

Don't let Thatcher off the hook

Miners fight to win

By Ian Isaac

(Secretary St Johns Lodge, Maesteg and South Wales Miners' Executive, personal capacity)

THE MINERS are winning. That is the reality behind the talks now being held between the NCB and the National Union of Mineworkers.

All attempts to break this strike have failed. The return-to-work campaigns massively orchestrated by the capitalist press have fallen flat on their face.

The NCB and the Tories cannot escape the fact that the miners have dug in. Our attitude is: we will not return to work without a victory under our belts.

Costly strike

The tone of the Tories and the NCB has visible changed in the last week or so, as their hopes of an out-and-out defeat of our union began to fade. They are now becoming alarmed at the economic effects of this strike. It is estimated that this strike is costing the state at least £75 million a week, even without the mammoth costs of the police.

The balance of payments deficit of £838m is the worst-ever figure for April. This situation has been created largely by the huge amounts of oil bought for power stations, which has pushed up the 'spot' price of oil on the Rotterdam market.

Yet, despite their strike-breaking measures, the government are now clearly

Miners London Demo

Assemble 11am Thursday 7 June at Bidborough St, Camden Town Hall (nr Kings Cross) marching via Fleet St to Jubilee Gardens.

worried that power cuts may have to be implemented in the next few weeks, shattering their carefully cultivated propaganda about coal stocks and the wider effects of this strike. Big business is also becoming increasingly alarmed at the way this strike is helping to lift morale and combativity among workers throughout the trade unions.

Full mobilisation

We should now strengthen this strike to prepare the way for a major victory. Thousands of miners have invested their whole future in this battle. They know we must win. The energies of these miners must be harnessed to the full.

The maximum number should be mobilized in a systematic campaign, including fundraising, picketing, making new contacts and creating new alliances in the labour movement.

Regular mass meeting, already established in many branches and lodges, should become the norm. These meetings should be addressed, where possible, by the area leadership.

In this way miners would have the chance to air any doubts, queries or suggestions for developing and strengthening the strike. The meetings could also be used to develop the organisation of the strike.

Secret talks

A regular flow of information to every miner will become increasingly vital to keep the men informed of the progress of the developments in the talks to cut across the lies and speculation in the media. There was some unease among a section of the best fighters in this strike when the secret talks began. This has now been largely dispelled by the blunt pledge of Arthur Scargill that "there will be no sell-out".

Many miners feel, however, that the NCB and the media are trying to create a division at the top of the union to prepare the way for a compromise some way short of our full demands. The entire national leadership should let big business know that this ploy will not work, by publicly repeating

(continued back page)

Photo: M. Shakeshaft (IFLU)



A miner's determination on a rally in Cardiff on April 28.

Vote Labour on June 14th

THE ELECTIONS for the European Parliament on 14 June provide an opportunity to strike a blow against the Thatcher government. A Labour victory will prove that the tide has turned and that the Tories are on the run. Some Labour Parties have used their campaign to rally support for the miners, linking the two issues on the doorstep.

Common Market

Many Labour voters, however, feel no enthusiasm to vote for a "parliament" which has no real power and which forms part of the bosses' club, the EEC. Such a feeling is understandable; the Common Market has done nothing for workers

and their families. On the contrary it has led to prices for vital feeds soaring way above the world market price.

Abstention, however, is no answer. Workers throughout Europe have an interest in uniting together to fight for a Socialist United States of Europe. A big vote for all the workers' parties will help to rally support for this demand. Abstentions will only help the Tories and the Alliance.

Next week, *Militant* will contain a full analysis of the EEC and the socialist alternative.

- ★ Vote Labour on June 14th!
- ★ For a Socialist Europe!

Build Marxism

THIS WEEK the Marxist Daily Building Fund has reached over £160,000, only two weeks after we passed the £150,000 mark! This rapid progress towards reaching our target of £175,000 brings us even closer to securing new premises from which we can prepare for a more frequent paper.

Donate now!

A daily Marxist paper will be a vital weapon for all sections of the working class, with which we can answer the lies of the bosses. Make sure that your donation or extra donation is sent to us straight away, so that we continue to make fast progress towards the full amount that we need.

Jenkin's visit a cosmetic exercise

THE TOTAL contempt of the Tories for Liverpool workers is shown by Patrick Jenkin's visit. His whistle-stop tour will devote precisely two hours to look at some of the city's worse housing areas.

By Josie Aitman

The indications are that the Tories want to prolong the agony, trying to play off the fears of a bankrupt council. In reality Jenkin's visit is a cosmetic exercise.

Behind the Tories posturing is a hardening of attitudes. It seems as if the Tories are hellbent on confrontation. If they are betting on tiredness and dependency setting in, they will be in for a rude shock. The working class of Liverpool remain firmly committed to Liverpool City Council.

In a survey published by

the Centre for Urban Studies it was revealed that "35% of all Labour voters still believe the city's financial problems are so enormous that the council might as well stage the final confrontation with the government and plunge the city into bankruptcy"...

(If Jenkin sent in commissioners) 48% of Labour voters would support rent and rate strikes and 55% would back a general strike".

This support is also mirrored in the statement of the Liverpool District Labour party, 4 June: "We reassure

the local authority workers and all our supporters that we will not betray our promise and we reiterate our commitment to the strategy on which the party was elected with such a magnificent vote at the May elections: no loss of jobs, no cuts in services, no rate increases to compensate for Tory cuts.

Prepare for action

"Finally whilst hoping for a successful outcome to the investigations into Liverpool's possibly enhanced resources we call for the trade union and labour movement to be prepared for action in the event of an unsuccessful outcome and be prepared to take action in the event of any councillors being attacked or commissioners being sent in to do the dirty work of the Tory

government."

Neil Kinnock visited Liverpool on Monday. A joint statement afterwards with Liverpool's Labour leaders stated the hope that talks could succeed so that "more resources be provided by the government and a balanced budget can be achieved without loss of jobs or services or heavy rate impositions."

Unfortunately as Liverpool Labour Party President Tony Mulhearn pointed out, Neil Kinnock has still not given unequivocal support for Liverpool's stand: "he said at this stage he did not think it would assist the campaign, we said it would and it was his responsibility to the people of Liverpool." As the Tories shape up for a direct confrontation, it is essential that labour's leaders step into line with the rest of the labour movement and give a direct lead.

Tour details

THE COACH will meet Jenkin at the junction of the Vauxhall road/Blenheim street at 3.15pm. It goes from Blenheim Street through the Heriot/Bangor/Portland street priority areas via Latimer street and Boundary street (Vauxhall Way); from there it goes via Great Homer Street into Arkwright/Fairy priority area; and then from there to the flats at Fairy/Mitford street in the Vauxhall Melrose wards; then it's on to Northumberland Terrace to St George's Hill, Netherfield Road South to the William Henry

Street priority area—from there to Radcliffe Street priority area via Islington and Shaw Street (Everton Ward); from Radcliffe street to the Sydney/Paddington priority area via Everton Road and Low Hill (Smithdown ward); from Smithdown Lane/Upper Parliament Street into the Earle Road private sector housing action area, Smithdown Abercromby, Picton Ward.

It is due to arrive at the Town Hall at 4.45pm so people should assemble at the Town Hall from 4.30 onwards.

Win black workers for Labour

THE FORMATION of a special Labour Party working party to look into the question of building support among blacks should be welcomed by activists throughout the movement.

It is not enough, however, for the Labour Party simply to talk about equal rights for blacks. It must give the lead, by ensuring that black people are fully represented within its ranks, playing a full role at all levels of the party. The active involvement of blacks in the Labour movement must be part and parcel of the fight against racism.

The double oppression of black people have made them the natural allies of the Labour Party. At present, a massive eighty percent of Asians and West Indians vote Labour, but this support is not reflected in the party membership. It is not sufficient for Labour to rely on black votes; the party must also gain their active support.

One idea put forward is to change the Labour Party constitution to introduce a system of positive discrimination, and to set up special "Black" sections, on a similar basis to the Youth and Womens' sections.

On the surface, these proposals may appear to offer some way forward, but in reality the problem of black involvement in the Labour Party cannot be overcome simply by changing the constitution. Rather, the whole issue should be seen as part of a much wider political problem of the involvement of working class people generally, both black and white, within the Labour Party, which has steadily declined during the post-war period. This has not come

for any reasons connected to the Labour Party rules, but is the result of successive Labour governments' failure to carry through a programme of lasting reforms. Workers have become disillusioned by this failure, and hence have not joined the party in larger numbers.

This is especially true of black workers, who are double oppressed. Racism and discrimination mean that they face the greatest misery under capitalism. They bear the brunt of mass unemployment and bad housing. They have to contend with racial violence and repression on a massive scale. Every year over 2,000 blacks are deported from this country. Thousands more are harassed on a daily basis by the police and the immigration service.

Labour's record

Yet rather than confront the problem of racism, Labour governments have been responsible for introducing many of the very measures that are now used against blacks. The present immigration and nationality laws owe much of their origin to measures taken by past Labour governments.

What incentive is there for black workers to become active in the Labour Party when they see Labour governments carrying out racist policies?

A bold commitment by the Labour Party to carry out a genuine anti-racist policy, as part of a wider programme of socialist measures to tackle unemployment and inadequate housing would win the enthusiastic support of all workers, black and white alike. Such a programme would also provide a basis for strengthening the unity



Over 30,000 marched in London last Saturday in protest at the visit of South African Prime Minister Botha. Photo: A. Wiard (Report)

of the working class which is vital in the struggle for socialism.

Black sections

The formation of black sections would not solve any of the problems black people face. On the other hand, such sections, by effectively separating blacks from the rest of the party might actually serve to undermine the unity between black and white workers who are already active in the party at grass roots level.

Black sections would also open the way for the setting up of other separate racial groups.

Black sections would be permanent, and could

therefore mean the effective separation of black members from the mainstream of the party.

It is a mistake to draw a parallel between youth sections and the call for separate black sections. The youth section of the party, is merely a transitional body that serves as a bridge to draw young people into the party. It is not a permanent separate section, because once young members of the party reach a certain age they automatically cease to be members of the youth section.

The Labour Party working party should not adopt any proposal that could seriously jeopardise the uni-

ty of the movement. But in doing so, they should also recognise the fact that so long as the Labour Party adheres to a programme of immigration controls and other racist policies, the vast majority will not be attracted to join the party.

The LPYS is the only section of the party that has managed to build significant support among blacks. This has been achieved on the basis of waging a determined struggle against racism as part of the fight for socialism. The Labour Party must do the same.

By Bob Lee

Miners' Support

● The Ashington Area Miners Wives Support Group has had to move premises because of the large number attending. The women here are determined to stick it out. Mrs Pat Maughan said "we are more comfortably off than our grandmothers were, so we can sail through this one" but to ensure there is as little hardship as possible food collection is organised.

A gala day has been organised for the children and a disco. We are getting a lot of support and womens' groups are springing up throughout Northumberland.

● Gateshead Miners Dependents Support Group held an official street collection outside the local Metro station and collected £149 within a couple of hours. A nurse, a NUPE member gave £10 for the help miners had given to the NHS in the past.

Housewives emptied their purses and a very old woman, crying as she told of the death of her miner husband ten years before to the day, gave us 10p. Children gave us 2ps from their pocket money. When the stickers ran out we moved on to Felling where an ex miner involved in the 1926 strike gave us £5. "I've had the £5 ready for ten weeks, thank God I found you".

Weekend School

The northern school this year will be held in Middlesbrough on the weekend of 7&8 July. Courses will include: *Introduction to Marxism; The State; Trotsky Today; and Marxism and the Trade Unions.*

Full details next week. For booking forms and further information contact Militant in London or Norman Hall in Middlesbrough (0642 211364). Book the date now for this important educational event!

Postal delay

Due to the postal dispute in London copies of Militant supplied by post may be subject to delay.

Orgreave: Police on the rampage

The Assistant Chief Constable for this area, Tony Clement, declared scenes at Orgreave, South Yorkshire coking plant as a "Riot". In doing so he changed the meaning of the English language.

By a Militant reporter

"Riot" in 1984 means miners defending themselves from cavalry charges by mounted policeman wielding 4 foot batons. So it was on May 30th.

Following the arrest of Arthur Scargill tensions were running high. At about 12.50pm legions of police formed a blockade across the road. The second convoy of scab lorries started to arrive. As miners surged forward, the police ranks suddenly opened. For no reason whatsoever 13 mounted police charged at us.

Enough is enough

All the pickets, hundreds of us, ran for our lives and I mean that literally. A cop on horseback riding at you at 30mph can kill. Many of us dived for cover behind nearby walls to avoid getting battered.

However, after about the third charge of this kind at us—the mounted police kept regrouping—a section of miners said enough was enough. They didn't run. Instead the wire someone found on nearby wasteground was strung behind two lamp posts. An empty Portakabin used by police was uprooted by the enraged miners, dragged into the road and set ablaze.

As a result mounted police were no longer able to freely attack us by running the horses at full charge up the road.

After the scab lorries had left with their load, the group of miners I was with decided to go home. At that time at least two pickets had been battered senseless. One lad I talked to had been thrown by police among police dogs and then kicked several times in the face for "good measure"—fortunately his mates pulled him back into our ranks. I am sure there were many

more similar incidents that day.

In my opinion the entire police operation was designed to create a pretext for battering pickets. This was the logic, from the apparently "senseless" arrest of Scargill to the unprovoked attack on the picket line. What the Tories and their friends in the upper ranks of the Police didn't expect was miners, outnumbered 20 to 1, to fight back.

Prison sentence threat

The next day (Thursday May 31) press reports warned that anyone arrested at Orgreave could face prison sentences of up to 5 years—but we still went back. However, the police operation Commanders deliberately calmed their men, not wanting another fight (that day anyway!) with the miners.

Police chiefs seemed to want to create a state of terror at Orgreave—unfortunately for them the pickets are now beyond the stage where they can be frightened. The miners will continue their peaceful right to picket regardless of what the Tories or Chief Constables decide.

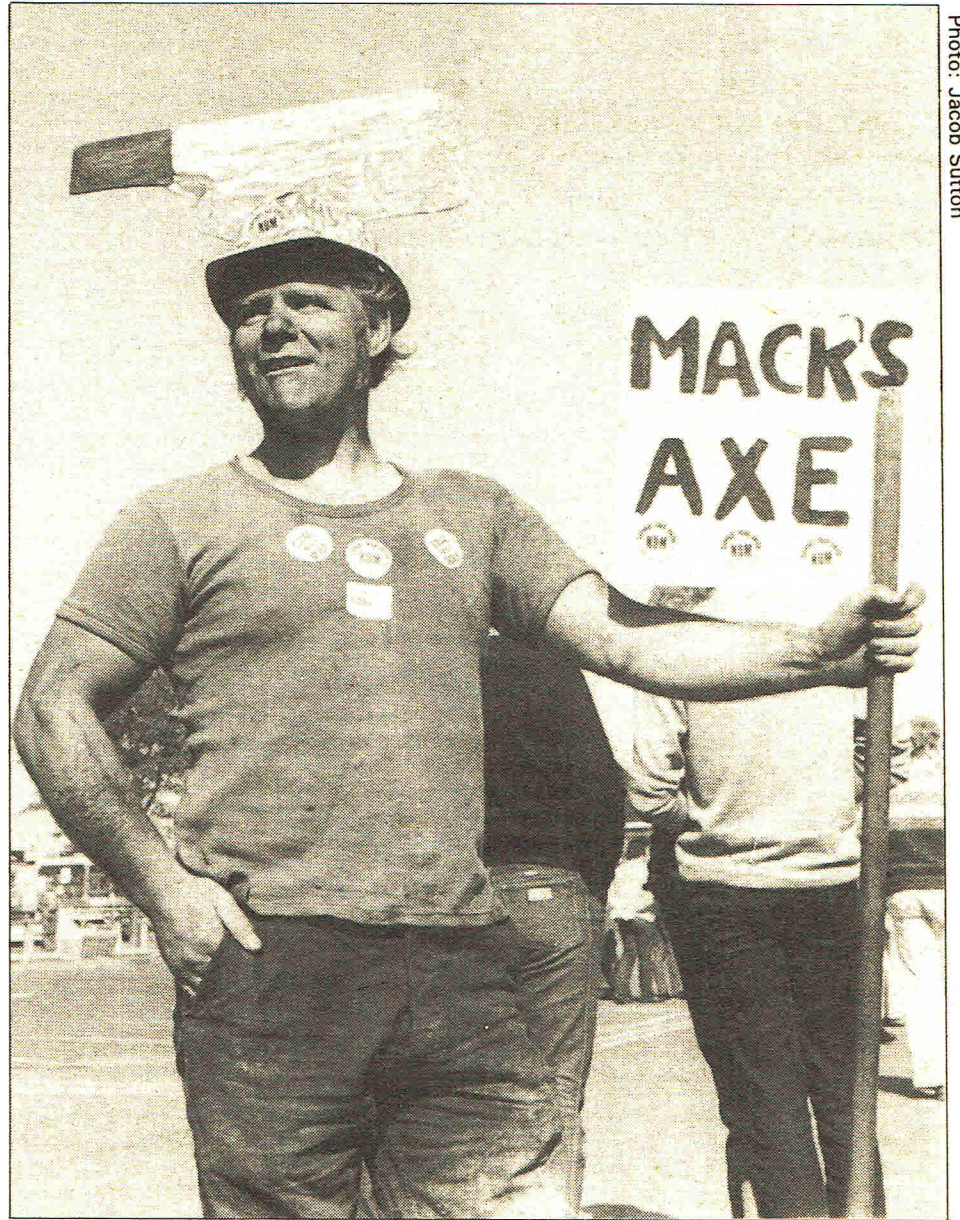


Photo: Jacob Surtou

But not just MacGregor's. As the letter from 10 Downing Street published in the *Daily Mirror* shows, Thatcher has been actively involved in the strike, eg instructing BR to give concessions on rail pay to prevent joint action with the miners. The working class must be as determined and united as the Tories and their class to gain a great victory.

Docks solidarity strike call

THE NATIONAL port shop stewards meeting have passed a resolution calling for an all out dock strike in support of the miners. They will be lobbying Transport House at the same time as the miners lobby of Parliament.

If this is not agreed they will call for a recall Ports Trades Group conference. The vote of the ten ports represented was 6-4 for

strike.

The HQ Telex on the miners strike called for "Moral, financial and physical support". We see striking as the best form of physical support. Mass meetings to build support are needed in all areas.

By Paul Spooner
TGWU Hull Docks

Miners oppose Labour expulsions

"STICK WITH it son, we're 100% behind you". This has been a typical reaction from striking miners in Tonypany to the battle to stop the expulsion threat hanging over Rhondda Labour Party member Brychan Davies (see *Militant* 4 May).

The expulsions decision by the executive of Rhondda CLP has provoked a storm of protest, especially amongst miners who want the fight directed at MacGregor and the Tories, not against good socialists. Tower Lodge NUM delegates are against this witch-hunt, with South Wales NUM president Emlyn Williams writing to the Rhondda CLP secretary strongly opposing this expulsion threat.

Similar anger has been expressed within the Rhondda CLP too. Treorchy ward

Labour Party has mandated its delegate to oppose the expulsion, and Brychan Davies has been invited to address the Ferndale and Pen-y-graig ward branch on 'What the *Militant* stands for'.

Support is growing for Marxism in the area. Last Friday in Tonypany 40 *Militants* were sold in less than an hour.

The campaign against this witch hunt is continuing with a readers meeting called for June 18 in Tonypany (details see page 6) and a lobby of the General Committee meeting which will decide on the expulsion proposal. Workers are urged to join the lobby at 6.15 pm on June 22 at the Rhondda Sports Centre in Ystrad. An LPYS disco will follow at the Star Pub, Ystrad.

By a Militant reporter

Derbyshire: The real situation

ON 5 June the *Financial Times* reported 328 miners had returned to work in North Derbyshire. This seems like a big setback but Gordon Butler, Derbyshire NUM Secretary told Willie Lane the real story.

"The press always talk about North Derbyshire but for the union our area is Derbyshire. By using the North Derbyshire tag they can include those men working at Bolsover which is in Notts NUM.

"When I rang the Coal Board and challenged them, they said of course there's a North Derbyshire, but they went away and checked and admitted they were wrong.

"I asked the Coal Board man. Well, leaving Bolsover aside, has there been a significant return to work "No" he replied. "Could I have a breakdown of the pits", "No".

"I asked about Renishaw Park, where one man is working and 3 canteen staff. Are the women included in? "Oh I shouldn't think so!"

"How long has Bolsover been working normally I asked, 'It isn't', admitted the NCB man. Why do the media give it so much importance? 'I don't know'.

Gordon Butler explained that only a very few men in few pits were working. "If the press want to ring me I can give details. It's nice to have someone ring who wants the truth."

"Only Thatcher's boot boys"

THE SCOTLAND-England International at Hampden Park gave another chance to collect money for the miners and Kings Park/Aikenhead Labour Party and Cathcart LPYS did just that.

After the match we watched police squeeze hundreds of Scotland supporters up against cars. One young boy was nearly trampled by a horse. One fan shouted "You're only Thatcher's boot boys" and that cry was taken up by other fans.

Miners from Netherthird colliery in Ayrshire who had been collecting were watching from a comrade's window near the ground. A miner stuck up a "Coal not



Thatcher, pulling the strings of the police.

dole" poster and was rewarded with thousands shouting "Arthur Scargill, Arthur Scargill, we'll support you ever more" and "Victory to the miners".

A miner with his arm in plaster told us how he had been charged with resisting arrest and assault of the police. On the way from the police station to hospital for treatment he was escorted by ten policemen and said he felt more like Jimmy Boyle than a miner who had been picketing to save his job!

By the way, the miners like the footballers, have their own "A team", Tom McMillan, Tony Esquierdo, Walter Sneddon and Chris Morrison who volunteer for every picket duty going.

By Joe McCarthy
(Cathcart LPYS)

Little John's adventures in Sherwood

I WANT to put the record straight about the court injunction involving Sherwood colliery in North Notts area. Each calendar month a union meeting is held at our pit, the items to be discussed are put on a notice and posted up at the pit to let the men know what is on the agenda.

Injunction

If someone puts forward a suggestion it is firstly proposed and then voted on at the next meeting. At our last meeting the matter of the court injunction was brought up at the end of the meeting in the section headed 'Any

Other Business'. When the suggestion of a vote was mentioned the bulk of the men, about 260, had already left, which included non-strikers also.

The remainder of the men who stayed behind totalled 31. 27 voted for a court injunction, with 4 against. In the local paper it stated that John Liptrott, who organised the injunction, represented 331 men from the Sherwood colliery in court—that is a lie.

But in any case, the total workforce of Sherwood is about 860 and if you take 331 as a percentage of 860 it only makes 37% nowhere near the 50% needed for a majority. Three weeks after the meeting John Liptrott

started collected from the men, firstly 50ps and then £2 and lastly £4 each to cover court costs.

Refusal

A large number of men told him to 'get stuffed' and refused to donate their money. We would like it known that John Liptrott does not represent us in any way.

PS John, I hope you and your two buddies from Pye Hill don't find it too much of a struggle finding the court's costs that you have landed yourself with!

By a member of the
Sherwood strike committee
(personal capacity)

Miners' dispute



Union members in road haulage know the problem of unorganised workers. Lorry drivers stop a cowboy lorry in their strike in 1979. The transporter had no air brakes.

Photo: Militant

Stopping the lorries

TRADE UNIONISTS are dismayed to see the wholesale breaking of miners' picket lines by many lorry drivers.

With the active support of the police—ironic in as much as they are normally hunted and hunter—with cages fixed to the cab windows and wearing motorcycle crash helmets, these men have swept through pickets, probably carrying very offensive weapons out of sight in the cab.

As they are escorted by the constabulary from loading to delivery points, vehicles will probably not be checked for loading regulations, tyre and mechanical maintenance, road fund licence or drivers' records. Speed limits are not likely to be enforced either.

Many drivers will be union members and yet they ignore the basic procedure of trade unionism—why? The main blame is a long way from the drivers' shoulders.

Haulage is Britain's last bastion of old-style "free enterprise", the last major industry where competition truly exists between employers. The Coal Board tenders annually to private hauliers keeping only a tiny percentage for itself. Hauling coal from the pit to the power station etc can only be done economically by fast driving, quick turn-around and quick loading.

Low basic wage

Drivers are paid a low basic wage, while bonus (per trip) makes up the

By Bob Stothard
(TGWU 8/401)

money to a more respectable level. Employers, vying for NCB business, undercut each other by systematically reducing either bonus payments or setting legally unreachable targets.

The law, as well as health and safety in the maintenance area gets little attention. Fiddling the records is connived at by the bosses but entirely the driver's responsibility if he's caught. Long hours are spent at the wheel and enter the expectations of the job and rates are fixed accordingly.

Need to organise

Honest, decent drivers are sucked into the morass and find themselves accepting the harsh conditions or being replaced by out of work romantics aching to ape American "Gearjammers" or men desperate to do anything to escape the dole. The TGWU, which organises the majority of lorry drivers in most industries, has signally failed to educate its members in basic trade unionism. Of course, the industry is difficult to organise but no serious attempts have been made to mark out a framework for acceptable action.

Too many union cards have just been handed out to allow drivers access to highly organised areas (docks, etc). Nobody can remember the last campaign to organise drivers

and keep in touch with them.

In some parts of the industry drivers are expected to respect every picket line they encounter although the drivers currently breaking the NUM pickets are not likely to fall into that category. The NUM must log all firms and one-man outfits breaking picket lines and refuse to handle them in future. If men are not prepared to listen to peaceful persuasion then they and their employers must learn the hard way.

Any wavering drivers will not have been encouraged to respect pickets when certain labour and union leaders have been running to the media to carp about 'ballots' and attack the NUM. All they do is to divide the less advanced layers of the workers.

NCB owned transport

The NUM must insist that in future all transport of coal by road is by NCB-owned vehicles and NCB-employed drivers and that any bonus is fair and reasonable.

Labour movement activists, particularly in the TGWU, must organise to make full time officials freely able to campaign amongst its membership and to streamline the avenues of communication. 'Cards of Convenience' must be withheld from outlaws and recruitment drivers centred on conference polices organised.

Every assistance must be given to the miners' strike. Their victory will be our victory.

The prison village

SINCE THE beginning of the strike, there has been an enormous radicalisation of miners and their families. Personal experience has exposed the real role of the police, media and courts as weapons of the state, ready to support the bosses and to attack and undermine the labour movement.

Pat Davies, a miners' wife from Keresley, N. Warwickshire, gave Liz Floyd and Eddie Doveton a graphic account of the intimidation suffered by striking miners.

"I'm 47 and a grandmother. I've respected the police right up till now, and the turnabout amazes me. When I look back 12 weeks ago, I was such a different person.

"The other morning, I left home at 6.45am and couldn't drive straight off like I normally do—instead, bang! this police car is in the way, nose to nose, looking me over and looking at what was in the car.

"I'm not well educated, but I'm not stupid either, and I can't stand having my freedom curtailed like this. I feel like Keresley is a prison. Before the strike, we couldn't get a policeman—the tenants' association tried, but we didn't have 'enough vandalism'! Now we've got 400 coppers all the time.

"I've done something I never thought I'd do—I've sent coppers on a fool's errand. We've phoned other miners and said 'go to such and such a place', and we've seen the police vans take off from the pit.

"If it gets too peaceful, then something goes wrong in the village, like an outbreak of car-breaking or tyre-slashing. All you ever see in the newspapers is 'working miners' car damaged'—yet a retired miner in the village had his car damaged and five others who were nothing to do with the pit. Neither strikers nor working miners would attack a retired miner's car. It makes you wonder who's really doing the damage.

"I was influenced by the newspapers against the

Labour left—that is another thing that has changed. I don't believe what I read in the papers now because I've seen them as completely one-sided. I feel like I've been running around blind all my life.

I can't think I was so gullible before. The extreme is on the other side—we'll keep you poor and down under and we'll use the police to do it—and the police will do it for money.

"The local paper says this is a split community—it's only 4 or 5 families that have split away from us. Everyone else is pulling together and helping each other.

"We had nearly £2,000 savings before the strike, but it's nearly gone now. We've had to help others—I can't say too much or the DHSS will take it off them! There are young ones getting nothing at all—the single lads, who've paid the most tax and stamps.

"The determination is great. I'm so proud of the younger ones. They're saying 'we'll take this hard few months, even if it takes a year, because it's better than losing our jobs forever'."

Miners speak to Militant

A LEICESTERSHIRE miner told *Militant* "We've got about 25 blokes out picketing in four pits in Leicestershire. We've been to see ASLEF about not moving our coal and tried a leaflet.

"The blokes all think they're going to get the new Vale of Belvoir field. But that won't open for ten years and the present pits are going to be gone in 5 or 6 years. The Leicester leader Jones seems to be withholding information from our members so we're having to get material out to our members."

★ **Mick Rafferty** (NUM Brodsworth). The morale of the miners is still very good, though we're not really getting as much active support as we could. We've got 2000 members but we

get 100 on a good day for the picket.

"At 4 this morning all the pickets started out for Calverton in Notts. The police were there in force but they weren't at any of the other pits we passed on their way there. The police are obviously finding out our plans from somewhere.

"The support from the rest of the trade union movement in the Doncaster area has been very good".

★ **Chris Herriot** (Monktonhall NUM). "The Coal Board documents for Scotland (see *Militant* 1 June) really showed what the NCB are up to. Any talk of a "settlement", a compromise with people like MacGregor and the Tories is out. It's obvious they are planning to deminate the Scottish area.

★ **Richard Clarkson** (Prince of Wales NUM North Yorkshire).

"Pickets are out on the docks and power stations. Castleford area had the problem that not enough pickets were coming out on duty so they've called a mass meeting to build up the enthusiasm. We depend a lot on the younger miners and we are getting out another issue of *Young Miner*".

★ **Pete Barrett** (Maltby NUM). "Now we've been fighting for so long, I think it's important that we make demands not only for the saving of the pits but for decent wage increases, for a shorter working week, and for earlier retirement. We've got to win this dispute. It's life or death for mining communities".

No easier in the pits

PEOPLE THINK that a miner's job is a piece of cake now. Mechanisation doesn't mean that the job's easier however.

The equipment's a lot heavier and it's a lot dustier. It's a hard job and it's made harder by the relationships with management recently.

In a lot of pits, relations have been strained. The management are hammering rules at you all the time—pressuring you in the hope that you'll leave. We're pressured to do stuff that's against the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Everything's thrown

against you if you refuse to do it—the closure of the pit, and so on. And yet we're always short of the right equipment.

Bonus scheme is bad news

This bonus scheme hasn't helped. It's like cutting your own throat. The more you do the more they make you do to earn the bonus, pinching off you here, pinching off you there.

What we want is no closures at all except on the grounds of exhaustion.

Nothing less than that will do. As for jobs, we need young lads starting in the industry not redundancies. Why not retire miners at 45 with full pay?

I'd like to see a lot more democracy in the industry—we should be asked who we want to be leader of the Coal Board. If I'd had a ballot for NCB leader I wouldn't have voted for MacGregor! We should have someone in that job who's been working for the industry and knows the job.

By Mick Barrett
(Emley Moor NUM)

Consumers pay for Tory strategy

THE MINERS' dispute must be costing the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB), a fortune, burning oil three or four times the cost of coal to beat the miners.

Along with other power workers I believe the CEGB are taking sides in the dispute. If coal stocks are really six months, why are we burning all that expensive fuel?

Before the oil crisis of a decade ago, oil-burning stations supplied 27% of the total demand. The crisis forced the Board to practically close down these stations as the cost escalated sky high; the final contribution of oil-fired power was reduced to 5.6% in 1983.

Hollow stacks

To conserve coal the clock has been put back to pre-crisis days but at what cost—and why? There are supposed to be six months coal supply and the *Sunday Times* last week even said that stocks grew by 100,000 tonnes last week but this figure must be contested. A large coal burning station has to employ surveyors to survey and take aerial photos of its coal stock to estimate

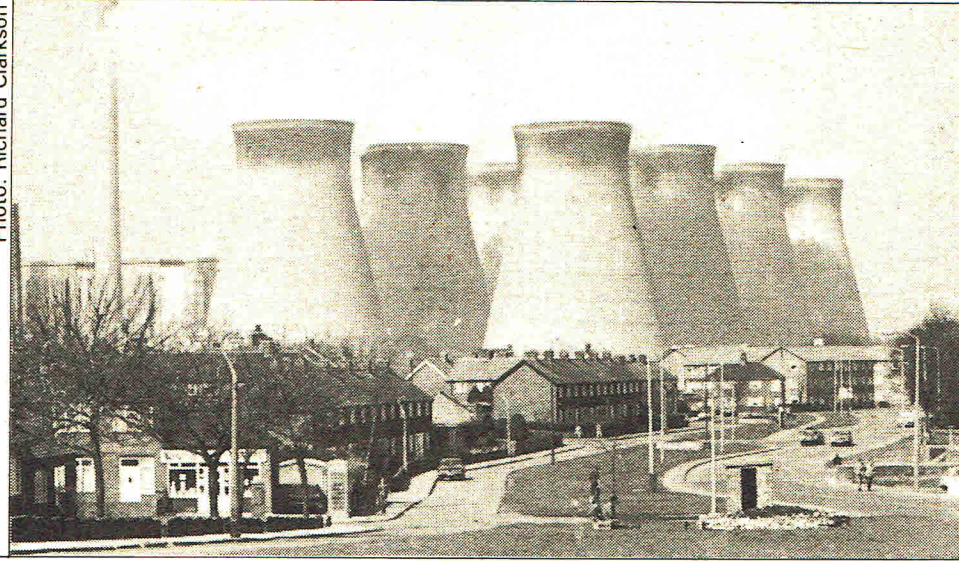
the amount of coal on it.

There are even reports coming out of Yorkshire that coal stacks have been "doctored" to look like they are not going down. Coal is apparently scraped from the inside of the coal stack and tipped onto the periphery to make it look the same size and shape. Some in Yorkshire are in fact hollow from the CEGB's property side.

If we have so much coal why is this done? Could it be the CEGB is taking sides, trying to demoralise miners into feeling their efforts are futile when in fact they are devastating.

The 500-megawatt turbines have been prone to rotor earth faults which have been seen at coal fired stations. These faults are now beginning to show themselves at 500 mw unit oil fired stations. I understand that one unit at Pembroke power station has now shown up a faulty rotor highlighted by the prolonged running now taking place

Photo: Richard Clarkson



A power station in the North. The CEGB are spending a fortune to try to beat the NUM.

at these stations.

The oil fired stations' contribution has been the key to the success in hitting at the strike—if you can call £17 to £25 million per week extra cost a "success". The CEGB may as the Tory press have already hinted take sides again by upping the price of electricity and blaming it on the miners' strike getting consumers' backs up against the NUM.

Prices could go down

In reality if the CEGB did not have to reach financial

targets of £740 million set this year by the Tories the price of electricity could be reduced by 10%.

The reason why

Every electricity consumer should ask a) why, if the CEGB has so many millions of tons of coal costing £40 per ton, is it burning so much oil at three or four times the cost? b) why do coal stocks seem to have been restructured at great labour and cost? c) who is paying for the extra coal purchased last year to beat any

dispute and for the six months strategic stores bought to beat effective picketing?

ITN News recently calculated the total cost of the NUM dispute at £1,356 million. Many would put it far higher. Arthur Scargill says it has cost more than the Falklands War. Thatcher and MacGregor obviously think this expenditure is justified to 'Exocet' jobs and the strength of the NUM.

By a power worker

'The price of coal' - Review

THE PLAY *The Price of Coal* by Barry Hines, the author of *Kes* is now at the Nottingham Playhouse. It is divided into two parts.

The first is about the ridiculous arrangements for a pit visit in Nottinghamshire by Prince Charlie.

Forbes, the colliery manager, tries to grass over the slag heap, has walls whitewashed, lines painted and even a brick holding up a window has to be painted. This part is full of laughs with Sid (Duggie Brown, from *The Comedians*) and his mates taking the rise and the "moderate" union secretary Alf, loyally getting involved.

The explosion

The second part stilled the audience. No humour now. Forbes, under pressure to keep production up puts one of the deputies under pressure. The fitter and his apprentice work on different jobs. A young lad on his own. An explosion, 6 men missing. Then the wait for the wives, families and mates.

One body found, one lad badly injured, four still missing. The press parasite from *The Mail*

wants an interview from Sid's wife. "Exclusive. We'll pay of course." "Where were you with the sob stories in '72 and '74," the miners ask. "When we put in for our next pay rise, you'll be attacking us, putting people against us".

Cutting corners

In tremendously difficult conditions the rescue team have to work. Eventually three dead bodies and one injured found. Only two are identifiable straightaway.

In the room for wives there are two left. One husband dead. One alive. Ronnie, a former miner back down the pit after being on the dole or Sid.

That has always been the real price of coal. It's hardly surprising miners working in such difficult conditions built themselves a strong union with a sense of unity.

Those Notts miners still working should realise they are helping all those people who don't care what corners are cut to keep production up. Before the play some striking Notts miners handed out leaflets and afterwards held a collection. If this play comes to your area, organise a trip.

Miners appeal to non-strikers

By a Militant Reporter

IN A number of areas, striking miners have produced their own bulletins which have given miners, the local community and other workers the facts and arguments to build support for their case.

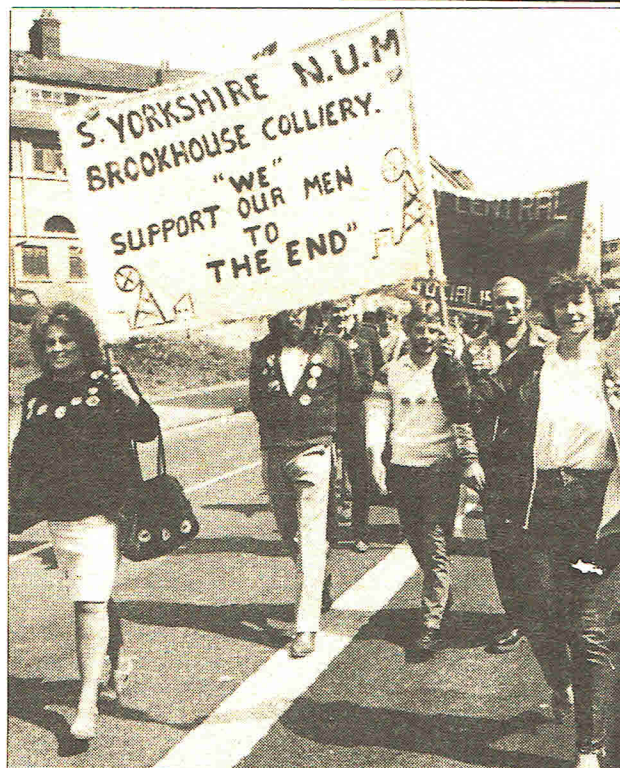
Strikers in the Cannock area of Staffordshire have produced a leaflet which gives information about the threat of closures and privatisation along with this appeal to non-striking miners.

Join the picket line!

"Lads, most of you must have that feeling inside of you when you cross that picket line that what you are doing is wrong, and in your hearts you know you should be out there with your mates on the picket line. If not that, then stop at home at least.

"Ask yourselves. Do you really think we like picketing our own mates? Mates we have known and worked with for years? It's no great joy, but we on the picket line know that what we are doing is right and are determined to stick it out come what may, because we know that sticking together now will pay dividends later on.

"And when you think of our forefathers, the founders of this Union, who have fought tooth and nail to get the wages and conditions that we have. You wouldn't have that house, you



"Sticking together now will pay dividends later on". Support for miners in action in Yorkshire.

wouldn't have that car or video but for their sacrifice. Today's struggle is a small price to pay, and don't we owe it to future generations?

"We are still willing to struggle on. Some men have been up until all hours in the morning getting contacts for food parcels and money, and then going on the picket lines in the morning. They haven't given up. They are prepared to do these things, yet they too have family pressures and financial troubles themselves. Come out Lads, the quicker you come out,

the quicker we can get back to work.

No animosity

"You will be welcomed with open arms—any animosity forgotten from our end. Remember, it doesn't matter what Joe Bloggs is doing, or what Fred Smith is doing, this fight is about pit closures and tens of thousands of lost jobs, and about keeping our strength as organised mineworkers."

How long will stocks last?

HOW STRONG are the Coal Board? How big are the coal stocks? The truth is to be found amongst the mass of statistics published by the Department of Energy, Central Statistical Office, NCB, CEGB etc.

The truth is this: come October 20 at the very latest, the CEGB will be burning earth.

Useable stocks of coal at power stations on March 10 were 24 million tons. *The Economist* claims 350 thousand tons per week are still reaching power stations.

Power cuts

In the last 3 years, the lowest recorded consumption of electricity in the 32 weeks between 10 March and 20 October has been 140 Terawatt hours. If they run the oil and nuclear power stations full-blast for this period—and none of them break down—the CEGB can meet about half the demand.

So 70 Terawatt hours must come from coal. This requires 35 million tons of coal. Assuming deliveries continue at the present rate, stocks therefore run out on 20 October.

But of course, even this overstates the strength of the Tories. The fact is, because coal production can't immediately be brought back to normal, they daren't wait until October. Power cuts will have to start before then—and in some parts of Gateshead there have already been brief cuts, probably to test the surge-current through the equipment when it's turned on again.

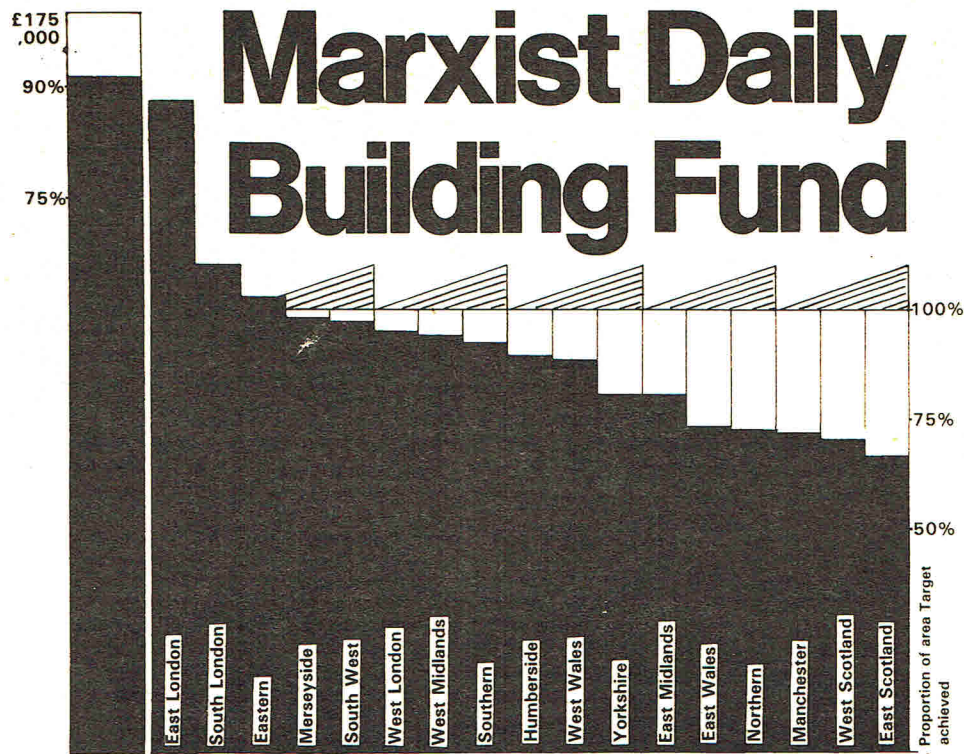
Picketing and solidarity

Also, picketing of power stations could stop essential supplies, as in 73/74; and solidarity from transport workers could stop all coal. This would cause stocks to run out well before that.

One final point. In previous strikes, some Tory commentators were hoping for spring to arrive, as this would shift the balance of forces away from the miners. This time, the longer the strike lasts, the stronger the miners are. With support from the whole labour movement, the Tories could be forced to give in very quickly.

By D Walkden
Gateshead East CLP

Photo: Jacob Sutton, Gamma



THE BUILDING Fund has surged forward yet again. Any signs of flagging have been swept aside in the rush to send donations to the fund.

Only two weeks ago we passed the £150,000 barrier and already we have passed the next hurdle.

We have now raised £160,518 leaving only £14,482 to raise towards our overall target of £175,000. What an enormous achievement by our supporters to amass such a vast sum of money.

The letter printed here from Southern Africa is a magnificent example of the sacrifice of workers to help them in the struggle for socialism. The donation is especially welcome given the conditions these workers live

under. The fight against capitalism is international and the demonstration of 40,000 in London against the visit of Botha shows the workers in Britain want to smash the apartheid state of South Africa:

Comrades, Revolutionary greetings! Discussions have shown that workers are cash-conscious and they want their money to be used to further their work.

"We must have our own paper where we will write about workers' problems and what other workers, internationally are saying," one worker here said. "And we must travel around and organise more workers and we are prepared to sacrifice," he concluded.

An appeal by the comrades in *Militant* was under-

stood by comrades here and they searched their pockets deeper. One of the comrades, a worker from one of the most down trodden sections of the working class donated R15.00 (£9)—he earns about £55 per month—and said he wanted to read a daily *Militant*.

Comrades, enclosed is £442 from the comrades who lift their hands and say "Workers of the World let us Unite."

We have received over £1,000 from Edinburgh in the last week including £500 from Peter Luke, and Tam Williams, Paisley, £83.

LPYS branches have responded well to our appeal; Motherwell YS, £20; Thames Valley YS, £40; Luton YS, £10; Flitwick YS, £10; Bromsgrove YS, £5. Keep the money rolling in.

FIIGHTING FUND this week £2543

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 7 July
Eastern	908	33.6%	2700
East Midlands	611	20.0%	3050
Humberside	621	20.7%	1700
London East	868	24.8%	3500
London West	600	21.4%	2100
London South	829	24.3%	2850
Manchester & Lancs	1046	28.3%	3700
Merseyside	1279	30.8%	4800
Northern	683	16.8%	4050
Scotland East	469	19.1%	2450
Scotland West	601	18.2%	3300
Southern	1213	27.6%	4400
South West	460	21.9%	2050
Wales East	374	17.8%	2100
Wales West	312	15.5%	1950
West Midlands	1072	28.2%	3800
Yorkshire	866	19.2%	4500
Others	8633	13.1%	12000
Total received	21445	24.2%	65000

Only five weeks to go!

IN THE European Parliament money is no object. Translations for all the various MEPs cost £25 a sentence! One sentence equals the amount paid to a YTS trainee for working a 40 hour week.

As we have always explained, there is money around but obviously not for workers.

Poverty stricken though many of our supporters are, they always find ways of sending us money—whether it's a £20 donation or 10p (every penny counts—if every

reader sent us 10p we would more than reach the weekly FF target). They also raise cash in many ways. Sponsored events in Cardiff, Stockton and Blackpool have done well; as have a social-home brew evening, curry night and video evening in SE London and Bath.

Local raffles and limited draws, Jumble Sales and Bazaars (Cleethorpes and Lewisham); stall on flea markets (Blackburn and Burnley). Pontoon tickets are also proving big fund raisers (especially for Ashington, Batley and Perth); even sales of personal items (one Preston supporter raised over £120). You are responsible for whether we take tiny steps forward or gigantic strides.

Over £50 was raised by one supporter at the National Union of Seamen Conference; a Nottingham social raised £45; Bob Nash (Bristol CPISA) £20; Workers (British Gas) Easington, Hull £16; Barry McQueen (Newcastle) £15; Bristol South East LPYS branch £10; Steve Spence (Brixton) £10; Erdington supporters raised over £9 from rattling tins; Ian Smith (USDW Dundee) £6.50; Tommy Stevenson (Leeds) won £25 in a *Militant* limited draw and donated £5 back to the FF; K Wilson (Macclesfield housewife) £5; Lynn Wiseman (Gateshead E CLP) £5; Dave and Julie Morgan (Worsley LPYS) £5; Kath Wootten (Preston LP) £5; T. Hare (OAP Bradford) £5; a dockyard worker (Plymouth) gave £5 for a paper; Matthew (unemployed, Bath) 75p; Joe Slater (retired shop steward, Kingsbury) 75p.

ADS

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

CASSETTE TAPES with two issues of *Militant* (one each side). Available fortnightly. £3.50 per quarter, £13 for year.

Now available on cassette: all centre page articles from issues 668-692. Send either seven blank C-90 cassettes or £6.30 payable to 'Militant Tapes'. Also available on cassette, last two issues MIR. Send either two blank C-90 tapes or £1.80. All orders to: 'Militant Tapes', 26 Ashton Terrace, Harehills, Leeds 8, or phone: (0532) 493440.

HACKNEY North LPYS miners benefit. Sunday June 10, 8 pm. Little Red Band and disco. At Crown and Castle, 600 Kingsland Road. Price £1.50 and £1 unwaged.

"Militant Turn Left for Workers' Unity and Socialism"
T-Shirts—£3.25—white, yellow, navy, dark green.
Small 32"—34" chest
Medium 34"—36"
Large 36"—38"
Extra large 40"—42"
All proceeds to *Militant* Fighting Fund. All cheques and postal orders with size and colour preference to R Harris, 2 Dukes Brow, Blackburn, Lancs.

SOCIALIST YOUTH PENS Available with logo and slogan 'Get the bosses off our backs'. 20p each or 15p for ten or more. Order from: *Socialist Youth*, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JT—cash with orders.

ACCOMMODATION in London wanted for single man. Also female *Militant* supporter wants to share accommodation in London with other female *Militant* supporter. Contact Box (0) at *Militant* Offices.

Militant Meetings

For events in your area contact your local *Militant* seller.

RHONDDA: 'Expel MacGregor and the Tories, not the socialists!' Monday 18 June, 7.30 pm, at Mid-Rhondda Central Workman's Club, Primrose Street, Tonypany. Speakers: Peter Taaffe (Editor-*Militant*), Dave Nellist MP, Tyrone O'Sullivan (Tower Lodge Sec NUM) and Brychan Davies.

NALGO: Conference *Militant* Readers Meeting on 'NALGO and the fight against the Tories'. Thursday 14 June, 8 pm at Russell Room, Royal Albion Hotel, Brighton. Speaker: Dave Nellist MP.

WOMEN'S MINING PAMPHLET

Militant Miner—"Women Fight to Save the Pits"—printed and published by Aylesham Women. 70p (incl p+p) from Robbie Segal, 10 Westbourne Gardens, Folkestone.

Weekend conference called by Socialist Party of Great Britain. 'Left wing capitalist v Revolutionary Socialism'. 9 and 10 June. Saturday 2 pm 'Trotskyism' 4 pm '80 years of SPGB'. Sunday 2 pm 'Anarchism' 4 pm 'Labourism'. At Caxton House, St Johns Way, Archway, London N19. Questions and discussions, all welcome. Admission free. Organised by the SPGB.

Militant "save the pits" T-shirts. Black background with red & white illustration. Available in sizes M & L. Price £4.00 + 50p p&p. Bulk orders £2.50 each for 10 or more.

Cash with order. All proceeds to Fighting Fund. Orders to: Eddie McParland, 80 Troughton Road, Charlton, London SE7.

SMASH PINOCHET BADGES Available from LPYS, 150 Walworth Road, SE 17. Cost 20p each or £1.50 for 10. All proceeds to LPYS Chile Socialist Defence Campaign.

BRISTOL LPYS: 'Music for miners' benefit on Saturday 16 June, 8.30 pm. Featuring Billy Bragg, Redskins and Brilliant Corners. At Trinity Hall, Bristol. £3 waged, £2.50 unwaged.

"Socialist Youth" badges 20p each or 15p each for 10 or more.

Available from: "Socialist Youth", c/o LPYS, 150 Walworth Road, London, SE17 1JT. Cash with orders.

FORWARD TO A DAILY MILITANT—20th Anniversary rally

Saturday October 20
10.30 am to 5.30 pm plus film.
Wembley Conference Centre, London
★ Speakers from the International and British labour movement
★ Archive film, music, display, socialist choir
★ Creche
Tickets £2. Order now. Book coaches now.

I would like . . . tickets and enclose £ . . . (make cheques payable to *Militant* Rally)

Name
Address

Return to *Militant* Rally, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

MILITANT SUMMER DRAW

1st Prize — £500 Holiday in resort of your choice
2nd Prize - Video worth £300 3rd Prize - Camera worth £100
4th Prize — 5 individual prizes of £20 worth of socialist books

PRICE OF TICKET 10 PENCE
All cash, counterfoils and unsold tickets to be returned to 1, Mentmore Terrace, London, E8 3PN by first post Saturday 7th July 1984. The draw takes place on Saturday 7th July 1984.
Printed to conform to Part II of the Lotteries and Amusements Act, 1976 & regulations made thereunder and registered by the Promoter. Also all other Lottery Acts in Force.
McKay's Printing Service (T.U.)
72-74 Camberwell Road, London SE5 0EQ
Telephone: 703 - 3855/6

Nº 018171

Get your raffle tickets from your local *Militant* seller

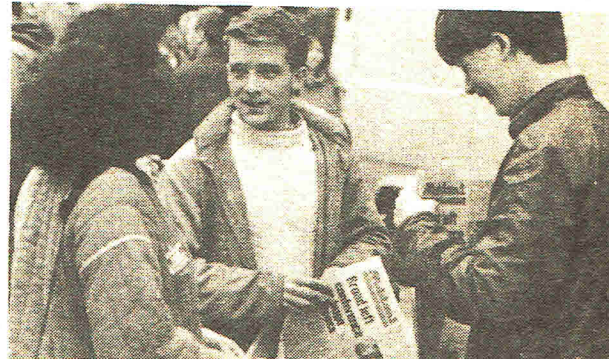
SELLING Militant

MILITANT IS prominent in all the coalfields, both in supporting the miners and also in putting forward a strategy to bring the dispute to a successful conclusion.

Our clear cut policies and determination to aid the victory of the miners have brought not only respect but growing paper sales, especially in the pit villages.

In Aylesham (Kent) 30 copies are being sold each week with a growing readership in the welfare club.

In Doe Lea (Derbyshire) 11 are sold outside the Bingo Hall each week, with the sale reaching 20 one week



Sell *Militant* in your area and build support for socialism.

when there was material on the area. This is the area that had a readers meeting of 75 when the village itself has only 30 or so houses.

The level of consciousness shown in the village is that 27 regular copies of the *Sun* have been cancelled since the

dispute began.

It seems everyone is getting militant. Make sure everyone gets a *Militant*. Become a seller. For a bulk order contact *Militant* Circulation, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN or phone 01-986-3828.

Photo: Militant

Profits clash in the music industry

No good praying to the powers that be, 'cause they won't shake the roots of the money tree 'The money go round'—The Style council.

Anti-establishment lyrics like those of Paul Weller's are now common place in the music of young groups. Also the music press reflects young peoples' burning hatred and cynicism towards the bosses' system.

However, this has not always been the case. Prior to 1977 when I first started buying music papers, there was little social comment. *Sounds* and *NME* were more concerned with the length of John Bonham's (Led Zeppelin) latest drum solo or idolising Ritchie Blackmore's axe wielding skills. These old bores were swept aside in the punk revolution of 1977. The flood gates opened and young groups singing about real life in Britain—and not the anxieties of some well fed, sun-tanned tax exile—stormed onto the scene.

Career Opportunities the one that never knocks

Every job they offer you's to keep you off the dock 'Career Opportunities'—The Clash.

Thousands of young people were involved in the movement which reached a peak during the Clash and Sex Pistols tours. After the Clash 'White Riot' tour, Joe Strummer later recalled that the band and its fans really believed they were involved in something special; a movement against the establishment.

Around this time the NF tried to hold a series of provocative

By John Hird
(LPYS National Chairman)

marches in black areas and Thatcher made her 'alien culture' speeches. Both were answered by marches of hundreds of thousands of young workers, called by the Anti Nazi League. Music played a great part in the protests with huge concerts being organised in Manchester and London.

White youth, black youth, better find another solution, why not phone up Robin Hood and ask him for some wealth distribution.

'White man in Hammersmith Palais'—The Clash

Music plays an important role in young people's lives; they play it, listen to it, dance to it, romance to it, drink to it. That means there's a lot of illusions in it. The music does reflect young people's anger at the horror of dead end Britain. But this is a capitalist society and the fact is music is owned by the multinationals—company directors of EMI and RCA etc.

Profit

They allow youth to voice its anger because it makes a profit. Anything which threatens their power however, is clamped down on. Their motto is not 'Art for Art's Sake' but 'profit for God's sake!' As the Clash found out:



The punk revolution and the movement against racism and fascism in the late seventies politicised youth music, sweeping aside the 'old bores'.
Photo: Militant

"They said release *Remote Control*, but we didn't want it on the label. They said we'd make lots of money and worry about it later."

Today, seven years after Punk most of the young bands are 'radical'. This is reflected in the music press. Every week letters from readers comment on disarmament and the dole. In *NME's* yearly poll Reagan and Thatcher topped it for the 'people you most like to hate', while Benn, Bruce Kent and Livingstone are high in the 'outstanding personalities' chart. In an interview in *Smash Hits*, the Lotus Eaters said that the thing they most liked about Liverpool, their home town, was that the council was fighting the Tories.

Like the record companies, the music media does not carry such comments on the plight of working class youth out of sympathy. It's just good business. You try selling a youth culture

paper full of praise for Thatcher.

Perhaps the most 'radical' of the music papers is the *NME*. Yet it is owned by IPC, which produces over 200 magazines and comics. IPC is part of the Reed International empire. Their pre-tax profits last year were nearly £33 million.

Indeed, Julie Birchall, an *NME* writer, contended in the *Sunday Times* that young people are not really exploited and should not be considered as a underprivileged majority!

Exploited

In the real world the attacks on working class youth by the Tories mean that young people will look for solutions in various directions. Some at the moment look towards 'leaders' such as Paul Weller who sing about changing society. The LPYS must get socialism across wherever young people gather.

A concert of 2,000 is an ideal place.

We must also use music as a way of reaching young people. In the coming years the music forged from the struggle to change society will be stirring and inspiring. Music flowing from great events will be great itself.

What's more, in a socialist society youth will have the time and more importantly the opportunity to use the resources available to create music. Instead of wealthy super-stars monopolising recording studios and gadgetry, every youth club, pub and school will have adequate stocks of musical instruments and recording equipment. Anyone who wants to participate in music will be able to. The exchange of new and different ideas will mean the music of a new socialist society will far outstrip even the best of today's music.

Give YTS workers proper training

WHEN I attended a Training Opportunities Scheme at Runcorn Skill Centre last year as a fitter-general, my training included the use of hand tools, lathes, drilling machines, bench, welding and so on. But I eventually found myself directing 'YOPsters'—the forerunner of YTS—like a skilled man leads his apprentice.

I'd show them safe and correct methods, like how to hold a file or centre punch sheet metal. The difference of course was that I was not on a skilled wage and the YOPsters were not apprentices. These lads never learnt anything worth using outside because they were never allowed enough time in one trade area.

Minimum

The Manpower Services Commission (who run the scheme) must be really proud of the situation they have produced: the minimum of supervisors on extremely dangerous equipment, oil and grease constantly spilled over the works' floor, no insistence that the trainees wear safety glasses or shoes (they weren't provided) and trainees

left to wander around in overcrowded conditions. In actual fact they were allowed to run riot.

I trained as an electrician after starting with the Engineering Industry Training Board at 16 (I'm now 24). If my old bench and lathe instructor were to see these conditions he'd get a migraine!

YTURC

Conditions such as these make it imperative that the LPYS continue its support for the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign which calls for the following demands for the Youth Training Schemes:

- ★ Trade union rights on pay, holidays and conditions for all trainees.
- ★ Trade union supervision on all schemes.
- ★ Adequate cover and protection under the Health and Safety Act.
- ★ Proper training and a guaranteed job at the end of the scheme.

By Terry Rayle
(Ellesmere Port LPYS)

Why I joined the LPYS

THIS WEEK 19 year old Benny Mohan of Monktonhall NUM explains why he joined the Musselburgh LPYS branch in Scotland:

I'm very active on Musselburgh miners' strike committee and my time is spent either picketing or cutting logs for local pensioners.

The other miners and our supporters on the picket lines have been shocked by the police tactics. I was almost trampled by police horses at Hunterston and attacked in Colchester by a policeman

who was not wearing any serial number.

The Notts miners who have not come out must be embarrassed by the public support we have. They should understand that the NCB and the government have never done any miner any favours, unless they want to set him against another miner in another area. They should see through that and join us.

Before I became a miner I was trying to attack society on my own but I wasn't getting anywhere. I started in the pits and began to communicate more with my

father, a retired miner due to disability, and a socialist.

My mate was in the Labour Party Young Socialists and advised me to attend a meeting. I went along expecting some boring bright sparks but found some really sociable people.

Their views were not unfamiliar to mine, and being involved has bonded friendships and beliefs together. I personally would advise anyone who is young and going through the stages I went through to join the LPYS and find a better way to express their views and fight for their future.

YOUTH TRAINING SWINDLE

IN WATFORD, members of the LPYS branch organised their own display on YTS at an exhibition run by the local careers office at which over 20 local business were represented.

All the local businesses had displays extolling the virtues of £25 for a 40-hour week. The LPYS display consisted of articles from *Socialist Youth* mounted on a display board, LPYS leaflets, the YTURC petition and TGWU recruitment leaflets.

After only half an hour local businessmen complained claiming that our

newspaper articles contained 'offensive' language. Apparently the word 'swindle' was considered offensive!

We were forced to remove two centre page spreads but stood our ground until the exhibition went into recess at 4 pm. We were then removed from the hall but we came back for the evening session and stood outside.

People queued up to sign our petition after they had heard our arguments on YTS. One angry employer came out and remonstrated with us saying that: "Sometimes we even employ a few of them!"

The way we got into the

exhibition was to say to the organisers that as trade unionists we wanted the youngsters to know about trade union rights and why they should join.

Following our intervention most youngsters and parents present signed the YTURC petition and said that YTS "wasn't what they were looking for". As long as we show more front than Blackpool we will get across the socialist alternative to the youth of Britain.

By Simon Rogers
(Chairman,
Watford LPYS)

us?

about

what

The Great American

THOUSANDS WILL throng the streets of London this weekend to demonstrate against President Reagan, the leader of the capitalist world's mightiest power.

The United States of America has achieved the highest development of the capitalist system, the productive forces of society extended to the maximum that the system will ever allow.

Vast wealth

At the same time, it reveals all the most rotten, repressive and deadly characteristics of capitalism. It has developed the technology to send men to the moon, and space

probes out of the solar system; yet it can also destroy all life on earth several times over with its nuclear arsenal.

It has created multi-billionaires, who make the rulers of earlier societies seem paupers, yet it pursues policies which lead to starvation and early death for millions throughout the world, and for many in America itself.

From the early forties to the late seventies, the economy enjoyed the biggest boom in the history of the world. Until its shock defeat at the hands of the peasants of Vietnam, it had become the capitalist world policeman, holding sway over whole continents.

Today, however, the colossus has been shown to have feet of clay. The recession from 1979 to

1983, saw the re-appearance of shanty towns of unemployed workers outside American cities and queues of the poor waiting for handouts of stale bread and soup.

New 'boom' will end

Recently there has been a new "boom", but in no way a return to the old days. The expansion has come mainly in the service industries and armaments. More workers are now employed in MacDonalds hamburger shops than in steel. To pay for the arms, a record budget deficit has been built up, and a record deficit in the balance of payments has been achieved.

There is no possibility of this "boom" lasting. The recent bank

crisis is a reminder of the underlying instability. High interest rates and the highly-valued dollar are imposing an increasing burden on all the other capitalist powers; several of them, in the colonial world will never be able to repay the interest on their loans from American banks.

Within a year, or two at most, there will be a new and deeper slump. Unemployment and poverty will reappear, and that mighty sleeping giant, the American working class will roused into action. During the last recession, major blows were delivered against the

trade union movement, led by the most right wing leadership in the world.

Bankrupt leaders

Cushioned by decades of boom, the workers' leadership has lagged far behind the movements in society. A measure of this is the fact that Reagan is still the favourite to win November's election, so weak has been the opposition represented by the trade union backed Democrat Mondale. The support for Hart, with his supposedly "new", but in

Reagan — nuclear warlord

By Frances Curran

IN A recent interview, President Ronald Reagan, the man whom Senator Edward Kennedy named as "the most dangerous man of the nuclear age", claimed that as President he stood for "freedom and morality in US society".

The only freedom which this hypocrite upholds is the freedom of big business to exploit working people and attack trade union rights. He also defends his own 'freedom' to spend billions of dollars on nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons, while 50,000 children of the third world die daily from hunger, one every two seconds. In the world as a whole £1 million million is spent every 2¼ years on arms.

Space wars

His disregard for any attempt to limit the arms race has caused the men who negotiated the SALT I and II treaties with the Soviet Union on arms control, to publically accuse the White House of wanting to "escalate the arms race and scrap existing agreements".

Frequently now, headlines like "Reagan critics fear 'Star Wars'", and "Pentagon plans \$5.5 bn 'Star Wars' defence" appear in the pages of the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Times*. Research into the use of laser technology for military purposes in space has already been granted \$17 billion.

At the moment the US has 26,000 nuclear bombs and warheads, enough to blow up the world several times over. Yet, under Reagan's direction America has just embarked on the biggest production programme since the early days of the nuclear era, the target being to produce eight nuclear bombs per day. This year \$264,000 million will be squandered on nuclear weapons.

Reagan has been passing his war drive proposals through Congress with lightning speed. Yet, the starving millions who queue for food in the under-developed world are still waiting on the \$90 million aid which was promised from the US in 1983, 0.02% of the nuclear arms bill. And the poorer countries can

expect even less sympathy in the future. Congress has just cut its third world aid programme by \$250 million.

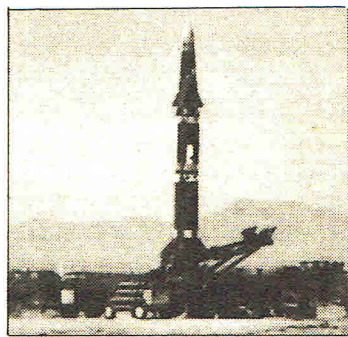
Men, women and children are killed by disease and starvation, while the US defence contractors laugh all the way to the bank. This is the freedom and morality of the Reagan regime.

Thatcher boasts in public of her similarity of thought and her friendship with this man and what he represents. That is why she has invited him to Britain.

Both represent the industrialists and the banks, both have attacked workers' trade union rights, and neither would have any qualms in attempting to destroy completely the democratic rights of working people.

We cannot leave the well being of future generations in the hands of those interested only in prestige and power. The arms race arises from the class interests of the American and other Western capitalists. Despite its totalitarian and bureaucratic deformities, the state-owned economic system of the Soviet Union poses a threat to those class interests.

The only guarantee of peace is a socialist world, where both the capitalists of the West and bureaucratic dictators of the East have been overthrown and replaced by a democratically planned socialist federation, where all the planet's wealth can be developed and shared out for the good of the whole human race.



A Pershing missile.

It used to be said that the future of the world would be either socialism or barbarism. Modern warfare has made this out of date. A world war today would lead to far more than barbarism. All life on Earth, which has evolved over millions of years, and which, to our knowledge is the only life anywhere in the universe, would be destroyed forever.

Demonstrate on 9 June, but go one step further—join us: the Labour Party Young Socialists and help build a movement which will rid us of the Reagans and Thatchers of this world, and guarantee a peaceful future.

Spending their way into a disaster

By Mick Brooks

WHEN REAGAN was elected President he promised, through 'radical' right-wing policies of tax-cutting, to promote a 'virtuous circle' of investment and growth. This he proclaimed, would shower its blessings on every one in the USA and the capitalist world.

Reagan had been intoxicated by the prescription of the economic quack Laffer. This "Laffer curve" showed that by cutting taxes, capitalists would invest, thus creating more wealth so just as much tax revenue could be raised from a lower rate of tax. This became the official policy of the mightiest capitalist power on earth.

Quack cure

However, the "Laffer curve" has become a "Laffer line". Unfortunately Ronnie's sums didn't add up. Though he cut welfare spending to the bone, Reagan was determined to spend more and more on armaments. In the 1985 Federal budget now before Congress, arms spending is due to go up by 18% to the staggering total of \$313 billion—more than the total wealth of Canada.

Every housewife knows you can't keep on spending more than you earn, but that's exactly what the US government was doing. The difference had to be made up by borrowing, and to borrow more and more they had to pay higher and higher interest rates.

High interest rates are drawing in funds from all over the world. Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board (the equivalent of the Bank of England) Paul Volcker, says: "It is ominous that the recorded new investment position of the United States overseas, built up gradually over the entire post-war period, will in the space of only three years—1983, 1984 and 1985—be reversed. The largest and richest economy in the world is on the verge of becoming a net debtor internationally".

Higher interest rates sucked in money from abroad and yanked up the value of the dollar, now reckoned to be 30% overvalued. The US dollar's rise has made imports cheaper and exports impossibly dear. American manufac-



Reagan's nuclear arms build up has caused widespread anger throughout the West.

turers have increased their export prices by 29% in dollar terms since 1979. In comparison the Japanese have raised theirs by 6% and the West Germans have reduced theirs by 12% (*Economist*, 17 December, '83).

Small wonder then that the trade deficit has gone from \$40 billion in 1982, to \$70 billion last year and a projected \$110 billion this year. US industrialists are not at all grateful to Reagan for the 'stimulus' to the economy, which is throttling them with foreign competition, subsidised by the soaring dollar. A grumble about protectionism against foreigners is rumbling through the ranks of hard-pressed American manufacturing.

But there is another lesson to be learned from the US experience. As was pointed out by Samuel Brittan in the *Financial Times*: "It is fascinating to see that the Reagan administration has adopted a large part of the British Labour Party's Alternative Economic Strategy". Admittedly 32% of government expenditure is now going on arms, but the basic ideas of the AES is to borrow and spend your way out of a crisis.

Reagan is stimulating the economy—that is the German and the Japanese economies. But nor are the foreign capitalists happy. The rise in US interest rates has forced every Western government to jack its own rates up for fear of a massive outflow to the USA.

It has also triggered the prospect of a wholesale banking collapse. The banks are confronted with a debt mountain of \$700 billion to underdeveloped countries. Much of this money will never come back. Every percentage point increase in dollar interest rates costs Brazil

alone an extra \$580 million—two kilos of beans for every man, woman and child in the country.

Continental Illinois, the eighth largest bank in the USA, had \$2.3 billion in "non performing" loans (banker-speak meaning you can whistle for your money), much of it tied up in Latin America. The big bankers bailed it out with \$8.3 billion. This was no act of charity though—the banks are hanging together lest they hang separately.

No sooner was this 'masterful', 'historic' (as it was described) piece of repackaging accomplished than renewed pressure began on the other banks. Manufacturers Hanover, the fourth largest US bank, was the prime butt of renewed rumours. No wonder, Manufacturers Hanover's loans to the six biggest problem countries are 286% of share capital. But as the *Financial Times* points out: "If that is disturbing, why not the 213% exposure of Citicorp, 209% of Chase Manhattan or 204% of Chemical Bank?" Why not indeed?

If all a bank's customers were to ask for their money back at the same time, no bank in the world could survive. And as the political commentator Bagehot said over a hundred years ago: "Every banker knows that if he has to prove that he is worthy of credit, however good may be his arguments, in fact his credit is gone". Therein lies the probability of a banking collapse.

What this means is hardship for working people. One capitalist is quoted: "We will not make the same mistakes as in the 1930s, but different ones. We won't have a deflationary depression—although what that means I have still to work out".

can Nightmare

reality non-existent policies, reveals, in a distorted way, a groping for an alternative to the old capitalist parties.

In these volatile times, however, nothing is certain. If the boom begins to crumble within the next few months, or if Reagan suffers another foreign policy rebuff like that in Lebanon, Mondale, or even Hart, could still be elected.

The total incapacity of a Democratic president to solve the workers' problems would be an impetus to the formation of a party of labour. On the industrial plane too, there would be a radicalisation

of the movement.

The unorganised workers of the South, the racial minorities and the thousands of unemployed youth will be forced to get organised. The magnificent fighting traditions of the US labour movement will be revived, and socialist ideas will take root with great speed.

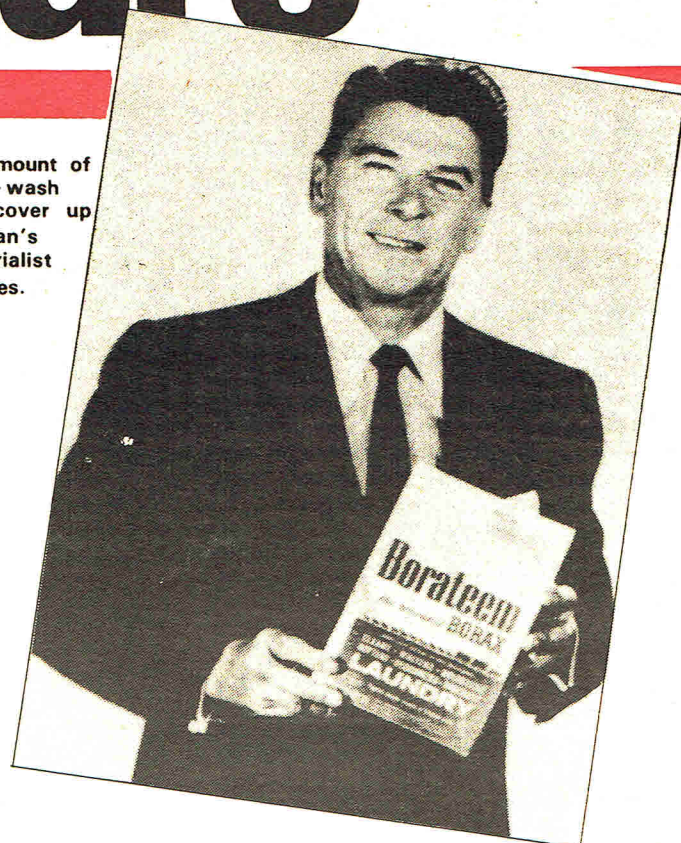
For a Socialist USA

From lagging behind the movements in most other capitalist countries, the American workers could within a very short time, be

overtaking them. There is no reason to assume that the USA, with the most highly developed form of capitalism, could not become the first democratic workers' state. A socialist America would be the best possible springboard for the creation of a socialist world.

So demonstrate against Reagan and his class. Demonstrate in solidarity with the American workers and the millions throughout the world, who face starvation and risk death as a result of his policies.

No amount of white-wash will cover up Reagan's imperialist policies.



HONDURAS

By Mike Waddington

"THE POLITICAL docility of Honduras, chosen by the Reagan administration as the backstop of its Central American policy, does not seem as assured as it was" lamented the *Financial Times* on 15 May.

Coming hard on the heels of April's huge protests in the Dominican Republic comes unrest in Honduras, Nicaragua's closest neighbour and the potential launching pad for a US invasion of that country. Reagan must feel his Central American aircraft carrier has sprung a leak.

On May Day 60,000 people marched through the streets of the capital and another 40,000 through San Pedro Sula—its second city, chanting anti-American slogans. Shortly before these events General Alvarez Martinez, the head of the armed forces, had been sent into exile in Costa Rica, after a "palace coup" apparently even taking the United States by surprise.

But of course, adds the *Financial Times*, "Washington... sought at the last minute to ensure the outcome did not prejudice American interests in Honduras".

Three years of recession are having their effects on the poverty-stricken Hondurans—with 25% official unemployment and an austerity programme of wage

restraint. The only budget item to rise recently was debt servicing by 30%! And that was before the huge rise in US interest rates.

Apparently, General Alvarez, in two years of power, was responsible for 88 political killings and 105 "missing persons" including the leader of the electricity trades union, who disappeared on 18 March after organising a strike for higher pay. The removal of General Alvarez was clearly a pre-emptive strike to short-circuit popular discontent into "manageable channels".

The problem now is succinctly stated by the *FT*: "More immediately destabilising is the amount of pent-up feeling released by his departure. A vocal minority is demanding that democracy function better and in rural areas peasants have begun to insist on progress towards the agrarian reforms which have been paralysed for more than five years".

The United States is providing \$168 million worth of aid—no doubt the vast majority of it for military expenditure. It can clearly be seen in this country that even before an invasion of Nicaragua is launched, Honduras is already experiencing the tremors of revolt.



Like a scene from Nazi Germany—General Pinochet's soldiers march in Chile.

Thousands protest at a London CND rally

Photo: Militant

Central America's US puppets

IN THREE and a half years in office, President Reagan has conducted a covert, and at times overt, bloody intervention in Central America. The interests of US big business have been well represented by the CIA, whose limitless resources are there to be used by any tin-pot dictator who is prepared to act as a bell boy of US imperialism.

The existence of the Sandinista government in Nicaragua is a thorn in the side of US imperialism. Reagan is opposed to it because of the example it set in Central America, namely that brutal dictatorships can be overthrown.

The actions of the CIA show the real face and intentions of US big

Business interests

business, despite Reagan's sanctimonious pronouncements that his administration has no intention of invading Nicaragua or any Central American country. The *New York Times* reported: "The Pentagon persistently buried items in its own sprawling budget to provide the CIA with ships, planes, guns and other equipment at nominal rates as well as free transport for use in the covert war in Nicaragua".

Reagan's hypocrisy is rank. On 10 April the World Court declared that US backing for counter-revolutionary terrorists and mining of Nicaraguan ports was illegal. Reagan's solution to this problem was simple. On 11 April the US government ceased to recognise the jurisdiction of the World Court.

Despite overt and covert intervention by the CIA and US Army and Navy the masses of Central America will rise up again and

again to overthrow the bloody dictators bought and paid for by US big business.

In Britain and internationally the labour movement has a duty to extend the hand of solidarity to the workers and peasants of Central America.

The key to the defeat of Reagan's 'bell boys' is a continental workers and peasants movement which will establish a federation of not just Central American socialist states but the whole of Latin America. A movement which will bring socialism to the backyard of the US and beyond.

By John Hird
(LPYS National Chairman)

GUATEMALA

REAGAN AND his puppets are not getting it all their own way in Guatemala either.

On 18 February the 460 workers of the principle bottling company in Guatemala occupied their factory which bottled Coca-Cola. The company had declared itself bankrupt as part of a union-busting plot. They had intended to reopen without a union.

However, the workers took action and obtained the company's books. These were shown to have been tampered with. The owners of the plant are the Investors Association of Central America whose lawyer is a professional union buster. These workers were dismissed without notice, a move which even breaks the repressive laws in Guatemala, never mind previous agreements with the unions.

As a result of the occupation workers' families were harassed by

the state forces, several workers have even been murdered. They called for the support of the international labour movement, since Coca Cola International has bottling plants throughout the world.

International support

The workers have now won back their jobs after a 14 week occupation. The fight by members of the Guatemalan union, STEGAC attracted world wide sympathy; Coca

A NEW generation of American workers are beginning to question not only the barbaric anti-working class policies of Reagan, but the whole capitalist basis of US society; as the following letter on the miners' strike from two Californian trade unionists shows.

"WE HAVE been reading about your strike in the pages of *Militant* which is the only source of coverage over here. Other than that, there is a total press blackout.

"However, all our fellow workers who we tell about your actions are very impressed. Combined with the fight of the Labour Party in Liverpool, it seems that British workers are starting to seriously take on the struggle for jobs and answer the attacks of Thatcher—the British Ronald Reagan.

"Eventually, the American mass media will no longer be able to hide the tremendous fight you are waging, and then it will have a real impact on American workers. Combined with the struggle of the German IG Metall workers, the struggles throughout Latin America and the beginnings of a fightback of American workers over the last twelve months or so, your struggle represents a renewed militancy for the international working class.

"For a victory to the British miners... For victory to the Liverpool Labour Party struggle... For international labor solidarity and socialism..."
Fraternally

John Reimann
Recording Secretary
Carpenters Local 36
(personal capacity)

Marge Clouser
Executive Board Member
Communication Workers
of America Local 9410
(personal capacity)

Photo: Jacob Sutton (Gamma)

Cola workers at 17 plants in Norway stopped work for a day; Manchester workers sent messages of support, and Canadian trade unionists donated \$10,000.

The International Union of Foodworkers which helped coordinate the support has produced a video on the sit-in, available through War on Want.

By John Simpson
(South Belfast
Young Socialists)

Iran/Iraq, Bolivia

GULF WAR

Mitterrand arms Iraqi dictator

THE FULL extent of the carnage and devastation of the Iran-Iraq conflict defies the imagination.

Recently released film, shown on TV screens all over Europe, gives an idea of the scale of the massacre. Miles and miles of land, as far as the eye could see, lay covered by thousands of corpses.

The use of chemical and bacteriological weapons, the indiscriminate bombing of civilian targets in 'punishment' raids and counter-raids, the massacre of unarmed villagers, the merciless treatment of prisoners, the use of torture and the most harrowing methods of execution, have made the Gulf War one of the bloodiest of our times.

In Iraq, each family has lost on average two people as victims of the slaughter. Khomeini has now mobilised children of 10 years old for service at the front, which gives an indication of the death toll in Iran.

As always, the burden of the war is carried by the working people of the belligerent countries. In reality, two wars, and not one, are being waged in the gulf. Not only is there the war between the ruling cliques of Iran and Iraq. There is also the class war being waged on both sides of the battle lines against the workers and poor peasants.

The horror of the Khomeini dictatorship is well

By Philippe Roland
(Parti Socialiste, Paris.
Confédération Générale
du Travail)

known (see Militant 25 May).

In Iraq also, the least expression of opposition to the Saddam Hussein regimes is ruthlessly suppressed. The dictatorship, even more severe in wartime, allows no political opposition, no trade unions, no democratic rights, grinding down a population which works for starvation wages in the most appalling working conditions.

Fortunes made

It was just these qualities which attracted the attention of Jacques Chirac, the leader of the main capitalist party in France, the RPR, when he was Prime Minister in the 1970s. Chirac waged a lengthy campaign in business circles to convince speculators of the fortunes to be made in investing in Iraq. The measure of his success can be seen in the steadily rising indebtedness of Iraq to France, which is a phenomenal 58,000 million francs (approx. 10F = £1), of which 40,000 million francs is for arms provisions alone. The left leaders such as Mitterrand promised a foreign policy in the interests of "the

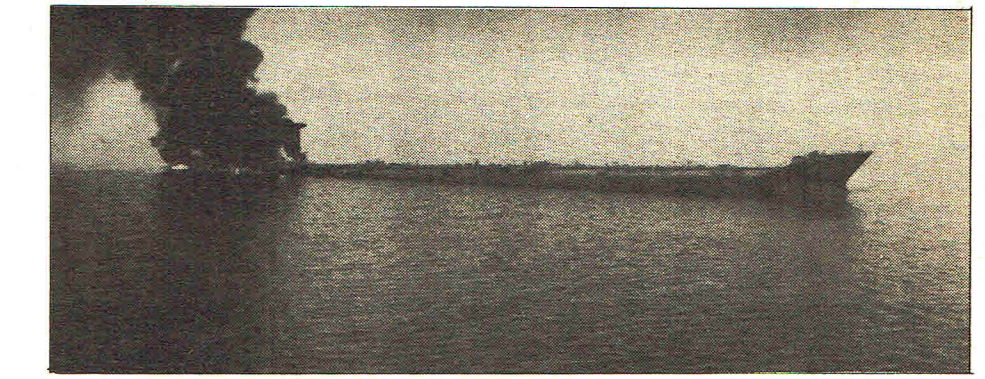
poor and downtrodden", but scandalously, the foreign policy of the new power continues to be based on the interests of big business in the region.

Edith Cresson, Minister of Foreign Trade, recently reiterated that the aim of the Socialist-Communist government to do "all in its power to help the Iraqis to pay their debts." This generous gesture means, in practice, giving total support to the Hussein dictatorship. 'Socialist' France is one of the most important allies of the Iraqi regime.

Without this support, Hussein would probably have been defeated by now. His armies are exhausted, demoralised, plagued by desertions and revolt. France not only arms the dictator for the purposes of continuing the war, but also against the population of Iraq itself.

The clearly political character of the arms sales was shown by the decision of the Socialist government to 'lend' the most recent consignment of the famous 'Super-Etendard' fighter bombers, armed with the 'Exocet' missiles. It has been the use of these weapons against tankers going to Iran, and Iran's counter attacks on other shipping in the Gulf which has threatened to internationalise the war. In return the US has offered Saudi Arabia 1,200 Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to resist these attacks.

Iraq is playing for desperate stakes. Intelligence reports suggest that Iran is



Oil tanker in Gulf after attack.



Miles and miles of land, covered by thousands of corpses.

massing 500,000 troops for a major ground offensive. Hussein has gambled that by widening the war he can stave off defeat.

In this horror, the French government has played a despicable role. French "Socialist" Defence Minister has cynically tried to justify his government's support for Iraq continuing the war by his argument that: "If tomorrow the war between Iran and Iraq comes to a halt, our arms sales will go down by a half" (Nouvel Observateur 18 December 1982).

Capitalist war

The French Communist Party, ever anxious to show the 'responsible' character of the party follows loyally in

the capitalist's footsteps and timidly accepts the government's involvement in the bloodbath.

For the international working class movement the only possible policy is one of total opposition to the war and to the regimes waging it. The workers of the two countries involved have no interest in the slaughter. The policy of the French 'Socialist-Communist government' in the Gulf goes against the tradition of the French and international labour movement, which has always struggled against dictatorships such as that of Hussein, against capitalism and capitalist wars and for the democratic rights of the working people.

For workers in Britain, presently struggling against

the Tories, the sorry degeneration of the Left government in France contains a vital lesson. A future Labour government, which, like that of Mitterrand in France, refuses to decisively break the power of big business, will inevitably be forced to bring its policies into line with the profit interests of the capitalists, both at home and abroad.

At home the government has accepted the domination of the speculators and capitalists and adopted a vicious anti-working class policy of austerity, slashing jobs and living standards. And in the Gulf War the left government has shown, in horrific bloody terms, that it follows the same servility to big business.

Bolivia breaks the debt chain

CHE GUEVARA'S diaries of his heroic but doomed campaign in Bolivia in 1967 are to go on sale in July, at Sotherby's for £250,000. Guevara's attempt to bypass the Bolivian workers and try to overthrow the regime by rural guerrilla warfare failed—and now capitalists have reduced his efforts to an investment proposition.

The tragedy was that Guevara totally failed to see that the key to the Latin American revolution was the working class. Recent events have only emphasised this crucial lesson. Given a Marxist leadership, the Bolivian workers could now be in power. There have been at least five general strikes since November 1983. January '84 even saw the police on strike!

They have even introduced the new tactic of mass hunger strikes. These were first used six years ago during the military dictatorship when 1,200 workers went on hunger strike demanding a political amnesty for certain

parties.

In January this year a 57% wage increase was granted after 4,000 workers went on a hunger strike. Currently there are 500 trade union leaders on a hunger strike to the death!

Government powerless

On 17 May the television station was occupied by its employees, and they are now refusing to broadcast government statements! On 18 May, after a strike at the Central Bank, troops were sent in to re-open it and 200 workers responded by going on hunger strike. The *Financial Times* (31 May) was forced to comment, "the government has only the most tenuous control of the Central Bank". The government is powerless in the face of the offensive of the working class.

The COB (trade union federation) is campaigning against the austerity pro-

gramme announced on 12 April by the government of President Siles to secure the IMF loan. This programme trebled the price of bread as well as removing all subsidies and devaluing the Peso by 75%. Average wages are only \$400 per year, with thousands of people literally starving.

There has been an official 25% drop in income per capita since 1980. Inflation officially runs at 400%. The government deficit is equivalent to 25% of output and the debt—a "mere" \$4.5 billion—requires 140% of export earnings to be serviced. There are no foreign currency reserves left.

That is why the Bolivian government last week suspended payment of interest to private banks (this part of the debt amounts to approximately \$1 billion, of which \$150 million is owed to British banks). Bolivia stopped repaying the principal sums in March. But this is the first time that interest payments have been

suspended and is a frank admission that the country is bankrupt. The government, to assuage the pressure from the COB, has also offered 130% pay increases!

Austerity and repression

The capitalists are falling over themselves to explain that there is nothing to worry about as the debts are so small, but as *The Times* (31 May) said, "The plight of Bolivia may strengthen the determination of the big Latin American borrowers to press for measures to ease the region's \$340 billion debt burden. Latin American borrowers are due to meet again to discuss this next month".

The major question for capitalism in Bolivia is not the debt crisis but whether it can survive at all! In the 1952 revolution the working class accounted for only 5% of the population, now it is a massive 40%; the working

class have proved in struggle that they are the decisive force in Bolivian society, that can only be held back by the class collaboration of the workers leaders.

President Siles is head of a seven-party popular front government (including the pro-Moscow Communist Party). His first presidency (1956-60) was one of austerity coupled with repression. His current presidency is once again of austerity, and inevitably repression will follow, if the working class do not take power.

"The events in La Paz are being followed closely by other Latin American governments as they chart the fortunes of a democratically elected regime which seeks to impose further austerity one already hard pressed population" (*Financial Times*, 31 May). President Alfonsín in Argentina must indeed be worrying what effect agreeing to an IMF austerity programme will have to his

regime!

Unfortunately the leadership of the COB, doesn't seem to want to take the struggle to its conclusion, ie extinguishing the capitalism that is already down and floundering. Instead of administering the killer blows, the COB wastes workers' energies in 24-hour general strikes, 72-hour general strikes, hunger strikes, occupations—everything but the conquest of political power!

President's nightmare

When Siles looks out of the window of the presidential palace, he sees a national monument—the lamp post where the military dictator swung in 1946. This monument is said to figure prominently in Siles' nightmares.

By Mike Waddington

Liverpool and the 'broad approach'

THE FIGHT of the Liverpool City Council to obtain more resources from the Tory Government was given a new twist when the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions convened a meeting of trade unions, community representatives, the Churches and other interested groups (including the Labour Party).

Representation from the Labour Group on the City Council was specifically excluded. The first meeting was called for April 25 which happened to be the day of the second budget meeting and the Labour Party and Labour Group—who would have attended—were unable to attend. A further meeting was fixed for Friday, May 4, the day after Labour's victory.

The meeting was chaired by Barry Williams, President of the Confed, and a leading Communist Party member in Liverpool. He explained that the purpose of the meeting was to develop a "broader" approach to the government than had hitherto been adopted. Tony Mulhearn, District Labour Party President and newly elected councillor, told the meeting that the Labour Council would welcome the broadest possible support but not on the basis that the policy adopted by the Labour Party would be compromised or watered down.

Sympathy

Barry Williams intervened from the chair and pointed out that the purpose of the meeting was not to support the policy of the Labour Party or City Council but to

organise a deputation to Jenkin to tell of the "Liverpool problem". David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool, explained that he had not gone into an alliance with Patrick Jenkin and that he fully sympathised with the City Council, whilst refusing to support an illegal budget.

Full support

Derek Hatton, Eddie Loyden MP, Eric Heffer MP and Councillor Tony Byrne intervened, arguing for clear and unequivocal support for Liverpool council. Eddie Roberts, District officer of the TGWU, told the gathering that the position of his union was quite clear: "full support for the strategy adopted by the Liverpool City Council" and he called for the Confed and the NW Region of the TUC to do likewise.

Again Barry Williams intervened, arguing that the purpose of the meeting was not to declare support. By this time many comrades were wondering what precisely was the purpose of the meeting. If it was not to mobilise support for the campaign for more resources for Liverpool, then it must be for some other purpose which would conflict with the strategy of the defence of

jobs and services.

Tony Mulhearn moved a resolution stating that before the character and size of a delegation to see Patrick Jenkin could be determined, the basis of such a delegation would have to be determined. The resolution set out the policy of the City Council and called for the meeting to declare its support by voting for the resolution.

Barry Williams refused to accept the resolution, on the basis that a "broad consensus" was being sought. Such was the pressure from the floor of the meeting that he was eventually compelled to accept the resolution and take a vote. It was carried, with the Bishops abstaining. They said later that they only abstained because the wording of the resolution, which referred to "Liverpool's stand", was unacceptable. But they declared their sympathy with "Liverpool's case".

Stop waffling

The role of the Communist Party which has been to undermine the Labour Party's campaign—whether by accident or design—was plain to see at this meeting. It appeared to observers that the objective of the exercise had been to develop an alternative body to the Merseyside Trade Union and Labour Movement Campaign Committee which had been responsible for coordinating the campaign so far. If that was the objective

Photo: Militant.



Labour Party Rally in Liverpool, October 1982.

of the CP and the right wing officials of the Confed it did not succeed.

At a subsequent meeting of the same broad based character, it was agreed that a delegation would go to see Jenkin, under the leadership of John Hamilton the City Council leader. This was established despite the efforts of Communist Party members Barry Williams and Jim Ferguson of the NUT. It was agreed, on the suggestion of Tony Mulhearn, that the Labour Group and the NW Region of the TUC should coordinate the delegation and implement the resolution. The feeling of the meeting was that the waffling should stop and support be given to the courageous stand of the City Council.

By our NW correspondent

Appeals protest

FOLLOWING THE decision to expel members of Blackburn Labour Party for supporting Militant, concern is mounting among party members over the role of the newly established NEC Appeals and Mediation Committee.

It was this body which heard the appeals of the "Blackburn six" and which recommended their expulsion on the flimsiest and most suspect of evidence, and after an enquiry which ran contrary to all the rules of natural justice. Indeed on every major dispute, the committee has proved itself to be an instrument of the right wing.

On the question of Manchester City Council, the Appeals Committee recommended that a letter be sent stating that the 26 councillors, expelled from the Labour Group in the last year, were ineligible for inclusion on the Panel and could not be selected as candidates for the Labour Party. This was to be sent just one week before the May elections!

Furthermore, following the tremendous victory for the left in the elections, members of the Appeals Committee argued that they should still be excluded from participating in the new AGM, in a vain attempt to maintain right wing control.

Investigation

In Bristol South CLP, where the left took a majority at this year's AGM and where Michael Cocks, Labour Chief Whip, looks threatened by reselection, the Appeals Committee responded to developments with the recommendation that an enquiry be launched into the AGM and that officers of the party be suspended pending the outcome. Luckily this was narrowly defeated at the NEC with a number of right-wingers absent.

An investigation has been launched, also, into Dave Nellist's CLP, Coventry SE, on the pretext of the conduct of the general election cam-

paign, but it is quite clearly an attempt to attack Marxism.

Such actions as these have given the green light to right-wingers around the country to launch local witch-hunts of Militant supporters, as in the Rhondda, and of the left in general, as shown by the attack on supporters of *Labour Briefing* in Exeter. These dying right wing cliques believe they can now get away with anything on the basis of it being rubber stamped by the Appeals and Mediation Committee.

Rank and file

Bristol South illustrates how the committee will furthermore, be used to defend the Parliamentary careers of right wing Labour MPs when re-selection starts.

The committee is an instrument of the right wing, totally unacceptable in the Labour and TU movement. Traditionally in the British and European labour and trade union movement, committees which deal with matters of internal discipline are composed of rank-and-file members elected at annual conference. This helps guarantee their representativeness and guards against the manipulation of the party or trade union.

The NEC's Appeals Committee, however, was established without reference to party conference and it does not contain one rank-and-file member of the party. The committee was established on the basis of a resolution moved on the NEC by Sam McCluskie (NUS) and its membership consists of entirely trade union officials—Ken Cure (AUEW)—Chairperson, Roy Evans (ISTC), Alan Hadden (GMBATU-Boilermakers), Neville Hough (GMBATU-GMW section) and Alex Kitson (TGWU). There is not even one member from the NEC CLP section!

No doubt resolutions will be coming to the NEC condemning the actions of the Appeals Committee and the NEC over Blackburn.

Birmingham - rates up spending down

BIRMINGHAM City Council—a Labour gain in the recent elections—has proposed £17 million worth of "savings" (cuts) in services, along with a massive 30-50% rate rise, to keep within the Tory Government budget guidelines.

This rate rise would mean an average rise per household of £2 per week.

Just the "boost" Birmingham people don't need! The city that was once known as the "workshop of the world" has been devastated by five years of Thatcherism. Unemployment has risen from 5-7% in May 1979 to 16.2% in May 1983 and in some inner city areas it has reached 40%. Fifty school leavers are chasing every job. 13,000 people applied for 6 jobs advertised in the local paper recently!

Dinner ladies

But the people of Birmingham have shown their willingness to fight. Just one small example was the strike by 5,000 dinner ladies on 27 March this year protesting about the then Tory council's plans to cut their wages. They said enough is enough—it's time the Labour councillors said the same.

Workers can't afford to

pay for Government cuts. What was needed was a decisive stand against the Tory onslaught. The Labour Council shouldn't be trying to do the Tories dirty work for them. The lead being given by Liverpool City Council shows just how this can be done, and the results in the local elections destroys the myth that socialist policies frighten away votes.

Long hard summer

A policy of no job losses, no cuts in services and no rent or rate increases to compensate for Tory cuts in grants would have gained a massive vote of confidence in the Labour Party. Instead this city's workers have been stabbed in the back. As the new leader, Dick Knowles said, "It's going to be a long, hard summer and autumn." Not least for the people of Birmingham!

By Paul Ellis
Erdington LPYS
(personal capacity)

Perth right wing routed

THE USUALLY placid atmosphere of Perth Labour Party's monthly meeting was disturbed last week, when the hot wind of controversy raged around the allegedly divisive activities of Militant supporters, who were accused, and pleaded guilty, to organising a lunch time street collection, along with a mid week meeting, in support of the miners. Militant was of course sold at these events.

The activities took place during the district council elections and though over a hundred pounds was raised for the miners' strike fund, we were accused of confusing the electors! Since nobody else was prepared to, we had also organised a bus to take people through to the day of action in Dundee.

The YS was also under attack, and it is to the credit of delegates who support Militant that the carefully prepared attack on Militant supporters and the YS was routed. It was evident from the start that the matter had

been well discussed and delegates given particular responsibilities to intervene on particular subjects. Early in the meeting the more intelligent of the 'Old Guard' realised they were in for a drubbing and tried to pull back, sending out frantic signals to play it down. The less bright, of whom we seem to have more than our fair share, were unable to take the hint and went merrily into the most humiliating defeat the right have suffered in Perth for years. It is obvious though that a serious attack on Militant and the YS was intended and we had reports from reliable sources that I was to be asked to resign from the position of Youth Officer and that expulsions were to be threatened. Though we have good cause to be pleased with this victory and with the calibre of our comrades in Perth, it would be a mistake to assume that this type of attack will not occur again.

One delegate, complimenting the comrades in organising for the miners proposed that the entire CLP follow our lead and organise a street collection in the town centre on Saturday 26th, May, with every delegate and Labour councillor out with collection cans.

By Jim Wilson
(Perth and Kinross LP)

Letters

Write to *Militant*, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

When your politics are an official secret

Dear Comrades,

Late in September last year a letter from the Ministry of Defence arrived through my letter box explaining that in September 1984 a massive exercise lasting a week was to take place in West Germany codenamed "Lionheart 84".

The letter informed me that if I would like to volunteer I was to fill in the tear-off slip and send it back to the MOD.

O good, I thought, not only would I be able to have a good old chat with the squaddies on such things as conditions inside the army, TU rights and the question of the army's role in Northern Ireland but the £200 in pay, made up of bonuses, overseas allowances etc, could go to two very good causes indeed i.e. building a certain daily newspaper in

Britain and a certain socialist group in Northern Ireland.

On reporting at Fenham barracks in Newcastle the following month I was asked if I had volunteered for the exercise. On replying that I had, I was then told that for 'routine purposes' my personal details, such as name, number, rank etc, were to go onto the computer.

O dear, I thought, that computer has most certainly got my details already, remembering that a few months earlier another letter from the MOD (different department) had politely reminded me that I was still under the official secrets act (guess who's been reading *Militant*).

Needless to say I was turned down but of course this had nothing to do with my political beliefs it was just because there were so many volunteers.

Fraternally
Bobby Harker
Gateshead East LP

My 35-hour day

Dear Comrades,

Having read your report of the struggle of West German trade unionists for the 35-hour week, I thought comrades might be interested to know that I have just been told by my boss to work a 35-hour day!

I started my first job since leaving school this week, at a factory making PVC pipes. For a 12-hour day lugging heavy sacks of chemical powder and inhaling its dirty fumes, I am paid six rupees (40p)! This meant I had to leave home and stay with relatives, since my bus fares between home and work came to four rupees, leaving me with 2 rupees (13p) in my pocket! My little brother is working a daily 12-hour shift in the office, for 3.50 rupees (23 pence).

On Monday I was told that the order books were full so we would have to work through the night. I would get ten rupees for this



The importance to all Indian workers of the issue of low pay is illustrated by this Communist Party of India (Marxist) slogan.

but only if I agreed to do my full day shift on Tuesday as well! So I had to work from 8 am on Monday to 7 pm on Tuesday—exactly 35 hours. I'm told this can happen two or three times in one week.

The same day, a 95 kilo sack of powder fell on top of me, spraining my neck. I was dazed, but the boss just screamed at me to carry on working.

I calculate that the boss can't be paying more than

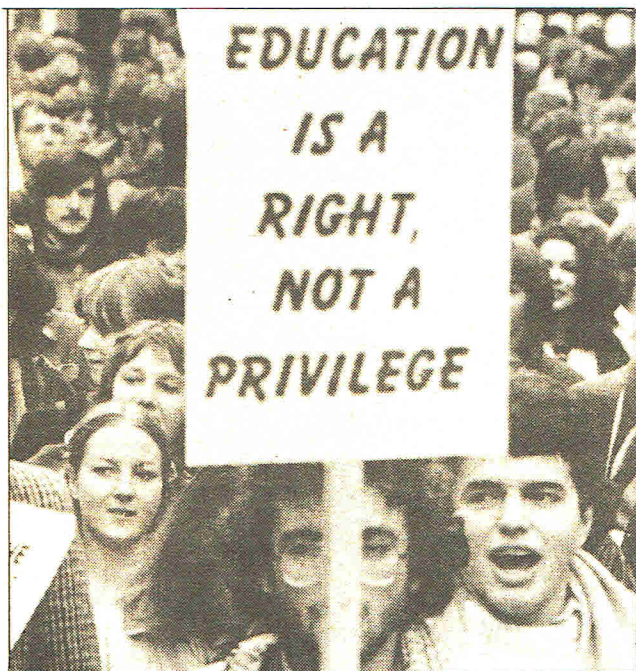
200 rupees a day in wages, plus maybe 800 rupees for materials, powder, etc. But we are producing for him goods worth about 6,000 rupees every day. So he is making a cool profit of 5,000 rupees a day out of us (£330).

My family needs even the pittance my brother and I can earn. My father has been out of work ever since being sacked for going on strike several years ago.

Here in Madras, we've got some way to go before we can organise as effectively as the German workers. But we've got the same fight—to get rid of the greedy parasites who feed off our labour!

Please send me *Militant* every week.

Comradely
Kennedy A Titus
Madras
India



The struggle for Further Education

Dear Comrades,

In case any of you are thinking of doing further education, let me tell you how I got on when I applied to attend Clydebank Technical College in the hope of doing 'O' grades. About a month after I applied I was given an interview date (24 May), so as I was going to be working that day, I took time off work to attend the interview.

At the interview I was told I would not qualify for a grant, because I finished school without gaining qualifications (such as 'O' grades). The interviewer told me the only other way I could attend college without a grant would be if I was on the dole. I could then go to college as a part time student, but to qualify as a part

time student I would have to have been unemployed for three months before the college starting day (27 May) which meant I would need to get paid off from my job within the next few days. Also you had to be paid off—you couldn't resign!

So it seems you even have to be unemployed at the right time (if there is a right time to be unemployed) before you can try to educate yourself.

At the very end of the interview I was told the best thing for me to do would be to go to night classes for a year, get a couple of 'O' grades, then come back next year and they'll see what can be done.

Yours uneducated
Ian Foy
Glasgow

every opportunity he condemns all forms of workers' struggles.

I wonder what the topic of conversation was? Could it have been to discuss how the ruling class are going to reward Len Murray for his magnificent efforts along with the rest of the right wing to disunite and sell out the whole trade union movement?

Yours fraternally
G Hitchen
Rotherham

Priorities

Dear Comrades,

I was reading in the *Daily Mirror* on Wednesday 23 May that Alistair Graham had been invited to Buckingham Palace for cocktails with the royals. It seems he chose to honour this invitation rather than attend a social at his own union conference.

This surely highlights his priorities and answers why at

Just in time

Dear Comrades,

Last week I finished my late turn (shift) and rushed to a pub that does afters and I'm guaranteed a late one. There I met Terry and Bob, who were spending their giros.

I used to work with them in the local Metal Box print shop before we all got kicked on to the dole. I was lucky I got a job. Bob and Terry haven't worked since.

The talk turned to old times and we shocked each other with what had happened to people we knew. Most of the Metal Box workers are still on the dole. But the worst horrors were about the

older blokes who had done their 30-40 years.

All got better than average redundancy. But one has since died of a heart attack, another is going with heart trouble, another is dying of cancer, a fourth has a serious blood disorder. We doubt it's a coincidence, considering the inks and solvents we worked with.

I ended up with a permanent cough and every year had more time out than in my combined time of two years at BR and LT, I have yet to have a day off sick. So much for health and safety under capitalism!

Fraternally
Bob Law
Bermondsey

Leaflets

Dear Comrade,

On Saturday 19 May, 1984, individual members of Hyndburn Labour Party were stopped from giving leaflets containing facts about the miners' strike, in Accrington town centre. We were told that we would be arrested for obstructing the highway if we did not disperse. Although they were technically right, it seems very strange to us as we have been involved in these activities for years without being bothered before.

We first thought that maybe they wanted to stop us from trying to inform the people of Hyndburn of what really was happening in the miners' dispute—the fact

that a striking miner cannot claim benefit for himself, and that £15 is being deducted from his dependents because they assume that he is getting strike pay which is untrue, and the fact that it is the thin end of the wedge, that Mr MacGregor, backed by the Tories wants to close 20 pits with the loss of 20,000 jobs, and that jobs in Hyndburn will be lost as a direct result.

But the true reason for the police stopping us was very soon to come to light. Within one hour of us being moved, the leaders of the local Conservative Party and their supporters were in the same area giving out leaflets without being bothered. I wonder who complained?

Yours,
J Hall
Accrington

Freedom for some

Dear Comrades,

On May 18 the *Friday Live* programme (Tyne Tees TV) discussed 'Freedom'. The guests included miners, Tory and Labour MPs and the police. The Tory MP stated that everyone had 'freedom of speech'. In reality what he was saying was that we have the right to our point of view providing that all we do is speak it. Once we act upon it then the matter is against the law.

He also said that everyone has the 'right to work' and that is why the police must stop miners picketing in Nottinghamshire. What would happen then if all the unemployed marched upon the factories and demanded their 'right to work'?

The Tories just bend and fiddle the laws of the land to keep the working class in control so the idle rich can feed off them like some parasitic insect.

Yours sincerely,
E Celia Saiter,
Barnsley.

LEFT and RIGHT

Wider still and wider—the gap between rich and poor

Since 1978, workers in the bottom 10% of the wages league have suffered a 1% real drop in living standards, while the take home pay of the top 10% has risen by 60%. This has been revealed by the Low Paid Price Index, published by the CPSA and the Low Pay Unit.

At the same time, the government is granting pay increases to top civil servants and judges which will amount to as much as £80 a week, more than many of the low-paid get as their whole wage. Teachers and nurses, amongst many other groups of workers, will be taking note of these facts!

£750—for attending a meeting

How are the mighty fallen! Disgraced former cabinet minister Cecil Parkinson, has been forced to keep body and soul together by taking a non-executive post with Babcock International for a mere £7,500 a year. To earn his crust, Cecil has to turn out to ten board meetings a year. £750 for keeping a chair warm for a few hours is nice work if you can get it.

Is Mrs Thatcher thinking of offering the same crumbs of comfort to the redundant miners and steelworkers whose jobs she has destroyed?

£750—the value of a worker's life

While one big company pays out £750 to allow Parkinson to attend a meeting, another, Taylor Woodrow, has had to pay a £750 fine for failing to make safe a scaffolding tower at the Heysham Power Station site. The result of their negligence was the death of Denis Regan of Lancaster who fell 100 ft from the scaffolding. Even the *Lancashire Evening Post* had to admit, "Too often it seems these days the price of human life is valued too cheaply". They didn't add that it all depends on which human, a building worker for a former cabinet minister.

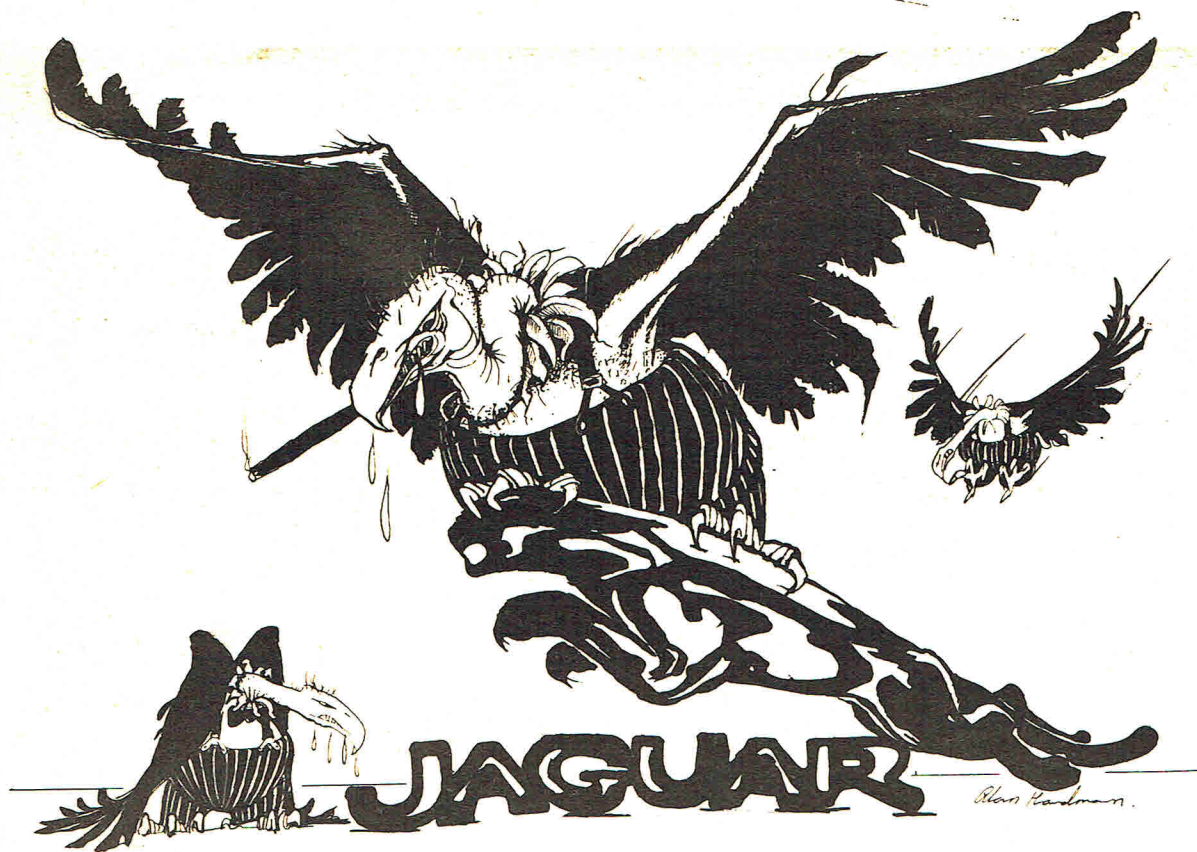
Thanks for this week's Left and Right to
Di Simcox and Tony Hindle.

Militant International Review

SUMMER 1984—

OUT NOW 75p (90p post-paid) Bulk orders post free.

Articles on Britain, Europe, Human Evolution. Available from World Socialist Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.



The battle to save BL

By John McClelland

Part 1 of a major article on the problems facing British Leyland workers.

WITH THE typical calculating heartlessness that we have come to expect from the Tories, the go-ahead has been given to BL to close down the Bathgate Truck plant by 1986, throwing another 1,800 workers on to the dole, leaving Bathgate an industrial desert, facing the daunting prospect of male unemployment going to 50%.

The Bathgate Plant, and its workforce are, in the cold language of big business, surplus to the requirements of the Tory plans for BL as a whole. Like pawns in a game of chess, the Bathgate workers have to be sacrificed on the altar of big business. The Tories' strategy for BL is bluntly—if it makes a loss, close it down as soon as possible. If it is profitable, like Jaguar, then give it off to their vulture-like friends in the City of London.

Having starved the plant of investment, the Tories are now crying crocodile tears and holding their arms up saying that it's "the market". They have claimed that BL trucks division must be rationalised to survive, that there's too much capacity and no "demand" for Bathgate products.

On a capitalist basis, because of the world recession, there might not be a capitalist "demand" but there is certainly a social need for the trucks produced at Bathgate. It was revealed last week that in one "third world" country in Africa (Upper Volta), where there is a raging famine, the problem is not a lack of food but a lack of trucks to transport it. Thatcher can provide millions of pounds in military hardware to all sorts of corrupt regimes but won't invest a few million to keep open much needed factories like Bathgate.

The cost to close Bathgate, with redundancy payments, lost production, lost taxes, social security and unemployment benefit has been calculated to cost £40 million, over the next 5 years, yet BL and the Tories have refused to invest £30 million in a new engine, to be pro-

duced at Bathgate, "the family one", which would provide 70% of BL's truck engines needs.

The closure of Bathgate is just another step in the direction of the complete destruction and break up of BL. Since their election in 1979 the Tories have pursued ruthlessly their strategy for BL. In 1977 it employed 165,000, now just over 80,000. Edwardes, backed up by Thatcher's Cabinet, was with one hand savagely wielding the axe into BL, at the same time with the other, bringing down a mailed fist on top of trade union organisation in the combine.

Bullying and threats

Since 1979, a reign of fear has been unleashed on BL workers, starting with the victimisation of Derek Robinson and going through to the so called "Cowley moles". Trade Union organisation has been delivered blow after blow, with stewards harassed and intimidated at every turn. For any section of the BL workforce who showed dissent, management immediately raised the spectre of the dole queues.

Intimidation, abusive foremen, bullying and a torrent of threats—that's what BL workers have come to expect from management. The famous "washing up dispute" at Cowley last April was about much more than the removal of practice accepted for 30 years, of leaving the line four minutes early to wash up, but was symptomatic of the increasing tension caused by management's overall approach. In a confidential document outlining the findings of a joint management/union investigation into the reasons behind the dispute the team found in the words of the document "that under the pressure to achieve the significant levels of change and increased productivity in the plant some managers have departed from the 'normal' standard of management/employee relationships," i.e. swearing and

abuse.

Car workers are not a delicate section of the working class at the best of times, and bad language is not an uncommon habit in the industry, but the document's euphemistic phrases in no way reflects the anger of Cowley workers at what they have suffered under BL's new style of management.

In the 50's and 60's, the car industry led the way in the development of powerful shop steward committees and BL was no exception. The post war boom not only increased production of cars, but also increased the confidence and strength of the shop floor organisation. Many gains were won on the picket lines, on many occasions, unofficial strikes.

But the period of downturns and recession since the early 1970's has heralded a new era for trade union organisation in the car industry, especially with the onset of the slump in 1979/80, coupled to the leashing of war on the shop floor by Edwardes and Thatcher.

Many union officials, convenors and leading stewards in the industry, in the main good class fighters, had been schooled in the days of the relative upswing in the economy. A certain softness had even crept into the organisations and leaders of the class. But now there is very little room for softness in the character of a trade union organiser in BL or in the whole of the car industry for that matter. To move management even an inch, it now takes tremendous battles and courage on the part of workers in BL.

A new breed of younger militants are being created in the car factories of Britain, who understand that at some stage a battle will be necessary, either over closures, privatisation or wages, to win back the ground that has been temporarily given up. Such a battle will need to be prepared by a new leadership at every level of the trade union organisation, and will

have to be conducted on a combine wide basis, which will mean not only taking on the whole of BL management but also the Tories in the process.

There have undoubtedly been setbacks for carworkers and their organisation at shop floor level, and the task of rebuilding the shop stewards' power will be difficult. In Cowley on the new Montego line, there is not one shop steward as yet for 450 workers, mainly because of the fear of victimisation. That contrasts with the fact that only five years ago, there would have been one steward for every twenty five workers.

But now, the rising mood of opposition to the Tories, headed by the determined struggle of the miners, on top of the underlying hatred of management in BL and the increased sales last year, which raised the confidence of workers at BL, have combined to create explosions in the combine.

At Longbridge recently a week-long strike, ended in a significant victory, forcing management to lift a suspension on six workers for "lack of effort" and also forcing management to take on over 100 new workers on the Metro line. Before the ink was dry on the deal, within two hours, the same workers walked out again over bonuses.

Cowley victory

At Cowley, the victory at Longbridge spurred on sections of the workers there, to walk out over a whole list of grievances, most notably the attempt to introduce a three-shift system which was seen by management as a way of increasing production, but by Cowley workers as an unwanted and anti-social shift. Cowley workers gained a significant victory when management backed down on the three shift system in the face of the overwhelming shop floor response.

These battles show that BL can be defeated, and that confidence is

many if not more "offences" on their record. All this in a company that puts notices round the works that it is "an equal opportunities employer."

Tightening up of discipline and even victimisation of individuals is a regular pattern by management after strikes to reassert their authority. But Longbridge workers can see the company's new success and the recruitment of labour and feel strong enough not to be pushed around any more.

By a Longbridge worker

Longbridge No victimisation!

WITHIN THREE weeks of the victorious strike over manning on the Metro, the Longbridge works is again at a standstill. A stacker driver has been dismissed for striking a foreman, but as a black worker he maintains that he was subject to racial insults by the foreman.

To their credit the whole of the transport section came out and brought the factory to a halt. The company has issued a leaflet to all employees trying to smear this worker with the number of written warnings he has had in 13 years at the factory. Any of the shop stewards would have as

Cowley Fight lay-offs!

WORKERS AT the BL plant at Cowley Oxford are angry at BL bosses for laying them off without pay. Cowley workers fear the dispute could be long, as they have been given UB forms and told to get money from the dole.

Most workers reject management explanations of the lay-offs. Gearboxes from Germany are running out as a result of the West German metal workers' tremendous fight for a 35 hour week and management have been trying to provoke a strike,

especially at Cowley.

Some of the management, using the events at Longbridge, have been trying to stir up racism, giving out handouts saying that a "coon hit a foreman, that's why you are losing your money." There has been some racism at Cowley but this blatant filth has been ignored. Car workers know who's to blame for the stoppage, and will not be fooled by this vile propaganda.

By a Cowley worker

beginning to flow back into sections of BL workers. But many grievances still have to be tackled, and the battle to save BL from the carve-up will have to be fought in the near future.

The whole strategy of the Tories in laying waste large sections of BL and attempting to smash the unions, of course is to achieve their final objective, the privatisation of the whole combine. Like a massive hand-out to their friends in big business, the company will be sold off piece by piece at knock-down rates.

Wholesale privatisation

The closure at Bathgate will leave the way clear to hiving off the Chorley plant in Lancashire, once all truck production is centred there.

The sale of Jaguar, now a rich picking for the vultures in the City of London, will go ahead in the Autumn. Austin Rover, now that it has become a going concern with the introduction of the Metro, Maestro and Montego lines, will no doubt be the next in line for a sell-off, either as a whole or in pieces.

If the Tories are not defeated, there will be very little left of BL as a publicly owned mass vehicle producer by 1988. Like a bad housekeeper the Tories are selling off the family heirlooms to pay for an expensive booze-up with friends at our expense.

Privatisation offers no real future for BL workers, any more than the privately owned multinationals like Fords, Talbot, G&M, offer a future to their workers. There might be a few crumbs for some BL workers in the short term, but in the longer term there can be nothing but insecurity hardship and struggle for all BL workers, under privatisation.

Next week—a programme for BL workers to fight for.

INDUSTRIAL REPORTS

Step up teachers' action

IN THE last few weeks the National Union of Teachers has been flooded with new applications for membership as a direct result of the actions we are taking for pay. Many people feel that now is the time to fight.

Within the NUT, however, there are mixed feelings about present tactics. Across the country there is enthusiasm for taking action but in some areas (ILEA for example), members feel that the current action is not enough to win the dispute.

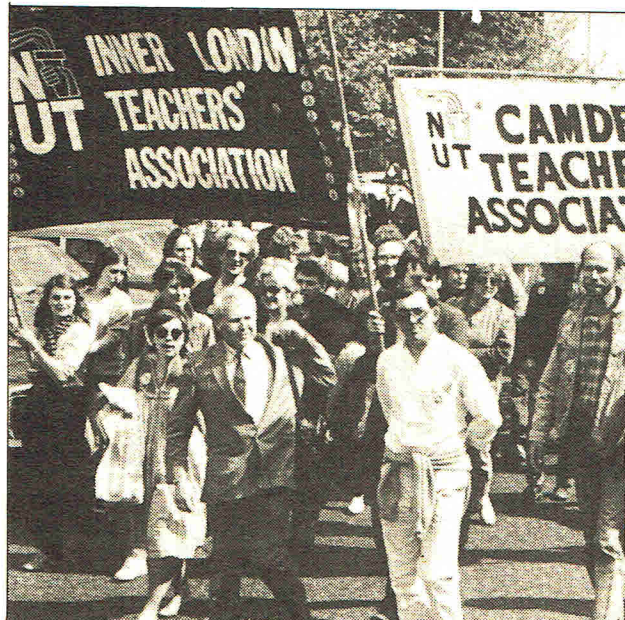
NEC timidity

Only a tiny proportion of the members have been called out and as week three approaches it appears that London will soon be excluded from the action. The executive are prepared for the dispute to continue into next term if necessary and have limited the action to one which they feel is "sustainable for that length of time". Their timidity is only dragging out the dispute, and frustrating the members who are prepared to fight now.

There is a feeling that the withdrawal of good will is not biting enough and causes more problems for the teachers themselves than for the employers. Many teachers would be more willing to take straight forward strike action. Even Doug McEvoy NUT Acting General Secretary had to admit: "We have been somewhat embarrassed by the enthusiasm to take action".

At this stage not all teachers would be prepared to come out on indefinite strike but all schools should be balloted and those which do have the necessary 2/3 majority should be called out immediately, with members still working being levied to boost the strike fund. The executive must urgently resolve the question of sustentation. This union rule which says that members on strike must receive full pay makes national strike action practically impossible and seriously weakens our ability to fight.

Teachers on strike, even on the present three day strike, should be visiting schools still working to convince members of the need for strong uncompromising



Teachers on day of action

Photo: Neil Martenson (IFL)

action if we want a decent pay rise this year. It is dishonest of the executive to pretend that an acceptable settlement will come out of arbitration based on the justice of the case. It will be far more honest to explain that a serious fight on this issue means taking on the Tories and forcing them to back down or leave office.

Future attacks

Once teachers realise this, the need to link our fight with those of other trade unions, especially in the public sector, becomes obvious. The importance of clarifying these issues goes beyond the present dispute.

Next year, if the Tories are still in power, we are likely to face the biggest assault yet on education services. The local education authorities' budget for education will be cut by £20 million next year and 5,000 jobs will disappear. This is before the worst effects of rate capping are felt. Our ability next year to defend our jobs, conditions and the education we offer to our pupils will be largely determined by the outcome of the present battle and the lessons teachers have learned from it.

By Marie Walsh
(Lewisham NUT)

Health service victory against privateers

By Robert Demaine
(Branch Chair, COHSE)

NUPE AND COHSE members have won an important strike against Hospital Hygiene Services (HHS), a private firm which holds the cleaning contract for High Royds Hospital, Menston, Yorks.

HHS started up in 1981 as a subsidiary company of the Care Services Group, based in Saltaire and of which local Tory MP Marcus Fox is a director. HHS are keen to gain further contract work within the National Health Services. In order to create a responsible impression on NHS management and unions alike, they agreed to have a unionised workforce at High Royds, that supervisors insist staff be smartly dressed, that all complaints be dealt with promptly etc. These proposals were agreed by the director then responsible, Mr Ritson who has since been replaced.

Cutting costs

Mr Ritson's replacement refused to recognise NUPE and proposed a reduction in the workforce to reduce costs. The workers then retaliated with a one-day strike. Fearful of bad

publicity affecting future contracts, HHS management quickly agreed to union recognition and maintenance of staffing levels. Ways to reduce costs and increase profits therefore had still to be found.

Cleaning staff employed by HHS work the management's version of a full-time week, 27½ hours, for which they receive a gross wage of £45.10 per week. The company consider this to be full-time employment and a living wage. Men and women cannot easily maintain a decent standard of living on such a wage and the company has previously 'generously' recognised this fact. They have 'allowed' employees to work 'overtime' in evenings and at weekends, although enhanced rates are not paid until a minimum of 40 hours at normal rate has been worked.

Only three weeks ago, in a grievance meeting with union representatives, HHS

management agreed that working weekends would remain normal practice. As these weekend hours only total six, enhanced overtime rates were not the issue as far as management were concerned, but it made a significant difference for employees on a gross pay of £45.10 per week. The company were still not convinced that these costs were sufficiently low!

Strike

Without discussion or negotiation, on Friday 18 May with only two hours' notice, HHS management informed workers that weekend working would stop and casual labour would be brought in to cover these hours. Time allowed for meals, previously 30 minutes, would be reduced to 15 minutes. Union members employed by the company came out unanimously on strike.

The following week the management of HHS made the following moves; first they sent a letter to all striking employees appealing for



Photo: Stefano Cagnoni (IFL)

Pickets try to stop non-union scabs bussed in by police to try to break the Barking hospital strike by NUPE cleaners. At High Royd privatisation was carried out but workers fought on and won.

them to return to work. In this letter they stated; "We understand that the reason for the strike action is due to a reduction of overtime".

The strikers failed to see how the dispute involved a reduction in overtime when enhanced rates of pay were not being paid. They felt that the issue was over hours and this was an attempt by management to cloud over this important point.

The real attitude of HHS management to the strikers was demonstrated on Tuesday 22 May when workers were brought in from HHS's contract at the Claredon Wing of Leeds General Infirmary. These non-union workers were brought in to do the work of the striking union members. The strikers felt that this was a direct attempt to escalate rather than resolve the dispute.

Their reaction to the introduction of scab labour was renewed enthusiasm on the picket lines and an iron determination not to resume work under the terms HHS were forcing upon them.

NALGO CONFERENCE:—

Support councils defying Tories

THE RESOLUTIONS on the agenda of NALGO's Annual Conference this year reflect a growing dissatisfaction amongst NALGO's rank and file. The NEC has provided poor leadership in the face of government attacks on public services and the jobs and living standards of the people who work in them.

No less than 14 resolutions are concerned with the role of NALGO representatives on the TUC General Council during the NGA dispute. NALGO's two lay representatives, who are accountable to Conference, voted to support the NGA, in contrast to the two full-time officials who voted to sell the NGA out.

Rank & file solidarity

Clearly the mood of the rank and file is to support workers in struggle, and they expect their leadership to behave accordingly.

Many resolutions are concerned with the threat of privatisation, including a call for a national day of action against privatisation and a further demand for the next Labour government to renationalise privatised services, with compensation paid only on the basis of proven need.

The debate on local government promises to be a good one, although the NEC are opposing an amendment which calls for support for councils forced to approve deficit budgets to avoid having to make drastic cuts or impose massive rate rises.

Liverpool's example

The largest local authority trade union in Britain cannot bury its head in the sand on an important issue like this.

Events in Liverpool demonstrate that if the workers of the city shared the muddled thinking of NALGO's NEC, there would be a Liberal-Tory coalition in power, privatising and cutting jobs and services!

NALGO members throughout the country will look to conference for a lead in their fight to defend jobs, living standards and services. Any reluctance from the NEC to take up the cudgels in this fight will be remembered next year, when NALGO members elect a new leadership.

By Roger Bannister
(Secretary Knowsley
NALGO Branch)

no objection was envisaged a 'closed shop' agreement.

Great example

All the ground taken away by HHS on Friday 18 May was won back by Thursday 24 May. A small group of low paid workers showed by their courage and resolution that they could fight through the trade unions and win. The 'closed shop' agreement will make it very difficult for HHS ever to engage in a direct attack on the rights of their employees again.

The striking cleaners at High Royds Hospital demonstrated to the Care Services Group that they have a duty to care for their work force as they do for their profit. Just a small dispute, but an effective illustration to all private firms aspiring to pirate the Health Service by penalising the low paid. We can fight back and we will.

Gains

By 24 May HHS management were ready to talk. A meeting was held between management and union representatives from NUPE and COHSE. Management capitulated, weekend work was accepted for such duties and all Sunday work to be paid at double time. It was agreed that additional paid break periods would be granted to those employees extending their normal shift, and it was also agreed that

Thatcher tells Post Office pay up?

THE UNION of Communication Workers' executive is considering a Post Office pay offer as Militant goes to press.

Talks broke down on Wednesday but were resumed. The union's conference voted to give the executive power to call industrial action if no acceptable deal is reached. The government have undoubtedly put pressure on Post Office management to settle, as they did with British Rail, in order to avert a major section of workers joining the miners.

London's postal service is in chaos. The majority of post boxes are closed. The whole of South East London is locked out. Management have suspended workers throughout London arising from unofficial stoppages on Wednesday in support of the pay claim.

Even if a deal is agreed and cuts across these developments, a firm stand will be necessary against victimisations and disciplinary actions arising from the dispute. Further action may also be seen on Wednesday in London against the planned closure of the Knightsbridge Crown Office.

By a London PHG, Union of Communication Workers

The claim is for a 5.2% pay increase (ie. in line with inflation); 3-hour reduction in the working week; negotiations to narrow differentials between postal and management grades. The Post Office offered 4.5% initially and despite their denials intend to link the pay deal with union agreement on new technology and the introduction of all-year-round casuals.

Lessons of dispute

It is rumoured that the PO have agreed to a 5.2% rise but that our leadership will allow them a face-saver, at our expense, of reduced overtime rates.

Events up to Wednesday pointed to management attempting to pre-empt the plan of selective industrial action outlined by the ex-

ecutive, by emptying the offices of work. There are lessons to be drawn from management's response.

The EC strategy reflects the approach of local branches since the defeat of the national strike in 1971, in building up a backlog of mail to bargain with when going into dispute. Under the Tories, management have increasingly retaliated by closing down local areas in dispute and victimising our members.

Though it is important to try to build up a backlog of work, which is central to the selective action strategy, in the face of a management offensive the members must be prepared for all-out strike action. A militant mood has built up in the big district offices, especially among younger members. The executive's job should be to refuse to compromise and to campaign for support from all members.

Preparation for solidarity action would involve approaching rail unions, the TGWU and Telecoms unions, to ensure that in the event of a UCW strike they refuse to take on work normally done by our members.

Action to stop the scab delivery firms who helped to break the '71 strike, already being talked about by the Tories, would be vital.

Local management appeared to be provoking a fight. Along with suspensions and lock-outs they closed down the big money-earning next-day-delivery services. If the Post Office and government think we are easy meat they are badly mistaken. The 1971 strike changed the union and big gains have been won since. Postal workers will not give them up without a fight.

The right time

Yorkshire miners' leader Jack Taylor got three standing ovations at UCW conference. Our union leadership should recognise that with the miners already in struggle there is no better time to smash management and government plans. Even if the Post Office have backed down under government pressure, it is only a temporary truce. They will not drop their demands on new technology which will mean the loss of tens of thousands of jobs or the planned closure of the Crown Offices.

Photo: Morning Star



Locked out UCW members at Borough in South East London.

GMB support Miners —act now!

"WE SUPPORT the miners", this was the stress of David Basnett in his report to the 2nd congress of the General Municipal Boilermakers and Allied Trade Unions in Torquay this week.

He pointed out how the Tories were not just against the miners, but showed an intransigence towards the movement as a whole. He pledged the EC to recommend strong financial support for the miners and also suggested the TUC unions make a major loan to the NUM to help them through their current difficulties. Unfortunately though, there was no hint of solidarity action—which is the most vital support needed.

Dodging responsibility

Earlier he outlined how the past year had been a difficult one for the trade union movement. He blamed the movement for failing to con-

vince the members that Labour was a credible alternative in the last election. He should more accurately have blamed the leadership. He promised major battles over public sector pay and threatened; "There could be a winter of discontent within 18 months unparalleled in its ferocity."

Youth

The debates from the floor were low key at the start of conference. Gordon MacKinley Scottish region delegate and *Militant* supporter called for more youth involvement and specifically for a rule change to set up a youth committee. Basnett agreed to consider this. Brian Hickey of the Southern region, argued for a planned socialist economy in moving resolution 410 which called on the union to fight to preserve industry and jobs.

By Frank Cuthbert



Photo: Jacob Sutton

Pensive Alistair Graham at CPSA conference.

CPSA Broad Left and Graham

THE DECISION of the CPSA National Broad Left Committee not to call a Special Conference of the Broad Left to discuss calls to remove Alistair Graham, General Secretary, from the TUC General Council, will disappoint the vast majority of Broad Left supporters in the union.

Although all four *Militant* supporters on the committee voted in favour, the motions from Kevin Roddy were

defeated. The final decision, however, has got to be made. The Broad Left NEC members meet over the weekend of the 16th/17th June to finally decide the NEC line.

Militant supporters would urge all of those NEC members to do the Labour and Trade Union movement a favour—vote to remove Graham and his cancerous 'New Realism' from the General Council.

Then in the afternoon the Assistant General Secretary, Andy Dodds spoke about BREL closures and the need for regional workshops not to sit back thinking they will be alright, because they will be next for the chop, so we must fight for all job losses not just Swindon and Glasgow. And how a resolution 131 from Brighton calling on the NEC to oppose closures of any main or regional workshops, which was proposed at the 1983 Conference, was not acted upon by all the members—remember Ashford, Shildon, and Temple Mills?

I was half listening to this and thinking how satisfied some of the EC members looked, and how the Unity House lads puffed on their

big cigars, (I wonder who he is?). When Dodds sat down it was questions from the floor.

Call for action

One that stuck in my mind was from D Evans, Liverpool 5, who told Dodds that the NEC were told years ago that we were ready to fight against closures, and did the NEC take any notice, did they offer any leadership "No you let Ashford, Shildon, Temple Mills go down the road without any national action. We don't want to go back to the days of slippery Sid again, so don't tell us of our fights and struggles, give us the leadership, we have been ready for

Shop workers organise

AT THE beginning of last month a campaign was launched by the Oxford Street Association (the employers' union) to open late nights from the 4 to 8 of June in all the major shops in Oxford Street.

This was said to be an experiment only to test the demand for late night shopping—but as was pointed out by activists in USDAW, the shop workers' union—if the employers were allowed to change conditions of employment at whim there would be no stopping them opening 7 days per week 24 hours a day.

Management of the Oxford Street stores first asked for volunteers to work the late night, most offering flexi-time, some grudgingly offering flexi-time or overtime payment as a last resort.

When it became clear to the employers that volunteers were not going to come forward they resorted to intimidation, and pressure was brought to bear on the staff. In Littlewoods, and Olympus Sports, 301 Oxford St, staff were told they

would be sacked if they did not work late nights.

On 29 May there was a meeting of all the shops involved and staff told of the conditions they were being forced to work under, with management constantly pressuring them to work late nights.

The management of Olympus Sports announced that night that they would be pulling out of the late night opening plan. The reason given for pulling out was that Selfridge and John Lewis were pulling out.

The fact is that Selfridge and John Lewis were never involved in the late night plan. This was clearly a victory for the workers of Olympus Sports, 301 Oxford Street and a victory made sweeter by the fact that this is a new branch and the dispute was the first time the staff had ever moved into struggle.

Any reader who works in shops in Oxford Street, West End or surrounding area—join the new West End No1 Branch and join the struggle.

By an Oxford Street USDAW member

A railworkers' rank and file view of conference

ATTENDING MY first NUR Shopman's Grade Conference held over the weekend 12th-13th May at Paignton Devon, it was not what I had expected.

I had been told these do'es are only a glorified booze up and afternoons on the beach. How wrong they were. The hall was packed with over 100 delegates from branches all over the country. We sail-

ed through most of the resolutions; nearly all carried without much talking except to move and second them. The Chairman even commented on the speed of business, and asked for speakers. With such sensible resolutions, aimed at bettering our Victorian working conditions, we didn't need to discuss them much, but I can't see that Tory bootlicker at the BRB seeing it like that.

years, we are now telling you to call an all out strike to stop the closures and to fight for expansion of the railway industries."

This was cheered by all the delegates, and I think the NEC finally got the message, because Dodds didn't look very happy. As it was now 4.30 the NEC wanted to close the meeting but the delegates forced them to hold a show of hands, so more questions could be put. This was carried, and we went on with delegate after delegate expanding on the strike call. We finally finished at 6.00pm.

On the Sunday an emergency resolution from Glasgow 12, amended by Liverpool 5 was put to the Conference. As far as I

know this was carried, but the standing orders committee rejected it. After some discussions, Liverpool 5 called again for a vote, it was again carried unopposed, but again the standing orders committee said it should be remitted. All this utterly confused me, as the resolution only asked for a joint meeting with NUR and CSEU to resist any further destruction of the railway network. Saturday's discussion must have leaked out of Dodd's brain overnight. Still better luck next year at Ayr.

By R Forsyth
(NUR shopman Waterloo and Clapham Junction Branch personal capacity)

Militant

Centre pages:
The Great American Nightmare



89 BK
87
63A
59
55

Reagan not wanted

Demonstrate June 9
Join behind the LPYS National banner in Hyde Park at 11 am. Militants on sale from Speakers Corner from 10.30am.

Rally support for Liverpool Council

SUPPORT IS beginning to build up for the national fightback conference in Liverpool on June 23 but time is short so send your credentials off right away. Delegations so far include Fords at Halewood, Liverpool NGA plus a £50 donation towards the conference, Liverpool POEU internal branch, Manchester DLP, Knowsley DLP, NUPE ambulancemen, G&M branches in Sunderland, Milton

Keynes Trades Council, FBU Strathclyde and many many more.
Heathfield speaking
The speakers include Peter Heathfield, General Secretary of the miners union. Make sure this conference is raised in your trade union branch, shop stewards committee, constituency, YS branch and ward and send your delegations immediately.

DEFEND LIVERPOOL COUNCIL - NATIONAL FIGHTBACK CONFERENCE. Saturday 23 June, at the Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool.
Write to Andy Pink, Conference Arrangements Secretary, Room 41, Central Support Unit, Liverpool City Council, Municipal Buildings, Dale Street, Liverpool L69 2BH.

Name

Address

Organisation



Dublin demonstration 26 May, against Reagan's foreign policy.

Reagan—not wanted! That will be the message from the thousands of protestors who will take to the streets this weekend to oppose the visit to Britain by the President of the United States.

Nuclear horror
He represents US imperialism, a system that has built up an horrific arsenal of 26,000 nuclear bombs and missiles, enough to destroy the world many times over. He represents a system that props up the brutal dictatorships of Latin America, that have persecuted, tortured

and murdered thousands of trade unionists. He represents a system that this year will squander \$264,000 million on weapons of war while cutting aid to the third world.

Widespread anger
Reagan's visit to Ireland provoked widespread anger. The protests will have taken the Reagan administration and the Irish ruling class aback. When Kennedy visited Ireland 21 years ago, 50,000 came out to greet him. Yet when Reagan came last week thousands turned out to oppose him. On the Sunday night of his arrival,

10,000 marched through Dublin. The next day, when Reagan addressed the Dail (Parliament), again thousands took to the streets. Both protests were backed by Dublin Trades Council.

Labour Youth, the youth section of the Irish Labour Party, played an important part in preparing the opposition to the visit. They called public meetings in Dublin, Shannon, Dundalk and Galway. Before demonstrating in Dublin, Labour Youth branches held a street theatre titled "The trial of Reagan", complete with a home-made lie detector that blew a fuse with every piece of nonsense to spill out of

the US President's mouth.

Latin America

The protest in Ireland must be matched by a massive show of opposition to Reagan on Saturday (June 9) in London. The working class of Britain, and internationally, want nothing to do with the war mongering of US capitalism; they don't want Reagan's nuclear weaponry on their door steps and are sickened by the US backed barbarism in Latin America and the Third World.

By Bob Wade

Miners (from page 1)

the pledge of the national president.

It is being suggested that the NCB may simply remove the immediate closure programme in order to end the strike, but, while this would represent a significant climb down on the part of the Tories, the threatened pits would still die, only over a little longer timescale.

Real investment

The Tories have forced us to fight. This battle has lasted over 12 weeks, longer than the 1972 and 1974 strikes together. We should not go back without the issues resolved, the closure programme totally removed and the future of our pits guaranteed.

If these talks break down because we refuse to give Thatcher and MacGregor some face-saving formula, then so be it. The stakes are high for Thatcher and the Tories; they are also high for miners, our families and

communities. If we remain resolute then, sooner or later, they will be forced to appeal to us for new talks and on our terms.

Alongside the demand for no pit closures we should now be advancing the demand that in any settlement, the investment needs should be identified for each and every pit, workshop, washery and plant, particularly those that have suffered chronic under-investment.

We should also advance the following demands:

- ★ A four day week;
 - ★ A substantial increase in pay;
 - ★ An end to the divisive incentive bonus scheme;
 - ★ Retirement with dignity at 55, as of right, with the same level of payment as under the iniquitous redundancy payments scheme;
 - ★ Improved pensions;
 - ★ The recruitment of new young miners to replace all retired miners.
- The miners are winning; let us make sure we win a great victory.



BECOME A
Militant
SUPPORTER!

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

Name

Address

SUBSCRIBE!

BRITAIN & IRELAND	EUROPE (by air)	REST OF WORLD (by air)
13 issues . . . £5.00	26 issues . . . £11.00	26 issues . . . £16.00
26 issues . . . £10.00	52 issues . . . £22.00	52 issues . . . £32.00

Name

Address

Make cheques payable to Militant, and return to the Circulation Department, Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

Donate

I would like to donate £ . . . p each week /month to the fighting fund.

Sell

I would like to sell _____ papers per week (minimum 5) on a sale or return basis.