver Only Operation.

Management has frequently attempted to undermine struggles, especially against job losses, with cash incentives. Already there is

friction around the payment to drivers on the St Pancras-Bedford services. This is a warning for the future.

However, despite the regrettable situation on St Pancras-Bedford, it would be wrong to assume that the battle is over, or that OMO and DOO will simply spread like a cancer through the system without opposition.

Despite the previous role of the NUR leadership, guards will not go like lambs to the slaughter.

The recent NUR Guards and Shunters Conference reaffirmed opposition to OMO and DOO. With guards taking the issue into their own hands, pressure will mount within the NUR.

On St Pancras-Bedford services, the driver will be responsible for passenger safety, operation of doors and time-keeping, with inevitable further stress and strain. Resolution 65 from Waterloo should be supported in calling for a

"32-hour week with no loss of earnings...in consideration of additional responsibilities, duties and stress incurred with DOO."

Shorter hours and more money, however, can't compensate for the lowering of safety standards incurred. On grounds of health and safety an extension of the Board's proposals must be opposed.

DOO can't be seen in isolation. Acceptance of it will only embolden the BRB and drivers will find themselves going it alone with flexible rosters of four to twelve hours, split shifts, split PNBs etc.

None of BRB's proposals will solve the problems facing the rail industry—which stem from the crisis of big business and which have been exacerbated by the Board's attempts to run the rail industry within the Tories' impossible financial guide-lines.

Only a united stand by all the unions within the rail industry to defeat OMO and DOO, defeat the productivity plans, help to return a Labour government and to go on the offensive for real investment in the railways, offers us any future.

By Andy Viner  
(Kings Cross ASLEF, personal capacity)

## CONFERENCE ROUND-UP

### POEU

THE POEU NEC will be recommending that conference adjourn and delegates return to their constituencies to work for the return of a Labour government.

The result of the election is now a 'life and death' issue for our industry.

However, whilst every POEU delegate will be determined to see the return of a Labour government, an alternative would be for us to offer our services in the North West without abandoning our conference.

Coaches of POEU members working as a body could have a tremendous effect on marginals in the area.

If the conference is adjourned only two items will be considered: the 1983 provisional wage settlement and the privatisation issue.

On both of these the POEU executive committee will be pinning all their hopes on a Labour victory to get them off the hook. And there is a danger they will capitulate if the Tories win the election.

It is for this reason that the NEC elections are so vital this year. The right-wing dominated executive committee have no stomach for a real fight against privatisation and have based all their hopes on a parliamentary struggle not involving the membership.

In spite of them repeating that industrial action would be used "when appropriate", it was only when faced with branches in London going out on their own initiative, supported by the Broad Left, that the executive committee was forced to undertake industrial action.

John Golding's marathon talking achieved nothing. Thatcher made it clear that if the Tories are re-elected privatisation of British Telecom will be rapidly enacted.

Over two years ago a proposal was moved on the executive committee to open a campaign

of selective industrial action against the Tories' plan to dismember BT. This proposal was defeated 14-9 and the right wing chose to rely on the parliamentary struggle alone.

During this time, it should be remembered, the right wing within the Labour Party were attempting to witch-hunt socialists out of the Party and John Golding was leading the witch-hunters.

He even boasted that the expulsion of the five members of the *Militant* Editorial Board would be worth a million votes to Labour! The truth is that if Labour goes down to defeat it will not be because socialism has been rejected but because it has not been campaigned for.

We have heard more in the media about witch-hunts than the parliamentary struggle against privatisation.

The POEU membership requires a militant executive committee prepared to use the strength of the union to ensure that whatever the outcome of the general election privatisation of British Telecom will not proceed.

Mercury should not be connected and the industrial action necessary must be supported by the Labour Party both inside and outside Parliament.

The 1983 wage settlement is recommended as the best obtainable. With the present right-wing dominated executive committee this is no boast but a factual statement.

British Telecom are aware that the executive committee have no confidence in involving the POEU membership in wage bargaining and therefore the wages struggle this year, as always, has been between the British Telecom management and the POEU negotiators, in isolation from the membership.

Yet one more reason for a change in the POEU leadership.

By Phil Lloyd  
(personal capacity)





# Industrial Reports

## Unit Superheaters

# BSC STRONGARM TACTICS

**BRITISH STEEL Corporation management have sacked a hundred AUEW members at a small subsidiary, Unit Superheaters and Pipe Company, in Swansea**

**This action has serious implications for BSC workers and AUEW members throughout the country—especially if the Tories are returned to office.**

It has become apparent that local management

By Alec Thraves  
(Secretary, West Wales  
AUEW Broad Left)

deliberately provoked the strike. They are now in the process of putting in an offer to BSC to buy the closed factory.

When management announced forced redundan-

cies, including the works convenor, the membership voted for strike action and occupied the plant.

A High Court writ was served to evict the strikers. Management later announced the plans to close due to its 'non-profitability'.

From 1911 to 1981 Unit Superheaters made a profit. The hard line approach of BSC is designed to make an example to any other group of workers who have the courage to fight to preserve union organisation.

If the strike is defeated, men with over forty years service will have lost not just

their jobs, but thousands of pounds redundancy pay and possibly their pensions.

The men, who have never been on strike before, are naturally very bitter against BSC management.

But they are also angry at the attitude of the AUEW leadership. Since 1979, 82,000 jobs have been lost in the steel industry.

### Call for BSC stoppage

But when one-hundred AUEW members implement

union policy—"to fight forced redundancies"—the support from AUEW officials has been negligible. They have been generous with words but not action.

After meeting BSC management, Gavin Laird has given the impression that our union could not do a great deal more, and that there is no possibility of reversing the closure decision.

The strength of the union must be mobilised to defend our members in Unit. As a start our Executive Council should prepare for a one-day total stoppage of all AUEW

members in BSC to highlight this blatant victimisation.

Other unions in BSC should also support this call. If management get away with this in South Wales then the rest of BSC will be next.

The AUEW leadership must show its members up and down the country that they will not allow any management to crush any section of our union.

This is a battle no trade unionist can allow to be lost. Action must be taken now!

## COHSE conference— lessons of NHS dispute

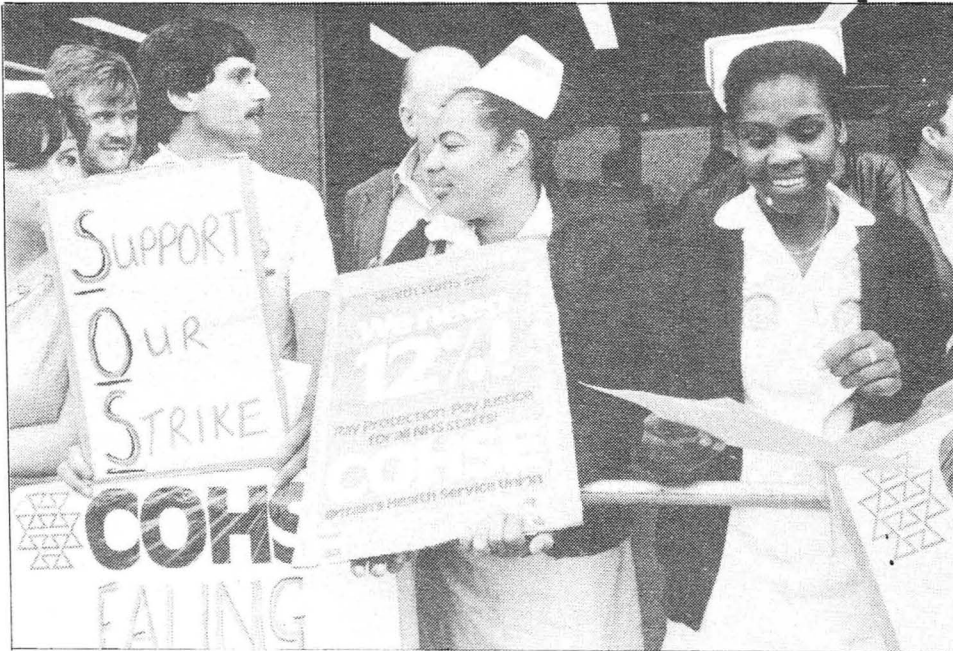
AFTER the long health dispute of last year it is hardly surprising that a large number of resolutions on the COHSE conference agenda deal with the lessons of the dispute and demands about future pay claims.

A minimum wage of two thirds the average or £100 (whichever is the greater), NUPE/COHSE amalgamation leading to one union for the health service, one year pay settlements only, and a break with Whitleyism, are all vital issues arising out of the disputes of last year.

Democracy in the union is again an issue, with several resolutions calling for changes in the present way delegations to Labour Party and TUC conferences are appointed.

Unfortunately, Maudsley's resolution calling for elections from the floor of conference—the best proposal being put forward—also calls for the block vote to be split, a move which would weaken the traditions of unity and strength in the trade union movement.

Thirteen resolutions deal with privatisation and the defence of the National Health Service. These are clearly linked to the call for the return of a Labour government, pledged to defending the Health Service



Lobby of TUC in Brighton, September 1982

and demands such as the nationalisation of the drug companies.

The general election result will undoubtedly affect the mood and debates at conference, but the agenda makes it quite clear what the members want the next Labour government to do.

A resolution from Hackney calls for Labour Party unity and opposition to expulsions. The next Labour Party must unite around socialist policies. It must protect jobs, the low-

paid and fight privatisation and attacks on the health service.

Members and visitors attending the conference will have an opportunity to discuss these issues, when on Tuesday lunchtime a fringe meeting organised by Group '81 is to discuss opposition to expulsions and purges in the Labour Party. Reg Race MP, and Ted Grant from the *Militant* Editorial Board are the speakers and the meeting will take place at the Southcliffe Hotel opposite

the Spa meeting hall.

On the Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock at the Brunswick Hotel, Bridge Street, Ted Grant will again be speaking, at a *Militant* meeting, when there will be an opportunity for people to listen to the ideas of *Militant* and ask questions.

By Colin Piper  
(COHSE, Leeds  
257 Branch)

## Two DHSS offices in Liverpool lead struggle against job cuts

LIVERPOOL DHSS offices Belle Vale and Toxteth are out on indefinite strike.

This is a direct result of planned cuts in staff.

Merseyside is to lose 441 posts over-all. Belle Vale twenty-eight, Toxteth twenty-four.

It is absurd to even consider cuts in staff when unemployment is increasing and the rising cost of living is forcing more of the old and sick to rely on social security benefits.

The National Disputes Committee of CPSA NEC, which is now under right wing control, have so far failed to back the strike, so this is an unofficial dispute even though we had massive support at CPSA conference for the action.

As soon as this information was received branch officers went back to Belle

By Karen Matthews  
(Liverpool CPSA DHSS)  
personal capacity)

Vale and Toxteth members to inform them that there would be no financial help from the NEC

The members were asked what they wanted to do: either follow the NEC line and await the results of the June complementing review (now expected in August) or take strike action from the 1 June 1983.

The offices voted on 26 May to go ahead with strike action from the 1 June. Over the next couple of days branch officers and activists contacted over 3,000 branches in the civil service.

We also contacted welfare rights, citizens advice bureau and unemployed resource centres, who are fully backing the dispute.

There have been over 20,000 leaflets produced for the public, who are being told by pickets that they can go to other offices for their claims to be dealt with.

So no hardship will be caused to those in need.

Strike action commenced on 1 June. The picket lines are joined by people from throughout the trade union movement. Terry Fields, prospective parliamentary candidate for Broadgreen also visited both picket lines.

The vast majority of the public express full support. They are sick of the Tory policies which have created mass unemployment yet don't provide services for those who require them.

Many comment that there isn't enough staff at the moment and people wait days for payments that they need urgently.

This strike has to be won, not only to save jobs but to provide a decent service to people already suffering the brunt of Tory attacks.

I urge you all to support this strike. Please send donations and messages of support to Chris Douglas, 28 Rosebrey, Mossley Hill, Liverpool 18.

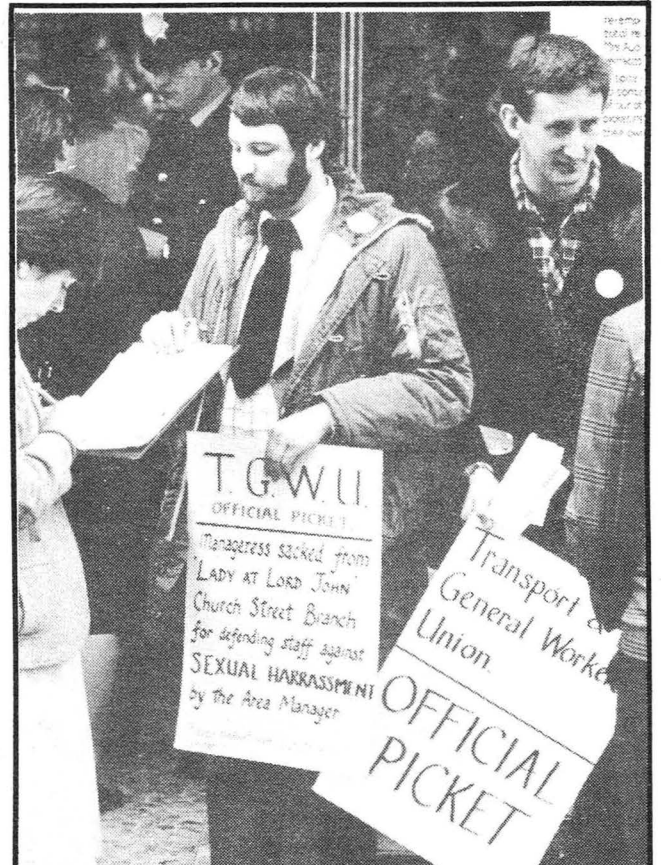
Ron Burke (Riverside Labour Party) talks to Barry Faulkner on the Toxteth picket line.

The dispute arose on April 28 when management proposed a staff reduction. The next day five offices walked out.

The cuts would mean a staff reduction of 11.5% in Liverpool. But for the two offices involved at present, Toxteth and Belle Vale, it means over 20%.

The staff's immediate reaction was to walk out. As they did the day after the management's report was issued.

This followed a review carried out jointly by CPSA and SCPS



Picket outside 'Lady at Lord John' Photo: Thomas Carroll

THE DISPUTE over sexual harassment and sacking of manageress Audrey White at Lady at Lord John, Liverpool, has ended in total victory.

The outcome of talks between senior management and the TGWU is that Audrey has now been fully reinstated with no loss of pay.

The union made no concessions to management whatsoever, and secured a total victory. This tremendous victory was won by the determined efforts of TGWU 612 branch and the Liverpool labour movement, despite management's attempts to intimidate the pickets into submission.

Their attempt to get an injunction against Audrey and the picket was defeated in the High Court in London last week. It marked a turning point in the dispute as management saw their last-ditch efforts fail dismally.

Support from the general public was great. 15,000 signatures were collected on a petition calling for Audrey White's reinstatement.

The victory represents a step forward for all shop workers, for whom sexual harassment is just one part of bad working conditions and shows the value of joining and being active in a trade union.

Eight pickets are still being charged with obstruction. The hearing of the case on 3 June was adjourned until 5 July.

on Merseyside, published in September 1982.

The review covers the period from April 1980 to April '82. It states that staff levels have been drastically reduced and that the DHSS in the region is in a danger of collapsing.

The dispute has 95% support amongst CPSA members and over 80% of the SCPS members will not cross the picket line.

Between the two offices there are six members up for promotion. These people have been warned not to get involved in the dispute or their promotion board will be cancelled.

Kevin Roddy, CPSA NEC member and ex-President, has been on the picket line, addressing meetings and has been well received. But he has come under fire from the National Disputes Committee who are refusing to back the strike, claiming the dispute could damage Labour's election chances!

On Tuesday 7 June the strikers plan a march and rally. The outlying offices will stage a half day strike. The rally will be held at 1pm at Central Hall. The main speaker will be Eric Heffer.



# Tories fiddle dole figures

# Don't vote your job away!

**“Jobless, we're winning says Tebbit”. That was the way the *Daily Express* broke the story that the Department of Employment were claiming a 100,000 “drop” in the dole figures.**

**In reality the number out of work is still rising. It is only sleight of hand by Tory Ministers that hides the fact of five million jobless. Tebbit may be winning; the unemployed are losing.**

The Tories boasted that unemployment fell from 3,169,879 in April to 3,049,351 in May. Unemployment minister Tebbit said they were the best May figures since 1979 when the Tories started their plunder of jobs.

But the trade union-backed Labour Research Department has calculated that there are now just under five million on the dole. Even the Tories have to admit that May is normally a month when unemployment figures go down and that the underlying trend of the statistics is up, with an underlying rise of 23,000 this month. What they do not tell us is just how much the figures have been laundered over the past year or so to stop them becoming an even bigger embarrassment to the government.

To find the true level of joblessness in Britain you have to add to the official figures the following groups surgically removed from the official figures.

★ About 183,000 people were taken out of the statistics in October 1983 by not requiring certain groups of workers to register.

★ Unemployed men over 60 have become exempted from registering. From this month that removes an extra 70,000 bringing this total up to 104,000 over-60s conjured off the records.

★ Workers on short time, those temporarily stopped work, part-timers and adult students out of a job add another 200,000.

★ Then of course you come to the government training schemes which wipe 355,000 people off the jobless slate, even though they have no real job and precious little prospect of one.

**By Roger Shriver**

★ On top of this come an estimated 1.1 million who would like to work and desperately need to for financial security but who

are too discouraged to register because of the huge dole queues. This includes about 800,000 women. The Labour Research Department total unemployed is 4,992,000.

The Tory press have tried to foster the impression that the Thatcher government's nasty medicine is “working” and that a “leaner, fitter Britain” is on its way. But all the economic indicators show the chronic weakness of British capitalism. If we don't get rid of the Tories and their crisis-ridden system on 9 June the prospect would only be for the threat

of more job losses.

The press did not give the same prominence to another report a few weeks ago, that the May meeting of the Manpower Services Commission had been called off, the first cancellation in nine years. A discussion had been planned on the closure of thirteen Job centres because it was claimed there weren't enough jobs to utilise them. A “State of the Nation” report on the jobs market was also expected. This would have been bad news for a Tory Party seeking re-election, so it was cancelled.

The only alternatives the Tories can give us to an ever expanding dole queue are cover-ups, press distortions and a display of conjuring tricks by Norman Tebbit. End the years of Tory rule, vote for a Labour government and join in the fight for a socialist alternative to capitalist decay.



Derby Day last week. It's all right in Tory Britain if you're rich. Whilst those with wealth have benefited by tax cuts, those on average earnings or less have seen their take-home pay decline in real terms. And those who've been forced into unemployment have seen the biggest fall in living standards of all.



**Become a *Militant* supporter!**

Name .....

Address .....

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

## WHAT WE STAND FOR

- ★ The immediate introduction of a 35-hour week without loss of pay as a step towards the elimination of unemployment.
- ★ Reversal of all Tory cuts and a massive programme of public works on housing, education, the health service, public transport and other services.
- ★ A minimum wage of £100 a week, including for pensioners, the sick and disabled.
- ★ Opposition to anti-trade union and other legislation that restricts workers' democratic rights.
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