

YTURC forces Tory retreat

THE YOUTH Trade Union Rights Campaign and the thousands of school students who struck on 25 April have scored a victory. The government has retreated from its plans to conscript young people onto the Youth Training Scheme.

By Tony Cox

Norman Fowler's social security review states that: "no changes are proposed to the eligibility of young people to benefit". Earlier Bryan Nicholson, chairman of the Manpower Services Commission, told YTURC in a letter that: "... it has been decided that there should be no change to young people's entitlement to benefit".

The Tories had planned to cut supplementary benefit for any school leaver who refused to go on the YTS cheap labour schemes. But YTURC, backed up by the Labour Party Young Socialists fought back. They organised a massive wave of opposition, with a lobby of parliament, petitions and demonstrations, culminating in the quarter of a million strong school student strike on 25 April.

Climb-down

The Tory climb-down vindicates the tactics adopted by YTURC and the LPYS. It also makes the Labour Party leadership's attacks on YTURC and their decision to eject them from Labour Party headquarters absurd. Had the leadership followed YTURC's example and shown the same tenacity in fighting the Tories, the government could not have got away with its latest round of savage cuts.

Indeed, while the Tories have backed off from their YTS conscription plans, they are switching their attack on to students in Further and Higher Education. They want to cut supplementary benefit, with "students being helped through the grant system, by their families, and by their own earnings in vacation". The student movement must learn the lessons of the YTURC campaign and launch a similar fightback.

The labour movement must give full backing to YTURC and the LPYS, joining with it on its mass march for jobs in Liverpool (see ad).

Benefits butchery

TO PROTECT the profits of the rich, Norman Fowler's social security 'review' is snatching £1,000 million off pensioners and the unemployed.

The Tory press have tried to disguise this massive attack on welfare benefits as 'revolutionary' and a 'shake up'—in reality it is the biggest butchery of the social security system in 40 years.

As one Coventry DHSS trade unionist told me: "Maggie Thatcher has reviewed the welfare state like Hitler reviewed the map of Poland in 1939".

State Earnings Related Pensions are to be scrapped. Cuts in housing benefit will mean rent rises of between £1 and £12 a week for hundreds of thousands of families. A quarter of a million under 25s will be hit by cuts in supplementary benefit.

Seven million are to have to find 20 per cent of their rates bill.

Means test

Death and maternity grants are to be abolished—and replaced with a new means-tested benefit. 300,000 families will lose free school meals.

Family Income Supplement is to be replaced by "family credits"—which will be paid through the employer—further subsidising, encouraging, and legitimising low wages!

Single payments for unemployed workers to buy clothing and furniture—again woefully inadequate and complex—are to be scrapped in favour of a new means-tested social fund.

The Tories claim that decent pensions would impose "an insupportable burden on future generations". "It would be an abdication of



By Dave Nellist MP

responsibility", said Fowler, "to hand down obligations for our children which we believe they cannot fulfill".

Long-term economic stagnation is all that the Tories see for the next generation.

But capitalism and a Tory government is an insupportable burden.

Labour leaders have attacked Fowler's proposals and promised that a future Labour government would restore the earnings related pensions scheme.

At a press conference, however, according to *The Times*, "Neil Kinnock held back from committing a future Labour government to blanket repeal of the social security reforms".

Labour's leadership must explain, in a campaign of rallies, demonstrations and TV broadcasts, that if the Tories' capitalist economy cannot afford to guarantee a future for working people—then the working class can't afford capitalism.



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Militant

Football violence in Thatcher's jungle

THE OVERWHELMING majority of workers, not least in Liverpool, will have been utterly appalled by the carnage in Brussels last week. But much as socialists may abhor the disgusting anti-social violence of football hooligans, they cannot support the sanctimonious hypocrisy of the Tory "law and order" brigade or the introduction of repressive legislation that would be used against the labour movement.

Some of the television commentaries after the European Cup Final were like right-wing political broadcasts. Thatcher and others have tried to equate the disgraceful scenes in the Heysel stadium with miners' pickets. Robert Maxwell, millionaire proprietor of the *Daily Mirror* stooped from the gutter to the sewer, in naming the "Militant Tendency" as culprits, because of Liverpool City Council's defiance of Tory rete-capping laws. But no worker will associate miners fighting for their livelihoods or left wing councils refusing to sack thousands of workers with social violence.

The tone of the press campaign since the Cup tragedy has been directed towards the idea of collective "shame"—of working class people, especially in Liverpool. But Marxists refuse to join this chorus of blanket condemnations. The vast majority of workers, including the youth, have nothing to be "ashamed" of. They need no lessons in morality from the football bosses—those who have grown rich from herding hundreds of thousands of workers, like animals, onto concrete terraces stinking of urine, and who then complain if a few behave like animals.

In no way can football violence be condoned. It is blind, destructive and alien to the traditions of the labour movement, the activity of de-classed, demoralised lumpenproletarians, not workers.

It is now clear that elements of the British National Party were active in Belgium, consciously provoking violence. Thatcher, whose own party youth section is infiltrated by these fascist scum, studiously avoided any mention of their activities. But notwithstanding the actions of these right wing thugs, football violence does not arise by accident or from original sin. It is essentially a product of material social conditions.

Thatcher talked about getting the real "instigators"—but she and her system are the cause of social violence. Football violence has the same social roots as the drunken brawls that are common in every town and city on a Friday and Saturday evening. It is only an aspect of social violence and it is not restricted to Liverpool or to Britain. It is a symptom of the decay and degeneration of society.

The Tories have brutalised social relations. Thatcher's economic policies are the politics of the jungle: the rich and powerful get the lion's share while the poor and weak fight for the scraps.

More young people than ever before are among the long-term unemployed. The Tories relentlessly drive down the wages of young workers and the benefits of young unemployed. Social and personal fulfilment is absolutely denied to all but a tiny handful in capitalist Britain. To the bosses, workers' livelihoods and conditions are cheap—to be lowered or dispensed with by a stroke of the pen.

There are no riots at ski-resorts, horse shows or yachting regattas because the hooray-Henry brigade are well out of Thatcher's jungle. Football is a mass working class sport, and now the rich and well-to-do propose to punish working class people by bans on games and new laws which would then be used against the trade unions and political demonstrations at a later date.

The labour movement makes its own judgements on events like the Brussels tragedy, by its own standards of morality which are not those of Jimmy Hill or of Margaret Thatcher. Appalled, saddened and even to a degree threatened by football violence, socialists must increase their resolve to give a sense of purpose and direction to the young.

The energies of youth will be the mainspring of any movement to transform society and the whole purpose of that change will be to build a society capable of creating civilised conditions of life: in health, education, housing, jobs, and in personal fulfilment—and not least, in sport.

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Eye witness in Brussels

ON THE MORNING of the match there were leaflets being handed out on the ferry, urging people to join the British National Party.

There was also a large number of fans with southern accents and carrying Union Jacks—unusual at Liverpool matches.

At Jette railway station, close to the Heysel stadium, the fans were allowed to disperse, mostly into bars and cafes with some six hours to go before the match. Fans mixed freely and souvenirs and colours were swapped in a carnival atmosphere.

I got into the terraces in Y-block at 6.45pm. This section of the ground was already more than three-quarters full with some 90 minutes to go to kick-off. Knowing how many Liverpool fans were still outside the stadium, I began to fear there could be major problems with crushing, especially as the half gravel, half concrete terraces were in such a decayed condition and the fencing was so flimsy.

To my amazement the Z-block to my right was occupied predominantly by Juventus fans. Despite all this and some reports of Liverpool fans suffering knife wounds on their way to the ground, the atmosphere remained good humoured as the crowd watched a match

between local youth sides.

Around 7pm, some of the Liverpool fans in Z-block began to move out to the gate at the front of the terracing to be escorted into the Liverpool section. They were subject to spitting and missiles being hurled at them by Juventus fans. Missiles and flares began to fly over my head in both directions, then a skirmish broke out in Z-block.

The police moved in and segregated the fans as the hail of missiles increased. At this stage a hard-core of about 30-50 from the Liverpool section who seemed to be organised, made a sustained attack on the police who retreated, further scattering the Italians.

Encouraged by this, this hard-core group laid into the Italian fans and were joined by about 100 others who pulled down the mesh fence separating Y and Z blocks. Meanwhile, Italians at the opposite end of the ground were pulling down the fences to join in the melee.

There was then a dull thud and the fencing wall at the far corner of Z-block collapsed. The fans spilled out onto the pitch, the Juventus fans charged down from the other end and there was now a full-scale riot. It was apparent that people were seriously hurt and that the police had completely lost control.

As people lay injured, instead of sending in an ambulance, the riot police



Dead and injured in the Heysel stadium.

mounted a baton-charge, hitting people attending injured friends and others trying to get away from the fighting. Throughout the pandemonium the vast majority of the Liverpool contingent chanted at the thugs to stop fighting.

To reinforce the fact that they wanted no part in the violence, everybody in X and Y blocks staged a sit-in to try to calm the situation.

By this time the Liverpool manager had appealed for calm but the major problems now were the chaos where the wall had collapsed and the continued violence of the Italian fans at the other end of the stadium.

The response of the police to this was to station the riot police and the mounted division in front of the now peaceful Liverpool contingent while all hell let loose behind them.

By Paul Rice

Tories to curb workers' rights

THERE WILL be little opposition to the Government's proposals to ban the sale and possession of alcohol at football grounds and on football coaches and trains. These and similar measures will do no harm to the vast majority of workers who enjoy their game of football.

But the labour movement must vigorously oppose any attempts by the Tories to use the Heysel Stadium disaster as an excuse to introduce measures that would be used against the labour movement. Some Tory MPs are already in favour of the introduction of personal identity cards and the suggestions of club "membership cards" must not become a precedent for wider use.

More particularly, the Tories are consciously lumping together football hooliganism with industrial struggles and demonstrations, in order to limit democratic rights. In her speech to the House of Commons on football violence, Thatcher used the opportunity to reaffirm the government's intention to introduce in the next session a law to limit all open air meetings.

The proposals will give the police powers to control the size, location and duration of demonstrations and pickets or even ban them altogether. These measures would not just apply to football crowds or games.

Europe-wide fascist groups

FASCIST organisations from both countries were present with their banners at the European Cup Final between Liverpool and Juventus.

In Brussels, before the game, scum from the British National Party were giving out leaflets, one of them asking fans: "Have you been thrown on the scrap heap by foreign imports?"

One British black youth was beaten up by National Front thugs before the game, and many of those carrying their Union Jacks were, it is believed, from London-

based fascist groups not from Liverpool.

Italian fascists were also in the Heysel Stadium. Some Juventus flags showed the symbol of the *Ordine Nuovo* (New Order) fascist group—a cross in a circle. Press photographs of Italian thugs attacking Liverpool fans showed some of the Italians wearing face masks with the same emblem.

This organisation has links, not only with other European fascist groups, including British, but also with a paramilitary group responsible for the Bologna railway station bombing in 1980, in which 85 people were killed.

Similarly, in West Germany, a case before magistrates in Dortmund last week highlighted the role of fascist groups there. Some extreme right wing groups attached themselves to the Borussia Dortmund team forming the "Borussia Front".

These extreme right wing groups have no possibility whatsoever of achieving power peacefully or by democratic means and it is their deliberate policy to incite violence and social "chaos", to discredit open, democratic society and to provoke the introduction of repressive laws and regimes.

Party unity to fight the Tories

THE Editorial Board of *Militant* has issued the following model resolution. All activists in the labour movement are urged to move it in their organisation and send it to the NEC of the Labour Party, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JT. Let the party leaders feel the anger of thousands of members at any move to witch-hunt Marxists from the Labour Party:-

This CLP/organisation recognises that party unity around socialist policies is an essential condition for the defeat of the Thatcher government.

The witch-hunts and expulsions over the last six months have damaged the party and played directly into the hands of the capitalist press. Such attacks before the 1983 general election were a key factor in

Labour's defeat.

Unfortunately these attacks arise from an attempt by some sections of the party to create a smokescreen in order to abandon socialist measures and return to the failed and discredited policies of the past.

We therefore call on the NEC to maintain the Party's commitment to socialist policies. The road of witch-

hunts and expulsions on which they are proceeding will meet the whole hearted resistance of the rank and file. We warn those leaders who condone these attacks that they will be held responsible for splitting the Party in the face of the enemy. All attacks, "purges" and expulsions should be dropped by the NEC and the misnamed Appeals and Media-

tion Committee, which has undemocratically initiated countless "disciplinary enquiries", should be disbanded.

Only if this is done can the ranks of the labour movement be pulled together to campaign effectively against the Tory enemy and prepare the way for a Labour Government committed to socialist policies.

Outrage at expulsion

WARLEY WEST Labour Party was warned by *Militant* supporter Bill Mullins, at the meeting which bundled him out of the party.

"Those who voted to expel me represent the past; *Militant* represents the ideas of the future."

This was shown at the *Militant* meeting held to protest against this expulsion, where a number of school students who participated in the recent strike spoke in Bill's defence.

Lynn Walsh, one of the expelled members of the Editorial Board, said, "*Militant* has not been weakened by the expulsions, but it is an attack on the democratic rights of all party members, a cover for moves to bury radical policies".

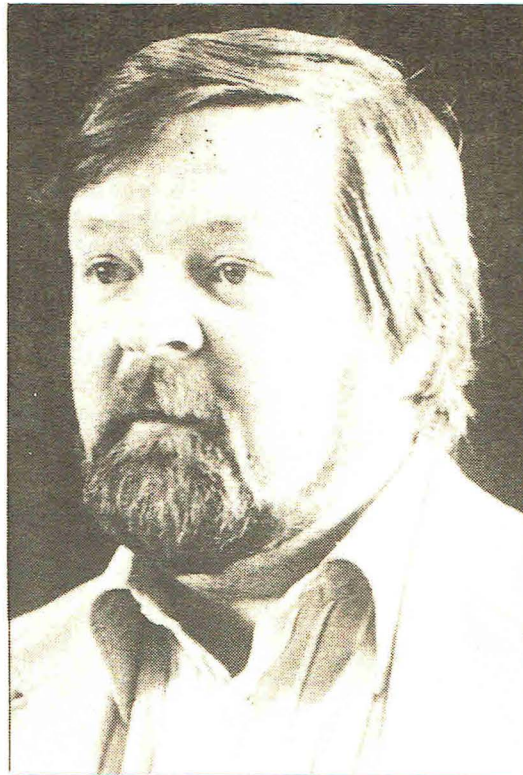
Speakers from the floor expressed outrage that someone with such a fine record in the Labour movement as Bill, not to mention 14 years party membership, could be expelled.

The labour and trade union movement in the West Midlands area has already begun to show its complete rejection of these Stalinist tactics of the right-wing by passing over 20 resolutions condemning Bill's expulsion and the witch-hunt in general.

Those who have already shown their support for the anti-witch-hunt campaign include Midlands Area NUM Lyttleton NUM, TGWU 5/76, 5/903, 5/909 branches, AUEW BL Drews Lane, NUPE Wolverhampton health service branch and Wolverhampton SE LPYS.

Please write to: W. H. Thomas, Secretary, Warley West CLP, 4 Viking Rise, Rowley Regis, Warley, West Midlands, B65 9RF. (Copies to P. Pritchard, Secretary, *Militant* Defence Campaign, 115 Ridgeway, Edgbaston, Birmingham B17).

By Phil Pritchard



Bill Mullins, *Militant* supporter, former senior steward at Rover Solihull and long standing member of the Labour Party—now expelled

Opposition grows to purge in TGWU

ATTEMPTS BY sections of the Transport and General Workers Union right-wing to launch a witch-hunt against *Militant* supporters and other socialists within the TGWU have met with stiff opposition.

Already, between 20 and 30 amendments have been sent in to oppose the witch-hunt resolutions at the union's biennial delegate conference in three weeks time.

These motions demand the banning of *Militant* supporters from holding office in the union. One even calls for not only *Militant* supporters but also the 'Broad Left' to be 'outlawed' by the General Executive Council. This underlines the fact that any attack on *Militant* would signal the beginning of an all-out purge of the Left in general.

TGWU members want unity and a resolute leadership and not unnecessary divisions. Branches across the country will be

moving resolutions against any witch-hunt and individual TGWU members aim to inundate Transport House with letters and telemessages condemning this action. They will also be seeking to mandate delegates from their branches to vote against these motions at the conference.

In the 1950s and 1960s the right-wing could attack the left from a position of relative strength. Today it is weakness and fear for their positions that prompts them. In particular they fear the success of BLOC, the Broad Lefts and the growing support for *Militant* and Marxist ideas. They will be defeated and the labour movement will go forward strengthened in the battle against the real enemy—this Tory government and the rotten capitalist system it represents.

By Nick Toms

Meeting boosts reinstatement fight

AN EVENTFUL meeting was held in Newcastle-under-Lyme to defend expelled Labour Party member and *Militant* supporter Dugald McKinnon.

Dugald explained that in breach of party's rules he had been refused a transfer of his membership from Ayr

to Newcastle, despite being a fully-paid-up member.

His crime was to sell *Militant* on the streets. It seems that "Witch-finder general", John Golding is afraid of the ideas of *Militant* spreading in the streets of his constituency.

Unfortunately, amongst

the 70 or so at the meeting was a small contingent of "supporters" of the British National Party (BNP), who tried to heckle the speakers.

When a financial appeal was made to the audience, miner Roy Jones countered the BNP supporters derisory comments by explaining that

even after 12 months on strike he was prepared to pledge £30 to the appeal. As the BNP members sat speechless, other donations of £20, £10, £5 and £1 were collected for the fighting fund.

By A Bentley

Victory for Greek left

THE RULING Socialist Party PASOK has won the Greek elections. The total left vote was not far short of the unprecedented 60% in the 1981 polls.

The party on 2 June had to overcome vitriolic attacks from the main capitalist opposition party, New Democracy (ND). PASOK had withdrawn support for President Karamanlis, former ND Prime Minister. The bosses wanted a right-wing President to prevent the PASOK government becoming too radical, and went fully behind ND in the election.

PASOK won through a massive campaign boosted by supporters of *Xekinima* the Greek Marxist paper who played a part in PASOK's victory. Although they had been expelled by PASOK the party arranged during the election to pay for *Xekinima* propaganda posters and even the paper itself because of the enthusiasm and the support the Marxists could bring to the

election campaign.

A reader on holiday in Corfu during the elections told *Militant* "I have never seen such huge rallies. The PASOK rally was easily the biggest even in this tourist area."

"People did not want ND, seen as the party of the colonels who were in power from 1967 to 1974. Nobody believed their new liberal image."

The PASOK government, had compromised with Greek capitalism and turned from reforms to counter reforms. But a strike wave forced the government to reintroduce price indexing. Pressure from PASOK supporters overturned the backing for Karamanlis.

Prime Minister Papandreou won on the promise of change and Greek workers will want the promise kept. Now weakened Greek capitalism fears for the future and Washington fears for its bases in Greece, threatened by Papandreou.

Newham Seven Asian stabbed

A SUPPORTER of the Newham Seven Campaign was stabbed in broad daylight on Friday in East Ham High Street, East London.

The young Asian was carrying out work for the campaign set up to defend the Asians arrested after a day of racial attacks, ending in a fight in April last year.

Two known racists from Manor Park attacked him from behind, stabbing him behind the ear. Outraged local shopkeepers quickly alerted the police and the two thugs were arrested.

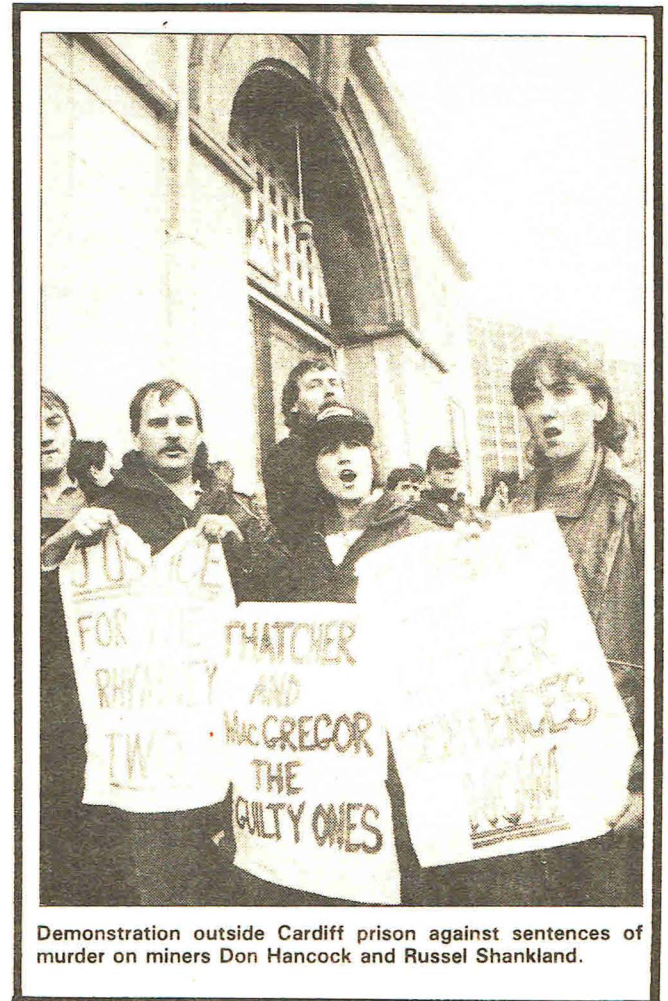
Yet incredibly only one of the two thugs was held, charged with actual bodily harm! Compare that to the harsh treatment meted out to the Newham 7 defendants.

Anger is mounting in the local Asian community. The next day on Saturday night, three Asian youths were attacked by 20 racists in nearby Chingford—one of the Asians is seriously ill in hospital after being stabbed in the neck.

Meanwhile, heavy handed police tactics have failed to dampen the spirit of the Newham Seven Campaign during its pickets of the trial at the Old Bailey.

So far nine people have been arrested. On Monday 150 joined the picket and there were no arrests, although an Asian special branch policeman from Southall was recognised attempting to mingle amongst the crowd.

Three East Ham *Militant* supporters turned up for their regular sale on Saturday in the High Street to find seven NF members occupying their pitch. One phone call later and 12 *Militant* supporters turned up surrounding the NF and shouted down their slogans. Local Labour Party members with support from the Newham 7 Campaign are now mobilising to keep the NF out.



Demonstration outside Cardiff prison against sentences of murder on miners Don Hancock and Russel Shankland.

Support Mansfield 55

SUPPORTERS OF 55 miners and others arrested during a demonstration in Mansfield during the strike last year are calling a picket of the court on 10 June in Nottingham where the trial is to be held.

After fighting broke out between police and demonstrators the miners were charged with 'riot'

and 'affray', an out-dated law which is difficult to prove but can carry an unlimited fine or jail sentence.

Join the picket at 9.45 am at Shirehall Crown Court, High Pavement, Nottingham, to defend the "Mansfield 55" and ensure that these charges are thrown out.

Feelings harden to fight pit closure

THE DECISION of the National Coal Board to close Horden Colliery in Durham has met with determined opposition from the NUM.

By Kevin Miles

Since the end of the strike Horden has been profitable—yet the Board argue it must close on economic grounds, and have used underhand tactics to try to stem union opposition. The seats were still warm from a union-management meeting when the notice of closure and transfers to four

collieries was pinned up. Joe Wilson of Horden NUM told *Militant*: "At first there was a bit of panic, and lots of men went for transfer forms, but at the Lodge meeting on the Saturday, the officials explained how management were trying to intimidate the men into taking redundancy. They asked the blokes for a commitment to refuse transfers and redundancy, and they got it—unanimously! Straight away the men withdrew their requests. Since then we've had meetings of all the unions concerned and we're all determined to fight. Even three British Association of

Colliery Management (BACM) members have said they'll support us".

United campaign

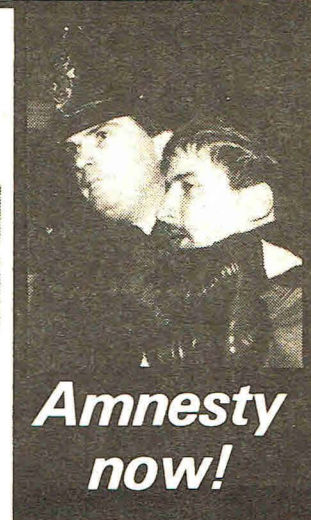
The campaign to save Horden was launched with a well-attended march last Wednesday, with speakers from Consett, as well as the mining unions and the Womens' Support Groups. Pressure and intimidation from management is being countered by the union. Now a campaign must be taken to the local labour movement to unite the fightback.



Acquitted but still sacked

ARTHUR OXLEY, a miner at Vane Tempest colliery and a member of the Durham NUM Executive, returned to work with the rest of his lodge at the end of the strike to be told by the management that he was to be sacked for "gross misconduct and breach of contract". He was told that the NCB had been notified that he'd been charged under Section 5, for an offence allegedly involving the intimidation of a scab, and that it was Area policy to "sack all miners involved in

such incidents". Arthur refused to give any evidence as he'd been advised it might prejudice his case, which was still to be heard in court. Two days later he received written notice of his dismissal. Since then Arthur has appeared in court and been acquitted. "It was a very strange but pleasant experience—the magistrate seemed more willing to believe me than the scab, quite unusual!" Having been exonerated by the court, Arthur will be taking his case further with



Amnesty now!

the NCB. He commented on the sackings of activists from the strike: "In my opinion, the NCB have won their victory and are now following MacGregor's policy of rubbing our noses in the dirt. We have a national campaign for reinstatement, and I hope all trade unionists will give full backing to it."

By Kevin Miles

Armalite and ballot box to dead end



THE PROVISIONALS, they keep telling us, are advancing on two fronts. On the one hand their electoral campaign has brought them 60-odd councillors and the military campaign has notched up another "success" in the blowing up two days later of an RUC patrol in which four died.

By Pat Smyth (Dublin Labour Party and Trades Council)

The truth of the matter is very different; both events show in reality the severe limitations in their strategy, indeed the total impasse they are leading their supporters into.

It is widely acknowledged here, even by many of the Provos' own members in private, that the Sinn Fein vote has reached a plateau. It is unlikely ever to receive much more than the 11 per cent they received in the local elections which roughly corresponds to the results of recent elections to the EEC and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Voting figures are not the be-all and end-all of politics, but Sinn Fein's vote provides a very good indication of the extent of their support, and of the dead-end that they face.

They will probably never exceed the SDLP, short of a major blunder by the British, and have no hope whatever of gaining even the slightest base in the Protestant community. They are, in other words, condemned to being not just a minority party, but a minority party in electoral terms, albeit a major irritant

to the state. While the Provos are undoubtedly a force to be reckoned with in the Catholic community, no group in history whose support is so confined, with no potential for real growth, has even succeeded in transforming society, let alone defeating a major imperialist power in the process.

Military campaign

But if Britain is not to be forced to leave by a mass nationalist movement under the leadership of Sinn Fein, nor will they be worn down by a military campaign that periodically achieves a dramatic but very limited "success".

If this war of attrition, for the Provos now admit that Britain is likely to be in the North for at least 20 years, were to be "successful", the military campaign would not lead to a united Ireland but the repartition of the country and the creation of two warring and bitterly sectarian statelets.

The Provos' campaign today is increasingly not a campaign against the British Army. A policy of "Ulsterisation" has seen the RUC and UDR more and more taking the front line responsibilities in the North. The British Army is still there but is far less seen and plays more of a back-up role.

'Soft targets'

This has meant a shift in the tactics of the Provos towards attacks on the RUC and UDR, generally softer



The Provos' strategy—Sinn Fein conference (top), bombing campaigns (below)

targets, a campaign that is seen by Protestants as genocidal attacks on their community. The more the Army moves into the background, the more such attacks will escalate, the more harsh will be the sectarian divisions between the working class.

Twin strategy

The greater the success from a purely military point of view, the greater, in other words, the body count, the more bitter will become the attitude of Protestant workers to the idea of unity. And there is no way that you

bomb one million people into a state against their will. The twin strategy of the Provos, the famous "Armalite in one hand and the ballot paper in the other", is a strategy for permanent war and division. And this is true no matter what the subjective intentions of their volunteers or the occasional socialist rhetoric of their leaders. Such a reality flows from the essentially right-wing nationalist approach of the Provos that is in many respects no different from that of the SDLP. Meanwhile, behind the headlines that reflect the toings and froings of the Tory

politicians, the class war goes on. Workers in the Royal Victoria Hospital have struck recently in defence of jobs—Catholic and Protestant united on the picket line. School students in their thousands came out on strike against Thatcher's YTP conscription—Catholic and Protestant marched together without sectarian friction.

Alternative

Socialists in Ireland have an alternative. For us the real struggle is that against capitalism in all its shades, green and orange. We will continue to make common

Workers oppose Sinn Fein visit

A STORM of angry protest from the ranks of the Brighton labour and trade union movement greeted the news that the local Labour Party was to sponsor a meeting to be addressed by a speaker from Provisional Sinn Fein.

Workers were further incensed when one of the "Troops Out" organisers of the meeting, a Labour councillor, stated on television and in the press, that the bombing of the Grand Hotel was justified.

The meeting was lobbied by an unholy alliance of the Tory party, the National Front, the SDP and Liberals, all echoing the same call for the strengthening of state repression, the very thing that has resulted from 16 years of the tactics employed by the Provisional IRA, for whom Provisional Sinn Fein are the political attorneys.

Brighton Kempton Labour Party have consistently, since 1969, opposed British troops in Northern Ireland, and supported those in the Irish labour and trade union movement who have been fighting for workers' unity to combat sectarianism.

By Rod Fitch (TGWU, Brighton)

cause with all workers who are prepared to fight the bosses and their system. To us unity is important if it is a unity in struggle against poverty and exploitation, a unity of the labour movement throughout the island in the struggle for a socialist Ireland.

To start that process it will be crucial to build a Labour Party in the North based on the trade unions. That would represent a giant leap forward for the whole of the labour movement. Yet one of the biggest obstacles to building the trust necessary is the twin strategy of the Provisionals.

New union launched

HUNDREDS OF delegates representing school students throughout the country will be meeting in Manchester on 15 June to set up a National School Students' Union.

The success of the school students' strike on 25 April—when 250,000 joined a half-day strike—shows the need for a national union. The delegates, elected by local School Student Action Committees/Unions, will discuss the new union's aims and constitution and elect officers.

Below, students from Stevenage tell why they want a union, and why they have now also joined the Labour Party Young Socialists. They



Jill Campbell.

spoke to Janice Glennon of Stevenage LPYS at a rally during the school strike:

Steve Hood: "I went on a YTS scheme. I wanted to do



Steve Hood.

carpentry and work on a building site, but they sent me on a bookcase making course. I went back to school because there was not a job

at the end of it anyway. I joined the strike action because YTS is slave labour."

Jill Campbell: "The strike was really good given there was only a two-week campaign. We were threatened with suspension. The headmaster thinks the first, second and third years are too young. Everyone in the first four years were threatened with suspension if they came out. It's as if you suddenly develop a brain at 15, so you can think for yourself. We've joined the LPYS but its people like Kinnock who keep Labour behind. He's too weak to lead".

**School Students Union
Founding Conference**
Manchester Town Hall, June 15
For further information contact SSAC,
c/o 109 Rannoch Road, London W6

Head starts black-list

A SCHOOL in Manchester is attempting to 'blacklist' students who took part in the school strike.

The headmaster of Hulton High School, Worsley, Manchester says those that joined the strike will have that fact added to their records—and made available to

future employers. In a letter to the students' parents he said he is "disturbed" the parents supported the strike.

The parents have launched a petition against this decision, while Worsley LPYS are demanding the right of school students to strike.

Students back campaign

THE MOST popular stall at last week's 'Staying on in Education' exhibition in Liverpool urged students to join a union.

The exhibition, hosted by Liverpool City Council, had stalls from every aspect of post-16 education and local major employers, but the most popular was run jointly by YTURC and the National Union of Students and FE union officers. It showed how to organise a school students' union

and outlined the fight against YTS conscription and to defend education from the cutbacks.

As one girl from St Mary's school put it, the stall was "the most sensible and relevant". Leaflets were also given out to be distributed at schools. One headmaster even promised to announce their distribution at assembly.

By Tommy Carroll
(FE Sabbatical)

Photo: Dave Sinclair.



Defend strikers

Geraldine Lloyd with her 15 year old son outside Kirkby magistrates court on May 23, following his arrest during the school strike on Merseyside (see last week's *Militant*). Sixteen school students were arrested in Kirkby during the school strike and now face various charges. Three of those arrested have pleaded not guilty and will appear in court again on June 27. Parents and students along with the local LPYS have formed a Defence Committee to fight the charges.

Labour ranks defend youth

THE LABOUR movement is reacting angrily to the Labour Party leadership's decision to throw the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign out of the Walworth Road headquarters.

The action was taken against YTURC—who supported and helped organise the school strike—after hysteria in the Tory press. This is despite the 1983 and 1984 Labour Party conferences supporting YTURC and its aims, of organising trainees on Youth Training Schemes and fighting for their rights.

Resolutions have been passed by Hammersmith Labour Party and Arundel District Trades Council condemning the decision against YTURC, while Batley East and Arundel Labour Parties supported the strike call.

At a Rochdale Labour Party public meeting addressed by Tony Benn and attended by 500 people, there was widespread support for Mark Spence of Oldham LPYS when he outlined the case for the school students.

At the Northern Regional Labour Party conference, at-

tempts by Wallsend and Sunderland North Labour Parties to get emergency resolutions on the school strike moved, were only narrowly defeated. This was despite the support of NUPE and the Northumberland and Durham Area NUM.

Davey Hopper, secretary of Monkwearmouth NUM and newly elected to the Regional Labour Party Executive said later: "I certainly think the schools' strike was a good thing. Young people have been missed out for years.

"Nowadays kids at school face a lifetime on the dole under this regime. Because of that any form of organisation among school students to fight back has to be good.

"Unfortunately some of our own leaders call people trying to organise kids 'dafties'. That's terrible bearing in mind what the miners, what the whole of the working class have been through in the past 12 months.

"That's one good thing that's come out of our strike. The majority of miners now see the need to be political. What's more, they've found out who their friends are".

Socialism in Surrey

IN A recent visit to a school in East Surrey, Tory MP Geoffrey Howe said all politics should be banned in school, and the "activists rooted out".

The reaction is hardly surprising given the success of the LPYS in this formerly staunch Tory area.

Over the past months we have had five successful public meetings. Two were held on the miners' strike attended by over 300 people, with Bolsover miners returning home with nearly £3,000. A similar successful meeting was held on animal abuse, and then the East Surrey LPYS turned its sup-

port to the school strike. In this large area with all its transport difficulties, 1,500 students came out on 25 April. Over 250 attended our school students' rally on the strike day, to hear speakers from the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign and the National Union of Teachers.

Previously a school students' action committee was formed with reps from each school. This co-ordinated the strike action and is now building up for the national conference on 15 June.

By Ian Harling
(East Surrey LPYS)

HE colleges - new threat

THE GOVERNMENT'S latest green paper on education shows their clear intentions to carry through more cuts and privatise higher education.

Although the Tories' aim of 'rationalising' higher education has been delayed for over a year, the report shows the government will go ahead closing some universities and merging others. Thousands of jobs and university places will be lost.

Yet the government's own figures show that the students' numbers are estimated to increase another thousand by 1989—but still they are going ahead with a two per cent cut in university funding over the next five years.

Tory Education Secretary Keith Joseph has long been in favour of finding "sources of funding other than the state" for higher

education. The report calls for an encouragement of the 'entrepreneurial spirit'—government money for some universities will be withdrawn, forcing them to turn to private industry for funding of research. This will mean increasingly research being geared towards what is profitable in society.

Big business

Similar treatment is earmarked for grants. Joseph is still intent on students being given loans—the result would be graduates leaving university in search of work with massive debts hanging over them. Graduate unemployment is already running at 11 per cent.

The other consequence will be more courses being funded by awards from big business. The result will be more business orientated courses, and a falling away



Students demonstrate in January against Tory threats to replace grants with bank loans.

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

of arts and social studies, the area that produces graduates for the education and social services ie. the public sector.

These factors along with the fight for jobs shows that the student movement must link up with the local authority unions in the campaign against the Tories.

In November last year,

when the Tory party did not want to show its divisions during the miners' strike, the government backed down over its plans for means tested tuition fees, following the mobilisation of thousands of students. However this campaign was not taken forward and the Tories came back, increasing

the parental contribution to grants and abolishing the minimum grant, leaving 50,000 students £205 a year each worse off.

Build links

The student movement must make its defences stronger, with the NUS link-

ing up with campus and college trade unions and in turn local authority unions, in a public sector alliance. The fight against the cuts, for decent grants can be linked to the fight to save local authority jobs and the battle against the Tories' rate-capping legislation.

ads

Militant Meetings

CLASSIFIED: 15p per word, minimum 10 words.
SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per column centimetre. Three weeks for the price of two. *Militant* meeting ads free.
All advertisement copy should reach this office by Saturday.

DEFEND SALEP against Labour Party proscription! Buy a SALEP T-shirt! £3 & postage. Also still available: SALEP bulletin with NUM member Roy Jones report on his visit to SA NUM. 20p & 13p postage. Available from: Southern African Labour Education Project (SALEP), 28 Martello Street, London E8. Phone: 01-241 0434.

EAST SUFFOLK BLOC meeting. Friday 14 June, 7.30 pm. Speakers: John Tocher (AUEW Presidential Candidate) and Bill Connor (USDAW General Secretary Candidate). Ipswich Town Hall.

NATIONAL meeting of rank and file members of UCATT. Saturday 8 June 11.00am-3pm. Manchester Town Hall Conference Hall (Lloyd St entrance). This meeting will discuss the most effective way to fight back against the Tories' 1984 anti-trade union legislation and attacks on DLO. All UCATT members welcome.

CO-OP STAMPS for F/F wanted: whole books, half books or loose stamps. All proceeds to F/F. Send to Circulation Dept, 3-13 Hepscott Road, London E9 5HB.

'Abolition—Fight for Democracy' meeting at Lambeth Town Hall, SW2. On June 10 at 8pm. Speakers: Ken Livingstone, Keva Coombes, Bernard Clarke, Vanessa Wiseman, Ted Knight. — Streatham CLP.

'LIVERPOOL MILITANT Labour' badge with Labour logo, 'Black and white youth unite' badge with red Militant logo, 25p each plus 25p minimum p&p. FF cheques payable to P Cooper, 31 Balmoral Road, Fairfield, Liverpool, L6 8NB.

SOUTHAMPTON: Marxist Discussion Group meets every Sunday, 7.30pm, 206 Honeysuckle Road, Bassett, Southampton. Tel: 551420 for details of subjects or any further information.

DOVER: Marxist Discussion Group meets on Wednesday evenings at 8.00 pm at 36 Priory Hill, Dover. Subjects and dates as follows:
12 June: The state, the media and the party.
19 June: Trade unions and leadership.
For further details ring (0303) 43541.

TGWU BIENNIAL Delegate Conference *Militant* Meeting, Tuesday 25 June, 7.30pm. Speakers: Dave Nellist MP and Christine McVicar (delegate to Conference, personal capacity). Wessex Hotel, West Cliff Road, Bournemouth.

MANSFIELD *Militant* Public Meeting, 'Fight back against the Tories, build a socialist Labour Party'. Mansfield Library Lecture Theatre, Westgate, 7.30 pm Thursday 13 June. Speakers: Lynn Walsh (*Militant* Editorial Board), Paul Shawcroft (Expelled member of Mansfield CLP), A school student, Chair Kevin Cocker (NUR, Mansfield No 2 Branch, personal capacity)

LONDON *Militant* Readers Meeting 'Smash Apartheid—for a socialist S. Africa'. Tuesday 18 June 7.30 pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Square WC 1. Speakers to be announced.

MAKE some Fighting Fund for your Area! *Militant* "No Slave Labour On YTS" stickers now available. Price: £1.50 for 100—but they must be sold for a donation! Send order to *Militant*, 3-13 Hepscott Rd, London E9. Cheques/Po's made payable to *Militant*.

Chris and Geraldine Jones (West Kent) are pleased to announce the birth of Edward on 9 May.

THE FIGHTING Fund has picked up this week—£3,895 was raised and another £159 came in for the raffle. Although this is a much needed increase we are still falling short of the £8,000 we must raise every week to get on target.

Despite the slow start the donations from the labour and trade union movement are on the increase, whether extras on top of the price of the paper, larger gifts or official donations, they show the growing response to the ideas of Marxism. Small or large, pennies or pounds, the donations show the broad base of support *Militant* now has.

One donation this week resulted from all the work *Militant* supporters did during the miners strike—£21 was raised by Brian, a supporter from Hatfield Main colliery who held a social to say thanks to members of North Hull LPYS for help given to miners and their families during and after the strike.

Factory sales

Quite a few factory gate sales this week raised Fighting Fund. Sellers were asking for 'extras' on top of the price of the paper, again showing our growing support among industrial workers.

Extra finance came from sales at British Aerospace Preston, Vauxhall Luton, GEC Manchester, and Jaguar Coventry. These are just a few of the many factories where we sell papers

FIGHTING This week £3,895 FUND

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target
Eastern	437		3200
East Midlands	195		2900
Humberside	192		1900
London East	178		2850
London West	221		2650
London South East	196		1950
London South West	124		1100
Lancashire	156		1100
Manchester	57		2650
Merseyside	430		6200
Northern	418		4650
Scotland East	90		3000
Scotland West	169		3800
Southern	488		5000
South West	162		2150
Wales East	279		2450
Wales West	241		2150
West Midlands	469		4350
Yorkshire	303		5950
Others	2830		10000
Total received	7635		70000

and collect Fighting Fund. We appeal to all workers reading the paper, particularly first time readers, don't forget to make a donation next time you buy the paper.

Every gain workers have won has come through sacrifice. We are asking you, our readers, to make similar sacrifices—we cannot go forward without you. The witch-hunt of *Militant* supporters has been well answered in the West Midlands with £135 raised at a "Re-instate Bill Mullins" Meeting. Bill was expelled

from Warley West Labour Party for the crime of selling *Militant*. A further £159 came from a meeting in the Potteries area again showing how opposed ordinary rank and file members are to witch-hunts.

Keep the money pouring in, help us defeat these attacks. Help us to carry on building. DONATE NOW! DONATE EVERY WEEK!

By Kim Waddington

DONATIONS

CPSA Conference £3719 in-

cluding some IOU's (before expenses), SCPS conference £66; a reader from North Tyneside donated a bingo win of £35; Bracknell car boot sale £26; Colin Toogood unemployed from Bristol £20; T. Tattersall Morecambe USDAW £20; Mrs E Merchant NUPE Peterborough £20; Stakes and Pulbrook LPYS Portsmouth £10; Burnley supporters raised nearly £10 from a stall at a local fair; G. Cooze Leicester publican £4.50; Patricia Cortesi Ryde £2; Charlie Allom OAP Ryde £2; Maldon LPYS £1.66; Doug Pinder retired docker from Hull £1; N. Barnes Loughborough 50p.

Marxist Weekend School 1985

London 14/15 September

Courses on: Marxist Philosophy, Marxist Economics, The Russian Revolution, Marxism and the state, Black workers and the struggle for socialism, the Colonial Revolution, The Trade Unions—the 1920's and Today, The lessons of Popular Frontism, Women and the struggle for socialism.

Plus a rally/debate on Saturday and disco. Professionally run crèche. Put the date in your diary and make your transport plans now!

Only £7 (£5 unwaged). Book now! Cheques to "Marxist Weekend School" 3/13 Hepscott Road, London E9.

I would like to register for the course on ___ at the Marxist weekend school (Reading guides will be sent out from July) I will need accommodation (Bring a sleeping bag) for Friday/Saturday nights.

I will require the crèche for the following children (name and age)

I enclose booking fee.

Manchester *Militant* Weekend School. June 22nd/23rd Sat + Sun Theory of Marxism—Historical Materialism—Dialectical Materialism. Speakers include Roger Silverman.

Overnight Accommodation. Cost £1 unwaged, £2 waged. (includes study guide) Further details contact: Gordon, Tel. 061 969 4383 or write to 17 Catterick Ave, Sale, Manchester M33 4GQ. Crèche available.

South Wales Summer Camp

THIS YEAR'S *Militant* Summer Camp has an international theme, with talks planned on Britain, Chile, South Africa, Northern Ireland and Marxism and the Labour Party.

What better way to spend your August Bank Holiday than at the Gower Peninsula. Price is still £12.50 per adult and £2.50 child (5/15 years). Because of the ever increasing numbers attending the camp, we will be operating on a strict first come, first serve basis. BE SURE to send your bookings early to Roy Davies, 181 Hanover Street, Swansea—Telephone Swansea 463623.

MILITANT SUMMER DRAW

- 1st Prize—Holiday worth £500 in resort of your choice
- 2nd Prize—Portable Colour TV worth £200
- 3rd Prize—Camera worth £100
- 4th Prize—two prizes—a Cassette Recorder worth £50 and a Personal Stereo worth £50
- 5th Prize—five prizes of £20 worth of socialist books

Price of ticket: 10p
Get your ticket now from local *Militant* sellers.
To be drawn 27 July.

GET

Militant

IN EVERY town and city, *Militant* sellers are out in the shopping centres each weekend, selling papers, discussing with passers-by and spreading the ideas of Marxism. With the return of good weather, every *Militant* seller should make a special point of participating in at least one public sale each week.

That's the "unwritten rule" in Hounslow writes Pete Giblett. "We organise estate sales every week, and two paper sales—a Friday evening tube sale and a Saturday High Street sale.

This week: £1,768

THE BUILDING fund this week has received £1,728 of which £300 was donated by Clive Bomford from Southampton. This large donation shows the tremendous support from our readers for a daily Marxist paper.

No day goes by now without a further attack on the living standards of workers and youth, such as the new proposals to slash housing and unemployment benefits and scrap a number of benefits. But more and more workers want to fight back.

In taking on the Tories and the bosses we need a paper that can answer these

Fighting fund tins are always prominent.

"It is now easy to raise about £5 from any street sale, with paper sales always above 10 or 15. One of us sold 14 last Saturday morning, and raised £5 for the fighting fund.

Take to the streets!

"It is not a chore to do a paper sale, it is enjoyable. Most people know what *Militant* is and even if they don't buy the paper they see us out campaigning and fighting back against the Tories."

attacks daily. Donations like Clive's and many others we receive help to provide the essential resources for a genuine daily workers paper. This week donations have come from Merseyside, West Midlands, Strathclyde and London where our readers find new contributors to the fund every week.

A full week's wages

Steve German, from Taunton sent in his wage slip for £49.14 and the full amount he received. Steve is a worker on lower than low wages who is prepared to donate every single penny of his take home pay. How many other readers will follow his example?

We need to speed up the rate of donations from every area. Take your cue from



On South Wales school strike.

Up in Skipton too, a Friday tea-time sale has been started, as well as one on Saturday morning. In Edinburgh placards displaying the contents of the week's issue are used to attract at-

tention. One local seller on her first ever attempt sold seven papers last Saturday, outdoing the old hands.

Make sure that every *Militant* seller in your area is taking to the streets.

Marxist Daily Building Fund

	£	£	
Eastern	2731	Scotland East	2249
East Midlands	2839	Scotland West	2545
Humberside	1595	Southern	3768
London NE	3073	South West	770
London NW	3905	Wales East	1829
London SE	1953	Wales West	1453
London SW	2060	West Midlands	1937
Lancashire	518	Yorkshire	1410
Manchester	2202	National	1292
Merseyside	4752		
Northern	2708	Total	45590

Steve and put your money into the best possible investment—a paper to reflect the aspirations of millions of working people and lead the fight for socialism.

By Nick Wrack

FOR ALL your book needs. Full booklist available from: World Socialist Books, 3-13 Hepscott Road, London E9 5HB.

The politics behind the witch hunt



Photo: Militant.

Kinnoch—more interested in popularity in the press than socialist campaigning.

Protest at Labour headquarters at the expulsion of the *Militant* editorial board, 1983.

A SERIES of attacks on *Militant* supporters suggests that the right wing leaders of the Labour Party and some trade unions may be starting a war within the party.

By Mike Waddington

In a frank admission of their intentions, a delegate to the 1985 NUPE conference called for "a purge that would make Stalin look like a social worker".

All the indications are however that the right wing will not await the outcome of the next general election but in its name will institute a purge of Marxists, the wounds from which could rob Labour of its best chance of winning.

Tony Benn has spoken of a "quiet revolution" in the Labour Party. "Counter revolution" would be a more accurate description of the rolling back of socialist policies agreed by party conference and the preparation of the next witch-hunt.

Stealthy strategy

When past right wing leaders of the party attacked *Militant* head-on they came off worse in the collision. The new leadership have adopted a more stealthy strategy, culminating they hope in a surprise "first strike".

Already 1985 has seen supporters of the *Militant* expelled in the Rhondda, Mansfield, Newcastle East, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Warley West. There have already been attacks on the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaigns, Further Education Labour Students, the Southern African Labour Education Project and the Labour Party Young Socialists' Chile campaign.

MP's living on a worker's wage have been harassed by the National Agent alleging that they have given too much money to the Party! The Welsh Labour Party conference has called for more expulsions in a resolution moved by George Wright—no doubt as a dress rehearsal for his attempt to reverse the policy of the TGWU to one in favour of expulsions. A resolution was bulldozed through the left-led NUPE conference, despite calls for unity.

The ruling class are absolutely terrified at the prospects for Britain. Following the miners' strike, the accumulated bitterness against the Tories could not only result in a Labour Government, but would also signal an offensive by the working class to regain all that the

Tories have taken from them.

The situation described by the *Economist* in 1945 before the return of the Labour Government could come about:

"If a Labour Government takes office, then—if all British and foreign precedents are followed—there is likely to be even more industrial unrest, not indeed to coerce the workers' Government, but to assist in breaking down resistance to its policy" (14 May 1945).

Under these conditions the pressure will be immense and serious inroads into the power and wealth of capitalism could be taken by that government. It is this more than anything else that leads the bosses' press to foam at the mouth

conceding that the key to prosperity is investment, the document says (para 32):

"The government cannot make private employers invest, of course. But it can help to change the atmosphere in which decisions are taken"—in other words profits will have to be increased and that can only be done on the basis of workers taking a cut.

So despite the document saying that the lessons of previous governments have been learned, nowhere is wage restraint in particular ruled out as an option. Instead there is a built-in exclusion clause (para 39) that "we cannot, of course, predict all the circumstances we will face on taking office" meaning that capitalist crisis will once again



Photo: Militant.

Hattersley—calling for 'incomes policy' if Labour gains power.

against socialist policies and to demand vociferously the expulsion of the most consistent socialists—the Marxists—from Labour's ranks.

Sections of the right wing are coming under this pressure, from within the circles they move in and not least from the editorials of the capitalist press. Dutifully they demand the abandonment of 'unpopular' and 'unrealistic', that is socialist, policies and the exclusion of their firmest advocates.

This is illustrated by the latest TUC-Labour Party liaison committee document which could form the basis of Labour's manifesto at the General Election. Gone is the commitment to a "classless society"; in comes "The National Economic Summit of government, trade unions and employers" to plan the strategy.

The truth is almost hidden. After

be the excuse to postpone socialist change instead of being the opportunity to introduce it.

Throughout Europe, Labour governments have been returned with great enthusiasm from the working class and without exception those governments have presided over declining living standards, at a time of economic upswing.

Labour could come to power with an already enfeebled and decaying capitalism at a time of economic downswing. The rocks of economic crisis for a Labour government show through the waves more clearly in Britain's case than all its capitalist rivals.

Nevertheless left wing critics of current policy are denounced in an intimidatory atmosphere with a clear if as yet unspoken threat to expel certain views from the party.

There are also so called 'lefts' who believe that Labour can only have a quiet victory. Undoubtedly the defeat of the miners' strike has further demoralised this section, particularly trade union full-time officials, who generally lack confidence in the rank and file to fight against the government.

They believe that the only alternative to defeat at the Tories' hands is a Labour government who will deliver them from the need to struggle with the Tories. These comrades are proponents of the view "the less debate the better", "let's get to power first and then..."

Popularity?

This same idea has even led some of them to support punitive actions against the supporters of *Militant* as a way of courting further electoral popularity. They will find popularity in the editorials of Fleet Street, but in the absence of socialist campaigning, Labour will seem indistinguishable from the SDP.

In fact the current stories from Shirley Williams, president of the SDP, that they and the other traitors who stabbed Labour in the back were offered the highest posts in a future Labour cabinet if they did not leave the party are probably going unmentioned precisely to blur the distinction between the two parties!

The *Daily Telegraph* (10 May has even reported:

"Senior Labour Party figures have told trade union leaders they should accept government money to fund election of officials, should cut the size of picket lines to a maximum of six and should be in favour of ballots on political funds!"

The policies of *Militant* are no longer just another alternative in the debate—they have been proved. The election of supporters of *Militant* to parliament against the national trend and more importantly the victory and continuing struggle of Liverpool City Council have shown that Marxist policies coupled with a campaign of socialist explanation are not only understood but enthuse and mobilise workers to fight.

Support for *Militant* has continued to grow despite the reports in the media. As Mark Twain said, "the reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated".

Under a future Labour government the attraction of Marxist ideas will be greatly strengthened. This prospect is probably the single most frightening perspective for the right wing.

The supporters of *Militant* want

to see a Labour government with a majority, in fact the larger the better—so there can be no excuse for postponing Labour's programme. However, *Militant* will fight every inch of the way against all attempts to expel its supporters. We will fight as hard as anyone for a Labour victory, but will not cooperate in their own strangulation.

In fact wherever the right wing succeed in temporarily expelling good socialists from the party they will continue to regard themselves as Labour Party members. They will fight just as hard for Labour in the election and will inevitably be re-instated with honour into the ranks of a socialist Labour Party.

Despite the present retrenchment, the Labour Party will continue to move to the left. Of the 1974 NEC only four people remain, Tony Benn, Joan Maynard, Sam McCluskie and Renee Short. Three others are now in the SDP. Sid Weighell represented the NUR and Sid Vincent the NUM. Denis Healey actually represented the constituency section.

Inexorably, with the growing crisis of capitalism the ranks of the Labour Party will shift to the left, with *Militant* gaining support all the time. The NEC in five years time will be just as unrecognisable.

We can quote with the most definite approval Tony Benn and Eric Heffer's words: "The time has come for the Labour Party to look to the future, dare to have a vision of "Socialism in our time", and have the courage to reshape itself so that it can discharge, for this generation, the historic task that the founders of the movement dreamed of so many years ago". Socialists in the Labour Party must organise around this programme:

★ NO TO EXPULSIONS—UNITY TO FIGHT THE TORIES!

★ NO RETREAT ON SOCIALIST POLICIES.

★ DEFEND THE DEMOCRATIC GAINS IN LABOUR'S CONSTITUTION

★ FOR WORKERS' MPS ON WORKERS' WAGES

★ FOR A SOCIALIST LABOUR GOVERNMENT WITH A MASSIVE MAJORITY.

★ FOR CLAUSE FOUR PART FOUR—A DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PLAN OF PRODUCTION.

When the CP sup

THE BRITISH Communist Party is heading towards a major split. The minority grouped around the *Morning Star*, claim to be upholding the traditional Marxist ideas of the party. They condemn the leadership's view that a broad, "progressive" alliance can be forged as an alternative to "Thatcherism".

The idea of a such a coalition of forces around a minimum programme of "peace" and "democracy", however, is not a new invention of the present leaders. Ever since the party abandoned the revolutionary programme on which it was founded, and followed the dictates of the bureaucratic clique which usurped power within the Soviet Union, such a line has

been propounded.

While the present CP leaders have broken their ties with Moscow, they have not abandoned these same policies, which the Kremlin bureaucracy still advocates throughout the world.

At no time was this more blatant than in the period between the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941 and the end of the second world war in 1945, when the CPGB was led by Harry Pollitt. His call for a coalition government during and even after the war is no different from the policy of both today's "euro-communists" and those "hard-liners" who claim to be his heirs.

These arguments were comprehensive-

ly answered at the time in an article by TED GRANT in *Socialist Appeal*, an edited version of which we are republishing below. It is just as relevant today. It also provided an analysis of the Marxist position on war and peace.

It was written in April 1945, shortly after the summit conference in Yalta, in the Crimea. At this and other such meetings, Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt (succeeded by Truman), reached an agreement to carve up the world into "spheres of influence".

Even while these conferences to "end the war" were taking place, a new "cold war" was beginning, heralded by the Atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki,

which were dropped by Truman not to defeat an already crushed Japan, but as a warning to Stalin not to move his forces further than had been agreed.

Stalin for his part had already shown his willingness to abandon these workers fighting for liberation in the areas of the world designated to the imperialist powers, as happened in Greece.

The post-war settlement amounted to an agreement between the world super-powers to maintain the status quo, based on the "balance of terror" provided by the nuclear arsenals on each side. This was the background to the CP's call for a coalition government to secure "lasting peace".

From *Socialist Appeal*,
Mid-April 1945

THE STATEMENT of the Executive Committee of the Communist Party on the Crimea conference dated 21 February 1945, has aroused justified concern, apprehension and doubts among the rank and file members as to the correctness of the present, and above all, the future policy of the "Communist" Party leadership.

Nearly all class conscious fighters in the ranks, who are worthy of their salt, regard with dismay the prospect of a continuation of the present party policy in the post-war period. And no wonder! The best fighters in the Communist Party were reconciled to the present policy of class collaboration because the leadership assured them that the struggle for socialism was only postponed till after the defeat of Hitler.

Now this statement of the Executive Committee has been issued on post war policy, and it does not contain a single word about the struggle for socialism or the socialist revolution. On the contrary, the EC takes its stand, like Earl Bowder and the American Communist Party on the maintenance of capitalism and imperialism.

Lasting peace

Comrades of the Communist Party, examine this statement and see what it really means.

The Crimea Conference has been described as opening out a period of permanent peace—

"The pledge to so work as to remove the political, economic and social causes of war is of historic importance and significance, for to realise this would be to achieve an age-old dream of world humanity. The peoples want a lasting peace above all else in the world. They know that only through lasting peace can there be developed any real opportunities for establishing forms of international co-operation that will help in the speedy restoration of devastated Europe, meet the urgent needs of the peoples and help forward the backward colonial countries. Only through lasting peace can humanity forge ahead to new social victories over poverty, unemployment and insecurity and guarantee the same united use of the world's productive forces in peace time as has taken place during the war".

Marx and Lenin never failed to explain that the only way in which



Two former general secretaries of the British Communist Party, Harry Pollitt (left) and John Gollan.

the "political, economic and social causes of war" could be eliminated was through the socialist revolution, and only by the socialist revolution. Lenin never tired of castigating those who argued that peace was possible under capitalism—especially in the age of imperialism.

What are the pledges of perjured capitalist politicians worth in the face of stern reality? To unite fire and water would be far simpler than to gain peace and prosperity under capitalism. Pollitt and the other leaders know this only too well. This is not a complicated question, but the ABC of Marxism.

How many times did Lenin sternly attack the lies and illusions of the Social Democrats, who after the last war put forward a policy of support for the League of Nations and "democracy" as a means of achieving peace and progress. The only difference between then and now is that the Communist Party policy is even more reactionary and utopian. The Social Democrats never dared to say what the CP leaders are saying today; at least they paid lip service to socialism.

Under the heading "Alternative to Crimea" the letter paints a black picture if the policy of "Crimea" is not carried out:

"The emergence of new forms of reaction in Europe and Britain. Delay in recovery in Europe. No effective forms of international economic co-operation, because where there is an unstable unrest, there can be no long term plann-

ing to utilise the world's resources in the interests of the peoples of the world. Political instability in Britain, and its effects at home and abroad.

"This is why we shall fight with all our strength for the carrying out of the policy of the Crimea Conference. This is why we shall fight against all remnants of sectarianism both in our own party and the Labour movement".

In answering these statements of Pollitt and the CP leaders we are compelled to argue the most elementary socialist propositions. These should be axiomatic for anyone claiming the most superficial knowledge of Marxism. Pollitt's arguments are no better than the demagoguery of the Tories that capitalism is alright, but a few "bad men" are the cause of all the trouble. We are compelled to discuss, not communist tactics, but whether capitalism is progressive or not!

Hollow lie

The capitalists are fond of shouting about equality of sacrifice and the united endeavours of the whole population in the war. Every class conscious member of the Communist Party knows what a hollow lie this is. What "united use of the world's productive resources" has taken place during the war? The bosses have grown richer while the workers have made all the sacrifices. The "united use" of productive resources benefitted only the capitalists and not the

working class. The "unity" was a unity of horse and rider—the capitalists riding on the backs of the workers.

Yet the CP faithfully echoes this capitalist propaganda.

And if capitalism could not prevent war, far less can it abolish poverty, insecurity and unemployment.

The capitalists themselves have no such illusions as are put forward by the leaders of the CP. "By their deeds shall ye know them" is the only sure method by which the workers can arrive at correct conclusions. The capitalists have already commenced their attacks upon the workers' conditions under the guise of "redundancy". No real attempt has been made to solve the housing problem or any other of the serious and urgent problems confronting the workers. Here we see the real plans of capitalism.

The next section of the document dealing with the position in Britain is an indictment of the cynicism by which the leaders are endeavouring to deceive their own members and the working class.

"No country in the world needs the adoption of the Crimea policy more than Britain.

"Its six years of war and all that this has meant, its backward economy in comparison to that of America, carry with them most serious consequences if we are to enter into post-war markets with America and other countries. Consider the terrible prospects of attacks on wages, mass unemployment, curtailment of social ser-

vices, and the grim future that would face the British people as a consequence of such a policy. This can only be avoided only if the Crimea policy is carried through".

As if the race for markets has not already begun! As if America has not already stripped Britain of her investments abroad! As if the phrases of the Crimea Conference are not intended to conceal the real situation and the aims of the victorious imperialists.

America has announced her programme of trebling her pre-war exports. Britain is trying to double hers. The competition between Britain and America will be far greater than the competition between Britain and Germany which led to the present war. To ask that the competition should cease is to behave like King Canute and demand that the tide should recede at command.

But now the CP leaders are demanding that the Labour movement should continue "national unity" and the coalition in the post-war period. They talk of "the new conception of democracy" that has grown up with the grim experiences in fighting fascism... the experience of the Greeks at the hands of Churchill and the ruling class perhaps? (see last week's *Militant*)

Churchill and Eden

The real position of the CP is best indicated by their pretence that the Tories have changed their policy:

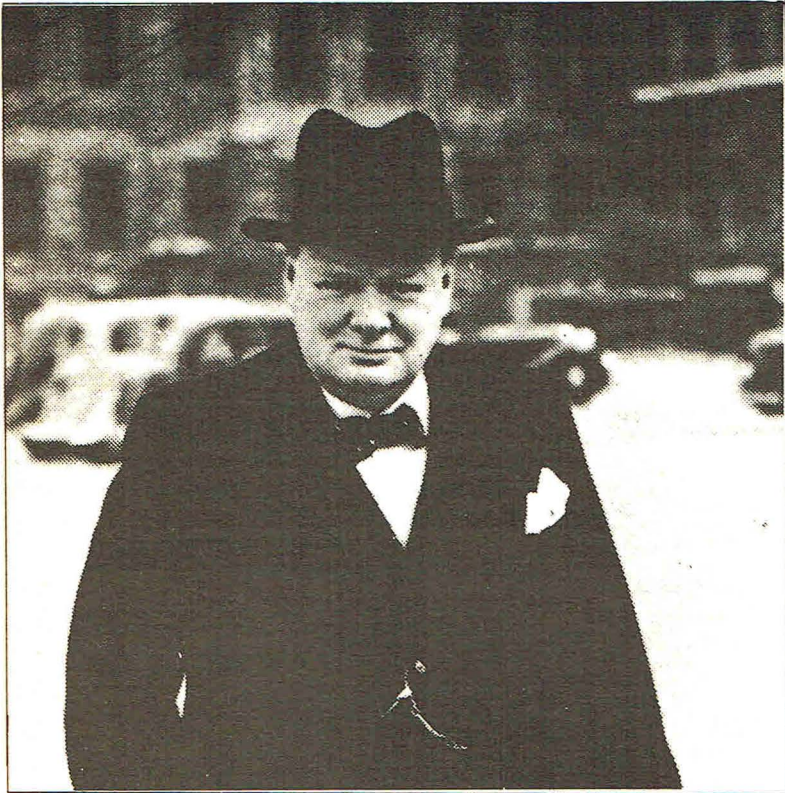
"It (Crimea) represents a victory for the anti-fascist forces over the pro-fascist policy which hitherto dominated the Tory Party, revealed in the leading role adopted by Churchill and Eden, as the two present dominating personalities in the Tory Party in the whole course of the war against fascism."

Churchill the implacable enemy of the working class. Churchill who supported Franco, Mussolini and Hitler. Churchill who bared his fangs in Greece. Churchill who has always been a die-hard supporter of Big Business is presented as a "progressive".

To support Churchill is to support monopoly capitalism. To support the capitalists, the interests of the working class must be betrayed. It has taken the advanced British workers the experience of 50 years to realise that the Liberal and Tory Parties are parties of capitalism. From many bitter lessons they have learned the necessity for the independent struggle of the masses for Socialism. Now, in preparation for the greatest crisis of existence the Communist Party wishes to put the clock back in cringing capitulation to British Imperialism.

Shamefacedly, the CP leaders dare not say openly and une-

ported Churchill



Churchill, "implacable enemy of the working class".



Attlee celebrating victory in 1945—workers scorned the CP call for coalition.



Churchill, Stalin and Eden in Moscow in October 1944.

quivocally to the workers that they want an agreement with the Tory and the Liberal capitalists: they try to cover up by the innocuous formula: "Labour and Progressive Government".

The laws of capitalist development given a capitalist basis can no more be circumvented than the law of gravitation. But the role of the CP is to act like a bell-wether leading the sheep to destruction.

The quotation from Harry Pollitt's *How to win the Peace* reproduced in the letter is an indication of this:—

"After the war the whole nation must unite against reactionary sections of capitalism who, for whatever motives, oppose the use of the nation's resources to meet the nation's needs. The people who have been strong enough to defeat Hitler will always be strong enough to defeat those who are prepared to go back to the old sterile policy of wage cuts, victimisation and unemployment; those who organise scarcity because they profit from it; those who are willing to plunge the nations back into the turmoil and menace of imperialist rivalries and war."

No matter how they may try to disguise it, the CP leaders want a Government in which Churchill, Eden and other reactionary Tories will play a prominent part. Their description of a 'progressive' is one who supports Churchill and Eden. The only difference between the present government and the government they want is one of a reshuffling of posts!

The leaders of the CP are too cowardly to declare this openly because of the disgust it would arouse within the ranks of the working class.

Empty phrases

"Collaboration" between bosses and workers has nothing in common with a communist policy. All his life Lenin taught that the interests of the workers and the interests of the capitalists were fundamentally opposed. Lenin castigated the treachery of the reformists in entering capitalist cabinets with plans for reforms, which he said remained plans on paper only. In "Revolution of 1917" Lenin wrote:

"...what empty phrases these:

"There is no place in the Government of Democratic Russia (the Popular Front Government of Kerensky) for a champion of interests of International Capital! Is it not a shame that educated people should write such piffle?"

"The entire Provisional Government (of Liberals and Labour leaders) is a Government of the Capitalist class. The main thing is the class, not the individual. To attack Miliukov (Liberal leader) personally, to demand, directly or indirectly, his dismissal—is silly, for no removal of individuals will change anything, until different classes are put in power.

"It is pardonable for ignorant peasants to exact from the capitalist 'promises' to 'live righteously' and not capitalistically, to demand that the capitalists cease 'championing the interests of capital'. But for the leaders...to adopt such methods means to nourish the illusory hopes placed by the people in the capitalists, hopes that are the most harmful and ruinous to the cause of freedom, to the cause of the Revolution."

(Page 240 and 241)

Then again:

"To hope that the capitalist class would 'mend its ways' would cease being a capitalist class, would give up its profits, is a fatuous hope, and empty dream, and in practice a deception of the people." (Page 248).

Never in the whole history of the working class has the ground been so favourable for a bold and decisive lead. All over Europe, all over the world, the working class is showing its desire to change the system which is responsible for the miseries of the war, for unemployment and insecurity, for fascism and reaction. The letter proudly claims:—

"The Communist Parties, the world war over, are in a stronger position than ever before with many leading Communists in positions of responsibility in European governments."

The workers in great numbers have swung over from reformism to what they believe is Communism in the shape of the Stalinist Communist Parties. But instead of giving a revolutionary communist lead, the CP leadership in all countries, including Britain is pursuing

a policy to the right of the old reformist organisations.

Comrades: Remember the results of the Labour governments of 1924, 1929–31 when they depended on Liberal toleration. Not a single major measure in the interests of workers was carried out. And the CP now proposes that coalition not only with the Liberals but with the Tories, can serve in the interests of the working class.

Labour government

In 1924 and 1929, the British Communist Party, still echoing some of the teachings of Lenin, correctly pointed out that even a majority Labour government could not carry out a programme in the interests of the working class. In order to educate the workers, Lenin taught us, it was necessary to advocate the pushing in power of the Labour Party, as the best means of convincing the rank and file Labour workers through their own experience of the futility of even a majority reformist government. But while advocating that Labour should take power independently of the capitalist parties, Lenin warned the Communists against sowing any illusions amongst the workers that their problems could be solved in any way by their reformist leadership.

Only by taking power into the hands of the working class and expropriating the capitalist class, will peace and plenty come to the workers of Britain and the world. This is the policy of Bolshevism.

We can help the workers of Europe, we can help the Soviet Union, we can serve the interests of the British workers only by waging an uncompromising struggle against British capitalism, only by fighting for a socialist Britain.

We appeal to all those members of the Communist Party who wish to remain true to their class to study the teachings of Marx and Lenin. Compare their teachings with the teachings of the Communist Party. We are confident that you can only arrive at one conclusion. **The policy of the Communist Party is entirely opposed to the interests of the workers of the world, it has nothing in common with Communism. Our policy is the policy of Marx and Lenin, the policy of real revolutionary communism.**

China, Singapore

China—On the capitalist road?

“OUR GOVERNMENT has a policy that some people will get rich first and then help the other part of the people get rich also” Margaret Thatcher speaking?; Ronald Reagan? In fact it was Du of the Chinese Communist Party.

No wonder the *Economist* gleefully headlined “the retreat from Marx”. Is capitalism really being restored in China as reports of the Central Committee Plenum of the past year would have you believe?

Since capitalism and landlordism were abolished in the 1949 Chinese revolution, the state and the economy have not been in the hands of the working class but of an uncontrolled and privileged bureaucratic caste.

“Planning”, while avoiding the horrors of capitalist non-development in the ex-colonial world was carried out in the interests of the millions of officials. It made China into an industrial heavyweight but with bureaucratic inefficiency inherent in every decision.

Under Mao, China's leader until his death in 1976, the ‘plan’ was as rigidly centralised as that of Russia under Stalin. The price and quality of almost everything to be produced for a thousand million people was handed down from on high by the planning bureaucracy. Agriculture had been forcibly collectivised in the 1950's.

Militant calls for the nationalisation of the 200 monopolies not all small businesses. Yet in a country where 800 million people were peasants, that is, were, or aspired to be, small business farmers, all private enterprise was snuffed out. All this was not a sign that China was on its way to communist abundance, but rather reflected the bureaucracy's desire to control everything and stamp out all possible opposition.

Mismanagement

The result of this enterprise—impossible without the mass involvement of the workers and peasants in decision-making—was waste and mismanagement. The Minister of Finance recently revealed: “18 million tonnes of rolled steel is rusting away in warehouses while a further \$31 billion worth of obsolete machine tools suffer the same fate”. Because production targets stressed the physical quantity of goods to be produced: “warehouses bulged with radios, fans, clocks and watches that customers shunned.”

On the land, collective farm workers stood about with no incentive to raise production. All grain was simply taken by the state, and the farm workers would be paid a basic wage anyhow. Peasant living standards were miserably low.

Mao's successor Deng decided to break the gathering stagnation by introducing the so-called “responsibility system” in agriculture. Though the land formally remains state property, peasants can lease it and take their own produce to market, rather than just

By Mick Brooks

meeting the quota imposed by the bureaucracy.

The immediate result has been a startling increase in farm production. Peasants' income doubled between 1976 and 1981. The grain harvest was at an all time high, nearly 10% up on 1983.

The benefits however have been unevenly spread. 60% of peasant income is now from sideline production for the market and the major gainers are those farming good land within easy reach of towns especially market gardeners.

One step leads to another. Laws forbidding the hiring of labour have been repealed, and the countryside is beginning to divide into rich and poor. In 1980, 40% of agricultural production teams still got less than \$30 each for a year's work.

Is this a return to capitalism? The whole policy is reminiscent of the Russian



A new demand for consumer goods, but this does not mean the return of capitalism.

New Economic Policy of the 1920s. Instead of requisitioning grain from the peasants as they did during the civil war, the Bolsheviks then restored a free market in agricultural production to give the peasants a material incentive to feed the towns, subject only to a tax in kind on farm produce.

In this measure, intended as a short term emergency, the peasantry quickly differentiated into poor peasants and rich kulaks, and the laws forbidding leasing of land and hiring of labour were repealed. But both in Russia then and in China now the **commanding heights** of the economy remained in the hands of the state.

One step leads to another. Until recently, the government was buying surplus grain from the peasants at 25% above the price it could sell it on a world market. Now market forces have been extended to state industry instead of prices being regulated by decree. In future state firms will charge what they can get but will have to pay full market price for many more raw materi-

als. The state bank will make a levy on some of the surplus but managers can plough the rest back into the firm.

The trouble is that some firms are more ‘profitable’ than others. 15% of state enterprises actually make a loss. The logic of the ‘reforms’ is that all these will close. Because of the clogging hold of the bureaucracy, state industry as a whole is only running at 70% of capacity.

Letting the category of ‘profit’ determine investment means total disruption of the centralised plan. “Each one million Yuan (\$500,000) of fixed assets invested creates 94 jobs in heavy industry, 257 jobs in textiles and 800 jobs in small peasant sideline industries, producing pots and pans, crockery, clothing, handicrafts, small agricultural goods and other necessities. At the same time it takes 5 years 7 months to recoup capital in heavy industry and only 22 months in light industry” (*Financial Times*). Clearly light industry will leap ahead—until they discover that the steel, coal, oil and infrastructure needed to service it is simply not there.



More goods in the shops and more wealth in some rural communities but the reforms have also widened divisions.

The administered price system was crazy and was breaking down: “for example, the assigned profit margin for making hot rolled steel is at present 10 times as high as for cold rolled steel. So the hot sort is naturally in surplus while the cold has to be imported at great cost”. But any attempt to ‘liberalise’ brings its own bottlenecks.

Twists and turns

Last time Mr Deng tried to ease price controls, industry got out of kilter. Bonus-earning managers and workers ploughed money into non price-controlled areas at the expense of ‘essential’ products that remained price controlled. Building materials were diverted from factory construction to private home-building. Central planners were cancelling overlapping projects as fast as local authorities set them up.”

For the time being the economy is moving ahead—a 10% growth last year. Certainly the grip of the planning bureaucracy needed a shake-up. But as the ‘reforms’ gather momentum a stratum of rich farmers will develop, demanding further ‘liberalisation’ which threatens the state control of the commanding heights of industry and most importantly from the viewpoint of the bureaucracy, directly challenges their position.

This is what happened in Russia when Stalin, panic-stricken, resorted to forced collectivisation to crush opposition and ruined Soviet agriculture in the process. Almost certainly the bureaucracy will see this coming and reimpose the old system of bureaucratic planning and collective work—teams on the land in a few years time.

Chinese Stalinism can only survive through disruptive and wasteful twists and turns. The only way out is a political revolution to instal workers' control and management of the state and economy, ie. workers' democracy.



A lesson for Thatcher

MILITANT EXPOSED the regimes Thatcher visited on her Eastern tour and gave such lavish praise. The *Times* (last December) unwittingly exposed the similarities between Thatcher and her totalitarian friends. Thatcher praised Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's dictatorial ruler who is used to having the people return all his PAP party candidates to office in national elections. Well, last December, Mr Lee was faced with the people of Anson voting back in office a Mr Jeyaretnam, leader of the Workers Party, who won the seat first in 1981. The *Times* reports, “In a

clear warning to the constituency he said on Thursday that if the PAP candidate were rejected “then I say in Anson I need to re-examine the electorate”. Mrs Thatcher has obviously been learning—the GLC, the Metropolitan Counties, City Councils, vetted juries, think tanks, parliaments, cabinets—Kuan Yew Thatcher beware.

P.S. The Workers Party won and Mr Lee is now proposing the end of one person one vote.

By Phil Frampton

EXCLUSIVE

The escape that failed

ON 5 April we set sail from Valparaiso, Chile's main port on the Cunard line ship, the *Corinthian*. We were bound for Rotterdam.

Chile was experiencing major earth tremors and a disastrous earthquake. One night I had been in the Rowlands Bar in the dock area when the whole place shook. Cracks started opening up in the wall.

We were falling all over the place. Everyone was panicking, even though it only lasted 10 seconds it was terrifying. 10 minutes later the police came round, but not to check safety. All the locals scattered. Things were back to normal.

It was my first introduction to the fear and hatred of Chile's police force. I'd never experienced anything like it. Arbitrary arrests and backhanders to secure your release were part of everyday life.

I was glad to get out. But on the morning of April 6 one of the engineers was going down to check the temperatures in the hatches. In number 2 masthouse he found a Chilean stowaway, Jose, a 28 year old dockworker. He went down again and found two others Ricardo and Renaldo, also dockworkers. They only had provisions enough to get them to their presumed destination, Los Angeles. This underlined their desperation as we were going twice as far and they would have starved to death.

After the ship had been fully searched for more stowaways, the Cunard skippers decided to take a hard line. They made their 'prisoners' (for that's what they are under maritime law) clean out the brig, and then locked them in. We were told to feed them just twice a day. But the lads fed them normally.

It's winter in Chile, but the captain, having con-

fiscated their belongings refused them any bedding at all.

After 24 hours the place stank. The stowaways were made to clean it out then sent up to the hospital to be checked over. But first they had to clean the hospital out too. Despite the language problems and the chief steward looking on we got to talk to them. We gave them cigarettes. The skipper ordered no-one to tell them that the ship was to dock at Antofagasta and hand them over to the authorities. We told them. They began to shake with fear.

They were political refugees. Ricardo was a 28 year old Socialist Party member and father of two whose parents were trying to escape across the mountains to Peru. He had previously been arrested and very badly tortured by the CNI (special police). Jose's parents had been killed by the CNI.

When we saw the effects of torture we were sickened. It was something the young ones in particular couldn't believe until they'd seen it. We knew what they were being sent back to.

The chief steward told one of the deckhands to watch two of us as he thought we might spring them. But there was nothing we could do. We couldn't strike, many lads weren't ready for it. There was no NUS convenor on board and the crew had been thrown together just before sailing. All we could do was tell the world when we got back.

When we got to Antofagasta, the police came. The last thing I saw was the police with their captives pressing their big batons into their hands—ready to beat the hell out of our new friends once the patrol boat was out of sight.

By Geoff Haney
(National Union of Seamen and Wythen-shawe Labour Party)



Chilean policeman waits for his prisoners.

WHEN THE three stowaways were found, they were marched up to the engineers office, and given a body search, for identifications and for weapons.

They were then taken to the ship's brig, where they were made to empty it of wire nets and sheets of metal plating. They were then given an empty five gallon paint drum, to use as a urinal while imprisoned in the brig. The door was then closed behind them and padlocked. The only light was from a window about 1ft square, covered by a strong wire mesh, and a small gap cut into the foot of the door, where food would be passed through.

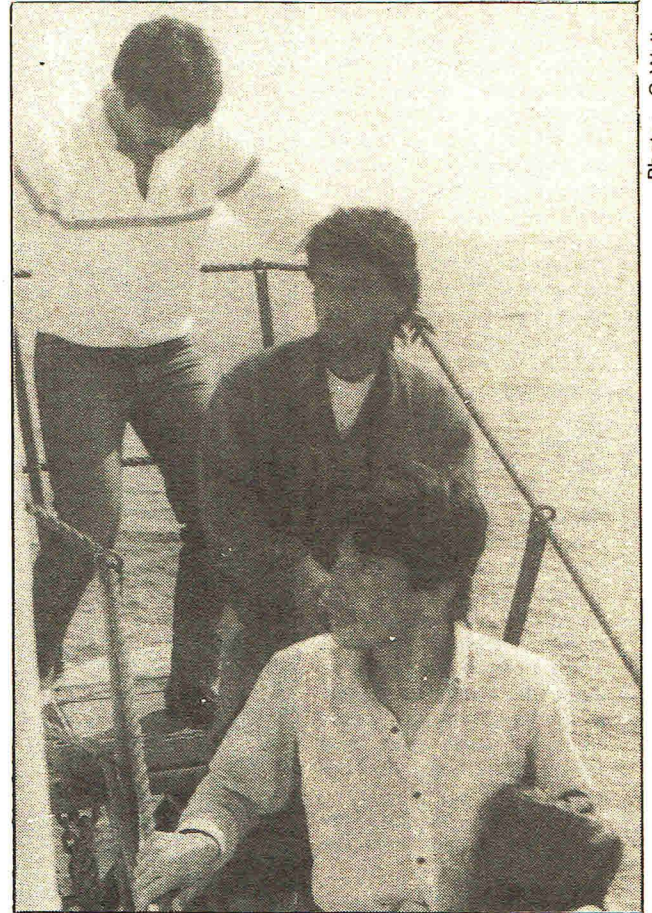
They were given a meal at lunch time and again in the evening. That day they were not let out to stretch their

legs and get some fresh air. Unknown to them they were to spend a full 24 hours in the darkness. God only knows what was going through their minds.

We asked them, "why did you want to leave Chile?" One lad tried to explain in the little English he knew and Spanish, that Chile was under military dictatorship, and since the military have taken over, working class people and socialists' homes have been raided and families terrorised.

Tortured

He also had been arrested a few times, he explained how the special police had him handcuffed, with his hands holding his ankles from the back. One ankle and one arm were handcuffed together and the same on



The three Chilean stowaways leave the *Corinthian*.

the other. They tortured him. He took off his socks and showed us two scars.

The special police had connected wires to his ankles, testicles and also to his bottom back teeth, and he was given electric shocks. He said he had been through that twice.

You could see fear of going back written all over their faces, their eyes were glazed and had that 'help us' look. But there was nothing we could do.

When the police launch finally came alongside, up the gangway came two uniformed special police carrying large wooden batons, and a pistol in the holster at their right hand side. Behind them followed another man in uniform who looked to be some sort of military officer and then two

plain clothes blokes.

The three lads thanked the 2nd cook and myself for our kindness. The launch was now at the bottom of the gangway. The policeman gave the word. And as they were marched down the gangway, the look on their faces was enough to tell the story.

Years in hell

I couldn't help thinking of something one stowaway had said, "if they were lucky they would get a couple of years".

I thought, even a couple of years is too long to spend in hell.

By C. Walker
(Assistant Steward)

IUSY Festival

WHEN JUST over 60 Young Socialists from Britain went to the recent International Union of Socialist Youth festival in Luxembourg the ideas of Marxism dominated the whole weekend.

In the friendly atmosphere you could talk to socialists from all over Europe of all ages from about 12 to 40 (some socialist youth sections have a broader definition of youth than others!).

Demonstration

The contingent from Britain included three miners so "here we go" became almost an anthem over the weekend particularly on the torchlight demonstration through Luxembourg, joined by practically all the 6,000 to 7,000 at the festival.

In the disarmament debate the platform speakers put forward policies of staying in NATO, of nuclear 'freezes'

and gradual arms reduction. Most delegates booed and hissed a speaker from France when he defended the French independent nuclear deterrent.

A French Marxist, speaking from the floor got a much better reception when he attacked the Mitterrand government's sale of arms to the Iraqi dictatorship. The organisers allowed the right-wing French speaker 45 minutes but only allowed a few floor speakers, unlike the tradition of the LPYS conference.

In the debate on youth unemployment there was supposed to be a speaker from Britain but the chair refused to allow the LPYS to have one. All the platform speakers gave horrific reports such as the 50 per cent of youth on the dole in Italy. However none of them put forward a socialist alternative.

Frances Curran, LPYS

rep on Labour's National Executive spoke from the floor of British capitalism's abandonment of our generation and the campaigning work the LPYS had done; when she mentioned the school strike, delegates interrupted with a storm of applause. When she pointed out the need for IUSY to take up socialist policies to transform Europe there was a standing ovation from all sections of the European parliament where the debate was held. It was certainly different from the normal speeches in this august building!

Marxism—the only alternative

A Marxist speaker from the Jusos in German explained how the growth of the right wing nationalist filth of Le Pen resulted from the Mitterrand government's failure to tackle capitalism in France.

Some of the delegations, closely monitored by their party leaders were very antagonistic, for instance the French delegation barracked



LPYS members on their torchlight demonstration through Luxembourg.

and bawled down anybody who disagreed with them and attacked a French Marxist. But *Militant* supporters and other Marxists from across Europe stayed awake almost 24-hours a day talking to delegates.

For example, one member of *Die Falken*, the German socialist youth movement

loosely affiliated to the SPD who was asked to buy a copy of *Voran* the German Marxist paper had no money. Within half an hour she was selling the paper. From the three-hour long Marxist Readers' Meeting to the carnival atmosphere of the evening entertainments. Marxism dominated the

weekend.

It was clearly seen by many delegates as the only alternative to capitalism. We felt it wasn't a question of if a European revolution would take place but *when*.

By LPYS members

LETTERS

Militant welcomes letters from readers. Send us your views, comments or criticisms. Write to *Militant*, 3/13 Hepscott Road, London, E9 5HB

Ice-cream allowed but politics barred

Dear Comrades,

As part of the May sales campaign I decided to try a paper sale outside a local school at lunchtime. Five papers were sold and a lively discussion followed amongst the school students about YTS private ownership and the ideas of *Militant*.

Then the headmaster came out and ordered me to go away, even though I was not on the school property. When I didn't go he demanded my name and address and said we should discuss the matter in the privacy of his study.

He claimed that I was intimidating his pupils, which I pointed out was ridiculous—how could one young woman threaten a large crowd of school boys? I calmly explained that all I wanted was to sell papers to those who wanted them, just as the ice-cream van, parked a few yards away, was selling ice-creams to the boys.

"Yes, but he pays me money to be here" was the headmaster's reply!

Yours fraternally
Jane Roberts
Kent



Youth protest against exploitation.

Photo: Alan Wylie

Bail conditions

Dear Comrades,

You can trust the boys in blue...

To say the least, it is rare for bail to be granted to anyone facing a murder charge. Unconditional bail is even rarer. And of course, for striking miners even the most minor "public order" charges usually led to some of the most stringent bail

conditions ever seen in the history of the British courts.

I was surprised, therefore on returning home last Saturday (25 May) from the demonstration in Cardiff, called to protest at the savage life sentences given to young miners Dean Hancock and Russell Shankland, to hear that Police Sergeant Alwin Sawyer, charged with the murder of a 67 year old man in custody at Southport police station, had been granted unconditional bail until 28 June.

In the case of the two young miners, Thatcher and her cronies, along with the whole capitalist media, were howling "murder" within hours. They, together with their ruling class friends in the judiciary, made damn sure that Dean Hancock and Russell Shankland were treated as the "enemy within".

It was a bit different for Sergeant Sawyer. The investigation took three and a half months, the papers were carefully studied by the

Director of Public Prosecutions before any mention was made of murder and the charge was made late on Friday—too late for Saturday's press and for the more detailed midweek TV news (weekend TV news goes into a lot less details). Suffice to say that the case got barely thirty seconds on TV news and about one column inch in the *Sunday Times*.

Yours comradely
Angela Anderson
Bath Labour Party
Personal capacity

Super Ted

Dear Comrades,

What do the idle rich invest in today? A teddy bear at Sotheby's broke the price record. It was an old teddy from 1905, which sold for £2,090. Sotheby's had

estimated the value to be £300-£500.

This is what the rich like to invest in these days instead of in manufacturing industry which creates the real wealth.

Yours fraternally
Patrick Westmore
AUEW Ryde Branch
Isle of Wight

Brussels disaster

Dear Comrades,

The horrific scenes from the European Cup Final in Brussels provoked another 'great game'—the competition of politicians, statesmen and 'experts' to produce the most eloquent condemnations and to dream up the best 'solutions'.

The real problem, however, is clearly understood by the vast majority of football supporters. The overall conditions in stadiums nationwide are disgraceful. The majority of clubs provide conditions which are exposed, uncomfortable, insanitary and dangerous for the fans. Ideal conditions for the kind of violence and aggression we view every week, both in the stadiums and in every area

where similar conditions exist. As capitalism in Britain prepares for future industrial battles, so the violent nature of our society is intensified.

But what of the football clubs? Revenue from supporters, from the pools, sponsorship and TV provide ample resources for any club to provide safe comfortable facilities for supporters, to end the conditions which cause disasters like Bradford and breed discontent. But, like society as a whole the money is used to boost the fat bank accounts of individuals, and even the deaths in Brussels will not force a change.

Yours fraternally
Peter Gillan
Musselburgh

Dear Comrades,

While forty fans were crushed to death in the European Cup Final, the apologists for capital were yet again rubbing their hands in anticipation of another clampdown on the working class.

Jimmy Hill cheered on a riot policeman, who was hitting a fan with his baton, shouting "We talk about the birch in Britain, but this is how to sort them out". The fan had just been hit on the head with a brick and was trying to tell the copper, when he was rounded on.

Graeme Souness, Captain of Scotland, excused the Tory government from blame by saying that they'd inherited the problem. Roy Hattersley was 'shocked'. All had in common the wish to 'deal with' these offenders and to 'solve the problem' of soccer violence. They seem to think that twenty-two men kicking a ball on a patch of grass incites violence. What they fail to recognise, is that football violence is a direct result of social conditions.

Yours fraternally
Craig Wilson
Havant Labour Party

LEFT and RIGHT

Children of the Abyss

AS THIS is International Youth year, let's look at the plight of the children in the world's two largest capitalist 'democracies', USA and India. In America a congressional study has found that 22 percent of US children live in poverty. Nearly half of all black children, a third of all Hispanic and 17 percent of white children live in families with incomes below the official poverty line. Meanwhile in India a survey last week showed that 15 million children aged between eight and 15 were working as labourers or in sweatshops.

Musical chairs for reselection

IF IT wasn't so serious it would be laughable. With reselection on the agenda, all sorts of 'trade unionists' are suddenly affiliating to local Labour Parties. Take Dudley East CLP, the seat of MP Dr John Gilbert (*Guardian* diary, June 4). Previously there were seven union delegates on the general committee—now there are 40. This includes a deputy headmaster in the EETPU, while Dr Gilbert's wife—a London based interior designer has just joined the G&M quarry workers branch. A G&M delegate, when it was found out he didn't live in the constituency, had to withdraw as did a TGWU delegate when it was pointed out he wasn't even a member of the TGWU. Another 'delegate' told the *Dudley News* that: "I know I'm a delegate but I don't know from which union."

'High and mighty'

Dear Comrades,

It was with sheer disbelief that our LPYS branch was confronted with the reply from the Scottish Executive of the Labour Party, having written to this body condemning their decision to censure Jackie Galbraith, Chair of the Scottish LPYS, for her role in helping to organise the Glasgow School Students strike, and pledging our support for the right of School

students to defend their futures in opposing the government's two-year YTS 'industrial conscription'.

The reply from the Scottish Organiser of the Labour Party insisted that: "Dundee West LPYS has no authority whatsoever to write to the Scottish Executive...it is Dundee West CLP that is affiliated and not the LPYS".

Does this mean that Youth delegates to Scottish Labour Party Conference are ignored when they speak? Are the Scottish Executive so 'high and mighty' that the views of the rank and file

members of the Party are not worth listening to or debating with, or is it that the Party leadership in Scotland is unable to answer the burning political questions affecting the huge majority of youth in this country, and in Dundee in particular; those of mass unemployment, the YTS, and the desperate need for a fighting leadership to get rid of this rotten system and its deadly effects on the youth of Britain.

Fraternally
Kip Collins
Dundee West LPYS



Jackie Galbraith.

Criminals?

Dear *Militant*,

As a reader of *Militant* in order to appreciate the situations concerning trade union and human rights, I was alarmed in reading your write-up on "Sentence of revenge" in *Militant* 24 May.

No faith in law

Dear Comrades,

I was very interested in Nick Bradley's article on employment law in *Militant* (issue 749) However, this does not mean as Nick suggests, that one per cent of applicants "actually got their

I supported the miners strike. However, you said that the "Two Welsh miners are not criminals". I am aware that if they did not have the intention of killing then they are not guilty of murder, but don't you think you are risking the respect of your readers by ruling out them being criminals at all? A pole dropped from a

bridge is reckless to say the least, and indeed what did they hope to achieve? Did they intend to hit the car with the pole? Conclusively I think a crime should be said to have been committed. In future I will be alarmed at reading facts in *Militant*.

Yours sincerely
Rhobert E Williams
Clwyd

Workers cannot afford to put their faith in the law, even when passed under a Labour government (as these provisions were). Nothing can take the place of a concerted rank-and-file struggle.

Yours fraternally
Tim Kaye
Coventry SE LPYS

Yours fraternally
Mara Dale
Isle of Wight

What's this ear?

Dear *Militant*,

According to the *Daily Mail* (22/5/85) a pair of large plywood ears, which could be flapped by pulling on a piece of string, were removed from outside a flat in Sunderland, just before a visit from Prince Charles and Princess Di. The police said those concerned would be reported for causing a breach of the peace.

It's amazing that the *Mail* had the gall to print this after all the drivel during the miners strike about our unbiased and non-political police force!

Fraternally
Mara Dale
Isle of Wight



Tocher of the AUEW

John Tocher (above) is Divisional Organiser of AUEW Division 11 and Broad Left candidate for AUEW President to replace Terry Duffy who retires in 1986. A Labour Party member and left-winger in Manchester's strong engineering tradition, he talked to Martin Elvin about the issues facing the AUEW.

WHEN MEMBERS are prepared to fight for their jobs, they're entitled to the full support and power of the union behind them. I would pledge myself that where workers are prepared to fight, the full power of the union is utilised.

We've had unhappy experiences with lack of support from the Executive against redundancies in this area.

At Lawrence Scotts, a factory of 650 staff and hourly paid workers, somebody else takes over the company and informs the workforce that the Manchester factory is to close.

We took the matter through procedure and met a stone wall. The workforce at a mass meeting decided to strike to force the company to maintain its presence in Manchester.

The company's response was, 'go back or we'll sack you'. At a further meeting by an even greater majority they decided to oppose closure, in line with our union's policy, and they made it official.

When the members occupied the factory a national meeting reached a formula providing for a few jobs and three-day week. Our members rejected this on the basis that they'd come out to rescue the factory—all 650 of them—and if it meant them going back on a one day week than they'd all go back together on that basis.

Our Executive gave them an ultimatum to accept the formula or they'd withdraw support for those workers fighting on union policy.

When they did withdraw support we had the state intervention with helicopters, people breaking in and taking stuff out and our members left on their own.

I believe that if the Executive had maintained their support, we'd have won the issue and there would still be a Lawrence Scotts in Manchester today.

Shop stewards

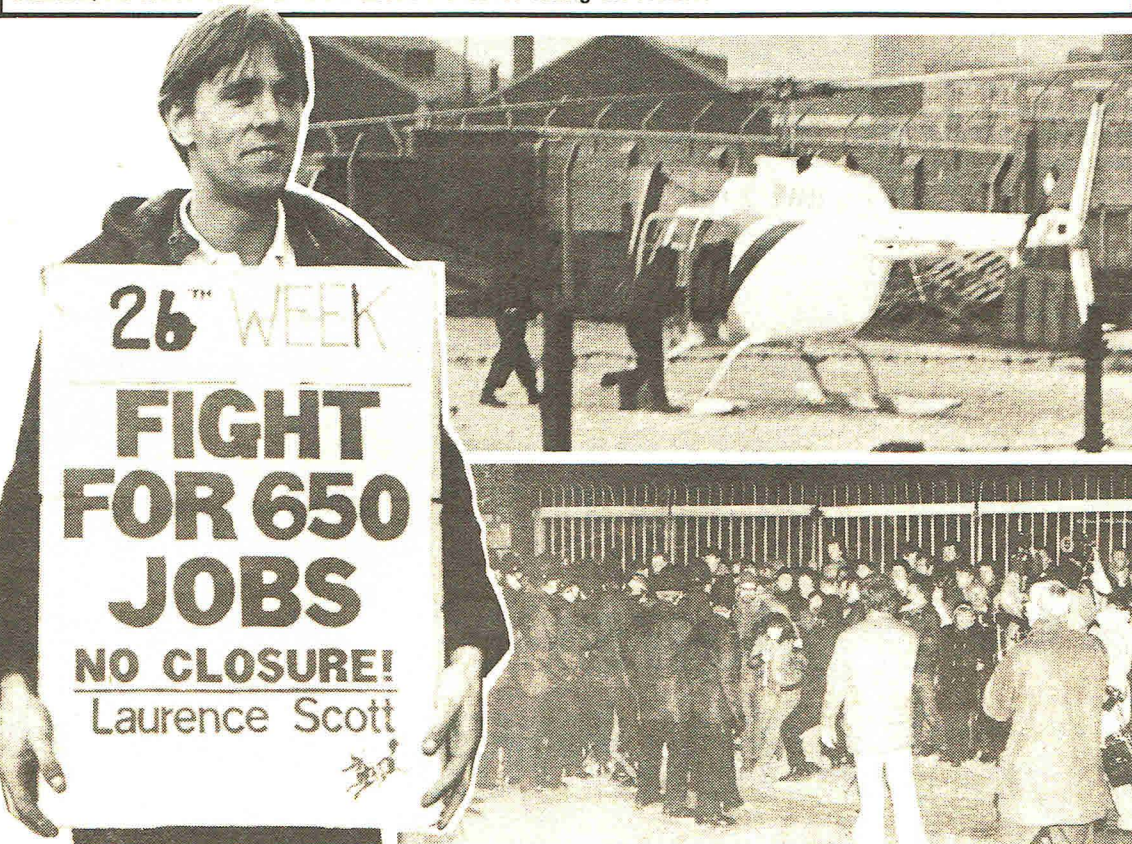
THE OLD constitution of our union didn't take into account the development of national and multinational companies. There needs to be freedom within the constitution for bringing people together.

What's happening is that shop stewards are meeting unofficially rather than officially. We should be encouraging members to meet.

For instance, we never bring members that work at GEC, the biggest national engineering company, together. We should do that both for the AUEW and throughout the Confed.

We should call a delegate meeting in order to deal with them. The elected shop stewards shouldn't have to meet on their own. They should be able to do it within and with the support of the union. I want to see more and more of that.

I'd also like to see a greater exchange between rank and file members internationally, not just within the United Kingdom. It shouldn't just be the Executive Committee members that meet their counterparts. There should also be a meeting at convenor level



Pictures of the Lawrence Scott occupation referred to by John Tocher.

internationally.

We will find that we face some very common problems. At the moment the employers are playing one off against the other. So there's a need for a terrific development within multi-nationals. The first stage in dealing with them is the meeting of rank and file delegates and the shop stewards from the plants. The union should be the vehicle for that.

Negotiations

EMPLOYERS ARE seeking to decentralise negotiations and many workers don't see that as an inherent danger, because many of the centralised bodies have become very bureaucratic.

Workers can see that certain national councils haven't done much for them, so they might as well have a go themselves, without realising how vulnerable they are. If there are problems with the bureaucracy in national negotiations let's have that amended, not allow them to be destroyed.

We've got to have accountability. We have got to have the members represented on these national bodies as well as full-time officials. It would strengthen the trade union's negotiating abilities and strengthen the understanding between the officials and the rank and file members.

Some officials think they know better than the workers. That's not correct. Generally speaking the workers themselves know what's best at their place of work.

Nationalisation

AFTER THE war people gave the Labour Government such a big mandate because they wanted

change. They didn't want to go back to the pre-war days of unemployment.

That brought about nationalisation of the key industries and the philosophy is valid today. We're seeking a planned economy. You can only avoid mammoth unemployment with a planned economy.

The only way that you can control an industry for the benefit of the community and the workers within the industry is the nationalisation of that industry.

We must have people controlling the nationalised industries who are accountable to the community and who believe in what they are doing rather than trying to sabotage it.

We've had a plan for engineering for years. It has never reached fruition. But in view of all that's happened to the manufacturing base of this country, there is going to have to be mammoth investment.

One of the issues we'll have to tackle straight away is nationalisation of key areas of the economy.

Nationalised industries should be a model to workers in private industry in terms of industrial democracy. Never mind worker directors, let's have proper industrial democracy. People must have a right to an input into the industries in which they work.

When we get a Labour Government we need the full participation of working people, to show that they have a stake and an input in bringing about change.

This Tory government has been able to take things away from workers because it is believed that things can only be given to them from Parliament.

But once you've got people involved in running their own affairs,

they're not going to allow things to go back to the old ways.

But it's no good Labour saying return us in five years. People want to see change in the first period of government, fundamental change.

We've got to tackle the education system, the health service, and rectify all the things the Thatcher government has taken away.

Democracy

VIRTUALLY EVERY rule change that we've seen over the past fifteen years has deprived AUEW members of certain rights.

Branches have been reduced to mere collecting areas. They no longer provide the forum where members can put forward their views, or act as a barometer or consensus of opinion.

We've got a right-wing majority leadership quite prepared to override and manipulate the members' rights and the union's constitution. The key for us is to get the involvement of the members.

At the moment I'm sure that a quarter of our members never get ballot papers. 50% don't vote because they don't know who to vote for, leaving 25% who do. We've got to get a far bigger involvement in the affairs of the union.

There is no such thing as a perfect system. First and foremost I favour any measure to improve participation. I remember the arguments for the postal ballot because branch ballots had gone down so much.

Now we see the role of the media. Members get ballot papers for candidates whose track record they don't know. I think therefore, there is an argument that with more check-off, contributions paid at the

factory, then it's only right that members should be able to participate in the balloting at the factory.

Above all, the main thing is that members have the right to vote, that officers are accountable and elected to office not appointed, and the ballot is run in a fair way.

Leadership

I WASN'T surprised at what transpired at Leylands (Austin Rover) recently, especially after my own experience at Lawrence Scotts. The majority on the Executive have ridden roughshod over any accountability to the members.

They've forgotten where they come from and whom they represent. They are more concerned about employers' problems than our members' problems.

That's now being reflected in joint negotiations with other unions. Not only did our union leadership desert our own members at Leyland, we deserted the other unions—we were involved in the negotiations jointly with the TGWU and others.

Once the leadership compromised themselves in abandoning the membership at BL it meant that any other group of workers would face the same problems. Once you call the dogs off to go to the courts—in the process of breaking TUC and National Committee decision—you're down a slippery slope.

If the AUEW had stood firm, next to the TGWU, the other unions would have stood with us. If we, with our influence, had said we are not going to participate in the courts, we are going to stand firm with our members, British Leyland would never have gone to court.

It's only because they know the leadership will succumb to pressure, that they do it. That's why there's a need for a change in leadership.

DESPITE TODAY'S situation, I am optimistic for change.

We have over 4 million people unemployed; the health service and social services collapsing; education failing; the opportunities for youth failing; boys and girls for the first time this century with no opportunity of obtaining skills and status in life; the problems of the inner cities.

What ever you look at we've got major problems—crisis. Now if that doesn't indicate the inadequacy of the present system and the need for change, I don't know what does.

There's always a period of time before it's fully appreciated, and then there's a reaction. I see that people will want change, they'll be seeking accountability and their rights.

I see socialism as being the best method of achieving and ensuring those rights, because the present system is inadequate to deal with the problems of the majority of the people in this country.

Certainly, I am very optimistic for the future.

Industrial Reports

Yorkshire miners fight back

IN THE past few weeks the Coal Board has announced massive job losses in the Yorkshire area, with 3,000 to go in Barnsley and 2,500 in Doncaster.

By Simon Duerden

This has brought home Arthur Scargill's prediction of large scale pit closures after the end of the strike, on top of vindictive attacks on miners' conditions to try and weaken morale.

There is an increasingly bitter determination to oppose the Coal Board's plans which has already been vented in a number of local strikes.

At the end of the strike many Yorkshire miners received letters from the NCB appealing for the collieries to get back to normal working as quickly as possible. But management haven't kept their part of the bargain.

Virtually every pit official in Yorkshire has been sent down the pit, many on three shifts, making it difficult to carry out union duties as normal.

Craftsmen have been downgraded and extra

money for working in the wet has often been stopped. Negotiations seem to have been replaced with management ultimatums.

The proposal to shed thousands of jobs in the Doncaster area is being seen as a politically vindictive decision by the Coal Board against militant collieries. Nine out of ten pits in the area are to lose jobs.

Area director Albert Luke has warned that this may not be the end of redundancies and that more jobs will go in 1986 unless there is a 50 per cent rise in productivity.

Management is purposely shortening the life of the pit. This is happening at Askern where most jobs are to be lost. Management are trying to increase productivity from six tonnes per man-shift to twenty tonnes per man-shift. It seems that they are only interested in getting out the easy coal and leaving the rest.

Delegate transferred

The NUM delegate at Askern, in an unprecedented move by management, has been transferred—after having worked in the pit since the 1960s. The board has

argued that he has only five years continuity of service because he spent three years at college. They ignored the fact that he negotiated a guaranteed job in the holidays and a full-time job when he finished the course.

Speaking in Durham recently, Scargill spoke about the need for industrial action in the near future to confront the Coal Board's programme of job reductions. However the Yorkshire NUM leadership seems less keen to provide the necessary leadership.

They recently failed to back the strike at South Kirby over the sacking of our men. As a result many NUM members are becoming demoralised with the lack of concrete support from the leadership, also shown in the dispute at Darfield Main against threatened closure, and with their apparent relief that the total number of job losses in Yorkshire wasn't greater.

The Yorkshire leadership needs to undertake a vigorous propaganda campaign to explain to members

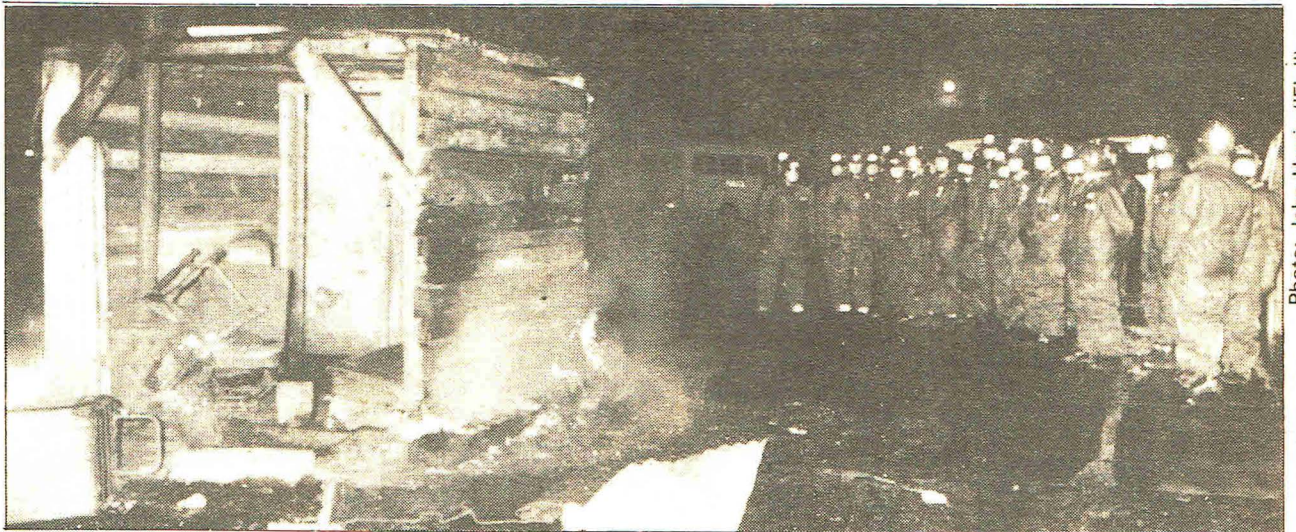
that closures and redundancies, together with the constant victimisations, is part of a strategy by the board to demoralise the miners' union.

If the NCB were allowed to achieve their aim then reorganisation of the coalfield into a few super-pits would be rapidly pushed through, leading the way to privatisation.

But the determination of many pit activists remains. One-third of all Yorkshire pits have struck over the last month for at least a day,

over various issues. Even some of the scabs have come to the fore, demanding that action is taken in an attempt to re-establish themselves in the eyes of those who stayed out to the end. Only a few super-scabs have stayed at work during these strikes.

A fighting mood is returning amongst activists in Yorkshire—matched by equal determination from the top, the tide could be turned against the management offensive, protecting jobs and restoring the strength of the union.



Askern Colliery during the peak of the strike last year. Police stand by as pickets' hut burns—they denied setting light to it.

Photo: John Harris (MFL II)

NCB ignore NACODS agreement

THE PIT deputies' union, NACODS, has been forced into calling an overtime ban as the Coal Board announced several pit closures, disregarding the agreement signed in October last year.

By A NACODS member (Scotland)

The union believed that this agreement ensured proper consultation in any plans for the closure of a pit. NACODS had requested that the NCB manage the industry on the basis of trust and understanding. Although this was contained in the spirit of the agreement there was nothing which was binding on the NCB to stick to the procedure.

The Board insisted in the document that the industry should be run according to two year plans: 'reflecting market and production opportunities'. Nowhere in the document did it state that the union would be involved in drawing up these plans. The deputies' leaders accepted that if these plans were carried out there: "would be no conflict over investment or operational decisions".

The deputies have supported the executive of their union, not because the agreement was a good one, but because it is the only real initiative that the leadership has taken.

In an act of perhaps undeserved solidarity, in some pits the NUM and the clerical and engineers' unions have said that they will respect the deputies' overtime ban and only provide safety cover.

These workers must be applauded, especially the NUM members who have been through 17 months of overtime ban and a year long strike, who have a deep understanding and commitment to the struggle of the mining industry.

They understand that in some pits it means being sent home without pay at the beginning of the week if production is not prepared.

Cut production

Despite the lateness of the deputies action the overtime ban could cut production in the pits by a third, causing disruption to the governments' plans for rebuilding stocks in preparation for the next battle.

For the first time the deputies are in the front line. It is on the shoulders of the "nearly men" to continue the struggle. This time the union must not capitulate. Too much is at stake for the industry.

The action must be followed to its logical conclusion, putting the union in its rightful place in the communities and in our class, by fighting for the right to work and survive, with strike action.

Bakers defend jobs

JOE MARINO General Secretary of the Bakers Union talked to Bob Edwards.

"If the Allied Bakeries carry out their threat of legal action against the union over the Brighton Sunblest Bakery Strike this year's conference will really come to life".

"Allied Bakeries are testing the resolve of the Union. Already they have changed their ground". In fact while interviewing Joe there were signs of panic from the ABF, about three phone calls shifting their ground and backing away from immediate legal threats. (The victimised worker has since been suspended on full pay instead of sacked-Ed.)

Joe sees the action of Sunblest in Brighton as a test

of the union's resolve to do battle. "They won't find us lacking". "The courts are no place to fight industrial battles. It's the struggles outside that decides the outcome."

"Undoubtedly the attack of the ABF which controls 36% of bread production will increase the union's resolve not to weaken it".

For the future Joe sees the union voting overwhelmingly for the political levy and maintaining its links with the Labour Party: "The Union needs a political voice—only part of the problems faced by bakers can be tackled on the industrial front."

An issue for the future will be Sunday Opening. The Bakers Union supports USDAW in its opposition: "If the big supermarket chains and bakery shops open on Sunday it could

Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union

Militant meeting

**Monday 10 June, 7.30 pm
Trades Club, Chadwick St,**

(off Central Drive, Blackpool)

Hear: Joe Marino

(BFAWU General Secretary)

Bob Edwards (Militant)

mean pressure to bake on Saturday.

"The bakeries could be looking towards a Seven Day week. Further, the employers could try and cut costs by reducing the Sunday bake. We'll have to monitor the situation carefully. If we are approached to consider Saturday bakes we'll use it as a lever to bring in a shorter week and other concessions."

"Hours of work are a problem in our industry, in spite of a 39 hour basic week, the average week is 54 hours. Fighting for reduced hours, pushing for extra holidays, could produce many thousands of new jobs."

This year's Conference comes at a critical time for the trade union movement. The Bakers Union will be in the forefront of the battles against the Tories.

New tech threat to civil servants

CIVIL SERVANTS at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre (DVLC) at Swansea are having to face up to the impact of new technology on their working lives.

The replacement of the outmoded main-frame computer at DVLC will bring with it a new and more efficient system, but as far as workers at the centre are concerned it means a major dispute over pay and grading.

The new work procedures involve the merging of two areas of work currently carried out by different grades. Clerical Assistants (CAs) and Clerical Officers (COs)

earn around £12 per week less than data processors (DPs) and senior data processors (SDPs), but they will be expected to do the same job.

Management have argued that the rate of pay for those involved in the new work should be at the lower rate ie CA/CO despite the fact that the pen will be replaced entirely by the visual display unit.

The CPSA branch committee at DVLC regards the new job as a machine-based job and has been processing for DP/SDP pay.

As a result of pressure from CPSA (initiating from

Swansea) the Treasury have been engaged in a general review of pay and gradually in the light of technological changes in the civil service, but its initial findings have been inconclusive.

The trial period for the new system at DVLC has now drawn to a close with no solution to the problem in sight and CPSA members, particularly those working on the trials are becoming increasingly impatient.

Strike ballot

The branch committee meeting on Wednesday 29 May decided that matters

must now be brought to a head.

If no acceptable offer is put on the table by 14 June the workers on the trials, about 150 in all will, subject to a ballot of those involved, be brought out on indefinite strike from Monday 17 June.

This dispute, involving a major and radical development in the field of new technology is bound to have great significance throughout the civil service.

By Dave Warren

(CPSA branch organiser DVLC Swansea)

Railway unions must defeat jobs threat

Photo: Stefano Cagnoni (IFL) II



ASLEF General Secretary Ray Buckton (centre) meets Kent miners

Drivers call for end to flexible rostering

THIS YEAR'S ASLEF conference should be used as the basis to prepare the union for the fight back which will be needed if jobs, conditions and the industry are to be defended.

The cause of one of the bitterest struggles, flexible rostering, appears on this year's agenda. Three branches call for the return of the eight hour day and the abolition of flexible rostering and back this with a call for all forms of industrial action to achieve it. It's important that these resolutions are supported.

Despite the recent debacle on the underground the issue of 'one person operation' (OPO) isn't finished. Whilst

it has now been accepted on the service lines, it hasn't been accepted on the deep level tubes where the MoT are trying to lower safety standards.

Three branches have submitted resolutions against OPO introduction on the deep tubes. These too should be carried and lay the basis for a fight back on London Regional Transport.

Four big branches are calling for the re-election every five years of the general and assistant general secretaries. With the retirement of Ray Buckton in the near future and the possibility of a change of assistant general secretary, it is important that the new candidates are elected under

the proposed five year method.

Since ASLEF's bitter struggle in defence of the eight hour day in 1982, there is a feeling amongst railworkers that the union leadership have been in retreat.

Not only the NUR but ASLEF leaders too were quick to call off threatened action several times during the course of the miners' strike when we were in a strong position.

Ominous remarks about the NUR's policy on 'driver operated only' (DOO) trains on British Rail 'placing strain' on the Federation have come from Executive members. All this must stop.

Since 1982, we've seen defeat for the

NUR right wing, formation of the Federation and NUR members in battle on a number of fronts.

The issue of DOO on BR and OPO on the tubes, involving different grades and cutting across inter-union lines, must be used to seal once and for all the future of the Federation. A victory here will lay the basis for a defeat of Tory policy on the railways.

By Andy Viner
(Kings Cross ASLEF)

Tube strike too late and ill-prepared

THE NUR and ASLEF first signed an agreement accepting the implementation of One Person Operation of trains (OPO) on the London Underground back in 1968. Supporters of *Militant* in the rail unions argued against the proposal from the very outset.

However, little serious attempt to implement the agreement was made until the recent transfer of jurisdiction over the Underground from the GLC to direct Tory government control through London Regional Transport (LRT).

As OPO came closer, rank and file members started trying to get the unions to oppose it. This came up against the brick wall of the original agreement which the NUR and ASLEF leaderships slavishly clung to. Though the deal was signed when most guards were still at school.

Stress and strain

That's why East Ham NUR branch and the District Council then demanded that if OPO was to be introduced conditions would have to be improved to safeguard jobs and compensate for stress and strain.

Under pressure the NUR National Executive did adopt these demands. But whilst they were going through the machinery OPO was introduced on the Circle and Hammersmith and City lines.

When LRT management refused to accept the new conditions the NUR threatened to strike if management attempted to

implement further OPO schemes. It was their attempt to unilaterally do so on the East London line which provoked the unanimous NEC decision for strike action.

The strike call was not in total opposition to OPO, it was in order to secure better terms for OPO operators and displaced guards. Because of LRT attempts to unilaterally impose it, at issue also was the union's right to negotiate. And once the court order was issued outlawing the action, our right to strike was also at stake.

About a quarter of the membership participated. Picket lines were hastily organised at many big depots. As in other recent strikes, picket lines were manned often by the youngest and previously inactive members. Another layer of young and fresh workers has thus been blooded.

The reasons advanced by management and echoed by some rail union leaders, for the failure of the strike are false. It was not the legal action that deterred members. Sections of the press are claiming that lack of a ballot before the strike call led to its downfall. In fact very few members raised criticisms about that.

The problems facing the strike call are rooted in the original agreement. Once that was signed the union leaderships allowed an air of inevitability to spread. Then with OPO already introduced on the Hammersmith and City line when the strike call did come, many members felt it was too late; the time to fight should have been then.

ASLEF's leadership failed to call out their members

despite the Federation of Rail Unions, although they did belatedly instruct them not to cross picket lines.

But the NUR leadership must take the blame for their own members who went in.

The NUR's claim wasn't properly understood. Some saw it as an acceptance of OPO whilst others feared it cut across existing agreements.

The role of Sectional Council, the negotiating body for LRT workers made it worse. Four of the six NUR representatives didn't agree with the union's claim and made clear their intention to strike but play no active part in picketing or organising action.

All staff threatened

Above all the NUR leadership failed until the last moment to link OPO to the attacks upon station staff, permanent way, engineers, etc. All are threatened. The Executive failed to wage a campaign amongst the membership particularly in the period running up to the strike call, which was several weeks after the strike threat.

Railworkers have proved often that when the issues are clearly explained and when the union leadership is serious we will fight. Never again can we allow such humiliation. We must ensure that there is an active rank and file organised into the Broad Left in order to rebuild both the union leaderships at national level into ones capable of explaining the issues and preparing and leading successful strike action when necessary.

By Arwyn Thomas
(Covent Garden NUR, LRT)

Photo: Stefano Cagnoni (IFL) II



Jimmy Knapp, General Secretary of NUR at their conference.

Guards oppose driver only

NUR GUARDS and Shunters held their conference in Weston-super-Mare last weekend, and was dominated by discussion on the issue of 'driver operated only' (DOO) trains.

As a guard on London Transport I explained that the failure of the recent tube strike was basically the lack of a campaign by the union to the membership and could not be used as an excuse not to fight DOO.

A composite motion was passed opposing the introduction of DOO on British Rail and calling for the union to organise a 24-hour strike by guards.

This was seconded by *Militant* supporter Geoff Bright of Tinsley branch who pointed out that this was to be used to unite the guards against DOO.

It was not, he said, to be used just as a letting off of steam and then for the Executive to quietly reach a compromise to allow DOO in.

A Broad Left meeting was held with 25-30 people in attendance. The Broad Left

Photo: Militant



leaflet opposing DOO was well received with almost £50 collected.

The next Executive Committee meeting in August should be flooded by motions condemning the role of the senior Assistant General Secretary, Charlie Turnock for his role in the expulsions of socialists from the party and the eviction of YTURC from Labour Party HQ at the behest of the capitalist press.

By Bob Law
(Delegate, East Ham, personal capacity)

NALGO

NALGO'S ANNUAL conference takes place between 10-15 June this year at Blackpool, set against the background of unprecedented attacks on all public services by the Tory government.

Conference is, unfortunately, meeting under a cloud created by the sacking of Jim Roberts from NALGO's press office on a serious charge of breaching confidentiality, based entirely on circumstantial evidence including the fact that Jim is a *Militant* supporter.

This gave rise to a strike of NALGO's full-time staff which, although now over, has left the dispute unresolved. It is essential therefore that conference uses its authority to instruct the National Executive Council to behave in a manner appropriate to trade union employer, by unconditionally reinstating Jim Roberts.

The resolutions on the agenda reflect the desire of the rank and file members of the union to oppose these attacks.

The results of the ballot for the National Executive Council this year revealed some set-back for the left.

The North West and North Wales district left-winger Graham Burgess has been knocked off the NEC as has National President Bill Gill, a right-wing Labour supporter, in an unprecedented move.

Another former left stronghold, the Metropolitan district, has witnessed the removal from the NEC of left-winger Ivan Beavis and the soft-left Rita Donnaghy. The main beneficiary of this move has been the right-wing including some card-carrying Tories.

Clearly the arguments advanced by certain lefts in NALGO that a Broad Left organisation will 'rock the boat' and encourage the right-wing to organise, has now been proved stupid.

The legacy of over two years indecision from certain quarters of the left is the strengthening of the right-wing on the national leadership.

The debate on local government cuts and rate-capping promises to be a good one, with the possibility of reaffirming NALGO's support for councils which are forced to carry deficit budgets and support councillors who may be barred from public office or surcharged as a result of such policies.

As events in Liverpool and some London boroughs unfold, this kind of support from the biggest public sector trade union is extremely important.

Surprisingly, the NEC are recommending support for an amendment on privatisation which recognises the importance of a left-wing Labour council and a Labour government in the fight against privatisation.

This renders NALGO's traditional position of non-affiliation to the Labour Party increasingly contradictory, particularly at a time when unions which do affiliate to the Labour Party are currently reaffirming their position in the Tory-imposed ballots.

By Roger Bannister
(Knowsley Branch)

Militant

China
—see page 10

Ford women fight on

THE FORD women sewing machinists' long-running battle, contrary to reports, is not quite over.

Despite the recent industrial tribunal's findings being in favour of the women, at Halewood they are still in dispute. Ford management are refusing to include 27 machinists who 'stock-feed'—giving out and collecting all the materials and finished items—in the agreed upgrading.

The success of Ford sewing machinists' 17 year struggle for upgrading last April got a good press. What hasn't been widely reported is the reason behind Ford's bitter resistance to the claim.

Grading

Ford always feared that success for the women's upgrading claim would drive a coach and horses through their the job evaluation upon which their entire grading scheme is based.

Their worries were even echoed by AUEW Executive member Jimmy Airlie who told his National Committee: "we are going to have anarchy" if the machinists secure their upgrading, and Terry Duffy fully supported him.

Even the local TGWU officials, despite all the public backslapping following the tribunal victory, are not

showing enthusiasm for a further break in Ford's grading scheme.

ANNE BANNISTER talked to some of the women at Halewood who are fighting for all the workers in the sewing machine room to get the upgrading.

Ford's argument is that the job is graded, not the women. But all except one of the women are trained sewing machinists. Many have worked ten to twenty years as machinists and have progressed to being stock feeders through long service or due to an injury.

Sheila Thornburn, a stockfeeder who has worked at Ford for 13 years, explained that some men stockfeeders on the line elsewhere in Ford are on a higher grade (the grade the sewing machinists have won up-grading to), even when it only involves giving out single items.

Skills

"When we give out material for a headrest we have to count out ten pieces. We have to split the work equally amongst the girls and give out enough for 60 minutes work, and we have



The Ford Halewood machinists, still in dispute.

Photo: Militant

to do the book-keeping. The fact that we have worked as machinists makes the job much easier."

The women have the support of the supervisors because they know that to get the job done well they need a good stockfeeder.

Francis Kerwin, shop steward, said: "The girls have knocked a big hole in

the grading scheme, and now Ford are trying to plug it up. But we are prepared to make a stand and to take the company on for a third time."

Another victory for these workers will open the way for all Ford workers fighting for better wages.

Southwark council sets a rate

SOUTHWARK council has set a legal rate despite the efforts of a minority of Labour councillors loyal to the Labour Party 'no-rate' tactic.

The decision was made courtesy of Tory and Liberal abstentions. 25 Labour councillors voted for a rate plus one independent, 21 Labour voted against with two independents. One Labour councillor abstained.

The £137.4 million budget agreed is £29 million above the government spending limit. But after various accounting measures there is a £9.5 million income shortfall.

Council leader Tony Richie and Deputy Leader John Bryan, a Militant supporter, both voted against

setting a rate. Tony Richie told Militant after the meeting: "We will continue to spend money to meet the needs of the people of the borough. If we come into conflict with the law so be it. We'll be fighting in the group to spend money on the people—the budget is irrelevant."

The rate decision was taken in the face of almost total opposition from the local labour movement. Many party branches and organisations have already passed resolutions calling on councillors who voted for a rate to resign.

By Paul Traynor
(Peckham CLP, personal capacity)

March against apartheid

ON 16 June thousands will march through the streets of London in the Anti-Apartheid protest against the South African regime.

The government in South Africa depend more and more on repression. In March, on the 25 anniversary of the Sharpeville shootings police shot dead 17 protestors in the Eastern Cape. A trade union official and a student activist have recently been victims of police murders.

Blacks in the townships are taking to the streets against the regime and the apartheid system, with young black workers, school

students and unemployed leading the way.

All workers should show their solidarity by mobilising for this demonstration and intervening in it. Contact Anti-Apartheid about transport and make plans to attend:

Sunday 16 June, Jubilee Gardens, near Waterloo Station. Assemble 11 am. March to Trafalgar Square.



Photo: Andrew Ward (Report)



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