

# Militant

The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth

ISSUE 761  
9 August 1985

25p



See centre pages

The 1911 Liverpool  
strike wave

Heroin death exposes crisis of young with no hope

# Stamp out drugs epidemic

'Change the rotten society which leads  
to drug addiction and despair'

**KILLED BY heroin at 14!** The death of Jason Fitzsimmons in Liverpool shows how desperate life has become in the most deprived areas of Britain's cities.

Police estimate that 50,000 are now addicted to heroin. Some doctors say 100,000. The youngest in Glasgow are believed to be 10!

Only a feeling that the future has nothing to offer could drive people to such a deadly form of escapism. Yet that is precisely what the Tories give millions of young people—no hope, no future.

At one end of society, judges, top officers and civil servants get wage increases bigger than the total wages that young workers can ever hope to get. Six-figure salaries for company directors are now commonplace.

At the other, a doomed generation is growing up, for whom only drugs seem to offer some kind of escape. If not stopped, the heroin epidemic threatens to ruin the lives of millions. As the Merseyside coroner said at Jason's inquest: "if this become endemic throughout our own city and every city, the whole future of the nation is completely threatened by it".

million, Thatcher has condemned thousands to live a life of poverty and hopelessness in squalid crumbling estates like Croxteth in Liverpool.

Youth unemployment there is over 90 per cent, the

By Pat Craven

adult rate 40 per cent. The housing consists of three-storey flats which no matter how good they looked on paper, were prone to damp.

## Uninhabitable

As soon as the damp got in, the people moved out and the drug users moved in. It didn't take long before certain areas of Croxteth became uninhabitable.

"I've never seen housing as bad as I've see today", said Patrick Jenkin after visiting Croxteth. His response was to cut Liverpool's aid money by 34 per cent.

But the Merseyside labour movement is not accepting

that nothing can be done. Croxteth, along with 17 other areas of Liverpool, has been designated a priority zone, under the city council's five-year plan to attack the decay and dereliction in which so many people are forced to live.

"A school and sports centre have been opened along with other facilities which the City and County Councils are pushing forward," said community activist Phil Knibb. "We have started various organisations in the community like the Merseyside Drugs Education Training Unit. There is a lot of good work going on in the area".

"You've got to admit", said one resident, "that in the last two years since Labour has been in there has been more getting done than in the whole of the ten years before". Only the Tory government's spending cut-backs prevent the rest of the

(Continued on back page)

## Great achievement

THE FIGHTING Fund closed with yet another magnificent achievement by all our readers. A total of £46,723 has been raised in the three months of May, June and July. To show how support for *Militant* has grown, this figure is *ten times* the £4,680 we raised in the whole of

1972. It far exceeds the £32,637 collected in the whole of 1976 and is only just less than the 1977 total of £47,042. And all this in just three months!

Since January 1985 the total fighting fund collected is £127,009 which means over £18,000 coming in



each month.

But the amount raised is even more remarkable when our Building Fund is added in. Since 1 January we have raised £49,192, making a total from both funds of £176,201. What a marvellous testimony to the support and

sacrifices of all our readers! No other paper can touch us when it comes to backing our political ideas with cash.

We would like to thank all those workers who have contributed to our funds, no matter how small the amount. It is all an essential part

of our fight to change society. A special thanks should go to our trade union supporters who provided such a large proportion of the total raised through the union conference collections. Here's to another successful quarter!

# Council workers' team seeks wide support

**LIVERPOOL  
A SOCIALIST  
COUNCIL**

**LIVERPOOL CITY Council is making far-reaching preparations in its bid to force the government to release an extra £30 million towards its budget and safeguard council jobs, services and new housing schemes.**

So far Jenkin, the environment minister has remained intransigent and has urged the council to declare its rate illegal and set a new balanced budget—a course that would mean severe cuts and job losses in the city.

The council's strategy is to seek

support from as wide a base as possible, within the city's public and private sector and from other regions in the country.

A team of council workers, known as the 'A' Team is touring the city's workplaces to get assurances of support in the event of a full scale confrontation between the council and government. The response to 'A' Team's sorties so far has been very promising.

A leaflet has been produced appealing for support from health service workers, stressing that the battle against privatisation in the NHS is linked with the council's fight.

The building sites have also been approached. At one Wimpey site the site agent put the block on, so the steward from the building workers' union, UCATT, took the workers out through the gate so they could hear the council's case first hand from 'A' Team.

Meanwhile stewards from another building site phoned through offering 100 per cent backing if anything happened to the councillors.

A big street meeting was held in Church Street in the town centre. Over 2,000 signatures were collected and about two dozen people joined the Labour Party Young

Socialists.

There has been an excellent response from Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) members in Liverpool, including a very sympathetic hearing from the stewards in the docks for the council's fight. The speaker from the council workers will be backed up by a leaflet, aimed at dockers, appealing for solidarity strike action if any councillors are surcharged or removed from office.

Bus workers have shown equal backing for the council stand.

Three bus depots have been covered with meetings so far, 50 attended at Walton, 200 at Speke

(where only three voted against support) and another 50 at Gilmoor. Although deregulation, opening the bus routes to private operators, has been the main problem on the minds of most bus workers, they realise that Liverpool city council must be defended.

A large meeting of shop workers at Liverpool Central Hall, on 30 July backed the council with thunderous applause. Garfield Davies, General Secretary designate of the shop workers' union, USDAW, and Bill Connor attended.

## 'All I want is a decent house'

**LIVERPOOL council's campaign is not only about preserving council jobs and services but is becoming a focus for all those suffering horrific housing conditions, unemployment and deprivation in Liverpool.**

One young Liverpool family are finding life so stressful in their tiny damp flat that they have been forced to split up. Every evening Paddy Kelly says good night to his two young sons. Then he goes out to a bed-and-breakfast for the night.

### Damp

The children's mother, Pauline, either makes up a bed on the small living-room floor or, if the weather is exceptionally warm and dry, will risk using the bedroom in which the damp is not so bad.

The family have been requesting an exchange from Merseyside Improved Houses (MIH) ever since they were forced to accept the flat in 1979.

Attempts to get something done about the damp have been to no avail. One bedroom at the back of the

flat is permanently out of use, and the damp is now spreading into the other room.

The family are sick of ruined carpets, visits to the doctors with illnesses related to their home conditions, and being forever fobbed off with tales of lost records, and wild goose chases to different departments of MIH.

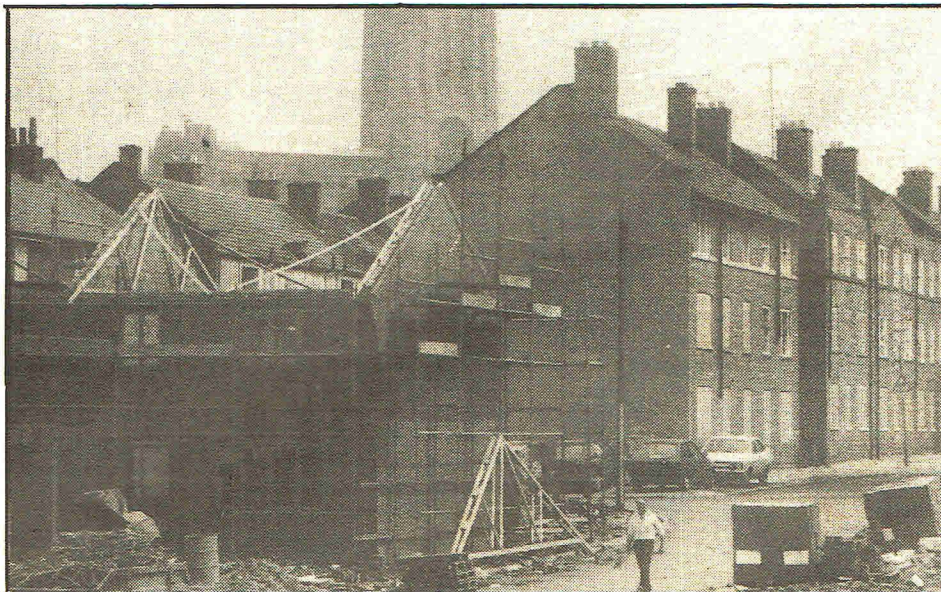
Their baby was in hospital recently with a chest complaint and has not been able to have his first injection yet because of continual colds. Five-year old Kevin has nowhere to play, or, for that matter, nowhere to sit down to eat.

"We haven't got any table manners", Paddy Kelly told us, "because we haven't any room for a table in this little flat!"

### Unemployed

Both Paddy and Pauline are unemployed and have no hope of buying a home of their own. Because of ten years of neglect by the Liberal-ruled city council existing council houses are too few and badly in need of repair.

So people like the Kellys, who were in a hostel for the



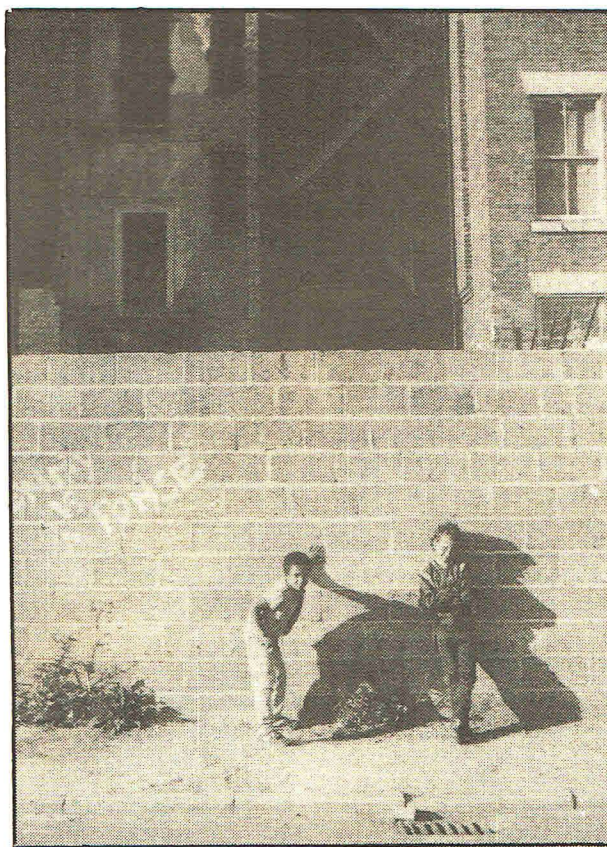
Part of Liverpool council's new housing scheme in Toxteth. Below: Slums in Toxteth. Photos: Dave Sinclair

homeless prior to their present flat, are forced to take whatever accommodation they can.

"All I want is a decent house—nothing grand or fancy, just an ordinary house where a family can live together", Paddy said.

If Liverpool City Council are extremists for refusing to close their eyes to the disgraceful conditions in which people in this day and age are still having to live, then it's time we all became extremists and fought together to make inadequate housing a thing of the past.

By Agnes McLaughlin  
(Kensington, Broadgreen)



## Liverpool Labour break with 'Black Caucus'

**THE LIVERPOOL District Labour Party has decided to break-off all links with the Black Caucus group.**

An emergency resolution was passed saying: "The breaking-up of a City Council public meeting merely represents the last straw in a campaign that has been marked by violence, threats and blatant intimidation".

The self-styled Black Caucus group have for years held a virtual monopoly over race relations jobs in Liverpool. For the last nine months this group have conducted a vicious campaign against the city council, following the appointment of Sampson Bond to the post of Principal Race Relations Advisor. The Black Caucus group have sour grapes

simply because one of their own hand-picked supporters did not get the job.

The Black Caucus are only too willing to kick up a fuss when it comes to the question of a single job for one of their own supporters, but why have they failed to be equally vigorous in campaigning against racist attacks, mass unemployment, bad housing and other social issues which affect the black community? The truth is that this group are only interested in gaining positions for themselves.

### Stand firm

Black Caucus supporters have been forced to resort to heavy-handed tactics precisely because they lack any genuine support within the black community. But the

labour movement and the black community are determined to show that they are not prepared to allow these tactics to succeed.

A majority of the city's black organisations have already declared their support for the city council, and hundreds of individuals from the black community have called on the council to stand firm behind Sam Bond.

The DLP is pledged to mobilise this support by organising a major public meeting in Liverpool 8. The meeting will be properly stewarded to prevent any attempt at disruption by thugs who fear democratic discussion and debate, and who seek to deny the black community the opportunity to hear the council's case.

## Students condemn 'violent action'

**OFFICERS OF the National Organisation of Labour Students have condemned the Black Caucus. Ben Lucas, national secretary, and Sarah Bayak, national chair, issued a statement at the Young Socialists' summer camp saying: "We the NOLS officers group unreservedly condemn the violent actions of the Black Caucus in breaking-up a meeting of the Liverpool Labour Party. We also want to put on paper our support for Liverpool City Council."**

**Militant supporters in Liverpool will welcome this about-turn by Lucas, who is youth officer of Riverside Labour Party. Only ten days before the statement, Lucas proposed a motion at the NOLS National Committee which condemned the city council for its position on racism and the creation of the new Equal Opportunities Committee. The resolution called on the council to "listen to the Black Caucus".**

## ANC expels Marxists

**THE REVOLT of the black working class and youth of South Africa has grown dramatically after Botha's state of emergency and the proposed mineworkers' strike.**

At a time when all the energy of the liberation struggle should be concentrated on fighting apartheid and capitalism, the Stalinist South African Communist Party, which controls the African National Congress in exile, have expelled four Marxists. The four, Rob Petersen, Paula Ensor, Martin Legassick and David Hemson who had been suspended in 1979, were expelled for "organising" under the title the Marxist Tendency within the ANC and producing the journal *Inqaba ya Basebenzi*.

The Marxists have been calling for full backing for the independent trade unions in South Africa and for the political and practical preparation for action against the regime.

They have argued that the working class socialist transformation of society was the only way to national liberation and democracy.

The expelled members only read of their 'expulsion' from a report of the ANC's consultative congress in Zambia (the first since 1969) in Britain's *Morning Star*.

The ANC leaders' accusations include maintaining contact with trade unions and solidarity organisations internationally through a "stolen mailing list".

In a press statement the expelled four point out that union addresses are well known and available to any member of the public!

The ANC also attack some Marxists for having been arrested and expelled from Zimbabwe. As recent issues of *Militant* have explained, the socialists were expelled for being involved in socialist education. They were arrested with a number of leading black trade unionists for defending union rights, fighting for the socialist ideas which got the Mugabe government elected.

The press statement points out that these expulsions, six years after the suspensions when the ANC leaders said their ideas were dead and buried, shows the growing force of Marxist ideas in the movement.



## Gordon Bennett writes—

THE TORIES didn't do too well in the recent vote on top people's pay. On the either hand neither did the Parliamentary Labour Party. I've lost count of the times that right wing Labour MPs have attacked the left for advocating 'extra parliamentary' action, and yet when they actually have the chance to seriously embarrass the government in a Commons vote, they're all AWOL. Well played comrades.

Mrs Thatcher apparently believes that she is immune to public opinion these days—even Tory public opinion!

Apart from the hypocrisy of agreeing to comparability for the Sir Humphrey Applebys of this world while cutting the pay of ordinary civil servants, the rises shouldn't really have surprised anyone. The squawking of the Tory backbenchers had more to do with the timing of the awards (during the teachers' dispute and just after hitting the wages councils) than with any real opposition to them.

After all, the Tories always look after their own. The *Daily Telegraph*—Fleet Street equivalent of the Tardis stuck in reverse gear—produced detailed calculations to show that even with the pay rises top people were still underpaid. There's no pleasing some folk.

Of course, the judiciary have been well rewarded for defending us all from the evils of creeping Communism. I'm reliably informed that we have an independent judiciary though I'm still trying to work out just who it is that they're supposed to be independent from.

A quick glance at the background of the bewigged upper class geriatrics provides a few clues. In 1956 *The Economist* carried out a survey which showed that 76 per cent had attended major public schools and the same proportion had been to Oxford or Cambridge. In 1970 *New Society* did another survey which revealed that 81 per cent had attended public school and 76 per cent Oxford or Cambridge. The proportions are very much the same today and in fact have been remarkably consistent over a period of a century or more.

The Tories obviously value independence—particularly if the independence in question is from the great mass of the population.

# Coal workshops face axe

ALONG WITH their general policy of pit closures the NCB have announced plans to emasculate their national workshop network; 23 workshops are to be cut to only 11.

The Yorkshire Regional Workshops Controller announced in June that Birdwell and Carcroft workshops were to close and that Elsecar would be run-down to approximately 160 men. Transfers and redundancies were to be offered to all those who wanted them.

However, it now appears that the NCB were not telling the truth. On 10 July a letter was given to workers at Elsecar telling them that they must make a decision whether they wanted to be transferred by the end of the shift.

Some men were given as little as four hours to make up their minds. At least 160 wished to remain at Elsecar and some conse-

quently didn't register for transfers.

When they made it clear to management that they wished to remain at Elsecar, they were told that they could not. No reason was given.

On 19 July letters were received by workers wishing to stay at Elsecar, giving them 12 weeks notice of redundancy. Even now the NCB haven't given the workforce a closure date, although Coal House in Doncaster are saying it will close in October.

Enormous pressure has been applied to former strikers to force them to transfer out of Elsecar. Many have now, usually against their will, gone to Shafton workshops, where very few scabbed during the strike. A lot of these men only agreed to a transfer because they feared that the NCB would otherwise force them to transfer to Fence or Allerton

Bywater workshops.

Both these workshops are 20 or so miles away from Elsecar, and more importantly they both contain large numbers of scabs.

At Fence, at the end of the strike, the NUM secretary was told to vacate his office and given a locker to work from. At Allerton Bywater the NUM is now forced to operate from a car. Consequently the NCB has intimidated many Elsecar men into transferring against their will.

Much of the work done by Yorkshire workshops is being transferred to Ansley workshop in the West Midlands and Moorgreen workshop in Nottinghamshire.

Both the workshops had high proportions of scabs during the strike. In fact Moor Green was scheduled for closure until recently. Therefore many workers believe that Elsecar is being shut as a punishment for the majority

of its members who remained out on strike.

But the NCB are now claiming in the press that they are being forced to shut Elsecar by the men themselves:

"The men have closed Elsecar themselves by taking voluntary redundancy or by going to other workshops," said a NCB spokesman. This is hypocritical rubbish. The NCB obviously always intended to punish Elsecar by shutting it. But they have tried to do it on the quiet by pressuring men to accept transfers. Elsecar has full order books until 1987 and is economically viable. The only conclusion that NUM members can draw is that the Coal Board are making vindictive political decisions.

By an Elsecar NUM member

## NCB maintains kangaroo courts



'Illegal' picket at Frickley, Yorkshire during the strike. While police charges collapse in the courts by the dozen, the NCB continues to pick off activists.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE police, reeling from recent defeats in cases brought against miners, have offered to accept miners being bound over instead of pressing charges against them. However the Yorkshire NCB have decided to maintain their policy of arbitrary dismissals. Commenting on South Yorkshire police's offer an NCB spokesman said:—

"The facts which lead to men's dismissal are not necessarily the same that led to a criminal conviction. Quite often our own people have seen people committing

offences themselves. We are aware of what the police have said but we do rely on our own evidence in many cases when considering these cases."

So now we know. The NCB can try miners and find them guilty and sack them, even when the courts find them not guilty.

By Simon Duerden  
(Barnsley CLP)

● DEMONSTRATORS gathered outside Maidstone prison recently demanding amnesty for all sacked and imprisoned miners.

The 150 strong demonstration was held at Maidstone prison because seven Kent miners are serving sentences there for up to five years.

The demonstration, organised by Medway Towns Miners' Support Group, received support from the Kent Area NUM, sacked NGA members in dispute with the *Kent Messenger* Group, Medway Trades Council, Gillingham Labour Party and other activists.

By Mark Green  
(Gillingham LPYS)

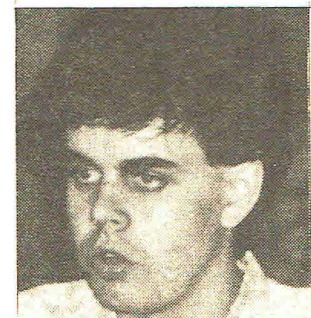
## Scots reinstatement battle

FIVE MONTHS after the national miners' strike, Scottish miners are considering entering battle once again with the National Coal Board.

Officials of Musselburgh SCEBTA branch have been instructed by their members to organise a joint meeting of NUM, SCEBTA and COSA from Bilston Glen and Monktonhall collieries. It is proposed that the two pits undertake a 24-hour stoppage as part of the campaign for reinstatement of sacked miners.

The joint meeting has yet to be arranged. However, indications are that such a call would be met with the desired response.

Miners are angry that their comrades still stand outside the colliery gates—victimized for their legitimate trade union activities. Nor are they



Joe Owens.

to be pacified by the NCB's attempt to legitimise the sackings through their current 'review' of individual cases.

It is expected that some of the sacked men in Scotland will be reinstated following the interview with their individual colliery manager. But the campaign will continue until ALL victimised miners are reinstated as far.

On the other hand, a distinct lack of decisive leadership is apparent within the union, particularly at

Bilston Glen. The recent 24-hour strike at Bilston in protest at the board's arbitrary sacking of a worker was undertaken without a clear, unequivocal lead being given.

The men were simply advised to 'go to work together or strike together—but at least do it together to preserve unity'. Further, men are complaining of a lack of communication between the union and its members.

Nevertheless, the decision of Musselburgh SCEBTA to put strike action on the agenda coupled with the recent one-day stoppages at the two units indicates the fighting mood that exists in the coalfield. The NCB are not going to have things all their own way.

By Joe Owens  
(Bilston Glen NUM,  
personal capacity)

## Yorkshire miners fight for jobs

ANDREW GLYN, author of the *Economic Case against Pit Closures*, met officials from Darfield Main NUM whose colliery is under threat of closure.

As a result he has agreed to produce an economic analysis of the pit's future which the NUM hopes to use in their battle to keep the colliery open.

The NCB has now said that the pit will not close in September as originally announced, but in December.

It's future will also be discussed under the old colliery review procedure.

### Closure vote

Darfield NUM has voted to fight the closure but also to co-operate with the review procedure. In fact a face that has recently been worked out was the fourth highest producer of its kind in the country.

But the NCB have seemingly decided to close the pit without knowing the results of the review procedure. This has now come to light as a result of the Board stopping all plans to mine coal from Darfield's Silkstone seam.

Without exploitation of the Silkstone reserves Darfield doesn't have a long term future. Apparently the NCB made a decision not to exploit these reserves at the same time as they announced their plans to close the pit.

Thus their agreement to put the colliery through the review procedure can be seen as little more than a cosmetic exercise, designed to lull NUM members into a false sense of security.

### Campaign

The Yorkshire area NUM must now begin a massive campaign of demonstrations and public meetings to get Darfield's case across and prepare their members to resist the NCB's closure plans.

Unfortunately, some of the Yorkshire leadership appear to have given up the struggle against pit closures in the hope that a Labour government will save the

mining communities. But this attitude will not prevent the Board attempting to shed 10,000 plus jobs in the next few months.

By A Darfield Main NUM member

● THE FIRST ever *Militant* miners' meeting was held recently in the Barnsley area. About 40 people attended to hear economist Andrew Glyn and Andy Hodgkinson of Darfield Main NUM speak about the future of the mining industry.



Andy Hodgkinson of Darfield Main NUM a speaker at the *Militant* miners' meeting in Barnsley.

An excellent evening was rounded-off by £41 collected for the fighting fund. Everyone agreed that the miners would be fighting again in the near future and that more *Militant* miners' meetings were needed.

● THE LABOUR Party Young Socialists held a *Socialist Youth* sales drive and fund-raising day in the centre of Barnsley. We sold a number of *Socialist Youth* and collected over £45 for the YS and our campaigning work.

One new member of the YS got dressed up as Maggie Thatcher which went down very well, bar an incident when a passer-by thumped him in the nose saying 'I hate Thatcher'.

Nevertheless the lad couldn't wait to be Thatcher again next Saturday and everyone really enjoyed the day.

By Sheila Hudson  
(Barnsley LPYS)

# Militant

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Phone: 01-533 3311.

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Militant; printed by Militant Publications, 3/13 Hepscoth Road, London E9 5HB. ISSN 0144-9275.

## Step back for Labour

NOW THAT the Thatchers have bought themselves a new five-roomed neo-Georgian mansion worth £500,000, there are millions in Britain hoping that their removal from No 10 will be a lot sooner than Thatcher anticipates. The Tories are struggling in the opinion polls and there is no doubt that their recent actions—the top people's pay awards, increased unemployment, the Fowler social security proposals and the BBC programme censorship—have reduced their support even further.

The economy is in a state of almost complete disrepair, needing some £200,000 millions worth of investment immediately to compete with countries like West Germany.

What is clear is the need for Labour to provide the arguments for fundamental socialist change.

In the newly published LP/TUC joint statement *A New Partnership* the opportunity to do so has been missed. The document, whilst highlighting some of the economic problems, sadly marks a shift to the right. The move was apparent at last year's party conference in the speech made by Roy Hattersley: "We cannot afford to make any promises that we cannot keep... we made promises in 1983 that many of our potential supporters believed we could not keep. Our vague hopes of achieving growth through spending were barely understood and rarely believed..."

Even the more modest reforms of the 1982 document have been ditched for what can only be described as inclusive generalities. "Yes it's credible but is it socialism?..." was the point put by the *Financial Times*

on the Hattersley contribution. At least the 1982 document provided a starting point for analysis. "In 1980, the total sales of the 50 largest private UK manufacturing companies came to £63 billion; that is 30 per cent of our national income and £23 billion of that total was accounted for by the top five companies".

In fact the '82 document showed that only by eliminating the power of these monopolies would it be possible for the resources of society to be organised for the benefit of working people. The 1985 document is both vague and non-committal on the critical issues of youth unemployment, YTS, women's wages and low-pay. The economic and financial power of the banks and the monopolies is simply glossed over. When you consider that the banks made profits of over £270,000 million last year and there is no commitment to control them then the document becomes largely irrelevant. The 1982 document at least talked of the nationalisation of the top 25 companies. Not only is that excluded but so too in the renationalisation of the public assets sold off by the Tories.

The document simply does not match up either analysis or programme with the continuing decline of British capitalism. The first task, the document says, is to put "Britain back to work" but the questions most often asked of party activists on the doorstep are "How?" and "Where will the money come from?"

It is not good enough to want to eliminate poverty and unemployment; you must have a strategy to eliminate their sources—that is capitalism. We must present to the working class a determination to take on the powers of the bosses. To say as the document puts it: "The in-

dustrial policy we have outlined is a practical approach to problems that will not be solved instantly". Our people need jobs now, houses now, and better social services now.

The document is more significant for what it leaves out rather than what it includes. The gaps leave the fundamental questions unanswered. Will it mean an incomes policy? Will it mean another social contract? Despite denial to the press on Tuesday, Neil Kinnock stated:

"We are not going to undertake expenditures geared to expanding the economy, developing jobs, developing training, undertaking investment and then have that additional expenditure dissipated in the form of other expenditures which would be of short-term value."

Tony Benn described the document in its earlier stage as being "anti-socialist". He was right. The international experiences of such policies as we have consistently pointed out are failure and disaster for socialist parties. Of course, the *Militant* will welcome any attempts to fight for a better deal, to get reforms, but this document heralds a return to the tried, tested and failed policies of Callaghan, Healey and Wilson. The "irreversible shift" left the working class poorer and the bosses richer. The "white hot heat" of Wilson's technological revolution left many workers cold.

The pursuit of the middle ground will result in the Labour leadership finding itself in the middle of nowhere. If Labour were to go to the electorate in an unequivocal fashion with a clear analysis and with policies properly explained then with the conditions that exist in the UK today we could achieve a landslide victory on the scale of 1945.

# Law suit against Militant- 'security of costs' ordered

**JOHN DENNIS, former Labour Party Student Organiser, is suing Militant over articles (20 April and 25 May 1984) on the 1984 conference of the National Organisation of Labour Students (NOLS).**

If Dennis wants to continue his current libel action against *Militant* then he must deposit £4,000 with the High Court within 28 days. This was the outcome of a successful application by *Militant* for 'security of costs' heard on 2 August. Dennis was also ordered to pay *Militant's* costs for the hearing.

### Denial

Dennis denied all the detailed allegations, which he takes to refer to himself. However, his solicitors first complained to us only in July 1984 and High Court writs were not taken out until March 1985.

Dennis's legal steps were taken, in fact, only after a decision by NULO (National Union of Labour Organisers, which is not recognised by the TUC) to sponsor his action. At their AGM at party conference on 30 September last year, NULO approved a £3,500 donation to Dennis, imposed a £10-a-head levy on its approximately 180 members, and decided to keep their support under review.

Clearly there are political motives behind NULO's financial support, which was reaffirmed in spite of Dennis's resignation as Labour Party Student Organiser (and consequently from NULO) which took effect in October.

Given this, *Militant* felt entirely justified in asking NULO to give a guarantee that they would pay its costs if Dennis proves unsuccessful. No such guarantee was forthcoming.



Student activists who support *Militant* were barred from this year's NOLS conference. Police were called by security guards to remove them from the pavement outside.

*Militant* has presented a full defence, justifying the report, which it believes will be successful.

However, it would be extremely expensive to present all this in court. Without 'security of costs' there would be no certainty that, even if the defence was successful, the costs would be met.

At last Friday's hearing, heard in chambers, the court decided that, although NULO are undeniably sponsoring his action, from a legal point of view they have 'no legitimate interest' in Dennis's action. Under these circumstances, it would be unfair if the defendants *Militant* had no assurance at all that NULO would meet their costs if Dennis lost. On the other hand, Dennis has given no evidence that he has means to pay himself. The

court therefore ruled that Dennis should provide £4,000 security of costs to cover the current stage of proceedings.

If Dennis takes his case to trial, it will be open to *Militant* to apply for additional sums of further security.

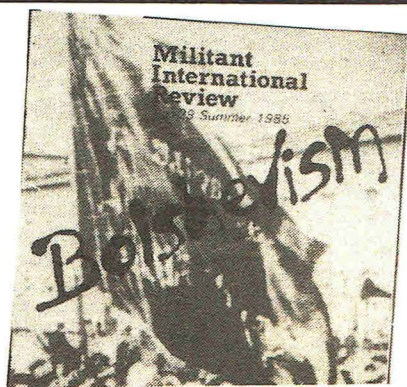
NULO members may well

be asking now how far the open-ended support for Dennis's potentially expensive legal action can be extended.

If Dennis continues with his case, we will rigorously defend it.

By Lynn Walsh

**LATEST Militant International Review out now! Price 80p from your local Militant sellers (or adding 25p post and packing) from Militant 3-13 Hepscoth Road, London, E9 5HB**



## Sheffield purge 'unconstitutional'

**ATTERCLIFFE** Labour Party, in Sheffield, is being inundated with letters from Labour Party and trade union members all over the country protesting at the expulsion of five members. This includes 100 letters and 150 signatures on a petition from the Labour Party Young Socialists summer camp held last week. The five were expelled by letter and no charges were made.

Both Mossborough and Birley wards, which the five are members of, are being asked to ignore the expulsions as unconstitutional. The District Labour Party secretary, Roger Barton, has already indicated that the district party regards the expulsions as unconstitutional, and will not be recognised.

Councillor Paul Green, who is one of the five, will remain a member of the Labour Group on Sheffield City Council. The group's

executive, including the leader, David Blunkett, have written to Attercliffe party expressing their opposition to the expulsion.

National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) member, Geoff Bright, who is also one of the expelled, is demanding that the union's executive still include him as delegate to Labour Party conference as he was elected by the union's conference.

Several resolutions have been passed condemning the expulsions by the Sheffield labour movement. They include:

- ★ Four out of six of Sheffield's Constituency Labour Parties.
- ★ Sheffield Women's Council (they are sending this resolution to the regional women's conference)
- ★ Sheffield AUEW District Committee
- ★ Sheffield NALGO Executive Committee.

## New 'charges' in Isle of Wight CLP

THREE MEMBERS of the Isle of Wight Constituency Labour Party are to appear before the next Executive Committee to answer charges of being 'members' of the *Militant* Tendency.

Patrick Westmore, Gerry Dominey and Vic Dale have also been accused of selling the *Militant* at party meetings.

The July General Management Committee (GMC) was conducted amidst complete uproar. The whole evening centred on the *Militant* as a secret organisation, and its responsibility for supposedly causing Labour's vote on the island to drop.

One young member has resigned in disgust at the way members have been attacked. In his view the Isle of Wight Labour Party has reached the end of the road when it starts tearing itself to

pieces in front of the working class.

Hopefully he can be persuaded to reconsider this desperate move and stay in the party to fight.

Any gains that the right wing might make in the meantime will be swept clean away and the *Militant* supporters will still be there in the Labour Party fighting for socialism. Urgent protests should be sent to R Jones, Secretary IWCLP, The Labour Hall, 6 Star St, Ryde, IOW, PO33 2HX.

*Militant* public meeting: Tuesday 27 August, Ryde Town Hall, 7.30pm. Hear Keith Dickenson, *Militant* Editorial Board.

By Vic Dale

(Secretary Sandown, Shanklin and district branch Labour Party, in a personal capacity)

## Labour Party reports

# Union leader revives 'cold war' in S Wales

**THIS YEAR'S** conference of the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) placed on record "its total opposition to bans, proscriptions and witch-hunts within our ranks."

The conference deplored that in the past a "cold war atmosphere was allowed to grip the union with division, strain and suspicion."

"Those days are thankfully well behind us and it would be a tragedy for the union and the whole labour movement if they were allowed to return."

Now however, such a tragedy is in the making. In Wales a 'cold war' has been declared and hostilities commenced by the Wales TGWU office in Cardiff, with George Wright MBE, Regional Secretary, as its chief prosecutor.

*Militant* has received a 17-page document (dated 24 July), signed by George Wright and produced on TGWU-headed notepaper—though purporting to have been "prepared by certain members of the Labour Party Wales Executive." The document calls on the Labour Party national executive to expel Chris Peace from the Labour Party if his constituency, Cardiff North does not.

## Topped poll

Chris Peace is a member of the Party's Welsh executive who topped the poll in the South Wales Constituency Party section, but whom the right wing have excluded from the executive committee.

The document includes a letter from George Wright to David Hughes (the National Agent of the Labour Party), in reply to his letter, which as can be seen from the inset, ruled that the removal of Chris Peace from the Welsh executive on 14 July was against party rules. Evidently stung by this, Wright says: "I regret that I have to advise you that my organisation does not accept the interpretation."

George Wright should not need reminding that his organisation, the TGWU, opposes precisely the attacks he is initiating. Wright describes the National Agent's letter as "untimely and rather unfortunate". He also has a barbed comment to make on how he sees the role of the Labour Party officers: "It does not assist us to have the organisers of the party springing to the public defence of representatives of outside organisations who openly seek to flout the constitution and conference decisions"—like George Wright no doubt!

Hughes' letter, it should be noted, expressed not the National Agent's opposition to expulsions but only how to successfully expel Chris Peace!

Another of the documents, a five-page report headed 'Militant', says:

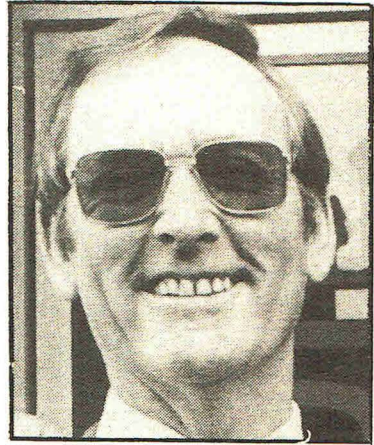


Photo: John Harris (IFL II)

George Wright, Welsh Transport and General Workers Union leader and main proponent of taking action against *Militant*



Photo: Dave Sinclair

Chris Peace—barred from the Welsh Labour Party executive despite being elected with the highest vote.

"There can be no doubt whatsoever that Mr Chris Peace is ineligible for Labour Party membership." His evidence? Chris Peace sold *Militant* at the Welsh Labour Party conference and "wore a large badge" proclaiming his support for *Militant*.

In a debate with George Wright on BBC Radio Wales on 16 July (Wright by the way, has a tape available which he has already sent to David Hughes), Chris Peace 'confessed':

"I read the *Militant* newspaper, I sell the *Militant* newspaper, I collect money for the *Militant* newspaper, but that is not outlawed by any conference decision."

In the last few weeks, we have published statements from the former General Secretary and National Agent of the Labour Party that to read *Militant*, or to sell *Militant*, or indeed to give money to *Militant* is not grounds for expulsion from the Labour Party.

Wright seeks to find authority for his action by referring to the case of Brychan Davies who was expelled from the Rhondda Labour Party in early 1984—forgetting to add that this expulsion was twice defeated at the National Executive Committee and only approved at the third retrial on

clearly fabricated evidence.

The truth of the matter is that George Wright persecutes Chris Peace for the political views he holds and is particularly stung by the fact that Chris Peace won the election to the Regional Executive—topping the poll—at the same time as being a well-known supporter of *Militant's* policies. His explanation for this is quite simple—a leaflet was distributed at Welsh Labour Party conference asking delegates to support Chris Peace if they were "opposed to witch-hunts."

As far as Wright is concerned, this is admissible evidence for a trial. However, says Wright, some delegates only saw the leaflet after voting had commenced, so constituency delegates voted for Chris Peace not knowing the truth! Unembarrassed by these absurdities, George Wright presents his case for expulsion.

## Motion fell

On 16 July Wright said to a member of Caerphilly Labour Party, of which he himself is a member, that for every one who supports *Militant* in Caerphilly Labour Party "there are a hundred who support me". Yet at the Penyrheol ward meeting on 31 July—George Wright's ward—a resolution was tabled calling for action against *Militant*. Neither the mover nor George Wright bothered to attend this meeting and as nobody was prepared to speak to the motion, it fell!

This is only one indication of the feelings of the rank and file in the Welsh Labour movement. The Welsh divisional council of ASTMS has condemned the action of the Regional Executive and called for Chris Peace's reinstatement.

Chris Peace will be attending the next meeting of the Welsh Regional Executive on 16 September. Wright and his right-wing witch-hunter friends in Ogmore, Cardiff South and Pontypridd should be warned; their actions will be seen by the rank and file of the movement as nothing less than an attempt to break Labour unity and thus snatch defeat from the jaws of victory in the forthcoming general election.

We can quote with approval the statement carried at the TGWU conference: "We cannot use administrative means to fight the battle of ideas." This is the lesson Wright and his right-wing friends need to learn.

Protests should be sent to: David Hughes, National Agent, the Labour Party, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.

By Mike Waddington

## Affiliation figure investigation

MEMBERS OF the Labour Party's Welsh executive committee have been shocked to hear that one of its members may not be a properly elected member of the committee.

The Socialist Health Association (SHA), a body affiliated to the Labour Party, has refused to comment

on allegations concerning its Welsh branch.

### Inflated

Members of the executive are investigating allegations that the SHA's 'membership' of 4,000, on which they affiliate to the Welsh party, is enormously inflated. The

SHA nationally is affiliated on a membership of only 1,000.

A member of the SHA, Dennis Stone, was elected to the Welsh executive committee in the section for affiliated organisations. The SHA national office have refused to comment on whether they have written to

Anita Gale, the party's regional organiser in Wales concerning the status of Dennis Stone.

If these allegations are true, it is an outrage, which will provoke widespread anger throughout the Welsh labour movement.

By a Militant reporter

## W. Midlands

THE WEST Midlands Labour Unity Campaign has called a major conference for 21 September at the Dr Johnson House, Bull Street, Birmingham. Speakers include Dave Nellist MP, Derek Hatton, Liverpool Ci-

ty Council and Ian Schofield, Senior Steward, Rover. Five delegates allowed per labour movement body; £2 per delegate. Details from P Pritchard, 115 Ridgeway, Edgebaston, Birmingham, B17 (cheques to West Midlands Labour Unity Campaign Fund).

## Sittingbourne three backed by MPs

AT THE last meeting of the Sittingbourne branch of the Labour Party, Alan Ursell, one of the three members due to be expelled by the Faversham Constituency Labour Party, gave an excellent talk on 'The state of the country since the miners' strike'.

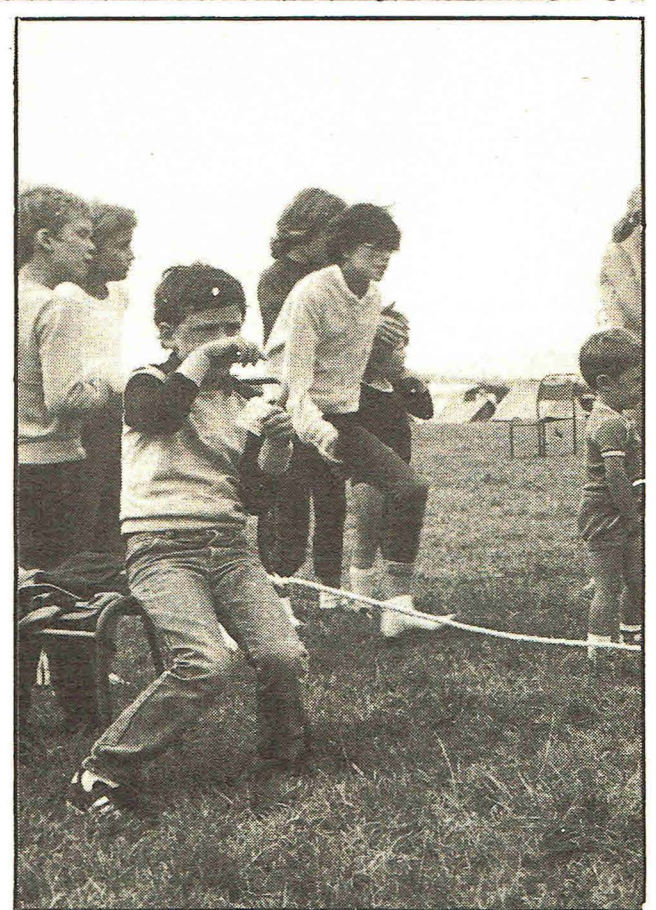
This was met with great enthusiasm as it is not usual here to have any time for political discussion. 'The Three', as they are now referred to, are gathering support, including letters from MPs Dave Nellist,

Terry Fields and Dennis Skinner.

Petitions are being taken around and the feeling is growing that the expulsions are not wanted.

Please send letters and resolutions to The Secretary, Faversham CLP, Labour Hall, Park Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 2LN, with copies to M Young, 117 Shortlands Road, Sittingbourne, Kent.

By Anne Ursell



## Book now for Militant camp

AUGUST BANK holiday (23-26 August) marks the 10th anniversary of the South Wales *Militant* summer camp, at its traditional surroundings on the beautiful Gower Peninsula.

### Politics...

To mark this anniversary, this year's camp will have an international theme with discussions on Northern Ireland, South Africa and Latin America. Marxists from each of these politically volatile areas of the world will be giving a detailed analysis of the up to date situation and the way forward for the working class of these countries.

Our resident speaker, Ted Grant, will be dealing with sessions on Britain and will be summing up the camp with a discussion on Marxism and the Labour Party.

Apart from the political sessions there is, of course, the social side which helps make the week-end a brilliant holiday for families as well as younger comrades.

You can test your skills on the football field, in the

camp quiz, or just lie about on the sandy beaches. There's a disco every evening with the infamous 'camp cabaret' on Sunday night.

The fully equipped creche ensures the kids are well looked after during the political sessions and with their own disco, sports day and fancy dress, it's little wonder that each year we get a record number of children at the camp.

### ...can be fun

The price is remaining unchanged at £12.50 for adults and £2.50 for 5-15 year olds (under 5's free). Snacks will be provided at lunchtime, although campers should bring their own food for main meals.

In order for the organisers to have an idea of the numbers to cater for, comrades should write or telephone their bookings immediately to camp organiser—Roy Davies 191 Hanover Street, Swansea. Tel: 463623 (evening) 466631 (day).

By Alec Thraves

## Unity conferences

A WALES Labour Unity conference has been called for Saturday 5 October, at 11am in the Temple of Peace, Cathays Road, Cardiff. The conference has been sponsored by the Cam-

paign Group of Labour MPs. Speakers will include Terry Fields MP, Derek Hatton, Deputy Leader of Liverpool City Council, Chris Peace and Tony Wedlake, LPYS representative on the Welsh executive.

Delegates' credentials, £2 from Chris Peace, 21 Manor Street, Heath, Cardiff.

**THE BEST form of defence is attack. The Tories are taking on the people of Liverpool by cutting grants to their council and threatening to bankrupt their councillors.**

Meanwhile, some on the right of the Labour Party are trying to stir up a witch-hunt against *Militant* by expelling more and more of our supporters. It is our success in building support for Marxist ideas that leads the Tories and the right wing to attack us.

The best response will be achieved not by lying low and hoping to avoid them but by taking up the issues in the movement, gaining more supporters, passing resolutions and getting donations for the funds. As the letter below shows, working people are prepared to defend the paper they see as representing their interests.

The donations received this week, including the £5 from Councillor Charlton are boosted by £50 received

from Wirral and £60 from Central London. If we are to raise the extra £25,000 we need to clear the debts built up earlier in the year, we need an extra push over the next couple of weeks to approach those supporters who haven't yet given anything.

We also need to approach union branches, Labour Parties and LPYS branches for donations to show their opposition to witch-hunts.

Dear Comrades,

"I was disgusted to read of five more expulsions—this time Attercliffe CLP. Our enemy is the Tories and the Alliance Parties not Marxists in our Party.

"Although I do not agree with everything your paper says it is the only one worth reading so here is a donation of £5 to the Marxist Daily Building Fund—one pound for each expelled member in Attercliffe!"

Yours fraternally  
Councillor Simon Charlton,  
Brighton Labour Party

**IN THE final 10 days you helped us raise a tremendous £7,064 which took the final total to £46,135. And that's just the fighting fund!**

While we did not match last quarter's record of £50,400 we got very near. In every other sense, it was a record quarter. At the same time last year we raised £41,034 so every quarter we are improving our achievements by several thousands of pounds! It was a record quarter for the number of industrial workers giving 'extras' on top of the price of the paper outside their factory gates; for workers making donations at their union meetings; for school students donating; and for the increasing number of Labour Party supporters contributing.

Some donations have been pennies, some have been pounds but every donation has shown the willingness of our readers to build support for the ideas of Marxism. This quarter has also shown that despite the unconstitutional, undemocratic attacks on us by the right-wing no-one can stop us going forward.

Thanks to our supporters who recognise that only through sacrifice have we built in the past, and will we build now. The summer draw raised a total of nearly £3,000 but actually made a profit of £1,471 which is included in the final total. Some areas did exceptionally well—Harlow, Leicester, London South Central, Wir-

# FIghting FUND

This week: **£7,064**

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target
1 Eastern	2575		3200
2 London East	2240		2850
3 London South West	859		1100
4 London South East	1467		1950
5 London West	1817		2650
6 Humberside	1295		1900
7 West Midlands	2547		4350
8 East Midlands	1634		2900
9 Southern	2585		5000
10 Lancashire	557		1100
11 South West	923		2150
12 Northern	1880		4650
13 Wales West	865		2150
14 Scotland West	1367		3800
15 Merseyside	2195		6200
16 Yorkshire	2095		5950
17 Manchester	770		2650
18 Wales East	686		2450
19 Scotland East	750		3000
Others	17030		10000
<b>Total received</b>	<b>46135</b>		<b>70000</b>

ral, Tees, Thames Valley, Coventry, Staffs and Humberside South.

Young Socialists have shown they recognise how *Militant* fight for youth, as shown by donating £1,050 at this year's Young Socialist summer camp. Every area wanted to chip in; Eastern Region and London supporters did particularly well. Special thanks to John, Laurence, Casey, Brett, Craig, Martin and Lisa whose singing talents raised £10 for the FF. Jeremy Williams aged 5 from

Walton collected over £7 and Lois aged 6 collected over £1.

A new quarter is about to begin—target £70,000—so there must be no let up, even for a minute, in keeping the cash coming in.

### Donations

NUPE NATIONAL Conference Readers meeting £244; P Tulloch £50; Watford LPYS £40; Holborn and St Pancras LPYS £30; Dave Gorton NCU London £25; Mr English Richmond LP £12; Bath LPYS

£10; Sean Baker Rayleigh £10; Marcia Dickens Stevenage NUT; Mark Pickersgill UCATT £10; Westminster South YS £10; Anon supporter put £5 into a rattling tin in Southampton High Street; 'extras' collected on an estate sale in Cambridge over £3; Robert Manning NUPE branch secretary Mill Hill £2.50; Brian, a school student supporter from Leeds £1.60; 75p Bruce Henderson County Councillor Bedford; 'extras' collected at Sheil Road Security Liverpool.

By Kim Waddington

## Marxist Daily Building Fund

	£		£
Eastern	2868	Scotland East	2238
East Midlands	3242	Scotland West	2546
Humberside	1654	Southern	3959
London NE	3306	South West	902
London NW	4116	Wales East	1946
London SE	2091	Wales West	1514
London SW	2184	West Midlands	2061
Lancashire	561	Yorkshire	1649
Manchester	2621	National	1302
Merseyside	5181		
Northern	3270	<b>Total</b>	<b>49208</b>

## ads

**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.

**WANTED:** Co-op stamps. Loose, part or full books for F/F. Send to Circulation Dept, 3/13 Hepscott Road London E9 5HB.

**MILITANT MINER POSTERS:** 'Miners unite, no splits'. Bulk orders from Circulation Department, 3-13 Hepscott Road, London E9 5HB. Price 50p per dozen (post free).

**MILITANT Liverpool Broad-sheet** 'Defend our City' 25p (including postage) Orders of 10 or more 10p each. To Circulation Department, 3-13 Hepscott Rd. London E9 5HB.

### Southern Women's Weekend School

Saturday/Sunday 10/11 August  
Clock House Community Centre, Defiance Walk, Woolwich, London (Nr Woolwich Arsenal Station) Starts 11.00am.  
The Agenda will be:  
Saturday—The Origins of the family  
Workshops—Gillick/Powell etc  
—Fowler's review  
—Violence against wives  
—Transitional programme (demands for working women)  
Sunday—Internationalism  
Workshops—South Africa  
—Central America  
—Northern Ireland  
A detailed agenda will be available on the day. Cost £2 waged/£1 unwaged. Bookings to Kim Waddington, c/o Militant 3/13 Hepscott Rd. For creche contact: Lynne Faulkes, 143B Amhurst Road, Hackney. (Telephone 01 249 3322).  
NORTHERN Womens Weekend School 31 August-1 September. Watch this space for announcements.

**WHY I Read Militant—Sales leaflet.** Stocks available from Circulation Department 3-13 Hepscott Rd. London E9 5HB.

**ISLE OF WIGHT Militant** supporters. Are you coming to the Island for a holiday? Do not miss your *Militant* when on holiday. We sell the *Militant* in two towns on Saturday. Ryde, High Street, 11am to noon. Shanklin Regent Street, 11am to noon. If you cannot see us on the Saturday Phone IOW 854759.

**AIRE VALLEY BLOC** meeting: "For a fighting democratic engineering union." Speaker: John Tocher. Tuesday 20 August 7.30pm. Lecture Hall, Keighley Library, Keighley.

**FOR SALE** Rotoprint R75 Offset Litho plus platemaker complete with chemicals, plates etc. £300 Phone: Oxford 715055.

## Conference greetings

**GET YOUR LPYS, trade union or Labour Party to place a greetings ad in our Labour Party Conference edition. Hurry, the closing date for copy is 18 September.**

Make cheques payable to *Militant* Publications and send with your greetings to 3-13 Hepscott Rd, London E9 5HB. Rates: 3 column centimetres £6; 6 col. cm. £12; sixteenth of a page £20.

BACK THE PAPER THAT BACKS YOU!



THE CONTENTS of last week's *Militant* were used very well in several areas to boost sales.

There was a major feature on the battles and ballots of the West Midlands busmen. So our sellers in the region turned out to the bus garages. Five were covered in Birmingham as well as Coventry, Wolverhampton and Walsall garages, and over 30 papers were sold. And of course they will be covered again this week, as the Midlands sellers try to

follow up these sales.

The back page on the jobs threat at the Naval dockyards, led to 10 sales at Rosyth dockyard gates, in addition to the 25 being sold inside. It would have been more but for the pouring rain. Now a door to door sale in Rosyth is being arranged.

Every week there are articles in *Militant* of particular interest to one group of workers or another in your area. Make sure that special sales are organised to

get the paper to them.

In Sheffield last Sunday as part of the campaign against the witch-hunt in Attercliffe, 25 papers were sold on the Mosborough estate, the largest in the constituency.

Two *Militant* supporters from Sittingbourne, refused permission to speak at Whitstable branch Labour Party about their threatened expulsion, sold 10 papers outside the meeting. This weekend they will have a paper sale plus a petition on the Sittingbourne estates.

At the LPYS summer camp 200 copies of last week's paper were sold. Sellers from the Eastern Region and from Surrey did an especially good job selling at the camp, even doing 'tent to tent' sales.

Start preparing now for our special sales drive 27 September to 3 October.

## Militant Meetings

**BIRKENHEAD** Militant Readers Meeting "Liverpool fights the Tories" Wednesday 14 August 7.30pm Birkenhead Town Hall. Speakers Derek Hatton (Deputy Leader Liverpool City Council) Cathy Wilson and Richard Venton.

**BIRMINGHAM** Militant Readers Meeting. 'The iron fist of apartheid' Thursday 22 August 7.30pm at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham city centre. Speaker Darcy Du Toit (SALEP).

**"BRISTOL EAST** Militant Marxist Discussion Groups. 15/8/85 'Liverpool—Which Way Forward'; 19/9/85 'Do We Need A Revolution?'; 17/10/85 'Marxism and the Labour Party'. Further Details ring (0272) 656591."

**MILITANT** Marxist Discussion Group meetings held monthly in Swindon. Phone Martin on 24796 for details.

**WEST MIDLANDS** Labour Unity Conference. Saturday 21 September 10.30am to 4pm. Speakers include Dave Nellist MP, Derek Hatton, deputy leader Liverpool Council and Ian Schofield (Senior Steward, Rover). Venue Dr Johnsons House, Bull St, Birmingham city centre. £2 per delegate to P Pritchard, 115 Ridgeway, Edgbaston, Birmingham 17.

**YORKSHIRE** Militant meetings. 'Liverpool council take on the Tories.' Huddersfield Zetland Hotel, Queensgate, (opposite Poly) Thursday 29 August 7.30pm. Halifax. AEU Club, 11 St James St (by bus station) 7.30pm Tuesday 3 September.

### 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 1920s and today, the lessons of popular frontism, women and the struggle for socialism.

Plus a rally/debate on Saturday and disco. Professionally run creche. 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 night(s).

I will require the creche for the following children (name(s) and age(s)) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

# Tory censorship at the BBC

**THE BBC governors' banning of the documentary *At the Edge of the Union* which features an interview with Martin McGuinness the alleged former chief of staff of the Provisional IRA has met with uproar from broadcasting workers.**

The media unions' calling of a one day strike is a magnificent response to this attempted censorship. This episode exposes the thoroughly undemocratic nature of the BBC.

The BBC Board of Governors is bursting at the seams with unelected Lords, Ladies and City gents (see box). Below they have built a hierarchy after their own image. A complex vetting procedure ensures a high proportion of Oxbridge graduates and a negligible quantity of socialists on the BBC's staff. The 'independent' IBA structure too, is independent only of the working class.

The accepted procedures and the people who implement them guarantee a tight system of self-censorship without any reference to the Home Secretary or the governors. Since 1970 over 20 programmes on Northern Ireland—both on BBC and ITV—have been delayed, censored or banned from

**By Andy Beadle**  
(Deptford Labour Party)

our screens.

Most ironically, in 1982 the BBC banned an *Open Door* programme which criticised media coverage on Northern Ireland.

*The War Game*, first screened last week was banned from TV for over 20 years. There was no question that it told the truth about the consequences of nuclear war. Indeed this was the main objection to it from the point of view of the ruling class as represented by the BBC.

Lord Reith, boss of BBC during the 1926 general strike, declared quite bluntly: "Assuming the BBC is for the people and the government is for the people, it follows that the BBC must be for the government in this crisis too."

Margaret Thatcher says: "Don't give terrorists the oxygen of publicity". She

would clearly like to defocus the labour movement too. No doubt the Tories hoped to take advantage of workers' revulsion against sectarianism to pave the way for government interference with TV programmes. The BBC is too 'liberal' for the Tories!

Police methods used against the miners' strike were first perfected in Northern Ireland. So too could censorship later be turned against the Tories' 'enemy within'—the trade unions.

The whole labour movement should rally behind the broadcasting unions' fight against government involvement. Labour together with the media unions and the TUC should wage a campaign to explain the built-in class bias of the BBC.

The present TV bosses offer no guarantee against behind-the-scenes manipulation. The media unions have shown that they are prepared to stand up against Tory interference. Labour must bring forward plans for democratic workers' control and management of the broadcasting industry, with boards elected by and responsible to media workers, viewers and working people as a whole.

**THE TWELVE governors of the BBC are appointed by the Privy Council (advised by the Home Office) for five years at a time. The Board of Governors is the BBC's highest authority, responsible for the whole broadcasting operation. They in turn appoint the Director-General who chairs the Board of Management, which includes the heads of radio, TV and external services.**

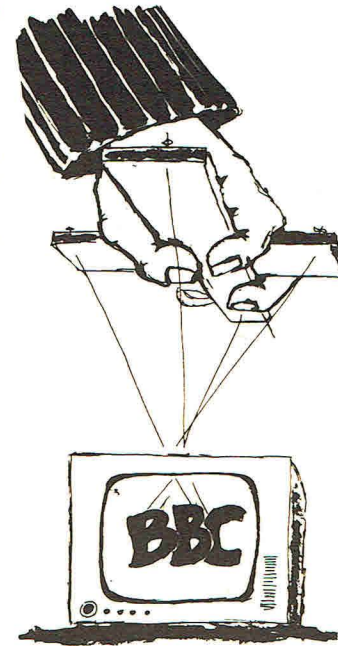
**SALARIES:** The chairman receives £26,673 annually. The vice-chairman and national governors are on £6,790 and the rest get £3,395. These are not full time posts. Most governors either have other positions or are retired. Nearly all have in addition unearned incomes and considerable personal wealth.

**Chairman—Stuart Young**, 51, senior partner in a firm of chartered accountants in the City. Many directorships. Member of the Carlton club.

**Vice-Chairman—Sir William Rees-Mogg**, 57, educated Charterhouse and Baliol college, Oxford. Editor of *The Times* 1967-1981. Twice Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Chester-le-Street.

**National Governor for Northern Ireland—Lady Lucy Barbara Ethel Faulkner** of Downpatrick, 60, widow of Brian Faulkner, former Northern Ireland Prime Minister.

**National Governor for**



**Scotland—William Wood Watson Peat**, CBE, 62, educated at public school, JP, farmer and company director.

**National Governor for Wales—Alwyn Roberts**, 51,

educated at Cambridge. Academic, ordained Presbyterian minister and one of the youngsters on the board.

**Sir John Johnston**, GCMG, KCVO, 67, educated at Oxford. Last High Commissioner in Rhodesia 1964-65. British High Commissioner for Canada 1974-78.

**Daphne Margaret Sybil Desiree Park**, CMG, OBE, 63, educated at Oxford. Retired diplomat. Principal of Somerville College, Oxford.

**Lady Parkes**, 59. Served on education bodies and the Press Council.

**The Earl of Harewood**. Cousin of the Queen.

**Malcolm McAlpine**. Director of the construction firm.

**Jocelyn Barrow**, OBE. General Secretary of the Campaign against Racial Discrimination 1964-69.

**Sir John Boyd**, CBE. Former AUEW General Secretary.

# Derry trade unions fight for workers' unity

**DERRY TRADES Council has a long and fine record of fighting for workers' unity and against sectarian divisions in Northern Ireland. This record is now being challenged by members of Sinn Fein. In response to their arguments, a letter was sent to *An Phoblacht/Republican News*, journal of Sinn Fein, by Bill Webster, secretary of the trades council from 1981 to 1984.**

*An Phoblacht* have refused to publish the letter, because they 'felt it was a personal attack on sister Daisy Mules.' We are therefore publishing extracts.

In your issue dated 6 June 1985 (page 12) you carried a report of a meeting held in Brighton which was organised by the Troops Out Movement and sponsored by Brighton (Pavillion) Labour Party. The main speaker at this meeting was sister Daisy Mules, chairwoman of Sinn Fein's trade union department and a member of Derry Trades Council Executive Committee.

The comments made by sister Mules in relation to the "trade union movement (in the north) bound hand and foot to the unionist statelet, unable to withstand sectarianism, state repression," are more in tune with the thinking of the leadership of Sinn Fein and incidentally the 'trendy left' in Britain, such as the Troops Out Movement—than they are with Derry Trades Council...

...Sister Mules, in a most

dishonest manner hides from her audience the fact that Derry Trades Council—the fourth largest in Ireland—has stood since 1979 for the socialist reunification of this country, and has argued for this position inside the Irish Congress of Trade Unions despite the opposition of the trade union leadership.

## Sectarian atrocities

In December 1975 it was the Derry Trades Council, in conjunction with the shop stewards and the local union branches, which organised a city wide stoppage of work against sectarianism and the 'tit for tat' sectarian atrocities which were beginning to engulf the working class communities at that time. In Newry, Lurgan and Belfast, rank and file trade unionists followed suit and came out on to the streets in their tens of



Above and below: Police break up loyalist march in Portadown in July.

Photos: John Arthur (Reflex)

thousands.

The fact that trade unionists were prepared to take to the streets in their opposition to the methods of both the republican and loyalist paramilitaries demonstrated quite clearly that the organised working class has nothing in common with those individuals and organisations which consciously strive for a civil war as a means to resolve the legacy of British imperialism, ie of divide and rule...

...What sister Mules will never understand is that the overwhelming majority of rank and file trade unionists are prepared to struggle against sectarianism, state repression and economic repression. Unfortunately their 'leaders' within the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) are not prepared to do the same, eg mobilise the movement on the basis of a clear socialist alternative to that of capitalism and imperialism.

The proof of this is in the resolutions which have been submitted to the ICTU from the Derry Trades Council since 1980 calling for campaigns against factory closures and redundancies; the banning of plastic bullets; the ending of the supergrass system; the ending of 'strip searching' in Armagh Prison.

All these resolutions have been passed overwhelmingly by the annual conferences of either the NIC-TU and the ICTU.

The Derry Trades Council has not only spearheaded a movement inside the ICTU on the above class issues, it has also fought inside the movement for the building of an independent political voice for the working class, ie a socialist labour party. For as long as this remains the policy of the trades council, my union branch, along with many others, will fight might and main to force the trade union 'leaders' along this road.

## What purpose?

If sister Mules really does believe that the trade union movement is 'bound hand and foot to the unionist statelet,' then what is her purpose, and that of the other members of Sinn Fein, in being on Derry Trades Council? Is it to divert the trades council away from its non-sectarian and socialist approach to the issues she believes the trade union movement is incapable of struggling against?

We already have an example of such a tactic being used by sister Mules and other members of Sinn

Fein and supported by the right wing. A resolution moved by myself which dealt with the need for the trade union movement, North and South, to go on the offensive against the rising tide of mass unemployment, coupled to the need for the development of a socialist economic alternative strategy to that of the British TUC and the ICTU executive committee, was blocked by these individuals on the grounds that the resolution was 'cliché ridden', and was 'inopportune and going to the wrong place'—the 'wrong place' being the annual conference of the ICTU in July 1985...

...The fact that the trade union 'leaders' will be able to leave annual conference of the ICTU without being brought to task over their failure to conduct a real struggle against the policies of the coalition government in the South, and the regime of Thatcher rests, in part, on the shoulder of sister Mules and her co-thinkers on Derry Trades Council.

Yours Fraternally,  
Bill Webster, Chairman, 238 Branch GMBATU, Secretary Derry Trades Council 1981-1984.



# 1911 - The great Liverpool strike

How the Mersey's militant traditions were forged

**THE FIGHT** of its Labour City Councillors, has put Liverpool at the centre of working class struggle in Britain. It is no accident and not the first time that Liverpool finds itself in this position. Its workers have a great tradition, established over a century, of being prepared to unite and fight for trade union rights and better wages.

**RICHARD KNIGHTS** looks at the greatest of all these struggles, the strike wave of 1911, the repercussions from which are still being felt today.

THE STRIKE movement of 1911, established Liverpool as one of the bastions of working-class strength in Britain. Ever since this marvellous movement the ruling class has justifiably cast a wary eye at the Liverpool labour movement.

The strike was also a watershed in the development of industrial unionism. Three unions, the National Union of Railwaymen, the Transport and General Workers' Union and the National Union of Seamen can trace their birth to the 1911 strike.

It was a period when, as Lenin put it: "The shadow of revolution hung over Britain". The mighty movements between 1910 and 1914 represented a sharp break with the slumber of Victorian times. A new layer of working-class militants blew off the old cobwebs of craft trade unionism and laid the basis for militant industrial trade unionism.

## Wages fell

The turn of the century also saw a change in Britain's economic position. The former 'workshop of the world' was now facing increasing competition from leaner, fitter rivals such as America and Germany. The position of many workers began to decline. Real wages fell by ten per cent between 1900 and 1910.

This economic decline pushed workers towards political activity, as Engels had predicted in 1885: "...during the period of England's industrial monopoly, the English working class have, to a certain extent shared in the benefits of the monopoly... With the breakdown of that monopoly the English working class will lose that privileged position; it will find itself generally... on a level with its fellow workers abroad. And that is the reason why there will be socialism again in England."

The election of the Liberal government in 1906 represented a last attempt to try and check the rise of the Labour Party. Lloyd George called for a campaign against the landlords, brewers, peers and monopolists. A programme of reforms was im-

plemented, such as the creation of wages councils, national insurance and old age pensions.

By 1910, however, these concessions were brought to an end. Britain could no longer afford wide-scale reforms and the property basis of the Liberals was coming into increasing conflict with the rising labour movement. Reforms now had to be squeezed out of the Liberals by a resurgent trade union movement.

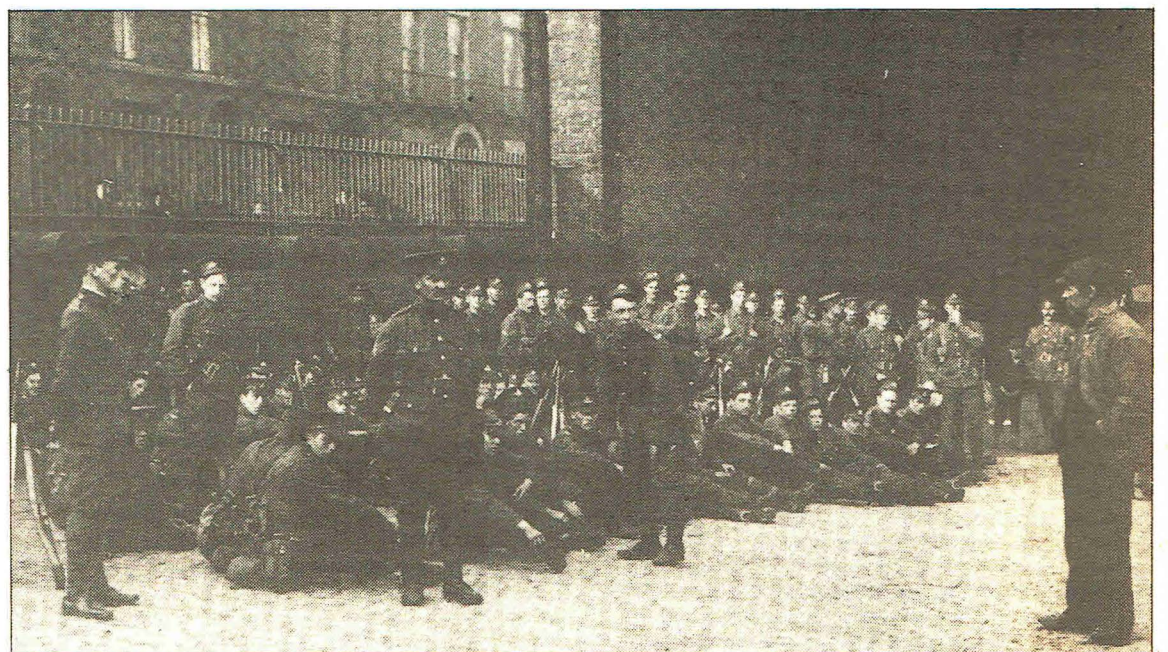
The trade revival of 1911 raised the hopes of trade unionists. A general anti-parliamentary feeling was abroad at the failures of the Liberal government and the inability of the Labour Party to fight for a clear socialist alternative. A younger generation looked to new methods of working class organisation to improve wages and conditions.

The 1911 strike in Liverpool was a titanic movement covering 72 days and involved two national strikes, several local strikes culminating in a local general strike. It saw an attempt by the army to smash the movement and the brutal suppression by the police of a mass demonstration.

On 31 May, a "monster demonstration" was held at St Georges Plateau by the newly formed Transport Workers' Federation (TWF). This organisation unified seamen, dockers, carters, etc into a single federation, with the aim of building one transport union. On the three subsequent days, the first national conference of the TWF was held.

The first two unions into action were the National Sailors and Firemen's Union (NSFU) and the National Union of Ships' Stewards, Cooks, Butchers and Bakers. The demands they raised against the notoriously anti-union Shipping Federation were for an end to degrading medical inspections; no hiring in Shipping Federation offices; union stewards to be present during hiring; improved forecastle accommodation; part of wages to be paid in port; a pay rise of 10 shillings per month and union recognition.

Liverpool was picked as the centre of the battle and, as a mood of expectancy mounted, the leadership were pressed by the ranks for action. The leader of the NSFU, Havelock Wilson, appealed to the employers for talks, explaining that it was "impossible to restrain the



Top: Tom Mann addressing a mass meeting of strikers. Below: Confrontation between troops and strikers

men any longer".

The Shipping Federation's arrogant refusal to talk was answered by the national strike called on 15 June when 500 firemen refused to sign on board the Liverpool ships *Empress of Ireland*, *Teutonic* and *Baltic*.

## Dockside meetings

Tom Mann the leader of the TWF arrived in Liverpool and immediately convened dockside meetings with a banner proclaiming "War declared: strike for liberty".

The strike was 100 per cent and for the first time all sections came out. As the *Liverpool Daily Post* noted: "Hitherto stewards had been inclined to draw a certain social distinction between themselves and the men at work on the deck and in the storehold... This condition of things, has,

however, been revolutionised in 24 hours, and for the first time in the history of the Port of Liverpool, yesterday saw all hands throwing sectionalism to the winds and joining hand in hand for the furtherance of the common cause. It was a remarkable event, a historic event in trade union progress."

Another feature was the solidarity amongst dockers. A ship *The Pointer* arrived at Princes Dock manned by blackleg firemen. Seventy dockers refused to unload the cargo, despite the fact that they were non-union, as the *Liverpool Daily Post* was forced to concede: "This means that unionists and non-unionists, on whom they (the bosses) relied, are now banded together."

This unity between unionists and non-unionists represented a new element in the shipping industry. Hitherto the Shipping Federation had anchored ships in port and im-

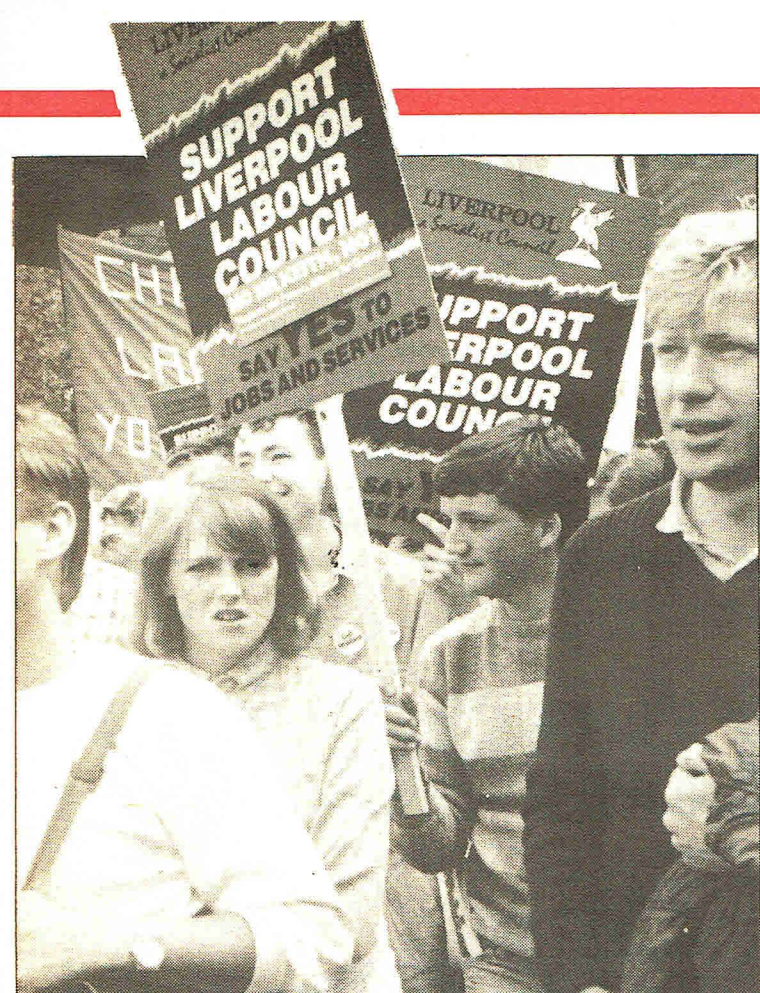
ported scabs from other towns. The national seamen's strike made it difficult to move workers from town to town. The Shipping Federation was forced to use untrained scabs from such "coastal" towns as Leeds and Birmingham!

## Membership cards

A tide of non-unionists signed up for the union. Meetings were held on the dockside and the *Liverpool Daily Post* reported union officials being "kept busy all morning taking names and issuing membership cards".

The unity of the class also drew together the opposing religious factions. The poison of sectarianism had retarded the growth of trade unionism in Liverpool. Now, despite the fact that the dockers were mainly Catholic and the carters were mainly Protestant, the struggle for a union submerged the





Above and left: Liverpool's traditions live on, in the campaign to back the City Council's fight with the Tory government in defence of jobs and services.

religious differences.

On 26 June a mass rally applauded the dockers' union decision not to handle ships in dispute with the seamen. The Shipping Federation faced pressure to settle. The Manchester provisions merchants, starved of produce, urged them to compromise. Individual companies were already making separate settlements when on 28 June the Shipping Federation 'magnanimously' granted companies the power to negotiate.

Immediately the seamen returned to work, 4,000 dockers walked out, and by the evening it had risen to 10,000. The dockers, encouraged by the seamen's victory were now pursuing their own cause.

Once again solidarity was the watchword. Seamen came out in support. One ship's steward was quoted as saying: "Yes, I admit we have got what we wanted... we have no grievance with the company, but there is a question of honour at stake. The dock labourers struck purely in sympathy with us, and now we are going to do the same for them."

The crew of the *Empress of Britain* walked out and marched down the north-end docks calling out men from every Atlantic ship.

For the National Union of Dock Labourers (NUDL) the strike was a golden opportunity to unionise the docks. Over the years the union had made little headway. Each firm had directly employed their own dockers and fought to keep them non-union. Now, within a week they were forced to signal their intention to negotiate.

The dockers flooded into the NUDL. The Liverpool bosses watched the development with extreme apprehension. The *Liverpool Courier* commented on a mass meeting: "The enthusiasm was quite extraordinary and what the men may do under its influence is not a pleasant speculation. It would be too much to say their officials have them absolutely in hand. There is a spirit of revolt, combined with a feeling of federal brotherhood".

The shipping firms agreed to recognise the union, but most of them stalled on wages and conditions. Having won the major question of recognition, the Strike Committee recommended a return to work. However, the majority of dockers rejected this, due to the lack of progress on wages.

For three days the unity of the strike hung in the balance. The strike leaders were aware that financially a long strike was out of the question. Sensing disunity the shipping firms hung back from granting union recognition.

Tom Mann and the Strike Committee launched a series of mass meetings to explain the issues to the men. They won the argument and a general return to work ensued.

The Strike Committee had managed to retain its authority and was now the effective leadership of the Liverpool working class.

The NUDL now benefited from a spectacular rise in membership from 8,000 to 26,000.

As the dockers returned, other sections such as the tugboatmen and lightshipmen settled outstanding grievances. A wave of strikes hit the dockside coopers and labourers came out at the Stanley Dock tobacco warehouse.

Eighteen young scalers on the Wallasey Ferries struck first and then petitioned the employers for higher pay—the oldest was 15. A rally of cotton porters at the Cotton Exchange was held.

150 men at the Great Howard Street wool warehouse struck for better pay. Brewery workers came out for 'union ale.' A thousand oil-mill workers went into dispute and finally 250 girls at the Walton rubber works marched out of their factory against the fines system.

The bitterest phase of the struggle now moved on to the railways. In 1907, the Liberal government had stalled a dispute on the railways by setting up a system of Conciliation Boards, half elected by the employers and half by the workers.

### No-strike agreement

By 1911 there was massive discontent on the railways. The Conciliation Boards had proved completely ineffectual. Any problem took months or years to solve. The unions had also signed a no-strike agreement until 1914. They lost members, many of whom saw no point in belonging to a union that refused to fight for them.

On Saturday 5 August, railwaymen at the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway North Docks Depot, Great Howard Street, walked out on unofficial strike. Two weeks earlier they had petitioned the company for reduced hours, increased wages and extra overtime pay.

They had given notice of strike action—and had been repudiated by their union. When the 500 goods porters came out, the company announced a secret agreement amongst all railway employers that no railwayman who went on strike would ever be reinstated on any railway.

The men had no alternative but to launch an all-out battle against the railway bosses with the hope of pulling the union leaderships into action.

15,000 Liverpool railmen came out on strike and mass pickets gathered at Lime Street and Central stations. The pickets allowed milk deliveries through, but when such 'essentials' as beer and oysters were brought through, tempers

flared. Throughout the movements of the seamen, dockers and railmen, no disorder had been apparent. Now, however, the city magistrates appealed for extra police and military assistance.

Police were drafted in from Lancashire and Bradford. Two army battalions, a regiment and a squadron, were stationed in the parks. The *Liverpool Daily Post* estimated that 5,000 troops and 2,400 police were drafted in.

The shipping companies seized their chance, and in spite of the fact that they had reached agreement with the dockers only the week before, they declared that the dockers were not operating the agreement and they called a lock-out.

The trade unions faced their sternest test, but the actions of the employers served only to spur the movement on. The bosses attempted open military strike-breaking, with troops who had been issued

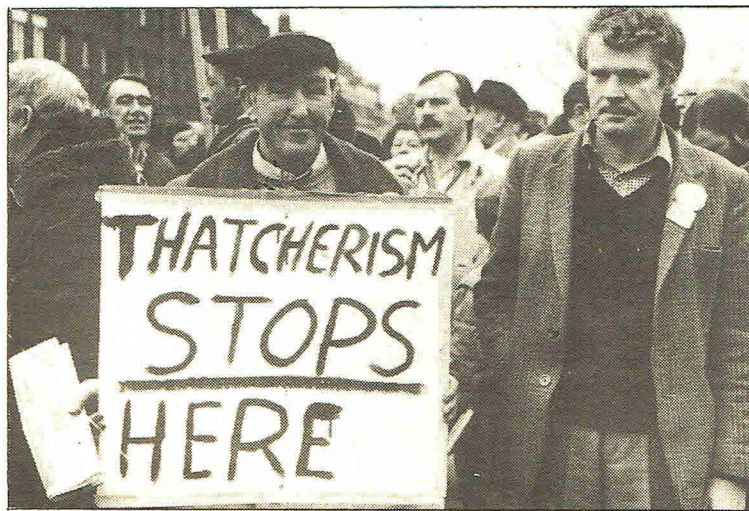
chester *Guardian* reported the next day that: "The officers could be seen using their truncheons and flails. Dozens of heads and arms were broken and many shoulders and arms received blows, the marks of which will remain for many a long day... it was a display of violence that horrified those who saw it."

### Workers shot

Street fighting continued throughout Sunday night and all through Monday and Tuesday. On Tuesday morning a prison van was stopped by a crowd in Vauxhall Road and the military escort shot dead two workers, one a Protestant carter, the other a Catholic docker.

The funerals attended by both religions did much to heal the sectarian divide, where only two years earlier sectarian violence had flared.

Even before the police violence



with live ammunition.

The Strike Committee responded by calling a massive demonstration on Sunday 13 August at St Georges Plateau. 100,000 workers attended with four speakers' platforms erected to serve the vast crowd.

A small incident in the crowd was seized on by the massive number of police present to launch a terrible assault on the meeting.

Tom Mann's paper *The Transport Worker* described the day: "Such a scene of brutal butchery was never witnessed in Liverpool before. Defenceless men and women, several of whom were infirm, and many of whom were aged, were deliberately knocked down by heavy blows from the truncheons of powerful men, and even as the crowd fled from this onslaught, the police still continued to batter them about as they were running away... Covered with blood, the poor wretches were falling down stunned all over the street many lying on the ground either helpless or unconscious."

Even the liberal-minded *Man-*

on what became known as 'Bloody Sunday', Tom Mann had outlined the Joint Strike Committee's proposals for a general strike from the Tuesday. He demanded that "every conceivable section and branch of the great transport industry in Liverpool will down tools until this business is settled."

The general strike was entirely successful and the port was closed shut. The railway companies refused to negotiate and a deadlock ensued. The Liberal government sent in more troops and for good measure anchored a gunboat in the Mersey with its guns trained on the city centre.

A situation of dual power existed in Liverpool, with the power of the capitalist state challenged by that of the Joint Strike Committee who were issuing permits for certain goods. Local tradesmen were approaching the committee and in response, bread was 'set free' and hospitals were exempted. Even the Liverpool postmaster approached them for a permit for overseas mail, which was granted!

The Lord Mayor frantically and

repeatedly telegraphed the Home Secretary, Churchill, for permission to use troops and sailors as blacklegs—"useless to ask artisan and labouring class," he moaned. However, Churchill balked at such open military strike-breaking, and obviously feared that some sections of the military were unreliable—the Liverpool Territorials were ordered to hand in the bolts of their rifles!

On 17 August, the four moderate executives of the railway unions were forced to come to Liverpool and declare official the national rail strike that had already broken out.

Faced with such a determined movement and the possibility of the strike developing a national character, the Liberal government was caught in a dilemma. The Liverpool authorities were urging harsher measures. A Home Office memorandum of 17 August stated that: "Many people are urging on the authorities that Mr Mann should be arrested. They have seriously considered whether he has brought himself outside the law by his action in granting and refusing 'permits'. They have tried their hands at the legal problem, but have not made great progress... It would they feel sure, greatly relieve the situation if he could be under control".

Under pressure, the Liberal government beat a retreat and sent in a mediator who called for both sides to resume work with no dismissals (which meant the railway companies' secret agreement was finished) pending a commission.

The unions accepted this, whilst the employers held out for two days, during which the government hinted that they might have to take the railways over!

Work resumed on 22 August. The unions were now a power to be reckoned with in Liverpool. The 1911 strike inspired workers throughout Britain. In 1912 the miners called a national strike and the 1913 Dublin lock-out won huge support from British workers, in particular in Liverpool.

For the years 1910–1914, the average days lost in strikes was 9.8 million per year, compared with only three million per year for the preceding decade. There was a huge expansion in union membership, growing from 2.21 million in 1906 to 4.14 million in 1914. Only the outbreak of the First World War cut across these developments.

The 1911 strike marked an important watershed in the development of trade unionism in Britain. As the council battle unfolds in Liverpool the ruling class would be advised to reach for their history books, and the labour movement must base itself on the fighting class traditions that gave birth to the labour movement.

## Hiroshima: What the Marxists said

**FORTY YEARS ago Hiroshima and Nagasaki were obliterated by atomic bombs. As Lynn Walsh explained in last week's *Militant*, this nightmare was the closing act of a war which claimed over 60 million lives.**

Below, we reprint extracts from an article written by TED GRANT in the Marxist paper of the time, *Socialist Appeal* which appeared in mid-August, 1945. The article is

remarkable for the clarity which its ideas retain, even 40 years on.

Written within days of the bomb, it already destroyed the myth which the capitalist class peddle to this day—that the nuclear bomb is a 'weapon of peace'. This argument, based on the fact that there has been no world war since 1945 contemptuously ignores the horror of the continuing 'small wars', often fought between armies of poor, underdeveloped countries, armed to the teeth by one or other world power. Since 1945 there have only been 17 days of peace in the

world.

That we haven't had a new world war is in no way the result of the 'nuclear peace keepers'. It is due to cold calculation and material interest. The overwhelming superiority of the Soviet Union in conventional weapons would mean that any war between Russia and America would necessarily become a nuclear conflict. But this would also mean the end of the capitalists themselves.

However, this dangerous balancing act cannot last forever. The deepening crisis of Western

capitalism is destabilising this relationship. If the working class does not overthrow capitalism and imperialism in the next ten or twenty years or so, then the ruling classes will increasingly look towards totalitarianism and military dictatorships—like that of Pinochet in Chile—to solve their crushing economic and social problems. This raises the horrifying spectre of a dictatorship in the industrialised west with its massive nuclear arsenal in the hands of an unstable American, British or central European Pinochet.

Thus the question of the survival of humanity is bound up with the struggle for socialism internationally. The protests surrounding the Hiroshima anniversary worldwide must be linked to the struggle to remove the system that spawned the world wars if we are to succeed in the immediate aim of abolition of nuclear weapons.

By Kevin Ramage

# Humanity threatened by 'weapon of peace'

From *Socialist Appeal*, mid-August 1945.

THE DEFEAT of the Axis powers will not prevent the outbreak of future wars. None of the basic contradictions of world capitalism have been eliminated; but on the contrary, have been aggravated and intensified by it. Past conflicts have been replaced by new and even sharper conflicts.

The second imperialist war has ended on a more ominous note than when it began.

During the war, technique has advanced at an increased pace...

...The technique of destruction has advanced even faster than the technique of construction. Already V1 and V2 are obsolete as destructive weapons. The blitzkrieg of tanks, planes and guns are the product of another age. The terrible bombings of great capitals of the world are but child's play compared to the powers of obliteration of the atomic bomb...

### Massacre

...It transcends by far the primitive sackings of cities and the slaughter of their inhabitants by such amateurs as Genghis Khan and Attila the Hun. The wiping out of every man, woman and child in a matter of seconds is a massacre which has no equal in the long cruel and bloody history of mankind.

The Japanese reported the effects of the atom bomb on the former city of Hiroshima: "Medical relief agencies rushed from neighbouring districts were unable to distinguish, much less identify the dead from the injured.

"The impact of the bomb was so terrific that practically all living things—human and animal—were literally seared to death by the tremendous heat and pressure engendered by the blast. All the dead and injured were burned beyond recognition."

The hypocrisy of the Allied imperialists in their condemnation of the fascists in their use of poison gas in Abyssinia, and the rockets and flying bombs against Britain is scarcely credible.

...All this is instructive of the class mechanics of morality. There is no crime too appalling for the imperialists to commit, if their class interests are threatened.

Such is the madness of capitalism that the

Anglo-American imperialists spent £500,000,000 on developing the bomb. This amounts to almost the entire pre-war budget of Britain, one of the richest countries in the world. Yet in peace time, research on scientific problems amounted to only £100,000.

On this background the complete anachronism of the capitalist system stands out. The existence of national boundaries, customs barriers, state armies, navies and air force, the delirium of production for profit seems like a ghastly nightmare.

The very survival of humanity demands that the working class should destroy the fetters on production established by the existence of the capitalist system. The need for international socialism as a planned world economy has never in history been so apparent.

The industrial revolution in Britain, which was based on the steam engine, transformed the world and destroyed the basis of the old feudal system everywhere. Modern civilisation was built on the technique of new engines. No less revolutionary in its effects would be the use of atomic energy in industry. And the capitalists will have no alternative but to use it. Russia, freed from the restrictions of private ownership will eagerly utilise this new discovery in peace as well as war industry...

...The dominating task for those who wish for even the continuation of the human species, let alone civilisation, is to explain the alternatives clearly to the workers of all lands. The international working class must be made conscious of the real issues at stake.

The capitalists themselves have been shaken by the powers of destruction which now lie in their hands. Their spokesmen are pour-

ing illusions that this weapon ensure a perpetual peace. This is a most dangerous and pernicious illusion. The talk about "international control" and "a weapon of peace" are so many empty phrases in the interests of the victors to lull the anxieties and deceive the peoples of the world; it is nothing more than an attempt to maintain the world monopoly by Anglo-American imperialism and dominate and exploit the rest of the world.

### Masters of world

Hardly had the first shock of the news died down that the *Evening News* of 13 August can belliciously proclaim: "The more we think about the bomb the more clearly we see that Britain and America are now masters of the world". The American imperialists go further: they shove the British aside, proclaiming that as the atom bomb is manufactured in the USA, it is they who hold the mastery of the globe.

The significance of the atom bomb with which World War II fittingly closed, is that in itself it is a threatening reminder of the lagging of the socialist revolution behind the modern development of modern technique. The era of atomic energy is a warning to the working class of all lands that it is no longer a question of 'socialism or barbarism,' as Lenin imperiously warned—it is now a question of socialism or nothing. The continued existence of the capitalist system poses as a serious possibility the complete extermination of mankind.

*Workers of Britain and the world—the atom bomb is the last warning. Fight for a socialist world or capitalism will destroy humanity.*

# Uganda

## Natural wealth, capitalist poverty

ON 27 July, Uganda's President Milton Obote was deposed by a military coup.

By Roger Shriver

Within a week, Obote's former second in command, Paulo Muwanga had been appointed Prime Minister to Tito Okello's new military regime. Many of the groups who had backed the coup were expressing extreme disappointment. More conflict seems inevitable.

The unrest, based largely on national conflicts within Uganda, results from the failure of capitalism in Uganda. Some of Britain's gutter press, in their usual condescending, racist treatment of African politics try to resurrect arguments about the continent's ability to solve its problems. Paul Johnson in the *Daily Mail* even suggested that 'impartial' British rule should be reintroduced in Uganda in the form of a High Commissioner!

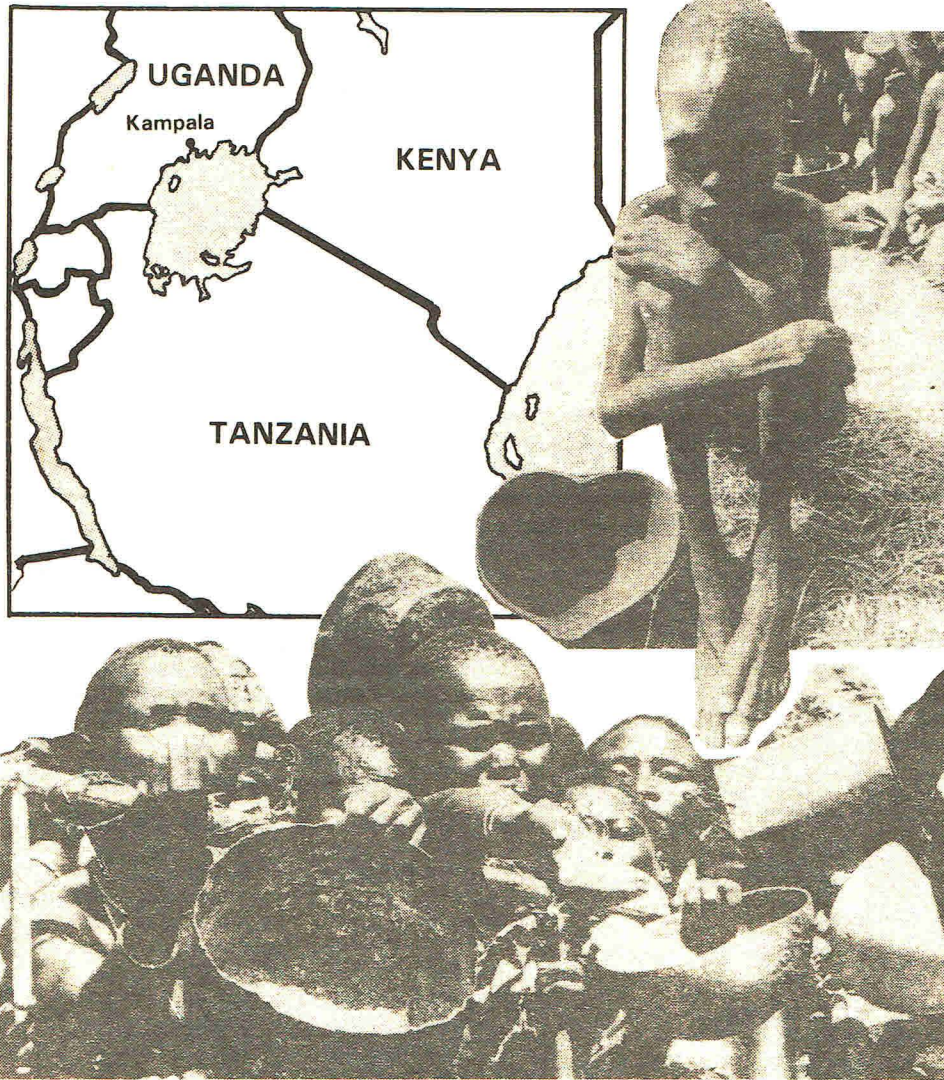
This is nonsense. Uganda's problems largely result precisely from British colonisation and economic domination. When the European imperialist powers carved up Africa around the turn of the century, the huge continent was split in an arbitrary manner geared only to the rival capitalisms' economic, political and military needs, disregarding national or linguistic boundaries.

Uganda became a producer of two major commodities, coffee and cotton which made vast fortunes for British big business but nothing for local people. Local industries like the mining and smelting of iron for hoes were destroyed. At independence, Uganda was still dependent on the hoe for agriculture—but one imported from Europe.

The country is potentially very wealthy, particularly in food and cash crops, but that potential has not been developed. Only coffee is gaining significant foreign exchange. Capitalism has made Uganda poverty-stricken. As the terms of trade have turned more and more against the cash crops of the 'third world,' the country's problems have worsened.

The national problems also originate in colonial policy. British imperialism was a past master at using national differences for divide and rule purposes. Britain supported four separate hereditary kingdoms in different areas of Uganda, and also encouraged the traditional patterns of some 63 national groups, trying to play one group off against another.

Uganda gained in-



Famine strikes the fertile land of Uganda.

dependence in 1962 after partly overcoming many of the previous divisions and in 1967 President Obote abolished the old constitution which maintained the old kingdoms. The main reason for national divisions coming back to haunt Uganda has been the failure of capitalism to develop the country.

There has been little economic growth to make regional and linguistic differences irrelevant or to create a large unifying working class. But national tensions are far from being just an African problem. Even in advanced capitalist countries like Belgium and Spain, where there is no lead from the organised working class, the national question can assume enormous importance.

The politicians themselves have added to the problems. Struggling to keep themselves in power they have used different national groups as a power base.

In his first period of rule from 1962-71, Milton Obote made some attempts to overcome the underdevelopment, the agricultural backwardness, the lack of industry, the poverty and illiteracy bequeathed by British imperialism.

Even though the Union Jack had been hauled down, British capitalist interests still dominated Uganda. Obote's government eventually resolved to take a 50 per cent

share in British banks and other multi nationals.

Obote was promptly deposed—for class reasons. A British imperialist-backed coup installed Idi Amin in 1971 to avert this attack on their interests.

Amin, who later turned on Britain for his own personal reasons, used national divisions ruthlessly to maintain his power.

### Terms of trade

When Obote returned to power in 1980, the national problems increased. Obote's 'socialism' had never touched his private life. Even in the 1962-71 period he had built himself nine palaces! On his return, his policies became openly capitalist, going to the IMF, the World Bank and private capitalist institutions to get aid and advice. Production in agriculture and industry did grow after the chaos of Amin's rule and the civil war period, but only for a short while and not enough to prevent unemployment and inflation rising.

The country's dependence on two cash crops, cotton and coffee, continued, but exports were declining, and the terms of trade were worsening. More and more of the labour of Uganda's workers and peasants was needed to buy industrial goods from the major capitalist powers. Uganda

fell prey to famine and deepening poverty.

The economic stagnation of Uganda's very weak productive forces gave a new impetus to splits as leaders of different groups started to defend their own positions against rival groups. Guerilla movements resumed activities, particularly the National Resistance Army (NRA), which controls large parts of Western Uganda.

The changes in government will probably make little difference. Some groups like the NRA are complaining that they were involved in the coup plots but have been passed over in the new government.

Tito Okello and Muwanga may try to reach a new agreement and bring different groups into the government but their chances of long term success are small. The crisis of capitalism will still tend to fragment the country.

The splits can only be overcome by offering full right of autonomy to the nations within Uganda. But the colossal problems facing the countries of East Africa will not be solved under capitalism.

A socialist Uganda linked to a socialist federation of East Africa is the only way to overcome the heritage of poverty and division, and fulfil the enormous potential within the country.

Crop	Prod in tonnes × 1000		% Increase or Reduction
	1975/76	1984/85	
Sisal	113.7	56.	-50.7
Coffee	52.4	53.	+1.1
Seed Cotton	126.	152.9	+21
Tobacco	14.2	14	-1.4
Pyrethrum	3.9	2	-48.7
Green Tea	62.7	72.6	+15.8
Cashewnuts	82.4	50	-39.3

# Tanzania

## Town and country in crisis

UGANDA'S NEIGHBOUR Tanzania is also experiencing economic problems. Like Obote in his first spell in office, President Nyerere announced plans for 'African socialism' which aimed for "democracy and equality" on the basis of Africa's rural communities.

Marxists explained the utopian nature of these programmes. Capitalism tended to destroy these communal societies, only a socialism based on the maximum development of the productive forces and the growth of the working class could guarantee equal and democratic societies.

Unable to develop industry and society, Nyerere's government turned on moral pleas for higher output from the peasantry to force. The government has also recently created a new currency to stop (temporarily) the black market in Tanzania. A recent letter from Tanzania explains some of the problems.



President Nyerere.

The "development levy" is in reality a 'head tax'—(£20) reminiscent of the colonial period. The peasants are being systematically coerced—using the 'ten cells' units that they had been earlier been told were their democratic organs! This operation has antagonised the peasants to the extent that whatever shred of loyalty was left to the President is now gone.

Still, the peasants' grievances seem to have a longer history—what could account for the steady decline of both the cash crops (despite all the exhortations of the leaders) and food crops—over a ten year period!

This is borne out in some data extracted from the 'budget speech' this July (see table above).

Clearly, the exhortations of the leaders for 'more effort' and more sacrifices do not pay dividends any more.

As for the urban population, the cost of living index has risen steadily to about 550 per cent of its value in 1975. Yet the possibility of a bigger increase in prices looms not far off—with the imposition of a 50 per cent devaluation of the schilling against the dollar still a possibility.

The light industries are

still running at something like 30–40 per cent capacity, with consequences of a 'black market boom!' The budget deficit this year is an astronomical \$480 million (ie 17 per cent of overall expenditure).

The regime has resorted to 'liberalisation' of the economy. That means privatisation of large state farms, relaxation of import procedures to allow businessmen access to foreign reserves, 'joint ventures' with private investors and multinationals, and so on.

The net effect of this will undoubtedly be to deepen the crisis as the 'businessmen' seem to prefer to keep their money outside, to import luxuries—videos and the like! So in general there is a sharp turn to the right—especially among the 'middle class'—professionals, senior civil service, of course, supported by the regime.

For the workers, no doubt the future seems bleak. The class antagonisms will be intensified and the crisis will be brought into the open.

By a Tanzanian correspondent

# Letters

Send us your views, comments or criticism. Write to *Militant*, 3/13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB

## What a waste

Dear Comrades,  
*Militant* from time to time criticises the waste of money represented by advertising. The documentary *The Making of a model* screened on ITV (19/7/85) graphically illustrated this point.

The documentary concerned a bank clerk from Birmingham who was launched into a modelling career by being engaged to model for the prestigious Unipart calendar.

So wasting no expense, Unipart (which is publicly owned) sent a few models, Lord Lichfield, and wardrobe mistresses etc. off to the paradise island of Bali in Indonesia.

For days on end no real work was done due to finding the correct locations, the light not being acceptable, illnesses due to mos-

quito bites etc.

Not only is this a total waste of money, it is also a table, illnesses due to mosquito-bite abuse of the female body. It is not really necessary to have scantily clad females advertising carburettors, rear axles, and gear-boxes for Mini Metros. Why bother taking a whole entourage (including royalty) 10,000 miles at huge expense to a tropical island that didn't appear to have many roads let alone cars. It's also highly questionable whether it will persuade anybody to buy Unipart spares.

Under socialism when industries are run by workers, advertising will be for information purposes and such extravagant and sexist exploits will be unnecessary.

Yours fraternally  
Clive Walder  
Brighton LPYS

## Reds shock Redcoats

Dear Comrades,

One night during our holiday in a North Wales Butlins Camp we went to the disco. When it came to singing holiday songs and chanting rhymes, you should have seen the look on the face of

one redcoat who shouted "Oggie, oggie, oggie, oy, oy, oy!" The predominantly Liverpool youth crowded in the hall had other ideas. It very soon turned into chants of "Maggie, Maggie, Maggie, out, out, out!" What potential.

Yours fraternally  
Kerry Smith  
Coventry SW LPYS

## That's justice

Dear Comrades,

On reading the article 'Lord Aid' in the Left and Right column (*Militant* 759) about the Earl of Cassillis, heir to a £25 million fortune, being granted legal aid in court whilst miner George Spies had his application turned down, I just thought I'd tell you about the goings on inside Sunderland magistrates court.

Though I can't vouch for any millionaires I can tell you that if you're a miner, a miners supporter or a football supporter your chances

of legal aid are zero minus.

After being arrested outside Wearmouth Colliery and being unemployed for nigh on five years I applied for legal aid and was promptly turned down. My lawyers told me that throughout the strike miners and their supporters up in front of Sunderland magistrates had all been refused legal aid.

To show that these 'upholders of justice' weren't biased against the striking miners and their supporters Sunderland magistrates decided to extend their 'policy' to Chelsea



Londoners faced mass evacuation during the blitz.

## So much for the 'good old days'

Dear Comrades,  
In the article 'Lessons of Labour's Landslide' (*Militant* 759) there is reference to "wartime evacuation of children from inner city areas, to the country, bring home to wider layers of the population, the extent of deprivation." It certainly did! But not always in the way usually depicted, and which I have cause to resent.

The Londoners were always portrayed as 'dirty' and often 'lousy' sometimes

'sewn into their clothes for the winter' and who have never seen a bath. In London we lived in a four bedroomed house, bathroom and two inside flush toilets.

The schoolhouse I was billeted in, in 1939 boasted a bath in the back kitchen, and a bucket toilet in a shed some way off in the garden. Worse to come... a house to which I was taken in 1943 had no running water. It all had to be fetched in a bucket from

a standpipe along the road. There was no electricity, no gas and the sanitation was a brimming bucket in a lean-to near the back door.

Those were the 'good old days' of full employment, which they crave for now. Jobs went begging and we all did 48 hours a week for £3 (less after tax).

Yours truly  
Mrs Daphne White  
Hackney

supporters.

My lawyer summed up the whole unjust situation about my trial when I enquired about an appeal. "Bobby" he said to me sympathetically "I'll tell you exactly what will happen. You'll once again be refused legal aid. It'll cost you a fortune in costs and you'll be found guilty before you walk through the door!"

Yours Fraternally  
Bob Harker  
Gateshead East  
Labour Party

## Quotas before quality

Dear Comrades,

I showed my copy of *Militant* to a friend of mine, but instead of reading it, he leafed through it counting

something. When he got to the back page he declared disgustedly: "The number of articles written by women is outnumbered three to one by those written by men!"

I did not make the point that he was a white middle-class male...that is not his fault, but I was shocked that he could dismiss the paper without reading the ideas it contains.

Naturally, it is a weakness that more women are not active in the labour movement, but this is something every socialist is fighting to change by campaigning for class policies on housing, education, jobs etc. Then working class women will be drawn into the struggle.

If our trendy comrades feel that it is more important that half the articles should be written by women than that they contain sound

socialist ideas then they should read *Woman's Weekly* or *Cosmopolitan*.

Yours fraternally  
Max Neill  
Lancaster University  
Labour Club

## Drug abuse on Merseyside

Dear Comrades,

While canvassing an estate in Birkenhead for a public meeting in support of Liverpool City Council, the response was excellent with several names gained for the Labour Party and Young Socialists.

While we were there one young lad in his teens asked me if I had any 'Skag' (Heroin) to sell. At another house we asked a young lad at the door would he sign the

## SALEP ban

Dear Comrades,

Liverpool West Derby Labour Party Party received a letter from the NEC which made all kinds of bizarre accusations about the Southern African Labour Education Project and told us to have no contact with them. So naturally, we invited SALEP to send a speaker so we could their side of the story

When the SALEP speaker arrived at this month's meeting, a right-wing delegate objected. He was incidentally, one of the traitor-councillors who voted against the council's job saving budget last year.

The chairman ruled that the speaker should carry on and when this was challenged only eight delegates (out of over 50 present) supported the challenge. At this point the eight champions of democracy stormed out of the room, rather than expose their delicate ears to anything offensive.

Yours fraternally  
Phil Rowe  
Liverpool 12

DESPITE THE ban the Southern African Labour Education Project are prepared to address labour movement meetings, to let the labour activists judge the ideas for themselves. Contact them at SALEP, 28 Martello Street, London E8.

petition in support of the Labour councillors. The house was full of young people. The lad at the door said he would get them all to sign it. When he returned he told us he had had to fill in all their names for them, as he was the only one capable of writing at the moment. Enough said—what a life for these youth!

Yours fraternally  
Gerry McKinley  
Birkenhead CLP

## Obituary—Cathy Harkin

CATHY HARKIN died on Monday 22 July after a year long battle against an illness which even her indomitable spirit could not conquer. A long-time political activist, trade unionist, women's rights campaigner and *Militant* supporter, she died as she had lived—fighting to the end. All of us who knew her will remember Cathy—friend, comrade, and fearless fighter for her class.

Motivated by the widespread deprivation in her native Derry, she was in the forefront of the struggle for socialist change in the early 1960's. Direct action in support of the downtrodden and underprivileged were clearly demonstrated by Cathy's work in both the Derry Unemployed Action Group and the Derry Housing Action Committee. Organised squats, exposure of rack-renting landlords, pickets of sweated labour shops etc. all were synonymous with Cathy Harkin in the early and mid 1960s.

But it was her political understanding which distinguished her from many other activists

of the time. While she recognised it was important to prise reforms from the system, she saw that it was even more important to build a strong political organisation linking protestant and catholic workers, to challenge the old unionist and nationalist hegemony which dominated Derry and Northern Ireland. That is why her work in building Derry Labour Party in those early years was so vital. Derry Labour Party, like Cathy herself, broke out of the old political mould and campaigned throughout the city, recruiting on the basis of working class unity and socialist policies.

In 1967 for example the party stood candidates in all twelve electoral wards in the corporation election—victory for workers' unity in itself—and although no seats were won, nevertheless they polled more votes overall than the old nationalist party. Later in 1968/69 the Derry Young socialists, formed with Cathy's support, forged links between catholic and protestant youth. Later still, on 7 March 1970, Cathy played a leading role in organising a massive demonstration against unemployment through the streets of Derry, from the old dole offices in Bishops Street to

the shadow of Derry's walls. Marching behind trade union and Labour Party banners and proclaiming the objective: "Our goal—no dole", this demonstration foreshadowed the trade union 'Better life for all' campaign by some five years.

Such was the enormous potential for class unity which existed throughout the 1960s and Cathy Harkin did much more than most to harness it.

Even in the early 1970s with the slide to sectarian division, Cathy never wavered in her belief in class unity. In 1974 she was a founding member of the Derry Labour and Trade Union Party, which picked up the banner of the old Derry Labour Party and contested the two general elections that year with Cathy as election agent. She became involved with the National Union of Public Employees, became a delegate to Derry Trades Council and was elected its first ever woman chair person in 1981. She underlined her work for women's rights by playing a major role in setting up the Derry Women's Aid centre (for battered wives).

She had a great love of life and an even greater determination to improve it for those many thousands who were victims of

Photo: Militant.



Cathy Harkin seated bottom left at the 1981 meeting of the Derry Trades Council which decided to put candidates forward in the local elections.

life under capitalism. She could walk to the local social security office blindfolded, such was the volume of her work at tribunals etc. where she helped thousands of those in need.

From her old dilapidated flat in Butcher Street or from her modern new housing executive home in Brooke Street, Cathy Harkin reached out to help all those who needed it. All of them and all of us, her friends and

comrades will never forget her. Farewell Cathy, you left us behind to continue the struggle for workers unity' and socialism. We won't let you down!

By Gerry Lynch

The Editorial Board wishes to express its deepest sympathy to all the relatives and friends of Cathy Harkin.

## Print industry in crisis

# Closed shop and unions under threat

**THE PRINT industry is rapidly approaching crisis point. The introduction of new technology on a wide scale, which could wipe out thousands of jobs currently manned by members of the National Graphical Association and other print unions, is imminent. In a two-part article, PETER JARVIS of the London Region NGA looks at how the newspaper bosses are going on the offensive, and the dangerous lack of a response from the trade union leadership.**

THE PRINT bosses think that with the help of new technology, the closed shop, a constant thorn in their side, can be smashed.

The employers have prepared well for this war. Their immediate aim is to sacrifice the National Graphical Association (NGA) on the altar of new technology. The print unions, especially the NGA, have maintained 100 per cent trade union organisation. If the NGA can be removed from its position, what would be left would either be non-unionism or tame company unions.

The defeat of the NGA suffered at the hands of Eddie Shah's *Messenger* group in 1983 has laid the basis for the present attack. In the provincial news area, the NGA is at present engaged in a number of new technology strikes. It is estimated that another 40 companies are waiting in the wings to take up the struggle within the next year.

The national newspaper scene is in turmoil. The press barons are pushing through their plans to move from Fleet Street and in the process to break the unions, thus lowering manning levels, decreasing the wages and of course boosting their profits.

## NGA isolated

All these developments are to do with the result of the conflict between Shah and the NGA. The events surrounding this battle have been neither fully examined nor understood by the print union leaders. Unfortunately, they are hiding from the anti-trade union laws and therefore are incapable of correctly fighting the bosses' offensive.

The TUC General Council abandoned the print workers at the crucial time. Len Murray, ex-General Secretary of the TUC, had been preaching 'new realism', a class collaboration policy, since Labour lost the last election. He fought hard, along with the other right wingers, for the NGA to remain isolated.

At this stage bold action was required. Instead of appealing over the heads of the right on the General Council in calling for a 24-hour solidarity stoppage however, the NGA's National Council cancelled its own action. Without the NGA members spearheading the battle, it would be impossible to mobilise solidarity action.

The Tories' new anti-trade union legislation gave the edge to Shah in the dispute. It meant that one of the traditional methods used in the print industry, secondary blacking, was outlawed.

The pickets were outlawed and then routed. The police went in heavy. The state were determined not to allow the pickets to get an upper hand.

The ruling class understands that every strike and picket is a school for workers in the class war. The bosses realised that to win the NGA had to be isolated.

However, sequestration not only froze the union funds but also the minds of the trade union leaders. They could not face up to the challenge of the law so the TUC General Council deserted the NGA.

The anti-trade union laws, combined with the introduction of new technology, threaten the heart of the strength of the NGA.



Eddie Shah, owner of the *Stockport Messenger* group. Photo: Militant

This strength was based on every individual process needed to produce a paper being controlled by a separate craft. To perfect the necessary skills, an apprenticeship was essential. Under such conditions the unions could insist on the closed shop. Therefore, in their hands, an element of workers' control existed, the supply of labour.

The pre-entry closed shop derived from this strength, saw the printers at the forefront in the battles for higher pay and decent conditions. The strike of 1959 led to the winning of the 40 hour week and the third week's holiday.

The present fight has been expected. Just over ten years ago the print unions in New York were defeated. On the *New York Daily News*, with the aid of new technology, 35 secretaries did the work of 900. The unions had to concede to management the full freedom to automate, unhampered by 'restrictive' union rules. The difficulty that the introduction of new technology creates is it weakens any resistance. Immediately there is a hint of a dispute, scab labour raises its head.

In all the recent disputes, the companies have been involved with new technology for years. The *Kent Messenger* Group, for example,

have sacked 144 NGA members over the past 18 years. Their latest proposals were for the introduction of a new integrated computer system. An agreement was obtained that the company "would not be placing a firm order until agreement had been reached for its full and effective use".

Nevertheless, the installation started and it soon became clear that the equipment would be worked on their terms. They broke the agreement. When asked why the deputy managing director replied: "It was done in the company's interests".

In other words, the interests of profit has no loyalty, like the loyalty given by their employees. Most of the NGA members had been employed for at least 10 years; 22 have received 25-year service awards.

Many of the other disputes have a similar background. They have been able to produce with the assistance of scab labour. At the *Kent Messenger* they have employed secretaries on £8,000 per annum, when the NGA rate is £12,500 per annum.

The provincial paid-for press has also been hit by the increase in free sheets. The free sheets 10 years ago took £10m in advertising, last year it was £224m, against £697m for the paid press.

The free sheets have increased from virtually nothing in 1974 to 581 in 1984 and 650 in 1985, while paid for local weekly and daily papers have fallen by 200.

The same process took place in the USA. The move towards free give-aways help to weaken the unions who had a firm grip on the traditional areas. New web-offset press and computer typesetting allowed cheaper, less skilled labour.

Now the unions are undermined the bosses are returning to the paid-for papers. Shah, who entered the newspaper field via freebees is now planning to launch a new national daily. The paper, to be typeset in London with a workforce of only 500 to 800, will be printed around the country in six printing plants. It will have a break-even point of 700,000 sales and if he can sell one million papers a day and get a reasonable amount of advertising he could make around £20m per annum.

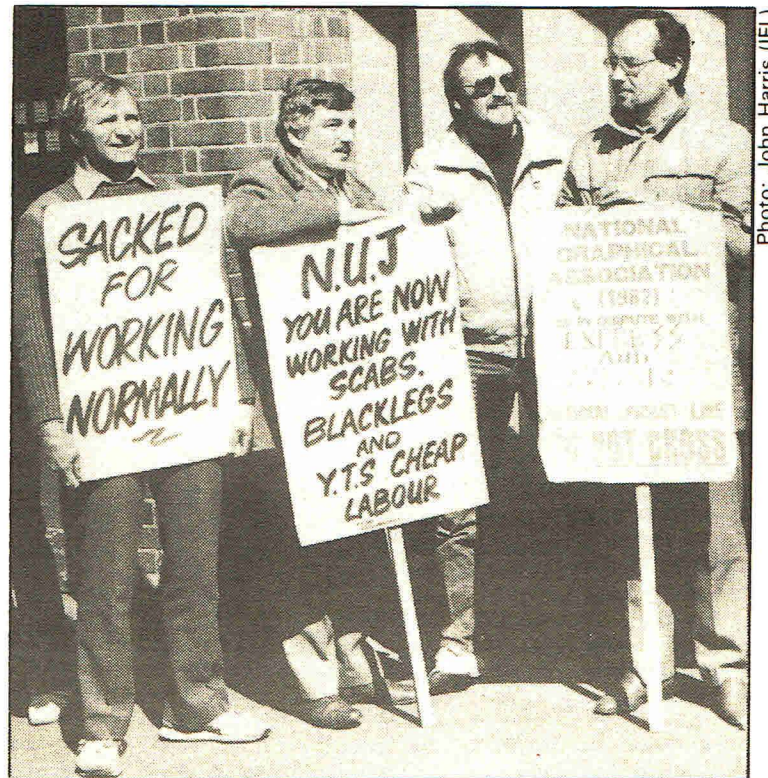
## No-strike deal

All the other national newspapers make £11m profit on a turnover of £1.4 billion. As far as the press barons are concerned victory would mean a very high reward.

After the blatant union-bashing job Shah did on behalf of the bosses he should now be blacked by every trade union. But no! It appears that with its friends in the Social Democratic Party arranging a meeting, the electricians' union, the EETPU, have proposed a company union-like deal; one negotiating union and no-strike guarantees.



There was a massive police mobilisation to break up mass pickets during the *Stockport Messenger* dispute in 1983.



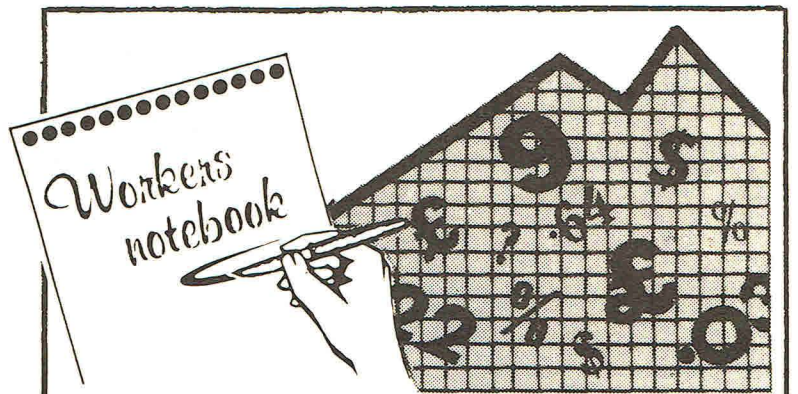
NGA pickets outside the *Wolverhampton Express and Star* in June. Unity between the print unions will be essential to defend jobs.

At the centre of the conflict with Shah was the principle of the closed shop which challenges the right of an owner to manage. In making this deal the EETPU are aiding the bosses to break union closed shops. They should be expelled from the TUC.

The situation now facing the

print unions is serious. Print workers need clear and decisive leadership if the bosses' onslaught is to be beaten.

Next week, Peter Jarvis outlines the burning need for unity in the print industry, and the question of democratic control.



A SURVEY carried out by the Manpower Services Commission showed that private firms provide on average only one to nine days training per year for each employee (about £200 a year per worker). The bosses make sure they don't lose out though. The report refers to the "nine to five days per year which, it has been calculated, British managers spend on business lunches above the normal lunch break." (Dave Cartwright, Newham)

MORTGAGE repossessions are the highest for years. County court cases—where householders have been unable to keep up mortgage repayments: due to redundancy or marriage break-up and their homes have been repossessed by banks and building societies—rose 61 per cent between 1980-83. Most of the cases were families who brought their council homes off local authorities. (Nat West Quarterly Review)

A RECENT survey discovered that out of the 3,000 companies that gave political donations, mainly to the Conservative Party, only six first consulted their shareholders. The Labour Research Department, who carried out the survey, also reports that the Social Democratic Party has a significant new financial backer—the Pearson Group, who own the *Financial Times*, a chain of local and regional newspapers and financial institutions. (Labour Research Department)

## INDUSTRIAL REPORTS

## Mechanics - keep youth section

**THE NATIONAL Society of Metal Mechanics will be balloting its membership on the proposed amalgamation with TASS this autumn.**

If agreed by the membership, this will give us the opportunity of linking up with our industrial allies the sheet metal workers and the pattern makers (who have both recently merged with TASS), as well as the white collar section of TASS with whom we already work closely in many industries.

Amalgamation will also give us the opportunity to take some of our best traditions into the new union. In particular the youth conference is envied by most unions. We have a democratic conference of youth with a high proportion of delegates per membership and rules such as election of delegates to TUC Youth Conference. Until recently

**By Mick Cotter**  
(Vice-President, London District Council NSMM)

(because of declining membership of our union led to the reduction of delegates to full TUC) one delegate was elected as part of the TUC delegation.

We also had the right to submit two resolutions from the youth conference to our national conference. The importance of the youth to our membership cannot be overstressed. Even at our "financial crisis" conference when annual youth and annual conferences were altered to meet biennially, some older delegates were proposing that the youth

conference continue meeting annually.

Although no definite recommendation has been put in a rule book as yet, one proposal being considered is to have a youth conference including all the sectors with a National Youth Committee (which TASS already has). The Metal Mechanics youth will welcome this proposal as a step forward. It is hoped that this will add weight to our consistent demands for a two-day democratic TUC Youth Conference with the right to submit resolutions, and the election of a TUC Youth Committee, demands which have been supported by over 80 per cent of the delegates to TUC Youth Conferences. These which were originally drafted by the NSMM and supported by the TASS National Youth Committee as long ago as 1977.



The National Society of Metal Mechanics has a good record regarding its youth members' rights. Photo: Militant

## Suspended worker defended

AFTER HACKNEY council's climbdown over rate capping earlier this year they appear to be taking their failure to fight out on the workforce. Already there have been disputes involving the Housing Office and Cleansing Department, in both cases management using suspensions and dismissal.

Now the council's Technical Services Department are on strike. This follows an argument between a black and white worker where it is alleged

racist abuse was used. Later a manager intervened and despite the fact that both workers did not want the matter taken further, the white worker was suspended on full pay pending an investigation. Under normal working practises this may have warranted disciplinary action, but not suspension.

Following the suspension the Tech Service fitters walked out, followed by the electricians, and street lighting and blacksmith sections.

In circumstances where black workers face continual

racist abuse from individuals or where fascists are organising to undermine the unity of a workforce, there are good reasons for dismissal. But the striking workers point out this was an isolated incident that happened as tempers flared. As they see it, since the capitulation on rate-capping management have been searching around for soft spots in the workforce using a heavy handed approach to industrial relations, to prepare the way for future cutbacks. The Tech Service workers

have been united in their stand and both black and white workers are on the picket line.

Support has already come in from NALGO (DTCs) members on the site as well as the council's building section, NUPE members and ESSA.

Even so meetings with management have drawn a blank so the picketing continues with the possibility of action being stepped up.

**By Tim White**  
(Hackney South LPYS)

## Jobs, public services face Tory threat

## Halifax

A SUBSTANTIAL cut in wages, loss of double time payments for working Sundays, and bonus and pension schemes stopped—that will be the price of privatisation of hospital cleaning in the Halifax area.

Calderdale Health Authority have awarded the cleaning contract to

Mediclean Ltd who claim they can save £1 million by cutting working hours. The health service unions point out most of the people employed would work part time with cuts in the wage rate by a quarter, and deteriorating conditions. They say it is a smack in the face for loyal and hard working staff and are preparing to fight the privatisation threat.

## Kent

KENT COUNTY Council are *not* appealing against a decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal to award substantial compensation to sacked school meals staff, members of the National Union of Public Employees.

The EAT decision on 18 July follows a three-year

fight against Kent County Council, who sacked all the staff in 1982. The staff were then offered re-employment on inferior conditions and substantially reduced wages.

The EAT decision means that Kent County Council will now have to pay three years' loss of wages, plus an assessment for future loss. The total legal and financial bill will cost Kent ratepayers approximately £250,000.

## Hillingdon

LOSE YOUR holiday, your holiday retainer payment and your on-duty meal allowance—OR CONSIDER YOURSELF SACKED! This was the ultimatum given by Hillingdon's Tory council in West London to 1,000 school meals workers.

But the response the Tories received, in the words of one worker, "made them all go home and change their underwear".

The overwhelming majority of the workers refused to sign the new contracts which are clearly in breach of the national agreement.

The women have organised area committees thus rejuvenating the trade union organisations, giving enormous confidence to their respective branch secretaries.

Eighty of the borough's 90 schools now have shop steward representation.

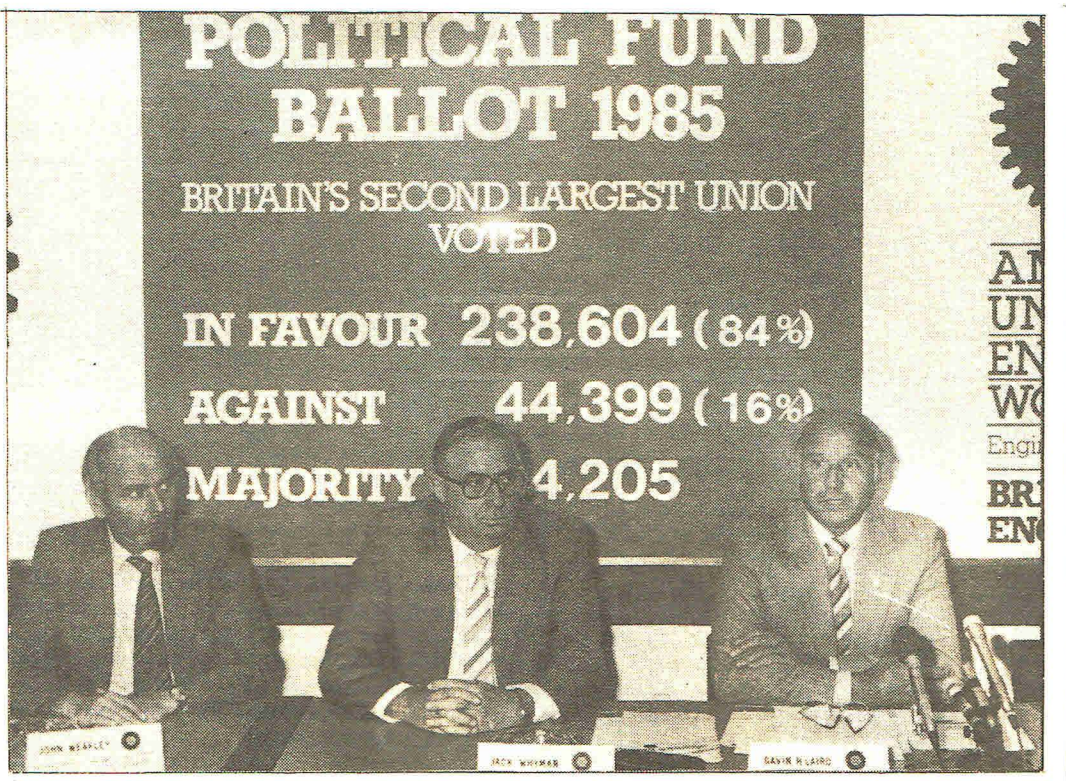
All manual unions in the borough are committed to support the meal workers—up to and including industrial action. The Tories who thought they had picked on the weakest section, are now on the run. There must be no compromise. As one woman said: "I've never been involved in my union—but the council have made me militant—they've made us all militants now".

Please send letters of support to the Trade Union Support Unit, 9A High Street, Yiewsley, West Drayton, Middlesex.

**By Wally Kennedy**  
(TGWU Hillingdon, council worker, personal capacity)

## AUEW ballot backs fund

THE engineering union, the AUEW, voted five to one in favour of retaining its political fund. In a 37 per cent poll, the results were 238,604 for with 44,399 against. Announcing the results are from left to right, John Weakley, Jack Whyman and Gavin Laird. Photo: Jez Coulson (IFL).



## Leicester DHSS—back on strike!

SINCE THE ending of a week-long strike three weeks ago, members of the Civil and Public Services Association at the DHSS in Leicester are on strike again.

The action followed management reneging on an agreement not to employ any further casual labour and not to offer overtime until talks were entered into. However, the day that staff returned to work management broke the agreement and employed two further casuals at one office in the city.

This prompted a walk-out and led to a re-ballot of the membership which resulted in a two-thirds majori-

ty for further industrial action. This has meant a period of lightning strikes.

Tony Church, CPSA branch secretary said that he could see "the present action continuing for the foreseeable future until management concede to the union's demands". The long-running dispute was originally sparked off by staff discontented at staffing levels.

**By Adrian Schwartz**  
(Leicester West LPYS)

# NUR guards fight back

**BRITISH RAIL guards, members of the National Union of Railwaymen, are being balloted on strike action over the introduction of driver only operated trains. The result will be known on 29 August.**

Already there are disputes in Eastern Region and Glasgow as NUR guards take industrial action. In Llanelli, South Wales, guards took lightening strike action over threats against their jobs. Here the BR board are claiming jobs must go because of declining freight levels.

Wayne Saunders, the NUR local district council representative spoke to

By Neil Williams

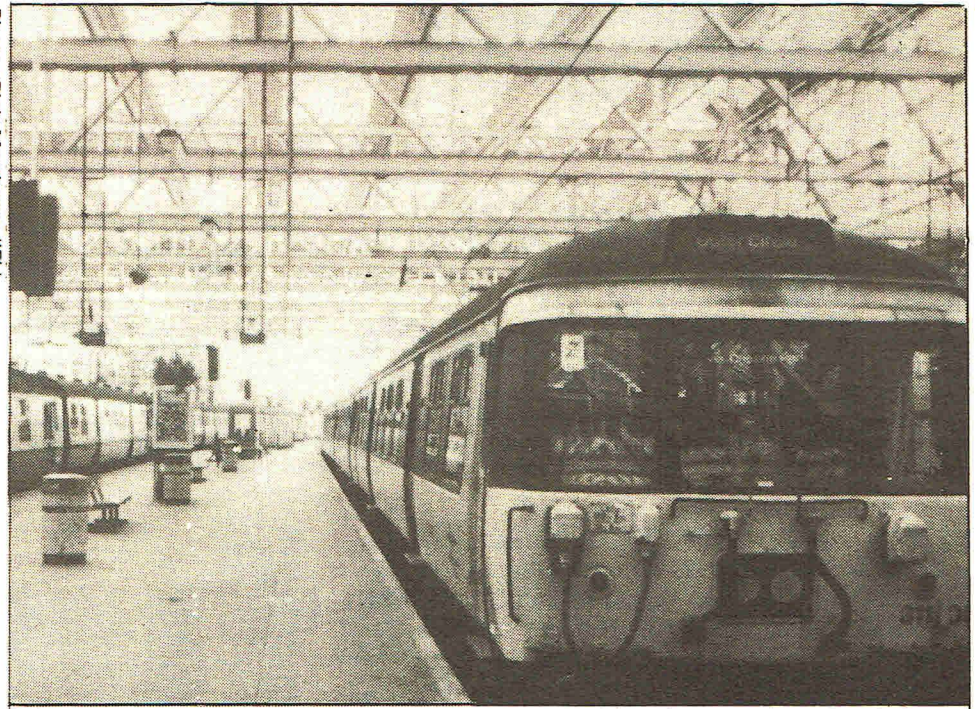
*Militant* about the issues behind the dispute:

It has been suggested that the miners' strike is to blame for the decline in freight. This is nonsense. While it is true coal is increasingly being moved from our local pit, Cynheidre by road rather than rail, the truth is that the coal board have

specified a certain type of wagon for coal freight. These wagons with automatic braking systems have replaced the independent braking system, to rid BR of the need for guards' jobs.

It all fits in with the overall Tory plan where health and safety structures are viewed as an expensive luxury. The guard requirement is really integral to safety regulations. In rail freight we are transporting dangerous goods like toxic chemicals, petrol and inflammable liquids. If a

Photo: Rick Matthews (IFL)



Trains at a standstill at Glasgow's Central station on 3 August. A guard was sent home for refusing to co-operate with an experimental one-man operated train, so the rest of the guards walked out.

fire broke out it would be impossible for a driver to isolate a burning wagon.

## Unity needed

The overall policy of the Tories and the rail board is to split up our in-

dustry and pick us off. It has now come to the crunch. The board have in effect abandoned national negotiation procedures. Why don't they try and introduce 'driver only' systems in all freight depots? Because they are

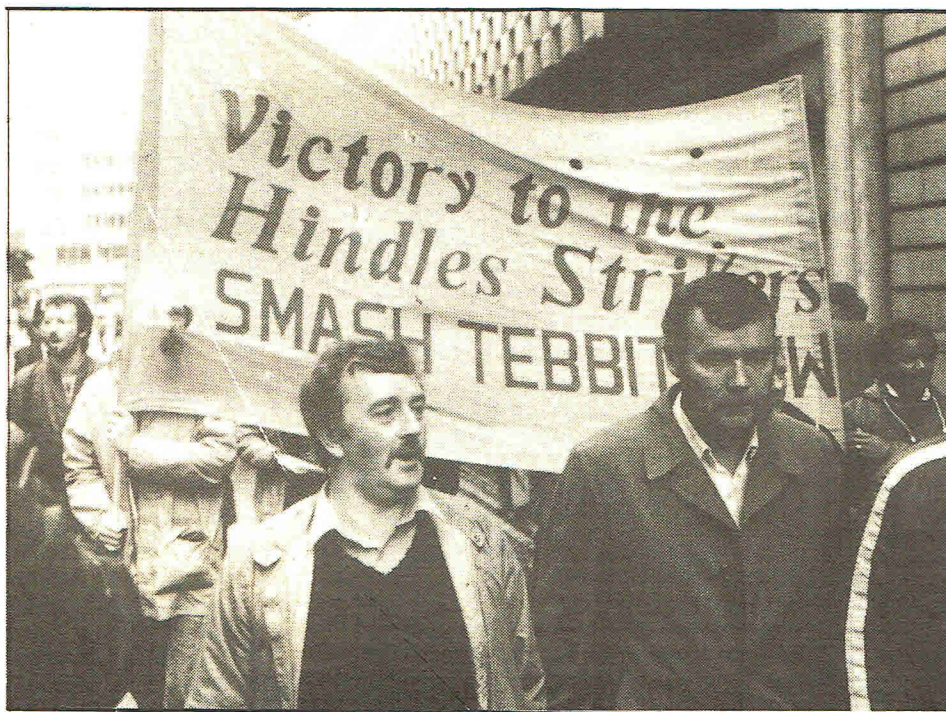
obviously trying to pick us off. In Wales, Margram and Llanelli have been affected first. This should alert all NUR members for the need for national unity.

# Hindles: 2 1/2 years on strike

BRITAIN'S longest running dispute continues. Although only six of the original 70 strikers remain, they are maintaining the picket on the Hindles engineering factory in Bradford—as they have done for the past two and a half years.

The Hindles strike is a refutation to all those in the labour movement who claim the workers are not prepared to fight. The six pickets point out that they had never been on strike before the current dispute, not even in the one day engineering strikes in 1978/79.

They are angered that the full-time officials of their union, the AUEW, clearly want them to pack it in, despite the fact that the strike is not costing the union anything. They don't just see their fight as a local issue but one that affects the whole engineering industry—workers that came out



A march in support of the Hindles strikers—back in 1983!

Photo: John Smith (IFL)

on strike with them but went on to find other jobs are now working for £20 less than they earn at Hindles.

Donations are still needed. Send to AUEW office, 2 Claremont, Bradford 1.

## Parnalls, Bristol

**AUEW MEMBERS at Parnalls, Bristol, returned to work after the company increased the pay offer from 4.5 per cent to 6.3 per cent. A tremendous achievement. A good response from the movement in support of their struggle against low pay resulted in £1,500 being collected for the strike fund.**

The strike was official, not unofficial as mistakenly described in issue 756.

# Silent Night strikers bitter

AS THE Silent Night Bedding Company strike enters its ninth week, over 500 workers—nearly all the workforce at the two sites affected—have been officially dismissed for taking strike action.

By Linden Stafford  
(Skipton Labour Party)

Last week talks held with ACAS between the management and the union representatives of the workers at Barnoldswick Lancashire, and Sutton, West Yorkshire, broke down.

The workers' union, FTAT, has presented a clear case for a rise of basic rates for those on piece work. But management continue to claim they cannot afford that. Yet last year Silent Night made £2 million profit, with the Barnoldswick and Sutton sites making up a third of that. The strikers have been made all the more bitter by the fact that on Sunday management suddenly found enough cash to hold a big sales jamboree. One worker who had received a tankard for 25 years loyal service sent it back to

the management in disgust.

With over 500 now sacked production is at a pitiful level, and even drivers and maintenance workers are being drafted into production work. Management have told people on sick leave that if they don't return now they will lose their jobs, while the unemployed in the area have been told their dole will be stopped if they turn down one of the 500 jobs now being classed as vacant at Silent Night.

## Group meeting

But many of the firm's key workers are amongst the strikers and it will be years before Silent Night can achieve former production levels.

This Saturday, 10 August, a meeting of Silent Night (UK) Ltd FTAT shop stewards representing some of the group's factories, will be meeting to discuss national action.

Messages and donations needed. Send to FTAT Carvendale no 92 branch, Strike Fund, c/o A King, 10 Rainhall Crescent, Barnoldswick, Colme, Lancs.

# Rosyth—unity can beat Heseltine plan

THE EETPU shop stewards' committee in Rosyth Dockyard are the first trade union in the yard to take the campaign against the Tories' privatisation measures out to the wider movement.

By Steve Arnott  
(Dunfermline West LPYS)

The committee called a public meeting to hammer out a strategy to fight Heseltine after he had announced that "agency management" was to be introduced into the yard.

The workers have responded magnificently by already holding a one-day protest strike. Now was the time to take stock and plan how to carry on the campaign.

Sixty trade union activists plus a

contingent from Dunfermline LPYS heard Gordon McNley, convenor of Scottish Agricultural Industries, and Jock Penman, chairman of Rosyth Dockyard Joint Convenors' Committee explain the reasons for the Tories' attack on the dockyards at Rosyth and Devonport.

Jock outlined the background to the dockyard struggle. He described Heseltine's proposals as being akin to the antics of a drunken bookie. Both the Defence Select Committee and Public Accounts Committee in parliament had expressed grave concern about Heseltine's "agency management" plans.

This expressed the misgivings of the wet wing of the Tory party who would prefer a more circumspect attack on the public sector.

The contract to manage the Royal Dockyards, he said, would be worth £5,000m a year to the cowboy who stepped in to run the yards.

Although the struggle would continue on all fronts including the parliamentary front, Jock said, the only guarantee of victory and of safeguarding jobs and conditions would be the unity and industrial muscle of the workers themselves.

What was needed, he told us, was a fighting leadership in the yard that would broaden the struggle to the wider layers of the movement, possibly paving the way for a one-day general strike in Fife should Heseltine refuse to back down. This demand had first been raised by the Dockyard Broad Left.

Broad Left Organising Committee  
**'BROADSIDE'**  
VOICE OF THE ROSYTH DOCKYARD LEFT

**DOCKYARD APPRENTICES SACKED!**  
Every trade union member in Rosyth Dockyard will be shocked and disgusted by the latest attack by management on the youngest section of the workforce. 36 Mechanical Fitters Apprentices (AUEW members) have been told that when their time is out their services will no longer be required. They have been given a month's notice and at the end of that time will be thrown on the scrapheap. There can be no doubt that this is only the beginning of 'rationalisation' in preparation for agency management, how the unions respond to this outrage will set the tone for future battles. The AUEW have already held a mass meeting at which it was decided to implement a shiftwork and overtime ban in protest at the decision. Now all need to be widened to the rest of the Dockyard unions.

Broadside, bulletin of the Rosyth dockyard Broad Left Organising Committee.

# Militant

The Southern African Labour Education Project broadsheet *British and South African mineworkers must unite* is still available. Read about Roy Jones' visit and the conditions of black mineworkers. Price 20p (+ 15p post and package) from SALEP, 28 Martello Street, London E8 3PE.

## Miners defy apartheid

**BLACK MINEWORKERS** in South Africa's goldfields and coal mines have stunned the apartheid regime with their threat of an all-out strike over pay and in protest at Botha's repression.

A meeting of thousands of delegates committed the rapidly growing National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) to strike action from 25 August unless the employers, the Chamber of Mines, paid the full 22 per cent pay rise demanded by the union; the bosses have offered 14 to 19 per cent.

### Political action

But the union has not just challenged the regime over the capitalists' slave pay policy, they are also demanding action on the State of Emergency. The NUM said that unless the state of emergency had ended by 7 August, they would lead a mass boycott of white-owned businesses in the towns near the mines.

The union has also warned the government that whatever the outcome of pay negotiations, they would call another all-out miners' strike if Botha carries out his threat to repatriate foreign black workers in retaliation for

By John Viner

any sanctions against the regime.

This is a very important development. It is the first time the unions have so openly intervened in politics since the State of Emergency.

A mass movement has grown up in recent years, in the black townships, amongst the youth, the school students, the women. Parallel with this has come the rise of the black trade unions, which have the economic and political weight to spearhead the entire movement.

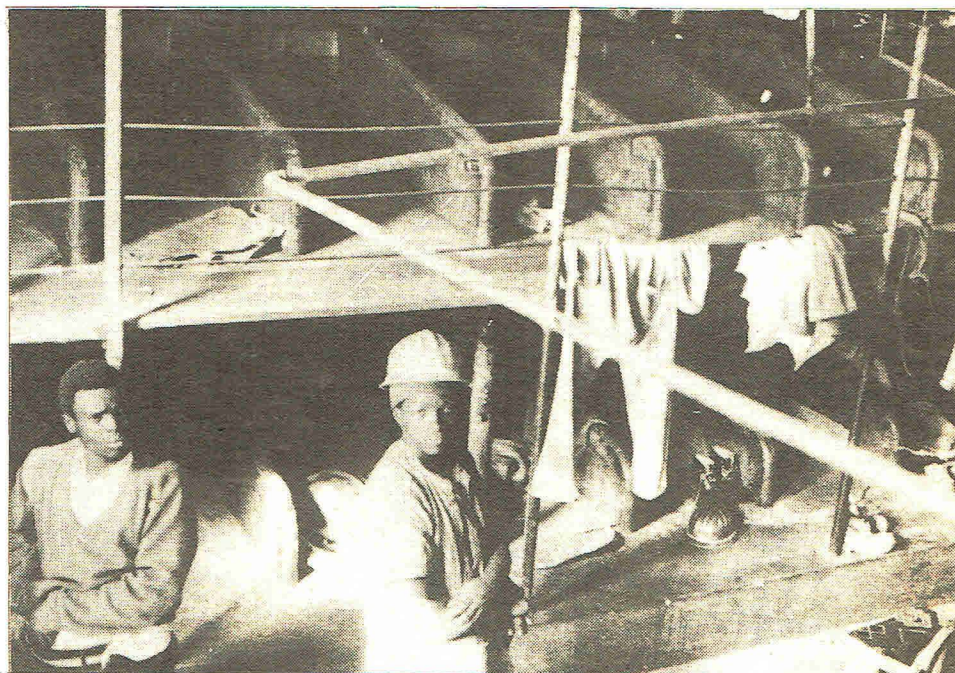
The goldfields are particularly important. Gold accounts for half of South Africa's export earnings and is one of the main props of the country's ailing economy. If the profits from gold slowed down, the icy winds of recession would be felt more keenly in Pretoria. The miners work in cramped, dusty, appallingly hot conditions for miserly

pay. The mines have a dreadful safety record, The multinationals yield high profits but treat their workers like expendable items of equipment.

The bosses and the government may try to reach a compromise, but if the mineworkers are forced to strike, they will need all the solidarity the labour and trade union movement in Britain and internationally can muster. They face a brutal regime. The miners are housed in overcrowded barrack-like compounds, many miles from their families and the cities, making solidarity action more difficult.

### Support the strikers

In the British miners' year-long dispute, striking Staffordshire NUM member Roy Jones visited South Africa, met miners and their leaders and brought back a generous donation from the young and still poverty-stricken union. If the NUM strike in South Africa, that debt must be repaid with interest, not just by miners but by all workers who gained from



Military-style compounds house the black migrant workers of South Africa. Support the miners' struggle.

and supported the British miners' strike.

Pressure is already on for isolation of the regime through sanctions. Britain has been, and is, responsible for nearly half of all foreign investment in South Africa. As the Southampton dockers found out (see below) a cur-

rent UN arms embargo is being flouted by big business. Side by side with sanctions, we need action to build up apartheid's main enemy, the organised black workers.

Show solidarity with the NUM in their dispute. Rush resolutions of support and finance through NUM and

other union branches, shop stewards' committees and trades councils. Raise the question of solidarity in your Labour Party or LPYS branch. Money and messages of solidarity should be sent to NUM, PO Box 10928, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa.

### Drugs

From front page.

estate, the empty flats where the drug users congregate, from being renovated.

In their battle with the government to defend jobs and services, the Liverpool City Council are showing how a start can be made now to fight to change the rotten society which leads to drug addiction and despair.

The Home Office plans new laws to crack down on drug trafficking, yet up to now the police have had a minimal effect. As Jason's mother said at the inquest: "Lots of people have passed information to the police, but they just don't do anything about it. They say that haven't got the manpower."

But there was no lack of manpower when it came to taking on the miners. There is no lack of manpower at the ports and airports to

crack down on suspected illegal immigrants. It is far easier to enter Britain with a load of heroin than if you have dark skin.

Millions of pounds are being made from the drugs trade and only a fraction of the big dealers get caught.

### Social conditions

The drugs epidemic will never be stamped out completely until the social conditions which rise to it are eradicated. The Labour leaders should be following the example of the Liverpool councillors by putting forward a crash programme to build new houses, create jobs and give back hope to the young. This means taking over the big business monopolies which dominate society, whose failure to invest their massive profits has led to industrial decline, mass unemployment and the public spending cuts being

Photo: Philip Gordon (Reflex)



Two sixteen year olds in Barnsley sniffing glue, trying to kill the boredom and possibly themselves.

imposed by the Tories. Only a democratically planned socialist economy can generate the wealth to tackle the problems.

In a socialist society, where a well-paid job, shorter working hours, decent cheap homes, well-equipped schools and health centres and provision for the elderly and disabled would be the right of all, no sane

person would want to inject himself with poison in search of oblivion.

The dealers could easily be isolated and dealt with and drug abuse would be a thing of the past. What stands in the way is Thatcher, the Tories and their economic system which enriches the rich and demoralises the poor.

## Dockers' solidarity

SOUTHAMPTON dockworkers last week blocked the export of important production equipment for a South African arms company. After the dockers refused to handle the cargo, customs officers impounded the crate and removed it from the port.

The equipment was a computer-controlled milling machine, sold by a British machine tool company, Berox, to Atlas Aircraft, a subsidiary of the state armaments company, Armacor, through a third party. There is a United Nations embargo on arms dealing with South Africa but this consignment would have been on the ship and in South Africa by now if the

workers had not acted. A Southampton docker, Alex Carson, told *Militant*: "Our shop steward got a phone call telling us of the consignment and saying the number of the box. I'm totally behind the action and I'm sure all the other dockers are as well."

### Build links

The unions in Britain and other countries can play a vital role in the fight against apartheid and repression in South Africa. Apart from such solidarity action, the links which can be built up with the new independent unions in South Africa can help build a mass movement to put an end to the apartheid regime.



**BECOME A**  
**Militant**  
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Send to 3/13, Hepscott Road, London E9 5HB.

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