

Stop all coal for miners' victory

SHIREBROOK RAIL workers' decision not to move coal for two weeks has been welcomed with enthusiasm.

Jim Robinson (Notts NUM Strike Co-ordinator) told *Militant*: "Striking Notts miners salute the action taken by rail workers at Shirebrook. It's a fantastic example to working miners in Nottingham."

"It's a real morale-booster for us. It means that we have not got to fight on two fronts—road and rail. Absolutely brilliant."

"Now even miners in Notts are talking about winning. There is no way the NCB can easily use road as an alternative. One train-load takes the equivalent of 200 lorries. Instead of a seven hour shift, they are now having to load coal every day from eight in the morning to nine at night."

"The best thing that happened was that *Mirror* article last week. Now that Shirebrook is out, there is pressure on Toton depot to come out too."

The Shirebrook decision had been taken after a meeting addressed by the general secretaries of the railway unions, Jimmy Knapp and Ray Buckton. Rail workers from several other depots turned up to explain why they were taking action and to ask why

By Bill Esmonds
(NUR, Nottingham)

Shirebrook had not.

The result is a tribute to the work of those rank and file railway workers who have been making every effort in the last two months to bring their workers into line in support of the miners.

Notts rail action

Already the vast majority of rail workers have blacked coal movements including depots in coalfields where many miners are still at work. This is not only out of loyalty to their union decisions but because they understand that the miners' fight is for our own jobs and

£36,000 in 3 weeks

THERE ARE just over three weeks to go to the end of the Fighting Fund quarter (7 July) and still £36,000 to raise! We urgently appeal to all our readers and supporters to send us a donation—£5, £1 for the paper, 50p—we need cash now for the resources necessary for a daily workers' paper.

trade union rights.

Only three depots had refused solidarity action with the miners. Now that Shirebrook has taken this decision, rank and file action will be making every effort to win over the other two depots.

The Shirebrook decision was of key importance because that depot moves exclusively coal, and serves a wide area of the Nottinghamshire coalfield. Our aim must be to stop all coal movement during these next two weeks and to make sure that the ban stays on until this fight is won.

Of course management have attempted intimidation by sending home men who refuse to work coal trains. This is nothing new. Men who blacked coal have been verbally threatened, sent home continually without pay and even subjected to interview by the police.

Continued on back page

The highest amount ever raised in one week was £18,000; we have three weeks now to double that. Your magnificent help and financial support in the past has been tremendous—if that effort is matched now we can raise that money and go forward to build for a socialist future.



30,000 miners and supporters marched through London last Thursday (details p7).

Photo: A Wierd (Report)

Year of Thatcher, week of protest

JUST A year ago the bosses were jubilant at the Tories return to office for a second term. They gleefully wrote off the labour movement thinking they could push through their anti-working class policies unheeded.

Yet the Tory government celebrated their first anniversary by facing a week of demonstrations. In the past seven days hundreds of thousands have taken to the streets to protest at all aspects of Tory policy.

200,000 CND rally

There has been widespread anger at the friends Thatcher chooses to keep. On 2 June, 30,000 demonstrated against South African Premier Botha when he visited Britain. A week later 200,000 marched against Reagan and the policies of US imperialism, with thousands taking part in sit-down demonstrations around the economic summit (report p.7).

These are one aspect of

By Bob Wade

the struggle against the Tories. The miners' strike itself has shattered the arrogance of the Thatcher government. Despite a continual barrage of propaganda from the Tory press, despite 14 weeks of strike action, the strike is gaining momentum.

On Saturday 50,000 marched through Edinburgh for the miners' gala. Two days earlier, 30,000 miners marched through London to lobby Parliament. Added to this have been many local protests and rallies in support of the miners, such as the GLC rally for jobs on Sunday, attended by thousands, or the Liverpool LPYS festival which attracted 3,000.

This momentum is continuing. This Tuesday (12 June) 20,000 joined a miners' rally in Cardiff.

Solidarity action with the miners is growing, with walkouts and stoppages by transport workers, and regional strikes. Trade unionists know that a victory for the miners will be a gain for the whole of the labour

movement. Already their action has forced the Tories to concede to the demands of the rail and Post Office workers, and there is growing pressure on the Tories over the teachers.

The Tories are desperate not to fight a battle on two fronts. But the Tories' sighs of relief over the rail workers and postmen will only be short lived. Workers in the gas and water industries, the local authority manual workers and those in the health service are presently squaring up to the Tories over pay and conditions.

Growing isolation

The increasing tempo of strikes, protests, demonstrations and rallies illustrates the growing isolation of the Tory government. In every direction they turn, they face opposition. The leadership of the labour movement must offer a clear socialist alternative to win for Labour and socialism those thousands who have taken to the streets and make sure the Tories days are well and truly numbered.

LP black sections conference

LAST SATURDAY (9 June) about 200 black members of the Labour Party met for a one-day conference in Birmingham to discuss proposals for setting up black sections within the Labour Party.

Given the good turnout, it was a pity that the organisers threw away what could have been a good opportunity to have a thorough discussion on how to take the struggle of blacks forward. They insisted from the outset that the proceedings be limited largely to discussing constitutional, rather than political issues.

The mood of the conference clearly reflected the justified anger felt by many

blacks at the failure of past Labour governments to tackle the problem of racism and discrimination.

The failure of the Labour leadership to deal with the problems facing blacks is a key issue, but unfortunately none of official speakers who addressed the conference were prepared to take this up. At no time was there any attempt by the platform to analyse why the policies of previous Labour governments had failed. Nor was there any attempt made by self-appointed black "leaders" to put forward an alternative programme that could act as a basis for mobilising black workers in the fight against racial oppression.

Instead, they simply dismissed the *entire party* as

"racist" because the party leadership had so far failed to provide a sufficient number of top jobs for blacks.

Organisational issues

Many of those who were allowed to speak in the opening session argued that it was necessary to change the party's rules to set-up black sections in order to secure positions for blacks as MPs and even to influence the allocation of local authority grants. Some of the official speakers showed their own contempt for black workers by making veiled threats not to "deliver" the black vote if changes were not made!

Limited to discussion of

purely organisational issues, it wasn't long before the entire conference degenerated into an endless wrangle over rules and procedure. There were constant interruptions as speaker after speaker went to the rostrum to make "points of order", complaining that the organisers were attempt to "railroad" decisions without adequate discussion. About a third of those attending actually left before the end of the morning session.

The first opportunity for general political debate came late in the afternoon when speakers from the floor were invited to make contributions, although limited to only two minutes.

Militant supporters, despite the fact that none of them had an opportunity to speak for most of the con-

ference, were constantly subjected to abuse. But undeterred, a number who were eventually called in to speak (for two minutes!) argued that the whole issue of black involvement in the Labour Party was primarily a political question, not an organisational one.

Militant speakers pointed to the special plight of blacks, explaining that black workers were the hardest hit by mass unemployment, bad housing and declining social services.

Recognising the need for more black representatives, the supporters of *Militant* explained that the best way of achieving this was to recruit more black workers to the party. But this could not be done so long as the party remains committed to

a programme of immigration controls. On the other hand, a programme of bold socialist action to tackle mass unemployment, poverty and racism would attract the active support of black workers.

At a time of unprecedented attacks on living standards by this vicious Tory government the need for maximum unity between workers has never been greater. Organising the labour movement into separate racial sections could cut across the struggle to build a united movement to confront the Tories.

By Bob Lee

A FULL analysis of separate black sections will appear in a future edition of the *Militant*.

Militant

Secret talks Rank and file must decide

THE TORIES strategy to break the miners has failed. The "industrial Falklands" they hoped for is decisively beyond their grasp.

Despite their now revealed manipulation behind the scenes, the attacks of the media, the coordinated use of the police and the courts, despite even the failure to bring out on strike the majority of the Nottinghamshire coalfield, the solid hard core of miners have shown their determination to win.

It looks increasingly as though the Government are looking for a way out. The longer the strike goes on, the more coal stocks go down and the pendulum swings in the miners' favour.

The Tories are therefore concentrating all their hopes on the secret talks now being undertaken by the NCB and the NUM leaders. They are perhaps hoping to open up disagreements in private between members of the NUM negotiating team or on the NEC of the union, in order to wring concessions from the miners.

But the miners are winning. They need make no concessions on their original demands. Moreover, after having stayed out for so long and having sacrificed so much, they will not want to go back now without a complete victory.

Additional demands

The assurances given on Sunday by Arthur Scargill, therefore, that the dispute will continue "until and unless Mr MacGregor withdraws the pit closure programme" will be welcomed by striking miners. The NUM president also mentioned a series of other demands that the union will be putting to the NCB, including a settlement of the wage claim, early retirement, longer holidays, abolition of the bonus scheme and a shorter working week.

But while Arthur Scargill is talking in these terms, the press reports of the NCB's new *Plan for Coal*, suggest that they still want a massive run-down in manpower. The Board have talked about

"substantially higher pay" but for a "smaller workforce" and they will be doing their best to implant this idea into the minds of at least some of the right wing union NEC members.

Arthur Scargill, in another statement in tune with the feeling of the miners, has said that any deal struck with the NCB will have to go before a special delegate conference.

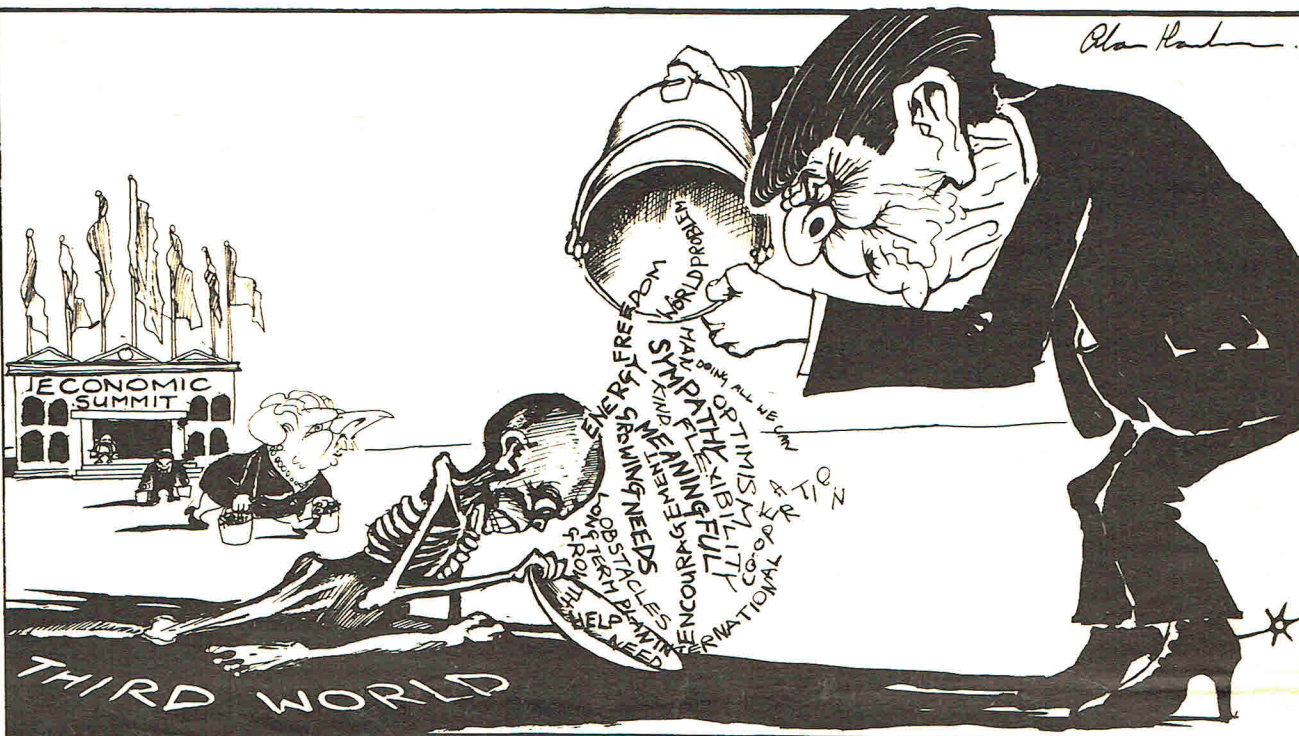
But the special conference that the press seem to have in mind is the conference of July 11 and 12, arranged in place of the full annual conference. It has been suggested that a deal might be arranged even in the next two weeks, to be presented to the conference.

Such a time-table is dangerously compressed. Any deal agreed provisionally by the NUM negotiators must be subjected to the most open and complete scrutiny of the union rank and file. Special mass meetings should be organised at all branches and at area level.

The special conference that decides on the matter should be represented by two or three delegates from every colliery and work-place. Rank and file miners should decide on the investment needs of their pit and their area and they should be the ones to calculate the value of any NCB 'guarantees'.

At the end of the steel strike four years ago, the lay members who made up the negotiating committee were pushed aside and a deal struck between the BSC and a team comprising only union full-time officials, leaving a legacy of bitterness after the strike. What was won on the picket line was given away at the negotiating table.

The traditions of democracy in the NUM and the public declarations of Arthur Scargill should ensure that the same does not happen with the mine-workers. Meanwhile, union activists should not be lulled by the talks into a false sense of complacency. Picketing should continue and solidarity action stepped up until the miners can claim the victory they deserve.



India shaken by Sikh protests

THE NATION-WIDE mutinies of hundreds of Sikh soldiers, protesting against the government's decision to storm the Golden Temple at Amritsar, has underlined the depth of the political crisis facing Indian society.

By John Pickard

The Sikhs constitute only 2 per cent of the total population but have always played an important role in the armed forces where they make up 15 per cent of the total strength. Prime Minister, Mrs Gandhi hesitated to order the invasion of the Temple for fear of just such a backlash among the Sikh community. But neither could she tolerate the continued existence of an armed fortress and a movement led by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale which based itself on a campaign of assassination of Sikh opponents and the indiscriminate murder of Hindus.

Sikh independence

Ironically, it was Mrs. Gandhi herself who pushed Bhindranwale into prominence. When she was out of government in the late 1970s she promoted Bhindranwale's group as a counter-weight in the Punjab to the main Sikh party, Akali Dal. She is now paying the price by having to struggle against a growing Sikh movement for 'Khalistan', an independent Punjab.

But the crisis in the Punjab is only one part of the

general development of nationalism, regionalism and communalism in India. After 37 years of 'independence', capitalism and landlordism has proved itself utterly incapable of unifying the Indian nation.

Even in the 'best days' of India's capitalist development, in the years of the post-war economic upswing, there were always regional and communal tendencies that fed off the crippling impoverishment and underdevelopment. Now, in the cold draught of world recession, India's economic and social problems are multiplying, and communal clashes with them.

Indian capitalism can offer no way out of the cycle of hardship, misery, poverty and degradation faced by the mass of the population. In a recent survey of India the *Financial Times* correspondent commented: "...the worry is that troubles will increase as India's patchy economic development increases the gaps between rich and poor and between those with permanent jobs and homes and those without any such prospects for a generation or two."



Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

Part of the Sikh protest march in London on June 10.

(*Financial Times* June 11—our emphasis).

Such a perspective means, whether for the most downtrodden castes or for relatively privileged groups like the Sikhs, greater economic insecurity and an inevitable growth of inter-communal rivalry. Capitalist India faces the prospect of increased regionalism among all its 22 states and the possible break-up or 'Balkanisation' of the national state.

The only unifying force that exists in the whole of Indian society is the working class. Indian workers have been engaged in titanic struggles over the last few years, including strikes of hundreds of thousands of workers some for periods longer than a whole year.

Indian capitalism is leading society into an abyss.

The hundreds of deaths from recent Sikh-Hindu, or Moslem-Hindu violence are as nothing compared to the horrors of the future, unless the working class puts its stamp on developments.

Working class

Armed with the programme of socialist revolution, mobilised and organised in the spirit of workers' solidarity and internationalism, the working class can put itself at the helm of Indian political development, drawing in its wake the many-millioned peasantry, the dispossessed, the poor and the underprivileged. For the Indian masses and for India as a unitary state, the organised working class is the only hope for a future.

Miners' dispute

The great "revolt"

THE DECISION by Tony Robson and Bob Coppin not to cross picket lines at Houghton Main Colliery is a victory for determined picketing.

The two winders started work on 4 June after an illegal postal ballot had resulted in a 58% majority to return to work. However, it is understood that only 13 out of the 76 members of the branch actually voted! A small token picket was mounted similar to those in the first week of the dispute when Coppin was the only scab in the Yorkshire area.

Police come unstuck!

However, in contrast to that first week, the police outnumbered pickets by about 3 to 1. On Tuesday in response to the police tactic a larger number of pickets were assembled. Coppin and Robson were delayed firstly while police reinforcements arrived and secondly whilst the padlock in the security barrier was cut off, it having been glued together with super glue the previous evening!

On Wednesday and Thursday attempts were made by the police to corral pickets but they failed despite the use of horses and hundreds of police. Pickets were able to assemble in the

By John Chapman
(Houghton Main NUM)

narrowest part of the lane, the police then resorted to escorting the two scabs past the pickets at high speed, putting both pickets and police at risk.

On Wednesday the danger was so great that when the police broke it was the front line pickets that pushed back and enabled everyone to get away from the speeding convoy. After negotiations between the police superintendent and the two winders on Thursday, Coppin and Robson said that they would cease crossing picket lines adding, "We'll decide whether to return to work or not after talks between the NCB and the NUM".

Coppin and every working miner should realise that these talks now taking place are the result of 13 weeks struggle. Without that, Cortonwood would now be just a memory. He imagined that a drift back to work was possible in Yorkshire.

Instead, Coppin now needs 24-hour police protection, he is an outcast in his own community, Houghton Main miners will never work with him again.

"The jails won't stop us" — Malcolm Pitt

Malcolm Pitt, Kent miners' leader spoke to Barry Lewis (Thanet North Labour Party).

I'D LIKE to thank all the *Militant* supporters and the Labour Party Young Socialists who have sent messages of solidarity and contributed to the campaign which successfully brought my own trial forward to June 7 from July.

Kent miners have stated quite clearly that we will not allow police brutality, magistrates courts run by local landowners and

businessmen, or even their prisons, to prevent us winning this dispute.

The nature of the legal system has been sharply revealed by the abuse of the bail conditions which take away statutory rights to picket won by working class action over 100 years ago.

The Kent miners state that our trade union rights are not negotiable, we are convinced we have the sympathy and support of broad sections of the labour and trade union movement. Already we have received tens of thousands of pounds and accommodation for pickets

and badly needed supplies of food from trade unionists in the South East of England.

"Abolition of capitalism"

We have also received active solidarity from railworkers seamen and transport workers stopping the movement of coal and other fuels. Also in my own imprisonment, SOGAT and Fleet Street electricians offered to stop the national newspapers as a gesture of solidarity.

We see the miners strike

not just as an industrial battle for jobs, but of a vital political importance for the future of the entire working class. Victory will be a massive step forward towards the return of a Labour government, this time committed to implementing the policies of the labour and trade union movement, and fighting as hard for the working class as the Tories fight for their own class.

Then we can look forward to the realisation of one of the lesser known objectives of the NUM "the complete abolition of capitalism."



Photo: Andrew Ward (Report)

The arrest of this miner near the House of Commons started the battle between police and miners. Most miners thought the police were looking for arrests.

Obstructing injustice

SECTIONS OF the press managed to make the arrest of Dave Nellist MP for Coventry South East at the 7 June lobby look like he had been leading a riot. I was an eye witness at the arrest, and it was nothing of the kind.

A miner from the Castleford area of Yorkshire was one of many thousands peacefully demonstrating in London that day. With him were his wife and daughter aged 9. As the girl wanted to

see the police horses, the three crossed the road over Westminster Bridge with the miner's daughter holding a placard.

Tore up placard

Enter the police to detain the miner and tear up the young girl's placard. She was in tears. The police had been telling miners to cross by the subway and anyway no placards or banners were

allowed within a mile of Parliament, presumably for fear of frightening the MPs.

Dave Nellist was the MP on the spot and far from feeling threatened by the miner's family holding placards he was horrified at the brutal police behaviour and questioned their actions. The miner's family were not even in a crowd so there was no question of "rioting".

For standing up for the rights of this family, police officers M313 and M683

took Dave Nellist away to the police station which meant he could not see the miners' deputations. The police gave the reason as obstruction, though everyone could see that three policemen were causing more of a blockage than one MP. Dave was later released with no charge.

By Roger Shriver

Workers show their support

North East

THE NORTHERN region TUC has called an official day of action for Friday in support of Northumberland and Durham miners. Even though this falls short of a one-day general strike there is no doubt that tens of thousands of workers will be out.

This is mainly because the miners have actively canvassed for support. On Tyneside 110 shop stewards' committees have been visited and support is rolling in. This underlines the vital necessity of taking the miners' case to other workers.

Only direct appeals will work. Circulars and instructions from the top will not suffice, it needs active campaigning work followed up by the formation of joint committees of workers so that campaigning can be organised.

For Friday ship yard workers have decided to take half day strike action, and support is coming from local authority and transport workers. NUPE and the NUR are recommending support to their members, as are the firemen.

Throckley brickworks have had a mass meeting and will be out for the day, Thorn Heating will be out for the day, William Press for a half-day strike. Support is also likely from hospitals and DLOs.

On Friday night a benefit in support of the miners has been organised by the LPYS and BLOC in Newcastle city hall.

By Dave Cotterill

Wales

THE WALES TUC Day of Action on 12 June was a great success even though the TUC did little to organise for it. 20,000 marched on a practically spontaneous demo.

About 3,500 to 4,000 hospital workers were on the march and hospitals were maintained on a minimum staff. Dockers in Cardiff, Newport and Barry struck as did workers at Renold, Sanders Valves and clothing manufacturers in Ebbw Vale and Brynmawr. Most National Welsh depots were out and many railworkers.

Elections for non-strikers only?

THE TORIES have attempted to deride Dennis Skinner MP over the defeat of his brother in the Nottinghamshire NUM area elections.

The Notts elections were held over the weekend for branch and area committee positions, and miner Gordon Skinner was up for re-election at Gedling.

Dennis Skinner told *Militant* that the ballots were like 'Latin American elections' as they were held at the pithead: "That would have meant striking miners crossing their own picket lines under police protection and they were not prepared to cross." The ballot was therefore in effect only open to those miners still working.

The results where ballots were held at the pithead

despite official picket lines should be compared with the results at the Bolsover colliery. Here, where the majority of miners are on strike, the ballots were held in the local Parish Hall.

Majority for strike

Although the former secretary Geoff Poulter was defeated, the majority supporting the strike on the committee was maintained. This was despite the difficulty faced by many striking miners, some of whom live up to 10 miles away, in attending the ballot through lack of finances, while those miners working had transport laid on for them.

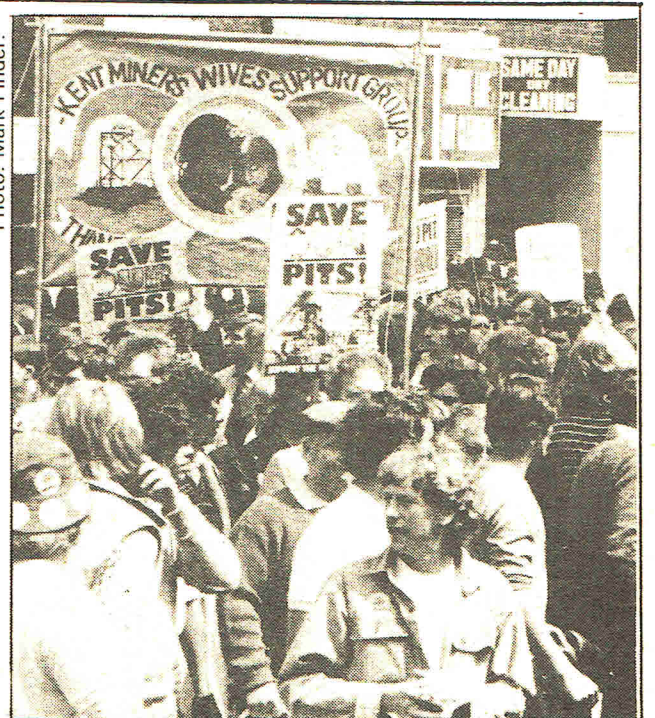


Photo: Mark Pinder.

Section of the miners demo on 7 June.

Miners' dispute

The wealth in coal

I HAVE come across a pamphlet headed the *Ever growing wealth in coal*, published by NCB Public Relations Department. It starts: "a lump of coal conceals untold wealth". In deed it does.

It continues: "It is a constant challenge to our scientists". Only a small percentage of coal mined in Britain goes towards scientific treatment, but an expansion in the coal industry would in turn expand the by-products produced from coal, keeping miners in work and employing more elsewhere.

When coal is fed into the giant ovens with internal temperatures up to 1300°C the coal softens and gives off thick brown smoke which is

What remains after the coal has cooled is coke, needed for iron smelting, for once we had a good steel industry until McGregor was appointed as chairman of this national corporation.

By a Kent miner

trapped. This contains gas, tar and a commercial liquor. This brown smoke can be converted into an enormous variety of products including nylon, saccharine, sulphuric acid, explosives, drugs, detergents, perfume, plastics, household cleansers, fertilisers, pesticides, dyes, wood preservatives, weed killers, fire lighters, lacquer and enamel.

Only the rich gain

What we need now is a strong Labour government with a strong socialist programme, so that the people of Britain can get some of the rich rewards that they work for. At present, under the Tories everything is cut so that only the rich get richer.



Photo: Rick Mathews (FL)

30,000 or more attended the Miners Gala Day in Edinburgh on 9 June.

Women organise for victory

IRENE WATT and Margaret Wegg from Cardowan Miners' Wives Action Committee spoke to Margie Hughes.

MARGARET explained that the whole community was solidly behind the miners. All her family are involved in the dispute. Her father worked in the pits for 49 years, even her mother, an OAP; said that there would be nothing left of Maggie Thatcher if she got hold of her.

Margaret and Irene had to watch last September while the Scottish Coal Board closed Cardowan pit. Three of Margaret's family including

herself were left without jobs.

Irene's husband was transferred to another pit. "Everyone knew that Cardowan pit had 20 years more coal left, but although working people need the coal the NCB refused to invest any money". Irene's husband was offered a job in Fife where the travelling time now adds four hours on his day. "He has to pay excessive travelling expenses and if you want to do any overtime on a Saturday he has to provide his own transport and leave the house at 3.45 in the morning.

"My husband can't afford a car, he can barely keep me and the kids on £85 per week

and he can't take advantage of any overtime". Margaret also explained about MacGregor's so-called "non-compulsory redundancies". "I was offered another job in the canteen in Fife but I was expected to make my own way there and to start work at 5 am! How could I possibly do that job with a family to look after?"

Speaking at meetings

Now Margaret's time is spent in the action committee which provides meals for some 50 people daily and now more and more the Action Committee members are speaking at meetings.

THE BIGGEST public meeting in Chorley (Lancs) for the last ten years was organised by Chorley Labour Party Women's Section support of the miners. Over 120 attended.

Miners from Bold, Sutton Manor and Parkside Collieries were there; some just off picket duty at Ellerbeck Open-Cast Site near Chorley. The site is owned by the NCB, but work is contracted out to Norwest

Holst Mining Ltd, who employ non-union labour. Pickets estimated that over 2,000 tonnes of coal a week is leaving the site, although they have managed to turn away diesel supplies, T&G members are refusing to cross a picket line.

A pledge of solidarity was given by a NUPE member at the meeting, who said, "We nurses haven't forgotten the tremendous support the miners gave us in the 1982 NHS dispute".

Christine Sullivan from St Helen's Miners' Wives Ac-

tion Group spoke of the playgroups which released mothers to get active; the centres to give advice over payment of bills and Supplementary Benefit entitlements, and organise door-to-door food and clothing collections. As Christine said, "Now the women have become aware of their strength and capabilities!"

By Joan Beale
(Chorley Labour Women's Section secretary)

Around the world

MILITANT HAS received the following letter from trade unionists in Boston, USA.

"The General Council of District 65, United Auto Workers, AFL-CIO, New England Division sends unequivocal support to the striking National Union of Miners.

"As working people in the US we have also been forced into battle with both government and big business, in defence of a decent living, dignity on our jobs and future for our youth. Attacks against working people are no longer confined to national boundaries, but are happening worldwide.

"Your fight in Britain serves as both warning and as acknowledgement that we are in the same battle together."

THE JUSOS (Young Socialists) in the German industrial town of Remscheid sent a message of support.

"We are watching very closely your tremendous struggle through the media here and the British Marxist paper *Militant*.

"In their fight for the 35 hour week the West German trade unions are also confronted with a reactionary alliance of bosses, government and bourgeois press. (See page 10—Eds)

"All the more important are examples in other countries, where workers nevertheless take up the struggle against mass unemployment.

"We fully support your strike and wish the outcome will be a success".

By Angela Bankert
(Chairperson Jusos)

THE SWEDISH union of miners have decided to set up a fund for humanitarian support of British strikers.

In 1984 Swedish miners have been out in several short strikes in response to attempts to lower wages. The biggest strikes were in the North where 3,000 out of the total 20,000 work. After years of cuts in real wages, they are determined to get a real rise and a fixed income rather than bonus payments.

Swedish mines are beginning to show profit and the workers want a share. It looks like they have succeeded. The state owned mine bosses have been forced to retreat. Miners forced through their biggest demand rejecting a wage system based on productivity and calling for no increase in pressure on the workplaces. For the first time in years miners will get a rise.

By Per Olsson



Photo Nick Wrack

Kent Miners from Aylesham show their support for *Militant*.

No victimisation of strikers!

PAUL KULIKOWSKI is just one of 30 miners on strike at Sutton Colliery in Notts. Last week he got a letter from his colliery saying that his resignation had been accepted. But Paul had never asked to leave the pit!

This "practical joke" of the forged resignation letter nearly cost Paul his job. It is just one of the problems faced by strikers in this area. Paul told *Militant*: "There is talk that in any group if even just two men were not striking and all the

rest were, the strikers would be moved to inferior jobs.

Recruitment policy

"They're talking of no education courses and of a new recruitment policy from families with no tradition of striking miners".

"This kind of thing makes us more determined to win this dispute and ensure there's no victimisation of miners who were loyal to their union's fight for jobs".

COLLECTIONS HAVE gone well in Glasgow. Led by the A Team (see last week's *Militant*) miners and *Militant* supporters have collected over £2,000 during two collections outside Hampden Park, while £252 was collected outside Ibrox at last Saturday's Junior Cup Final.

TWENTY-FOUR miners are out in Leicestershire. The estimated cost of policing up to now is £5.5 million in Leicestershire alone.

At Rawdon colliery in South Derbyshire, the craftsmen walked out in a dispute over shifts (5 June). The management wanted to alter the 'day' and 'afters' shift to day and nights. The craftsmen are back now, but the working miners are not as 'solid' in their strike-breaking as the press suggests.

They had been served by the women and then mingled with other miners, obviously hoping to glean information from them. But now they were caught out and the women refused to let them in.

Dennis Skinner MP is to make an official complaint to the Home Secretary and the Chief Constable about the incident. He wants a full inquiry and wants to know what action will be taken against the two officers for stealing food owned by the miners.

Hallo, Hallo

CLEAR EVIDENCE of the use of police agent provocateurs in the miners strike has been revealed in Worksoy last week.

Two police officers posed as pickets on 5 June at the Bath House Cresswell Community Centre, which is being used by miners' wives to

provide food and drink for striking miners from Cresswell colliery.

The two officers, a Detective Sergeant and a PC, both in plain clothes, came to the centre's door and demanded entry to investigate alleged damage to a police vehicle. But one of the women recognised them—they had been in the centre one and a half hours earlier pretending to be pickets.

The Dutch connection

THATCHER's plans to take on the miners have been prepared for years. Her contingency plans for confrontation have not been limited to Britain. For two or three years British electricity boards have been stockpiling coal in Rotterdam, in the Netherlands.

Pieter van der Put, formerly working for the EMO company where the coal is stored told me: "It's been going on for years. The coal has been stocked so as to avoid spontaneous burning."

"It was quite well known by the workers that this coal was to be transported to Britain in case of 'trouble'. To the best of my knowledge none of the coal has been moved as yet. I suppose

that the coal could be transported in small coasters to non-union ports and wharves in Britain.

International solidarity

Examples like this show the practical need for an internationalist approach by workers in struggle. Given the traditions of trade union solidarity in the docks, Dutch workers would respond positively to any call for blacking by the British NUM.

By Ton Hesp (PVDA Dutch Labour Party)

there must be similar stocks in other ports along the European coast."

It looks like the main reason for the coal not being moved is the effective picketing of many British ports and solidarity action by workers in these ports. But there is still the danger

The coal board's dirty tricks

BILSTON GLEN colliery in Midlothian, Scotland has a very high percentage of miners over 55. This letter from the colliery manager shows the propaganda being churned out to try to split the workers.

The NUM must answer all the Coal Board propaganda which tries to blame miners for the state of pits, instead of the woeful lack of investment by the NCB over the years.

NCB blames miners

"As you know it has always been my policy to communicate with you, keeping you up to date on the position at the colliery. Despite being into the 12th week of industrial action, I still feel that I should keep you informed of the up to date position at the pit.

"In general, underground conditions are reasonable, although the facelines are showing signs of deteriora-

tion: this will no doubt worsen the longer the industrial action continues and there must be a real possibility that facelines might not be in a suitable condition for production once the dispute is settled.

"As a direct result of the industrial action the colliery has lost valuable overseas and home markets which would have accounted for approx. 15% of the colliery's output. It will be very difficult indeed to recoup these markets—we must never forget that secure markets are the lifeline of any business.

"The financial burden placed on the colliery by industrial action must cause us all concern because we all realise that in any business heavy losses do not make for a secure and prosperous future. The way forward must come from efficient working units, creating wealth for all mining families.

"It is evident from the number of enquiries about redundancy that the majority of workmen at Bilston Glen are disillusioned with the present industrial action, it can only be hoped that

there is a speedy return to normal working.

"The stock of "run of mine" coal which was being washed to provide fuel for beneficiaries, OAP's, hospitals, etc. is now finished. The Board have proposed that coal stocks should be transported from Blindwell's opencast to supply these customers—the NUM have, so far, not agreed to this proposal.

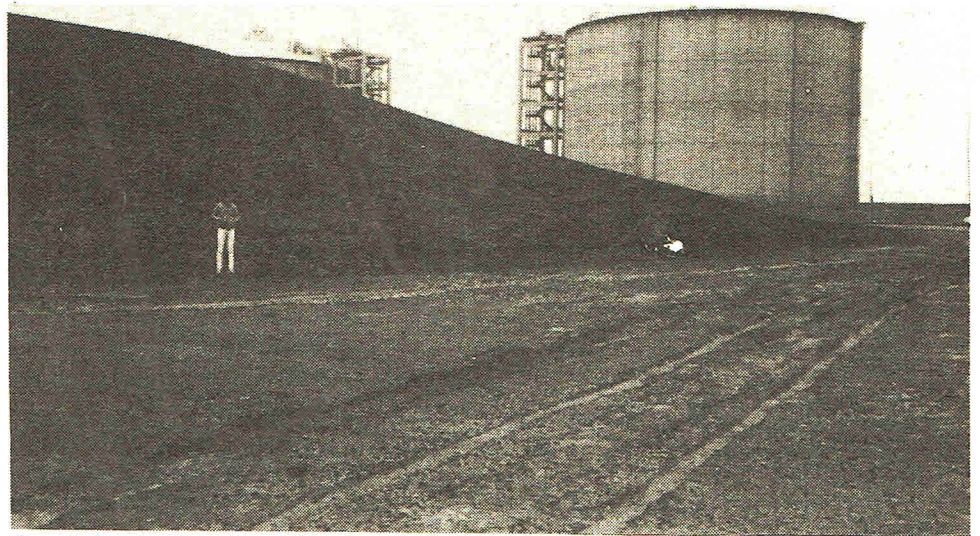
Bribes and threats

"The annual 'trades' holidays are almost upon us and many individuals have enquired about holiday pay. The Board's position is clear—holiday pay will be paid to those men who work normally in the week prior to 'trades', ie week commencing Monday, 26 June, 1984.

"To finish I must reiterate that the pit continues to be open for work and that men reporting for work will be given employment."

(SGD) TT Clark
Colliery Manager

By Kenny Summersgill
(Monktonhall NUM)



Part of the electricity boards' coal stocks in Rotterdam



Striking Notts miners on the 7 June NUM lobby in London

Coventry

AFTER EIGHT weeks on strike, our attitude at Coventry Colliery has hardened, but we are still cheerful.

Our set up at Coventry is now in full swing to take on the ruling class. Two food centres have been set up at Keresley village and Goodyers End Estate, and our NUM members in outlying areas are receiving food parcels. We have had a magnificent response to our appeal fund from the trade unions and labour movement in the Coventry area.

Since MacGregor, Thatcher's hatchet man, said 20,000 jobs had to go, we have said "no surrender". We must involve the whole trade union movement through the Triple Alliance of rail, coal and steel. I can envisage a general strike. It will take time, but we must not falter for the sake of the trade union movement.

Apart from the immediate threat to jobs, there are other very good reasons for our strike. The most important, I feel, is the failure of the government to stimulate the use of coal.

If coal-fired power stations were built instead of nuclear ones, it would create a demand. But no! Thatcher will never forgive the miners for the 1972 and 1974 victories. So she will put all her eggs in the basket of nuclear power, even though we have known coal reserves for at least four hundred years.

Finally, I pay tribute to the 83% of the NUM who are on strike and say to the misguided NUM members who are crossing picket lines. "Get off your knees. Stop being MacGregor's boot-lickers and fight pit closures."

By Nev Bell
(Coventry Colliery NUM, and spokesman for strike committee.)

Protest in Amble

AMBLE IN Northumberland is usually associated with tourism. But the visitors on June 2 were miners holding a protest march through the town. Easington miners Pete, Bob, Dave, Tony and Ian talked to Militant:

"I'm getting married soon. My girl is already pregnant but we have got to support the union. Its like the women were singing on the march: 'I'd rather marry a picket than a scab.' I am always going to support the union.

"Brainwashed"

"The police, you have never seen anything like it, it's like Militant says. The Met police are the worst—as soon as there is bother in

come the Met boot boys. We were just sitting in a cafe during a break from picketing and in comes a cop and says: 'Get yourselves effing out of here' and then they just dragged me out. They took us down the station and tried to get us to shop one another. But no way. They were full of good advice that we couldn't win and had been brainwashed. They were more interested in our politics than in any alleged crime.

"One cop told us: 'Get your friends to picket Tow Law.' He said he wanted the overtime to get a holiday in the Bahamas. Thats the difference between us and them. We're fighting for our jobs."

By Bill Hopwood

Solidarity in action

COLLECTIONS FOR the NUM are now a regular event across Kent. £37 was collected at a recent Folkestone Sunday Market, despite the opposition of the owner. Today, we collected another £8, in a different place and despite the opposition of the same bloke!

An indication of the respect that Militant has gained throughout the coal field was shown at a recent Readers' Meeting, Peter Taaffe, Frances Cur-

ran, local miners and representatives of the Aylesham Women all spoke. An appeal for finance raised an excellent £70, which was split half to the NUM, and half to the Fighting Fund. This represented real sacrifice from those on strike, for whom every penny counts.

By Kevin Blake
(Folkestone and Hythe LPYS)

LABOUR PARTY Young Socialists and Militant supporters in Derby North have had considerable success in collecting money for striking Notts miners.

In the wards of the constituency, YS members are not waiting for Labour Party members to send in their levies, they are collecting them and also asking for food for the strikers. They are also getting round past Labour voters using canvassing cards to collect for the miners and sign people up for the Labour Party.

Mrs Earnshaw, one of the ladies we called on, is 87 years old and used to

organise food and collect for the Jarrow marchers in the 30s. She gave us £3 and eight tins of food!

My union meeting (I'm in the NUR) was better attended than usual to hear an NUM speaker recently. We are low paid on the Permanent Way but empty boxes in the cabins have been filled rapidly with food for the miners.

The YS plan to hold a dance for the Notts strikers in the future.

By Chris Fernandez
(Youth Officer Derby North LP)

A PACKED meeting of more than 250 gave a standing ovation to the NUM South Wales Executive members at the solidarity meeting, called by the Cork Council of Trade Unions.

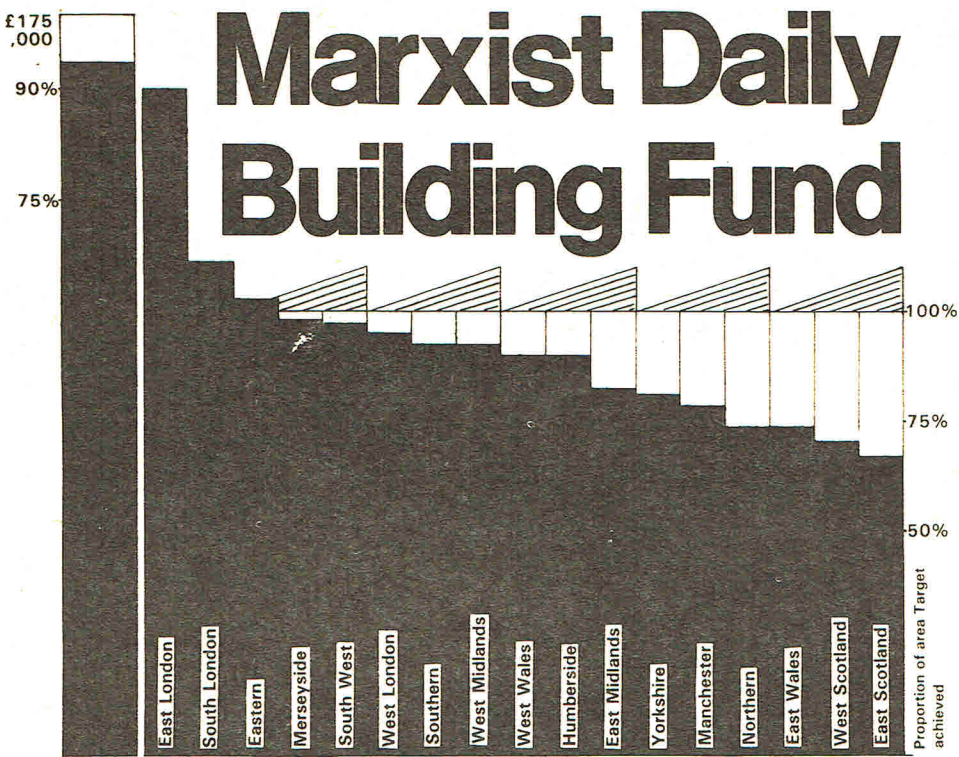
Dai (Dosco) Davies and Granville Lewis of Penrhawceiber Colliery, graphically outlined the history of the miners' struggles in the Welsh valleys.

Support from British workers for Irish workers in struggle goes back a long way. In 1913 during the lockout by the Dublin bosses, support was

received from workers in Britain and a Welsh miner, Arthur Horner fought with Connolly's Citizen Army in the 1916 rising. Dai Davies said: "They bought some workers at GCHQ for a thousand pounds. They won't buy a Welsh miner for a million."

Militant supporters were pleased that Militant Irish Monthly was instantly recognised by the miners from the range of papers available. Dai Davies said 'give us that paper lad, we support the Militant'.

By Emmett Farrell
(Cork)



TWO LARGE donations to the Building Fund have helped to take the total to the enormous sum of £162,873. This means we have only £12,127 left to raise to take us to our target of £175,000.

The donation of £750 was from an anonymous reader and £500 was sent by Martin and Maggie Harbour from Stockport.

One school student, Carolyn Leyshon, from Plymouth Sutton LPYS, shows how our money is raised.

"Comrades, I realise the great importance of getting a daily Marxist paper. I have already contributed some money but I am now enclosing some more. Being a school student I find it very

hard to get much money so I have sent what I could save, a week's dinner money (£2) and I hope to be sending more in the next few weeks."

No rich backers

This example and many more like it explains our success at raising money for our fund. No rich backers but only workers, unemployed, students and pensioners, who see the need to build the ideas of Marxism inside the labour movement.

Our aim to move into new premises should soon be realised giving a tremendous boost to our work. From these premises we will be able to produce a more frequent and eventually a daily Marxist paper. All this will happen solely because of the determination and sacrifice of our readers.

Gary and Jeanette Finch, Torfaer CLP, have given £20; Bill McCoid, Sucthorpe, £40; Tim Fry, Greenwich, £100; Paul Johnson, Wearside, £50; TGWU 5/909 branch Rover Solihull, £5; Robin Owen, Wirral, £72; Plymouth Sutton LPYS, £20.

FIIGHTING FUND

this week £2,214

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 7 July
Eastern	1009		2700
East Midlands	666		3050
Humberside	812		1700
London East	961		3500
London West	630		2100
London South	939		2850
Manchester & Lancs	1473		3700
Merseyside	1406		4800
Northern	773		4050
Scotland East	558		2450
Scotland West	672		3300
Southern	1349		4400
South West	492		2050
Wales East	397		2100
Wales West	403		1950
West Midlands	1245		3800
Yorkshire	933		4500
Others	8941		12000
Total received	23659		65000

THE MINERS had a clear message (mostly unprintable) for the Tory press as they marched down Fleet Street last week on their way to lobby parliament. They know what lies and distortions these millionaire rags have written about their strike.

In contrast Walken Workshop NUM Strike Committee has sent £10 to our Fighting Fund. At a Militant Readers' Meeting in Battersea, South London, two miners, one from North Derbyshire and one from Kent, each promised £10 to be paid as soon as they return to work. Miners all over the country have paid tribute to the honest reporting of the Militant and to the hard work of its supporters during the strike.

On the lobby the Militant

'Support the Miners' badges were snapped up by marchers and onlookers. Every area should use these to help raise Fighting Fund. Given the coverage our paper gives to issues such as the miners, Liverpool and many others it is easy to raise money for its funds.

Ask for donation

Workers will give money because they can see the vital job we are doing. Ask everybody that buys the paper, even for the first time, for a donation. Many sellers are reporting being given £1 or even £5 for a copy from workers on marches and street sales. Take a rattling tin. It's amazing how much cash you can raise.

Certain areas have been doing particularly well over the last few weeks. East Wales have now sent in over

£100 from their sponsored bike ride. They have also raised large amounts through a big social and the sale of pontoon tickets. Lancashire has been consistently sending in the money and Humberside have planned a bazaar as well as organizing lots of smaller jumble sales.

Every area should by now have plans for meeting their target. Make sure you don't leave things too late. Keep the money coming in and we'll keep the papers coming out.

This week's donations include:— Dennis Smythe (Southall UCATT) £4; Knowsley NALGO and Liverpool AUEW collection £15.50; Hull readers' meeting £165; Edinburgh curry night £13; A McDonald (Manchester ASTMS) £15; J Tetley (Ladywood YS) £2; BASA Unemployed Cannock £5.

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.

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.

'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, Tonypandy. Speakers: Peter Taaffe (Editor-Militant), Dave Nellist MP, Tyrone O'Sullivan (Tower Lodge Sec NUM) and Brychan Davies.

PENDLE Readers' Meeting. 'Support the miners, support Liverpool council'. Speakers: Cllr Felicity Dowling (Sec. Liverpool District Labour Party); Steve Sullivan (Sutton Manor NUM, personal capacity); Peter Harris (expelled member, Blackburn CLP) on Friday 29 June, at Silverman Hall, Nelson.

SUNDERLAND: Marxist Discussion Group. At: The Labour Party rooms, 5 Grange Crescent (Stockton Road).

Friday 15 June at 7.00 pm—Women and positive discrimination. Followed by a social at Flat 4, 10 The Elms (8.30 pm).

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.

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.

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.

NEW Militant Student Bulletin. out no. 10p each. This issue = Labour Student Section in Crisis. Order from Militant Student Publications, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. Please send money with order.

150th ANNIVERSARY TOLPUDDLE MARTYRS RALLY

Sunday 1 July 12.30 pm Speakers include: R Buckton, M Evans, N Kinnock, L Murray, J Boddy, D McDermott, C Dolan. at Tolpuddle, Dorset

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 - 5825/6

Nº 018171

Get your raffle tickets from your local Militant seller

Marxist Northern Weekend School

COURSES AT this year's Northern School (7 - 8 July) will provide an excellent introduction to Marxism and the ideas of Trotsky, as well as covering issues, like the State and Trade Unions, which are particularly relevant to the miners' struggle.

Courses on Marxism, State, Trade Unions, Trotsky

Courses include:
1. Introduction to Marxism: (a) Historical materialism, (b) Dialectics, and (c) Economics.
2. The Role of the State: (a) Growth of the Capitalist State, (b) Bonapartism, and

Stalinist states, and (c) The Police, Army and the State Today.

3. Marxism and the Trade Unions: (a) What is Rank and Fileism?, (b) Lessons of 1926 General Strike, and (c) Recent struggles and a Programme for the Unions.

4. Trotsky Today: (a) In Defence of October: The Opposition to Stalinism, (b) Fascism and Popular Frontism: Lessons of the 1930s, and (c) The Death Agony of Capitalism: Trotsky's Perspectives Today.

Booking in: Saturday morning at Middlesborough Polytechnic, Clarendon Building, Southfield Road, Middlesborough.

The Lessons of the Miners Strike: The way forward for the labour movement.

General session, Sunday 2-4.30 pm, speaker: Ted Grant.

Venue: Clarendon Building, Southfield Road, Middlesborough. Book in on Saturday morning: If you want accommodation on Friday night, you must contact the organisers in advance.

Cost: for all courses £7.50 or £4.00 for the unwaged. (Fee does not include food).

Food: Snacks will be on sale throughout the weekend, and a meal will be on sale Saturday evening.

Creche facilities will be provided: please book places in advance giving the ages of children coming.

Send your booking with cheques or postal orders to Norman Hall, 30 Aske Road, Middlesbrough.

Miners on the march

THE GRIMETHORPE Colliery band struck up a rousing tune; choruses of "Here we go" echoed around the council flats behind Camden Town Hall. The miners were on the march.

Last week's miners' demonstration in London was a 30,000 strong solid phalanx of predominantly young miners. Their combative, confident spirit lifted the march into a gala-like procession. Every coal field was represented, with whole sections of the march made up of women's support groups, backed up by supporting trade unionists.

As the march progressed towards central London and Fleet Street, the miners for once had a chance to give their reply to the gentlemen of the press. The 'Street of Shame' reverberated to the sound of thousands of angry voices.

Fleet Street

The *Telegraph* and *Express*, the most visible of the rags in Fleet Street, were given particular attention. "Shove your papers up your arse" sang the miners, "Liars"! they chanted.

The Fleet Street executives, safely positioned on roofs and balconies looked down with weak smiles: below them marched reality. They had tried to hoodwink the people with tales of how the miners were 'unpopular', yet not only was there a seemingly endless file of striking miners marching past, but office workers,

tourists and sightseers were giving them money and gladly being covered in the bright yellow NUM stickers.

Indeed, outside the *Sunday Times* printworkers, members of SOGAT, applauded the miners and gave them red carnations. Television crews at the march were greeted with chants of "Channel Four, Channel Four," in appreciation of the channel's decision to screen a programme last week putting the miners' case.

Determination marked the rally outside the GLC headquarters at Jubilee Gardens. "Are we downhearted?", asked Betty Heathfield, wife of the NUM general secretary—the reply would have been heard across the river in Parliament.

Tony Benn praised the miners saying they were fighting not just for the coal industry but the councils of London, Liverpool, for women, for youth and for the pensioners.

Arthur Scargill was cheered when he took the rostrum.

He pointed out that when you combined the cost of lost coal production, oil imports, lost tax revenue and the massive police operation, the miners' strike had cost the government £2,250 million—double the cost of the Falklands War.

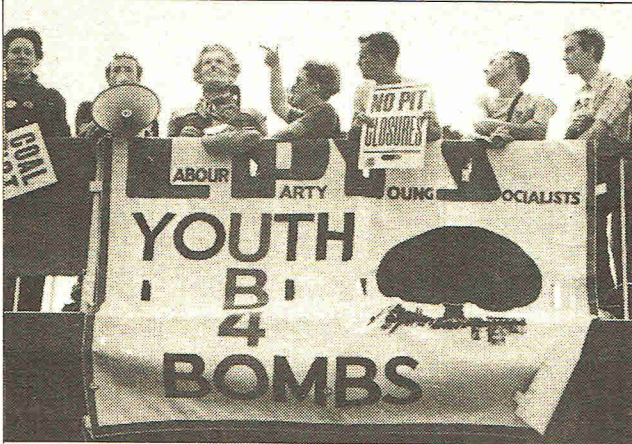


Arthur Scargill



Miners applaud speakers at the Jubilee Gardens rally.

Photo: Mark Pinder



Young Socialists greet the miners from a bridge overlooking the march through London.

Photo: Mark Pinder

He praised the young miners who like their forefathers now represented the finest traditions of the British trade union movement.

Lorries blacked

Dennis Skinner applauded Liverpool council for blacking lorry firms used to transport scab coal, and called on councils such as the GLC to do the same.

returned to their buses and took out the keys and immobilised them. They joined the miners on the ready made 'picket line'.

For over an hour nothing moved, until the arrested miners were released. This incident, alongside the walkouts by railmen at Charing Cross and Waterloo BR stations over police violence on the demo shows the enormous support and sympathy there is amongst workers for the NUM.

Tony Knowles (Silver Hill NUM) spoke to **John Horne** (Mansfield LPYS)

Busmen join blockade

WE ALL went down to London on June 7 to lobby Parliament. I was walking with Alf Bradley of Blackwell Workshops NUM. He was handing out copies of *The Miner* when a policeman apprehended him.

His son, also a miner, from Pye Hill, went up and asked what his dad was supposed to have done. The policeman said he had caused a breach of the peace.

This incensed the crowd and they rushed at the police to get Alf back. Several more were arrested as more police

moved in. Alf went peacefully to avoid further trouble. Then the remaining quarter of the march stopped in protest and refused to move until those taken were released.

A group of miners blocked the road stopping the traffic, including about eight London Transport buses.

One of the drivers got out and asked what was going on. The miners explained, but then along came the police. They told the miners to move and the buses to proceed. Both the miners and driver refused. The driver then talked to the other drivers who promptly

750 protest at Coleraine Nazis

THE 'WELL oiled Nazi machine' of the National Front ground to a halt in Coleraine on 9 June.

Only 120 fascists—including about 50 from Britain—turned up. They were met by a hugely successful counter-demonstration organised by the Labour Movement Campaign Against Fascism. Under the slogan 'Stop the Nazi Front', over 500 protesters marched through Coleraine to demonstrate outside the town hall where the NF were meeting.

The ranks of the counter-march were swelled to 750 as people from the town joined the march en route. When the NF finally arrived they

were greeted by a deafening storm of protest, which completely drowned out their sectarian chants.

At this point the credibility of the master race was somewhat dampened—the mother of one of the NF marchers rushed out, clipped him around the ear and dragged him off home, to cheers from the crowd of onlookers.

The rest of the NF crawled into the town hall where they held a meeting. Permission to use the hall had been granted by the local council, after a proposal from a council of the 'middle of the road', Neville Clark of the Alliance Party.

Outside the hall an open air rally was held. Speakers condemned the NF and gave

notice that every town in Northern Ireland they attempt to openly organise in a counter demonstration will take place. This was greeted with applause from the many Coleraine people who turned up to watch this demonstration.

When three buses of anti-fascists returning to Belfast stopped at a garage along the way they discovered four rather nervous members of the NF in a car which had broken down. This 'well-oiled Nazi machine' had developed a flat tyre—somehow it seemed a fitting testimony of the NF's attempt to gain a base in Northern Ireland.

By Benny Adams (East Belfast LTUG)

LPYS success on mass CND rally



The massive Socialist Youth Banner displayed by part of the LPYS contingent at the CND rally in Trafalgar Square.

ON SATURDAY 9 June over 200,000 crowded into Hyde Park at the start of the CND-organised demonstration against Reagan—and the LPYS were there in force.

In the park our banners were prominently displayed—'Youth B4 Bombs', 'Give youth a future—save the pits'. Over 3,000 LPYS members gathered as we started our 'street meeting' in the park. More and more young people came to join us.

LPYS comrades explained the need for young people to organise to fight back not only against nuclear weapons but against the

Tories and the system they represent. While comrades entertained the crowd with songs and speeches, young people queued up to sign the forms to join the LPYS.

A special visit from a Margaret Thatcher lookalike went down very well especially when 'she' explained why the miners should go back to work.

On the march itself the LPYS contingent was definitely the loudest—singing, blowing whistles, chanting and offering suggestions as to what Reagan should do with his Cruise Missiles. Our contingent certainly looked impressive as we marched through the

streets of London—lead by 'Mrs Thatcher', our banners stretched the width of the road and LPYS placards were seen dotted throughout the march. Our enthusiasm spread to the crowds who stopped and applauded us as we marched through Parliament Square singing the *Red Flag*.

As we marched up into Trafalgar Square where the rally was being held, the chants of 'Here we go' echoed off all the surrounding buildings. There could have been no doubt in the minds of the people there—the LPYS had arrived.

By Lesley Phillips

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

**NO
TO THE BOSSES EEC
FIGHT FOR A SOCIALIST EUROPE**

European e

EEC in crisis

ON 14 and 17 June, 210 million European voters will be entitled to take part in the elections to the European Parliament. Slightly more than half are likely to do so; in Britain considerably less than half will bother to vote. And the majority of those who do will be more concerned with the domestic political issues of their own country than with affairs of the European Economic Community.

As far as workers are concerned this indifference to the Common Market is entirely justified. For them, the years of EEC membership have seen rising unemployment, the destruction of whole industries, soaring food prices and no solutions to any of the problems which the EEC was supposed to be going to solve.

Even for the big businessmen in whose interests it was conceived, it has been a miserable failure. In the the fifties, the EEC was planned to lead to the creation of a new world super-power, a rival to the USA, the Soviet bloc and Japan. With its internal market of more than 200 million, it was to bring about the destruction of all customs and tariff barriers between members, so that a unified capitalist state could emerge.

All that is now forgotten. Even the most pro-European of capitalists see no hope of this. The grand design has been wrecked by the total inability of the capitalist system to overcome the limitations of national state and the private ownership of the means of production.

Even the small steps which were taken during the boom years up to 1975, to develop the EEC into at least a customs union, are being reversed. Then the problem was dividing up the profits from an expanding economy. In the period of recession, it is a question of off-loading the losses from a contracting economy, and each national capitalist class fights to protect itself from competition from both within and without the EEC.

After 27 years, there are still so many frontier formalities between members countries that the EEC Commission itself estimates they add between 5% and 10% to the costs of internal trade. Different tax rates, health and safety standards and hidden protectionist measures are all used to protect national vested interests.

Disaster for workers

The Common Market staggers from one crisis to another. Its budget for 1985 allows for expenditure £1,150 million in excess of income. Unless the Summit Meeting on 25 June in France can agree to an increase in the proportion of VAT going from the states to the community, it will be bankrupt. They are still trying to find a way of covering the £1,400 million deficit already incurred this year.

On a world scale, the EEC powers are no less dependent on the US super-power than they were when the Treaty of Rome was signed. Both economically and militarily, they are satellites of American imperialism.

If the EEC has been such a failure for those capitalists who have supported it, small wonder that it has been such a disaster for the working people of Europe. They are looking for an alternative from their political leaders.

The Labour Party manifesto for the European elections sets out principles which all in the movement would endorse—the right to work, a decent home, decent services in health and education. It fails, however, to explain the reasons for the EEC's inability to

By David Churchley

provide these basic rights.

The manifesto demands "new policies for Europe, an end to mass unemployment and industrial decline, a break with the past in the European Community, an end to its squabbling, its stagnation, its man-made mountains of surplus food which go stale while millions in the third world starve, its agricultural system which has made the community virtually bankrupt and brought sky-high prices for food." But the vital question which Party members will have had to face on the doorstep is, "how will this be achieved?"

Capitalist governments

In the countries of Europe where the parties that are in power are socialist, these basic advances have still not been achieved. Labour's "alternative economic strategy" for reflation the economy has been tried and failed in France, not because of the personal failings of Mitterrand, but because of the crushing problem faced by every country in Europe—that the major monopolies dominate the European economy.



Mitterrand and the French socialists have been forced to abandon their reform programme.

With over 14 million on the dole in Europe, and the prospect of a further five or six million in as many years, this issue has to be faced up to. Labour's manifesto calls for "creating new jobs and opportunities for the people of Britain and Europe," and for "all members to work together to pull Europe out of the slump".

With Thatcher? With Kohl? How can the EEC be expected to demand that member governments led by capitalist parties carry out policies which could threaten their class's right to rule the economy?

The manifesto also calls for a shift in the budget away from agriculture towards industry. But Britain alone requires over £200 billion of investment to bring it up to the level of one of its competitors in Europe, West Germany. The European capitalists would never allow the EEC to assist one country to compete with the others on such a scale, even if it had the money to do so.

Labour's plan for Europe has to be seen against the inability of the EEC to have any serious effect on

how member states operate on the social issues facing working people. For example the document goes on to call for "rapid progress for a 35 hour week without loss of pay". How has the EEC supported the IG Metall workers in Germany in their struggle for the 35 hour week against the right-wing Christian Democrat government?

Similarly the manifesto calls "to develop renewable resources and, above all, safeguard and develop Europe's own energy resources—we will fight to defend British coal." But what has the EEC done to help the NUM in Britain in their struggle?

The EEC is first and last a capitalist organisation. Commitment to "free enterprise" is written into the Treaty of Rome. That is why the Tories, despite their national differences on the question of the British budgetary contribution, are solidly in favour. The Alliance parties let nothing come between them and their devotion to the EEC. There is no way such a body can ever be expected to carry out measures to benefit the workers of Europe.

Formerly the Labour Party leadership was divided between those who supported Britain's membership of the EEC, echoing the arguments of the Tories, and those who echoed the Tory arguments of thirty years ago and called for withdrawal. The latter clung to the illusion that Britain was still able to trade successfully with the Commonwealth and the rest of the world.

Socialist alternative

Today, however, despite the EEC's deficiencies, there is even less future for British capitalism outside than within. The call for withdrawal has lost credibility as the British economy has become more and more integrated into that of Western Europe. Potential trading partners in the rest of the world are either underdeveloped countries with limited markets for British exports or former Commonwealth nations like Canada and Australia, which have geared their economies towards their powerful neighbours America and Japan.

It is no alternative, however, for the Labour leaders to argue that Britain should remain in the EEC merely to make pleas for reform of the structure and more radical policies on the part of member governments.

The socialist alternative, put forward by the Marxists since the EEC's inception is to fight for the replacement of the capitalist EEC with a Socialist United States of Europe. The struggles being waged in every country for jobs, the 35 hour week, a living minimum wage, and against the nuclear arms race, need to be linked together across the continent into a general campaign for socialist policies to be adopted, and then implemented by the workers' parties.

Neither within the Common Market nor outside it, can the capitalist system, its political leaders and its economic policies offer anything but more years of hardship for the working class families of Europe.



Starvation in the slums of Bangladesh

The food sca

One thousand million people in the world suffer from malnutrition; 400 million are on the brink of starvation. Yet huge "mountains" and "lakes" of "surplus" food are stored or destroyed in the Common Market. Food illustrates more graphically than anything else the rottenness of the capitalist system of production, distribution and exchange.

The biggest scandal of all is that there is not an overall shortage of food. An average person requires at most 3,000 calories a day; that quantity is being produced in the form of grain alone, enough to feed all 4,000 million of us. Add to that all the other forms of food which are produced, and the potential production on the 3% of arable land which is not cultivated, and it can be seen that a world of plenty for all is not a utopian dream, but something which could happen now but for capitalism.

Even within many countries with the lowest standards of living, there is no shortage of food, but its distribution is controlled by a tiny minority of land-owners and speculators. Bangladesh in 1974 was in the middle of a famine, yet according to the National Geographic Magazine at that time, "there is an estimated 4 million tons of rice—enough to feed the entire nation for a third of the year. But the vast majority of the people, subsisting at the poverty level at the best of times, and now victimised by the flooding, are too poor to buy it."

The rice was being smuggled to India, where it could be sold at twice the price, 50 cents a pound—per capita income in Bangladesh was then \$1.34 a week. A similar situation exists in most "third world" countries.

Food destroyed

It is, however, in the European Economic Community that the absurdity of the capitalist system of food production is most blatant. £22-£28 billion a year is spent to subsidise farmers to produce crops which are either sold to the consumer at a price way above the world market price, dumped in other countries at less than the world market price, or not sold at all, but stored or even destroyed.

Last year, half a million tonnes of apples and 45,000 tonnes of pears were turned into industrial alcohol, the same fate as 711 million gallons of wine over the last four years. 300,000 tonnes of beef each year are frozen and lose 40% of their value. The "mountain" of wheat has reached 30-40 million

tonnes, and 97% of last year's Greek orange crop was destroyed. The recent decision to curb milk production will only mean that 14% more milk will be produced than consumed, instead of 23%. The taxpayer will still be paying £5,000 a minute to subsidise milk production.

Under the Common Agricultural Policy, farmers are paid a fixed price, and this is passed on to the consumers. If they cannot sell their produce at that price, they get paid anyway, by the taxpayer. The present EEC price for wheat is 30% higher than that in the US and that for animal feed grain is 80% higher.

The benefits to British farmers are enormous. The extra income derived from being paid the EEC rather than world market price amounts to £1.5 billion a year. But on top of that, there are massive tax concessions, grants, exemption from rates, and other state benefits, which last year totalled £1.4 billion.

So British farmers are subsidised each year to the tune of £3 billion, £15,000 per farmer. This average figure is very deceptive, however, because another absurdity of the system is that the more a farmer produces the more aid he receives. It is those who need it least, the big arable farmers of Eastern England, who receive the most.

One result of the tax concessions that farmers can claim is that on average they pay 15% of their income, after all allowances have been deducted, to the tax man, the same proportion as farm workers, 35% of whom are officially designated as low-paid!

Another effect is that land is used for crops more suited to other parts of the world. Oilseed rape has replaced the potato as Britain's second largest crop after cereals, and in the EEC it is subsidised by £650 million a year.

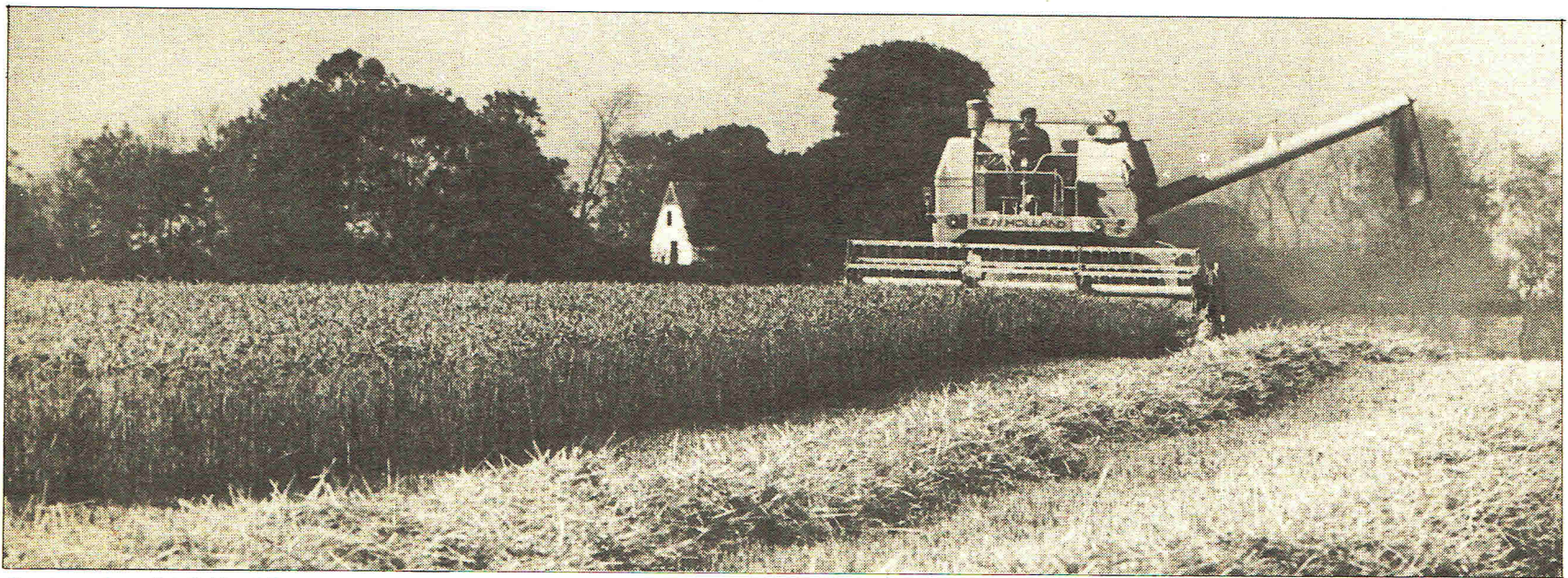
Only 17.4% of British farmland is really suitable for arable crops, yet 37% of it is being used, because it is so profitable. Much woodland, wetland and rough hill country is being ploughed up, with potentially disastrous consequences for wildlife and the natural beauty of the countryside.

Third World suffers

The huge subsidies to EEC farmers, combined with the Common External Tariff which keeps out cheaper imports from other parts of the world, have hit hard the millions of peasants and farm workers in the former colonies of

lections '84

NO
TO THE BOSSES EEC
FIGHT FOR A SOCIALIST EUROPE



Surpluses from the fields of Europe

ndal: surplus and starvation

The EEC powers, whose economies were based on food production for export. In 1972, a Jamaican could grow 21 tons of sugar or 25 tons of bananas and sell them for the price of a 78hp tractor imported from Britain. By 1982 he had to grow 50 tons of sugar or 76 tons of bananas.

Consumers in Britain suffer too. The steep rise in prices within the EEC have led to falls in the consumption of many vital foods. In 1971, 38.76 ounces of bread were being eaten per head per week; in 1981 only 31.25. The figure for potatoes are 51.84 ounces in 1971 and 41.87 in 1981, for butter 5.53 ounces in 1971 and 3.69 in 1981. Milk consumption fell in the same period from 4.46 pints per head per week to 4.01, and eggs from 4.55 to 3.68.

There is also an indirect way in which workers have suffered from the policy—the transfer of resources away from investment in

manufacturing industry. That £3 billion subsidy is close to the total assets of the four big clearing banks and greater than those of any single company. Its diversion to agriculture has hastened the de-industrialisation of Britain and pushed up the number of unemployed.

Nor has there been any compensating increase in jobs on the farms. On the contrary 90,000 farm jobs have disappeared over ten years, and farm workers are still near the bottom of the wages league, despite the fact that they are now highly skilled, operating sophisticated machinery. In the EEC as a whole, the drop in the number of employed in agriculture has been even more drastic, from 19 million in 1960 to 9 million today.

But perhaps the biggest indictment of all is that even many farmers have not benefited from the policy. It is only the richest

farmers and biggest land-owners who have grown really fat. Smaller farmers are faced with exactly the same problems that have driven so many other small businessmen to bankruptcy. In order to achieve the high levels of output to gain all the benefits, they are forced to invest heavily in new machinery, fertilisers and pesticides, or go in for "factory farming". To do this, most have to borrow from the banks, who are currently lending farmers £5.3 billion. The interest creams off a large part of farmers' incomes.

All these increased costs mean that a dairy farmer who could earn a living with 15 cows in 1950 now needs 75.

Land price bonanza

There has, it is true, been a massive rise in the value of agricultural land, from only £25 an acre in 1939, to £833 in 1972 and £1600 in 1982; some of the best arable land is now worth more than £4000 an acre. Big farmers have made a fortune, but increasingly it is big City investors who have been buying up land as a very safe speculative investment, and making profits from the rise in value. In 1982 it was estimated that insurance companies had invested at least £250 million in agricultural land.

For small farmers, though, this rise in the value of their land can only be realised if they sell it and leave farming. That is precisely what many have done. The number of holdings fell from 454,000 in 1953 to 242,000 in 1981. These farms are not being taken over by young farmers, virtually none of whom have the capital to buy the land and all the technology needed to exploit it. Small farms are either being taken over by the bigger neighbouring farms, or being bought up as a speculative investment, even as a hobby by millionaires with a liking for the country life.

Many small dairy farmers, especially in Wales, where farmers have been demonstrating, and Scotland, where between 1950 and 1980 the number of farms fell by 20,000 and the farm workforce by 80,000, are being quite truthful when they complain that the latest cut in the amount of milk they are allowed to produce could bankrupt them.

Agriculture is fundamentally a class issue. A handful of the richest section of society has made a fortune out of developments in agriculture since the war; the vast majority of the population, in-

cluding many farmers, have suffered rising prices and unemployment. More so than the farmers themselves, the real beneficiaries of the EEC food policy are the banks, the speculators and big food processing monopolies like Unilever and Rank Hovis McDougal.

The argument within the capitalist class over food policy has some similarities with that about the repeal of the Corn Laws in early nineteenth century Britain. The big industrial capitalists favour "free trade", on terms to their advantage. The farmers and land-owners favour "protection" as typified by the Common Agricultural Policy.

Both find a voice within the Tory party, the party of both big business and the land-owners. Many of the facts in this article come from a book, *Agriculture; the Triumph and the Shame* by Richard Body, who is not only a Tory MP, but also a farmer, representing a farming constituency. He considers, however, that his class, in the long run, will benefit from competition by British farmers at world market prices and an end to subsidies from the taxpayer.

Given the Tory policy on industry, it is strange that Body should be in such a small minority within his party on food policy. They would never be so willing to subsidise miners to over-produce coal. Body represents the more logical and consistent view of capitalists that "the market" should rule, and that the state subsidies distort the workings of the economy. The majority of Tory MPs are more concerned with the short-term interests of the big farmers, as represented by the National Farmers' Union.

Gigantic import control

Ironically too, many Labour leaders, who demand import controls to protect British industry and state subsidies to prop up failing capitalist firms, vehemently oppose EEC food policy despite the fact that it embodies such measures on a grand scale. The Common External Tariff is nothing less than a gigantic import control, and provides the evidence that such controls are not in the interests of British workers,

For the labour movement, as in the nineteenth century, the answer is neither Protection nor Free Trade. "Protection" in agriculture, in the form of the CAP, means that workers pay high food prices and

suffer job losses from the transfer of resources from industry. It means destroying good food when it is desperately needed, not only in the third world, but by many in Britain itself. And it fails to solve the problems of all but the biggest farmers.

"Free Trade" on the other hand means leaving both workers and farmers at the mercy of the big multi-national corporations whose only interest is to buy as cheaply as possible from the producer and sell as dearly as possible to the consumer. The devastating effects of capitalist "free trade" can be seen in Latin America, where whole countries have been organised to provide cheap food for big US companies at such low prices that the mass of the population cannot afford food to feed their families.

China's achievement

The only solution lies in the adoption of a socialist plan to produce and share out the world's food so that all have plenty. In China, despite bureaucratic incompetence and corruption, and the terrible disruption caused by sudden changes of policy—the "great leap forward", the "cultural revolution", forced collectivisation and the return to private land holdings—1,000 million people have been brought from widespread starvation in the forties to total self-sufficiency in food today. That is the result of a state-owned and centrally planned economy.

On a basis of workers' democracy, greater strides forward even than China's could be achieved. The food monopolies, the big land-owners, the banks and insurance companies would be nationalised under workers' control and management; small farmers would have the option of remaining in business independently, with access to cheap loans, or participating in large co-operative farms, in which all the advantages of large-scale production could be exploited without, as under capitalism, bringing ruin to farming communities.

On a socialist basis, before the end of this century, all the grotesque "mountains" of "surplus" food and the hunger which blights the lives of millions could be eliminated, and a world of abundance for all mankind made real.

By Pat Craven



Tons of "surplus" butter being stored in West Germany.

West Germany, Sri Lanka, S Africa

Class war in West Germany

THE STRIKE by West Germany's workers for a 35-hour week has forced many, particularly young trade unionists into battle.

By Hans-Gerd Ofinger
(Editor, *Voran*,
West German Marxist
paper)

Strikes have rarely been the order of the day in West Germany in recent years. In the whole of 1982 there were only 15,000 working days lost through strikes in this country compared to 18.6 million in Italy, 5.3 million in Britain and 2.3 million in France which have slightly smaller populations!

West Germany is the most important industrial state in Western Europe, the second biggest exporter and the world's fourth biggest industrial country, so the strike has international significance.

Frustration and anger

Frustration and anger has built up as living standards have dropped by over 10% in the past five years. The signs of a shaky economic boom (increased demand, more overtime work, while some factories have hired more workers) have made workers more confident.

What is more, for five consecutive years the leadership of the engineering union IG Metall which is at the centre of the dispute have said that funds had to be saved for the big battle due in 1984 on the issue of the working week. This created high expectation among the activists, the 100,000 or so shop stewards who form the backbone of IG Metall.

The employers on the other hand hoped that this time they could force this vital union down on its knees, and open the door to a harsh Thatcherite policy of smashing the welfare state and union rights. But this intention has forged greater solidarity from all the 17 industrial unions in the German TUC, (the DGB) with IG Metall and the print-workers union (IG Druck und Papier).

Even those unions in the mining, food and textile and other industries who at present do not support the call for the 35-hour week had large delegations at the rally in Bonn on 28 May.

A common feature of this strike has been the younger and more energetic workers

who are beginning to lead the local movements. But on every occasion, these workers have had to push the regional and national leaderships further than they originally intended to make the strike more effective.

The IG Metall action began with only 12,000 manual workers in the Stuttgart area called out; white collar workers and apprentices continued working. The union leadership singled out important suppliers to the booming car industry, hoping this would provide an easy and quick victory.

However the bosses reply has been lockouts and lay offs affecting hundreds of thousands of workers. This originally caused confusion amongst laid off workers who receive neither dole money nor benefits from union funds but have to take compulsory premature holidays or queue up for the meagre social security.

Nevertheless the employers' hope to split the union and demoralise the membership through these tricks will prove to be in vain. The workers at the biggest Mercedes car plant at Suidelfuizen near Stuttgart went out on strike without the EC agreeing to it beforehand. By acting positively in striking before being locked out or laid off, (ie acting passively), they were greeted with enthusiasm by activists elsewhere.

Lock out

In a filter factory at Lorch near Stuttgart workers reacted to the lock out by staying in the plant and occupying it. Again they have gained a lot of support from fellow workers all over the region.

The print workers' strike has also assumed importance. To save funds, the national strike committee had decided to apply 'flexible' tactics of limited selective 1 to 3 day strikes "out of the



Unions demand 35 hour week in a West German town.



The Knecht filter factory near Stuttgart under occupation.

blue". However activists have come to realise that in many cases the strikes have failed to "bite". They have therefore called for the extension of strike action until success is achieved.

Within days, many workers on the picket lines have come to the conclusion that the strike must be expanded nationally accompanied by coordinated national solidarity action by all other trade unions.

Whereas up to a year ago talking about a general strike was almost a sin in German trade unions, the DGB in the

North Westphalia area called upon all workers, white collar employees and civil servants to leave their workplaces and join in solidarity demos on 23 May. Despite poor preparation altogether 120,000 came out.

Solidarity action

In the cities of Hesse public transport workers struck in rush hours in solidarity protests against lockouts. At the Bonn rally the DGB chairman Ernst Breit spoke of the possibili-

ty of calling for national solidarity action of all workers in support of the engineers and print workers.

In the highly industrialised Ruhr 10,000 downed tools and joined half day strikes but there is still no sign that union leaders intend to call out the workers of the Ruhr. In spite of such deficiencies and the brake habitually applied by the EC this strike nevertheless marks the start of a new epoch.

The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung on the German 'Times' on 1 June complained that the strike "has nothing to do with the responsible attitude the German unions were praised for so often...It is a fall back into class society, the rebirth of the organisations of class struggle".

Biggest Union

IG Metall is about the biggest and most powerful union in the world. The impact of the strike in the rest of Europe has been great. In Austria the OGB (trade union federation) has also demanded the 35 hour week for some time. In France within days of the German actions leaders of the CGT and CFDT unions remembered the old demand for the 35 hour week.

In Germany a new group of more militant workers are being forged by events, events which will before long see a serious struggle for Marxist leadership in the workers movement and for a socialist society.

End bans

VASUDEVA NANNAYAKKARA (President of the United Federation of Labour and Nava Sama Samaja Party (New Socialist Party) (NSSP) and Vickramabahu Kamrunarathne (NSSP General Secretary) were released from custody on 5 June without any charges being levelled against them.

After the July 1983 riots the Sri Lankan government attempted to blame these events on the left parties and the NSSP in particular. The NSSP was banned and its leaders were hunted.

Despite a £1,400 government reward for the capture of Vasudeva the security forces were unable to capture him or any other NSSP leaders who were able to continue underground political activity. This shows the complete isolation of the regime from the mass of workers and peasants and the huge sympathy for the NSSP.

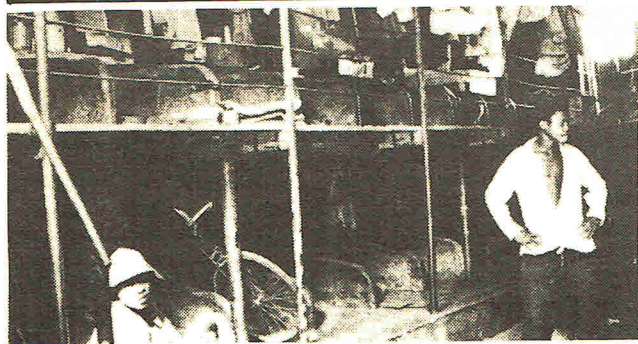
The ten months since NSSP was banned has seen the development of mass opposition to Jayawardene's government. Half a million plantation workers struck in April, and in May the United Left Front (of legal left-wing parties) held the biggest May Day demonstration for decades. The central demand of the opposition movement is the lifting of the ban on the NSSP and JVP.

On 22 May, an enthusiastic rally of 2,000 in Colombo called for the lifting of the ban on political parties, an end to the state of emergency and the immediate announcement of general elections.

Basing themselves on this growing opposition to the government Vasudeva and Vickramabahu decided to come out of hiding and surrender themselves to the police. The fact that no charges have been levelled against them proves that there was never any basis for the banning of the NSSP. The ban must be lifted.

The NSSP has always defended Tamil national rights and opposed oppression. It is all the more ridiculous, therefore that the government accused the NSSP of organising the July massacres!

The release of NSSP's leaders is a sign of Jayawardene's weakness. The government's days are numbered. Send a flood of resolutions to President Jayawardene, President's House, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka demanding the lifting of the ban of the NSSP and JVP.



Conditions in the workers' compound at a South African mine.

Now on video

WE LIVE LIKE DOGS the struggle of black mineworkers inside South Africa.

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Hire: £10 LPYS. £20 Labour Party/Trade Union Branches. Buy: £20 LPYS, £30 Labour Party/Trade Union Branches.

South Africa's miners' strike

ON 21 May about 300 coal workers at the McPhail Coal Company in Karzene, Johannesburg, downed tools demanding wage increases and improved working conditions.

The workers felt that the company whose motto is 'Mac won't Phail you' (it seems as though the 'Macs' are attempting a worldwide monopoly of the industry) had failed its employees. A spokesman for the workers said they were being paid 'poverty wages' and that working conditions are 'deplorable', and that is by South African standards! Work came to a standstill

as the coalmen, joined by others from the Wadeville depot, demanded a hearing. The workers claimed that those classed as labourers are paid R45 a week (about £28) and the drivers are paid R65 a week plus a R20 bonus which brings their weekly wages to R85. They demanded that the labourers be paid R65 a week and the drivers R120 a week.

In the meantime, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) representing over 6000 black workers on nine gold mines is to hold a national conference to consider a wage offer made by the Chamber

of Mines—South Africa's NCB. The chamber claimed that this offer could be improved a bit if the union obtained a mandate with the Federated Mining Union, representing 300 members on two gold mines.

The NUM's general secretary, Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, said that the chamber's offer was still 'obviously miserable'. Members are due to decide at the conference to be held on 9 June.

Like most capitalist newspapers, those in South Africa concentrate on divisions among the workers, making much of the violence in Soweto. The regime in

South Africa relies to a great extent on division, hence the development of the Bantu homelands. The white ruling class exploit this situation to the full.

However, the increase in oppression in recent years has had the effect of driving the black population, particularly the large working class closer together. Solidarity among the mineworkers of different tribes is evidence of this.

Victory to the mineworkers internationally!

By John Barr
(Lewisham East CLP.)

Jenkin visit: Liverpool stands firm

"I HAVE seen some awful housing conditions today—I have seen with my own eyes some deplorable conditions which have got to be tackled as a matter of urgency".

Like a criminal returning to the scene of the crime, so Tory Environment minister Patrick Jenkin admitted Liverpool had the worst housing conditions in Europe, after his visit on 7 June.

Jenkin was taken on a short tour of some of the terrible conditions that thousands of families are living in, in Vauxhall and Everton, by a delegation of city councillors who pointed out Labour's proposals for these estates, providing money is made available from the government.

Tony Mulhearn—president of Liverpool District Labour Party and a city councillor—reported that Patrick Jenkin was visibly shaken by what he had seen.

The feelings of the tenants in the area were made very

Tenants' protest

clear to the Tory minister. There were at least three demonstrations by tenants who stopped the private bus he was travelling in and demanded action. Local LPYS members and *Militant* supporters were also present, as Jenkin—like a Pied Piper in reverse—walked round one estate with over 100 local tenants behind him. They pointed out the deplorable housing conditions.

Despite attempts to keep the flats habitable, many tenants told of leaking sewers, blocked drains and terrible smells. Two small children pointed out dead rats—a normal everyday occurrence.

Many of the tenants came prepared for the visit. Placards carried slogans such as "we want out—the worst slum in Europe"; referring to the poor state of the roofs—"We have more leaks than the Tory Cabinet"; and "If the Iron Lady lived here she would rust".

After his glimpse at how the other half live due to the policies of his government, Jenkin returned to the Town Hall to discuss the problem with city councillors. Again he was reminded of the support for the city council as a lobby of local authority trade unionists were outside.

Flexibility?

The city councillors saw this as an opportunity to ask Jenkin yet again for the £30 million Liverpool urgently needs. But Jenkin replied that his trip was purely concerned with housing—and that there may be some marginal flexibility in the urban aid programme this year.

But Tony Mulhearn pointed out: "A massive budgetary injection would be

By Josie Aitman

necessary if we are to find a solution". Tony also pointed at how the Tory government have just agreed to major tax concessions for hoteliers in seaside resorts backdated to 1982! Why then can't the Tories provide extra finance for the Liverpool City Council?

Talks have been going on between council officials and DOE officials and a report will be available this week, pointing out where extra finances can be made available.

Even top council officials pointed out how the government have been prepared to pour money into Liverpool for the Garden Festival and reclamation on the dockland—yet it does not appear to be prepared to donate money for a democratically elected council.

A delegation of city councillors will meet Jenkin again once the report of the council is available. But as Derek Hatton stated: "There will be no compromise on Labour's election promise of 1983 and 1984. We will produce a budget which does not include job losses, service cuts or massive rate increases". Another budget meeting will be held not later than the second week of July.

The only reason Jenkin is even prepared to discuss the situation is because of the massive support shown by the Liverpool workers for the city council. To prepare for the budget meeting, full report back meetings will take place with all council workers, and factory gate and public meetings will take place.

Fine threat

Pressure is already being put on the city council. Every Labour councillor has received a letter from the District Auditor stating that unless a rate is fixed by 20 June, each councillor could be fined £2,000 and disqualified from office. But as John Hamilton, leader of the council, stated in the *Liverpool Echo*: "This is an attempt to force us into a quick budget decision—we are not taking any pressure from the District Auditor".

The movement in Liverpool will not sit back and allow democratically elected councillors to be disqualified from office and the commissioners be sent in. Labour will not renege on its promise and the full strength of the labour and trade union movement behind them will ensure that the Tory government are defeated.

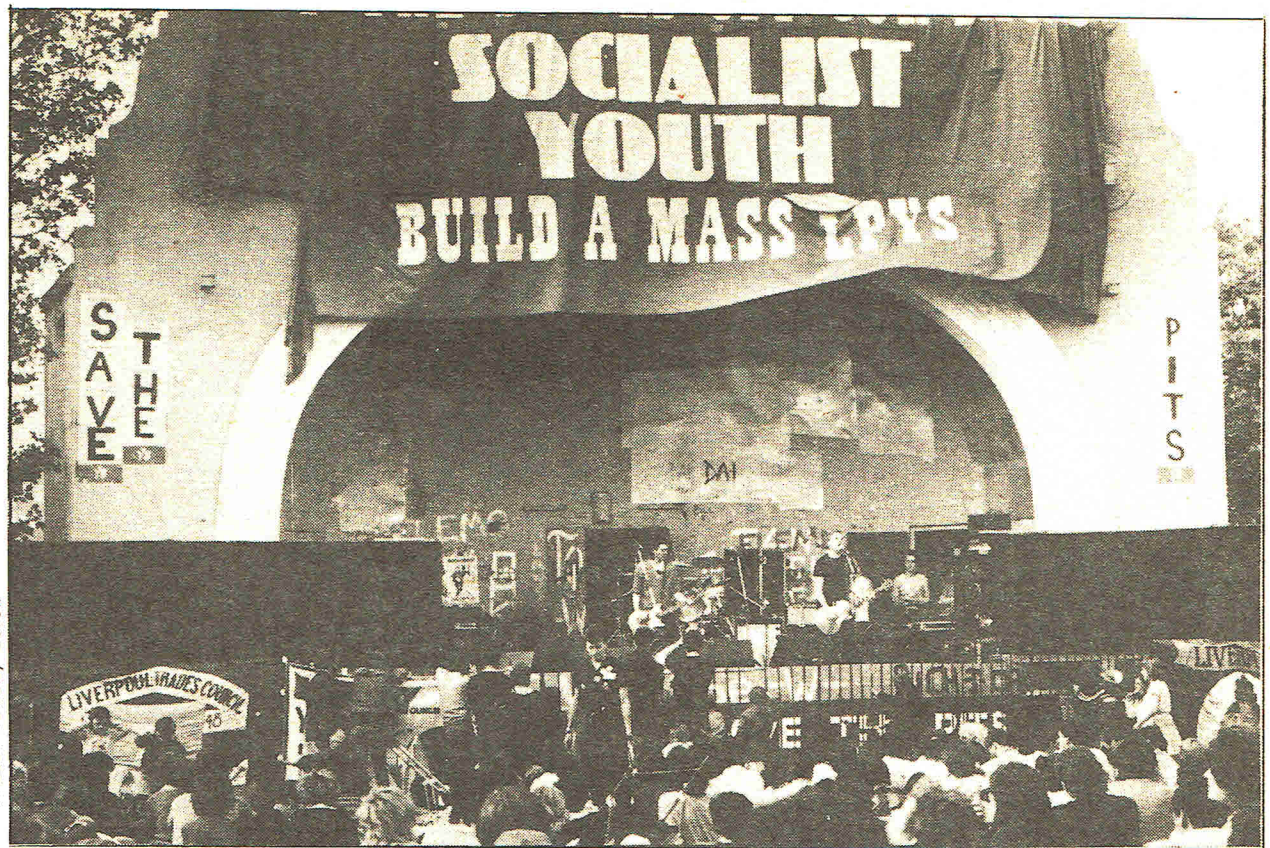


Photo: Tommy Carroll

The stage at the Liverpool LPYS festival held to raise funds for the miners. 3,000 people attended.

Festival rocks for the miners

"WALTON PARK rocked to the sound of local bands yesterday as Liverpool Young Socialists held a rally to raise cash for striking miners."

"More than £700 was raised for the NUM which will be divided between support funds in Lancashire and North Wales".

This is the description in Monday's *Daily Post* of the LPYS open air concert in support of the miners on Sunday, 10 June. Despite a threatening afternoon sky, 3,000, young and old, came to show their solidarity with the miners, and listen to what *Next 14* magazine described as "the most impressive line up of young bands seen this year". All performed for free.

Over £700 was collected in five hours for the NUM; 250 copies of *Militant* were sold;

£50 raised for the fighting fund and 450 names collected for the LPYS shows that the youth of Merseyside know where their future lies—under a Labour government with a socialist programme.

This was echoed by speakers from the platform: Pauline Owen of the LPYS explained there was no future for young people under the Tories except the dole or YTS. Deputy leader of the city council, Derek Hatton linked the struggle of the council to the miners' fight for their pits.

Young bands

With band after band ending their set with shouts of "Support the miners" and "Victory to the miners", there were hundreds of young people turning up at the LPYS tent who had realised that the miners' fight was a political fight despite



Photo: Tommy Carroll

Rocking for the miners. All bands performed free.

government claims.

Not only were the numbers overwhelming but also the range of people. People from all sections of the community are waking

up to the ideas of socialism, not only working class youth—one comrade had a police sergeant agreeing with him on points of *Militant* policy. The same comrade later sold a paper to a British National Party member and got his friend to agree to come to the LPYS.

The experience of Liverpool shows that the rally for the miners is not beyond the capability of any LPYS this summer. The last word at the rally went to Terry Thomas, vice president of South Wales NUM who described the desperation of the state in the face of the resolute stand of the miners. The fight for socialism is on, and judging by the active response of Merseyside youth to our ideas the working class can wage this war from a position of great strength.

By Gearoid Higgins
(Garston LPYS)

Oldham witch-hunt thwarted

By Eddie Thorpe
UCW CLP Delegate
Oldham Central & Royton
CLP Delegate

THE WITCHHUNTERS in the Oldham Central and Royton Constituency Labour Party over the past few weeks have received a series of setbacks to their activities.

Prior to the local elections, and in the middle of the present historic struggle of the miners, the chairman of the Party suggested in the local evening paper that *Militant* supporters were an "ulcerous growth".

The supporters of *Militant* in the area responded by going out on to the streets and local council estates with the paper. Over 90 papers were sold, with 15 being sold on the street of the "Witchhunter General" himself, the chairman of the Constituency Party.

A public meeting showed more proof of the support for the ideas of *Militant*, when over 70 people turned up to a packed meeting to hear Liverpool Councillor, Peter Ferguson explain the way forward for Labour councils, and Peter Harris expelled member of the Blackburn Labour Party, who spoke of the undemocratic nature of the witch hunters in that area (see ar-

ticles in issue 702).

The final insult to the right wing and the witch hunters came last week at the Constituency meeting to discuss resolutions for Labour Party Conference. A resolution by the Ward Party of the Chairman, calling "upon the NEC to rule that no member of the Labour Party can hold office in the Branch CLP, DLP, or be nominated to the local and/or Parliamentary panel until they have been a card holding member of the Labour Party for three consecutive years" received just one vote.

Resolution

The resolution that was carried, and will now be sent to conference, was one moved by a *Militant* supporter (myself). It called for:-

A socialist plan of production under workers control and management—for the nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies plus the banks and insurance

companies—for the implementation of Clause 4 part 4 of the LP Constitution and for a 35 hour week and a £100 minimum wage.

The vote for that resolution at the meeting was a

clear indication of the way workers want to see the Labour Party develop. They want to see the energies of the Labour Party used to fight for socialism and get rid of the Tories.

Coventry school fight

PARENTS FROM Bellgreen in Coventry have begun an indefinite occupation to save their local school.

It is threatened with closure by the local Labour council, on the pretext of saving less than £400,000 per year. Falling rolls is another argument put forward, yet in fact while intake has previously fallen, this year it is projected to increase and will keep doing so until 1991.

Opposition to the closure is extensive. All four Labour Parties in Coventry are opposed to the decision and opposition to the policy resulted in three Labour councillors being expelled from the Labour group.

As one parent Ann McCann commented: "We have not heard of any parents in favour of closure; the only people who seem to

be in favour of it is the council."

Bellgreen is in a social priority area with many single-parent families. If the school closes, children would have to walk over a mile to another school, crossing two main roads on the way. The school's closure on financial grounds is in complete disregard to either educational or social needs in the area and is typical of the managerial attitude of the majority Labour group, who have consistently gone along with Tory cuts. The response of the parents to fight this attack on the community should now be supported by all sections of the labour movement.

Eddie Doveton spoke to Bellgreen parents Anne McCann and Martha Young.

MILITANT, A new book by Michael Crick of Channel 4 News, will be eagerly seized by Labour's enemies as ammunition for stepping-up the witch-hunt against the Marxists in the labour movement.

Even prior to publication next Monday, excerpts have appeared in the *Guardian* and *The Times*. Crick claims this is the first serious attempt to "tell the story of *Militant*." In reality it is a re-hash, on a bigger scale, of a story that has been churned out by Fleet Street time and time again.

Confronted with *Militant's* success, and unable to grasp that it is based on growing support among youth and workers for Marxist ideas, journalistic hacks repeatedly attempt to explain it away by imagined plots and secret conspiracies.

Like the *Observer's* Nora Belof back in 1975, like Tom Forrester in *New Society*, and like numerous other political daemonologists, Crick has conjured up a long organisational pedigree for *Militant* and laboriously fabricated an elaborate organisational structure which he claims runs *Militant*.

We have answered all this before. *Militant* is a newspaper, it is not run by a "Revolutionary Socialist League" or any other secret organisation. His allegations about central committees and other structures are all untrue. Far from working by stealth, *Militant* boldly proclaims its ideas and policies, which have wide support in the Labour party, in trade unions, and among young people.

In fact, throughout his book Crick cannot help expressing grudging recognition of *Militant's* success. We have long enjoyed overwhelming support in the Young Socialists, have a significant base in the Constituency Labour Parties, and have rapidly growing support in the trade unions. Our support is better organised than other groups, our supporters more dedicated. In fund-raising from workers we are in a "different league" from other groups.

Two supporters were elected as MPs last June, and

By Lynn Walsh

Terry Fields, Crick acknowledges, chalked up a "remarkable" 4.8% swing to Labour in Liverpool Broadgreen.

Crick even blandly admits that the argument that *Militant* is "a party within a party", with a separate organisation and policies... is a weak one. There are dozens of groups within the Labour Party that have the characteristics of political parties—Labour Solidarity and the Labour Co-ordinating Committee, for instance".

There are groups with constituency organisations, some are financed from abroad. The constitution, he says, has always been taken "with a pinch of salt". But *Militant* is different because it has breached the constitution "so effectively". In other words, in his book too *Militant's* crime is that we have been too successful in winning support for our ideas!

Crick is incapable of understanding the economic and social basis of Marxism's success. In passing he refers to disillusionment with past Labour governments. In relation to Liverpool, he accepts that the party's support drastically declined under the stewardship of Labour's old right wing leaders. He acknowledges that mass unemployment is radicalising youth.

But these fundamental factors are largely off camera. He is not concerned with the crisis in capitalism. Crick's focus is firmly on the conspiratorial methods which, according to him, *Militant* uses to win support.

Of course, it would be very difficult to win support with the political approach Crick attributes to us. In a single chapter, Crick attempts to summarise *Militant's* "policies and programme". He lists many of

Another hatchet-job on Militant



This could be taken for a *Militant* bookshop. In fact it is *Books Etc.*, a bookshop in Fleet Street, plugging Michael Crick's witch-hunting book.

Photo: Mark Pinder

right wing reformist leaders, more and more are drawing the conclusion that there are no solutions within the rotten framework of capitalism—and that the Marxist policies advocated by *Militant* offer the only way forward.

We may be sure that Labour's enemies will use the book to step up the drive to witch-hunt Labour's left wing and purge radical conference policies.

A revival of the witch-hunt on a big scale could wreck the Labour Party—Crick notes that the witch-hunt against *Militant* was stepped up when the last general election was in the offing—with disastrous results for Labour.

Even now the strategists of capital are weighing up the prospects for the next general election. Despite Thatcher's landslide victory last year, they are well aware that growing class battles could drastically undermine support for the Tories—and open the door to a Labour government which would come under tremendous working class pressure to implement socialist policies.

What better tactic then, than to provoke a renewal of the witch-hunt? How convenient to have a new book from a Channel 4 journalist, particularly as Crick heightens the alarm by stressing *Militant's* strength and the fact that the Labour Party is "ill equipped" to get rid of the Marxists. However, we would warn both our opponents inside the Labour Party and our enemies outside: Crick's last sentence is about the only correct statement in the whole book: "*Militant* is here to stay".

our policies, it is true, but presents a crude caricature of our programme and perspectives.

At best his "analysis" reveals profound ignorance and a very superficial political understanding. But not content with distorting what we say, Crick alleges that "little of *Militant's* revolutionary plan is stated explicitly by the tendency, even in its internal documents". Is Crick claiming that *Militant* is the first

revolutionary conspiracy in history to communicate its aims by telepathy?

Again, Crick's political attack is a revival of the old red-baiting calumny that Marxists advocate a totalitarian society. The underlying idea is that anyone who stands for the abolition of capitalism must support totalitarian dictatorship. This is the primitive, pro-capitalist ideological basis of the "conspiratorial view of history".

Militant is "wholly alien" to the Labour Party, according to Crick, so why does *Militant* enjoy growing support? We suggest that instead of interviewing our enemies and alleged "defectors" Crick spends some time discussing with miners, young workers, women and blacks who are involved in the day-to-day struggle against the bosses and the Tories. From their own experience of the crisis and the bankruptcy of Labour's

CRICK'S DUBIOUS SOURCES

"THIS BOOK is not meant to be a hatchet job on *Militant*," claims Crick in his Preface. The media man is evidently anxious to establish his credentials as a serious, impartial journalist. Whatever his intention, however, the book's smooth political distortions, the elaborately "documented" misinformation, and the uninformal gossip will provide welcome ammunition for the capitalist press and their shadows within the Labour leadership.

Crick's acknowledgments read like a directory of *Militant's* right-wing opponents. Some need no introduction: He thanks Alistair Graham, chief apostle of the right's "new realism"; and Ken Cure, chairman of Labour's *Star Chamber*, the National Executive's mis-named "Appeals and Mediation Committee" which organises the witch-hunting. Russell Tuck and Frank Field MP also get a mention.

Thanks too go to Eddie Rodderick, one of the six renegades who voted against the Labour group's stand on Liverpool council.

Some of the others listed are now more obscure figures but were probably even more assiduous in providing Crick

with political muck. He thanks Reg Underhill, known as Lord Mole-hunter, who worked for years as a Labour Party official to get the witch-hunt going. Another is Barrie Clarke, former LP Youth Officer, who now admits that his role was "disorganising" the Young Socialists, confessing that the "worked 'totally in league' with the Clause 4 organisation."

Past luminaries of Clause 4 active in NOLS (the Labour student organisation) feature prominently as informants, notwithstanding Crick's admission later that this organisation, "though professing to be left-wing, in reality... was no more than an alliance of people who detested *Militant*."

With helpers like these, it is surprising that Crick's account seriously distorts *Militant's* position, seeks to explain every success by plots and conspiracies, and is embroidered throughout with fairy tales?

Some of the stories are malicious lies, some are plain ridiculous. At one NOLS Conference, for instance, "somebody" (who?) "even tried to electrocute Barrie Clarke. The wires to the LP duplicator were deliberately

wired up incorrectly!"

However, Crick implies his book is superior to the average hatchet job because it is based partly on interviews with "fifteen *Militant* defectors, former members of the tendency who have been prepared to talk about the organisation and their life in it."

It is such "inside" sources presumably, which allow Crick to come out with amazing details. For instance, reading his book *Militant's* Editor discovered he had a brother or sister he had not previously known about! Untrue *Insight*-type details do not authenticate untrue stories.

Most of Crick's informants repudiated Marxism long ago. Some (like Frank Ward) have become cynical right-wing hacks. Others have ended up in the "League of Abandoned Hopes", full-time pessimists on the fringes of the movement.

Either way, their memories are notoriously selective, their recollections distorted by political malice. They are particularly strong on personal gossip directed against comrades who have worked untried to electrocute Barrie Clarke. The wires to the LP duplicator were deliberately

credibility as a serious journalist.

What sort of witnesses are Crick's "defectors"? Crick travelled to Blackburn, for instance, to see Michael Gregory, whose "first-hand evidence" has been used to expel six *Militant* supporters from Blackburn Labour Party. But Gregory never supported *Militant*, he is a political provocateur. As Jack Straw's former secretary has recently revealed (*Militant*, May 25...), the MP corrected glaring errors and added "missing" names to the sworn, but nevertheless false, affidavit of this ignorant "insider". Having supplied dirty ammunition against *Militant*, just prior to the local elections this stooge stabbed the Party in the back by voting to defeat the Labour group on Blackburn council.

Another of Crick's informants is Dave Mason. No *Militant* supporter would have anything to do with this character, who has excelled even other Clause 4 leaders in underhand manoeuvring.

At the 1983 NOLS Conference Mason was exposed for substituting two forged, defective membership cards for two genuine ones in order to get two opponents from his Club ruled out as delegates.

Even Clause 4 delegates were obliged to support the overwhelming vote of censure on Mason. He is not so much a defector as a political defecative. Yet Crick extensively quotes this "typical case" about the "unending tedium" of "The Militant Life", which disrupted poor Mason's "social circle".

Reliance on people like this for his "facts" does not deter Crick from regurgitating outright lies about *Militant* supporters "fiddling NOLS credentials", etc. It is indicative of Crick's mentality that he relates the infantile—and sick—"Operation Icepick" story about Clause 4's consciously neo-Stalinist manoeuvres against *Militant* with a puerile glee worthy only of *Private Eye*.

Hostile tales are only to be expected from opponents who are incapable of formulating arguments, although Crick can hardly expect to be taken seriously when he himself admits that they are "no doubt embellished somewhat by the passage of time."

More serious, however, is evidence that Crick has completely twisted the comments of some alleged informants. For example, Crick quotes derogatory comments from

Sam Bornstein. These are attributed in his source notes to an uncheckable "unpublished interview with Tom Forrester".

For a start, this shows Crick is re-hashing stuff concocted by Forrester, a councillor in Brighton who published a scurrilous attack on us in *New Society*—shortly before deserting Labour for the SDP.

However, when he saw Crick's book, Sam Bornstein wrote to *Militant* saying that although he spoke to Forrester on the phone, he had refused to meet him:

"Crick rang me some months ago and told me he was writing a book for Fabers. I refused to discuss with him. I have always been willing to help serious researchers who are genuinely interested in the history of the movement, but it has never been by habit to denigrate people with whom I have disagreed politically within the movement. At no time have I granted a formal interview to Forrester or Crick and any remarks I am stated as making have been taken out of context and not been verified by me."

In the light of this, how can we accept Crick's plea in his Preface that this is "a fair account"? He must be joking!

BL workers fight for a future

Part 2 of The Battle to Save BL

LAST WEEK John Mclelland described the ruthless attacks being made by the Tories on British Leyland. Factories face the alternative of closure or privatisation. But the workers are fighting back.

The fate of all car workers in Britain is linked inescapably to the world economy. Even in the good old days of the '50s and '60s the car industry was fickle to ebbs and flows in the market at home and abroad. Full production, followed by layoffs and slack periods and again followed by periods of break-neck production have always been among the hazards a carworker faces.

But now with the recession on a world scale, coupled with intense foreign competition and the need to reinvest in new models, robots and 21st century technology every few years, the car industry internationally has become even more unstable, especially for Britain's car producers, who have been underinvested, and are ill-equipped to survive the assault of Japanese methods of mass production. Although in the last few years there has been limited investment in BL, mainly in Longbridge and Cowley, it is merely peanuts compared to what other car producers internationally have invested, notably the Japanese.

Outdated machinery

The *Financial Times* pointed out recently that European manufacturers would have to invest over \$70 billion by 1989 to keep up with Japan alone. In 1982, a single Japanese worker had £11,780 of machinery behind him with which he produced £1,000 worth of cars in 9 days. His counterpart in Leyland had just £1,000 worth of machinery behind him and it took 47 days to produce £1,000 worth of cars. Some of the machines BL workers are still using were used in Britain's 2nd World War effort.

Will the rapacious bosses in Britain who will take over Jaguar, Austin Rover, Leyland Trucks etc., be prepared to reinvest the booty back into the new technology Britain's car industry sorely needs? On the basis of experience, the new owners will act no differently from the rest of big business in Britain. They will screw every penny out of the workers and fail to reinvest in the industry. The fate of all carworkers and their industry in Britain, is at the mercy of the international market and the booms and slumps of the world economy. Privatisation would be just another burden for workers in BL.

Privatisation

Two years ago, Landrover was seen as the best prospect for privatisation, but with the cutting back of orders, due to the world slump, and increased competition, Landrover began to make losses and now must be further "restructured" (ie more

closures and cuts) before it is "presentable" for privatisation.

Jaguar, which will go on sale shortly, is experiencing a turn-around from massive losses two years ago, to a handsome operating profit of £55 million in 1983. This was due to world demand; in fact 50% of all Jaguar cars sold were in the US. If the US economy goes back into recession next year, or in 1986, there will be a lot of company executives down on their heels and the demand for XJ6s will be slashed. Such is the volatile nature of car production, exposing thousands of car workers to the whims of the world economy.

National campaign

The fight to save BL is not over. It is never late to fight. But a lead must be given in the first instance, by the TGWU and AUEW, the major unions. As yet there has been no serious campaign to speak of, of mass meetings on the issue, preparing the ground for a national struggle. The issues must be taken to the shop floor and the facts hammered home.

There must be a national response to the threat of privatisation, and the membership prepared for industrial action.

Just like Talbot and more recently the Ford foundry, the workers were prepared to struggle at the early stages, but the determination to fight at plant level was not mirrored at national level.

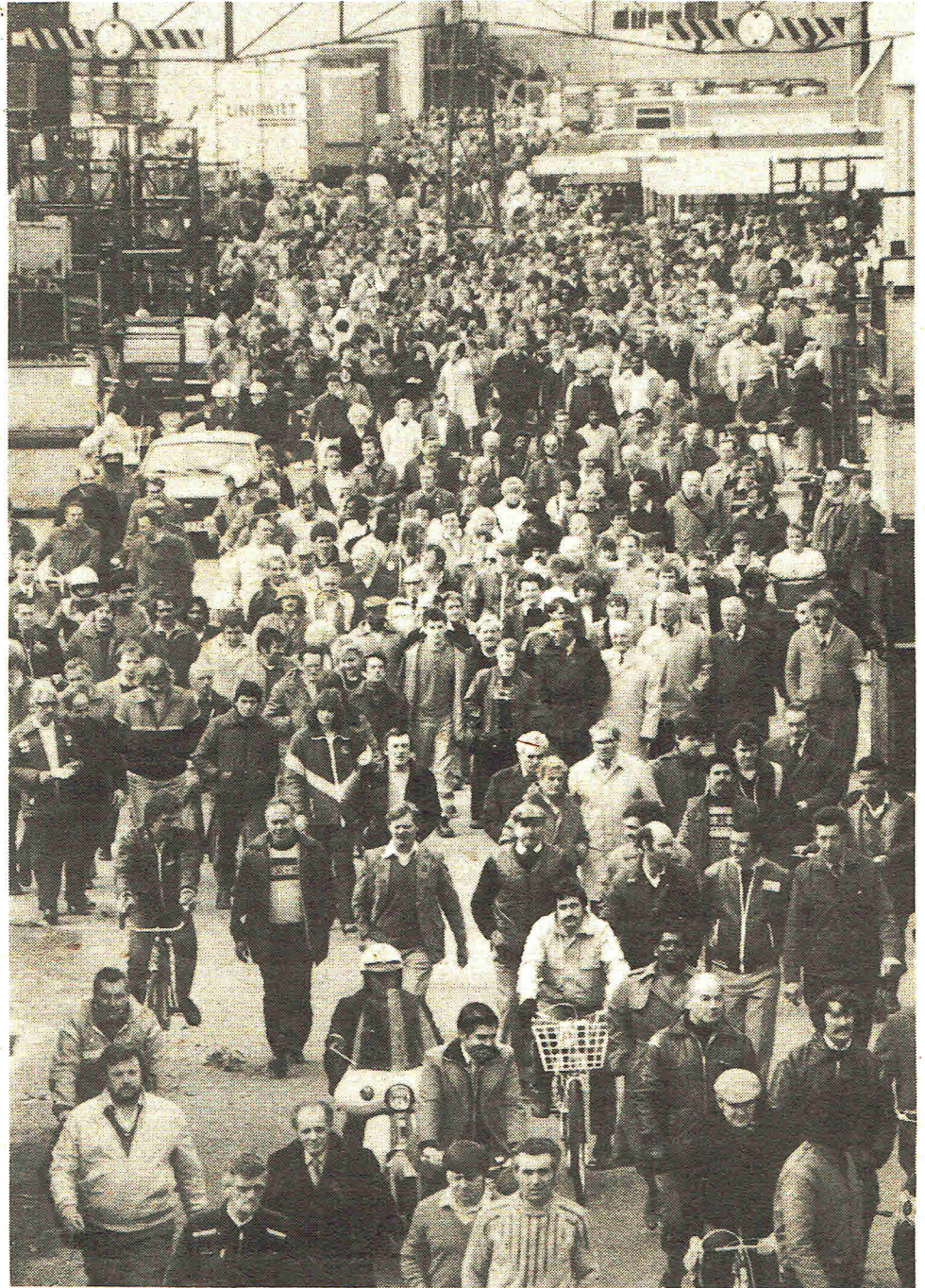
Solidarity call

If the call had been given from the national offices of the AUEW and TGWU, for a campaign in support of Bathgate on a nationwide basis, there would no doubt have been a response from BL workers in the West Midlands, especially at Longbridge and Cowley.

Over privatisation, closure, wages and conditions and management attacks on the shop floor, individual plants must not be left to fight in isolation.

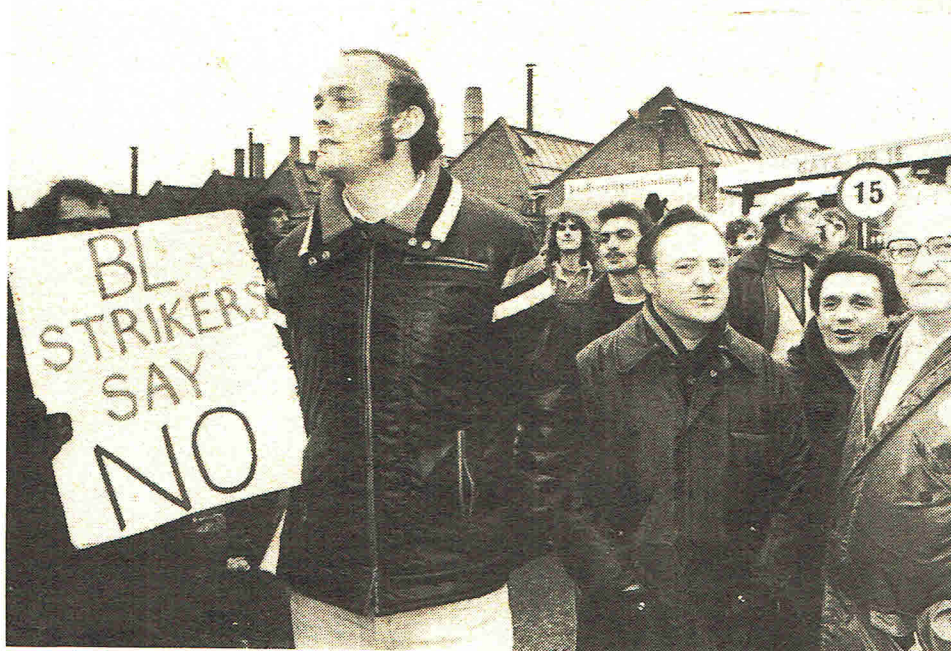
The drift away from national wage bargaining towards plant by plant bargaining, has not only prepared the way for privatisation but also serves to weaken the unity of BL workers. The tactics of divide and rule, used by management, have seen workers in one division played off against another, and even inside each division, workers at one plant pitted against another plant over the issues of bonuses. The need to rebuild the identity and unity of BL workers on a combine-wide basis is now an immediate task that the national leadership of the unions must face.

As a first step, a combine-wide conference of shop stewards should be called which would involve the rank-and-file stewards in hammering out plans for



BL workers walk out after a ten to one vote to strike last year.

Photo: Militant



Cowley out in 1981.

The decision of the Bathgate workers to end their sit-in to save their plant is a setback, although the fight will go on. Who could blame the rank and file member of the Bathgate plant for feeling that the tremendous task of taking on not only BL management, but the whole Tory Cabinet was somehow insurmountable. The fear of losing redundancy payments and for some a wage for another 18 months played a part, but the biggest fear they had was of going into a battle with one hand tied behind their backs. The workers at Bathgate no doubt lacked confidence in their national leaders' ability to turn the struggle into a national dispute.

fighting privatisation and also drawing up a common wage claim for all BL workers, which must include the demands for a decent

Combine committee

Even if privatisation is streamrolled through in the next few months, the battle must go on. A struggle must be kept up to retain the unity and identity of the BL workforce, and the establishment of a proper democratic national combine committee, with delegates who are elected by and accountable to each plant committee.

For BL workers, a fighting leadership can and

will be constructed in the next period of struggle that will soon engulf the whole of the combine, despite privatisation. But such a leadership must have a long term socialist strategy. All the struggles of BL workers have to be linked to the struggles of other sections of the movement such as the miners, and Liverpool City Council, to build a movement of opposition to defeat all the Tories' anti-working class policies and eventually remove them from power and return a socialist Labour government.

The first task of a Labour Government would be to renationalise everything the Tories have sold, with compensation only on the basis of need. The next step would

be to take into public ownership all the car producers and suppliers, under a National Automotive Board, and begin to run democratically and plan the whole of the industry for society's needs.

The way BL and all nationalised industries have been run must be changed. No longer the imposition of the likes of Edwardes and Bides of the world, paid 10 or 15 times the average wage of most BL workers, but a democratically elected board with a third elected by workers in the industry, a third from the TUC and a third by the government, and with every member on the average wage of a skilled worker.

Capitalism, and the monopolies who control most of production in the car industry, is international. At present, because of the integration of the world market, strikes by the West German IG Metall workers making gear boxes, mean that production of cars in Britain is disrupted at BL and at Vauxhall. Fords is like a multinational octopus, its tentacles spanning the world, with a history of playing off one group of workers in one country against workers in another country.

Import controls?

In the car industry, internationalism is not an abstract idea, plucked out of the air by socialists, but a concrete fact that every car worker experiences in his day to day struggle to survive. Unfortunately some in the

movement fail to recognise this reality, by putting forward import controls as an answer to the problems facing the car industry. If a future Labour government were to impose controls on imported cars then the retaliation that would follow would be devastating.

Sack capitalism

In 1983, export sales of BL vehicles accounted for a third of total sales. Import controls could only lead to more hardship for working people as a whole, and cloud the eyes of workers to the real struggle against capitalism in Britain and internationally.

As long as trucks and tractors are only produced if there is profit involved, then there will be people in the Third World countries starving while the skills of Bathgate workers lie redundant. For all carworkers, capitalism offers nothing but endless anarchy. Capitalism as a system must be made redundant, not Leyland workers at Bathgate or anywhere else, and replaced by a socialist planned car industry, linked to an overall planned socialist economy, which will use the abundant skills of workers in the industry, for the benefit of society as a whole.

MILITANT HOPES to carry further material on British Leyland in future weeks. We especially hope readers in Leyland will send in articles, comments or items of news.

Civil Service feature

Civil service pay offer

The newly majority on the elected Broad Left—CPSA executive committee has rejected the latest pay offer made by the Tories to civil servants. The offer was made at a meeting between Treasury and civil service union officials on Thursday 31 May.

CPSA general secretary Alistair Graham was apparently absent from the meeting. It was reported that he was in Geneva on ILO business. Mrs Kate Losinska, the CPSA president who a few weeks ago defeated the Broad Left candidate *Militant* supporter Kevin Roddy for the union presidency by 400 votes, represented the union at the talks.

The offer from the Tories was for a 5% increase on the maximum of all pay scales, a 4% increase on all other pay scale points with an

underpinning minimum of £3 a week for all adults aged over 18 where this would be more favourable than the 4%. The offer includes a 4% increase in the London waiting allowance from October 1984 and a 4% increase in allowances for the 1st April 1984.

The new Broad Left controlled executive rejected the offer by 16 votes to one with 3 right-wingers abstaining (and not speaking in the debate). The EC agreed to ballot members at work place meetings on the offer with a firm recommendation to reject. Balloting will take place between June 18 and 29. Prior to the ballot members will be urged to attend rallies being organised with other civil service unions. In the ballot members are asked to instruct union negotiators to go back to the government for an improved offer.

The existing offer from the Tories would mean a savage cut in civil servants, living standards for the fourth year running. The offer does nothing to help the low paid civil servants, the majority of whom are CPSA members, nor does it do anything to end the discrimination against youth in the civil service. As well as being poorly—paid they take more than eight years to get to the maximum of the respective pay scales.

The problems facing CPSA members are exacerbated by the failure of Mr Graham and the previous right-wing majority on the executive to prepare the membership for the fight over the last six months. Once again a Broad Left executive has come to power in the union at a time when the failure and sabotage of the right-wing have weakened our bargaining position.

That's why at the executive meeting the left refused to ballot members on the basis of acceptance of industrial action for arbitration. The left saw as its immediate task to try and build up a mood amongst members to reject the offer.

Militant supporters argued against a motion at the union's conference a few weeks ago committing the union to binding arbitration on pay. However the motion was carried with the support of all other Broad Left groups. Union policy—to force the Tories to concede the right to arbitration—will require industrial action, however, and therefore the preparedness of members to struggle will need to be built up quickly over the next few weeks.

DHSS computer strike

260 CPSA AND SCPS members have been on strike since 11 May at the DHSS Newcastle Central Office complex. They are all shift workers employed on computers dealing with pensions and national insurance.

The dispute arose over an attempt by DHSS management to change the starting and finishing times of the shift pattern. The bosses demanded that the workers start an hour earlier at 8 am (which would cause severe domestic disruption to any shift workers who are parents) and that the finishing time on the evening shift be brought forward from 1 am to 9 minutes past midnight.

Full backing

The result of these cosmetic changes was to ensure that the shift disturbance allowance (SDA) which the workers received was cut from 20% to 10½% a cut of 9½% or in real terms between £10 and £14 per week. To qualify for 20% SDA you must work past the time of 30 minutes past midnight. The shift workers had been willing to negotiate with management to work out any problems with them. In fact over 25 meetings took place locally yet management refused to listen to reason.

The recent conference of CPSA gave full backing to the strikers. Organisation of the strike has been methodical and the mood of the strikers magnificent. A 24-hour picket has been organised by the local strike committee and a hut was purchased and assembled outside the main gate. Support from the UCW has been good with UCW members refusing to take in any post. This has resulted in management using a non-union security firm to smuggle in small amounts of work in unmarked vans.

The strikers' hut has come under attack. Management demanded its removal from official property on the spurious grounds that they wanted to cut the grass it stood on. The strikers stood

firm and now it is rumoured that management are believed to be seeking legal advice.

A 24-hour strike centre has been set up in a nearby community centre and strikers have been sent out on speaking tours of CPSA branches to explain the details of the dispute and to appeal for financial aid as the strikers are receiving only 50% of pay from CPSA.

Press adverts

Although the DHSS would only save around £44,000 a year through the shift changes they have been prepared to spend well over that amount on press adverts advising claimants on their position. Staff in local DHSS and Department of Employment Offices are co-operating with emergency procedures yet it is estimated that the strike is costing the Government £1 million each week in over—payment, administration and lost revenue from National Insurance contributions.

Yet again the Tories are willing to spend much more on fighting a strike than it would cost to settle. At a time when DHSS management are planning to introduce new technology into the DHSS network at all levels the high-handed and ruthless way they are acting in this dispute is causing members throughout the DHSS to think strongly about the "benefit" of new technology.

Other computer centres in the Civil Service such as the Department of Licensing and Vehicle Centre in Swansea have also been under attack and a common solidarity is beginning to be built between workers in computer areas throughout the country.

A weekly levy has been set up in DHSS branches and support is also coming from Department of Employment of Defence and from all parts of the Civil Service. With continuing support the strike will be successful. Messages of support and donations to CPSA Room 91 DHSS Newcastle Central Office, Longbenton, Newcastle Upon Tyne.

By Kevin McHugh
CPSA personal capacity

Photo: J. Sutton



Crown Agent's workers from East Kilbride, Scotland, on strike, collecting outside CPSA conference.

N Ireland civil servants move to left

THE 1984 annual conference of the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance saw a dramatic swing to the left, both in elections and in debates on the conference floor. NIPSA is the second biggest trade union in Northern Ireland, representing the civil service, local government and health service workers.

Never before has NIPSA been so split between right and left. Time after time delegates argued the need to fight the Tories on pay, privatisation, trade union rights, and to improve democracy within the union. Never has the Alliance Council (Executive Committee) been subjected to so much criticism. The anger and frustration of delegates reflects the mood of the membership and its desire for an end to the incompetent arrogant leadership of the right.

Left policies

The conference on all major questions endorsed the policies of the left. A big advance was the decision to allow candidates for election to produce manifestoes. Branches will now have the opportunity to vote on policy, not on personality.

On South Africa, support was given for the struggle against apartheid and the in-



NIPSA members march in defence of union rights.

dependent black trade unions. Conference applauded the stand by Liverpool council in its refusal to bow down before Tory pressure to cut jobs and services. A demand was made for trade union rights for trainees on the youth training programme and for jobs for all school leavers. Action was demanded to protect women at work from sexual harassment. The Tories were attacked for denial of trade

union rights at GCHQ. A policy was adopted for unilateral disarmament and the production of more socially useful goods as opposed to the weapons of death. On the day Reagan began his visit to Ireland his policies in Central America were solidly condemned and rejected. The highlight of conference, however, was the decision to donate £2,000 to the miners.

Last year saw the election of a right wing Alliance Council, and attempts by the right, and unfortunately the Communist party, to destroy the Broad Left. But 1984 saw the result of a fighting campaign by the Broad Left, whose supporters in the section elections came close to winning a majority in the public officers group and made substantial gains in the civil service group. On the Alliance Council the Broad Left now has nine of the 23 seats and *Militant* supporters now number 5.

Over 300 copies of *Militant Irish Monthly* were sold and £800 fighting fund was raised. A fringe meeting organised by the Labour and Trade Union Group raised £200.

By Alan Morrow
(newly elected member of NIPSA Alliance Council. Personal capacity)

UCW—Crown office closures and pay vote

LAST MONDAY'S (11 June) strike of postal officers in South West London against the closure of Knightsbridge Post Office will be followed by stoppages in East and North London on Wednesday and by a London-wide three hour strike on Thursday (14 June).

Knightsbridge is the first of fifty Crown Post offices which management plan to close despite a £40 million profit from the Post Office network last year and a massive £136 million profit overall.

The closures come as a complete surprise to the union leadership. A productivity agreement in 1983 guaranteed to protect the Crown Offices for four years. This has proved as worthless as the later London agreement which guaranteed all London Crown Offices for 1983/4.

Although the actions so far called by the UCW executive are a welcome step forward many members are questioning the effectiveness of a token three-hour stoppage the day after Knightsbridge closes. We need to show a determined opposition to the Post Office attacks.

Start by rejecting the pay offer despite the executive's recommendation. Organise local meetings to discuss the best way to fight back. Come along to the Communication Workers Broad Left meeting on Tuesday 26 June, 8pm. Speakers include Terry Fields MP, Phil Waker Broad Left national secretary, a miner and a postman. For venue details contact Phil Waker 01 595 5640.

By a London
Postal Officer

Universities strike

UNIVERSITY CAMPUS unions staged a successful 12-hour strike at universities all over the country a week last Thursday, following the rejection of a final pay offer of between 4 and 4.5% for the non-teaching staff.

The technical staff (members of ASTMS) have for the first time in over a decade rejected, on a national ballot, what the universities side called a final offer of 4.5%. Just the threat of campus unity brought the universities back with their so-called final offer.

This successful unity must now be consolidated within those universities that do not have joint union committees, immediately bringing them together, so that one campus body can co-ordinate and monitor the disruptive action that needs to be undertaken to bring the universities back to the negotiating table.

University manual workers are among the lowest paid workers in the country. The majority of us take home around £50 for a 39 hour week—so much for universities being places of education and enlightenment!

Reports from Nottingham and Bath universities.

GMB conference - need for broad left

DESPITE THE fact that most regions are controlled by the right wing, and dozens of resolutions were withdrawn, resolutions put forward by supporters of the Broad Left for General and Municipal workers were still discussed by congress.

The fact that the 'Decision 84' document was passed by only 58 votes shows that there is an overall desire for change within the union. Concern over services to members, educational facilities, etc. was expressed by many delegates.

A motion on low pay/unemployment calling for a national minimum wage of not less than 2/3 of the national average wage, a 35 hour week with no loss of pay, a massive programme of useful public works and implementation of Clause 4 part 4 of the Labour Party constitution was passed unanimously. This position, which has been put forward by the Marxists in the union for many years, had the backing of the central executive committee. They told congress later in the week, however, that whilst 'we' need a national minimum wage 'we' don't want it "at the flick of a switch"—in case it created more unemployment!

Another important motion passed by congress despite CEC opposition, called on the CEC to produce new rules so that the unemployed can be recruited to GMBATU and fully participate in the union's activities.

The full fury of the right wing was vented on a motion from the Scottish region criticising the action of Len Murray during the NGA dispute. So much so that David Basnett spent 15

By a congress delegate

minutes defending Murray's record of fighting the Tories. Despite the defeat of this motion, the basic solidarity of rank and file GMB members in support of the NGA and other unions in dispute, was shown by the support given to a motion which pledges GMBATU to give its active support to unions under attack as a result of legislation—again against the opposition of the CEC.

At the beginning of the week David Basnett spoke in full support of miners. But it wasn't until the end of congress, after Dennis English a *Militant* supporter tried to have an emergency resolution from Wandsworth local authority branch debated. It called on the union to give all possible moral and financial support to the miners, and urged the members to play an active role in local support committees. Only then was the statement made by Basnett outlining the G&M's attitude.

Although the union has committed itself to an excellent £1000 worth of groceries per day to strikers' families, there was unfortunately no mention of solidarity action.

The complete bankruptcy of the Communist Party was shown when a motion in the

name of Liverpool, North Wales and the Irish region, calling for full support for Labour councils who refused to carry out Tory cuts and services or make any GMB members redundant was debated. John Blevin, a CP area secretary in Liverpool, moved the motion and never once mentioned Liverpool's magnificent struggle in his contribution.

When Alan Duncan, a *Militant* supporter from Scotland approached the rostrum to second the motion, Liverpool regional secretary Whelan immediately seconded formally, ensuring no discussion on Liverpool's struggle. National officer John Edmonds speaking for the CEC, said that asking for full support was meaningless and a call for withdrawal of the resolution was approved.

A successful *Militant* readers meeting was held which was addressed by Gordon McKinley a delegate and regional council member from Scotland, plus Ian Isaac, South Wales NUM Executive, and a Notts miner. The Notts miner was one of four lads who came down to congress to collect money and to put their case across. After discussion during the week all four decided to join the fight for *Militant's* ideas. Over £300 was collected for the fighting fund.

The aim now must be for all supporters of the Broad Left in the union to strengthen the Broad Left in their area, to ensure that gains made at the week's congress are consolidated and that the aim of a democratic, fighting union becomes a reality.



Photo: John Smith (IFL)

Wandsworth G&M dustmen vote to strike back in 1982. The Wandsworth delegate to this year's congress forced a statement of support for the miners from general secretary David Basnett.

GMB strikers win in three days—after three years

A SIGNIFICANT victory was won by General Municipal & Boilermakers Allied Trades Union (GMBATU) members at John Folkes, Kidderminster after a three day strike.

There had been no wage rise for three years due to the recession giving management the whip hand. This year when at the end of procedure management would offer no more than £4, the workers walked out in support of their claim for £15 a week.

The director responsible for the negotiations was initially surprised by this turn of events. He is used to getting his own way. His response

was to stop the Whitson week's holiday pay.

There was an angry response. The workers shut the gates and 60 men blocked the entrance, stating no management or staff would be allowed to leave until the holiday money was paid.

When a director tried to leave for a dental appointment he was told he could go when he got his fellow director to release their holiday pay. AUEW workers in the forge were approached and at an instantly convened meeting they agreed to walk out on strike there and then. Within 15 minutes the holi-

day money was paid out.

On the Monday after the holiday a settlement was reached, with management upping its offer to between £7 and £8 and brought forward next year's wage round by three months. This dispute represents part of the general upturn in confidence of workers to win back some of what has been lost under the Tories over the last few years.

Eric Nicholls (Kidderminster LPYS) and B Debus talked to Bro Corns, GMBATU Senior Steward, John Folkes

Building union Executive shaken

THE 7th bi-annual conference of UCATT met at Southport last week at a time when there is a record number of building workers on the dole and the major contractors are trying, through various schemes, to undermine the ability of the union to fight for decent pay and conditions.

The determination of building workers to resist all these attacks was reflected in composite motion B, moved by Stockport and seconded by Brighton. It called for an increase in wages to £4 per hour and a 35-hour week but no loss of pay. It also called for the executive committee to launch a campaign, including industrial action, to achieve these ends. This motion was passed overwhelmingly.

Milton Keynes' resolution calling for recruitment of self-employed workers into the union was defeated despite executive support. The EC's position reflects the 'new realism' approach, an attempt to find a short cut solution to the union's financial problems in the face of falling membership. A composite from Sefton, seconded by Wandsworth, outlining a strategy to unionise the lump, including industrial

action, was passed.

Building workers have the highest fatal accident rate of any industry. We suffer terrible injuries because of the conditions of sites. Therefore composite resolutions 29-31 on the health service are especially relevant for us. They call for a reversal of government cuts and for a substantial increase in expenditure in the health service and for the public ownership of the pharmaceutical and drug industry. This was passed overwhelmingly.

Witch-hunt and NGA

The composite motion on union democracy, moved by Warrington and seconded by Newham, had the greatest effect on conference. It started off by reaffirming conference as the policy-making body of our union and recognised with some pride its democratic nature, but went on to condemn the leadership for its failure to carry out policies determined at our last conference in 1982. The witch-hunt was one example, and the failure of the General Secretary of the TUC to support the NGA in the Warrington

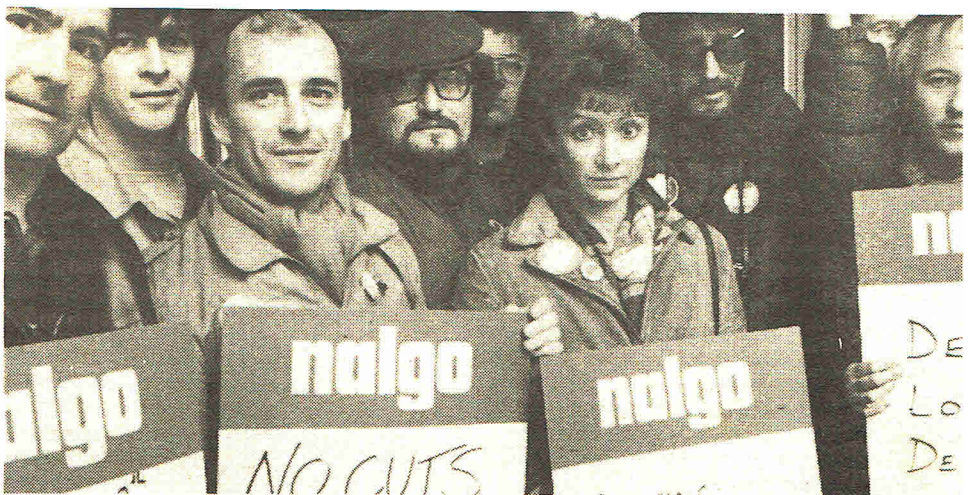
dispute, another.

There was also criticism of the TUC and the Labour Party delegations, which, with the help of certain members of the EC on the general council ignored conference policies. To strengthen the democratic process a rule change was proposed, whereby the TUC and the LP delegates meet prior to the closing dates for resolutions, to consider proposals from the branches and the executive council.

After a scathing attack on delegates supporting the motion, by the general secretary, who said there was no foundation for the criticisms, it was carried overwhelmingly with no delegates speaking against.

Len Murray brought fraternal greetings. He was treated very coolly indeed by the conference. Another important factor of the conference was obviously the miners dispute. An emergency resolution urging support for the miners and calling for industrial action where possible in their support was carried unanimously.

By Jim McGuinness (UCATT shop steward)



NALGO members in Liverpool have given full support to the fight of the City Council. The national union should do the same.

Local authority workers angry

THE FIRST day of NALGO's conference saw the delegates in a fighting mood. In an unprecedented move the local government group voted to reprimand the chairperson, SDP member Mick Blick, for his role over Liverpool City Council. A special local government group meeting in March voted overwhelmingly to back the Liverpool branch's request for an instruction to members to strike on March 29 in support of the City Council's stand against the Tories.

When the issue came to be

considered by the emergency committee of NALGO, Mike Blick refused to present the views of the local government group. He moved a resolution opposing an instruction in favour of a please-yourself authorisation.

The Liverpool branch sought to bring him to task for his flagrant disregard of democratic accountability and requested his resignation. Their acceptance of an amendment from the local government committee removing the resignation call was a mistake as it leaves

Blick free to organise further betrayals in his final year of office.

The National Committee of the gas group suffered two major defeats when delegates referred back a recommendation on drawing up pay claims, and voted to escalate industrial action, against the recommendation of the platform, in order to fight cuts and privatisation.

By Roger Bannister (Knowsley branch delegate)

Militant

EEC — bosses Europe and the socialist alternative pages 8-9

Defend Liverpool council

LIVERPOOL CITY Council have created 1,000 jobs over the past year. Below, **ROBBY OWEN**, one of those taken on and now a deputy shop steward at Princess Park, tells of the difference his new job has made, and the determination of local authority workers to fight for their future:

Two years ago, after being on the dole for over a year I got a job in a hotel in Newquay, Cornwall. I was a kitchen porter which meant I had to wash pots and pans, clean the kitchen up etc. This was a job which meant

working a shift system, breakfast, lunch and dinner.

I worked a six day week, 10-12 hours a day. I was paid a miserly £33 a week, which included a grotty little room near the kitchens,

and meals which were usually cold or well below standard.

I left the job after six weeks and came back home to Liverpool, where I received a letter from the DHSS saying my Supplementary Benefit would be reduced to £12 a week for six weeks. My parents are pensioners and my brother unemployed, and I waited for nine weeks before I got any money—even with the six week reduction.

Two of the many banners which greeted Jenkins' visit to Liverpool last week (report page 11).

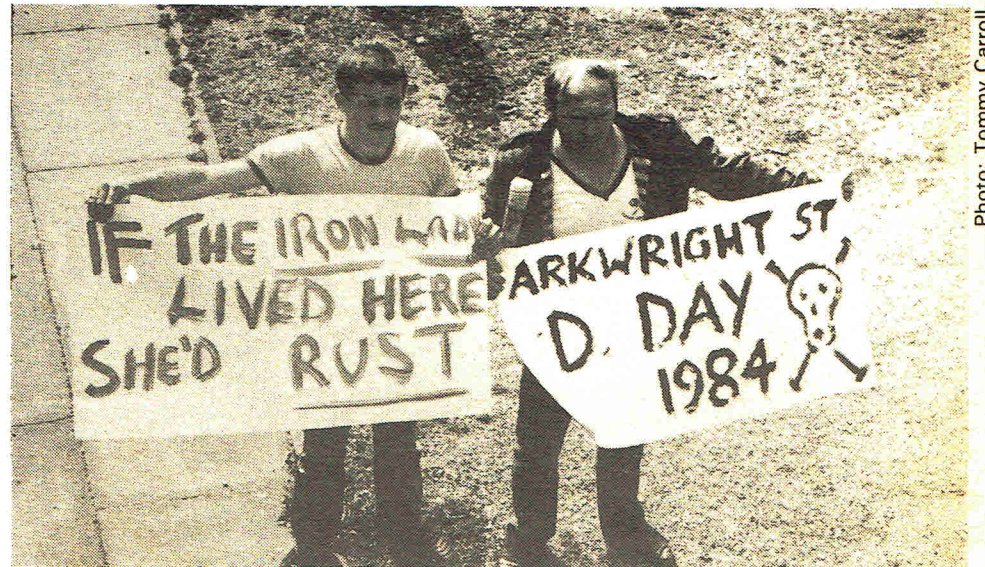


Photo: Tommy Carroll.

How Council helps miners

LIVERPOOL CITY Council will black all firms who have scabbed during the miners' strike. Derek Hatton Deputy Leader of the council announced the move at a meeting of the Personnel Committee, which pledged full support for the National Union of Mineworkers.

Pauline Dunlop, Deputy Chairman of the Personnel Committee moved a resolution calling for support and practical steps to assist the miners' families during the dispute.

Already the Liverpool District LP along with the LPYS have held street collections each Saturday where over £500 was collected in the town centre and £300 in the Speke Market.

The City Council will now

be providing collecting points for cash and food at the council depots and offices, rent offices, libraries, cleaning depots etc. Local authority workers have already made excellent weekly collections for the miners.

Not all of the Personnel Committee agreed with the motion however. One Tory councillor—a rare thing these days—asked instead for a collection for the police instead of the miners—and said that if workers can give donations then they are paid too much!

The City Council also sponsored the LPYS benefit concert for the miners (see page 11). The linking up of the struggle of the Liverpool City Council and the NUM is absolutely essential in the campaign against the policies of the Tory government.

Conference 23 June

THE CAMPAIGN of Liverpool city council and the NUM over jobs and services is building more and more support from the labour and trade union movement.

The miners are more determined than ever to win, and Liverpool City Council's campaign is at a crucial stage after Jenkin's visit (see page 11). The success of these two struggles will be victories for the whole of the working class.

The national fightback conference in Liverpool on June 23 is gaining support

daily but time is short, so send off your credentials right away. Delegates this week include; Liverpool local authority G&M branches in, cleansing, recreation and open spaces, EETPU/AUEW Housing Department branch. Many CLP's are sending in delegates and YS delegations are also coming in.

The Merseyside campaign committee have also agreed to waive the £2 delegation fees for miners on strike so send off your credentials without delay. Make sure this conference is a great success. Fill in the form below.

No going back

I am now one of the people that has been taken on by Liverpool City Council. If the Tories think I am going back to the dole and back to the life I lived then they've got another think coming.

If they think I am going back to the life of no tele, no food, no ale money, no holidays, they had better watch out because that means that thousands of redundancies will have been announced by the city council, not by the mass majori-

Miners

(Continued from front page)

But resolute action has forced them to climb down every time. At Coalville this required a two week strike. At other depots the threat of stoppage of all traffic soon forced management to change their tune.

It must be understood clearly that no victimisation will be tolerated. If the national union leadership is prepared to give a clear call they will find a ready response.

The magnificent support

for the Yorkshire day of action showed the solidarity that exists. Railway workers know why our pay claim was conceded. Unfortunately at no time have the railway trade unions nationally come out with a clear response to victimisation.

No victimisation

The NUR and ASLEF should make it clear that any victimisation of men supporting union policy will be met with national strike action. An urgent meeting of the Federation of Railway

Unions should be called to give a clear call for action now. The Triple Alliance must be turned from words to deeds.

Thatcher may think she has prevented industrial action over our pay claim but the Tories should not forget the enormous support for the miners among ordinary union members. The miners have a tremendous tradition of solidarity with other working class struggles. This is now being repaid not for sentimental reasons but because of the common interests of our class in this battle.

Railway workers also have a tradition of solidarity, especially with the miners. It was shown after the NUM lobby of Parliament when railway workers at Charing Cross walked out in protest against police violence.

The miners are not struggling for miners' jobs alone. Nor even for those like us whose jobs are directly on the line.

The whole of the working class has a big stake in this dispute. That is why we must all do our utmost to ensure a victory for the miners and for all workers.

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.

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