

Militant

The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth

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27
September 1985 25p

Liverpool demonstration:
Wednesday 25 September,
12 noon at Shaw Street.
Rally at Town Hall.

Militant Readers Meeting:
3pm Central Hall, Renshaw Street.
Speakers: Peter Taaffe, Derek
Hatton, Terry Fields MP,
Ian Lowes, Sue Ferguson
(Family Support Group)

Support Liverpool City Council

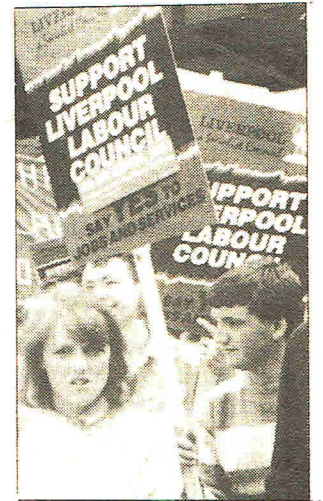
Fight for jobs and homes

Ballot result

DESPITE A massive show of support for Liverpool City Council by the authority's manual workers, overall the council workforce has narrowly rejected indefinite strike action.

The council workers voted 7,794 against the strike to 7,762 for. The size of the vote for strike action is an enormous achievement, given the huge wave of anti-Labour propaganda that has poured out of the pages of the Tory press. Nor is the final result a true reflection of the council workers' feelings, as leaderships of the National Union of Teachers and the National Union of Public Employees refused to ballot their members.

The biggest support for the strike came from the General, Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union—the largest union on the council—and the building workers' in UCATT. 58 per cent of GMBATU supported the strike. Of the G&M's 11 council branches, only one rejected the strike. In a mass meeting UCATT's thousand members gave overwhelming support for the strike.



Demo in support of the council. Photo: Militant

However, the white-collar union NALGO voted against indefinite strike action by 3,881 to 1,445.

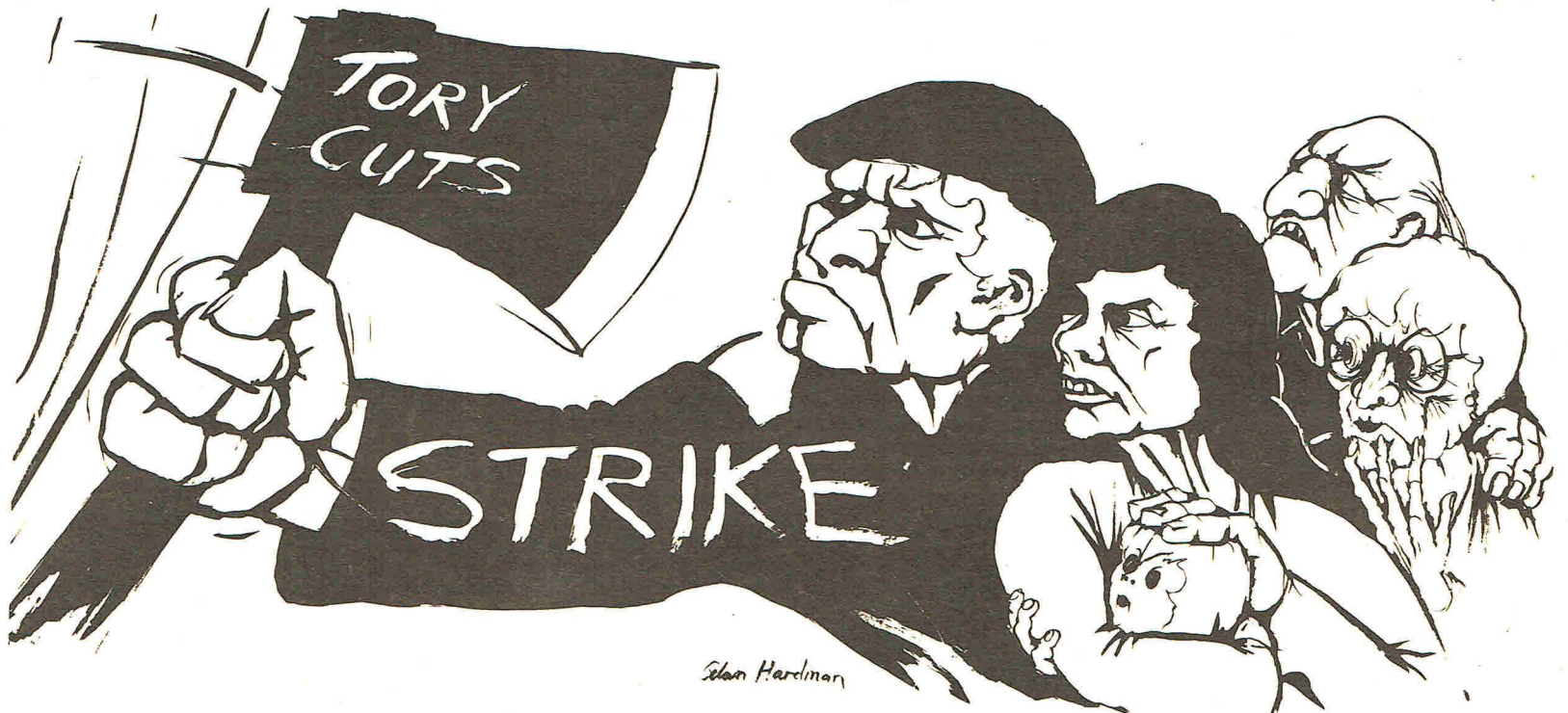
It is significant that the strongest support for the strike came from unions where the leadership campaigned fully in support of the council explaining and discussing the issues with the rank and file. Despite the rejection of the indefinite strike, full support is expected for today's one-day strike and demonstration.

THE LIVERPOOL Labour Party was elected in 1983 to defend jobs and services.

Since then it has saved 1,000 council jobs, took on a further 1,000 and begun work on 4,000 new council homes, creating thousands of jobs in the building sector. The Tories want to wreck all this.

By Derek Hatton
(Deputy Leader,
Liverpool City Council)

This year Liverpool council set a budget of £265 million to continue this programme. If Liverpool had accepted the Tory cash limits, it would have meant making up to 6,000 council workers redundant, or pushing through massive rate rises of 92 per cent. The council did not offload the cost onto the ratepayers. They raised the rates by only nine per cent, raising £148 million towards the budget costs. The remainder can be made up if the Tories scrap the penalty payments they have inflicted on the city council and return £30 million to Liverpool.



Liverpool is entirely justified in demanding this money. It is short change compared to the £360 million robbed from the city since 1979, through the Tories' cuts in the Rate Support Grant, the government funds which go to local authorities. The Tories can afford it—they spent £30 million every two days in the miners' strike in their attempts to break the NUM.

With the Tories refusing to give

Liverpool the cash, the money has now run out. The only alternative other than taking on the government would be to reset a higher rate and abandon the council house building programme. But that would mean anything up to 10,000 building workers in the private sector being thrown back on the dole, while Liverpool's families would be left to rot in the city's squalid tenement blocks. This is no real alternative for a socialist Labour

council.

The Tories are screaming hysterically about Liverpool's 'Militant councillors' as though the crisis is all of their making. Yet all the councillors are doing is obeying the mandate they received from the people of Liverpool—all in the face of much personal sacrifice. The Labour councillors have been surcharged by the Tories and face personal bankruptcy, their homes being taken away, being

barred from public office and even imprisonment.

The Liverpool City Council, the council workers who face the dole, the city's workers who face the destruction of their services—all are determined that the Tories' unending assault on jobs and services stops here. Every worker, every trade unionist, every Labour Party member must back them to the hilt.

Militant

Editor: Peter Taaffe
Militant, 3-13 Hepscoth Road London E9 5HB.
Phone: 01-533 3311.

Surrender is not an option

ALL THE resources of the capitalist state are being mobilised to try and crush the Liverpool workers who are fighting to defend their jobs and the services their council provides.

The press, TV and radio, both national and local, have been churning out a torrent of abuse, vilification and lies, against the workers who support strike action. Personal attacks have been made to denigrate the leaders of the council and the unions. *The Times* even denounce the entire population of Liverpool for voting the Labour council into office.

The ruling class was terrified at the prospect of a successful strike by Liverpool council workers. They have dredged the sewers to find any muck they can to try and confuse and divide the workforce.

Yet it has done nothing to diminish the fighting spirit of workers who know they have no alternative but to take on the might of the Tory government. They are fighting not just for themselves but for their community, and the jobs and services of their fellow workers throughout Britain.

Contrary to the scaremongering of the media, the workers made detailed plans to ensure that all emergency services would be maintained. The poor, the old, the sick and the children have nothing to fear, and everything to gain from the action that the workers and the Labour council are taking. They are fighting to save those weaker sections of society in particular from the nightmare which would follow if the council had made the savage cuts in spending which the Tories are demanding.

The narrow vote against strike action can in no way be interpreted as a rejection of the council and the programme for which they have fought. It does not mean that the workforce have voted in favour of redundancies or the gimmick of 'capitalisation' which would 'save' the jobs of some sections of the workers at the price of mass sackings in others. The vote most certainly does not mean that the workers have swallowed the propaganda of the Tory press. On the contrary, there is a tremendous anti-Tory feeling in the city. As Tuesday's Channel 4 poll showed, support for Labour is going up.

The 'no' vote reflects a certain confusion and a feeling that more time is needed to consolidate the support for the struggle. It is the responsibility of the councillors and union leaders to respond to that verdict by redoubling their efforts to get their message through to every worker in Liverpool. Today's rally must be the launching pad for this new stage of the campaign.

Despite this vote, the battle of Liverpool is still only beginning. The vote will only postpone for a period the inevitable crisis when the council's money runs out. When that happens there is no way that the council workforce can fail to be drawn into the battle from which they have temporarily taken a step back. There is no way in which the Liverpool working class is going to lose thousands of jobs and vital services without a fight.

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Mass meetings: full backing to council

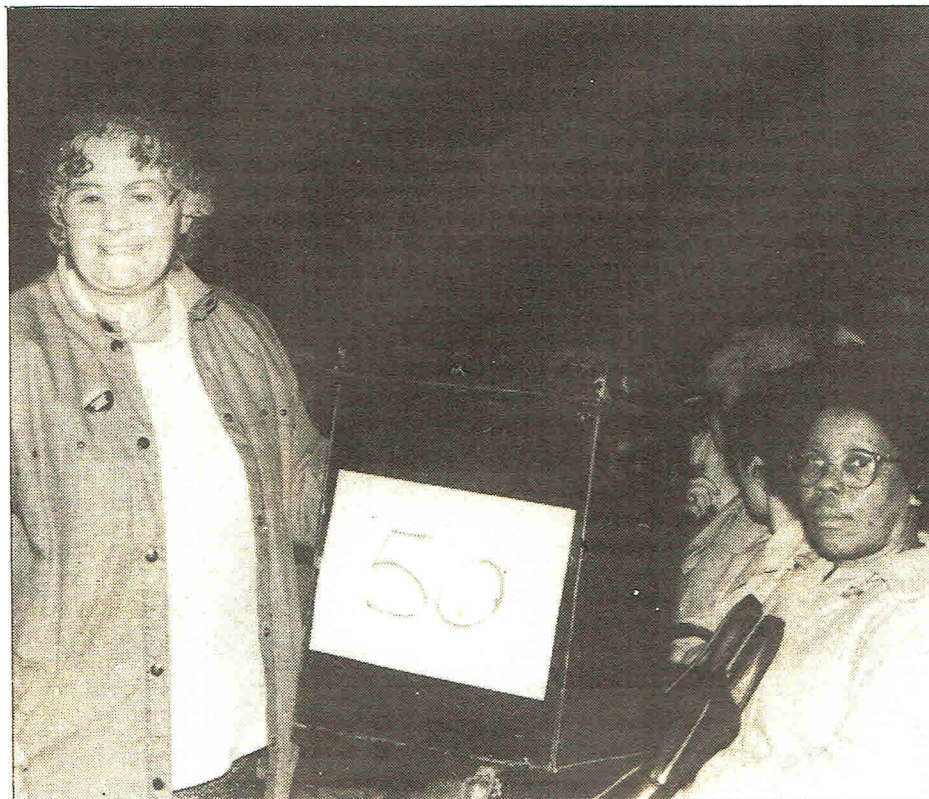
MASS MEETINGS of the council workforce are giving full backing to the council. Where rank and file trade unionists are presented with the council case clearly and allowed to discuss the issues, they are giving their support to the strike.

Councillor Pauline Dunlop and Joint Shop Stewards Committee secretary Ian Lowes were greeted enthusiastically when they addressed the first of a series of GMBATU mass meetings. Around 2,000 workers were present and the subsequent ballot was three to one in favour of the strike.

A mass meeting of 500 TGWU members heard Alan Quinn and union official Len McClusky give the council's case. In a consultative show of hands, only 15 voted against. However, the main decision will be taken by ballot.

Monday's mass meeting of 800 building workers, members of UCATT, voted four to one in favour of the strike in a show of hands. Opponents of the strike were invited to put their case, but no one came forward.

A further mass meeting of another section of GMBATU members produced a 75 per cent vote in support of the strike.



One of the GMBATU mass meetings balloting for strike action on 20 September.

Photo: Dave Sinclair.

Labour Parties organise

MANY LABOUR Parties are already setting up their own strike support structures. Three areas, Broadgreen, Garston and West Derby have set-up headquarters to canvass support for the strike.

Many wards are canvassing door-to-door in the evenings. The Broadgreen Labour Party has initiated a £1 a week levy among its members in support of the hardship fund set-up by the council for workers and their families.

Speke Ward LP last week organised a meeting of local authority workers. 30 workers turned up, mostly women workers, school dinner ladies and cleaners. Out of these, 20 joined the Labour Party.

Mass meetings have been held in tech colleges, organised by Labour Clubs and Labour Party members. Already some support groups have been established, with as many as 70 volunteers coming forward in one club alone.

In the campaign room

SHOP STEWARDS and rank and file workers are the basis of the campaign to support the strike in Liverpool. From the campaign headquarters, teams are going out to all the workplaces explaining, leafletting and discussing.

There are for example as many as 80 building sites alone. Liverpool, because of the policy of the city council's house building programme, has been described by one newspaper as "one large building site". Overwhelmingly the building workers are joining the campaign. They are prepared not

only to send workers to the demonstration and to strike, but to send groups of workers to lobby other trade union meetings.

Visits

The campaign headquarters is constantly buzzing with activity, with teams coming and going. Charts on the wall show constituency by constituency all the main workplaces to be visited. Alongside the name of the workplace there is a space on the chart for comments, the result of the visit and contact phone numbers.

Solidarity rally

WORKERS FROM all over Britain came to Liverpool on Saturday to voice their support for the council. The Merseyside Trade Union and Labour Campaign Committee conference brought together 500 trade unionists from local authorities and private industries, in a magnificent display of solidarity with the fight being waged by Liverpool and Lambeth councils against the Tory government.

The atmosphere was electric. Speakers from the platform and the floor were greeted enthusiastically.

Three Yorkshire miners

from Cortonwood and Houghton Main collieries said: "We are here to show our total support for the Liverpool and Lambeth labour and trade union movement's fight against the Tories. In particular we are here to support Liverpool city council and its workforce. We hope the conference will show us how to give the support necessary to the campaign. We received magnificent help during our struggle from Liverpool's Labour council trade unions and Labour Party members."

Answering the Tory lies

THE DANGERS of the anti-Labour council hysteria being whipped up by the Tory press was seen when City Council supporters addressed a packed meeting at the Colquit Street Further Education College last week.

Nearly 400 students, doing mainly hair-dressing and catering courses, packed into the college canteen when Councillor Paul Lucock and Liverpool student official Cheryl Varley attempted to put the council's case.

But the Tory press had played on student fears about them losing their grants when the council ran out of money, how colleges would be shut down in the strike, and their exams affected. The council speakers were repeatedly shouted down by the students who called out: "what about our grants?", "you're cutting our college". One girl burst into angry tears saying she didn't want to be out on strike for a year like the miners.

The meeting was adjourned to let tempers cool, and council supporters went

around to talk to groups of students.

It was explained that the council had no choice but to fight. The council currently spent £52 million on further education. But if the cuts went through, as councils are legally required to provide school education first, it would be the FE courses that were the first victims of the Tory axe.

During the conversations it became clear that pressure had been put on the students. One girl told how she had been informed that if she went on strike it would go on her college record and she would never get a job or a further grant.

The meeting was reconvened and nearly 200 students returned. The questions were taken up in a calmer atmosphere. After the meeting 50 students—including some who initially had been hostile—agreed to form a strike committee, liaising on a daily basis with the council strike centre and sending out pickets to build support.

Education cover

EMERGENCY provisions for students have been undertaken. College principals in Liverpool have met with the examining boards and it was decided that up to six weeks of time lost from the curriculum through colleges shut down by strike action could be made up later in the year.

It has also been agreed that should a strike go over six weeks councillors will meet with representatives of the student unions and the college lecturers' association NATFHE, to organise emergency provision.

Why capitalisation solves nothing

A TEMPORARY 'solution' being advocated by the media and hinted at by sections of the movement is capitalisation.

Capitalisation would involve the council putting between £20-£30 million aside from its capital projects, the house building programme, to pay council workers' wages and offset the risk of redundancies.

But it would only be a temporary 'solution'. More importantly it would freeze Liverpool's much-needed house-building programme with the loss of 10,000 jobs

in the private building sector. It would be robbing Paul to pay Peter and provide a 'reprieve' for only a few months.

The leadership of the white-collar union NALGO has been putting this forward, producing a paper recommending capitalisation. They are being irresponsible—it is not NALGO policy and besides meaning jobs going for their

fellow trade unionists in the building trade, NALGO jobs would go in the council's Planning and Architect departments. What sort of union leadership offers the redundancy of some of the members as a solution?

Building workers have been lobbying NALGO members against capitalisation.

On Monday 16 September the Liverpool Council Joint

Shop Stewards' Committee rejected capitalisation. It had been put forward by the white collar union NALGO, but building stewards lobbied the meeting and a UCATT steward was allowed to address the committee. It was overwhelmingly agreed that building workers and council workers should stand united and demand that no jobs should go.

Liberals have no answers

LIBERAL LEADER David Steel came swanning into Liverpool on Monday.

Showing his real grasp of the situation, he has been demanding the main council union, the General, Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union (GMBATU), should ballot its members before any strike takes place. In fact, the GMBATU has already balloted its members and a large majority in favour of strike action looks likely.

Ballots

David Steel carefully avoids calling for ballots in unions like the National Union of Teachers and the National Union of Public Employees. The leaders of these unions have come out against the strike, even though their members have been denied the right to even debate and discuss the issues, let alone ballot on them.

The Liberals, in alliance with the Tories, ran Liverpool for nearly a decade before Labour was elected to the council in 1983. This was the Liberals' record:

- Between 1980-83 not one municipal house was built.



Liberal leader David Steel. Photo: Militant.

- Between 1975-82 4,400 council jobs went.
- Between 1979-83 council rents went up 120 per cent, rates increased 100 per cent.

It is no accident the Liberals are being paraded about as the alternative to the Liverpool Labour Party. The Tories themselves wouldn't stand a cat in hell's chance of providing a 'political alternative' to Labour. But as the Liberals' past record in the city shows, the Liberals are no more than a Tory Second XI.

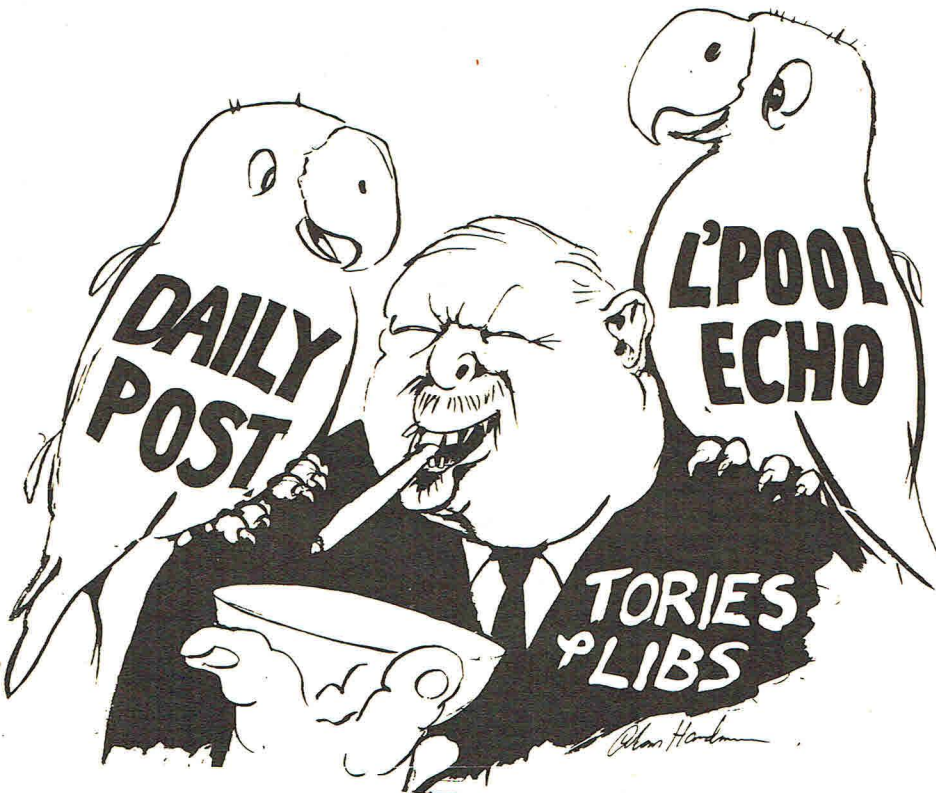
Press parrots echo Tories

SINCE LIVERPOOL Labour council was elected to office it has faced a steady hysterical barrage from the Tory press, locally and nationally.

The council deputy leader Derek Hatton has been particularly vilified. They are more concerned with the cut of his clothes than the jobs and council homes that are at stake. Only *The Guardian*—and that in one mere tucked away paragraph—has mentioned that all Hatton's wages will go to the councillors' family support fund for the duration of the strike.

When they have finished with Hatton, the Fleet Street bloodhounds have been on the trail of other 'conspirators'. The *Daily Express* (20 September) discovered Ian Lowes, chairman of the city's Joint Shop Stewards' Committee. They described him as a pied piper who is to 'bring out all the rats not only in Liverpool but also in every major city and borough the length and breadth of the land'.

The revelations of the *Mail on Sunday*, 22 September, showing a 'secret meeting of leaders of the Militant Tendency' in Liverpool, have been treated with general derision. Of those who were supposedly involved, Ian Lowes and Pauline Dunlop were at a funeral in Birmingham on the day in question, while two others, Felicity Dowling and Jim



Hollinshead, were on holiday. Legal action is now being considered.

Locally a massive propaganda campaign spearheaded by the *Liverpool Echo*, the *Daily Post* and the local radio, has burst over the heads of the people of Liverpool.

Radio City has conducted an opinion poll with questions so loaded as to make it impossible to get a result in favour of the council. Not surprisingly, they have found '70 per cent' are against the council campaign!

In the local newspaper, almost every headline is designed to spread splits and confusion and to cloud the issue. Friday evening's *Echo* had the headline: "Care staff snub strike call", failing to mention the fact that the 3,000 NUPE workers involved had not been given a chance to 'snub' or back the council, because they were not given the chance of a discussion or a ballot.

Most galling though is Fleet Street's sudden concern for Liverpool.

Liverpudlians will have

had a cynical laugh at the *Daily Star* on 19 September. On the strike it sighed: "If they walk out the once thriving city faces collapse". It is the Tories who have overseen the collapse of this "once thriving city". Their policies and the bosses' thirst for bigger profits elsewhere has put Liverpool on its knees. What has outraged the press and the Tory establishment is that the council and Liverpool trade unionists are getting up and fighting back.

G&M anger at no-strike call

MEMBERS OF the General and Municipal workers union on Liverpool council were bitterly angry at the action of their full-time officials.

To a fanfare from the Tory press, the GMBATU officials sent letters out to all the 300 shop stewards instructing them not to strike "until the financial crisis becomes clearer".

How much clearer do these union officials want it? As Liverpool council leader John Hamilton told *The Guardian*: "The full-time officials will have to make the choice whether to advise us to sack their members or to stand and fight if we are to live within the government's budget".

Once again the officials have not spelt out any alternatives, although some of-

ficials have said in private that the council should "put the rents up".

As far as the workers are concerned, the financial position is clear. Either they do not strike, in which case they are not paid anyway, or they take the fight to the government and strike to demand the return of the cash taken from Liverpool in the past six years.

Out of touch

Ian Lowes chairman of the JSSC, made the position of his members quite clear: "Our regional leaders are obviously out of touch with the situation. We will not let them tell us what to do. We have recommended a strike and now it is up to the members to decide what to do, not the officials."

Littlewood hypocrisy

AMAZEMENT AND indignation has greeted the comments of Littlewoods' boss Desmond Pitcher. He has joined in with the Tory scare campaign that the council's stand and the strike will 'drive away businesses and jobs from Liverpool'.

To blame the council campaign for the destruction of jobs in the city is laughable. Since 1979 as a result of the Tory government's disastrous economic policies, 55,000 jobs have been lost in Liverpool as firms shut down or moved elsewhere for greater profits. A third of the city's manufacturing industry has disappeared.

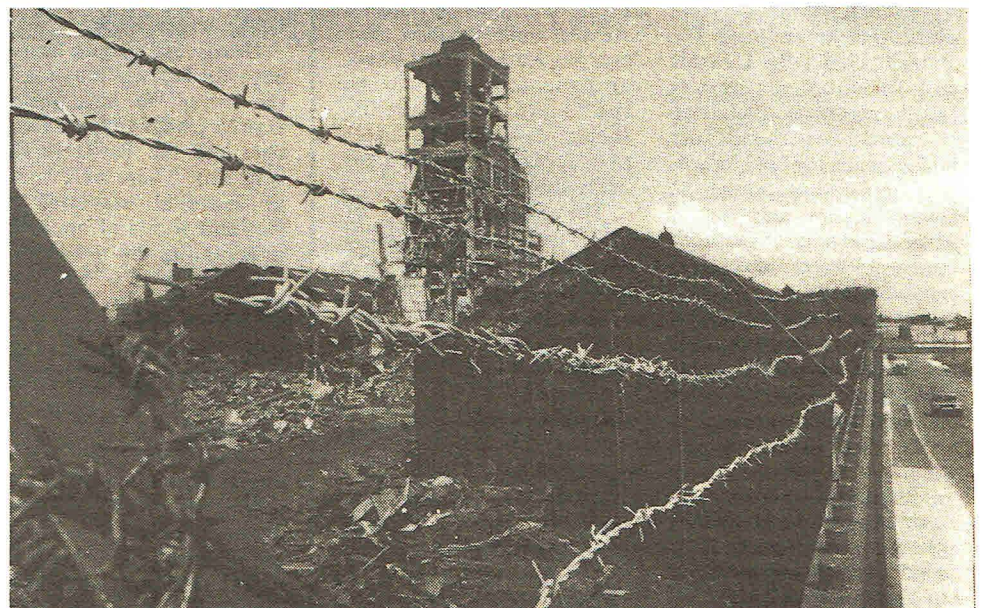
But Littlewoods' comments are particularly hypocritical. Desmond Pitcher, chief executive of Littlewoods told the *Liverpool Daily Post* in a front-page article the company were in discussion with local industrialists and overseas manufacturers about bringing new industries to Merseyside. He said: "If

the strike in Liverpool takes place we will be forced to cancel this decision".

Yet Littlewoods are currently negotiating more redundancies with its workforce! Far from 'bringing in new jobs', it is looking for cutbacks in its mail order division.

Pitcher's concern for Merseyside workers doesn't extend to their pay packets. Despite a 77 per cent increase in profits last year, the normal weekly wage for a Littlewoods' worker is £67. Many workers have been on temporary contracts for two years, while the company's skilled radio engineers are having to do menial jobs in other areas or face redundancy.

Littlewoods' workers have been angered by Pitcher's comments. The immediate response of the branch committee of USDAW at Crosby Mail Order site to Pitcher was to donate £20 to the Liverpool Council Family Support Group.



The decimated Tate and Lyle factory in Liverpool. Since 1979 one third of the city's manufacturing industry has gone. Photo: Militant.

Liverpool council battle

Support Liverpool Council

BACKING FOR Liverpool City Council has come from all over the country.

Kent Area NUM has sent a letter of support as have Betteshanger colliery NUM, Tilmanstone colliery NUM, and Kent sacked miners.

The London District Council of the metal mechanics' union, the NSMM sends its support to Liverpool City Council unions and the Labour councillors "who are preparing to fight the Tory government to defend jobs and local services."

"We wish you success and a speedy victory for the workers and community of Liverpool."

Leeds District Labour Party passed a motion supporting Liverpool council

after being addressed by Ray Murray from Liverpool GMBATU (reports Chris Hill). £44 was raised for the campaign.

Initiatives

Leeds DLP "pledges its full support to the struggle of Liverpool council and its workforce and for the strike called on 25 September in defence of jobs and services."

The Leeds party also called on its own council to back the campaign and any solidarity initiatives taken by the council's unions.

The party is to start a collection for the Liverpool District Labour Party appeal fund and invite further speakers should the strike continue.

SHOW SOLIDARITY to Liverpool. Get your Labour Party and trade union organisation to send messages of support to:

Liverpool District Labour Party, 24 Hardman Street, Liverpool, L19 0AX.

Young Socialists

THE LABOUR Party Young Socialists is mobilising to give Liverpool council the backing it deserves in every part of the country.

Most of the new jobs created by Liverpool council have gone to young people. The council has shown its support for young people—now is the time to repay that support!

A hundred thousand leaflets are being produced and 'Support Liverpool Council' public meetings are being organised in all areas by local LPYS branches. Student unions in the further education colleges are being approached to organise

coaches to Liverpool and local authority workplaces are being urged to raise cash for Liverpool's fight and provide solidarity action.

The policy and programme of the LPYS is being put into practice by Liverpool council. Young Socialist branches have the opportunity to campaign for solidarity with the council and recruit young people to the LPYS at the same time.

Every LPYS branch should organise 'Liverpool Council Support Groups' based on their local Labour Party or trade union branch, to raise cash and win the backing of the whole labour movement for Liverpool's fight.

By John Hird
(LPYS National Chairman)

Students

LIVERPOOL students have every reason to back the council. Under the Liberals and Tories council services faced cutbacks including education. The Liberal/Tory budget plans for 1983 included a half-million pound cut from further education, while Liverpool Poly faced course closures and staff redundancies.

The election of the Labour council in 1983 meant that the Poly's future was saved with an extra £2 million added to its budget, while further education was expanded.

This is why the Merseyside Area Student Organisation (MASO) is launching a campaign to mobilise national support for the council. On 12 October it will host a delegate conference to discuss how students can organise practical solidarity for Liverpool.

Students must start the campaign immediately. Liverpool support groups involving both students and campus workers must be set up nationally. Delegates to the MASO conference should be elected, and Liverpool speakers invited to address student unions.

The National Union of Students has been invited to support the conference. The NUS must defend those who are defending education and prepare students for national action in support of Liverpool's fight.

By Cheryl Varley
(Liverpool FE Sabbatical)

Order now for freshers' fayres, from: Militant Student Publications, c/o 3-13 Hepscott Road, London E9 5HB. Student bulletin—15p Broadsheet—15p Leaflets—£3.50 for 500

Homes and gardens replace slums

THE BASIC principles of Liverpool council's urban regeneration strategy are to return to the traditional house and garden with a back and front door. As one council official explained: "Most problems occur where people are living in blocks of flats. The aim has been to move people from sub-standard, out-dated accommodation with concrete floors and damp, to the kind of accommodation that they deserve".

JO EASTOP interviewed people who have been rehoused under the scheme:

Margaret and Edward Gallagher have recently moved from flats that were under demolition to a new house in Liverpool 5. When asked what he thought of the new house Mr Gallagher said: "Absolutely marvellous. Where we lived before all the flats surrounding us had become vacant and were beginning to deteriorate. We were starting to feel the damp". It was the first time they had lived in a house and they were happy to be living in a close with their old neighbours, away from the main roads.

They'd never had a garden before and had "no idea what to do with it" but were looking forward to the "challenge".

Elderly

Their neighbour, an elderly lady who had moved from a flat with 97 steps to climb was "over the moon" about her new house and loved the "village-like" atmosphere of the close.

Mr and Mrs Devine moved from a third-floor flat in Great Mersey Street to a house in the Kirkdale area. Mrs Devine said her new house was "gorgeous". She added: "It seems funny walking out of the front door and onto the street. We had four flights of steps to go down before". The couple had lived in their old flat for 30 years and had never previously lived in a house or had a garden. Mrs Devine said: "When our kids come they won't go home. When our married sons come they just sit there and say: 'This is lovely!' Mr Devine said: "I think it's much better than the flats. I've become interested in the garden since we came here. I've never done any gardening before. One of my friends has been helping me. We only had a few plants in the flat."

Glasgow

THE ELECTRIFYING effect of the Liverpool struggle was displayed at a *Militant* public meeting in Glasgow last week.

Nearly 500 people turned out—the hall was bursting at the seams—to hear Derek Hatton pledge to fight Thatcher and the Tories to the very end. There were roars of approval, stamping of feet and waves of applause punctuating the speeches.

In the West of Scotland many of the most bitter opponents of *Militant* have been beating the drum to the chorus of: "Militant is dead" recently. The truth is different.

This success, added to that of an earlier meeting in May, means that in 1985 *Militant* has organised the two largest public meetings in Glasgow of any section of the labour movement.

By Alan McCombes
(Glasgow)

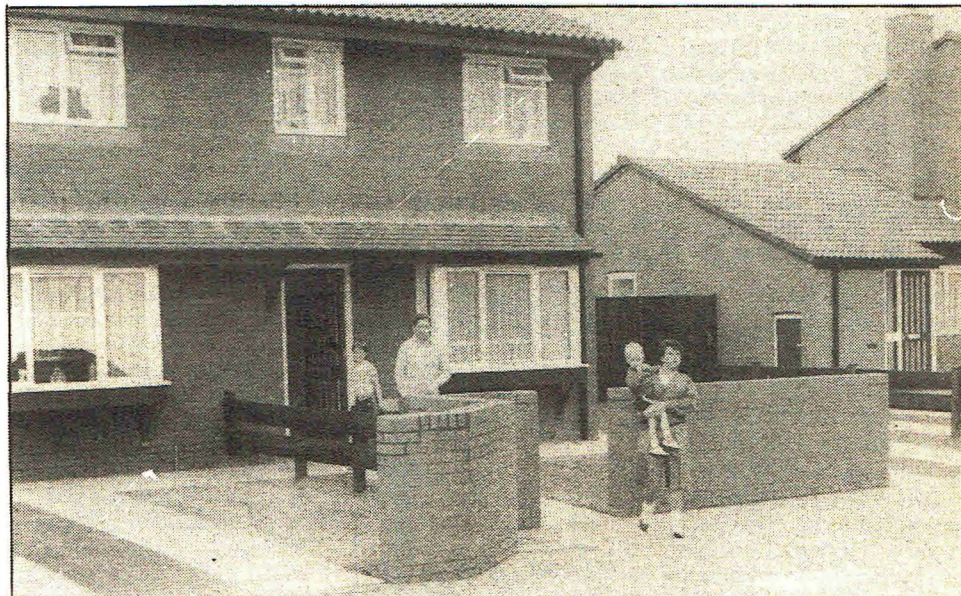
at 3.30 in the morning and there had been several other attempts to break in. It was a common occurrence for that particular block.

While they were still living there the windows had been nailed down and: "the central heating was so hot you couldn't breathe", said the husband. "There was rubbish all round the house—that is until the new Labour administration got in and introduced caretakers who cleaned it up", he added.

"When the Liberals were in they never did anything."

The couple were happy with their new house: "It's nice in the summer when we can sit out in the garden. It's good to have our own bit of privacy".

"When people talk about extremism what do they mean? They mean looking after health, education, providing jobs. The Conservatives and Liberals should be abolished. They are the gangsters. People talk about the left-wingers. Who are they? The left-wingers are for the working class."



Mr Gallagher and family outside his new house.



Mr and Mrs Devine in their new house.

Family Support Group spurs on campaign 'to fight now'

MEMBERS OF Liverpool council's Family Support Group (featured in last week's *Militant*) were asked about their activities as the all-out strike for Wednesday 25 approached.

Pam Evans, partner of Councillor Paul Luckock, explained that the group had continued to send out letters and address meetings in support of the council.

On Saturday 14 they lobbied the Joint Shop Stewards' meeting and urged support for the strike and called for unity. They said to the unions that there was no going back now: "If everyone backs off and the councillors are surcharged it will all have been a waste of time".

Members of the group had been invited to all the

unions' mass meetings where ballots over strike action were taking place. Pam Evans spoke at the G&M mass meeting on Friday 20.

Held out

She told the meeting the 49 families were still 100 per cent behind the councillors despite the fact that they had been issued with surcharge notices. There was no going back. She said that the trade unions had asked their partners to vote the budget in for them. Everyone knew the money would run out. She urged the union members to support them. If they all stuck together and remained united the government would have to give them money.

Sue Ferguson, wife of Councillor Peter Ferguson, spoke at the EETPU mass meeting. She said that

whatever the outcome of the vote she felt that they had won a victory because they had held out against threats and press intimidation and that her husband had continued to represent the wishes of the people of Dingle community.

She said that the government had done nothing to improve the conditions in inner-city areas that bred violence and crime.

Liverpool council were attempting to put things right. At the end of the day they were the ones who would have to live in Liverpool. If the council cannot continue with its programme then the people of Liverpool face a future of slum housing, drugs and unemployment. They want to fight now.

By Jo Eastop

Defend our right to print the truth

Send cash now!

NEVER BEFORE has there been such an urgent need for a daily workers' paper.

Now, with the battle taking place in Liverpool between the council and the government, a regular *Militant* is an essential weapon to destroy the lies and distortions of the national mass media in their attempts to sow divisions amongst the council workforce and the people who live there.

Militant has always given prominence to covering workers'

struggles and industrial disputes, that is why we are being taken to court and sued for libel—James White MP for Glasgow Pollok, is suing us for printing details of conditions faced by workers in a factory he owned.

Labour supporters everywhere are outraged. But outrage is not enough to defend us or pay our legal costs—we need cash NOW! We appeal to those attending Labour Party conference. Get your Labour Party or trade union

Militant

delegation to support us with cash. Help us put the workers' case.

So far James White's own constituency has backed our case and many Labour MPs have sponsored the defence fund, including: Tony Benn, Ernie Roberts, Michael Hindley (MEP), Allan Roberts, Bob Litherland, Bill Michie, Bob Wareing, Kevin Barron, Bob Cryer (MEP), Gavin Strang, Martin Flannery, Gerry Bermingham,

Clare Short, Joan Maynard, Bob Clay, Eddie Loyden, Les Huckfield (MEP), Glyn Ford (MEP), Dave Nellist and Terry Fields.

There has also been tremendous support from the members of the NUM and the TGWU.

Support from other bodies include: NCU Broad Left (£20), Hanover LP (£5), N Liburn, Littleton colliery power group, Staffs £10, a collection from Musselburgh Labour Party, Scotland raised £11, Jimmy Gray, Leith No 2 GMBATU branch (£10), Wirral Trades Council (£25), Manchester City NALGO branch (£10), Scun-

thorpe 10/232 TGWU (£23), collection from miners in Sheffield raised £17, Bathwick Labour Party, Bath (£25), Sharon McDermott and Dave Milsom, expelled from Sheffield Attercliffe Labour Party gave £50, the Pakistan Youth and Community Association has pledged £40, and pledges of support have come in from St Johns Lodge NUM, and Nick Steven, Snr ACTSS rep. British Aerospace, Bristol.

By Kim Waddington



Youth at a rally before the Merseyside local government conference on Saturday. Photo: Dave Sinclair.

'Back council' - Labour women

LIVERPOOL Labour Party Women's Council has called on all its members and working class women from the city to rally in support of the council's battle with the government.

The achievements made for women so far by Liverpool council were highlighted at a recent meeting of the women's council addressed by city councillor Jackie Crowley. She made it clear that the positive initiatives taken already were threatened if Labour was removed from office and replaced by an unelected District Auditor carrying out the dictates of the Tory government.

The city council has already built 3,500 houses and many more are on the way. A new, fairer allocation system for housing aimed at eliminating all discrimination was being introduced.

Women who are subjected to violence in the home have a statutory right to be rehoused, rather than putting them into battered wives' hostels. The city council accepts the need for single women to have a house and doesn't send women to spikes as in some areas.

Record

Liverpool council's record is the best anywhere in the country. It is the only council opening new nurseries and has produced a directory of pre-school facilities to ensure that everybody in the city knows what facilities are available.

A guaranteed free nursery place is also provided in all further education colleges allowing all women the chance to go back to education after having children.

In education, 17 new community schools have just

been opened, reorganising the old schools to ensure that every child has a decent standard of education. Equal opportunity advisors have also been appointed for all schools.

Liverpool women's council passed a resolution congratulating the city council on its achievements so far, and also welcoming the decision of the council to establish an equal opportunities committee. The women's council has recommended that the city council should form a women's sub-committee as soon as possible. It would direct resources to highlight the problems that women face such as unemployment and conditions of work for women, both within the local authority and outside in industry.

The women's council called for a 'Charter for Women Workers' to be published by Liverpool,

Manchester and Rochdale Women's Councils.

It urges the implementation of demands such as child-care provision and care of sick relatives. These require an enormous injection of extra finance and would bring councils into conflict with the government. They could not be obtained without a tremendous struggle.

The women's committee should raise the sights of women to what could be possible if the necessary resources were available. Many improvements in women's lives could be achieved by taking part in the struggle against the Tories, but any long-lasting improvement will only be achieved on the return of a Labour government committed to real socialist policies.

By Ann Bannister

Nellist wins with 70%

DAVE NELLIST has been readopted to fight Coventry South East for Labour, with over 70 per cent of the votes cast at the reselection conference and winning on the first ballot.

Nellist received 48 votes to 17 for Cunningham and 0 for Flowers.

This result is a crushing answer to the press who tried to spread rumours about Dave Nellist being "in trouble" with the constituency Labour Party. But he received 39 nominations, beating the previous West Midlands record of 38 for Geoff Rooker in Birmingham. 18 of these nominations were from branches of the AUEW.

Branches of NUPE, UCATT, ASTMS, APEX, TGWU, GMBATU, EET-PU and AUEW/TASS joined with two LPYS branches, the women's section and the Co-op party, and three of the four party branches in nominating Nellist.

Links now established

Expulsions defeated

IN A victory for *Militant* supporters in Kent the Faversham Labour Party's general committee voted not to expel three members from the party's Sittingbourne branch.

By Anne Ursell

No written charges had been made against the three, Malcolm Young, Tom Seddon and Alan Ursell who are supporters of *Militant*. They appealed for unity in the party and said they would continue to sell *Militant*.

This result vindicates the campaign run in defence of the three, ending in a lobby of the meeting and personal appeals to all the general committee delegates.

through this reselection process will be invaluable for the future.

A full-time GMBATU official threw his hat in the ring before the contest even started. He withdrew quietly when Nellist had reached 12 nominations.

This further demonstrates the results the right wing will get for their witch-hunting activities. Earlier this year our election campaign for 1983 was investigated by the Labour Party NEC.

It now has been conclusively demonstrated that there is no support for a witch-hunt amongst the rank and file of the AUEW.

Dave Nellist's candidature has still to be endorsed by the Labour Party NEC.

But Coventry South East is confident of securing a further term at the next general election for Nellist.

By Pete McNally
(Coventry SE CLP)

S. Yorks

THE FIRST ever *Militant* Miners Meeting in the South Yorkshire panel attracted just under 30 people. They roundly condemned the officers of Sheffield Attercliffe Labour Party in expelling socialists from their Constituency Labour Party. A total of £32 was raised for the *Militant* Defence Fund.

Economic crisis heightens Mexico's disaster

THE TERRIBLE Mexican earthquakes on 19 and 20 September will go down as one of the worst natural disasters of the century. But the effects will be made worse by the manmade economic crisis.

Some observers believe the death toll could be as high as 10,000 or even 20,000. The heroism of ordinary locals particularly in the poorer parts of Mexico City and the other affected areas is obvious from the television pictures. Young people in particular, from the workers' areas are risking their lives to prevent the danger of gas leaks

and explosions. They are taking preventive action to stop the spread of diseases like typhoid and tetanus. They are volunteers; the government itself, according to all reports, seems paralysed.

Equally paralysed are the purse strings of the richer nations of the world, particularly Britain. The British government initially announced it was sending £60,000, less than the salary of one of the top people so generously rewarded by Thatcher's recent pay review.

But even if aid is forthcoming, it will have little effect set against

Mexico's crippling international debts. Just before the earthquake the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were considering giving Mexico no more loans. The austerity programme the IMF insisted on during the rescheduling talks had not bitten hard enough. Mexico was "spending too much".

Now after the 'quake, Reagan is talking of aid to stave off instability in the US's next door neighbour, Reagan's advisers remember the effect the Managua earthquake of 1972 had on Nicaraguan dictator Somoza's regime. How much aid

arrives remains to be seen.

Mexico has many serious problems. It has a lot of potential wealth in food and particularly oil, but industrial ownership is concentrated in the hands of about 100 families.

Ten months ago, the highly polluted capital city suffered a gas explosion which killed 500 and left 1500 missing. Unemployment is high and the factories and offices destroyed, many uninsured, will make this worse; there is no social security system in Mexico.

Natural disasters can happen

anywhere but the structure of society can make their effects far worse in times of crisis. Seismologists in California predicted last week's earthquake in academic journals but seemingly little was known or done by the Mexican government.

One question which everyone should ask is how much money is spent on investigating earthquakes and at least reducing their devastation? You can be sure its a minute fraction of the amount spent on creating man made earthquakes through nuclear weapons research.

From a reporter recently in Mexico

Liverpool needs a daily Militant

This week: £638

MILITANT IS under attack! The government have decided to take on Liverpool's Council and its people using every means at their disposal to try to defeat the city.

Workers are adamant that they will not give in without a fight. Millions throughout the country have lost their jobs over the past six years because their leaders have not been prepared to fight—now at last a council won't implement Tory cuts, but will fight to defend the jobs and services of those who put it into office.

Because of the determination and confidence of *Militant* supporters, the council is standing firm and council workers are prepared to sacrifice their wages in indefinite strike if needed to support the council.

We must stretch every muscle to ensure a victory in Liverpool; the ideas of *Militant* are being tested. A more regular paper is essential to counteract press lies.

The two edition paper produced this week has cost more to produce than normal. More cash is needed for

Marxist Daily Building Fund

| | £ | | £ |
|---------------|------|---------------|--------------|
| Eastern | 3221 | Scotland East | 2238 |
| East Midlands | 3379 | Scotland West | 2546 |
| Humberside | 1896 | Southern | 4122 |
| London NE | 3538 | South West | 1059 |
| London NW | 4181 | Wales East | 1970 |
| London SE | 2148 | Wales West | 1582 |
| London SW | 2184 | West Midlands | 2129 |
| Lancashire | 641 | Yorkshire | 1963 |
| Manchester | 2658 | National | 1302 |
| Merseyside | 5217 | | |
| Northern | 3384 | Total | 51358 |

printing leaflets and posters for the public meetings in all areas to ensure solidarity with Liverpool.

£10 appeal

To finance this extra work, we are making a special appeal to all readers to send in a donation of £10 or more. Already, several readers have responded. £35 has come from supporters in Hull and seven supporters in Hertfordshire have sent in £10 a piece. £116 was collected at a meeting in Bedfordshire with a promise of a further £69 to come.

One of the most significant donations to the Fund this week has been £20 from

Wendy Lindon, the wife of a Liverpool Councillor. The councillors have agreed to donate their pay for the duration of the strike to the Liverpool strike fund. Unlike most politicians, these councillors and their families are not interested in bettering their own position. They are making huge sacrifices to defend Liverpool's jobs and services.

In response to our special appeal, we predict a big boost for the *Marxist Daily Building Fund* over the next couple of weeks. Make sure your area is not left behind by sending in your donations now.

By Dave Campbell

FIGHTING FUND

This week: £2,033

| Area | Received | % of target achieved | Target |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 1 Wales West | 1184 | | 2950 |
| 2 London East | 800 | | 3250 |
| 3 Eastern | 836 | | 3500 |
| 4 London South East | 379 | | 2100 |
| 5 Southern | 968 | | 5400 |
| 6 London West | 446 | | 2650 |
| 7 East Midlands | 499 | | 3050 |
| 8 Scotland East | 469 | | 3150 |
| 9 Scotland West | 516 | | 3750 |
| 10 London South West | 153 | | 1200 |
| 11 Lancashire | 172 | | 1300 |
| 12 South West | 227 | | 2150 |
| 13 Humberside | 203 | | 2100 |
| 14 Merseyside | 620 | | 6550 |
| 15 West Midlands | 405 | | 4700 |
| 16 Manchester | 219 | | 2850 |
| 17 Yorkshire | 454 | | 5800 |
| 18 Northern | 346 | | 4750 |
| 19 Wales East | 129 | | 3000 |
| Others | 2127 | | 5800 |
| Total received | 11150 | | 70000 |

THE STRUGGLE erupting between Liverpool and the Government makes the question of money for our paper more crucial than ever. The lies of the bosses' press get more venomous day to day.

Who can doubt the need for a *Daily Militant* to counter the bosses' lies. We need to be able to give a daily account of every new twist and development. But to get a daily paper we need your financial support.

It should now be easier than ever to raise money for our funds. Every worker watching events in Liverpool will give cash if asked. Who will want to be left out of this struggle? At every workplace, especially council depots and offices, collections for our funds should be held.

In Merseyside, the JSSC decision for strike action

prompted five workers from Knowsley Borough Council to make regular donations to the *Militant* Fighting Fund of £5 per month. This could be repeated in every area. Be bold! Workers will want to help. Give them the opportunity.

We are now over half-way through the quarter but with a total of £11,150 we need a massive increase in weekly totals; Liverpool should give us that boost. Take collecting tins on all the extra paper sales or, better still, take buckets, use placards. Let workers in your area know what is going on and how they can help. Why not organise a party to raise funds for our Liverpool work?

But most important of all, ask everyone who buys the paper, everyone at work, at college, in the pub, for a contribution. If this is done, we will raise the necessary cash. No matter where the

Donations

K. Kirk Cleethorpes CLP £5; B West, Kely NUM sacked miner £2.36; E Petrie Edinburgh CPSA £50; C Ford Edinburgh £10; C Sill Coldestk USA £10; D Hardell Manchester £5; R Levy Unemployed Manchester £3; Bridgend UCW £5; R Levy Unemployed Manchester £3; Bridgend UCW £5; Boot Sale Brighton £41.50; Labour Pensioner Falkirk £5; E Dean Cannock OAP £1; A Pearson, Cannock School Student 50p; Cambridge LPYS £5; Essex Jumble Sale £49.20; Extras at British Aerospace Preston £3.60; Chorley/Coppull miners & wives £2.75.

Tories, or the right-wing in the Labour Party and trade unions, take us on we will respond. But we will have to surpass even our own excellent fund-raising achievements to do so.

LIVERPOOL'S battle gives new urgency to the Autumn sales campaign.

Militant is the only paper that reports the true situation and fully supports the campaign. This is understood on Merseyside where our sales are shooting up. A' Norbank FE college 22 copies were sold on Friday. At the Weaver Council depot in Winsford 19 special bulletins and 10 papers were sold. On the Wirral sellers are on the streets everyday with placards and are building up to a daily sale.

Our message must get across to ever wider sections of the working class. Every seller must double their efforts to make sure that every council depot and workplace is covered with a regular sale. In all workers' struggles solidarity and unity in action are the key. This is why the bosses' press emphasises every minor difference to sow disunity. Without *Militant* to put the record

Get Militant

straight, workers fight with one arm behind their back.

In Birmingham the paper is now being sold at Tucker Fasteners. Previously a union branch here had been persuaded to support the witch-hunt against *Militant*. As a result a regular sale has been started to answer the lies told about us.

It has never been easier to sell *Militant*. Daily attacks from the enemies of the labour movement are making thousands of workers ask themselves... "What is this

Militant the Tories fear?"

The answer can be seen in the paper itself. We are appealing to readers who do not yet sell *Militant* to assist our campaign. If every reader were to sell just one extra paper to a neighbour or workmate the effect would be fantastic. Support the Liverpool struggle by building the *Militant* Sales Campaign.

By Gerry Lerner

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.

SCHOOL STUDENTS UNION: recruitment leaflets—£8 per 1,000, stencils for leaflets—70p each, posters—£5 per 50, activists pamphlets—20p each (orders over 20, 15p each), Badges—20p, Stickers—£10 per 1,000. All prices include p&p. From YTURC, c/o 109 Rannoch Road, London W6.

READ ABOUT Harry de Boer and the Minneapolis strike struggles. Dobbs—Teamster Rebellion £5.50 inc p&p from World Socialist Books 3/13 Hepscoth Road, London E9 5HB.

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

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

Now available on cassette: all centre-page articles from issue 730-755. Send either seven blank C-90 cassettes or £6.30 payable to *Militant* tapes. 18 Blandford Grove, Woodhouse, Leeds 2. Phone: (0532) 455936.

MAKE some Fighting Fund for your area! *Militant* "No Slave Labour On YTS" stickers now available. Price: £1.50 for 100—but they must be sold for a donation! Send order to *Militant*, 3-13 Hepscoth Road, London E9 5HB. Cheques/POs made payable to *Militant*.

Conference greetings

NEWPORT EAST LPYS
Back miners' amnesty and Liverpool

GWENT COLLEGE HE LABOUR CLUB
For a democratic NOLS

BURY MILITANT SUPPORTERS
—Happy 21st birthday *Militant*, best wishes for socialism within the next 21 years

SUNDERLAND NORTH LPYS
Sends fraternal greetings to Labour Party conference. Full support to the workers of Liverpool

UPLANDS WARD SWANSEA MILITANT SUPPORTERS
Say "Defend our class. Forward in the fight for socialism"

BATH CLP MILITANT SUPPORTERS
Fraternal greetings for Labour Party conference. Solidarity with Liverpool council workers

WREKIN LPYS MILITANT SUPPORTERS
Send fraternal greetings to the labour movement. Unity is strength—No to witch-hunts

Conference greetings from NEWCASTLE NORTH MILITANT SUPPORTERS
Fight the Tories, not the socialists!

Militant

Meetings

ABERYSTWYTH: Weekly *Militant* discussion groups. Details, phone Alan Huyton on 615911.

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

LEEDS MILITANT post-Labour Party Conference meeting. Speakers: Jane Ingham, West Leeds LP Conference delegate. (personal capacity). Members of Sheffield Attercliffe CLP (fighting expulsion) Richard Clarkson (Prince of Wales NUM) and Wakefield CLP delegate. 7.30pm Sunday 6 October at The Bridge Pub, Kirkstall Lights, Leeds.

LOST PROPERTY. Found at Marxist Weekend School Creche: 1 baby's bottle. 1 pair childrens blue cord dungarees. Claim from Marxist Weekend School, 3/13 Hepscoth Road, London E9 5HB.

Liverpool fights the Tories, *Militant* pamphlet recording the historic 1984 victory. 40p inc p&p from World Socialist Books, 3/13 Hepscoth Road, London E9 5HB.

EAST HAM *Militant* Readers' Meeting: "Liverpool and the way forward for Labour." Tuesday 8 October 7.45pm, The Lister Room, East Ham Town Hall, Barking Rd E6.

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

"YORKSHIRE" *Militant* badges, enamelled metal badge, red fist on white rose. £1 each plus 20p p&p. Free postage on orders of 10 or over. All proceeds to FF. Orders and cheques to: Mike Gibbs, 37 Lincoln Street, Wakefield. Phone 386845.

Back Liverpool's fight for jobs

THE BATTLE between the City of Liverpool and the Tory government will loom large throughout the week at the Labour Party conference in Bournemouth.

By Josie Aitman

The Labour councillors and the thousands of workers supporting them will be demanding that Labour pledges the kind of solid support given by last year's conference to the miners. They are in the front line, fighting not just for their city, their jobs and their future, but on behalf of every worker in Britain.

Last year in Blackpool, despite opposition from the National Executive, delegates overwhelmingly passed a resolution from Liverpool Broadgreen, moved by Derek Hatton, which declared: "Conference believe that the duty of Labour councils and the centre of their fight-back should be defence of jobs and services and of local democracy. Conference salutes the stand taken by Liverpool City Council, and calls on other councils, as

well as the national leadership, to take an equally unequivocal stand in defence of the working class". The resolution specifically backed "any councils which are forced to break the law as a result of the Tory government's policies."

The conference was quite clear that if defending working people's rights meant breaking Tory laws, which are designed to protect Tory privilege, profit and rule, then it is right to break those laws.

Tony Mulhearn, president of Liverpool District Labour Party, reminded the delegates of the slogan of George Lansbury and his councillors of Poplar 1919 that it is: "better to break the law than to break the poor."

Now last year's pledge must be redeemed. Con-

ference must back the resolutions which reaffirm Labour's support for the council and back action by the movement in defence of the councillors and their workforce.

Conference last year also passed a composite, again overwhelmingly, which called for action by the Labour Party leadership "to organise a series of meetings, rallies and demonstrations around the country aimed at defending local authorities and launching a fight to return a socialist Labour government which will restore Labour democracy and introduce a socialist plan of production to provide adequate jobs and services for all."

Despite these composites being passed at Labour Party conference last year, many Labour Party members must be wondering why the leadership is still hesitating in giving its full support to Liverpool Labour Council.

In particular it is vital for conference to instruct the leadership to adopt the same

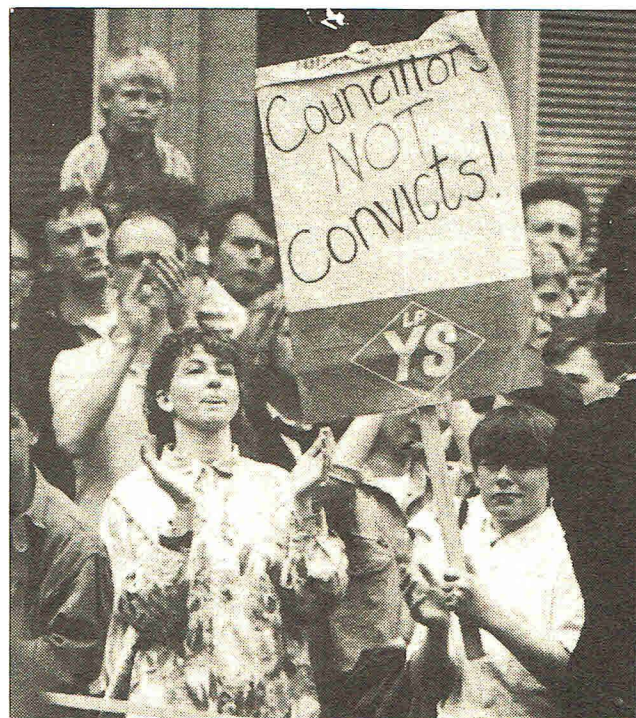
policy as the miners are demanding—that the next Labour government will reimburse any penalties or surcharges and remove any disqualifications imposed upon councillors by the courts.

The Tory press are advising the Labour leaders that such commitments lose votes, (as if they wanted Labour to get any more votes anyway!). The answer to that has been given in Liverpool itself. At elections since they came to power two and a half years ago, the Labour councillors have increased their votes at subsequent elections. At the general election, Liverpool swung to Labour, against the national trend.

Next year the Tory government will unleash a major attack on all Labour councillors. The stand of Liverpool and Lambeth is therefore very important and must receive the total backing of the leadership of the Labour Party and trade unions.

The struggle being waged by the Merseyside labour movement will be an inspiration to Labour Party and trade union activists to redouble their efforts to get rid of the Tory government. The message will then be taken to the doorsteps and the workplaces, just as it has

Labour Party 85 Conference



Young Liverpool councillor expresses support for the councillors fighting for his future.

been in Liverpool, and once the lies of the Tory press and the biased TV reports have been dispelled, so millions will see the chance to deal a fatal blow to the Thatcher regime.

If Liverpool wins, there will be no escape for the Tories. It will be a crushing blow from which they could not recover before the next general election. Like the

miners, the Liverpool workers are the living proof that once a lead is given, there is within the British working class a will to struggle and an indomitable spirit of resistance.

It is up to conference delegates to provide a leadership nationally which lives up to the standards set by their comrades on the Mersey.

Free victimised miners

THE DECISION by the Trades Union Congress to support the National Union of Mineworkers in their battle against victimisation was a great step forward.

The sacked and jailed miners have been victimised by the NCB and penalised by Tory judges for the crime of fighting for their jobs and communities and for asserting their rights as trade unionists.

Since the miners' strike we have seen the mass sackings at British Rail, the sacking of 500 workers from "Silent Night" in Lancashire, and similar attacks up and down the country. Now is the time to call a halt to the bosses' offensive. We can reverse the tide if the Labour Party conference follows the lead given at the TUC. The next Labour government must be committed to supporting the NUM demands for reinstatement of sacked miners and for the reimbursement of all funds lost through the antics of the judiciary.

However, the statements of Neil Kinnock have made it clear that every effort will be required to force the same policy on the Labour leadership.

He has given the impression that like previous Labour leaders, he would be prepared to ignore the democratically decided policies of a Labour Party conference if a similar

resolution was passed at Bournemouth. Asked if it would find its way into the manifesto, he said: "I do not envisage that kind of proposition".

Later he emphasised this point by saying: "I think I can best be left to make my own decisions on the basis of what is best for the Labour Party. The obligation of the party is from time to time to take account of the principles and decisions adopted by the conference. Nothing can be carved in stone."

Reimburse pensioners

"The TUC has not properly examined the practicalities of reimbursement", and "retrospective legislation is a principle I do not support. Many people have suffered under the Conservatives but nobody was suggesting for instance the pensioners should be reimbursed".

The working class is looking to a Labour government precisely to 'reimburse' not just the miners but the four million unemployed, to reimburse the cuts in health and education and yes, to reimburse the pensioners.

Kinnock's opposition to the TUC decision is already in contradiction to NEC decisions. In January it called on a future Labour government, with the TUC, to work out the best way to

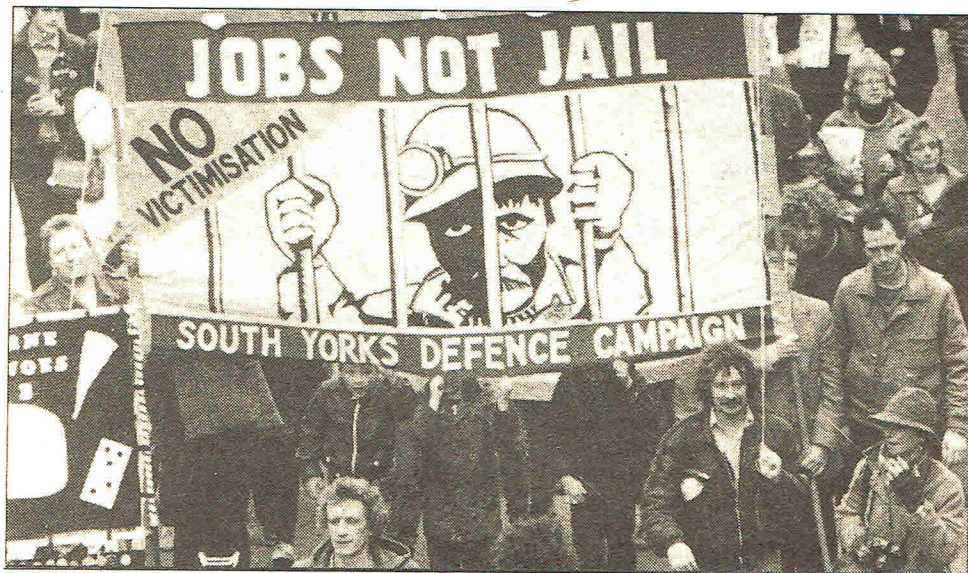
get legislation for reimbursement.

In order to bring the maximum pressure to bear on the party leadership, the "Miners' Amnesty Campaign" have called for a lobby of conference on Monday 30 September from 8 am onwards.

There are resolutions on the conference agenda which go further than the NUM call for a "review" of all cases of jailed miners. These motions should also be supported. We must oppose the criminalisation as well as the victimisation of union activists. Therefore, the Miners' Amnesty Campaign urges all conference delegates to support those resolutions or composites which call for the immediate release of jailed miners and for the wiping clean of all criminal records associated with the dispute. The payment of full compensation to both jailed and sacked miners is also vital. It is also necessary to commit the movement to campaigning for all of these demands.

The mass of rank-and-file trade unionists are looking to the Labour conference to insist that the next Labour government will represent the interests of the workers and not the bosses' class. The question of an amnesty for the miners is central to this theme. A successful lobby can assist in gaining the outcome we desire.

By Chris Herriot
(Sacked miner,
Monktonhall colliery)



March through London in support of the miners.

Black sections debate

ONE OF the most controversial and heated debates at conference will be around the question of whether the Labour Party should have constitutional black sections.

Even though today the number of blacks actively involved in black sections is extremely small, the idea of black sections is still supported by sections of the party.

Despite the fact that over 80 per cent of blacks vote Labour in election after election, the number of blacks active inside the Labour Party does not come anywhere near reflecting this support. This has to change. How is the Labour Party to win more black workers into its ranks?

The advocates of black sections believe that the answer lies in having black sections and positive discrimination of the kind that some constituency parties have operated during the recent MP reselection process—putting a black on a shortlist for MP. So long

as the next Labour government has black MPs from predominantly black inner-city areas, as long as there are a few blacks on the NEC and maybe in the cabinet, the supporters of black sections will be happy. This is clear from the fact that in all the resolutions to conference in favour of black sections, this is all they ask for.

But as many of the supporters and ex-supporters of black sections may have started to realise by now, it is not as simple as that. Even though blacks have been selected in some seats and black sections have had a huge amount of publicity, there has been no significant increase in the amount of black workers entering the party, if any at all, despite the claims in many of the resolutions to the conference.

The simple reason is that whilst supporters of black sections may well be satisfied with having black sections, black MPs etc, working class blacks will be far from satisfied. They've seen Labour governments come and go and supported them, yet at the same time they have seen no significant increase in their living standards. They now see the Labour leadership offering them hardly anything—too scared to promise what they know their policies can't deliver.

Black workers know that whether their MP is black or white, if they don't stand up and fight for the Labour Party to adopt policies that will really tackle racism and its effects, and policies that will abolish bad housing, inadequate health care, second-rate education, and low wages, then—black sections, or no black sections—black workers won't bother

Continued on page 14

**COVENTRY SOUTH EAST
CONSTITUENCY LABOUR PARTY**

No to witch-hunts! Unite behind a
socialist programme. For a
workers' MP on a worker's wage

MOULESCOOMB
WARD,
KEMPTOWN
CONSTITUENCY
BRIGHTON
Rejects
witch-hunts and
calls for a united
socialist campaign
to rid us of the
Tories

No to witch-hunts!
Victory to CPSA
Broad Left in 1986
WEST OF
SCOTLAND CPSA
MILITANT
SUPPORTERS

**Labour Party
conference greetings**

**Labour
Party 85
Conference**

MONKWEARMOUTH NUM

(Durham Area)

- ★ Amnesty for the jailed miners.
- ★ Reinstate the sacked miners.
- ★ Labour to power on a socialist programme.

Forward to Labour
victory with unity
and fighting
socialist policies
BINLEY AND
WILLENHALL
LABOUR PARTY

Support the
'Charter for
Women Workers'
FROM SHAW AND
LITTLEBOROUGH
WOMEN'S
SECTION

Fraternal greetings
to all delegates
from
STEVENAGE
BRANCH
NATIONAL
SOCIETY OF
METAL
MECHANICS

MANCHESTER
LABOUR
WOMEN'S
COUNCIL
★ Immediate
amnesty for all
sacked miners.
★ For a Labour
government
committed to
reinstatement and
compensation for
all sacked miners.

Conference
greetings to all
delegates from the
members of
TGWU BRANCH
1/874

LITTLEHAMPTON
Let's make Ron
Todd's ballot
victory the prelude
to a landslide
victory for the
political fund ballot
and ensure no
witch-hunts

**INLAND REVENUE STAFF
FEDERATION, LONDON
BROAD LEFT**

**Say greetings to all
delegates, we will be with
you next year—support
Liverpool Council, forward
to socialism in Britain and
workers' control—Inland
Revenue workers say kick
the Tories out**

GREETINGS FROM
TGWU 6/643
No witch-hunts!
Tories out!
Labour to power
on a Socialist
Programme

Unite to kick out
the Tories
BERMERSYDE
WARD LABOUR
PARTY
NEWHAM SOUTH

WALTHAMSTOW
LABOUR PARTY
Sends greetings to
all socialists and
affirms its
opposition to
witch-hunts

Men and women unite behind the
"Charter for Women Workers", in
the sweep towards socialism!
ROCHDALE AND DISTRICT
WOMEN'S COUNCIL AND
LITTLEBOROUGH AND SHAW
WOMEN'S SECTION

STOCKPORT
MILITANT
SUPPORTERS
BLOC—
Building
Links to
Overthrow
Capitalism

Best wishes to all
delegates to the
Labour Party
conference.
ST NICHOLAS
AND WELLFIELD
WOOD BRANCH
LABOUR PARTY,
STEVENAGE

**NCU/UCW MILITANT
SUPPORTERS**

**For a single democratic
union and a daily paper**

COVENTRY SE LP
WOMEN'S
SECTION
Forward to a
Labour victory
with socialist
policies

BRISTOL SOUTH
CLP MILITANT
SUPPORTERS
Fraternal greetings
to Labour Party
conference
Support Liverpool
services, back the
Labour council

**BAKERS, FOOD AND
ALLIED WORKERS' UNION**



Support Liverpool Council

Joe Marino—General Secretary
T O'Neil—National President
D Ruffle—Vice-President

DOVECOT WARD
sends its fraternal greetings to
this year's Labour Party
conference
Defend Liverpool,
a socialist council

WOOLTON WARD,
GARSTON CLP
Send greetings to
conference
Labour must back
Liverpool's fight all
the way!

Greetings to
conference
delegates, mobilise
with NLACC to
defend local
authority services
—KNOWSLEY
NALGO

VALLEY WARD
LABOUR PARTY
Sends fraternal
greetings to
Labour Party
Conference.
Support Liverpool
Labour Council,
protect jobs,
defend services.

WYTHENSHAW
LPYS
say: Either
Liverpool wins or
we all lose!
Support the city
council!!

**MILITANT SUPPORTERS
ON GLASGOW
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Congratulate Liverpool
Labour Council on their
bold socialist stand
against the Tories.
"Better to break the law
than break the poor"**

**Labour Party conference
greetings**

**Labour
Party 85
Conference**

NORTH WEST REGIONAL LPYS
COMMITTEE MILITANT
SUPPORTERS

A. Boardman
M. Petrou
P. Forrester
G. Noel
P. Jennings
S. McDonall

B. Thompson
G. Hartley
A. Divall
R. Owen.
M. Morris

"We can't wait till '88
Kick the Tories out!"

LIVERPOOL LABOUR GROUP
OF COUNCILLORS
say "Better break the law
than break the poor"

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT
LABOUR PARTY
Say hunt the real witches,
Baker and Thatcher. Support
Liverpool. Fight for socialism.

LIVERPOOL BROADGREEN
LABOUR PARTY
Greet conference
Support Liverpool Council—
put Thatcher on the ropes!

KENSINGTON WARD
LABOUR PARTY (LIVERPOOL)
Sends greetings to all
conference delegates. Unite
and fight!

LIVERPOOL WEST
DERBY CLP
Full support for
Liverpool City
Council.
Jobs and
services—not cuts
and dole

BROADGREEN
LPYS
The blues can't
keep us at bay
Because the reds
will win the day

BASILDON LPYS
sends fraternal
greetings to the
labour and trade
union movement—
full support to
Liverpool City
Council

BOOTLE LABOUR
WOMEN'S
SECTION
say
"Support the
stand of the
socialist Liverpool
City Council"

Forward to victory
in Liverpool
BLACKPOOL AREA
CPSA MILITANTS

EALING/ACTION
LPYS
say better red than
pink. Defend jobs
and services.
Support Liverpool
City Council

DAVE NELLIST MP
greet conference.
Back Liverpool!
Full Amnesty for miners
For 650 workers' MPs on a
worker's wage

TERRY FIELDS MP FOR
LIVERPOOL BROADGREEN
Put Labour 100% behind
Liverpool's fight!
For a Labour victory on
socialist policies—follow
Liverpool's lead

**The *Militant* supporters
on Wrekin District
Council and Shropshire
County Council: Cllrs D.
Auger, J. Bell, G.
Malone, G. Morgan and
L. White send fraternal
greetings.
No to witch-hunts and
expulsion, support
Liverpool City Council**

Socialist programme

ECONOMIC POLICY lies at the heart of all the debates at Labour Party conference. Unless the Labour Party has a socialist programme for transforming the present diseased capitalist economy and reviving and expanding production, all its promises of reforms will come to nothing.

ROB SEWELL examines recent documents produced by the party and the TUC and outlines the Marxist alternative.

THE PROLONGED period of mass unemployment and Britain's longest and bitterest industrial struggle, the miners' strike, have begun to destroy the fabric of society. Not since before the first world war has there been such a volatile class polarisation. The 'consensus' of the '50s and '60s has vanished.

Fearful of the social consequences of Thatcher's policies and the decay of British capitalism, the Tory Party has started to crack apart. Not only have there been regular backbench revolts, but even within the cabinet itself splits have opened up. Thatcher's own future is now in question.

She has presided over six years of economic catastrophe. As the recent TUC-Labour Party Liaison Committee document points out: "Many sectors of industry have been weakened to the point of collapse... Britain's problems are more acute than at any time in our history as an industrial nation."

Just to get British capitalism on terms with its rivals, an immediate investment in manufacturing industry of £200,000 million is required! It is falling further behind its major rivals. Between 1979-82 there was a 'negative investment,' to use the language of the economists, that is, investment insufficient even to meet the costs of the replacement of worn out plant and machinery!

An accelerating deindustrialisation is taking place. Over 20 per cent of manufacturing has collapsed over the past six years with bankruptcies at an all time record.

"The crisis in the economy and society is now so deep seated that radical measures are essential," states the Liaison Committee document.

In this document however, and in 'A Future That Works,' in the policy statement 'A New Partnership: A New Britain,' and in the 'Jobs and Industry' campaign as a whole, all previous talk of a socialist programme has been abandoned. These documents, are well to the right of all previous programmes and even manifesto commitments, far from 'new' or 'radical'.

The Liaison Committee's document, is full of the old failed policies of 'new partnerships' through joint negotiations and agreement between workers, employers and government. "Success" it confidently claims, "will come from all of us working together as a movement and as a country."

There is no recognition that the 'country' is divided into hostile social classes with their own class interests. To jumble up the unity of the labour movement and that of class interests is a fundamental mistake. What have the sacked Barking hospital cleaners in common with people like Tiny Rowland? He 'earns' £323,000 from the Lonrho company, but his 45 million shares (worth about £76m) in the company netted him

well over £4 millions in dividends.

What are the 'radical' policies proposed for a future Labour government? Firstly, a national economic summit, made up of government, employers and unions will be convened to work out a planned agreement on the allocation of scarce resources.

According to Roy Hattersley, the Shadow Chancellor, who gets his advice from academic and big business circles, a future government cannot "live in isolation from the laws of arithmetic... Any 'planned agreement' must take economic realities into account." What is this, if not the Tory idea that if capitalism in crisis cannot afford reforms then workers will have to be 'realistic,' make sacrifices and wait for better times?

How far away those times are under capitalism is shown by the fact that a trade surplus in manufactured goods of £2,500 million in 1982 was turned into a trade deficit of £4,000 million last year. **This is the first time since the industrial revolution that this has happened!**

In the document 'Investing in Britain', which seems to be the brain-child of Roy Hattersley and his team of 'experts', an investment bank is seen as a key solution.

Most of the capitalist press have not taken an outrightly hostile approach to Hattersley's proposal. Indeed many of them point to the fact that similar institutions exist in other capitalist countries. The document even says: "The case for a credit institution in the UK, similar to the Credit National in France, or the KfW in Germany, is overwhelming".

Investment bank

It goes on to argue: "The main objective of Labour's proposed national investment bank is therefore to act as a major credit institution to provide long-term finance to British industry. In addition, the National Investment Bank (NIB) will absorb the flow of funds brought about by the new arrangements for exchange control we outline below".

The authors are concerned with the fact that in the event of a new Labour government coming to power there could be a massive exodus of capital from Britain. Already since exchange controls were lifted, a colossal £50 billion has been siphoned abroad by British capitalism.

The document quite correctly points out: "the decisions of the major financial institutions are largely responsible for this. Pooled investment schemes collect the

savings of individuals and companies into funds which are centrally managed—they include occupational pension schemes, life assurance offices, investment trusts, unit trusts and charities. These schemes have increased substantially the overseas components of their portfolios.

"The combined holdings in overseas securities from funds managed by insurance companies and occupational pension funds increased their overseas investment from £4.1 billion at the end of 1979 to £26.8 billion at the end of 1983 and in overseas properties from £1 billion at the end of '79 to £4.2 billion at the end of '83. Other pooled investment schemes show the same investment pattern. In addition, wealthy individuals have taken advantage of the new-found freedom to buy foreign assets abroad, from villas in the Algarve to shares in European, US and Japanese companies competing with British companies for business and world markets".

What Hattersley and his advisors are proposing is that by the threat of withdrawing tax concessions in Britain, British companies will be compelled to repatriate their investments abroad into the NIB. These funds would be guaranteed to have the same rate of interest as the economy as a whole. He is proposing to make capitalism work more efficiently than the capitalists can.

Even if the NIB functions according to the scheme of Hattersley, it will not necessarily lead to a massive investment in the creation of more jobs. **At the moment there are an abundance of funds available for investment in industry in the banks, etc. The reason why the capitalists prefer to invest abroad rather than in Britain is that the rate of profit is greater.**

The only way that the rate of profit from investment within Britain can be increased is by savage cuts in the living standards of the working class. Therefore a natural corollary of Hattersley's scheme is for a Labour government to hold down wages and living standards to boost the profits of big business.

Moreover, in the hands of the NIB, the same kind of calamity as resulted from investment by the state in capitalism in the past can happen in the future. Thus under a Tory government and under the last Labour government, funds were invested in the ill-fated De Lorean project in Northern Ireland. Tax was paid by British workers as a bribe to create a factory in Northern Ireland. This collapsed and the British and Northern Ireland workers never benefited, but the tax payer is still footing the bill for De Lorean's adventures.

The *Financial Times* comments in relation to Hattersley's scheme: "The NIB is not intended as an instrument for wholesale re-nationalisation, which is in any case a delicate topic with Mr Hat-



Mass demonstration in London in support of the miners' strike, Britain's longest



Callaghan and Hattersley at the 1984 party conference. Hattersley is revertin

tersley... Overall it seems likely that labour will end up with a modified branch of Reagan economics, with increased public investment the priority, rather than tax cuts and a fairly firm monetary and exchange rate policy to hold inflation in check".

The document makes a general statement in favour of extended 'public and co-operative enterprises', but does not commit a future Labour government to re-nationalise even the assets stolen from the state through privatisation.

Economic reflation

At the same time an important section of the document restates the idea of 'reflation of the economy'. It states: "A financial programme of public investment is an effective way to reduce the dole queues. Construction work in particular is labour intensive and uses few imports. The 400,000-500,000 thousand building workers, under-employed building firms and under-utilised capacity and supply

industries, such as brick making, is a simple commonsense argument for the government to co-ordinate these unemployed resources to carry out projects that need to be done".

The whole labour movement will support a programme of increased public expenditure. But the reformists of right and left have never yet answered the question which Marxists have posed in answer to the arguments of Keynesianism. Where will the resources to pay for this increased public expenditure come from?

State expenditure is financed from two sources, either in taxes on the capitalists or in taxes either directly or indirectly on the working class. If the capitalists are taxed they will go on an investment strike as the experience of the last Labour government demonstrated. If the working class is taxed to finance investment, it cuts the market which means that the working class will not be able to buy back the goods that they produce. Therefore the benefits of increased public expenditure will be

Labour Party 85 Conference

needed



Photo: Andrew Wiaard (Report)



Last year's conference in Blackpool.

Photo: Dave Sinclair

and bitterest industrial support.



Photo: Dave Sinclair

to Callaghan's failed policies of the past.

cancelled out. If the government resorts to the printing press to produce notes not backed up by an extra production of goods and services this will merely fuel the fires of inflation.

This is the dilemma which any Labour government will be in with its programme for increased public expenditure under the present economic system.

Hattersley however—reflecting the ideas of the CBI—lets the cat out of the bag when he says 'profits are an essential feature of a successful socialist economy.' What he means is capitalist economy. But how is his 'high profit economy' to be created? With an 'agreement on incomes' says Hattersley. He wants a return to the old failed policies of wage restraint—of the 'Social Contract.' 'There has got to be a (wage) norm' he maintains, but it must be voluntary!

But what is the difference between this and the 'voluntary' social contract between 1974 and 1979? Will the TUC police its implementation? 'I don't think there is going to be policing in the old way!'

states Hattersley. So what is going to be different? He warns the trade unions—holding a pistol to their heads—'It may be that we can't get agreement and therefore we can't reduce unemployment as fast as we want.' So for the right wing it will be those fighting for decent wages that will be the scape-goat for continuing mass unemployment, not the capitalist system of course.

In Neil Kinnock's categorical view: "It is not a question of whether the Labour government will have an (incomes) policy. It goes with government, no more, no less."

Such capitalist policies have been tried under the 1945-51, 1964-70 and 1974-79 Labour governments and, as was their real intention, have boosted profits at the expense of workers' wages. After phase 1 and phase 2 of the 'Social Contract' under Wilson and Callaghan, real wages were at least 10 per cent lower than at the close of 1974. That was the biggest fall in real wages in Britain in any comparable period for over 100 years!

Yet despite these sacrifices from the working class between 1974 and 1979, unemployment far from falling under the Labour government, increased from 600,000 to nearly 1½ million.

"No miracles"

It was the rejection of wage restraint by the TUC in 1977 and 1978 and the disillusionment created with the attempt by Callaghan to impose a Phase 3 and 4 that led to Labour's defeat in 1979.

At this year's COHSE conference, Kinnock stated that there were "no miracle cures, there can be no mirage or fantasy! We are not promising miracle cures... people want realistic answers to real problems."

But, ironically, the only people looking for miracles are those attempting to give answers on the basis of a diseased crisis-ridden capitalist system. What is needed are real solutions to the real problems confronting working people: namely mass unemployment, poverty, slum housing, devastated social services, etc.

However, the 'real' solutions offered by the Labour leadership, have been tried and found wanting. While *Militant* has consistently demanded increased spending on housing, education, hospitals, etc, the £5 billion reflation package is entirely inadequate and will not solve the terrible social problems which have arisen out of the present catastrophic position of British capitalism.

No amount of patching up and tinkering with the system—selective import controls, a National Investment Bank, the strengthening of NEDC, planning agreements, government grants, or worker participation, will provide 'real solutions to real problems.'

Given the near collapse of manufacturing industry, and with a new world slump on the horizon, such a programme—which has been tried by Labour governments in the past in one form or another—which leaves the economic levers of power in the hands of the major monopolies, is profoundly inadequate and will not succeed.

Marxism has always laid great stress on studying past events. Those who do not learn from the mistakes in history will be doomed to repeat them. However, different trends of opinion can draw opposite erroneous conclusions. In relation to the previous Labour government, right-winger Joel Barnett, former chief secretary to the Treasury, for instance, in his book, 'Inside the Treasury' states: "The Labour government of 1974-79 had a financial task rendered impossible by pledges foolishly made without any serious thought as to where the money would come from... you name it, we were pledged to increase it."

Roy Hattersley, Labour's Shadow Chancellor sees the answer to this 'foolishness'—don't pledge anything! At the 1984 Party conference he described two of his nightmares: The first was losing the election and the second was: "we win, and within two years appear to have failed to carry out the promises we made to the electorate, in part because we made promises which were not within the bounds of possibility..."

"I don't want to follow the French experience. I don't want to see the next Labour government start with two years of unreality and end with two years of deflation and despair for our members!"

The 'unreality' that Hattersley talks about was the period of welfare reform by the Mitterand government: the extension of na-

tionalisation, increased national minimum wages, increased social security benefits, a wealth tax, a reflation programme, etc. However with the growing economic crisis, a series of counter-reforms were introduced including devaluations and cuts in public expenditure. The nationalised industries were 'rationalised' resulting in widespread redundancies and plant closures.

By mid-1985 unemployment was 750,000 higher than when the socialists came to power. Not because they promised too much, but because they left the power of the monopolies intact, they were forced to do the bidding of big business and introduce 'monetarist' policies. From reforms to counter-reforms was the inevitable outcome on this road. What would be different in Britain with a third less industry and a third less wealth? Such a programme would be an absolute disaster.

Only by taking over the 'commanding heights of the economy'—Clause 4, Part 4—can all the reforms passed by conference be implemented in a lasting fashion.

Acute crisis

The experience of the past has proved that, despite all the 'controls' and 'incentives' you can't plan what you don't control and you can't control what you don't own. While 80 per cent of the economy is in private hands and only 20 per cent state owned, the majority private sector will dictate to the minority and not vice-versa.

In this period of acute economic crisis for capitalism in Britain and internationally, measures will be demanded by the ruling class for the burden to be placed fully on the shoulders of the working class. Profit is the sole driving force of the system. To increase profitability is paramount for the capitalists who own the economy. They will through a thousand and one channel—directly and indirectly—sabotage any government that resists such plans.

The reformist idea that gradually and slowly—bit by bit—capitalism can be changed into socialism is clearly not the case. After 17 years of post war Labour government we are now further away than when we started! As RH Tawney ("the greatest of all Labour teachers" according to Kinnock) once explained, "You can peel an onion leaf by leaf, but you can't skin a live tiger claw by claw."

A Labour government is always elected in times of crisis, when the desire for change is at its highest. Under these conditions the next Labour government will be a government of crisis, entirely different to any of the post-war Labour governments. It will be the sum of pressure and counter-pressure that will decide the path it follows. Instead of bowing the knee to capital and hoping to run capitalism better than the Tories, it should immediately push through an emergency 'Enabling Act' through Parliament.

Such emergency legislation is not new—it was used by the Tories in 1971 to nationalise Rolls Royce in less than 24 hours! Such measures used by Labour would make it possible for the House of Lords and Monarchy to be abolished and the top 200 monopolies, banks and insurance companies to be nationalised, under democratic workers' control and management. Compensation should only be paid on the basis of proven need.

Only by taking these emergency measures so that the 'commanding heights' are brought into common ownership will the laws of capitalism be ended and a proper planning of resources be instituted. That is the only realistic solution to the problems faced by the working class.

A socialist plan of production, harnessing all the resources of society, both human and material, will end unemployment and the waste of human talent and initiative, and lay the foundations for a massive expansion of the forces of production according to the needs of society as a whole.

The colossal wastage of resources in capitalist Britain stands at over £50 billion each year. **If these unused resources alone were harnessed in a socialist plan of production it would be enough to give every man, woman and child an extra income of £20—£25 per week.** This would be the bare minimum. A gigantic rise in production, through the rebuilding and modernisation of state industry, would usher in enormous prosperity for all.

A future of undreamed of plenty would become possible as the forces of nature become controlled and utilised by mankind. A democratic socialist Britain would stand out as a shining example to the rest of the crisis-ridden capitalist world, and would be a concrete step to the socialist transformation of Europe and the world.

●
**LLANELLI
LABOUR PARTY
WOMEN'S
COUNCIL**
No to witch-
hunts!
Forward to
socialism!

●
**SWANSEA
MILITANT
SUPPORTERS IN
NALGO**
Send fraternal
greetings to
Liverpool City
Council and all
local authority
workers

Labour Party conference greetings

Labour '85

Cyfarchiad Cynhadledd Plaid Llafur

Greetings from the
Marxist majority
on the Welsh
Labour Students
Regional
Committee

**ISLWYN LPYS
MILITANT
SUPPORTERS**
A worker's wage
for a workers' MP

**WEST GLAMORGAN WOMEN
MILITANT SUPPORTERS**
send socialist greetings to all
socialists. Positive action not
positive discrimination—the way
forward for women

●
**NEWPORT EAST
LPYS**
sends fraternal
greetings. Fight to
smash apartheid—
for direct links
now!

●
**SWANSEA
LPYS** say
unite and
fight... no
more
witch-hunts

SWANSEA BRANCH NCU Fraternal greetings. Renationalise BT, oppose witch-hunts. Labour to power on a socialist programme.

Fraternal
greetings from
**CARDIFF WEST
LPYS**
We call on
conference to
support
Liverpool's
socialist Labour
council

●
**LLANELLI
LABOUR PARTY
YOUNG
SOCIALISTS**
For Labour
Party unity and
a socialist
future for youth

●
**SOUTH
WALES
AUEW
BROAD
LEFT**
A victory for
John Tocher
will be a
victory for
socialism

●
"GREETINGS
FROM CARDIFF
SOUTH AND
PENARTH
**MILITANT
SUPPORTERS**—
Socialist ideas will
never be expelled
from our Party."

●
**CARDIFF NORTH
LPYS**
say fight the
Tories, not the
socialists.

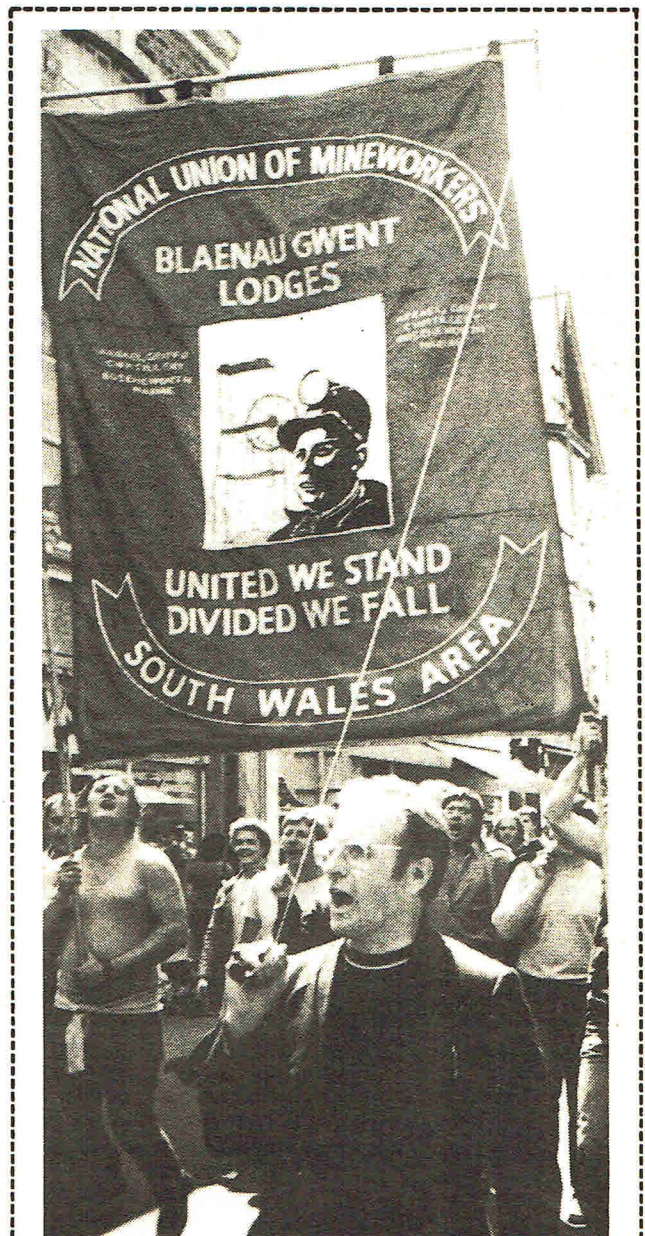
●
Support
South
African
workers in
struggle.
Direct
workers'
links now!

●
**PONTYPRIDD
LPYS**
sends fraternal
greetings. For a
general amnesty
for all sacked
miners NOW.

●
**SWANSEA
CASTLE
WARD
MILITANT
SUPPORTERS**

●
**CARMARTHEN
LABOUR PARTY
YOUNG
SOCIALISTS**
Fight the Tories,
not the socialists!

●
Forward to a mass
socialist School
Students' Union
and an end to the
Tories for good
**CARDIFF
CENTRAL LPYS**



SIX BELLS NUM
Send their support to the
Labour Party

MILITANT SUPPORTERS IN THE FOLLOWING WELSH CONSTITUENCIES

Fight redundancies not socialists!

Alyn and Deeside
Clwyd North West
Delyn
Wrexham
Carmarthen
Ceredigion and Pembroke
North
Llanelli
Pembroke
Blaenau Gwent
Islwyn
Monmouth
Newport East
Newport West
Torfaen
Meirionnydd
Ynys Mon

Bridgend
Caerphilly
Cynon Valley
Merthyr Tydfil
Ogmore
Pontypridd
Rhondda
Brecon and Radnor
Cardiff Central
Cardiff North
Cardiff South and
Penarth
Cardiff West
Vale of Glamorgan
Aberavon
Gower
Neath

●
CAERPHILLY LPYS
say fight the
Tories, not the
socialists.

●
**MILITANT
SUPPORTERS
ON THE WALES
REGIONAL
YOUTH
COMMITTEE**
send fraternal
greetings to
conference and
call on the Wales
Regional
Executive
Committee to
reinstate Chris
Peace

●
**ABERYSTWYTH
LPYS**
send fraternal
greetings and calls
on the Welsh
Regional Executive
to reinstate Chris
Peace NOW!

Labour Party conference greetings

Labour Party 85 Conference

Socialism in Tories out That's what it's all about Fraternal greetings from WATFORD NORTH LPYS

Darren White
— *Chairman*
Neal Cooper
— *Secretary*
Tasha Horsfield
— *Treasurer*

Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign
sends greetings to *Militant*
supporters who helped us smash
Tory YTS conscription

SHEFFIELD LPYS BRANCHES
CENTRAL, CHAPEL GREEN,
HALLAM, HEELEY, HILLSBOROUGH
In solidarity with Attercliffe LPYS
and *Militant* supporters. No more
witch-hunts—Victory to the
Attercliffe 7

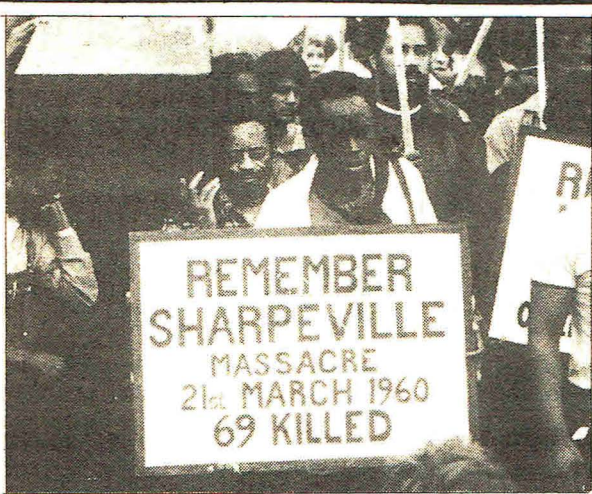
MARYHILL LPYS
sends its FIRST greetings to
conference:
School students! Unemployed!
YTS trainees! Young workers!—
organise and build a socialist
Labour Party!

WESTMINSTER
NORTH LPYS
Labour—give
youth a future
with socialism

Stop the attacks
on the LPYS.
Socialist policies
for Labour
WAKEFIELD EAST
LPYS

LADYWOOD LPYS
sends fraternal
greetings to
Labour Party
conference.
Victory to
Liverpool City
Council

BRISTOL NW
LPYS
urges conference
to fight the Tories,
not the socialists



Forward to
democracy and socialism
in Southern Africa
Build direct links!
Forward to a Labour
government on a
socialist programme

SALEP thanks all those in the labour
movement who have opposed the
NEC's attempt to ban us. As a result, in
the last three months our support and
income have increased at least three-
fold. Keep up the effort.
SOUTHERN AFRICAN LABOUR
EDUCATION PROJECT,
28 Martello Street, London E8 3PE.
Tel: 01-241 0434

BRISTOL EAST
LPYS
sends fraternal
greetings to
Labour Party
conference.
Fightback the
Liverpool way!

BETHNAL GREEN
AND STEPNEY
LPYS
Amnesty for all
jailed miners!

DAGENHAM LPYS
Liverpool's fight
is our fight

GREENWICH LPYS
Don't push us—
we're desperately
seeking socialism

BAILLIESTON LABOUR PARTY

Extends fraternal
greetings to all
conference delegates.
"Stand up and fight, we
have a score to settle"
Reinstate all sacked
miners

The youth can't take much more
of Thatcher and her breed.
One thing of which we're sure
socialists are what we need
WATFORD CENTRAL LPYS

Break Thatcher's
back before she
breaks yours!!
Fraternal greetings
from
CAMBRIDGE LPYS

HIGH PEAK
NORTH LPYS
Unite behind
Clause IV!
Witch-hunt the
Tories, not the
socialists!

Poplar 1920s
Liverpool 1980s
Lead the way
BOW AND
POPLAR
LPYS

WEST LEEDS
LPYS
Launch the
'Internationalist'
Forward to the
socialist victory

OXFORD EAST
LPYS
sends fraternal
greetings to
Militant
Get *Militant*, not
Maxwell—forward
to a daily paper

MILITANT
SUPPORTERS in
QUEENS PARK
BRANCH of
BOURNEMOUTH
EAST CLP
Welcome
comrades to the
conference.
Full amnesty for
the miners!

FURTHER
EDUCATION
LABOUR
STUDENTS
A £30 a week
minimum grant for
16-18 year olds
NOW! NO to any
cuts in Further
Education. For a
socialist education
system for ALL

Greetings from
TEIGNBRIDGE
LPYS
No witch-hunts!
Unity to drive out
the Tories at this
year's conference

HARROW LPYS
says oppose
witch-hunts and
bans! Reinstate
Chris Peace!
Defend the right to
support SALEP
and CSDC! Defend
workers' rights—
general amnesty
now!

PETE FARROW,
SIMON KAPLAN
NOLS NC
(personal capacity)
For a democratic
NOLS and a
socialist NUS!

CHILE SOCIALIST
DEFENCE CAMPAIGN
Fraternal greetings to LP
Conference. Help us to build
direct links with the movement of
Chilean workers and youth.
Forward to workers' power in
Chile.

Smash capitalism,
smash apartheid
support the
struggle of black
workers in S.
Africa.
For an ANC
victory on a
socialist
programme
OLDHAM
MILITANT
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BRISTOL WEST
CLP MILITANT
SUPPORTERS
Fraternal greetings
to Labour Party
conference.
Fight the Tories,
back Liverpool.
Labour to power
with socialist
policies!

Photo: Andrew Wiarid (Report) II

Labour Party 85 Conference

Expulsions ignored

THIS YEAR'S National Executive Committee report to Labour Party conference will set a dangerous precedent if left unchallenged by delegates.

The report must be unique in that it leaves out a whole number of important decisions of the NEC during the year. There is no mention anywhere of the expulsions that have been carried out by the Appeals and Mediation committee of *Militant* supporters. Nor is there any mention of the proscriptions and bans that have been effected against the South African Labour Education Project and the Chile Socialist Defence Campaign.

In the sections which deal with the major battles against the Tories over the past year, such as the miners' strike, the struggles in local government and especially the struggle of Liverpool City Council, the impression is given of the NEC being a bystander in these events, rather than having mounted

effective campaigns in support of these struggles.

A lot of emphasis in the report is given to the new image that the Labour Party is trying to project and the new approach to the internal organisation of the party. Many of these developments will be welcomed by party activists who would go along with the sentiments expressed by the resolution of the GMBATU to conference, which calls for, "a shift in emphasis in regional offices away from 'policing' the party and...towards campaign support and the development of campaigning constituencies."

All the changes mentioned in the NEC report, however, concentrate on the party's image and the efficiency of the machine, rather than the policies that it needs to campaign on.

Such an approach will eventually have disastrous consequences for the Labour Party. At present there is an enormous wave of 'anti-Tory' feeling which is

Photo: Militant



One of the several lobbies of Labour's NEC organised by *Militant* supporters to protest at expulsions.

reflected in the support for the Labour Party in the polls and in an increase of Labour Party membership of over 23,000 this past year.

But this alone is insufficient to guarantee Labour victory at the next election. To achieve this Labour has to ensure that it puts across socialist policies and more importantly convinces Labour voters that it is prepared to carry these out. At best the measures outlined in the NEC report are a cosmetic exercise.

There are some encouraging signs for the Labour Party in the report, but many delegates will find its glaring omissions disturbing.

By Ken Smith

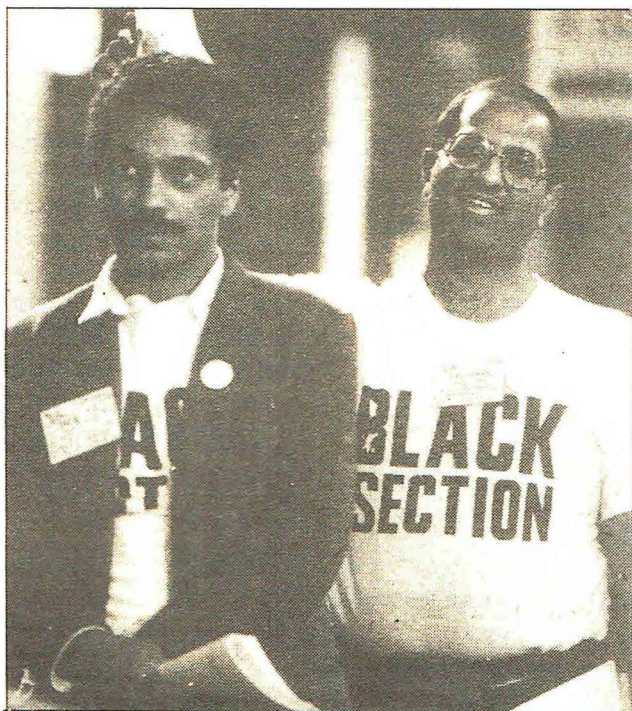
Black Sections (from page 7)

to vote Labour, in fact many won't vote at all.

The Black Sections National Committee has not produced a single document or leaflet putting forward the policies they support in the Labour Party to fight to change the terrible social conditions that working class blacks find themselves in.

Much of the leadership of the black sections are not concerned about winning blacks to the Labour Party, or changing conditions for the majority of blacks—a few will be enough, and for many of the white 'lefts' who support black sections, it's a lot easier for them to support yet another organisational move like black sections, than it is for them to go out on doorsteps and get involved in the day-to-day hard work of winning over and convincing black and white workers of the ideas of socialism, in getting them active in the Labour Party on the basis of fighting for socialist policies. This is what the LPYS has done, hence their success in winning working class black youth to the Labour Party.

Black workers have always fought hard to be fully involved and represented in organisations that fight for the rights of working class people; this is still true today. Most blacks inside and outside the Labour Party oppose black sections in the Labour Party. A recent Harris Poll interviewing over 5,000 Afro-Caribbeans and Asians proved this, showing



Black Section supporters at last year's conference.

62 per cent against and 18 per cent in favour of black sections.

Black workers know from their own experience that to tackle racism, a labour movement is needed that is united and committed to taking up the problem of racism and destroying it. To eradicate racism, we will have to remove the system that causes it, capitalism, that allows the bosses to divide workers so that they can rule more effectively.

At a time when racist attacks are on the increase, the fascist parties are trying to build and the bosses have dragged out Enoch Powell again, a strong and united labour movement is essential. The Labour Party has to get on with the business of mobilising to defeat the fascists, prove to

black youth in the inner-city areas who are unemployed and cynical about the party that we are serious about getting rid of racism and creating jobs.

Introducing separate racial sections into the party has not made and will not make it easier for the Labour Party to win blacks. In fact it will hinder it in some ways, because many blacks think black sections is yet another move to stop blacks from being fully involved in the labour movement. This conference has to reject black sections once and for all, support the programme in the resolution from Brighton Kemptown and commit itself to socialist policies.

By Linda Douglas

Photo: Dave Sinclair

Fight these witch hunts

18 now expelled...

JIM MORTIMER, former general secretary of the Labour Party, assured delegates to the Labour Party conference in 1983 that the party was opposed to a witch-hunt of supporters of *Militant*:

"I have no desire to provoke a witch-hunt in this party... I think that we have carried out exactly what we said at last year's conference... You said that we should uphold the constitution, that we should deal with the leaders, that we should not provoke a witch-hunt. I suggest, comrades, that that is exactly what the National Executive has done".

These words of reassurance helped to ensure the rejection by conference of the final appeals against expulsion of the five members of the *Militant* editorial board.

As Mortimer said: "If you look in the rules, there is no right under the rules of this organisation to appeal to conference... *The obligation of the rules is to report to the annual conference...*"

To judge by the two NEC reports issued since 1983, it would appear that there have been no further expulsions—yet 18 people have been expelled and 15 more are currently facing expulsion. Nine appeals have been heard by the NEC but these have not been reported to the conference, in direct contravention of the constitution (Clause 1X (2) (d)) which states that "any such action shall be reported to the next annual party conference". So delegates have no opportunity of questioning the NEC on these matters.

It all makes Michael Foot's comment at the 1982 conference that: "All these talks... about a Star Chamber are all nonsense" ring exceptionally hollow.

January 1984 saw six supporters expelled in Blackburn on the evidence of a Labour traitor who has subsequently joined the Liberals. Their appeals were heard, discrepancies brushed aside with a limping assertion from the NEC Appeals and Mediation Committee that the evidence 'rang true'. None of this is reported to conference.

Brychan Davies was expelled in Rhondda for selling *Militant* on a demonstration—he had three appeals—none are reported to conference. Bill Mullins has been expelled from Warley West, Bill Hopwood from Newcastle East—both appealed—this is not reported to conference.

Paul Shawcroft was expelled from Mansfield Labour Party for organising a public meeting—he appealed in May—he is still waiting for it to be heard. Delia Hazrati has been expelled in Havant for distributing YTURC leaflets. Dugald McKinnon was expelled from John Golding's constituency party, Newcastle-under-Lyme, for being seen selling *Militant* outside a jumble sale!

Three have been expelled in the Isle of Wight in a hysterical campaign that resulted

in the LPYS branch being suspended and a fourth being threatened with disciplinary action for being seen selling *Militant* outside a *Militant* public meeting!

Three comrades have been expelled in Sheffield Attercliffe for protesting about their previously unconstitutional expulsions! Four more face expulsions at the next meeting as there wasn't enough time to expel all seven at the last GMC.

As we go to press it is reported that six comrades, including four councillors, are to face disciplinary proceedings in Telford—the main evidence once again being that they have been seen selling the *Militant*.

Quite clearly there is a witch-hunt going on in parts of the party at the moment.

In South Wales, the right wing have even attempted to expel Chris Peace, who was elected to the regional executive committee in Wales with the highest vote in the South Wales constituency party section. He was unconstitutionally expelled from the executive, and when he retook his seat, the right wing had the whole committee dissolved and are campaigning for Chris Peace's expulsion from the party by the NEC!

David Hughes, the National Agent, has written letters which point out that to sell the *Militant* is not a crime under Labour Party rules (this does not get a mention in the NEC report either) and yet in the vast majority of cases, the only evidence offered to justify expulsions is that the comrades involved sell the *Militant*!

This is just what Michael Foot declared would not happen, when, at the 1982 conference, he defined precisely what a witch-hunt is:

"A witch-hunt is to pursue people, to persecute people—in the Labour Party context to expel people for crimes they have not committed or for crimes that are fantasies".

Is this not what is happening in the party now—that in an effort to defeat the Marxist ideas, "fantastic" accusations are being made to justify expulsion?

Defending the register in 1982 Michael Foot said: "Something similar has been used in Greece to deal with a somewhat similar problem". Foot may have learned an international lesson in devices to produce witch-hunts, but he may be about to learn another. The very Marxists expelled in Greece have now been reinstated at the insistent demand of the party rank and file.

Marxists expelled in Britain have continued to work for the Labour Party and despite the intentions of a right wing minority, support for *Militant* has grown and we can confidently expect that all those hounded and persecuted out of the party for their views will be reinstated—with honours!

By Mike Waddington

Solidarity with South African workers

OVER THE past five years many Labour Party and trade union branches have shown appreciation of the work of the Southern African Labour Education Project (SALEP).

SALEP produces vitally needed socialist education material for the workers and youth movement in South Africa. It also helps to build links between the growing trade union and youth movement in South Africa and other workers throughout the world.

But on 27 March this year, Labour's National Executive Committee (NEC) resolved to direct that "Regions, CLPs and affiliates have no contacts with SALEP, do not use its materials or allow it facilities". In effect a ban had been introduced.

The NEC said SALEP were outside "mainstream

progressive opinion both within and outside South Africa", for among other things linking the end of apartheid with the end of capitalism and for building links between workers in South Africa and elsewhere.

During the British miners' strike, striking Staffordshire miner Roy Jones was invited by the South African NUM to visit South African miners. The black mineworkers gave a generous donation to the British miners' strike and Roy met SA NUM leaders, conference delegates, stewards and rank and file.

The NEC report claimed that SALEP were not building links at all levels and that Roy was a "white unrepresentative member" of the British NUM. The South African NUM on the other hand made him their first white member.

The NEC also claim that SALEP's expenditure is

diverting resources from the liberation movement. The claim is nonsense.

The African National Congress (ANC) receives big grants from a number of governments including a million kroner a year from the Swedish government, dwarfing SALEP's £5,000 a year spending.

New federation

The NEC report echoes the view put forward in the Stalinist SA Communist Party through the ANC and South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) in exile.

Instead of taking organisational action against SALEP on the advice of a body dominated by the SA Communist Party, the Labour Party should look to the new federation of in-

dependent trade unions being formed this November, which, drawing together up to half a million black workers, will constitute the most powerful organisation of black workers in South Africa's history.

The unions making up this 'super union' all advocate direct links between workers internationally and particularly between organised workers in the same multi-nationals.

How can the NEC now justify its statement that "it is the duty of the international trade union movement to consult and accept the advice of SACTU" when the organised black workers have their own directly elected representatives?

SALEP makes no apology for advocating direct links and direct support for the non-racial trade unions in their struggle against oppression and the capitalist

monopolies. At the same time it supports the ANC and the United Democratic Front (UDF) whose leaders are on trial for treason.

Both these organisations endorse the Freedom Charter which calls for the nationalisation of the monopolies and banks. While the leadership of the ANC fudges this question and talks of 'breaking the monopolies', SALEP supports the full implementation of the ANC's freedom charter as do the hundreds of thousands of activists in the country.

As a group carrying out socialist education, SALEP is helping to prepare black workers for the task of leading their unions, community organisations and the UDF on a programme of national liberation and socialism. As a FOSATU speaker said at a May Day rally this year: "Capitalism

is our enemy!" (Star 2 May 1985).

It is these ideas of the mass movement, strengthened and explained in SALEP's material, which the NEC has condemned in banning SALEP and the campaign for direct links.

Delegates should read the letter of protest from left-wing members of the NEC available from SALEP and oppose the right wings suppression of socialist education.

Speakers from SALEP should be invited to the GMC, regional parties, wards and trade unions to hear their reply and report on the exciting developments in the Labour movement in South Africa, which dooms apartheid and capitalism to destruction.

By Nimrod Sejake
(Former organiser of Transvaal steelworkers)



School students on strike in Liverpool in April. Photo: Dave Sinclair.

Support Labour's youth

THE LAST two years have been extremely successful years for the Labour Party Young Socialists (LPYS).

The NEC report to conference reveals an increase in the number of LPYS branches to 581, compared to 513 the previous year. Also reported is the fact that over 700 young miners joined the LPYS during the course of the year and over a million posters and leaflets were produced by the LPYS.

Contrast this with the report from the National Organisation of Labour Students, where no mention is made either of its current membership or the number of Labour clubs.

During the miners' strike over 20 LPYS branches were inaugurated in the mining areas. At the present time the Northern Region LPYS is playing a major role in the election campaign for area officials in the Durham Coalfield, continuing the close relationship built up between the NUM and the LPYS.

The most important aspect of the LPYS' work in

By John Hird
(LPYS National Chairman)

1985 has been its conducting of mass activity. The use of popstars and other artists, pioneered by the LPYS, has now become a welcome part of the party's campaigning work, and a heartwarming break with the campaigning methods of the past.

Early in 1985, when the government disclosed plans to take away the right of 16 and 17 year olds to claim supplementary benefit, the LPYS through the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign (YTURC) launched its "No to YTS Conscription—Real Jobs for Youth" Campaign.

A lobby of Parliament was organised which attracted 5,000 young people. The NEC supported it, Paul Weller and Billy Bragg sponsored it and played at the event and Neil Kinnock said: "The YTURC is genuinely

committed to mobilising and informing young people, and my view substantially concurs with the view of YTURC".

Following the lobby of Parliament, a public debate took place between the LPYS, YTURC and the government ministers. The Tories would give no guarantee that YTS would become compulsory.

School Strike

Following a 20,000 strong strike of Glasgow school students and a meeting of 200 school students at 1985 LPYS Conference, the School Student Action Committee was formed and the call went out for a half day strike against YTS Conscription.

The 250,000 strong strike went down in history and inflicted a defeat on the Tories when they backed off over bringing in compulsory YTS.

In a section of its report to conference on YTURC, the NEC grudgingly gives stunted praise to YTURC, saying: "YTURC has organised

some very successful campaigns, lobbies and demonstrations. This work has earned the congratulation of party conference. We recognise that the YTURC has done some valuable campaigning work highlighting the inadequacies of this Government's Youth Training Programme, particularly on health and safety. We believe that the party itself should be campaigning on youth issues."

The reward the LPYS got for defeating the Tories was that YTURC was thrown out of the party's offices at Walworth Road.

YTURC has since found alternative office space, but the expulsion of YTURC from Walworth Road should not be seen as an excuse to abandon YTURC's programme of a guaranteed job, which has been passed by party conference for the last two years. We would urge all delegates to this year's Labour Party Conference to reaffirm their support for YTURC and its record of campaigning for a future for working class youth.

Defend Chile socialists

THE CHILE Socialist Defence Campaign was set up by the Labour Party Young Socialist in response to appeals by groups of Chilean workers and youth groups for material help in fighting the Pinochet regime.

It has carried on valuable work, raising money for a number of Chilean workers' organisations and strikers involved in fighting the junta, as well as informing the British labour movement about developments in Chile.

Over the week of the anniversary of the Pinochet regime, the CSDC and the LPYS worked together on the vigil outside the Chilean

Embassy, creating links with the Chilean youth in exile in Britain. They raised over £700 in the rally on 11 September and over £40 on the 14 September march. Excellent internationalism, most workers would say.

Unfortunately the present Labour Party NEC disagree; they have been trying to dissuade Labour Party, LPYS and trade union branches from having anything to do with CSDC and have threatened to get the campaign closed down. This vital solidarity work must continue. Conference delegates must ensure CSDC survives and goes from strength to strength.

Vote for left NEC

AS READERS will be aware, no Militant supporters are standing for the NEC this year so as to ensure a maximum vote for the Left which will be vital if crucial votes on issues such as the witch-hunt are to be defeated on next year's NEC.

We therefore urge conference delegates to support the following:

Treasurer:
Albert Booth

CLPs (7 required):
Tony Benn
Michael Meacher
Eric Heffer
Dennis Skinner
Jo Richardson
Audrey Wise
Tam Dalyell

Women (5 required):
Joan Maynard
Margaret Beckett
Clare Short
Patricia Olley
Ann Clwyd

Conference Arrangements Committee (6 required):
Larry Smith
Dennis Canavan
John Jones
David Shaw
Peter Willsman
Ken Homer

Wales Labour Unity Conference
5 October, 11am
Temple of Peace,
Cathays Park, Cardiff
Credentials £2 from:
21 Manor Street,
Heath, Cardiff

BLOC/Miners' Amnesty Campaign
Lobby Labour Party conference
Monday 30 September,
8.00am, Conference Centre,
Exeter Road, Bournemouth

Letters

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

A flying visit

Dear Comrades,
Thatcher visited Stockton on Thursday 12. With the mood of the demonstration which met her as she speeded into Parkfield foundry it's no wonder that the visit was shrouded in mystery and secrecy. However the best laid plans go astray.
Despite all the secrecy the LPYS, *Militant* supporters and local Labour Party members found out where she was going to be, and within the space of a couple of hours we organised a demonstration.

Militant sellers went on to Stockton High Street calling upon the workers to demonstrate. The end result was a demonstration of about 200.
After the demo, we put out a second leaflet we had prepared which explained that Thatcher had gone but the problems the Tories create for workers remain and the only solution is a socialist Labour government.

Later, on the TV we saw Thatcher's real contempt for workers when she told us to 'stop moaning'.
Yours fraternally
Phil Umpleby

Plastic bullets

Dear Comrades,
Following the recent riots in Handsworth, Leslie Curtis, chairman of the Police Federation, openly called on the Tory government to give the go-ahead for the police to use plastic bullets on mainland Britain. As usual the 'solutions' from these 'gentlemen of justice' to the problems within our inner cities, such as unemployment and deprivation which were major factors in the cause of the recent troubles, is to give more powers to the police force so as to come down hard on those who suffer the miseries.

Already we have seen CS gas go on the streets of Toxteth, riot squads used to break-up picket lines in both the NGA and NUM disputes, trade unionists held for 'questioning' at various ferry and airports, miners turned back many miles from their destination and in October last year the first warnings from Tory MP Eldon Griffiths that plastic bullets may be used in the not too distant future.

Curtis's call for the use of plastic bullets on the mainland and the continued use of these weapons in Northern Ireland must be totally opposed by socialists of all factions.

To day, a tragic total of 15 lives have been lost in Northern Ireland at the hands of these brutal bullets, including seven children aged between 10 and 15. Many more people have suffered serious injury including brain damage, lung damage and, in one case, blindness. Being hit with a plastic bullet is the equivalent of being struck with a cricket ball.

Journalists' strike

Dear Comrades,
I was recently interviewed by *Central News* on what our village is like six months after the miners' strike.

I asked the journalists what they thought of their one-day strike against the censorship of the *At the edge of the union* documentary. I told them that if they'd asked miners and their wives to support their picket lines, I'd have backed them. But isn't it a pity they didn't strike a year ago over the distorted coverage of the miners' strike?

Yours fraternally
Kath Chaplin
Keresley Miners' Wives Support Group

The story of John boy

Dear Comrades,
I have a boy of seven. The other day he asked me: "Why do you go all the meetings, dad?". So I told him a story I had heard about a boy called John.

John is 18 and lives on one of Glasgow's biggest housing schemes. He has been unemployed for ages. He never smiles much. And has been in trouble. He has been away for short, sharp shocks and long, blunt shocks. He steals cars when he has been drinking, mostly to get home from the city centre. He has been caught umpteen times so he isn't very good at it.

The last time he was in trouble he did not get put away. He got a Community Service Order—so many hours a week in service—instead of time. He went to work on Saturdays on a pro-

ject for the handicapped. After many weeks attendance he still was not smiling much.

Then the summer week away came round. The leaders of the project were not going to take John with them, but what the hell. They took him. To a big house in the country, away from the estate, well away. Trees, mountains, hills, rivers, walking and tired at night. Twenty kids went, a right handful in the hills.

By the second day John was smiling. He was swimming, canoeing, walking and laughing with the best of them. One night they found him cleaning vomit from one of the kids who had been sick. Somebody saw him feeding one of the kids who has difficulty eating. Sure he is a hard man, but he was us-

ing a bib to wipe the dribbles.

He was making it. He was even making scrambled eggs. The kids thought he was a great guy.

They got home on Friday night. That night John went to the pub. No trees here. He stole a car to get back to square one. He is remanded in custody, waiting trial.

So I said to my seven-year old: "So one of the reasons I go to the meetings is that I think that people, especially young people should have jobs. I think John might do better if we could pay him in a job. Who knows, maybe even looking after young, disabled people."

"Ok dad", he replied.
Yours fraternally
Bob Wylie
East Kilbride
Labour Party

Drugs campaign

Dear *Militant*,
I have recently joined the Labour Party Young Socialists and have now given up drug taking. One of the YS members sold me a copy of issue 761, with the front page on the drugs epidemic.

It was this article and also the ideas put forward by our YS branch that made up my mind to leave drugs alone. Although only taking cannabis, I could see no way forward in stopping the drugs epidemic in our area, but now I can see a clear way forward, as the YS anti-drugs campaign in Croxteth is taking off, and getting a great reception in the area.

Yours fraternally
Steven Fletcher
West Derby South LPYS

Effects of the miners' strike

Dear Comrades,
Sometimes Labour Party ward meetings can be full of surprises. Surprise number one was seeing the SDP candidate from the last election sitting in the meeting. Surprise number two was when he bought a copy of the *Militant*.

As if sensing my surprise he came back and explained. He was born in the Rhondda and had been a policeman in West Glamorgan. The miners' strike had totally smashed all his previous ideas and beliefs. He now understood the role of the state and he understood that the miners' strike was more than a struggle for jobs. As a result he had been at the forefront supporting and collecting for the miners.

The miners may have lost their year-long battle but effects such as these cannot be erased.

Yours fraternally
Chris Thomas
Bristol

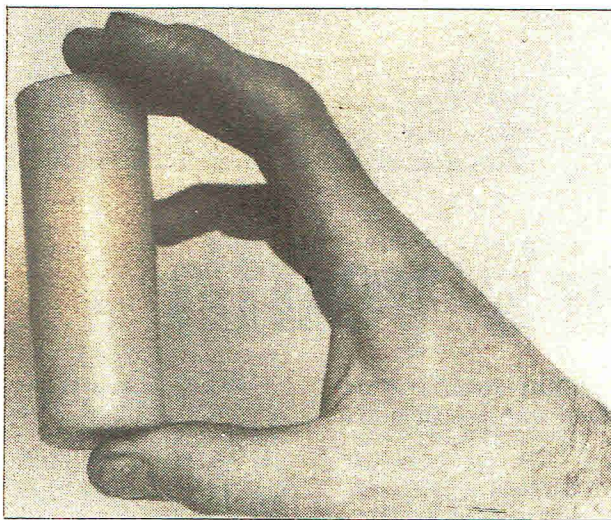


Royal Ulster Constabulary 'policing' a rally in Belfast in 1984

They travel at a deadly speed of 160 mph!

The next Labour government is already committed to banning these barbaric weapons but already Kinnoch has hinted that 'an alternative is necessary' (*Militant Irish Monthly*, 128). It must be made absolutely clear to the leadership of the labour and trade union movement that the people of both Britain and Northern Ireland do not seek an alternative method of oppression, but that we seek an alternative system to capitalism.

Yours fraternally
Bob Harker
Gateshead East
Labour Party



Plastic bullet.

Liberal amounts spent at the bar

Dear Comrades,
"The *Militant* councillors should be sacked... and the way would be clear for a new Liberal Alliance administration in Liverpool".

This is the democracy that the *Liberal Gazette* advocates at this week's Liberal conference in Dundee.

The arrogant attitude of the Liberals has enraged workers at Dundee University Students' Union, one of the social venues of the conference. Three of them approached *Militant* sellers: Caron bought two papers and pledged £10 and Pete took four papers to sell.

The Liberal conference has been laughable. The Young Liberals main fringe

meeting was held under the slogan: "This is youth year; let's make music"!

A tour for delegates to view some of Dundee's appalling housing got no further than half a mile from the conference, ignoring the estates where most Dundonians live.

Young Liberals who tried to recruit members at the College of Technology societies fair asked Labour Club members to stop selling *Militant* in the 'interests of democracy'. So the Labour Club asked the Liberals to debate the situation in Liverpool in the 'interests of democracy'. The Liberals refused, saying that they weren't sure of their case.

Meanwhile Ken Livingstone was sharing a platform with a Liberal GLC councillor at a fringe meeting on the abolition of the GLC. 'Red' Ken obviously doesn't know what the Liberals' plans are for council workers in Liverpool.

On a final note, the Liberals are expected to spend over £20,000 in the student union bars. I know it must be hard being a Liberal, but I didn't know that they were being driven to drink.

Yours fraternally,
Tim Goodman
(Dundee East LPYS)



Down to his last home

AS LABOUR councillors are crucified for building houses, spare a thought for poor Patrick Jenkin, former Tory Environment Minister who spent years pinching millions of pounds from councils like Liverpool. After getting the push from Thatcher, his fall in income means he is having to sell his second home.

How do they survive?

PERHAPS PATRICK will be interested in a two-day seminar run by Kent university. At a cost of a mere £40 a head it will give people an insight into how the unemployed survive on the dole. Perhaps he could take Employment Minister Lord Young along with him.

Judicial crime

THROUGHOUT AMERICA the trials of several judges for crimes ranging from theft through to bribery, corruption and murder is rapidly shattering any illusions left in the judiciary. One judge was indicted for lying under oath and accepting oil and gas leases in return for helping a defendant in a drugs smuggling case. However Judge Monahan, with a reputation for being 'teetotal' was charged with assaulting two policemen after consuming one over the eight at a judicial banquet. However he was acquitted after claiming that his actions were the product of 'transient global amnesia' caused by a momentary stroke—that's what they all say.

Brazil, South Africa, Sweden, Norway

Brazil's biggest national strike

BRAZIL'S BANK workers returned to work on 13 September after a two-day strike paralysed the country's commercial life.

The biggest national strike in Brazilian history gained overwhelming support. It was declared illegal by regional labour tribunals giving the prospect of mass sackings and a violent police presence on the pickets.

At the same time the pay offer was increased to give a 91 per cent rise for Sao Paulo workers, a little above the official six-monthly inflation rate, so the bankworkers accepted the offer.

The *Times* commented: "The strike is a milestone in Brazil's labour history. For the first time Brazil's rival labour congresses co-operated successfully. The strike was a clear warning to the government that the labour movement is unwilling to bear the brunt of the fight against inflation."

Even during this short strike the organisational strength and consciousness of the workers increased dramatically. The banks

Interview with bankworkers' leader

have become one of the most hated sections of society. But the mass meetings increased workers' consciousness of their own strength. The chant, "the bankworkers united will never be defeated" rang through the ranks of clenched fist workers at the rally. "Strike, strike strike".

At one Sao Paulo rally workers shouted their solidarity with Chilean workers and hatred of Pinochet and showed their distrust of Brazil's new 'democratic' NDPB government. We will carry a fuller report in future issues.

Before the strike, Luis Alves de Azevedo, general secretary of the Bankworkers' Union of Sao Paulo, spoke to our Latin American reporter. The following article is a summary of this interview:

"There are 700,000 bankworkers throughout Brazil, organised in 141 different trade unions. The vast majority are however, organised into four main unions, affiliated to the CUT. The others tend to be company unions.

"In Sao Paulo there are 170,000 bankworkers, in Rio 130,000, mainly in CUT affiliated unions.

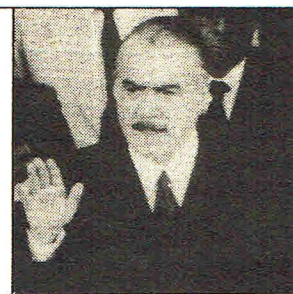
"This month we called a strike over wages. On average bankworkers have lost 49 per cent of their purchasing power between March 1983 and March 1985. We are demanding a 25 per cent recuperation and monthly readjustments to take into account inflation which is over 200 per cent in Brazil.



Workers in Sao Paulo. Not content to bear the brunt of the capitalist crisis.

"As part of this campaign, to prepare for the strike, a demonstration in Sao Paulo was called for 28 August. Over 25,000 took part. We plan a three-day strike on 10, 11 and 12 September. Faced with this campaign the banks took a determined stand, only offering minor concessions and some agreement on productivity. This we couldn't accept, we are asking for a 25 per cent immediate increase. The major banks have made enormous profits here in the first six months of 1985, compared to the second six months of 1984.

"For example, the Na-



President Sarney—no trust.

tional Bank of Brazil increased its profits by 497.4 per cent, between 1981 and 1984. The banks have increased their profits by 5,585 per cent. One by as much as 149,983 per cent in six months!

"In our struggle we have security guards, truck drivers and most bankers. The objective of the strike is to paralyse 80 per cent of banks on the first day and to develop it over the three days. We have planned mass meetings for each day. One weakness is that of organisation. It's the first time that we have gone directly into conflict with the banks, and they are well organised.

Young members

"Should they not then give us our demands we will propose an indefinite bank strike. Some banks may try and give concessions separately which will weaken our movement, but we are determined. Our membership is very young. To give you an indication, I'm the general secretary, I'm 29 and the fourth oldest member of the executive.

"In preparation for the strike a daily bulletin is being produced and leaflets and posters distributed throughout the city to win support from bank workers and others. Loudspeaker vans toured the centre of Sao Paulo to explain the bank workers' case".

Even though the strike has finished, messages of support for this first major flexing of workers' muscle should be sent to: Sindicato Bancarios de Sao Paulo, Rua Sao Bento 365-18°, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

South Africa: build workers' movement

THE PAST year has seen dramatic developments in the South African revolution—strikes, marches, demonstrations and a burning anger in the townships.

The forces of the apartheid state have tried to quell this mood with massacres like Uitenhage, and all the repression possible through a state of emergency.

The black working class have not just shown their anger, they have organised. Community and youth organisations, political organisations like the United Democratic Front and the potentially decisive independent black trade unions have given extra power to the struggle for liberation and socialism.

The overthrow of this most vile of systems will be a mammoth task. The armed power of the minority white racist regime and their preparedness to murder to defend capitalism makes peaceful reform impossible. It also makes a clear strategy for victory absolutely essential.

National liberation and democracy in South Africa can only be won through mobilising the full weight of the working class and aiming at capitalism itself, the power house of apartheid.

Inqaba by Basebenzi the journal of the Marxist

Workers' Tendency of the African National Congress have been arguing for action which uses the new organisational strength of the working class to spearhead a mass opposition.

As their press statement recently said: "The way forward is to systematically build the strength of the mass movement round the growing power of the organised black working class, uniting the militant youth and workers in well-planned nationwide action campaigns against apartheid and capitalism".

The international working class has the duty to assist in every way the growth of such a movement, most practically by solidarity with strike actions, to build the confidence and power of the working class.

Aid from workers in Britain for strikers at AECI, an ICI affiliate, has helped gain significant concessions. Workers have backed striking BTR Sarmcol workers. Groups like the Ilkeston miners support group donated generously to the South African NUM funds.

The support given by, for example, the workers of Seattle (see article right) helps to gather strength for the victory of socialism and the end of the evils of apartheid.



Volkswagen workers in Uitenhage.

International aid from Seattle workers

THE SOUTH African National Union of Mineworkers gained wide support from the people of Seattle, Washington, USA.

We went out collecting signatures and money twice in support of the miners. The first time, we made a placard giving information about the proposed strike and handed out "solidarity" leaflets. Most everyone we met was very interested. In the USA little information leaks through the media blockade about what is really happening so very few people were aware of the strength and size of the NUM.

We had a whole range of people who signed the petition: "We the undersigned express our complete

solidarity with the SA NUM... against the State of Emergency, and for democracy and socialism".

One man carefully listened as I told him about the situation and then explained he couldn't read or write. He asked me to write his name and address for him. We also got comments like: "I'll support them, I'm union all the way!" In the course of two hours we collected \$15 and 100 signatures.

On Sunday at a concert, a South African band were playing. On explaining the strike and the need for international working class solidarity, the band offered enthusiastically to hold up the leaflet and read it out on stage. At the end we were swamped with people anx-

ious to sign. At one point two young men, around 20 came over to us and listened keenly as I told them about the South African mineworkers' struggle and what we were doing to help. They agreed to sign but asked if it was alright, they were soldiers in the army: "Of course," we told them, "all workers can sign!"

Sweden was always a favourite country for the right in the British Labour Party. The pressure of the powerful

working class in a very rich country gave Sweden an unparalleled social welfare system during the years of economic upswing while maintaining capitalism.

Capitalist crisis puts these gains at risk as the Conservatives' policy shows, particularly when the present mini-boom ends. The 'mini-boom' probably also kept the Conservative coalition in power in Norway in the elections on 9 September, despite a 4.5 per cent swing to the left. The next period of recession could have dramatic effects in Scandinavia.

★ A fuller report in a future issue of *Militant*.

By Lisa Rooke (in Seattle)

Elections in Scandinavia

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From front-line Tory borough comes...

Workers' plan for Wandsworth

WANDSWORTH WAS supposed to be the showpiece for Tory policy at local level. The result of massive privatisation and cuts has been devastating. It is a warning to every worker in the country. The council workers are again fighting back. DENNIS ENGLISH, a secretary of the Joint Shop Stewards' Committee outlines their important new policy document 'Coming to power in May '86, a socialist manifesto for Wandsworth'.

WORKERS IN Wandsworth, have over the past eight years of local Tory administration, suffered reductions in services, increased charges for the services remaining, and over the same period local authority manual workers have seen over a thousand jobs cut.

Over 900 of these jobs have been lost through privatisation of refuse collection, street cleaning, grass-cutting, mechanical workshops, housing caretakers, office cleaning and attending at libraries, public halls, conveniences, cleaning and catering in the old people's homes.

The overwhelming majority of these jobs were privatised after the bitter eight-week strike to save the refuse service was lost in the summer of 1982, through the failure to spread the action to other boroughs/council workers.

The Tories' plans to make it compulsory for all councils to put services out to 'competitive tender', with the lowest bid winning, put hundreds of thousands of local authority jobs under threat.

The lessons must be learnt from our experience—effective rank and file links through joint shop stewards' committees must be built now.

Unity

Where JSSCs do not exist they must be built. Any union chauvinism must be forgotten. Workers will have no time for leaderships that put petty squabbles before the effective defence of jobs.

The London Borough of Wandsworth Joint Shop Stewards' Committee (JSSC), which embraces stewards from GMBATU, NUPE and TGWU, covering the manual workforce of over 1,900, have, with an eye on the 1986 local council elections spent some time this year drawing up our demands on the incoming Labour council.

The outcome of a number of meetings earlier this year is a document with the title, "Coming to power in May '86—a socialist manifesto for Wandsworth".

The stewards starting point was to attack the pessimism that seems to have taken root in some Labour Party members.

Based on conversations with our members (a better, more reliable barometer than certain Labour Party members), we are convinced that Labour will win the local elections if they campaign and fight on policies that will benefit the working class in the borough.

Support will not be won by wailing that the Tories have tied the council's hands—that no money is available, but by taking the Liverpool stand—of providing the services, jobs and houses that are needed.

By Dennis English
(Assistant secretary, Wandsworth Council JSSC, and chairman, Wandsworth Local Authority Branch GMBATU, personal capacity)

These must be funded, not by stinging the tenants and ratepayers, but by a campaign to get the necessary finance from central government.

On such a programme a Labour Group would be swept into office with a huge majority in this borough.

One of the reasons for the production of our manifesto document was to ensure that activists had the information at their fingertips to undermine the Tories' lies on service provision and privatisation.

The stewards' demand is: "The immediate cancellation of all the privatisation initiatives of the last two Tory administrations and their replacement with adequately staffed and properly supervised direct labour units."

This demand is echoed by the contractors' workforces. In discussions between these workers and the stewards it has been made clear that they all expect to be directly employed by the council after the next elections.

If a Labour council wants to rely on the legal niceties of the contracts the stewards point out many of the breaches of the contracts by the contractors, and the appalling wages and conditions faced by their workforces.

Being aware also that the Tories will be using the alleged savings from privatisation as a major plank in their election campaign the JSSC points out that most of the old service levels are reduced in the contract documents.

And the Tories conveniently ignore the financial cost to society of unemployment. Making a DLO worker redundant costs around £4,500 pa. They are also blind to the knock-on effect on the local economy of redundancies and poverty level wages.

The service users and the trade unions are providing enough information to terminate all the contracts. We now have to make certain that the incoming council has the political will to see the job through, and not sometime in the dim and distant future.

The stewards have drawn on their 'point of delivery' knowledge of services to formulate their programme for the future, using council reports and committee papers to back our demands.

Generally the call is for restoration of the cuts made in services since 1978. Where charges remain, these must

be reduced to the 1978 level with topping-up for inflation, and the introduction of special rates for the unemployed and unwaged.

In a borough where expenditure on the provision of residential care for the elderly is 16 per cent below the average for inner London the workers in the homes are working under enormous pressure because the residents have far greater dependancies than was previously the case, partly because of cuts in the NHS resulting in hospital closures in the area.

These workers are demanding the necessary increases in staffing to ensure that they are able to provide the atmosphere in the home, the care and comfort that the residents have a right to expect in the remaining years of their lives.

A similar situation is faced by the home help service. In 1981/82 Wandsworth was ninth out of the 12 inner London boroughs in the provision of home helps... and its home help hours per client over 65 years was 21 per cent below the inner London average.

A recent social services committee report shows that there are at least 370 semi-dependant elderly on the waiting list at any one time. With another 375 not receiving the level of service they need.

This report said that at least another 28 part-time home helps are needed to get back to the low level of service of 1981/82. But to get back to the level of service provided by the last Labour administration, in 1978, would require another 50 home helps on top of the 28!

Community care

If we are to have care in the community all the services necessary, like those provided by the nurses, home helps, meals on



Council dustmen in their unsuccessful strike in 1982 against privatisation.

wheels, etc must be fully financed and staffed.

The stewards have taken all the services and highlighted how the cuts have effected the various services across the borough.

Since the Tories took control in Wandsworth they have sold over 7,000 council houses and flats. This figure represents some 18 per cent of the properties they managed in 1981.

The stewards are demanding a crash building programme of homes for rent to replace the lost council stock, and use the example of Liverpool City Council's building programme to show



Wandsworth Council tenants fight plans to sell off their estate.

what a socialist administration can achieve.

Since 1978 the Tories have forced council rents up to a staggering 250 per cent. The stewards recognise that the rent issue is central to the question of house sales.

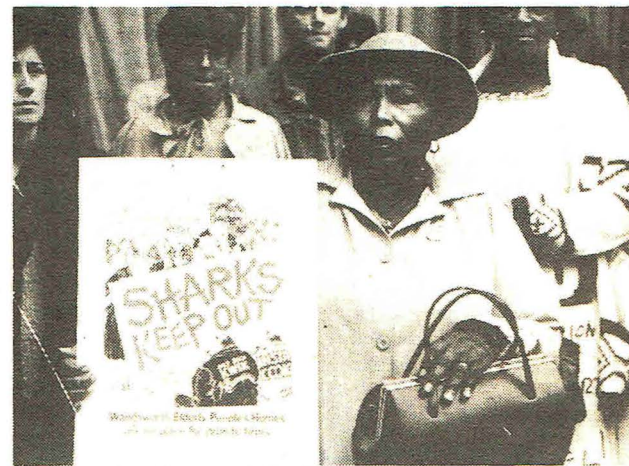
The pressure of rocketing rents has forced many to consider owner occupation of their council flats when they would never have entertained it in 1979.

We propose a substantial reduction in levels for council tenants, based on 1978 rent levels, with increases on top to take account of subsequent inflation.




Such a step would dramatically benefit tenants' living standards and reduce the incentive to buy council stock, the sale of which is socially unacceptable and must end.

On the employment side the stewards are calling for the re-introduction of apprenticeships, expansion in the building works, and an increase in the allocation of training resources to the manual employees.

Past Labour administrations have not given industrial relations the degree



Delila Longley, last remaining founder member of the JSSC. A shop steward in an old people's home, here she is lobbying against privatisation of the cooks and cleaners in the homes.

COMING TO POWER
IN MAY 86

A Socialist Manifesto
for Wandsworth

London Borough of Wandsworth
Joint Shop Stewards' Committee

20p

Available from: The trade union office, Putney Pool, Dryburgh Rd, London SW15. (phone: 01 788 7113)

comes from as a crucial question.

The incoming Labour council can act as a caretaker administration, imposing Tory rule in Wandsworth with privatisation and cuts being brought in to balance the books, in line with Tory spending limits.

Campaign

Or it can define what is needed to put the borough back on its feet and together with the trade unions, the party and public, mount a massive campaign to get the necessary funding from central government.

The stewards reject any massive increase in rents or rates and the not setting a rate option. We call on the council to take the same road Liverpool has over the past two years.

This is no easy option—it will mean mounting the biggest campaign ever seen in

the borough—with councillors coming out of the committee rooms and onto the streets and estates.

Such a campaign, explaining the issues to the electorate, holds out the prospect of massively increasing the Labour vote.

Following the circulation of the document by the JSSC to all Labour Party branches, women's sections, LPYS branches, affiliated trade unions, the trades council, tenants' associations and all members of the Local Government Committee, together with the offer of speakers to explain the stewards' thinking, the response has been very good. It has shown that there is widespread interest and support for these ideas.

What we now need are councillors prepared to carry them through and democratic control of the Labour Group by the local Labour Party.

INDUSTRIAL REPORTS

Local bus plans to beat privatisation

TONY HINDLE, Branch Secretary of TGWU 6/53 Branch in Preston, talks to Dave Emson of Preston LPYS, about the Tories' plans to privatise many areas of public bus services.

With the Tory government's Transport Bill virtually assured of becoming law in October 1985, what is the mood of the busworkers?

The mood at the moment is one of confusion rather than surrender. The massive union propaganda campaign has reached literally millions of people, but unfortunately the Tory Party listens to the CBI and not the Women's Institute.

What next?

The unions' campaign has not persuaded the Tories to make any significant amendment to the Bill. Busworkers are now wanting to know what happens next. *Well, what happens next?* The busworkers are divided into three groups, those who work for the National Bus

Company, those who are employed by the Passenger Transport Executives, eg. West Midlands and Merseyside, and the workers of the municipal undertakings such as Southampton, Preston, Nottingham etc.

The first job of the TGWU National Committee should be to bring all these groups together into one united force.

Is this feasible when those groups of busworkers have been traditionally divided?

In most major towns and even in the shire counties, agreements have been reached between bus companies and local authorities which prevent 'competition' and gives the public an integrated service.

After privatisation, the Tories expect that all the different bus companies will compete against each other.

This will obviously mean big wage cuts and redundancies for busworkers and big profits for the new 'private' bus companies.

We should not even consider whether the unity of busworkers is feasible, it is absolutely essential.

What are you doing locally to

bring about this 'unity'?

In Preston, shop stewards from the TGWU at Preston Transport and the NUR and TGWU at Ribble Motors (NBC) have formed a Joint Consultative Committee to stop so-called competition and to support each other in the event of attacks on our wages and conditions by our respective managements.

We hope to persuade all the busworkers in Lancashire to come together in the same way.

How will you go about doing this in a county such as Lancashire which has so many different bus companies?

We have already made a start at this. On Sunday 11 September the Preston Shop Stewards organised a meeting with all the manual shop stewards from the various bus depots invited to take part.

Organise action

Twenty-two shop stewards attended, representing TGWU and NUR members at Ribble Preston, Ribble Morecambe and the municipal depots at Preston,



Lobby of Parliament against bus privatisation.

Accrington, Burnley, Morecambe, Blackpool and Fylde.

We had a good discussion and agreed to organise another meeting and persuade the few depots who didn't attend to join us.

Then, when we are all together we can get down to organising real 'solidarity'. *At your first joint meeting, did you feel that there were 'divisions' or antagonisms between the various depots?*

Not at all. In fact we managed to organise some joint action at this first meeting. The Blackpool Branch have refused to drive any buses hired by the Tories to take delegates from the hotels to their conference.

All the other branches at the meeting agreed to 'black' this work without any argument. That's not bad for a start and shows we won't take privatisation lying down.

Battersea garage

BATTERSEA busdriver Seamus Mullens told Duncan Comrie about the campaign against closure of his garage:

"We have spoken to the public, held meetings, and have put to management constructive reasons for retention of the garage and expansion supported by positive feasibility studies.

"But all this has had little or no effect on the future of Battersea garage. Management are still adamant that the garage will close on 1 November. It is now necessary, with just six weeks remaining, to take industrial action, in order to persuade management of the seriousness of opposition to their closure plans.

"In preparation of this, the vast majority of Central

London Garages "Abbey District", have pledged support.

"The only argument management understand is might, and bringing central London to a standstill, could be the might, which they will soon see.

"It is important that all activists within LRT give support to Battersea in this crucial stage, because the fight for Battersea is the fight for all garages.

"We at Battersea know it is important to stop the slide and decay of public transport which is the inevitable result of the policies of Transport minister Ridley. We hope and believe that a victory for the workers and people of Battersea can be a turning point in this struggle."

It's a shame you didn't see...

ON 18 June 1984, 95 miners were arrested at Orgreave Coke works and charged with riot and unlawful assembly. At the time some of the media and some politicians condemned them as "thugs" and bullyboys". *The Battle for Orgreave* on Channel 4, Wednesday, at last reveals more of the detailed facts of the day that emerged at the trial. Unfortunately the programme will have been shown by the time you read this—but if it's possible to get hold of it from somewhere then it would make a good basis for discussion at labour movement meetings.

Some of the defendants describe and re-enact their experiences, supported by the powerful evidence of unique amateur footage, unpublished stills, other eyewitnesses and documents disclosed in the trial—including a police training manual detailing how to incapacitate demonstrators.

Through such testimony,



One of the pickets who mercilessly attacked police at Orgreave.

this highly topical programme reveals how organised ranks of riot police, wielding truncheons and batons, attacked and in-

jured many innocent demonstrators. What emerges raises urgent and disturbing issues for the future.

Manchester engineering dispute

ONE HUNDRED and forty workers walked out of Tilghman Wheelabrators, Broadheath, South Manchester after failure to reach agreement on a pay and conditions deal.

Tighmans is a section of the Signal group part of an US multinational and make shot blasting equipment, air pollution gear and compressors. Over the years the workforce has bent over backwards to help the company problem, eg flexibility of labour, extra overtime, temporary labour and poor wages.

At present wages are from £125 for a skilled man to £89 for an unskilled worker. The workforce want a shorter working week, longer holidays, a decent living wage not dependent on bonuses and 'staff conditions'.

Offer

This year's final offer was six per cent to skilled and semi-skilled, and 8½ per cent to unskilled plus £50 bonus at Christmas provided there is no disruption of production.

The unions involved are

AUEW, GMBATU, NUSMCHDE, EETPU. The office staff TASS have refused to cross the picket line.

The workers are preparing for a long-distance dispute but up to now there has been limited strike pay so rush your donations to either: J William, AUEW, 43 The Crescent, Salford, M5 4PF or Stuart Taylor, 34 Dale Street, Timperley, Altrincham. Cheques made out to Tilghman Wheelabrator Strike Fund.

By Gordon Cormack
(Davyhulme CLP, personal capacity)

Sussex school dinners

BEFORE THE recent County Council election the Tories had a big majority on East Sussex Council. With this majority they slavishly followed Thatcher's demands to cut jobs and services.

One of their most despicable acts was to tear up the national agreement covering 1,500 school meals staff—the vast majority being low paid women workers—effectively sacking them and inviting them to reapply for their jobs at lower pay and worse conditions.

Unfortunately the anger and militant mood amongst most of the women was not channelled into effective action to defeat the Tory plans.

However at the elections Labour made great gains in the urban areas—particularly in Brighton where two *Militant* supporters were elected—and the Tories lost many rural seats to the Liberals.

Now on the rare occasions when all the Liberals support a Labour proposal it only requires the casting vote of the Tory chairman to defeat it.

At July's Council meeting two Tories were not present (one being under the illusion that he had been 'paired' with a Labour member—shame!). All the Labour members were there and the Liberals followed Labour in voting to restore the national conditions to the dinner ladies.

However following this meeting the Tory leader in

collaboration with the Chief Executive refused to implement this decision and requisitioned a special meeting to reverse it.

At the special meeting Labour were there in force along with a packed gallery of dinner ladies and other trade unionists. Labour Councillor, ex-dinner lady and *Militant* supporter Jackie Robson gave a very moving speech.

Liberals

She read out letters describing the hardships caused by the wage cuts to already low paid women workers.

However the Liberals demonstrated their lack of commitment to this issue by two of their members not attending. This included their leader, who was on holiday,

Fouler

THE NARROW 'no' vote over one day strike action in the DHSS section of CPSA over the Fowler 'reviews' of the social security system was a great disappointment to many DHSS workers.

In some areas, where there had been massive 'yes' votes for action, CPSA members voted to take unofficial strike action on Friday 13 September to show their anger at the proposed benefit cuts and the threat to jobs in the DHSS.

London offices which took action included Green-

even though Labour members interrupted their holidays, risked disciplinary action from their employers, and risked their health—Jackie Robson left her sick bed following an operation—to attend.

The Tories duly gave the dinner ladies another kick in the teeth and reversed the decision but not without a noisy, angry demonstration from the public gallery.

Labour will continue to attempt to reverse this and other Tory cuts. However the experience has reinforced the fact that Tories will not listen to pleas. Only mobilising the workforce and the Labour movement generally will halt the Tory axe and lead to further political gains by Labour.

By Ted Watson
(East Sussex County Councillor, personal capacity)

wich, Woolwich, Kensington, Streatham, Surbiton, Kensington, Chelsea and West End National Insurance office.

In Woolwich a festival was organised jointly between the union and local claimants' groups, and at Greenwich and other officers the entrances were covered with posters explaining the attacks taking place on benefits, giving local campaigns a really good start.

By Rob Williams
(Secretary CPSA DHSS Greenwich Park, personal capacity)

Militant

Labour Party conference

Pages 7 - 15

Support miners' amnesty

THE TORIES mobilised all the power they could muster against the miners' year-long strike. Saturation policing prevented NUM members picketing and discussing with working miners and other key workers for building solidarity.

Many miners were injured in the dispute, many were arrested and fined or imprisoned. Many lost their jobs because of "offences" committed in the strike. A number of case histories have been printed in *Militant* in past months.

Tory justice

The latest issue of the magazine *Pitwatch* gives an example of Tory class justice. Yorkshire miner Adrian Simpson served two months of a three month sentence for "malicious wounding" and breach of the peace. On the evidence of two policemen he was found guilty of throwing a missile which cut the lip of a policeman on the picket line.

When Adrian Simpson himself arrived at the police station he was suffering bruising, swelling and grazes "like he'd been in a car crash" his wife, Edith, claimed. He suffered a cardiac arrest which had him "five minutes from death" according to a male nurse. He still had headaches, vertigo and neurological attacks when he was locked up for 23 hours a day in a cell with two murderers in for life.

"They took away my liberty, nearly took away my life and now they've got my job", Adrian Simpson said. The Miners' Amnesty Campaign which has publicised many cases of victimisation and organised practical solidarity work have called

for a lobby of Labour's conference on Monday 30 September from 8am onwards.

Delegates should support the NUM resolution at conference calling for a review of all cases, and the other resolutions which demand release of jailed miners and the wiping clean of all criminal records associated with the strike.

People like Adrian Simpson are not "criminals", they are class fighters, who were striking for a future for all miners and the entire trade union and labour movement. Don't desert them, make sure Labour campaigns for the victimised mines.

See article page seven.



Photo: John Harris (IFL) II

Strikers faced massive police mobilisations like this at Orgreave.

Lambeth unions strike 16 October

A ONE day strike call has gone out from the unions in Lambeth council for Wednesday 16 October. Now the date has been given, all council stewards must galvanise workers for action.

The fact that Lambeth councillors have been fined by the district auditor for defending jobs and services and that they face replacement by an unelected Tory-Liberal administration shows the serious calculating attitude the Tories have to this battle. Thatcher and co. prefer a tame Labour Party to one prepared to fight.

Participation

The council's leadership must now follow Liverpool's lead through mass meetings with full discussion of strategy and tactics together with shop meetings at lunchtimes to discuss the doubts and misunderstandings of

Photo: Dave Buxton



Lambeth leader Ted Knight. the membership. It is every steward's responsibility to build the maximum participation and understanding of the issues.

A clear stand will get a firm response from union members. 16 October must launch a massive campaign to defend jobs and services.

By Mark Bygrave
(NUPE general Lambeth personal capacity)



Photo: John Harris (IFL) II

A picket injured at Thoresby colliery in March 1984.

National Local Authorities Co-ordinating Committee Recall conference Saturday 28 September 12 noon, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham

Militant Teacher Public meeting Local authorities and salaries dispute Wednesday 2 October 7.00 pm

Cock Tavern, Phoenix Road, Kings Cross, London NW1



Militant Third National Rally

21st Year celebration Sunday 3 November, 1985

All tickets £3 (Cheques to "Militant Rally") (Crèche available, but places must be booked)



THE AUTUMN 1985 issue of the *Militant International Review (MIR)* will be on sale very shortly. Articles on prospects for the next Labour government, South Africa, Lebanon, science report, economic notes, Austria 1934, book reviews on the miners' strike and the soldiers' strikes of 1919. Also the second part of Alan Woods' history of Bolshevism.

Readers have responded very favourably to the bigger *MIR*. Many workers thought the last edition the best so far. Make sure you get your copy of the new issue. Price 80p plus 20p post and packing from: *Militant International Review*, 3-13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB.



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Militant

The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth

ISSUE 767b
27
September 1985

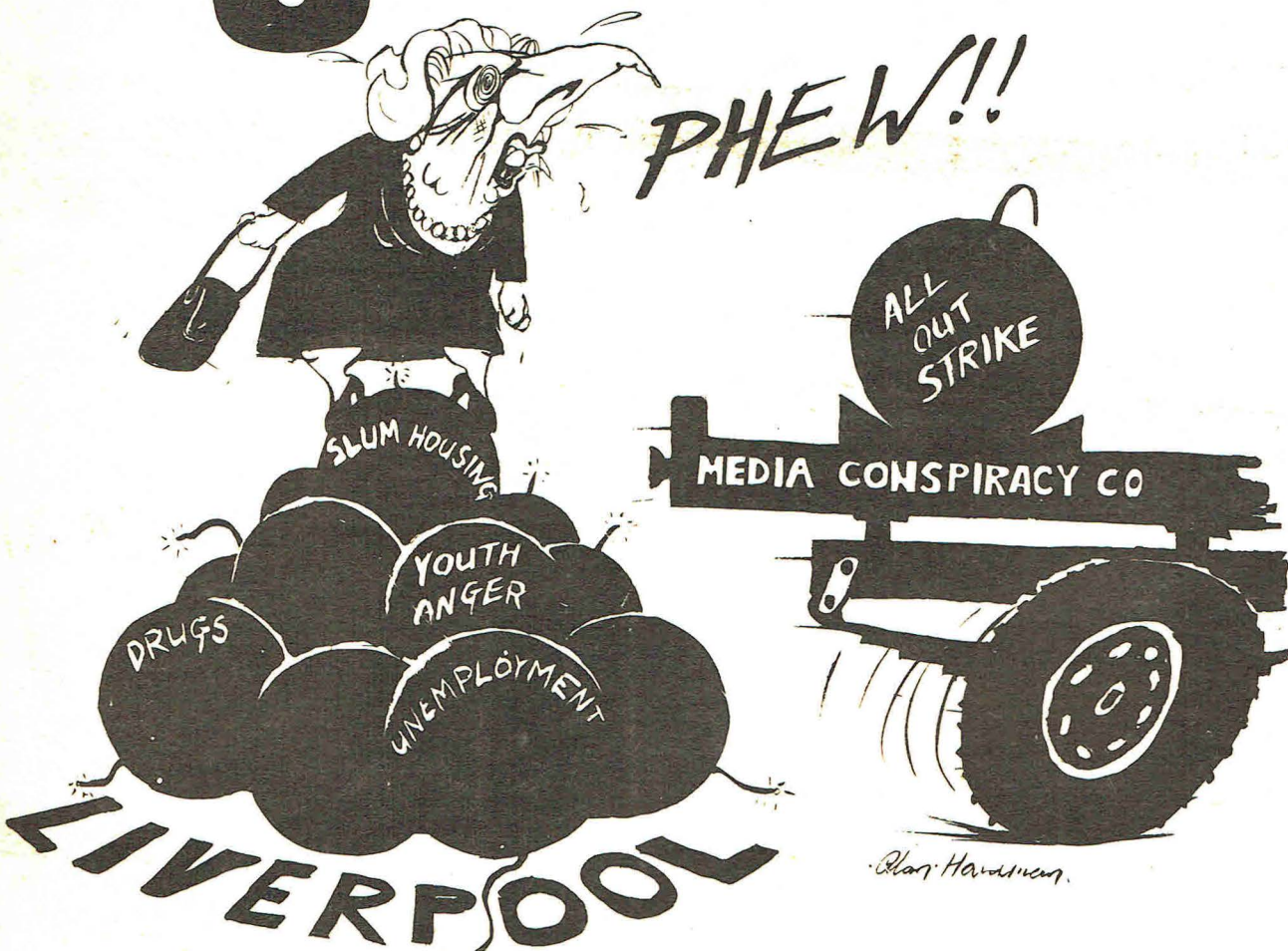
25p

Labour Party Conference
Militant Meeting

Hear: Peter Taaffe, Ted Grant,
Terry Fields MP, Derek Hatton.
Chair: Frances Curran.

Tuesday 1 October, 7pm
Wessex Hotel, West Cliff Road,
Bournemouth

Liverpool fights on



THE SEVEN thousand two hundred workers who voted for an indefinite strike took a conscious decision to make an enormous sacrifice in order to defend their livelihoods.

By Richard Venton

They were votes for war on the Tories until £30 million of the £360 million taken from the city by the Tory government is returned.

That vote and the revolution which has already taken place in the political consciousness of Liverpool should be a warning to Thatcher and her new-boy Kenneth Baker.

If they see this temporary reprieve as a victory in their victimisation of Liverpool they are making a terrible mistake.

Already the Tories have been smashed in our city. Until 1955 they controlled the council. In 1964 they had a majority of MPs. Now they are in third place behind the Liberals.

Their Liberal shadows, who have tried moving into the Tory space, have already proved to be politically bankrupt. After forcing fifteen thousand council workers out on strike in 1980 against redundancies and 20,000 in 1982 against privatisation, they got their answer in 1983 with Labour's election victory and its increased majority last year.

We have been forced to organise and fight to defend ourselves and our city. The combined forces of the media, Tories, Liberals, and even some so-called lefts just succeeded in arousing enough doubt to swing a narrow majority against indefinite strike.

The magnificent vote in favour and the rise in support for Labour show

**Labour's support up
— see page 2**

that the campaigning work of the trade unions and Labour Party has established a firm base of support for our policies.

Our campaign and preparations for struggle continue. Shop stewards representing manual workers, who voted overwhelmingly for strike ac-

tion, have called on the council to revert to its earlier plan to issue every worker with a letter warning them that after 90 days the money will run out. *This is purely a legal device to enable the council to keep paying wages until 18 December.* Otherwise no money for wages would have been available after the end of the month. The City Treasurer has said that he would refuse to sign cheques for fear of being liable for fraud.

In no way is this a retreat from the councillors' election promises of no cuts, no redundancies and no massive rate rises. The only effective way of fighting job losses is for the rank and file to be won to a programme of industrial action to force the government to return the £30 million. This device will give the councillors and the union valuable time to extend the campaign of explanations to all sections of the workforce and the city, especially those who have voted against striking immediately.

The people of Liverpool understand that it is the Tories who have bankrupted the city not the council. The success of our campaign and its growing support show that we can and will make the Tories pay.

Strike stops the city

TENS OF thousands of workers demonstrated their defiance of the Tory government in Liverpool on Wednesday. Hundreds of banners from trade union, Labour Party and LPYS branches from all parts of Merseyside and all over the country were held aloft by the mass of marchers.

While the mood of the demonstrators was not one of jubilation following Tuesday's no-strike decision, there was no sign of resignation or defeat, but defiance and determination.

Political mood

As the march wound by, by-standers expressed their support, many taking leaflets and buying newspapers. Everyone was discussing the issue. Walking along the march you'd hear snatches of conversations: "... Its all about jobs, the council's fighting the government for jobs... That Maggie Thatcher has it in for this city... "

By the end of the march, Castle Street in front of the Town Hall was packed. Once again chants of "We'll

support you evermore" for the Labour councillors echoed around the precinct.

Wednesday's one-day strike got under way as early as 6am, with GMBATU and other manual workers and some NALGO members out picketing. Some offices were chained up by pickets.

Fifteen hundred students and lecturers joined the strike at North East Tech college, after a picket line of just five people was set up. Old Swan Technical college was also out.

Liverpool must currently be the most political city in the country. The city council's struggle has touched everyone. On a bus a Labour Party member asked a Liverpool FC fan "What was the result at Anfield?" "What was the NALGO ballot result?" came the quick reply.

The decision of the Joint Shop Stewards' Committee to pull back from all out action is not the end of the matter. As far as the people of Liverpool are concerned, the battle has only begun.

By John Pickard



Militant Third National Rally

**21st Year celebration
Sunday 3 November, 1985**

Royal Albert Hall, London SW7

All tickets £3 (Cheques to "Militant Rally")
(Crèche available, but places must be booked)

Doors open 11am

**Sales campaign this week
— see page 6**