

Militant

The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth

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Stop

Murdoch

Unite to defend trade unions

WE ARE fighting for our lives. This dispute is about defending jobs and the means to defend them in future. Murdoch is out to smash our chapels. He wants the kind of union which comes for a meeting once a year to discuss the peas in the canteen.

Over the years, through bitter struggle, print workers have built up rights for workers in their industry, based on consultation and agreement. We are defending those rights. We reject totally the lies that we are living in the past and forever going on strike.

As it happens my own union has never once been on strike at any of Murdoch's papers. The only dispute at *The Times* last year involved clerical managers and was provoked by management; the rest of the workers were suspended without pay.

New technology

It is not true that we are refusing to use new technology. The presses at Wapping are more out of date than those at Bouverie Street and Grays Inn Road. We have even had spare parts for our machines from those in Wapping.

This move to Wapping was a conscious provocation to the trade unions. The management were planning it over years. They offered a no-strike deal knowing that it would be rejected. *The Times* and *Sunday Times* chapels were offered a five-year deal to stay in Grays Inn Road. But this deal would have meant keeping a workforce of 300-400, less than a tenth

By Jim Brookshaw
(AUEW FOC, *The Times*)

of the present number! This was rejected out of hand. The dispute was cynically and deliberately provoked.

It is not just an industrial battle. Murdoch has always backed Thatcher and all her attacks on the trade unions and the measures to reduce the share of wealth going to the workers. It is not just the whole of Fleet Street which is at risk, but every worker in the country.

Fleet Street is one of the bastions of trade unionism. Even the workers who have gone to Wapping are only being paid the same wages as on Fleet Street because of the unions' strength we have built up there. Do they think that if the print trade unions are smashed that they will still get the same?

Victory depends on clear decisive leadership. At present there is a majority feeling that the rest of Fleet Street should not be shut

down. Other print workers are involved providing practical assistance to all those sacked by Murdoch. But victory depends on the backing of other trade unionists. Already the AUEW, TGWU, NUR and ASLEF have pledged support.

But we will have to accept that if other workers are being asked to put their jobs on the line, they will want to see that Fleet Street workers themselves are fully involved and equally committed.

Meetings

To get the kind of solidarity action we need, circulars from the union leaders will not be enough. Meetings of all the workers involved in the transport and distribution of Murdoch's papers need to be organised, with Fleet Street workers involved, to explain the issues at stake and translate their leaders' words into action.

Now that the print workers have taken action, all the pressure of worry over the preceding months has been lifted. There is now a tremendous feeling of determination and confidence. We can win this fight; we must win this fight; and we will win.

'It's our jobs next'

GRIM, DETERMINED and confident on a cold, dark Sunday night outside Rupert Murdoch's plant in Glasgow, 30 to 40 print workers gathered to do their shift of picketing and intelligence gathering.

"5,000 of our brothers and sisters have been sacked in London" said one: "This is a scab factory and these scab drivers are doing their work"; "If Murdoch gets away with this, then it's our jobs

and conditions next".

Earlier in the day a mass meeting of NUJ, SOGAT '82 and NGA members at the *Daily Record/Sunday Mail* and *Glasgow Herald/Evening Times* plant had agreed to stop distribution of News International's titles in Scotland.

News International were claiming to have printed 750,000 *News of the World* the night before and to be about to print 800,000 *Suns*. The pickets were sceptical of these claims. The printing machines had broken down twice in the few hours they had been

there.

Alan Watson, full time official of SOGAT, has called on all trade unionists, wholesalers and newsagents to boycott News International publications: "Our members will not look kindly on the products of their work sitting alongside Murdoch's. They may boil over and stop distributing to such newsagents and wholesalers." This will be no easy battle for the bosses.

By Ronnie Stevenson
(NUJ member)

Answer attacks with cash

MILITANT THIS week has four extra pages in order to answer the outrageous attack on our supporters in Liverpool by the Labour Coordinating Committee.

Despite the considerable additional cost, we are not increasing our price, but are appealing to you our readers to help us defend ourselves by rushing in donations for the

fighting fund.

The deadline for this quarter is Tuesday 4 February. Send £20, £10, £5—anything you can afford will help, but at least £1 for this copy of the paper to help us fight the witch-hunt. Ask everyone you know, at work, at college, in the pub or at home.



Militant

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TUC must beat back Murdoch offensive

RUPERT MURDOCH has declared war on the print unions. By sacking all his Fleet Street workers and printing his papers at Wapping, he has thrown down a challenge to the entire trade union movement. If he wins, one of the best organised battalions of the working class will have been vanquished.

Murdoch has abolished the closed shop, enforced a binding no-strike agreement, imposed management vetting of trade union representatives and removed all trade union control over employment. He has exploited every opportunity provided by his friends in the Tory government to use the law to enforce his will on the unions. The EETPU leadership have recruited for him a scab army to organise his union-busting operation. It is an attack against the fundamental principles of trade unionism.

It is now up to the rest of the trade union movement to repay the print workers for the pioneering work they have done in strengthening trade unionism and improving wages. They have not just fought for themselves, but, through solidarity action, for other workers in struggle.

The power of the trade unions has to be brought down on the employers in general and the Tory government who are right behind the print bosses in wanting to destroy effective trade unionism. The time is ripe, the government is in disarray over the Westland scandals. They have not yet dared to sack trade union members at GCHQ for fear of the national industrial action which that would provoke. Thatcher and the print bosses can be forced to back down if faced with solid united action.

As a first step, the TUC has no alternative but to expel the EETPU for its strike-breaking activities at Wapping. At a time of industrial war, there is no place within the ranks of organised labour for a body which not only does nothing to support the struggle to defend trade unionism, but actively mans the barricades for the enemy. At the same time the TUC must give full backing to those EETPU members who are opposing their leadership's line and are fighting for a genuine, democratic union.

The battle against Murdoch has to be spread. As well as sustaining all the sacked workers, the print unions need to mobilise their members nationally to close down all News International's plants and organise with other unions the blacking of the transport, distribution and sale of its papers.

Pressure from below

The union leaders calculate that loss of sales could force News International to negotiate. Murdoch however is trying to operate an alternative distribution system to avoid union action. If he succeeds in regaining the sales he is losing at present, it will leave the print unions no alternative to all-out strike action throughout Fleet Street and the industry. There is some resistance now to this demand, but it will become unavoidable at a certain stage if action from the wider movement is to be mobilised.

SOGAT 82 has rightly said that it will not accept any court order obtained by Murdoch to ban solidarity action against him. This could involve the union in massive fines and the sequestration of its assets.

Once this happens, action in Fleet Street alone may not be sufficient. The unified pressure of print workers, mobilised in ongoing all-out industrial action may be necessary to force the ruling class collectively to bear down on Murdoch and force him to back off.

To prepare for this action an industry wide 24-hour strike should be called and the TUC committed to call a 24-hour general strike of the entire labour movement as the first step in a campaign of wider action by the TUC.

If the TUC General Council is not prepared to give this kind of lead, as happened during the last major print workers' battle at Warrington, then the activists at every level have to take the responsibility for convening mass meetings of the membership in the workplaces and the union branches, to explain the issues at stake and to generate action from below to achieve a national mobilisation.

This will not be an easy battle. Never have employers gone to such lengths to plan a campaign to shatter trade unionism. They will have the full backing of the government, the courts and the police. So long as it is still published the press will naturally print even more dishonest and defamatory propaganda than against any other workers.

Yet workers united have a far greater power. They can bring the most modern technology to a halt. They can force the hardest employer to submit. They have the strength to protect their jobs and guarantee that the benefits of new methods of production are used to raise living standards for the workers, not to reduce them to poverty and slavery.

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The wheelers and the dealers

By Dave Nellist MP



Photo: Militant

DURING QUESTION Time and her parliamentary statement on Thursday 23 January, Margaret Thatcher's nose grew by six inches!

There were enormous cracks in the mask of pious principle behind which the government hides. Behind that mask also stand the "chess players". These wheelers and dealers in shares like Westland treat workers in Yeovil, the Isle of Wight and Milton Keynes as pawns. Indeed one Tory MP referred to Westland as being "the size of a moderate hotel in London".

Bristow the helicopter tycoon sacks 50 pilots. Prior and Weinstock of GEC sack almost 1000 in Coventry before Christmas. United Scientific Holdings also sack over 100 in Coventry.

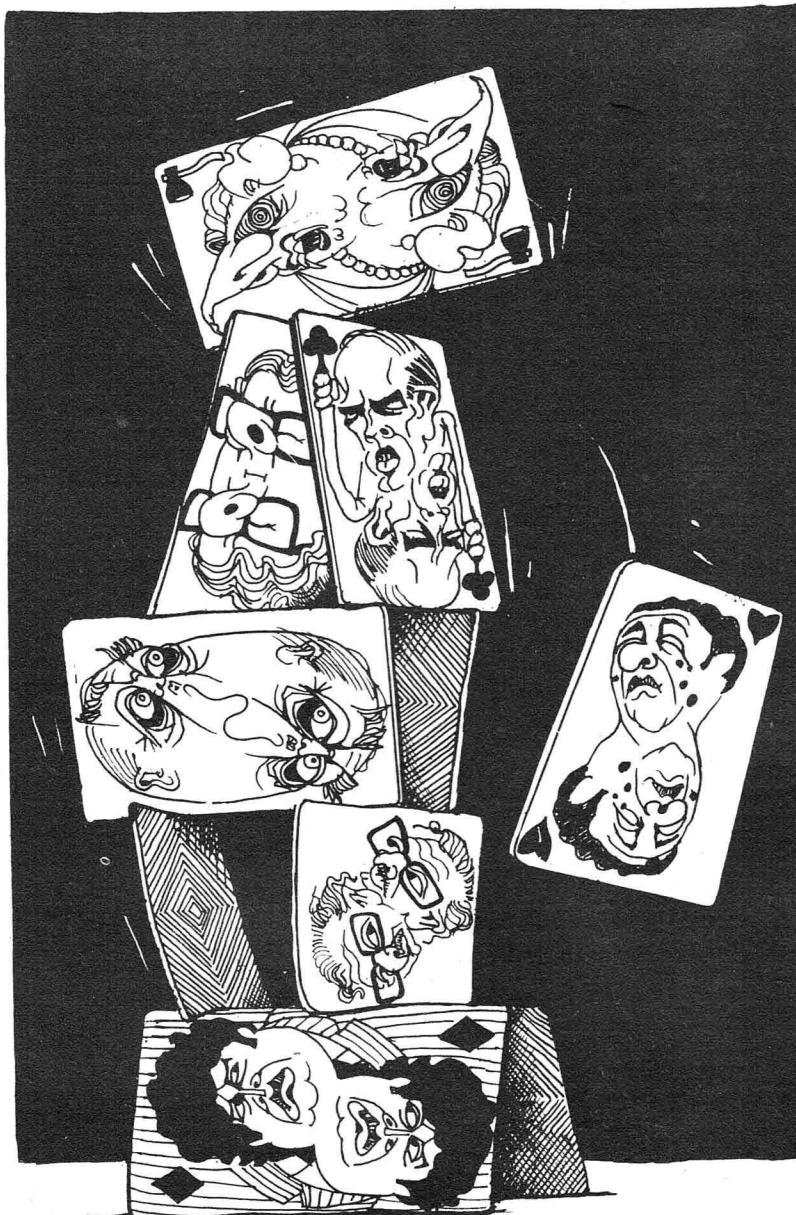
Are Westland workers supposed to believe these peoples' guarantees of jobs as they struggle for control?

The best outcome of this affair would be a campaign for an immediate general election to sack all the Tory ministers. An incoming Labour government could then learn two things from the Tories.

In February 1971 the Prime Minister Heath took one night of parliamentary time to push through a bill to take Rolls Royce into public ownership. A year ago Lawson, through the Bank of England, bought and effectively nationalised Johnson Matthey Bank for a nominal £1.

Workers' control

Add workers control and management, compensation on the basis of proven need for the small shareholder and a mass campaign amongst working people to prevent sabotage. The perennial crises of Westland, of mass unemployment could end. The establishment of a socialist planned economy would let the pawns take charge!



How the Tories survived

THATCHER SURVIVED her crisis in parliament over the Westland leaks, but the Tory government has lost its air of invincibility. The Tories' road to the next election will be as full of pot holes as the British capitalist economy.

In Monday's debate, the Tories shuffled obediently back into the fold, even Heseltine, at least in public, despite many back bench MP's doubts. But the opposition, particularly Labour leader Neil Kinnock let Thatcher and her government off the biggest hook they have been caught on for years.

The whole affair showed the splits in the Tory government. The row over Westland in the cabinet between Heseltine on one side and Brittan and Thatcher on the other reflected the conflicting interests of European and American capitalism within the British ruling class.

The Trade and Industry secretary, the fawning loyalist Leon Brittan had followed Heseltine on to the back benches after his department took the blame for an officially inspired leak

of a letter from Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, alleging inaccuracies in a previous letter from Heseltine.

Presumably Mayhew himself came close to resignation before his "honour" was satisfied by publishing another letter modifying his criticisms and deploring the selective nature of the leaks.

Cabinet split

The cabinet was hanging together by very thin threads. Thatcher was officially answering questions about how deeply she was involved in the leak of the Mayhew letter but the chance should have been taken to go on the offensive against the government on all fronts. Even on Westland the main protagonists were arguing about which capitalist multinationals would enrich themselves, not about workers' jobs.

Whole areas have been stripped of jobs and entire industries destroyed. Services have been bled near to death and the poorest in society made poorer, all under the Tories.

What better chance to start a campaign both political and industrial

against the Tories and their backers (like Murdoch)? The government were in a state of panic, forced into ritual suicides and scapegoating.

But Neil Kinnock's speech in parliament was totally lacking in real fire; there was no attack on the callousness or stupidity of the government handling of Westland, no exposure of how capitalism works and no attempt to link the present crisis to the far worse crimes of the Thatcher regime, only mealy-mouthed moral and constitutional points.

Mr Kinnock seems reluctant to see the back of the Tories and fight for a Labour victory (see page 16). As the report on page 4 shows, in his own constituency he seems more con-

cerned with witch-hunting Marxists than hunting out the Tories. Many Labour supporters fear that it shows he has no serious socialist alternative to the Tories' policies.

Socialists want to get rid of this Tory government as soon as possible. Thatcher has saved herself by throwing her subordinates to the wolves. ("I cannot tell a lie, Brittan did it").

But the crisis is not over for the Tories, the government have been gravely weakened. Now is the time for an all out campaign to build up a socialist alternative to Thatcher—and kick the Tories out of office.

Manchester rally success

800 PEOPLE attended Tuesday's *Militant* public meeting in Manchester to hear Peter Taaffe, editor of *Militant*, Derek Hatton, deputy leader of Liverpool City Council and John Tocher, AUEW Broad Left candidate for president. £800 was raised for the Fighting Fund.

Fleet Street crisis...

Action now—not 'the Willis game'

LARRY HYETT (SOGAT London machine branch) and his wife Jacky spoke to Clare Doyle last Sunday about events in Fleet Street.

We were down last night at Wapping and the first question that comes to mind, looking at the place is why did the GLC make such a fuss about the electric fencing at Chelsea football ground and yet Murdoch can get away with what he's got down there. It was incorrect for Chelsea football ground but it's OK for Murdoch when he's got quite different intentions.

What we are looking for now is the expulsion of the EETPU on Tuesday if it doesn't come into line with the print unions. The electricians should remove Hammond and the members should be able to make their own decisions. They should also go for Tom Rice.

We are looking for a

public declaration from all the other trade unions, T&G, NUR, ASLEF, and the miners who we did a lot of work for during the strike.

The attitude of the SOGAT workers is very militant. Unless the leadership agrees to step up the action and give the green light on

mass picketing, disillusionment can set in. The softly, softly approach to picketing is being put forward by the branch. They are waiting for the public declarations. Playing the Willis game.

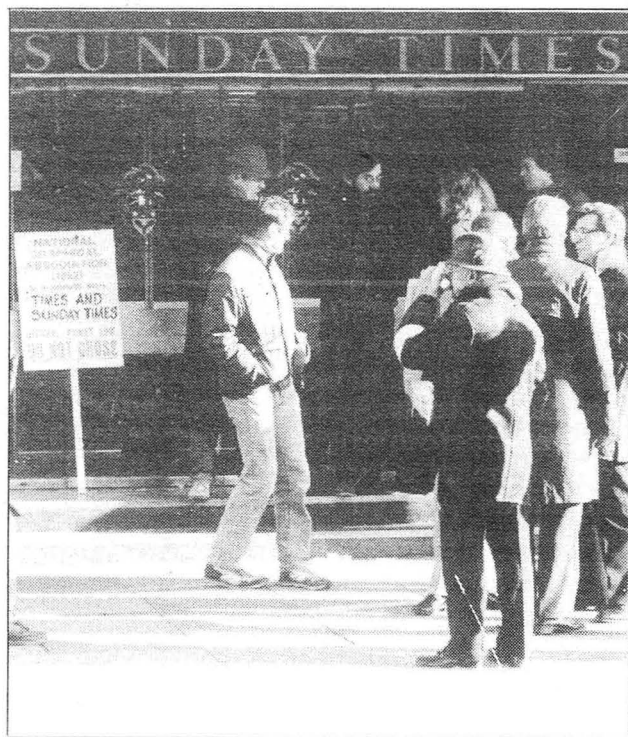
The members don't see it as the same situation as the miners. The right wing were saying that if the miners couldn't win, how could the print workers? But you can't stockpile newspapers. Murdoch has to sell a certain number of each issue each day or he doesn't make his money.

We were disappointed there weren't as many out in Wapping as there should have been. There had been attempts to undermine the action from the first night. At the *Sunday Times* chapel meeting the previous Saturday there had been calls for resignations.

Murdoch had asked for a trouble free night so as to let him go into talks with the TUC on the Sunday. If it was trouble free, we said, he should withdraw the plan to print sixteen pages at Wapping. Then it came out as 24 pages.

We picketed the TUC headquarters. We were ejected from the foyer. We were told Willis was not in the building and we were waiting for officials when Willis came out. We wanted to know where the meetings were and what was happening. He said he wouldn't tell us where they were, the meetings were secret.

The seven points were put to Murdoch on behalf of SOGAT without reference to the rank and file. The leadership were prepared to make all kinds of concessions.



Pickets at the *Sunday Times* last week.

View from general trade and provincial press

Traditionally there is little love lost in the general trade and provincial press branches for Fleet Street. But here, Chris Newis from Birmingham, a member of the NGA National Council during the Warrington crisis explains the need for united action to stop Murdoch.

EVENTS IN Fleet Street are being watched closely by other workers in the print, both the provincial press and general trade. We can't sit back.

The general trade remember the support given by News International workers in the 1980 dispute. Fleet Street's gains, such as the pre-entry closed shop, have led to gains for the rest of the industry.

The time for double-dealing is over. The NGA and SOGAT leaders must come together to fight Murdoch. Their policy in the provincial press disputes such as the *Kent Messenger* and the *Portsmouth News* is a busted flush.

Unity has to be achieved at shop floor level with joint chapel meetings. Developing joint chapel leaderships inside News International for a start.

Murdoch has thrown down the gauntlet to the unions. But the union leaderships have not begun to explain how to fight back. While the NI ballot was taking place they were not calling for anything.

It's not just in the provincial press disputes that we've seen double dealing. All the trade unions have got to come clean about the Shah. He's done a deal with WH Smith to distribute scab papers.

That's where SOGAT

organises. If SOGAT refuse to move Shah's papers it could be secondary action but the unions have to bite the bullet. Whilst the unions are split Shah can come through the middle and win. We've got to have an open-handed, co-ordinated response.

The TUC must bring the EETPU into line. If the EETPU refuse to reject the single union agreement they should be expelled. In this case the EETPU are no different to the UDM. And the electricians depend heavily in all industries on co-operation with other unions.

Thanks to the lack of campaign by the trade union leaders there has been a lack of consciousness amongst the general membership. Take the recent Panorama programme. My members were coming into work the following day shocked. It came as a real blow on the head to them to see what will happen if Murdoch wins.

But we can't look at the Murdoch situation in isolation. We have to go back to Warrington. The failure of the print unions to see it through, coupled with betrayal by the TUC, has led



Eric Hammond EETPU general secretary (left) was heavily heckled last week at the GCHQ rally in Cheltenham. Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, displays his famous joviality. Print workers are not so amused.

What's at stake in this is that it is not just the short term but the long term prospects for the whole of the print industry.

We've heard the *Mirror* will be increasing production by running extra folders tonight. It's ironic that Maxwell will be asking for men back when he's just been pushing them to take redundancies the week before.

Camden council has offered us every facility we require. A liaison committee has been set up and we would hope to be speaking to meetings of trades councils, union branches, GMCs etc.

There is a London District Council Liaison Committee which takes in represen-

tatives of the news group (*News of the World* and the *Sun*) and TNL (*Times* and *Sunday Times*). These are supposed to be elected representatives but we know already that this is not the case.

They are supposed to be setting up an operations room but as yet they don't seem to have got anything working properly. We should be fully involved and fully consulted.

A general strike, even a one day strike, which is what we would look for from the TUC, has to be prepared. But we would expect other action to be organised.

The TUC should instruct the dockers not to touch any of the paper coming in and

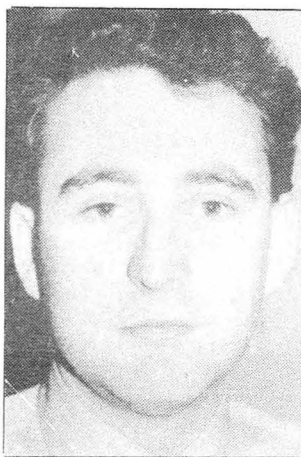
the T&G and other workers, to make sure no supplies of ink reach Wapping.

Things should be moving in our direction with the way things are going for the government at the moment. But a strong lead has got to be given. Kinnock should not be attacking people in his own party, but going for the Tories.

It was a disgrace at our chapel meeting when the officials told us that if we saw any people selling left wing papers we should finger them to the police and ask them to remove them. We are putting forward the idea of support groups like they had for the miners' strike.

MURDOCH HAS made himself clear: No Concessions. The print unions have a clear mandate for strike action. The fight must start now!

- A united fight by all the print unions.
- Prepare for a shut down of Fleet Street.
- All Fleet Street union rank and file FOC and MOC committees to run the strike.
- If any union is fined or its funds sequestered by the courts an immediate national print strike to be called.
- TUC to mobilise maximum support including industrial action.
- Expel the EETPU immediately from the TUC unless they stop their strike breaking role.
- Defend the closed shop.
- No redundancies.
- Maintain manning levels.
- Nationalisation of the press facilities under workers' control and management.



CHRIS NEWIS, president of Birmingham Typographical Society (NGA) talked to Bill Mullins.

up to today.

Those events gave the green light to newspaper bosses everywhere. The Shah's single union deal with the EETPU is a smoke screen. To all intents and purposes he is setting up five non-union shops throughout the country, including here in Birmingham, to produce his 24-hour paper.

This has shaken not only the unions but also the press barons as well. All this would not have been possible without Warrington. Shah isn't a self-made man. Len Murray made the Shah.

The industry is facing a future of massive non-unionism. The question has already been partially decided with the defeats in the provincial press. The *Kent Messenger* and *Wolverhampton Express* and *Star* are effectively non-union now.

Wages, conditions, health and safety are arbitrarily decided by the bosses. The Shah is offering good wages now. But in the long run he will cut them. In one non-union firm I know in the general trade, workers are on a 42-hour week running the presses and making plates—all for £51 a week.

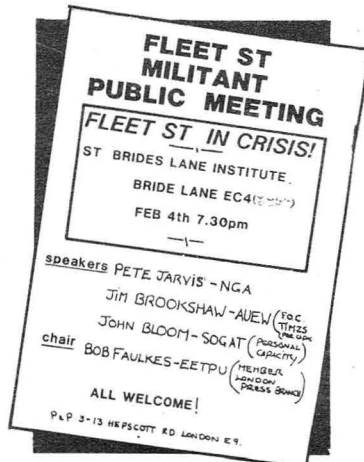
In the long term there is no difference between the general trade printers and those who work for the press. Bosses like Shah and Murdoch will spend millions

on new plant now to smash the trade unions. They expect to get it back, and a lot more, in the future.

Locally the *Birmingham Post* and *Evening Mail* have just declared 250 redundancies. I am waiting to be called to a meeting for the details.

The EETPU must be expelled. Apart from anything else Hammond has struck a blow against his own members. If Shah prints in Birmingham what happens to the EETPU members at the *Post* and *Mail* and other trade union organised shops.

The trade union leaders should call a one day strike throughout the printing industry and the TUC should prepare a one-day general strike. Then let the other bosses put pressure on Murdoch.



Kinnock backs local purge

THE DOOR has been opened in Islwyn Labour Party, Kinnock's constituency, for a witch-hunt.

The party's January meeting was packed, yet instead of discussing the huge crisis facing the Tory government, of which *not a word* was said, the meeting was concentrated on witch-hunts, purges and internal wrangling.

Five resolutions calling for a witch-hunt were submitted, and the secretary took the unprecedented step of distributing copies to the delegates. The Merseyside



Neil Kinnock.

LCC scandal sheet attacking Liverpool was also handed out by the Party agent. So much for the NEC's "secret party enquiry".

Photo: Militant

Three of the resolutions were withdrawn. This left just one which began with the words "Recent television programmes and other reports about *Militant* give satisfactory proof that it is an organisation with its own membership." The Tory media is now "proof"! The resolution called for 'action' against *Militant* supporters.

A councillor pointed out that he'd been in the party longer than most in the room and no one was going to tell him what he could read or give money to. Another said that expulsions had never gained Labour votes, as the 1983 general election had

shown.

Kinnock admitted that it was a battle of ideas when he answered a delegate, who had said he was not a *Militant* supporter. Kinnock said the delegate might not be a supporter, but the local broadsheet he produced carried *Militant's* programme on the back.

The resolution was passed but the opposition to a witch-hunt is so great that the right wing is unsure whether to proceed or not. An attempt to close down the YS has been defeated. But the attack will clearly throw the Islwyn party into turmoil.

Right wing attacks let Tories off hook

BY LAUNCHING a witch-hunt the Labour leadership are playing right into the Tories' hands.

At a time with the government facing its greatest crisis the Labour leadership have plunged the party into divisive turmoil when there should be a united, concerted offensive by the Labour Party to kick the Tories out of office.

The damage that is being done can be seen at local level where the leadership's actions have given the right wing the go-ahead to attack local party members and even keep new members out of the party. Two such examples of the witch-hunt have been seen this month in Cannock in the Midlands and Chorley in Lancashire.

Expulsions

In Cannock and Burnwood Labour Party two leading party members, Dave Ireland, chair of the local Bakers' Union branch, and Maureen Brown are being called before the right wing executive committee on 7 February. It is likely they will be expelled for supporting *Militant's* ideas. It is an extension of a continued right wing action, that has included keeping out five young workers who have been trying to join the Labour Party since last July.

Cannock and Burnwood used to be a safe Labour seat, but the Tories now hold it but only with a slim majority of 2,000 votes. Yet instead of the local party pressing the advantage over the Westland crisis, the right wing have embroiled it in internal strife.

Similarly in Chorley, those in the Labour party who have been at the forefront in fighting the Tories and win-

ning new workers to the party, are the victims of the right wing's attacks. The Chorley Labour Party general committee has now passed a resolution saying that any members so much as selling *Militant* will be expelled.

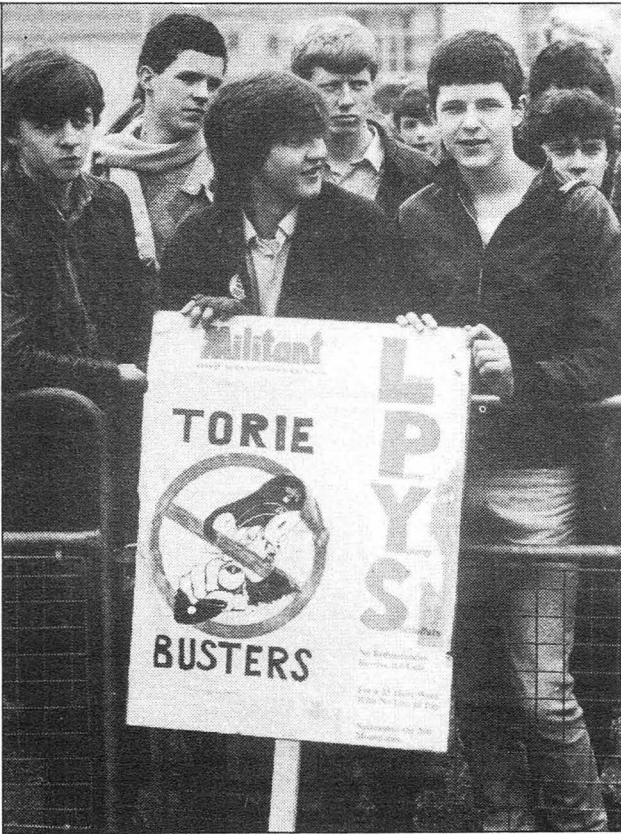
Joan Beale, chair of the local Women's Section, has been a target for the right wing, despite her record in building the Women's Section and fighting side by side with miners' wives during the dispute. Angry about the local witch-hunt, miners' wives turned out for the Women's Section Annual General Meeting, where Beale and other left wingers and *Militant* supporters were re-elected into leading positions.

Yet the right wing have declared the meeting unconstitutional because the membership applications of three of the miners' wives had not yet gone through the party, even though this would have made no difference to the election results.

Miners

But the eagerness of workers to join the fight against the Tories or support the socialist ideas of *Militant* cannot be held back by the right wing. In Chorley a successful readers' meeting was held, with over 50 people attending.

The Chorley and Coppull Miners' Support Committee have now launched a campaign to defend Joan and her husband Dave Beale from the right wing's attack. Parkside NUM is currently considering the issue while appeals have been circulated to NUM branches, Arthur Scargill and various sections of the labour movement.



Only nine weeks to LPYS conference

LOCAL LPYS branches everywhere are campaigning at schools, FE colleges and workplaces to build support for LPYS National Conference in Bournemouth on 29 - 31 March. Arthur Scargill will be speaking and there will be many debates, including discussions on South Africa and Chile. Start getting the money in now to pay conference costs, go to your local Labour Party and trade union branches for sponsorship.

Anger at Midlands GMBATU 'delegates'

GENERAL AND Municipal union official Neville Hough is on the inquiry team looking into Liverpool District Labour Party. He would do better to inquire into his union's activities in his own area of the Midlands.

Militant reported last year how Dudley East were notified by the GMBATU of several 'delegates' to the party's general committee. One

was a headmistress and president of Wolverhampton National Union of Teachers branch, who was to be representing the GMB Hotel Catering branch. Delegate for the Brierley Hill Quarryworkers GMB branch was the sitting MP's wife Mrs Jean Gilbert; a self-employed interior designer.

Secretary of the GMB branch 'represented' by Mrs

Soft left split on Sheffield expulsion.

LEADER OF the Greater London Council Ken Livingstone has spoken in support of Sheffield City councillor Paul Green who has been expelled from the Labour Party for his support for *Militant*.

Speaking at an anti-witch-hunt rally on 21 January, Livingstone called on Sheffield District Labour Party not to stand a candidate against Green in the May elections, and added he would personally travel to Sheffield to canvass for Green.

However, Livingstone's support for Green is in direct contrast to the stand of his 'soft left' Sheffield counterpart, city leader and NEC member David Blunkett.

Blunkett moved that Green be expelled from the Sheffield Labour Group on the council (see last week's *Militant*).

'Adventurist'

Now, after talk by local party members that Green will be reselected by his ward party to stand as councillor or allowed to stand unopposed, Blunkett has taken the unprecedented step of writing to Green's constituency party of Sheffield Heeley.

In it he says such moves would be "adventurism of the worst order" and even "vanguard revolutionaryism". Using moral blackmail over the party with comments more accustomed from the right wing he adds: "I have to make it absolutely clear it would not be possible to lead an election campaign which in any way en-



Photo: Militant

Sheffield City Council leader David Blunkett—out of step with Ken Livingstone.

dorsed a non-Labour candidate in the city".

Blunkett's interference has infuriated local party members. Sheffield Heeley Labour Party voted three to one to support Green standing for Labour in the May elections and demanded he be accepted on the Labour Group.

Victim

They are angry that a socialist fighter like Green should be the victim of right-wing bureaucratic expulsions for the crime of supporting Marxist ideas. To be branded as 'adventurists' for standing by him and defending him is intolerable. Labour Party members do not want apologies for the right wing's witch-hunting activities, they want an end to it: now.

Glasgow: say no to rent increases

JUST UNDER two years ago Labour was given its biggest majority ever on Glasgow District Council, winning 59 out of 66 seats. The Party fought on a "no rents/rates increase" platform, and committed itself to the defence of jobs and services.

No fight

The next year however a rent increase of twice the rate of inflation was imposed as the council ducked out of the battle against the Tories' newly imposed statutory Rate Fund Contribution (a

limit on the subsidy to council housing from the rates).

Now, after more government cuts and restrictions, (£100 million has been taken from the city since the Tories came to power) tenants face a further increase of 22 per cent, £2.43 per week.

Labour was elected to defend the city. Yet under the leadership of the Labour Coordinating Committee, Glasgow District Labour Party has singularly failed to develop any kind of strategy in relation to the budget.

Despite this lack of leadership a campaign can be built. The recent magnificent

turn-outs at public meetings on Liverpool, with two rallies attracting almost a thousand people, indicates the willingness of Glasgow to mount a fight.

The broad sweep of the campaign is clear—rents must not rise by any more than the rate of inflation. If this necessitates a rate-fund contribution which the Tories will determine as illegal, then so be it.

Plans must be drawn up and implemented now, well in advance of April, to take the council's case to the workforce and to the tenants to build support.

If a £2.43 increase is imposed Glasgow will have complied totally with the Secretary of State's dictates, as the average council rent will rise to over £13 a week, exactly the figure asked for by the Tories.

To fight and lose is one thing—to lose without even a fight will be tantamount to a betrayal of the faith that Glaswegians have placed in Labour.

By Larry Flanagan
(Glasgow District Councillor, Glenwood, Castlemilk)

Red Wedge tour success

THE RED Wedge tour has got off to a great start—with over 300 wanting to join the Labour Party Young Socialists following the tour's arrival in Manchester.

Manchester LPYS branches combined the Red Wedge concert with a day of entertainment and debate. Hundreds of youth came to join in discussions and hear a question and answer session with Billy Bragg. It was packed out. Sadly some people had to be turned away.

The Red Wedge concert itself seemed to me a bit

lacking on the political side, and many were disappointed that Style Council didn't do their best songs. Some of us wondered whether the bands had been got at by their managements, or perhaps the Labour leadership, to 'tone down' the politics.

However, musically, the Communards, Style Council and Billy Bragg were brilliant.

By Jane Briars
(Withington LPYS)

Militant fights back

Meetings
planned
nationwide

IN RESPONSE to the unprecedented attacks being made against *Militant*, members of the paper's Editorial Board are touring the country to answer the lies of the Tories, the press and their echoes in the Labour Party. Where no venues or details of speakers are listed, see local *Militant* sellers for details.

London

Woolwich: Wednesday 5 February, 7.45pm, Clock House Community Centre, De-fiance Walk, Woolwich SE18. Speaker—Terry Fields MP.
Battersea: Wednesday 5 February, 7.30pm, Battersea Labour Party Rooms, 177 Lavender Hill, SW11.
Dagenham: Monday 10 February, 7.30pm, AUEW Hall, Rainham Road South.
Hayes: Monday 10 February.
Hounslow: Tuesday 11 February, 7.45pm, Hounslow Middle School. Speaker—Lynn Walsh.
Merton: Tuesday 11 February, 7.30pm, Christchurch Hall, Christchurch Road, Colliers Wood, SW9.

Brixton: Wednesday 12 February, 7.45pm, St Matthews Meeting Place, SW9.
Tottenham: Thursday 13 February, Tottenham Library, High Road, N17. Speaker—John Pickard.
Stratford: Monday 17 February, 7.30pm, Bryant Street Methodist Hall, off West Ham Lane, E15.
Oval: Tuesday 18 February, Vassall Neighbourhood Centre, Brixton Road, SW9.
Ealing: Tuesday 18 February, 7.30pm, Ealing Town Hall, High Street, W5.

London Labour Party conference fringe meeting: Sunday 2 March, 12.45pm, Brixton Recreation Centre, SW2.
All London meeting: Thursday 13 March, 'Northern Ireland—the socialist alternative', Conway Hall, Red Lion Square. Speakers—Joe Higgins (Irish Labour Party Administrative Council, personal capacity) and Peter Hadden (Labour and Trade Union Group secretary).

Scotland

Edinburgh: Monday 3 February, 7.30pm, Assembly Rooms, George Street. Speaker—Ted Grant.
Fife: Tuesday 4 February, 7.30pm, Woodside Community Centre, Glenrothes. Speaker—Ted Grant.
Dundee: Wednesday 5 February, 7.30pm, Royal Hotel, Union Street. Speaker—Ted Grant.
Glasgow: Thursday 6 February, 7.30pm, McLellan Galleries, Sauchie Hall Street. Speaker—Ted Grant.
Glasgow University: Thursday 6 February, 1pm. Speaker—Ted Grant.

Strathclyde University: Friday 7 February, 1pm. Speaker—Ted Grant.
Motherwell: Friday 7 February, 7.30pm, Garrion Hotel. Speaker—Ted Grant.

Wales

Cardiff: Monday 3 February, 7.30pm. Speaker—Peter Taaffe.
Llanelli: Tuesday 4 February, 7.30pm, Parish Hall, opp. British Legion. Speaker—Peter Taaffe.
Islwyn: Thursday 27 February.

North East

Blyth: Monday 3 February, 7.30pm, Room 2, YMCA.
Sunderland: Tuesday 4 February.
Newcastle: Sunday 9 February, 7.30pm, Trent House pub, nr. RVI. Speaker—Bob Wylie.
Ashington: Saturday 1 March, LPYS Regional Conference fringe meeting.

North West

Oldham: Wednesday 5 February, 7.30pm, St Andrews Parish Hall, Middleton Street.
Liverpool: Wednesday 5 February.
Blackpool: Saturday 15 February, 7.30pm, LPYS Regional Conference fringe meeting, Winter Gardens.
Blackpool: Saturday 15 March, Labour Party Regional Conference fringe meeting.

Yorkshire

Sheffield: Saturday 1 February, Regional LPYS conference fringe meeting. Speaker—Rob Sewell.
Bradford: Monday 3 February, 7.30pm, Metropole Hotel, Sunbridge Road. Speakers—Brian Ingham and Gary Ironmonger (NUM). Followed by disco and late bar.
Aire Valley: Tuesday 4 February, 7.30pm, Keighly Central Library Hall. Speaker—Brian Ingham.
Maltby: Wednesday 5 February, 8pm, Maltby Library. Speakers—Rob Sewell, Geoff Bright.
Hull: Thursday 6 February,

7.30pm, Trades and Labour Club, Beverly Road. Speaker—Rob Sewell.
Grimsby: Friday 7 February, 7.30pm, Central Library. Speaker—Rob Sewell.
Bridlington: Saturday 1 March, Labour Party Regional Conference fringe meeting. Speaker—Brian Ingham.

Midlands

Stoke: Wednesday 5 February, 7.30pm. Speaker—Clare Doyle.
Birmingham: Thursday 6 February, 7.30pm, Digbeth Civic Hall. Speaker—Clare Doyle.
Dudley: Friday 7 February, 7.30pm, Smiling Man pub. Speaker—Clare Doyle.
Coventry: Monday 10 February, 7.30pm. Speaker—Clare Doyle.

Nottingham: Tuesday 11 February. Speaker—Steve Morgan.
Mansfield: Wednesday 12 February. Speaker—Steve Morgan.

Eastern

Harlow: Tuesday 4 February. Speaker—Mike Waddington.
Ipswich: Friday 7 February.
Great Yarmouth: Saturday 8 February, 7.30pm, LPYS Regional Conference fringe

Derby: Thursday 13 February, 7.30pm, Crown and Cushion Hotel, corner of London Road and Midland Road. Speaker—Steve Morgan.
Chesterfield: Wednesday 19 February.

meeting, Marine View Hotel.
Colchester: Sunday 23 February, 7.30pm, Colchester Labour Club. Speaker—Mike Waddington.
St Albans: Tuesday 25 February, 8pm, Bee Hive pub, off London Road.

Norwich

Labour Party Local Government National Conference
Saturday 1 February, 7pm
Militant fringe meeting,
Music Room, Duke Street Centre, Duke Street.
Speakers—Lynn Walsh and Paul Green

South and West

Bath: Tuesday 4 February, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, York Street. Speaker—Jeremy Birch.
Newton Abbott: Thursday 6 February, Community Centre, Kinstaigton Road.
Yeovil: Friday 7 February, 7.30pm, White Horse, St Michaels Avenue.
Brighton: Saturday 8 February, LPYS Regional Conference Fring Meeting.
Poole: Sunday 9 February, 7.30pm, Quay Hotel, the Quay.
Eastbourne: Tuesday 11 February.
Oxford: Wednesday 12 February.
Exeter: Wednesday 12 February.
Exeter: Saturday 15 February, LPYS Regional Conference fringe meeting.



Labour Party members demand the inquiry into Liverpool District Labour Party is dropped, outside the meeting of Labour's National Executive Committee on Wednesday 29 January. Up and down the country, thousands have attended *Militant* Readers' Meetings where the message has been clear: fight the Tories, not the socialists. Photo: Militant

THE FOLLOWING have passed resolutions opposing either the inquiry into Liverpool District Labour Party or the continued witch-hunt against *Militant*:

Constituency Labour Parties

Scotland: Glasgow Shettleston, Leith, Edinburgh West, Pentlands, Edinburgh Central, Clydebank, Falkirk West, Stirling, Clackmanon.
North West: Garston, Mossley Hill, Withington, Blackley, Manchester Central, Rochdale, Preston, Littleboro' and Saddleworth, Bootle.
North East: Sunderland North, Wallsend and executive of Blyth CLP, Gateshead East.
Yorkshire: Sheffield Hillsborough, Sheffield Heeley, Hemsworth, Pudsey, Leeds North West, Leeds North East, Barnsley West and Penistone, Bradford North, Leeds West, Wakefield.
East Midlands: North West Leicestershire, Nottingham East, Chesterfield.
West Midlands: Birmingham Ladywood, Birmingham Perry Barr, Coventry North West, Coventry North East, Coventry South East.
Eastern: Harlow, Hertford and Stortford, Bedford, Luton North, Hertsmere, Colchester.
London: Bethnal Green and Stepney, Hammersmith, Hampstead, Brent East, Deptford, Feltham and Heston, Hackney North and Stoke Newington, Hackney South and Shoreditch, Vauxhall, Ealing Southall, Uxbridge, Greenwich, Hayes and Harlington, Isl-

ington West, Holborn and St Pancras, Bermondsey, Westminster South, Westminster North.
Southern: Fareham, Poole.

District Labour Parties

Besides the obvious opposition of Liverpool DLP, also Manchester City, Basildon, Brighton, Thamesdown, Bristol and the executive of Greater London Labour Party.

Youth Sections

A total of 89 Labour Party Young Socialist branches and eight college Labour Clubs have already condemned the action.

Trade Union Organisations

NUM Lodges: Bold, Sutton Manor, Wearmouth, Darfield Main, Houghton Main, Allerton Bywater, Coventry, Linby, Wearmouth Mechanics, Seaford SCEBTA, Markham Main (Yorks), South Kirkby, Kent NUM Area Council.
TGWU: 6/612, 6/631, 6/51, 6/552, 1/552, 1/1347, 1/874, 6/171, 1/6, 9/8, Tilbury Docks and Riverside, Blackburn buses, 1/146, Pork Farm.

NUPE branches: Wirral District Health, Gateshead, Guys hospital stewards, Paddington and Kensington, Tower Hamlets, Liverpool caretakers, Brighton local government, Dudley, Edinburgh southern hospitals, Northumberland, Camden, Hammersmith and Fulham Health.
AUEW: Cardiff No 9, Manchester South shop stewards, Blyth, Kilnhurst, Skipton, Keighley No 1, Tyne Junior Workers Committee.
GMBATU: No 5, No 24, No 40, Glasgow Cleansing Workers, Rosyth Dockyard, Lanarkshire Gas, Cambridge.
AUEW - TASS: No 11, Manchester East, Barnsley, Sheffield and Precision Metals.
NUR: Liverpool No. 5, East Ham, Willesden No 1, Bedford and Luton.
ASTMS: Liverpool Shipping, Royal Insurance, Manchester Community Workers, Bradford, Southampton Insurance.
NALGO: Liverpool, Southwark, Camden Housing, Harringey.
Trades Councils: Harlow, Coventry, Swansea, Newcastle, Bradford.
Others: Bakers' Union National Executive, Bakers Union North West region, CPSA Longbenton, CPSA South West Regional Committee, NCU London Centre GMO executive, East of Scotland USDAW, EETPU Rosyth Dockyard, Edinburgh EETPU Plumbers, EETPU East Kilbride, Liverpool City Council JSSC, Rolls Royce Joint Staffs TU Committee, High Roysds COHSE, Manchester Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Workers, USDAW (Capital Holdings), Poole and Swanage UCATT, Camden UCATT, Camden DHSS CPSA, Holloway Road UCW, Westminster NCU.

Workers' alternative to Murdoch

"Dear Comrades,
I've read with interest in *Militant* about the capitalist press barons' move towards destroying print workers' union rights.
"As workers start to look towards socialism, especially *Militant's* socialist programme for Labour, people like Murdoch will hide themselves behind rolls of barbed wire, 25 foot walls, massive

amounts of security guards, gates and cameras.
"But these measures will not stop print workers and other trade unionists from stepping up the fight against the likes of Murdoch, Maxwell etc and eventually controlling a workers' press...
"Workers in the print unions and all trade unionists must now fight

for a workers' daily, that is written by workers. This means a move towards a daily *Militant* and a socialist future without the Murdoch and Maxwell daily lie tabloids.
Yours fraternally
Andy Scott
UCW
PS Please find a cheque for £10 towards the fighting fund and a daily *Militant*."

THE LETTER (above) is just one example of the reaction to the attacks on our paper. Another letter enclosed £10.40 collected on a petition sheet at the Hartlepool AUEW (TASS) branch and another enclosed £8.65 collected on a petition sheet amongst DHSS workers in Brixton.

Make sure your workplace doesn't miss out. Have a collection for the Fighting

Fund, or ask your union branch to send us a donation. This week we received £5 from the Redditch TGWU 5325 branch and £10 from Bristol NUPE branch "towards the campaign against victimisation in the Labour Party". £100 (after expenses) was raised at the NCU (Clerical Group) conference in Blackpool.

Petition sheets

Make sure our petition sheets are taken around every union and Labour Par-

ty meeting, not forgetting of course, Labour Clubs, YS's and Women's Sections.

It is only by appealing to every corner of the movement for the pennies and pounds from the working class that we can finance our paper. To fulfil the aspirations expressed in Andy's letter we appeal to every reader—ask all your friends to give a donation and help us build the apparatus we need for a daily paper.

By Ruth Campbell

FIGHTING FUND

This week £3370

Quarter ends 31 January

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target
1 London South West	1223		1200
2 London West	1839		2750
3 Scotland West	2196		3800
4 East Midlands	1669		3050
5 Humberside	1170		2150
6 London East	1713		3350
7 Southern	2766		5450
8 London South East	1025		2200
9 Eastern	1526		3450
10 South West	761		2150
11 Manchester/Lancs	1435		4200
12 West Midlands	1508		4500
13 Yorkshire	1934		5650
14 Scotland East	863		3100
15 Northern	1244		4650
16 Wales West	625		2950
17 Merseyside	1317		6850
18 Wales East	427		3050
Others	7011		5500
Total received	32252		70000

THANKS TO: Janet Urry £5; B Goodby, Perry Barr LPYS 30p; H Ross and B O'Brien £1 each from Hackney; H Wobey, also East London £22; Len Hockey, Wembley UCW £28.90; R Garrad, London NALGO £75; Damien Cummings, Bristol, Student £10; G Cooke Leics £1.75; G Webster, Leicester TGWU 75p; Mr Day, Kingstanding £1; Bill from Bentilee Stoke-on-Trent £10; Dave Muscrop,

ASTMS, Bristol £8; Richard Hopkins, Bristol £1.50. Pensioner from Larbert Labour Party £10; Ian Warren, Coventry TGWU 75p; C Rose and M Cottigan, Coventry NUS 75p and 25p respectively; B Jackson, Keresley, sacked miner £1; Paddy Taggart, UCW, 75p; Margaret McConley, unemployed 75p; Dina McLeod, Castlemilk OAP £2; Kenny McCoombes, Strathclyde, NALGO £16; Jim

Mullen, unemployed, Cambuslang £1.25; Jimmy Stevenson, Bridgeston OAP, £5; Charlie Stevens, Rutherglen CLP £4.50; Kath James, Islington NALGO £15; J Pearce, ACTTS 50p. Congratulations to supporters in Manchester who raised £50 collecting fighting fund outside the 'Red Wedge' concert, one supporter collected £28.50 in a bucket!



Militant sellers on the NUS day of action.

Marxist Daily Building Fund

THE LATEST news from Fleet Street is that the *Sun* is to be renamed the *Wapping Lies* and is to become the new paper of the Thatcher household.

Even with the 'quality' papers, Lenin explained, if they tell the truth 90% of the time, they can lie all the more convincingly for the remaining 10%. *Militant* is the only paper that puts the truth from the workers' point of view.

We urgently need more staff, more equipment and, most importantly, a more frequent paper. Rush money down to us now for the Marxist Daily Building Fund.

So if you haven't yet donated your week's wages or your tenner for Liverpool, do so now so that we can put it to use.

By Dave Campbell

Coming later this month

ONLY 30p!

In the battle to prove what we really stand for, can any *Militant* supporter afford not to buy one? Order your copy now from World Socialist Books, 3/13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB.



New opportunities for Militant sales

THE DISPUTE in the printing industry gives all *Militant* sellers great opportunities. Supporters in London sold over 100 in Fleet Street last week, beating the previous week's efforts. In addition, one printworker sold 44 copies to his workmates.

It's not only printers who are interested in this dispute, though. If you get out on the streets or round the estates you are sure to meet activists who are looking for the truth. In many areas, sellers report increased sales on

Saturdays in the shopping centres. Southampton readers now sell at least 30 a week in the town centre. How many does your area sell?

The Red Wedge concerts have been a bonus for some areas—the best sale we have heard of so far has been the 140 sold in Manchester. Red Wedge may be visiting your district soon, but even if they don't, your town may have a concert venue. Why not contact the local LPYS branch and arrange to cover all major events; few things will enable you to meet so many local young people.

Sellers in Rugby sold 60 papers at a Tony Benn meeting. In addition over £15 was collected for the Fighting Fund. If you take a rattling tin on every sale you will raise your fighting fund target as well as boosting the circulation of *Militant*.

The other star sale this week was the 150 sold at the CPSA Pay Conference in Croydon. If your union is holding a special conference or rally make sure you let us know and we will help arrange for local sellers to give you a hand.

By Dave Fryatt



As in 1983, the battle in the print will be followed by all activists.

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.

ENAMEL *Militant* badges: now available. Cost £1. Bulk orders (10 or more). Cost 75p each + 25p post and package. Contact: Fighting Fund Department, 3-13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB.

1986 MARKS the fiftieth anniversary of the Spanish civil war. The Spanish revolution was one of the most heroic struggles of the century. To mark the occasion we have brought together some existing material covering the momentous events of 1936 and the lessons of the disastrous policies of Popular Frontism pursued by Stalin. A ideal introduction for all socialists. Contains: The Spanish Revolution 1931-37 by Peter Taaffe and Ted Grant. The Lessons of Spain by Leon Trotsky. Marxist Study Guide. Popular Frontism. Articles covering French Popular Front 1936, The Spanish Revolution and Chile—Lessons of the Coup. Plus the Spanish Revolution by Alan Woods—C 90 tape. Available from World Socialist Books, 3/13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB. Only £2.25.

SANDRA KERR concert of socialist, trade union and womens songs. Benefit for sacked miners and Labour Women's Council. 7 February 8pm Manchester Town Hall.

MILITANT WINTER draw unclaimed prizes: 4th prizes—£20 worth of socialist books. We are unable to get in touch with the following winners. Daphne Short Tel. (8) 21322. Ticket No. 007252. E Stephens, Penlan Social Club. Ticket No. 031476. Please send your winning ticket and full address when making your claim.

1986 diaries and address books 60p. Bookmarks 40p. Plastic, paper sleeves 20p. Sew on badges 40p, Pens 20p. Plus post to Militant, 10 Rodney Ct. Anson Drive, Sholing Southampton.

MILITANT carrier bags—now reduced. 10 bags for only 50p. Please enclose 25p P&P. Send order to: Fighting Fund, 3-13 Hepscoot Road, London E9.

READ THE truth about the Merseyside labour movement in *Mersey Militant*. Individual subscriptions £7.50 for six months (26 issues) £3.75 for three months (13 issues) Bulk orders (minimum 10) 12p each including post and package. Send cheques to 2 Lower Breck Road, Liverpool 6.

WHAT IS the programme of the French Tories? How do Marxists in France approach the Socialist and Communist workers? The answer to these questions, plus plenty of information, facts, figures on the situation in France can be found in the Marxist paper *L'Avance Socialiste*. Number 11 out now. Subscriptions £10 (by cheque, for 12 issues). Send to *L'Avance Socialiste*, BP 70, 75662, Paris, Cedex 14, France.

LEYTON LPYS 'Organise against racism' meeting with Bernie Grant 30 January 7.30pm Rosswyld Hall, Church Hill, E17.

A LATIN American day school has been called by London Militant supporters to try to provide a Marxist analysis of the major movements in the continent and the heroic efforts of the workers to lift themselves out of grinding poverty and repression.

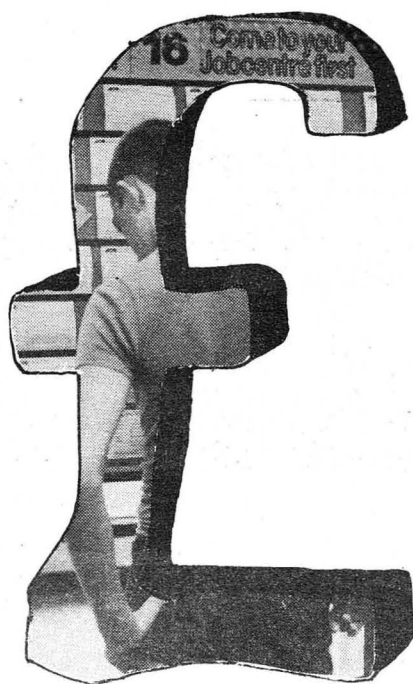
Saturday 22 February, 10.30am Chile on the brink. Speaker: Peter Taaffe.

2.00-5pm Commissions: Nicaragua, Latin America, Lessons of the Popular Unity 1970-73. Speakers include Lynn Walsh, Rob Sewell.

At Kingsway Princeton College, Sidmouth Street WC1. Entrance fee; £1.00 waged 50p unemployed; including concert in the evening £2.00 waged £1.00 unemployed Tickets available from 3/13 Hepscoot Road London E9.

'Jailed by Mugabe' Copies available from Zimbabwe Trade Unionists Defence Campaign, 28 Martello Street, London E8 3PE. 30p each. In March 1985, 14 trade unionists and socialists were detained while working to democratise the trade unions in Zimbabwe. Some were tortured, allegations were made that they were planning a general insurrection. Read how socialists responded to the state attack.

Economic 'recovery' coming to an end



1986 WILL be the fifth year of the world economic 'recovery' from the slump of 1979-81. That is the main message that the Tory government continues to push in the pages of the press and on radio and TV. "The economy is growing, inflation is down, investment is expanding, etc".

By Bob McKee

And it is true that most forecasts are for real growth in the major capitalist countries during 1986 of around 2½-3 per cent. The government expects growth of over 3 per cent in the UK but no other forecaster accepts that estimate and pitches the figure closure to 2 per cent or even lower.

But this apparently healthy picture completely hides the reality of the situation for the major capitalist nations. At the beginning of last year, 1985, we predicted that 1984 would turn out to be the peak year for expansion for capitalism in the current world boomlet. After that year 1985 would see slower growth, with 1986 "developing a new recession or slump which will pitch downwards into 1987 and 1988" (*Militant International Review*, January 1985).

The first part of the prediction has been borne out. Growth in world production reached 4½ per cent in 1984 but dropped back during 1985 to 3 per cent. The main reason for this fall was the dramatic collapse in the expansion of US capitalism from a growth rate of 7 per cent in 1984 to only around 2.8 per cent in 1985, despite the Reagan government optimistically predicting 4 per cent growth throughout the whole of last year.

Production in the UK was distorted by the miners' strike, but a similar downturn in growth can be discerned. In 1984 the British economy only grew by 2.2 per cent. It picked up with the end of the miners' strike to something over 3 per cent in 1985, but most forecasters predict only a 2 per cent growth rate this year (including North Sea oil production).

And all these levels of increase in world production are way below that achieved in the 1960s and 1970s. Growth in 1986 at 2.75 per cent will be slower than that achieved in 1970, the worst recession year in the period of world boom before the oil crisis of 1973.

But even though world growth rates are lower even in the years of 'recovery', are we heading for major slump in production and investment in 1986?

If the propagandists for the capitalist system are right then the best that can be hoped for during 1986 is a year of sluggish growth in the USA and Europe. But that relatively optimistic prediction depends on a number of events not happening during this coming year.

Firstly it depends on there not being a sharp fall in the value of the dollar. The US economic boom of 1982-5 has been built on a massive government expenditure on armaments, financed by borrowing



mostly from overseas investors who have been attracted by high interest rates and a strong dollar.

But all the goods produced have been supplied by imports from countries like West Germany, Japan and even Brazil which have exported more goods to the USA than they have received by as much as \$40bn, \$65bn and \$12bn respectively. US manufacturing has been unable to compete and has hardly expanded during the years of 'recovery'. The US balance of payments deficit is heading for \$150bn as a result.

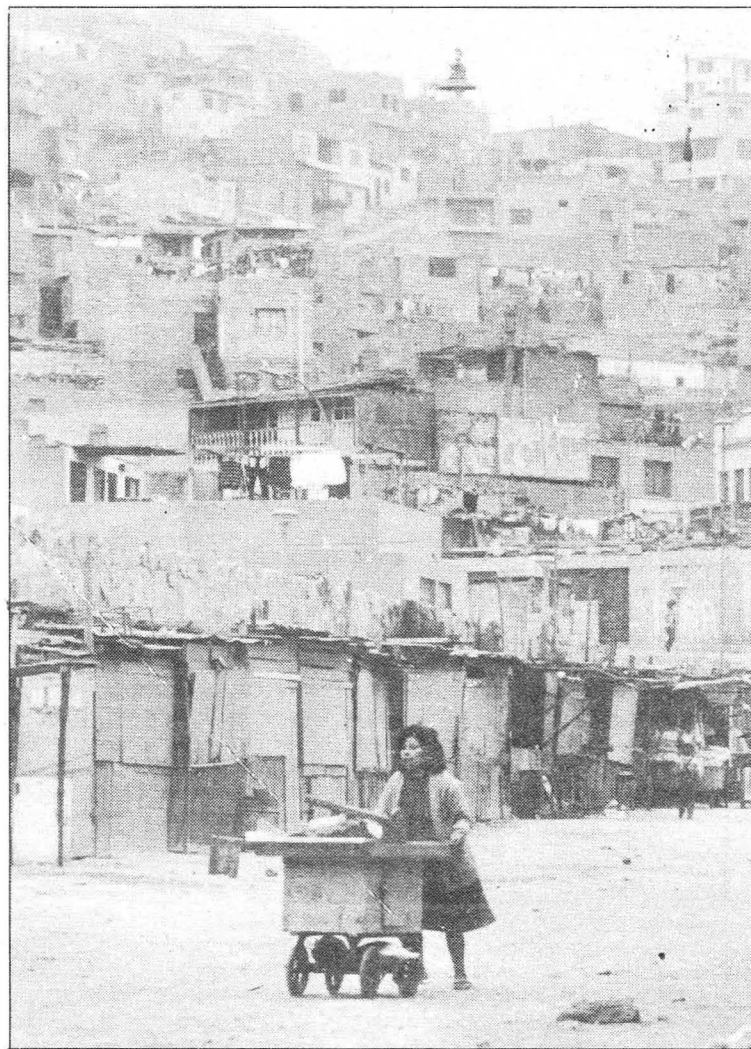
This serious imbalance in world trade could reach \$1000bn by the end of the decade at present trends. But unless action was taken before that, the surplus trading nations would lose confidence in the ability of US importers to pay for these goods and in the value of the dollar. The result could be a drastic fall in the dollar value, leading to a sharp rise in prices in the USA.

The government would then be forced to raise interest rates, so driving up costs for US industry and engendering a slump in production that would spread throughout the industrial world which has come to depend on the US market for growth.

Group of five

That is why the US government is trying through the Group of Five meetings, involving the top capitalist economies, to arrange a gradual decline in the dollar against the Japanese yen and the German mark, that will not disturb economic growth. Their chances of succeeding are poor, because any further decline in US growth that a fall in dollar value would imply would have to be compensated for by an upturn in Japan and Western Europe, which does not seem likely.

Another danger to the already slow growth of the Western economies is a collapse in oil prices during 1986. At first sight this should help growth by reducing the costs of production. And certainly the fall in world commodity prices over the recent period has probably shifted resources from the Third World countries to the profits of



The collapse of commodity prices is hitting third world countries hard. In Peru (top) a political poster appeals for fair prices for basic foods. Peru's workers live in desperate poverty in shanty towns (above). Photos: © Gonzales (Reflex)

industrial countries by as much as \$65bn.

But this huge extra burden on the Third World non-oil exporting countries has created the ever-growing debt owed to the international banks which they cannot reduce because of low prices for their commodity exports.

If oil prices also collapse, countries with already large debts which are oil producers like Mexico and Nigeria, may be forced to default on the repayments. That could lead to the bankruptcy of some major banks, generating a financial crisis and a severe recession in the industrialised world as governments

bail out the banks through increased taxes and expenditure cuts.

Even if such a collapse in world production and investment is avoided in 1986, growth will be slow. Although profit levels have risen sharply in the major industrial countries over the last four years, profit rates remain below the levels of the 1970s, and they are likely to decline over the next year preparing the way for a sharp downturn in 1987.

In the UK the situation is even blacker, despite the fatuous and compacent statements of Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.



Chancellor Nigel Lawson

The four years of 'recovery' have been founded solely on North Sea oil revenues. Manufacturing industry has been decimated in this period. For the first time in 1984, Britain became a net importer of manufactured goods, to the tune of £3.8 billion a year. That figure was surpassed in 1985 (£4 billion). The situation will be worse in 1986. Manufacturing production is still 8 per cent lower than it was in 1979!

And 1986 will see a fall in oil revenues for the first time with the House of Lords Select Committee predicting that by the end of the decade Britain will be a net importer of oil again. Certainly by the end of 1986, oil exports and earnings from financial services will no longer be able to compensate for the deficit on trade in goods, and Britain will have a new balance of payments deficit.

Sharp fall

And that forecast is based on oil prices only declining slightly to around \$26 a barrel by the end of 1986. In fact they are already below that figure at the time of writing, and many forecasters are expecting a sharp fall to near \$20 in the spring. If that happens, the value of sterling will slump against European currencies, causing a sharp rise in import costs and so fuel inflation.

Despite the claims that the government has brought down inflation, the main reason for lower price rises has been the collapse in world commodity prices. As it is, the UK inflation rate remains well above that of most of its main trading rivals.

A fall in oil prices, leading to a decline in the value of sterling against European currencies, will force up the prices of the goods bought by British industry. If the government tries to keep up the value of the pound by raising interest rates, it will raise costs to industry and so induce a slump in production and investment from the already poor levels expected in 1986.

That can only mean bad news for workers in Britain and particularly for the unemployed who have now become a permanent feature of the economic landscape, not only in Britain but also in the industrial world—over 30 million out of a job in the major capitalist countries in 1986.

And this is in the fifth year of 'recovery'. If the world economy, and with it the British, slips into slump towards the end of 1986 or in 1987, then a new era of redundancies and layoffs outstripping anything seen so far must be on the agenda. That is the prospect that capitalism is offering.

Warning: winter kills

COLD IS thought to be responsible for the deaths of 44,000 elderly people each winter. In the first half of last year, more elderly people died than in the whole of each of the previous five years. Deaths of elderly people are about 20 per cent higher in winter than in summer.

These statistics are given in the latest report from Age Concern: *Hypothermia—the facts.*

A survey commissioned by the Electricity Consumers Council (1981) found that on average elderly people spend less on heating their homes in winter than most families do in summer. Some try to heat their homes for less than £1 a week.

In 1972 the DHSS issued a leaflet called *Keeping warm in winter*. It recommended that pensioners should have living room temperatures of 70°F. In December 1973 Lynda Chalker, then Minister for Health and Social Security, said this had been withdrawn "because it conflicted with the concept of freedom, conjuring up George Orwell's vision of 1984".



The choice for most pensioners is whether to spend their meagre pension on food, heating or rent. The high and rising cost of fuel means that many of them are cold most of the time. This is made worse because pensioners also live in some of the worst housing—either in their own house, which they can't afford to repair, or in the older council estates for which there is never enough money to properly renovate, and which have been hit hard by the government's spending cuts.

A lot of interest is being focussed on a bill now coming up for its second reading, sponsored by Jeremy Corbyn, which calls for no standing charges on fuel bills for pensioners, and rent-free telephones. While these changes would obviously help, they still don't alter the basic problem of poverty, of bad housing conditions, or lack of general care.

The plight of pensioners in Britain is a condemnation of this so-called "affluent society" (capitalism). Does Neil Kinnock also think it 'impossible' for them to grow old with dignity, to enjoy old age instead of having to suffer the existence that so many are condemned to today?

By Lynne Faulkes

Life in Tory

ACCORDING TO Norman Fowler, "Want in the name of absolute deprivation has largely been eliminated." According to Keith Joseph a family is only poor if it cannot afford to eat. He argues that as most people not only eat

but travel on buses and watch TV there's not much poverty around. But reality is different in Tory Britain 1986. A new report by the Low Pay Unit says that 8 million Britons earn less than the Council of Europe's decency threshold of

£116 per week. At the moment there has been a meagre rise in the earnings of those on low jobs.

As a bigger section of the population sinks into poverty, others have money

Law and order

THE INNER cities have seen a horrendous increase in crime and violence. A day does not pass without the press reporting a depressing catalogue of murders, rapes and attacks on children and pensioners.

By Bob Wade

I have seen this where I live in East Ham, East London. Last year my home was burgled, around the corner an old lady was mugged, up the road one desperate man held his solicitor hostage with a shotgun, while further along at Plashet Park there was a small scale riot in April.

In nearby Hackney Wick, where my wife works, a teenage girl has been murdered, a woman raped, a trainee at my wife's Training Centre has disappeared, while a workmate was mugged—at 4.30 in the afternoon.

The Tories have seized on this rising crime wave, tub thumping over 'law and order'. They are desperately trying to divert attention from their failed policies as they face defeat after defeat on every other political front. But for the Tories to present themselves as the only people who are 'tough on crime' is a complete falacy.

Since 1979 the Tories have presided over the worst increase in crime and violence in post war Britain. Crime has risen by 40 per cent since the Tories came to office; last year alone there was an 8 per cent increase in serious crimes.

Abstract claims

The Tories have tried to pretend all this is totally unrelated to the consequences of their policies, instead blaming abstractions. Editorials in the Tory newspapers blame the 'liberalised ideas of the 1960's'. Thatcher blames the parents, while Tory party chairman Norman Tebbit and Lord Chancellor Hailsham have both put it down to some mystical "basic evil" in society. All back up their argument saying there was mass unemployment in the 1930's but 'we didn't have all this crime'.

Only an idiot or a liar could not see the correlation between rising crime and increased poverty. In the days of near full employment in 1960 there were only three quarters of a million recorded crimes. In 1979 and the return of mass unemployment it had risen to 2.5 million, rising again in 1983 alongside the growing dole queues to 3.2 million.

Unlike the 1930s, expectations

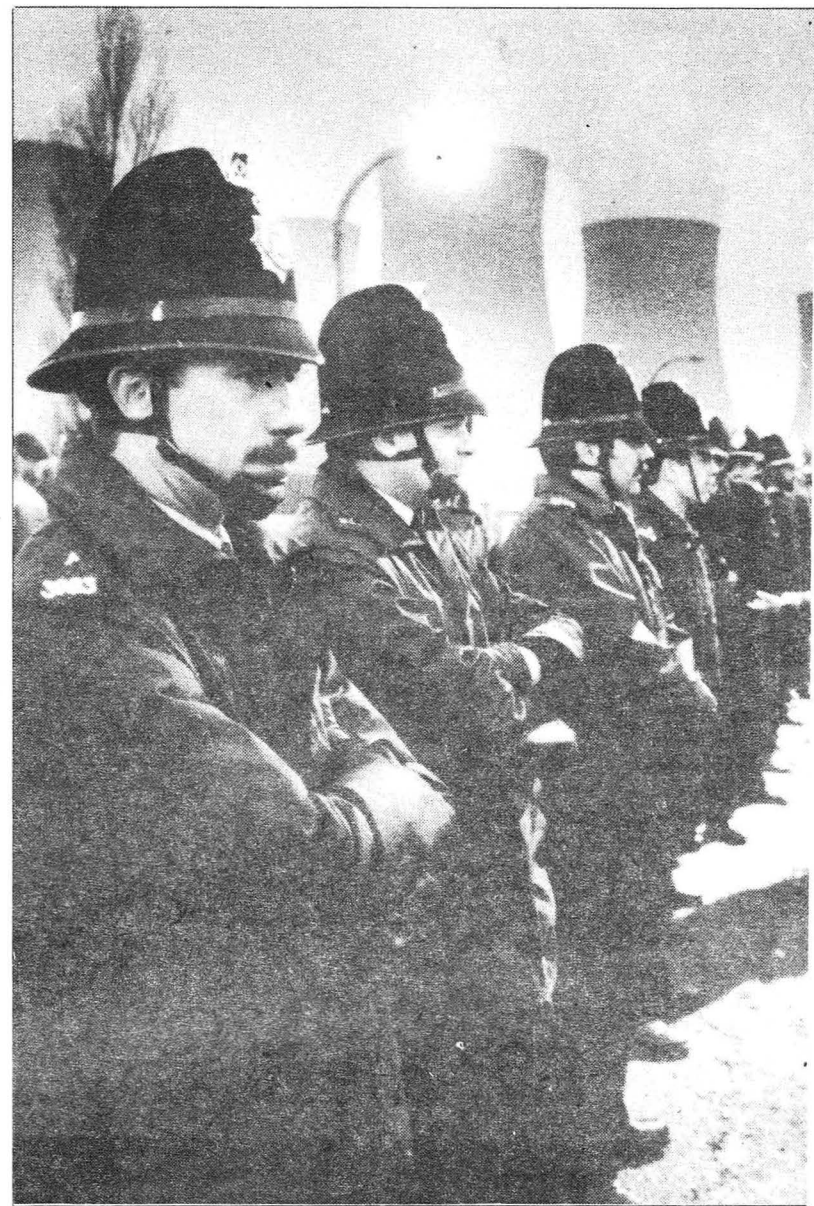
are much higher with the advertising industry still promising a world of sleek cars, videos and the whole array of consumer comforts. The frustration, bitterness and alienation when confronted with the realities of capitalist society are all the greater.

When the Tories talk of the 'liberalised' 1960's, they are really antagonised by the growth of political awareness of the period, a direct result of the strengthened position of the working class through the growth of trade unionism. This is turn radicalised the middle classes, whose traditional role in the past had been to police society on behalf of the ruling class, through the education system, the civil service, the church etc.



Tory Chairman Norman Tebbit—blames "evil" society. Photo: Militant

This phenomenon was well summed up by a county police chief who gave his jaundiced view of the world to *The Guardian* (8 January); "Policing in a shire county used to depend on three people—the village bobby, the teacher and the vicar. Between them they would have the place sewn up. Today the teacher is on strike, the vicar in CND and the bobby clocks off after eight hours



The country's most common crimes in numeric order are vandalism, theft from cars, wounding, car thefts, bike thefts, robbery, shoplifting, and sexual offences (the latter two are the most serious). These crimes, which affect mainly working class people, have increased as the Tories have come to power. Yet the main concern of the government has been repressing opposition to the miners' strike by sending in police to break up pickets during the miners' strike in 1984.

unless his superintendent is prepared to sign for his overtime."

It is that area of social control that concerns the Tories—not the result of their policies of deprivation or its harmful consequences for working people. Hence during their six years in office all the major changes to the legal system and the 'beefing up' of the police force has not been to tackle crime but to fight opposition to their policies.

Look at what the Tories have done. They have extended paramilitary police units, like London's Special Patrol Group, to every police force in the country. Not to tackle the country's sixth and seventh most common crimes of car thefts and bike thefts, but to act as Thatcher's shock troops against pickets and demonstrators.

They have established the beginnings of a national police force through establishing the National Reporting Centre; not to co-ordinate manhunts for rapists or murderers, but to combat flying pickets during the miners' strike.

The new laws introduced by the Tories have not been to curtail the widespread fraud and corruption

of the city; they have been to immobilise trade unions through massive fines, or to force Labour local authorities through judicial victimisation of elected councillors, to carry out cuts.

This year will see the arrival of the Public Order Bill; it will not combat the country's most common crime of vandalism, but instead gives the police widespread powers to either ban, impose conditions or dictate location and numbers on demonstrations and mass pickets.

Fighting 'sedition'

All the Tories have done is to give increased powers to the state apparatus to fight the labour movement and quell anti-government opposition. Their priorities were outlined as far back as 1979 by the then Manchester police chief Anderton. He told *Question Time* on 16 October of that year: "I think that from the police point of view that my task in the future...that basic crimes as such—theft, burglary, even violent crimes—will not be a predominant

Britain

the same time
theoric rise in
in the top
on of the
poverty while
to throw

around the frustration mounts.
This year must see the end of
the Tories, and the election of a
Labour government. That would be
the first step towards ending this
system of misery, poverty and
deprivation.



Photo: John Harris (IFL)

With this overt switch in police policy, it is not surprising that the rate of crimes being cleared up has fallen dramatically. In 1979 41 per cent of crimes were solved. By 1983 it had fallen to 37 per cent. In London it is worse. In Catford, South London, last year only a derisory 5.3 per cent of the areas 2,866 burglaries resulted in a conviction!

Yet mass protest movements against the government face blanket arrests. A staggering 11,000 miners were arrested during the strike—the majority for the first time in their lives and many on trumped up charges of which they were acquitted. Since 1981 well over 7,500 peace protestors have been arrested for the crime of fighting against nuclear genocide.

If you were a striking miner you had a 1 in 10 chance of being arrested. If you are a peace protestor it is roughly 1 in 27. If you are a house-breaking parasite in Catford, you'll probably get away with it.

Any illusions that the police are some independent arbiters poised above society have been shattered by this government. The police and the legal machine are part and parcel of capitalism's state apparatus whose main objective in the final analysis is to protect and defend the profit system.

Neither is crime itself abstract from the state of a society. More unemployment, more poverty means more frustration, crime and violence.

Take initiative

Crime will only be overcome when the social conditions in which it breeds are eradicated. This means the total transformation of society, replaced by a socialist planned economy that can provide jobs for all, decent homes and facilities and rising living standards. A socialist society will also mean real democracy, with the mass participation of working people in all aspects of life, including social control or 'policing'.

But that does not mean that socialists can do no more at present than say 'nothing can be done' until that time. The Tories will continue to disguise their repressive measures intended to attack the movement under the cloak of enforcing 'law and order', if the movement does not intervene.

Socialists must take the initiative. An immediate task for the movement is to campaign for democratic control of the police through elected local authority bodies. It must use its strength not only to act as a check on governments using the police to implement reactionary policies, but also to ensure that in the day to day running of the police force it acts in the interests of the community it is supposed to serve. This democratic control of the police must be campaigned for alongside exposing the Tory government and the real causes of crime, and the need for a socialist answer.

feature. What will be the matter of greatest concern to me will be the covert an ultimately overt attempt to overthrow democracy, or subvert the authority of the state, and in fact, involve themselves in acts of sedition designed to destroy our parliamentary system and the democratic government in this country."

With this blatant class bias of the police chiefs and the government, it is working class communities that suffer. Not only in the direct sense, as was seen in the mining communities during the strike, when pit villages were swamped with platoons of riot police with no other intention than to break the NUM. But also through the subsequent loss of police from their supposed 'real' role of crime prevention. On average today, one beat policeman will cover an area populated by 4,000 people.

In London a total of 213,000 'man days' were lost to the police during the 12 month miners' strike, as Met officers were drafted into the coalfields. Meanwhile London has seen an increase in crime higher than the national average.

Surviving the concrete jungle



New houses go up under Liverpool City Council's housing project, in the shadows of the multi-storey slums built in the 1960's. Photo: Militant.

THE BULLRING housing complex in Liverpool is a large 1930s tenement block due for demolition under the council housing programme. Some of the tenants spoke to GILL BENNET and CATHY DI-NEEN of Mossley Hill LPYS about the conditions they live in.

Jimmy Wisheart showed how damp is continually spreading along the sills and skirting boards in his flat. Tape is stretched along the areas to try and stop the worst of it. "Most flats have damp in the rooms because the flats are so old".

The whole estate is like a run-down concrete jungle. Communal bin chutes which are shared between up to ten flats at a time are not properly sealed off due to decades of neglect. Rats often scamper from the rubbish when they are emptied.

Jimmy explains how kids get entertainment by picking up bricks

to throw at a rat. The only area for recreation is the run-down playground at the end of Trowbridge Street; broken glass, old furniture, charred planks with rusty nails litter the area. The swings are mostly broken or worn out, with a broken semi-charred wooden climbing complex in the centre of the ground.

Drug pushers

A few years ago drug pushers tried to get a footing in the area. Local tenants quickly organised a meeting which set up a vigilante squad to see them off and within the space of a few months cleared them out. But with the mass unemployment and poverty created by the Tories you cannot completely get rid of the drug pushers.

Gloria Anderson with five children was enthusiastic about the council housing programme: "It'll be lovely if these were houses. People do get fed up, but you have to learn to live with it."

"The housing's brilliant in Speke though," her husband added, "It's completely changed; all the old 'tennies' have gone".

Here you have pensioners climbing up to four floors up, broken concrete stairs. One pensioner was walking down backwards step by step, clutching a rusty railing, pausing now and then for breath. The council is planning to do away with these conditions by building proper old people's bungalows.

Within the next three to four years the whole complex will be brought down and proper council houses will be built with gardens and road access.

Thousands of pensioners, workers and their families will have the chance of a proper house for the first time in their lives. Any threat to the council and their programme of reforms will meet the fierce resistance of residents who have had to put up with years of neglect and despair under previous Liberal and Tory administrations.

Living like a robot

THE CASE of Mrs Jacqueline Drake, who is going to the European Court of Justice after the DHSS refused her an invalid care allowance, highlights the plight of many women who are forced to look after relatives without financial assistance.

Mrs Drake gave up her job to look after her invalid mother who can no longer wash, dress or feed herself.

The DHSS has discriminated on the grounds of sex by ruling that the allowance is only available to men or to single women.

The government is saving itself £74 million by not paying the allowances to married women.

Typical day

LYNN WISEMAN from Gateshead East Labour Party describes a typical day of a friend of hers, Joan, who also has to look after an invalid mother. Her parents can't get a home help as they have a daughter living in the same area. This is how the day starts for Joan.

7.00—Get up, after being up four times already with twin boys of two years, they still like to share their mum's bed.

7.45—Wake the other five children up to get them ready for school.
8.30—After dressing twins take other children to school.

9.30—Get back home, tidy up, then get twins ready again to go to parents' house.

10.30—Arrive at mam and dad's. Mam had a very bad stroke a few months ago so can't do anything for herself. Dad can't help as he is too old. Get Mam out of bed. Wash her down, put clothes on and comb her hair, then put her in her wheelchair, make them something to eat."

In between watching the twins all the time she strips the bed as it is always wet. She puts the washing into bag to wash when she gets home. Then she does some housework for them.

She has to walk all the way home from her parents as she can't get on the bus with twins, buggy, and dirty washing.

She gets home exhausted, but she still has to wash the clothes, collect the children from school, make tea and wash up.

Family pressure

She doesn't sit down until 9.30 pm. This routine happens everyday for Joan with no help at all.

Her parents are on the waiting list for sheltered accommodation. The doctor has said they are an emergency case. At the council office they are told that with cutbacks there are no vacancies, but that

when a place is available they will let her know.

A health visitor has told Joan that the twins should be in a nursery to give her a break, but when inquiries are made she is told there are no vacancies for about a year or more.

This is life in Tory Britain for millions of working class women. The capitalist system has nothing to offer. It is only workers' control of society that will change things.

A better future

Just imagine what life could be like if we had communal services like restaurants, laundry services, and a housing programme providing low-rent homes, a programme of public works to build nurseries, schools, hospitals. Those are just a few of the things that could change the lives of working class people.

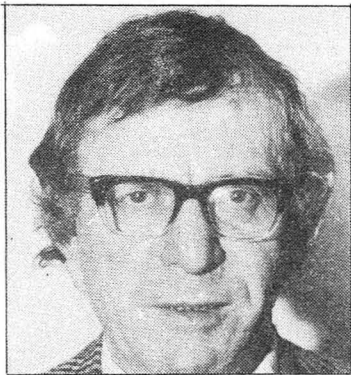
Joan is told constantly that when there is, a vacancy for this a vacancy for that things will be better for her. I hope it happens soon so that she can then start to become a person again instead of a robot.

I also hope that the labour movement is discussing women's issues in their branches and understand that it is women who are bearing the brunt of the Tories' attacks.

Only workers can guar

Part 2 of the reply to Chesterfield Labour Party's statement of aims and objectives

Last week, TED GRANT, *Militant's* political editor began an analysis of the statement of aims and objectives published by the Chesterfield Labour party, which he described as a service to the labour movement. He continues with a look at the statement's aims on the Stalinist countries, international affairs and the media.



Ted Grant.

Totalitarian bureaucracy

THE TORIES in Britain, and America especially, but throughout the industrially advanced capitalist states use the example of Russia and of Eastern Europe as a scarecrow to frighten workers as to what socialism would mean. It would mean the end of your liberties and a totalitarian state is what they say.

The truth is that all that is left of the great achievements of the Russian revolution are the nationalisation of the means of production, distribution and exchange and a plan, however bureaucratically distorted now, of production. The capitalists and Tories take advantage of the totalitarian regimes in Russia and Eastern Europe to discredit socialism, just as they take advantage of the abuses of nationalised industry, in order to discredit nationalisation.

As the Chesterfield document correctly remarks no country can build socialism alone. It is an aberration due to backwardness and isolation that led to the lack of democracy in the Stalinist countries. Russia is further away from socialism 70 years after the revolution than in the early years of the revolution under the leadership of Lenin and Trotsky. The bureaucracy has taken power out of the hands of the workers and now runs the economies of Russia, Eastern Europe and of China in the interests of the nationalist bureaucracies rather than in the interests of the working class.

There is less equality, freedom, discussion, democracy and debate than even in the period of the civil war which followed the revolution. The economic basis for a move towards socialism is there due to the successes of industrialisation, because of the abolition of capitalism and landlordism. There

is no political basis for a movement in this direction.

All that remains is state ownership of the means of production, but run in the interests of the parasitic bureaucracy and not of the workers and peasants. How far they are from socialism is indicated by the fact that the economic integration of the Comecon countries is less than that of the capitalist EEC! Each national bureaucracy tries to build the economy for itself instead of integrating the economy for the benefit of the peoples of all these countries. It is impossible under a bureaucratic regime to do this. The only way international co-operation could be established would be through the overthrow of the bureaucracy and the coming to power of the workers and peasants of these countries, who would establish a real workers' democracy with freedom for all parties.

Four conditions

Not a single one of the four conditions laid down by Lenin for the beginning the revolution, preparing the way to move towards a greater and greater equality until all inequalities are abolished, exists in Russia now. In fact Russia is further away from socialism than even during the course of the civil war which followed the revolution.

These conditions were: 1. The election and recall of officials in Soviets. 2. No official to have a higher wage than a skilled worker. 3. No standing army, but an armed people. 4. All jobs to be done in rotation—if everyone is a bureaucrat, no-one is a bureaucrat. None of these apply today. In reality Russia is further from socialism now than it was at the dawn of the revolution.

Photo: Militant



CND march for peace in London, but only workers' power and socialism can achieve permanent peace.

World socialist federation the goal

THE CHESTERFIELD document says: "The adoption by Britain of a non-aligned foreign policy, committed to the United Nations but free of all military alliances, so that this country, with others could help ease international tensions, reduce arms expenditure and assist the development of the Third World."

"The development of closer economic, industrial, social and political links between working people here and in other countries free from the control of the Treaty of Rome or NATO."

In reality this is an entirely utopian policy. Britain being one of the large countries cannot opt out of the international arena. War is a continuation of policy by other means to quote the famous Ger-

man general Clausewitz. Wars are not moral questions. They are caused by the struggle for markets, raw materials, spheres of influence and nowadays neo-colonial domination.

Foreign policy, like home policy, is dictated by which class is in power. Capitalists would not allow even a left Labour government to pursue a different foreign policy unless they had been rendered impotent by the taking over of the 200 monopolies. There is only one way to develop closer, economic, industrial and social links between working people and that is through the labour and trade union movement. And through the actions of the working people themselves. This was shown in action at the

time of the stay-in strikes in France in 1968 when ten million workers in effect tried to carry through the socialist revolution by seizing control of industry for an entire month. Their action had an enormous effect on the workers of other countries. Dockers, railwaymen, airport workers, lorry drivers of Germany, Italy, Holland, Belgium and other countries bordering France immediately introduced a blockade so they would not scab on the French workers. This was done without a lead from either the labour or trade union organisations in those countries.

A socialist transformation of society in any important country of Europe would have an enormous

effect on the working class of Europe and of the world. Had the Socialist/Communist government in France, with 55 per cent of the votes transformed that society by taking over the industry of the 60 families that control France, the situation there would have been different. Even the nationalisation of all the banks was not sufficient to give a genuine control of the economy.

The only way to break free from the Treaty of Rome and NATO would be to establish a genuine socialist regime in Britain which would then appeal to the workers of Europe and the world for succour and support. They would get an enthusiastic and massive response. While of course standing for the rights of of all the peoples, Marx explained that under conditions of super imperialism, under conditions of enormous economic

development of the world market, it is not possible for genuine independence to be established by small nations or the colonial peoples themselves.

Terms of trade

Collective exploitation by the EEC, Japan and the United States of the peoples of the Third World is even greater now than when the empires controlled most of the colonial world. To give a recent example, in the last 18 months, the terms of trade between the ex-colonial world and the industrialised states has changed. This has meant the transfer of \$79 thousand million a year as a parasitic exaction from the poor, the hungry and the starving for the benefit of big business. The price of the goods that the underdeveloped world world sells—raw materials and food—has dropped, while the price of the

Antee peace



Gorbachov and Reagan talk in Geneva. The big powers can veto UN resolutions.

UN will not prevent wars

THE UNITED Nations can solve not a single one of the important problems. In fact it has even been impotent to stop, prevent or solve any of the wars which have taken place since 1945 which together must have seen almost as many people killed as during the massive world war of 1939-45.

The United Nations remains a forum to settle secondary differences by the big powers. All the resolutions demanding action by Russia and America and the EEC countries and even by the smaller countries have failed utterly to have any effect. Nor could it be otherwise.

Big powers decide

At the United Nations only secondary questions are discussed for serious solution. The fundamental problems, as for instance on the question of disarmament are discussed outside by the big powers—now only by the big two of the super-powers of Russia and of America. When their important interests are at stake the big powers ignore entirely the pleas of the United Nations. In any event the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China have a veto through the Security Council of all decisions of the United Nations. Thus it is the big powers that decide and no others.

The tensions of the world are caused by the fundamental contradictions caused by the fact that the national state is too small for the purpose of developing production. While all give pious prayers for disarmament, in reality the piling up of arms has reached a horrifying level. The world spends £1 million million on armaments in less than two years now. This insane and senseless arms race is caused by the contradictions between the different countries.

It is also welcome to the

manufactured goods and capital goods they buy are still continuing to rise.

There is no way this could be altered except by socialist governments taking over the economy of the capitalist states and then integrating the economy with that of the underdeveloped world. They could then provide them with cheap credits, technicians and experts of all sorts to help with the development of production by integrating the economies of these countries with Britain and Europe. This would raise enormously the standard of living and prepare for the time when their standards of living will be as high as those of the developed countries.

Britain exports 30 per cent of the goods she produces, and imports also about a third of the goods that are sold in Britain. Even more than all other capitalist countries, she is

capitalists as a partial means of getting rid of the enormous surplus by building scrap metal. This also means diverting the attention of the masses from the real contradictions in society by the Russian bureaucracy on the one hand and above all by American imperialism and its satellites on the other. Thus the United Nations has not prevented the greatest arms race and arms expenditure in the whole of human history.

The United Nations is completely incapable of having any effect on wars, such as that between Iran and Iraq. In the same way as the workers would not trust the bosses to conduct their negotiations for higher wages and better conditions, so they can trust even less the representatives of these bosses in international affairs. The predatory and dictatorial attitude of Shah and Murdoch as individual capitalists is an indication of how the capitalists behave. Where the capitalists are organised as the state, how much less can we expect that the bosses on an international plane would behave any differently than the individual forces?

Agreements between nations are like agreements between the workers and the capitalists. They are scraps of paper as far as the capitalists are concerned, to be broken when employers can gain an advantage. The print industry at this moment demonstrates that clearly.

Even more when nations are involved they are the same. Nationally and internationally workers can rely only on their class organisations, solidarity, class strength and consciousness. Workers must trust in these rather than in foolishly imagining the class enemy will construct international or national organisations to help them in their struggle. Only workers' power and socialism can lead to permanent peace and genuine fraternity between peoples.

completely dependent on the world market. That is why it will be impossible to build socialism in Britain alone. That means that a socialist Britain would have to strive through propaganda and appealing to workers of other countries to establish like governments in Europe, leading to a socialist united states of Europe which in its turn would lead to a socialist united states of Asia, Africa and of Latin America, linking the world in a world socialist federation.

The economies of the world are linked together indissolubly through the world market. Internationalism is not a sentimental question but a question of material interests of the workers of Britain and of the world. The interest of the workers of all countries are the same because they struggle against the same enemy in capitalist countries and against the bureaucratic

How can the press be fair?

IT IS not the Marxists, but the right-wing Labour leaders and even more so the Left Labour leaders who have utopian ideas. One of the rights put forward in the Chesterfield statement is: "The right to mass media which provide accurate news, free from bias or distortion, and a diversity of views".

In Britain we now have the most vile and disgusting press of any capitalist country. Workers in struggle have found every time that their struggle has been distorted by the lies of the *Sun*, the *Express*, the *Mirror* and the *Mail*. Therefore there should be a forthright demand for the nationalisation of the press under the control of the labour and trade union movement. It is not put forward in the Chesterfield document because of the fear of the howls about totalitarian control, by the millionaires who make a mockery of freedom of the press and who exercise semi-totalitarian control of the media themselves.

they will put forward, let us explain that once the press is under control of the labour and trade union movement then right of access to the media would be allocated according to votes at elections. What could be more fair and democratic than that?

Robert Williams, one of the Labour leaders in 1920, declared: "give me dictatorship over Fleet Street for a single month and I shall destroy the hypnosis!" There is a tradition in the labour movement for control of the press and we are asking for not dictatorship but access to the press for all in accordance with the support they have within the ranks of the population.

Of course it is our mission not only to take over the Fleet Street mafia but also the new media which are even more powerful than the press—TV and radio—which are systematically under the control of big business, even the BBC which is supposed to be impartial, but in reality has almost become a department of the Tory party. Only this way could a genuine democratic and fair access to the media be guaranteed for all tendencies in society.

Stalinist regimes in Eastern Europe, Russia and China. It will not be sufficient merely to overthrow capitalism within the boundaries of one state but will be necessary to spread the socialist revolution to other countries as well. The material interests of the workers of the world are the same everywhere.

The right of self-determination for colonial peoples must be supported, but economically it is meaningless without democratic socialist governments linking the economies of these countries with the economies of the workers of the West.

A genuinely socialist Britain would lead to the collapse of capitalism in Europe, the United States and the Third World. It would lead to the collapse of the Stalinist dictatorships which would turn to workers' democracy.

Northern Ireland elections boost sectarian fears

1986: THE YEAR OF DECISION
ULSTER SAYS NO



Paisley and Molyneux after the by-elections

THE FIFTEEN by-elections held in Northern Ireland on 23 January were won by the main Tory and sectarian parties. It was one of the most sectarian elections for decades.

Despite the media attempts to play down the unionist vote and highlight the loss of the Newry/Armagh seat to the SDLP, this election does not represent a defeat for the unionists. Because of the lack of any mass working class alternative, the unionists took 78.6 per cent of the vote and increased their overall net vote by several thousand.

Opposition

The poll results clearly will not weaken their campaign of opposition to the Anglo Irish agreement. It in no way means acceptance of this agreement in Protestant areas. The unionist MPs will use these results in the North to take their opposition further and also increase sectarianism. The electoral support for these unionist leaders can be ignored by government ministers in London and Dublin, but it will be the workers in the North who have to pay the price for any rise in sectarianism.

While the overall poll was lower than the 1983 general election, this is explained by the lack of Sinn Fein and SDLP candidates; this led to large abstentions in Catholic areas. The SDLP's Seamus Mallon defeated the official unionist candidate in Newry and Armagh despite the DUP vote going up by 1,123. The SDLP succeeded in obtaining a swing from Sinn Fein and increasing its vote in the Newry area where the vote went up from 58% in 1983 to 70%.

Sinn Fein fared badly, the attempt by Adams and co to explain the fall of their vote in Newry and

Armagh by a third, and South Down by a third as tactical voting by their supporters, does not explain the fall of their vote elsewhere.

In Fermanagh and South Tyrone their vote fell by 27 per cent and in Mid Ulster by 13 per cent, areas where they are the dominant nationalist party. The swing against Sinn Fein cannot be wished away, but given the lack of a socialist alternative in the Catholic areas, the deprivation and repression and the middle class nature of the SDLP, Sinn Fein can win back these votes.

Only the organised working class can present a serious, mass, non-sectarian alternative to Tory unionism, Tory nationalism, and the bosses' Anglo-Irish agreement. A capitalist Northern Ireland or a capitalist united Ireland is not acceptable to either Catholic or Protestant workers.

Workers' Party

It is for this reason that the middle class Alliance Party and the small Workers Party have no solution. The Alliance vote fell by 17 per cent in the five seats they contested. The Workers' Party vote fell in three out of the four marginal seats, the only areas where there was a serious contest. The Workers Party did pick up votes but this was due to the lack of nationalist candidates.

The Labour and trade union movement is the only force which can provide an alternative to the sectarian and Tory parties, and unite Protestant and Catholic workers against the bigots, poverty, unemployment and repression, and for the fight to change society along socialist lines.

By a Belfast correspondent

Northern Ireland: the socialist alternative

LAST WEEK'S election results in Northern Ireland confirm the urgent need for a labour movement response to the dangers of sectarianism.

The Anglo Irish agreement between the Tory government in London and the Tory Fine Gael administration in Dublin has totally failed to bring peace to the North.

It is an attempt to bring 'stability' on a capitalist basis. But the agreement offers no improvement in the living conditions of workers, Protestant or Catholic. It merely fuels sectarianism, allowing bigots like Paisley to stir up the fears of the Protestant population. There

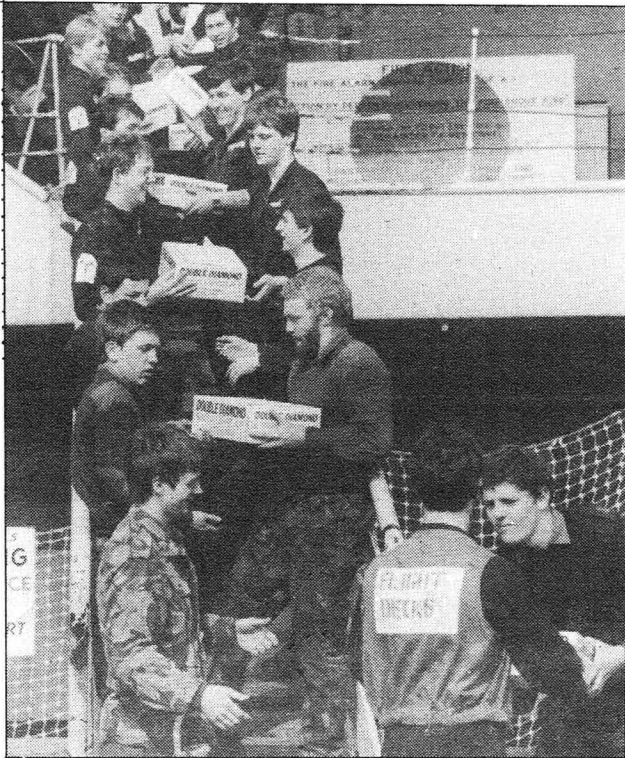
the state repression or sectarianism.

The forthcoming edition of the *Militant International Review* will carry invaluable material on the background to the agreement. It shows the urgent need for class unity between all workers from both Catholic and Protestant backgrounds; a socialist alternative to the agreement and to the enormous problems workers face North and South in capitalist Ireland.

Letters

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

Photo: The Press Association Ltd II



Despite massive arms spending, rank and file soldiers have not been immune to government cuts.

LEFT and RIGHT

Price and prejudice

THE LACK of involvement of working class women in the London Labour Party Women's Section still seems to be a problem. At their conference on 18-19 January, some delegates queried the venue for the Labour Women's National Conference—the Isle of Bute, an island off the west coast of Scotland. Those who complained about the cost of trying to get to such a remote spot were told it was a "lovely place", "why don't you take a few extra days off and have a holiday there", and even that they were "racist against the Scottish".

Members only

THE FABIAN Society is holding a conference on 11 February to discuss a future Labour government's 'policies for business'. Speakers include Roy Hattersley and shadow industry secretary John Smith. The conference is for the business community, while Labour Party members can keep out. Unless they can afford the entrance fee—£120 plus VAT.

Tories lose support

Dear Comrades,

During a paper sale in Southampton I met a lad with the army in Germany. Asked whether he wanted a paper he replied:

"I daren't in my position. But I'm with you all the way. It's changed over in Germany since 1979, they were all Tories there..."

"The men hate Thatcher, especially since she cut our allowances. We can hardly scrape a living today. That wally Heseltine, we can't stand him either, with his bloody flak jacket."

"I'm not saying the men will all vote Labour, but Thatcher will get very few votes from out there next time, a very few. The Tories have had it".

If I were a Tory right now I'd be very worried about the words of this lad.

Yours fraternally
Mike Ingham
Southampton

All in the stars

Dear Comrades,

"Bored with Christmas TV and in no mood for serious work I decided to try and find out if there was a link between political success and the stars".

No, not the words of celestial pundit Russell Grant but in fact Labour MP for South Ayrshire, George Faulkes. In this much-meeted research in a newspaper article on 12 December, he discovered that Neil Kinnock and Norman Tebbit are both Aries. Mr Faulkes found out from a professional astrologer that Arians "tend to rush into battle on impulse, are famed for their self will and self sufficiency" and goes on to say they are often accused of "arrogance, bloody mindedness and petulance" (never!).

Astonishingly (and isn't this exciting) second to the Arians as the Star career champions come the Leos—people like John Cun-

ningham and Scottish Shadow Secretary Donald Dewar. Their star sign characteristic is to be loud mouthed (who says astrology's a load of rubbish?).

Mr Foulkes goes on to say he now believes aspiring politicians should study their horoscopes to assess chances of success. They'd do better studying their principles.

As for Mr Foulkes I would suggest he concentrates his mind on less lofty statistics such as unemployment in the area, and starts becoming single-minded, determined and unstinting in the service of the working class.

PS. Thatcher apparently shares my star sign of Libra—"Even-handed, balanced, compassionate"—which just shows astrology is always right.

Yours fraternally
John McCuick
Glasgow

Bar staff solidarity

Dear Comrades,

As a part-time bar worker I would like to express my solidarity with the 800 barworkers who came out on strike in Belfast recently.

For £1.79 an hour I have to pull pints, take 'stick' from the customers, laugh and joke with the customers, act as a cashier, a dish-washer and a general 'dogsbody' all

rolled into one.

We always run the risk of getting our wrists slashed from broken glass left lying in the washing up water or worse, getting sacked on the spot with no right of appeal.

The fact that workers' unity in Northern Ireland can be expressed by one of the most downtrodden sections of both the Catholic and Protestant

working class is an inspiration to barworkers everywhere and all other workers this side of the water, who are fighting against low-pay, victimisation and for trade union and basic human rights.

Yours fraternally
Jackie Walsh
Stevenage Labour
Women's Council

AUEW: rebuild shop floor strength



Photo: Martin Shakeshaft.

The AUEW leadership announce plans to hold another vote on accepting government funds for ballots. The rank and file want them to spend more time organising the shop floor.

Dear Comrades,

It is becoming clear to us in engineering of the incompetence and ineptitude of the leadership of our union, the AUEW, at local and national level.

My workplace has been begging to be organised, with myself calling for this at the union's District Committee and the stewards' quarterly meeting. Our full-time officer apologised but there were problems with his 'massive workload', but he would get to it as soon as possible.

He did take action. He phoned our employer to arrange a meeting with the workforce, to recruit them and organise them and demand recognition from management! Not surprisingly the works manager told him to . . . off and then

locked the factory gates to keep him out.

Only now are the union to implement what I and others suggested, leafletting and meeting outside working hours to persuade people to sign up.

This is just one indication of the demise of the AUEW. It is up to every active member to rebuild the union. Very soon union members will be voting for a new President. We must make sure every member knows who the best candidate is.

Yours fraternally
An AUEW Militant
supporter

'The human story'—Exhibition of human evolution

'THE HUMAN Story', an exhibition of human evolution (Commonwealth Institute until 23 February) has all the promise of showing the latest thinking on our origins.

Unhappily the promoters of this exhibition have put together a disappointing show. It begins with an ambitious attempt to explain the origins of the solar system and of life—useful if you were doing 'O' level geology but for the average viewer there is far too much text and too little visual display.

More discomfiting is the extremely cramped space through which the exhibition tortuously winds—made even worse by thinking about all the awesome time and space. On a popular Saturday afternoon, squashed between three or four other people you are strain-

ing your neck to read the next installment and feel pretty fossilised by the time you reach the first 'time capsule' to travel to the next stage. (Except that you don't notice that dark bits of passage are time capsules until half way around).

Debate

The display of skulls and partial skeletons are however, impressive, from the skulls of 'Proconsul'—an early ape-like primate which lived 20 million years ago, discovered by Mary Leaky and Louis Leaky in Africa, to the famous 'Lucy', the jaw and partial skeleton of an *Australopithecus* thought to be one of the earliest upright walkers.

But what is absent is the discussion and debate which has raged in anthropological circles over recent years.

Controversy continues over the age of 'Lucy', originally thought to be as old as 3.7 million years by Dr Johanson who discovered the skeleton in Ethiopia in 1974, thereby implying that the human split from the apes had already occurred by this time.

But now a new theory has been put forward by scientist Masami Hasegawa, that the split occurred only 2.7 million years ago, based on study of the so-called 'molecular clock'. This measures the difference between the chemical make-up of the genes of a species like a Chimpanzee, which changes at a reasonably constant rate as the species evolves, and that of humans. (The difference is only about one per cent—less than some other animals classified as the same species).

Hasegawa's evidence sug-

gests that upright walking, characteristic of humans, began more recently.

Also missing from the story is the debate on the relationship between the advent of upright walking, the freeing of the hands for tool use, and the subsequent (as Marxists would see it) development of the brain.

Religion

There are some excellent models of our respective ancestors but there isn't much attempt to show these in context of their social behaviour, such as child rearing and maternal roles, which have important bearings on human evolution.

The exhibition begins with a curious statement that the 'Human Story' doesn't necessarily contradict the 'contemporary views of the world's great faiths.' Yet

any scientific explanation inevitably implies a materialist view of evolution which cannot be reconciled with religion.

Towards the end, dealing with modern times, the scientific approach is replaced by superficial, quasi-scientific 'analysis' of the achievements of civilisation such as 'Christianity' and 'Socialism' which appear without any explanation.

As you leave there are some vague impressions of the future for society on a video screen accompanied by some funky musak (which wafts through the whole exhibition spoiling the effect of evolution through the eons). The future seems to be a mixture of Fitz Lang's 'Metropolis', 'Star Trek' and 'Close Encounters of a Third Kind'.

By Ben Eastop

Party thanks

Dear Comrades,

Forty children had a wonderful time at *Militant's* Christmas children's party in London. We played pass the parcel and musical chairs, I liked the hunting games the best. We had to find cards and beans. Two clowns came to the party. They threw juice and tomato sauce at each other. They were very funny.

We had sandwiches, smarties, cakes, pies, crisps, jelly, marshmallows and biscuits. It was great fun and thank you to the mums and dads who helped, and a special kiss to Clare and Marie.

Yours fraternally
Emily Craven
(aged 7)

Honeyford-gone but not forgotten

THERE IS today a developing crisis throughout society from which no institutions can be sealed off. The rulers of our society have long ceased to be a progressive force for change. Education is no exception to this process. The ideas of the 'moral majority' in America seek to take schooling back 150 years. Similarly the ideas of the extreme right of the Tory Party, like the Salisbury Group wish to bring back 'old fashioned values' in education and elsewhere.

It was with this group that Ray Honeyford associated himself. He said of Roger Scruton, the Editor of *Salisbury Review*: "the most brilliant man I have ever met". Scruton outlined the Salisbury Group's view in the 'Meaning of Conservatism' (1980), in which he attacks the Thatcherite ideas of reducing state intervention—the true Conservative "seeks above all for government and regards no citizen as possessed of a natural right that transcends his obligation to be ruled". Democracy "can be discarded without detriment to the civil well-being as the Conservative conceives it".

Authority

Another member of the Salisbury Group, Peregrine Worsthorpe of the *Sunday Telegraph*, writing in *Conservative Essays*, said: "the urgent need today is for the state to regain control over the 'people'...", "... authority should be the word—not freedom." (*Searchlight* December 1983, February 1984). The first issue of *Salisbury Review* rejected voluntary repatriation of immigrants because it would not be under state control and instead argued for a 'guestworker' system, which would allow compulsory repatriation.

Of the *Salisbury Review*, Honeyford said he liked its sober style and seriousness and found it in tune with his own way of thinking about education.

And his way of thinking

ON 31 December 1985 Ray Honeyford officially resigned as headmaster of Drummond Middle School, Bradford. For a £71,000 lump sum payment and a pension of £6,500 per year Bradford has seen the back of him. Although this cash hand-out is a dangerous precedent for the future, this is still a victory, particularly for the 230 or so parents who stuck out over nearly two years, under a barrage of media attacks, to have him replaced. PETER WATSON, of Bradford Trades Council, looks at the background to the dispute.



Anti-Honeyford march through Bradford last November.

Photo: John Harris (IFL)

about education was also aired in the pages of the *Salisbury Review*: "The roots of black educational failure are, in reality, located in West Indian family structure and values, and the work of misguided radical teachers..." "Cultural enrichment" is the approved term for the Notting Hill Festival whose success or failure is judged by the level of street crime which accompanies it. "Pakistan", he says "is a country which cannot cope with democracy" and is "the heroin capital of the world".

In his writing he refers to a "half educated and volatile Sikh" and to another "his

English sounds like that of Peter Sellers' doctor on an off day". The working class in general, he says, "need guidance to change their ways".

Respectability

By remaining headmaster of Drummond Middle this man was giving racialism respectability. As a headmaster he was abusing a position of responsibility within the community. He came to national prominence, with the press and the Tory party riding it for all its worth. He was even invited to Number 10 as an 'education expert'!

To the parents it meant that their children's schooling would be harmed, particularly in a school that was 90 per cent Asian. If Honeyford remained in office it would only further undermine the confidence of Asian workers in an educational system already cut to the bone. Three quarters of textbooks are over 15 years old in a town where the school student population is rising. Some years ago voices were raised for a separate Muslim education system. This move was defeated, but if Honeyford had remained this danger to workers' unity could have again been raised.

The Parents Action Group was formed to oppose Honeyford. The local Labour Party, LPYS, Community Relations Council, Trades Council, NUT and other labour movement organisations supported their stand. For some however it seemed that the ostrich tactic was the best approach. In particular 'head-burying' was the fashion from the national Labour Party leadership.

Racial attacks

One of the few prominent responses from Labour MP Joe Ashton, writing in the *Daily Star* who referred

to Bradford as "the... place where... they deny teachers the right to write about problems in multi-racial schools". The NUT considered disciplining members of Bradford NUT who took strike action against Honeyford!

Most workers simply did not have the information in front of them even to make a judgement. It is hardly surprising therefore that Honeyford is regarded by many as a 'martyr'. No mass campaign of explanation was conducted. This has further stoked up racialism. In Bradford itself there was an average of two racial attacks a week on Asian busworkers towards the end of last year, and the BNP and other fascist groups were increasing activity.

Campaign

The LPYS, with limited resources, played an excellent role, campaigning throughout the labour movement to bring out the class questions involved, in particular the real reasons for educational problems—the cutbacks in spending. It formed the Campaign Against Racialism in Schools which was instrumental in getting the agreement for a District Labour Party sponsored Rally Against Racialism which takes place in March. The Red Wedge concert in Bradford also linked with this question.

Racialism will not go away as long as capitalism itself exists. It is rooted in the poverty, crumbling schools and unemployment that we face today. There will be more Honeyfords in the future. Only a campaigning spirit to oppose them and what they stand for can provide a path forward. One tenth of the determination of the Drummond School parents shown by the labour movement leadership would be sufficient to snuff out this menace. A socialist society would lay it to rest for good.

And nearby Silentnight strikers fight on

In a 30 mile radius from Bradford are two Silentnight bedding factories which have been on strike against a Victorian-type boss, Tom Clarke, who Maggie Thatcher called Mr. Wonderful. LINDEN STAFFORD gives an update:

AFTER AN intensive leafletting campaign outside shops around the country, strikers at Silentnight Beds are now renewing their efforts to step up blacking of raw materials.

Despite dockers' agreement to black timber destined for Silentnight, some timber is still getting through from Hartlepool. And although the Belgian firm Beckaert agreed to stop supplying mattress ticking, some deliveries are slipping through to the Silentnight factories at Barnoldswick, Lancashire, and Sutton, West Yorkshire.

It is believed that management are getting these materials sneaked through under different names, such

as the Associated Bedding Federation (ABF) or Sherrbury Ltd, or other firms in the Silentnight Group.

Meetings are to be arranged with dockers at Hartlepool, so that strikers can talk direct to the dockers, explain Silentnight management's methods of deception, and provide them with a full list of the names of companies in the group.

Felixstowe

Similar meetings will also be set up at Felixstowe, where other raw materials may be slipping through. Trade unionists and labour movement activists in these ports will be asked to keep

an eye on the situation and follow up strikers' work to ensure it is continuing according to plan.

Contact with the union at Bekaert is being re-established, and Charlie Gee, FTAT convenor, is hoping to visit Belgium to discuss the situation and make sure that Bekaert's blacking is not affected by any more of Silentnight's tricks.

Strikers have also requested a meeting of Silentnight (UK) FTAT shop stewards as soon as possible, to follow up reports that firms such as Perfecta in Wombwell (South Yorkshire) and Lay-E-Zee in Batley (West Yorkshire) are doing Silentnight work. They intend visiting these and other factories in the Silentnight group, to talk direct to the workers there.

One matter to be investigated is the union's failure to make any arrangements for subscriptions to be



FTAT official and local Militant supporter on Silentnight picket line.

Photo: Phil McHugh.

paid by over 70 workers at Lay-E-Zee who last year asked to join FTAT. These workers—around half the workforce—have still not been able to join or form a branch in Batley, several months after their application to the union.

USDAW & Co-op

In addition to the leafletting campaign, the shopworkers' union USDAW

should be urged to help in putting pressure on shops—including the Co-op—to cancel their orders with Silentnight.

With the mood on the picket lines as confident as ever after eight months on strike, it is essential that the efforts of national FTAT officials and members of other trade unions match those of the strikers.

Offers of blacking must continue to be made, and existing blacking agreements

must become 100 per cent effective, so that Silentnight production can be rapidly brought to a halt and a victory achieved for the strikers.

Donations and messages of support to: FTAT Cravendale No 8 branch, Strike Fund, c/o Ann King, 10 Railhall Crescent, Barnoldswick, Colne, Lancs.

Union Feature

NUPE leader attacks Liverpool

A LETTER dated 23 December has been sent out to branch secretaries from NUPE head office supposedly giving an update on the situation in Liverpool.

But far from giving NUPE members the facts about Liverpool, this letter is full of inaccuracies and seems deliberately designed to mislead our members as to what really happened in Liverpool in order to lay the basis for a witch-hunt in the union and the Labour Party.

National Secretary Alistair Macrae has written to the branches saying: "a mass meeting of NUPE members...overwhelmingly endorsed the proposals put forward by the general secretaries of all the unions."

Unfortunately, Alistair does not point out that the general secretaries' proposals, based on the Stonefrost Report, involved a 15 per cent rate increase together with £19 million cuts based on various permutations of cuts, capitalisation, rent rises, redundancies and non-filling of vacancies.

Non-unionised

The cuts/capitalisation and rent aspect of the proposals was not mentioned at the mass meeting. Cuts would have meant job losses for our members and capitalisation threatened thousands of building workers jobs. Our members were presented with a non-existent 'soft-option' when

Explosion in part-time jobs

THE GOVERNMENT claims that more jobs are being created than ever before. More than 31,000 jobs were created in the third quarter last year.

They ignore the fact that of the more than 709,000 new jobs created since March 1983, women working part-time accounted for 491,000.

Only 20,000 new full-time jobs were for women while the number of men in work fell by 250,000. Almost all the growth in employment from the 1950's onwards can be attributed to the increase in part-time workers.

non-unionised

It is clear how employers benefit from employing part-time women workers. Part-timers earn on average £1.60 an hour (54 per cent of part-timers earn less than £1.50 per hour) compared to £1.90 an hour for full-timers and 94 per cent of part time workers are women who earn in some cases only 61 per cent of men's wages. The Post Office has saved £180 million from this practice.

A further advantage to the bosses in employing part time workers is that only 20 per cent of part timers are in unions, so most part timers have no chance of bettering

Statement from NUPE Broad Left
c/o 30 Whinchat Rd,
Thamesmead,
London SE28

they voted.

Alistair Macrae says: "The loan...had been secured months earlier by the City Treasurer."

This is quite simply not true. It was known to everyone that the City Council had been exploring every possibility to avoid bankruptcy and a collapse of services. But the loan which enabled the council to balance the books was not secured until the eleventh hour. Were it not for the council's marvellous campaign this loan would almost certainly never have been made available.

Alistair Macrae says: "The Council has failed to...raise revenue from the rates."

This is incredible. Is the NUPE leadership seriously putting forward massive rate rises as a solution to Tory cuts? Does the NUPE leadership understand that rate rises of 80 per cent (the figure put forward by the Stonefrost Report if all the money were to be raised from the rates) would mean a £5-6 a week wage cut on average for householders, including our members?

If the Liverpool Labour

Party adopted such a policy it would be tantamount to electoral suicide. The way would be prepared for the Liberals and Tories and savage cuts in jobs and services as a result.

Alistair Macrae says: "Evidence against the council included discriminatory practices against NUPE."

Far from discriminating against NUPE members, the councillors have supported NUPE against the council officers over the introduction of a 35 hour week in the City markets. NUPE members are also on a 35 hour week in the Recreation and Open Spaces, City Estates Surveyors and City Planning departments.

NUPE members are not on a 35 hour week in the Education department for a very good reason. Unlike the GMBATU, local NUPE officials have yet to submit 35 hour week proposals despite being asked by the council to do so. When these are forthcoming, Education

Committee Chair, Dominic Brady, has assured NUPE members that they will be on a 35 hour week.

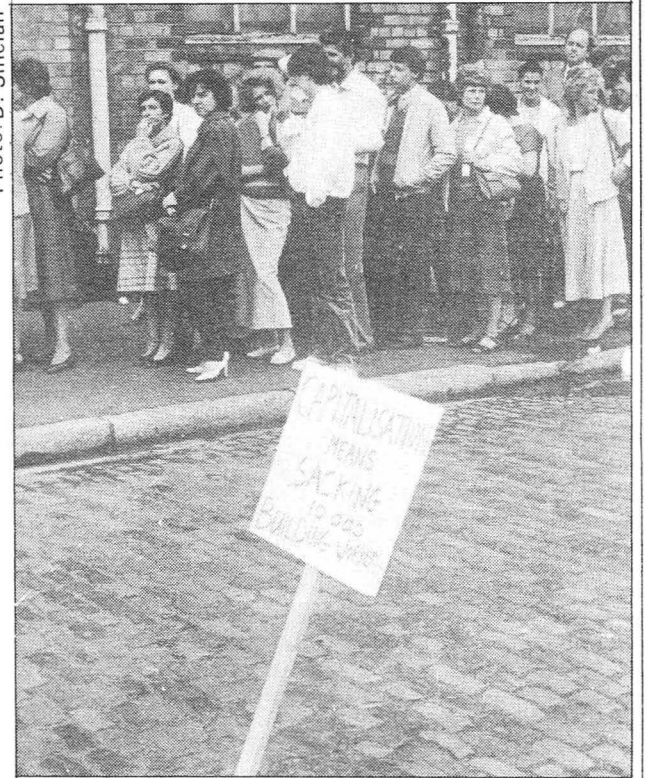
These are just four of the accusations that Alistair Macrae makes. We would like to ask Alistair some questions.

1. Why has NUPE seen fit to attack Liverpool City Council which has stood firm in defence of jobs, services and conditions and not the Tory Councils and all too many 'so-called' Labour councils that have cut our members jobs and introduced privatisation?

2. NUPE has put itself in a peculiar position over Liverpool. Where else in the country is NUPE proposing cuts and a council, the employer, trying to stop them?

We hope NUPE members and branches will discuss these issues. We are willing to provide a speaker and debate with Alistair Macrae or anyone else from the NUPE National Local Government Committee.

Photo: D. Sinclair



NALGO members queuing to vote on strike action in support of the council's stand. NUPE members weren't even given the chance to vote by their local leadership.

SUPPORTERS OF Militant within NUPE are fighting for a programme of action:

- ★ A vigorous and concerted campaign to protect women part-time workers who have been particularly hard-hit by Tory employers.
- ★ A recruitment campaign amongst the non-unionists based on winning their confidence that the union will fight for them.
- ★ Total non-co-operation and opposition to in-house tenders involving cuts in jobs, wages, hours and conditions.
- ★ Special national delegate conference of the groups now under direct attack to discuss and plan tactics and

strategy in launching the national fightback.

- ★ Mass membership rallies in every Division.
- ★ A real campaign to win physical, moral and financial support for the NUPE strikers in various parts of the country.
- ★ Workers cannot be left to fight battles alone and locally. To develop a NATIONAL response by linking together local issues and struggles.
- ★ To link the local fights to the broad political struggle against the Tory government.
- ★ Total opposition to witch-hunts in the labour movement. Unity is strength!



Health service workers demonstrate against privatisation in Newcastle.

Photo: D. Pearson

Opposing bosses at home and abroad

OVER 100 health workers attended a lobby at Fareham Civic Offices on Thursday 16 January protesting against the Portsmouth and South East Hants Health Authority's privatisation policy. The authority has also victimised workers for boycotting the handling of South African goods.

A contract has been awarded to Crothalls to clean St James' Hospital which will mean 117 job losses.

To add insult to injury Crothalls is a subsidiary to Pritchards, a company who pay 80% of its South African Workers (2,000 people) below the country's of-

ficial poverty line.

Possible privatisation of Queen Alexandra Hospital's cleaning services could mean a further 300 job losses. Union officials believe the damage will not end there. Privatisation could jeopardise other health workers' jobs.

threatened

The majority of the workers were refused entry into the Health Authority's meeting to express their opposition to privatisation. Police threatened to arrest those outside the meeting trying to gain entrance for breach of the peace.

This action coincides with the dispute over the handling of South African goods at

local health authority warehouses.

Local members of NUPE asked the management two or three times to review its policy of buying South African produce. The management finally told them the matters was not for discussion. The 12 members of NUPE decided to boycott all South African goods, effective from Monday 13 January 1986.

The following day, one of the men refused to handle South African goods. He was told to leave the premises by 4.30pm with loss of pay for the remaining half hour and no bonus pay for that week.

This means approximately £10 of his money will be docked leaving him well

under £60. The other men, including the warehouse drivers who are solidly behind the action, will suffer the same treatment if they defy management orders.

The management refuse to allow the drivers to deliver any of the supplies if they will not remove the South African goods. Important medical supplies many not get through because of this tactic. This is effectively passing the blame from the bosses onto the workers.

Please send donations and messages of support to: Andy Lavendar 77 London Road, Cowplain, Portsmouth PO8 8EW.

By Peter Serjent and John Flatley (Portsmouth LPYS)

NUT opposes new contracts and pay deal

THE SMALLER teacher unions have agreed a pay deal with the local authorities. It is still opposed by the largest union, the NUT, which is to ballot members on continued industrial action.

The agreement has still to be ratified by the Burnham Committee and the Council of Local Education Authorities/Secondary Teachers, which negotiates conditions of service.

The deal is supposed to provide a 6.9 per cent pay increase in 1985, rising to 8.5 per cent on March 31. But it also commits teachers to accepting new contracts, performance appraisal and new salary structures.

Militancy amongst teachers is still high. More than 1,500 walked out of

classes all over Birmingham and Solihull on Wednesday last week for a mass meeting. Over 1,000 more were locked out.

Gordon Green, President of the NUT, said that the union could not continue talks with ACAS as nothing new is being offered. To give up the struggle now, he said, would mean that nothing has been achieved and teachers had failed generations of children.

Only 11 out of 104 education authorities can provide a satisfactory education service today, he told the meeting. The education service is under siege and the Tories' ultimate aim is privatisation.

By Christine Kuriata
(Birmingham NUT, personal capacity)



2,000 teachers march in Sheffield. Photo: John Smith (IFL).

CPSA rejects right's pay plan

THE CPSA Special Pay Conference of 23 January decisively rejected the ideas, attitudes and policies of general secretary Alistair Graham and the NEC.

Their collective attempt to foist a Tory-inspired 'long-term pay system' which would, in the words of many delegates, have 'institutionalised' low pay, was thrown out by 95,247 votes to 36,440.

In the words of Paul Moorehouse, delegate from Bristol Trade and Industry: "I wouldn't buy a second-hand car from this government, never mind a second-hand pay system".

A detailed motion from Inland Revenue Headquarters spelled out to Graham exactly why they were rejecting the pay system—leaving no doubt in the NEC's minds about what they could now do.

By a margin of just 68,672 to 63,600 conference recognised that CPSA members would benefit by a settled pay system some

time in the future. The motion, which will have no immediate relevance in the present period of Tory attacks, was moved by Broad Left '84 supporters.

A comfortable majority of conference voted (by 74,178 votes to 53,994) to include the following demands in the pay claim: for a 35-hour week more leave and fewer hours.

This was despite ferocious opposition from the right wing, the new split-off right wing faction, the NEC, Alistair Graham and Broad Left '84.

A motion which sets the 1984 claim at £9 per week and an additional "cash down of at least £6" was passed. Now that this has been established as the CPSA claim the Broad Left will expect all CPSA activists to unite around all the special conference decisions to build for a fight on pay in 1986.

By Bill Boyle

Leicestershire miners stay loyal

LEICESTERSHIRE miners have voted two to one to remain in the NUM. This follows the defeat of UDM supporter Terry Hughes in elections to the area presidency by NUM loyalist Terry Tracey.

Mick Richmond, a leading member of the "Dirty Thirty", the area's striking miners said: "I am delighted with the vote. It will be a big morale booster to the NUM supporters in neighbouring South Derbyshire, where the UDM was supported by a wafer thin majority. It will also be a boost to the union nationally.

"As predicted by the Dirty Thirty during the strike, Lynk is now laying claim to the Asfordby pit and wants it as an extension of the Notts coalfield. This pit has previously been promised to the Leicestershire men as their own pits will be exhausted within five years.

"A lot of the men who worked through the strike now realise that the striking miners were in the right. At least most of those who voted for the breakaway were voting against Scargill

rather than the NUM. I'm confident that this signals the end of the UDM in this coalfield."

By Keith Pattenden
(Ashby Labour Party)

Pit walks out

MINERS AT Ellistown colliery in Leicestershire walked out on strike last Tuesday. Ex-NUM county president, Terry Hughes, recently defeated in elections started handing out leaflets urging men to support the so-called Union of Democratic Mineworkers.

The pit-men loyal to the NUM refused to go underground and others in the pit walked out. The first strikers were joined by craftsmen in the NUM's power group branch.

Area general secretary, Jack Jones, said: "The men feel they cannot work with UDM members, who have not abided by the democratic decision that this area should stay in the NUM. I have to say that if this problem is not settled today, then the dispute could spread right through the coal field."

Photo: Tina Carroll.



Fire service workers demonstrate in Liverpool against cuts.

British Aerospace

BRITISH AEROSPACE workers in the Warton Division have voted two to one at a mass meeting to unilaterally reduce their 39-hour working week to 37½-hour in line with staff.

The decision was taken after having a 5.1 per cent wage increase imposed on them by the company including it in their wage packets.

The AUEW's argument is that the workforce has been reduced by 800 over the last few years, mostly by early retirement and new technology has meant that production levels have been maintained, in some cases even increased.

Considering profits rose by 46 per cent in 1984 our demand for a 15 per cent wage rise, extra days holiday and reduction of one hour in the working week is pretty reasonable.

By a British Aerospace worker

Builders strike

BUILDING WORKERS at the John Laing site at Hayes Wharf, one of the largest building projects in Europe have voted to come out on indefinite strike. The subsidiary company, John Laings Southern Brickwork, have announced 90 redundancies.

The 110 men are demanding to be transferred to the second phase of the site, which has six years' work ahead of it. But the employers prefer to hire and fire with no continuity of pay and conditions.

All building union branches, particularly the TGWU and UCATT are asked to send resolutions to our executive requesting they make the dispute official.

Donations and messages of support to: Dave O'Docherty, 69 Holland Rd, East Ham, London E6.

By Jim McGuinness
(UCATT)

Support Kay Wool pickets

WOMEN AT Kay Wool Limited in Upper Mill, Lancashire are continuing their strike (see issue 782).

A press release about the dispute, by Rochdale Labour Women's Council, has produced a lot of publicity in TV, radio and local papers.

Conditions in the factory are terrible. Last winter when the mill was flooded the boss sent out to buy wellingtons so that they could continue to operate electrical machinery!

After some success in sending lorries away carrying foam from Dublin some union lor-

ries are now being used to cross the picket line. The next step must be to link up with members of the TGWU in the Dublin parent company.

By Margaret Creear

Show your support on the picket line next Monday morning at 7.15am. Donations and messages of support to: Kay Wool Workers in Dispute, 5 Hawthorne Terrace, Mill Lane, Mossley, Tameside.

NCU General Secretary election

Broad Left candidate, Phil Holt
Main balloting begins next week.

For details contact Dave Hagger, 11 The Rising, Billericay, Essex CM11 2HN.

Sterling Metals

STERLING METALS in Nuneaton, near Coventry, have told 700 workers that they are to be sacked because the foundry must close.

The company is part of the foundry division of Birmid Qualcast. The group made profits of nearly £5 million in 1984. One of the directors is Tory MP for Birmingham Selly-Oak, Anthony Beaumont-Dark.

By Pete McNally

BP jobs

BRITISH PETROLEUM shipping announced at the beginning of January that all its vessels are to be handed over to management agents.

They are trying to force 1,400 seafarers to accept redundancy and then be forced to accept horrendous new contracts.

The new agents are out to bust the union and take the conditions of merchant seamen back to the last century.

(Fuller article next week.)

Harrods

TOP PEOPLE'S store Harrods had three hundred TGWU delivery staff walk out last week after the sacking of deputy convenor Victor Brown, who talked to Steve Poole for *Militant*.

The real reason for the victimisation is the success of a union recruitment campaign. Management have refused to recognise newly-unionised sections of the store.

They have also refused facilities for secret ballots on the closed shop and on the walk-out itself. There are also suspicions of racial prejudice in the victimisation.

Picket lines have been set up at Barnes, Knightsbridge and Trevor Square.

BLOC
BROAD LEFT ORGANISING COMMITTEE

1986 conference
19 April, 11am Sheffield City Hall
Tony Benn main speaker. For details contact: Mick Barwood, 1 Earlswood Close, Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 6DB.

Militant

Liverpool allegations answered
Special pull-out feature

Put Tories on trial Defend the councillors

THE TORY government is guilty of wrecking the health service, plundering public assets and throwing record numbers out of work.

The 5,000 Merseyside students who marched against the Fowler Review last week find the Tories guilty of making education a privilege for a rich minority. The unemployed will face £5.50 a week cut in Supplementary Benefit if Fowler has his way.

But the Tories won't suffer hardship for the crimes they have committed. Michael Heseltine may be "just a backbencher" but he is still a millionaire. Leon Brittan can retreat to his country home.

Surcharged

What is the reward for 48 Liverpool Labour councillors who have built homes and created jobs for some of Thatcher's victims? The unelected district auditor has surcharged them and now the onus is on the councillors to prove their innocence by appeal to the High Court. If the unelected judges reject their appeal, the councillors face personal bankruptcy and banishment from office for five years.

Heseltine can choose to live in any of his three homes; these councillors' modest homes are threatened by bankruptcy. And it is costing workers £150,000 to ensure these socialists are able to put up a legal defence. The Tories and their public school judges should be warned—there is colossal support for the councillors in Liverpool and throughout Britain. Donations of over £1,000 a day are arriving for the Legal Defence Fund.

If they are punished for the crime of improving the lot of working people, the Tories will face the wrath of trade unionists who see Liverpool City Council as a beacon of struggle, in the

By Richard Venton

dark ages of Toryism.

What is absolutely appalling is the refusal of Labour's national leadership to implement party policy by defending these councillors. The June 1985 NEC passed a resolution which stated: "We condemn the use of the audit service as a political instrument against those local authorities trying to defend jobs and services. . . The National Executive Committee supports the Labour councillors and calls upon all sections of the party to offer maximum support to those councillors in Liverpool, Lambeth and elsewhere in seeking to prevent the threatened disqualification and surcharge".

Second trial

It is a scandal that instead the right wing and their 'soft left' allies are subjecting the Liverpool councillors to a second trial by continuing their sham inquiry into Liverpool DLP. This has given a field day to the liars of Fleet Street. Gossip, unsubstantiated allegations and outright lies are being used to smear the good name of socialists as they go to trial in the High Courts.

The inquiry is a kangaroo court going through the motions of hearing DLP supporters, whilst compiling reams of documents from small cliques like the Labour Co-ordinating Committee,



Militant sellers at the lobby of the NEC on Wednesday.

Photo: Dave Sinclair

who are joining the Tory press' in their outlandish smears against the DLP.

The inquiry team are refusing to give DLP leaders and councillors full access to their 'evidence' written by their detractors. But of course it is right for *Tribune* to publish selective smears at just the time to do maximum damage to the councillors' court case.

Dirty work

The working class will never forget nor forgive those Labour leaders and so-called left wingers who do the Tories' dirty work and create division in Labour's ranks. Why did Neil Kinnock not show the same energy and forcefulness in putting Thatcher on trial over Westland as he displayed in his diatribe against Liverpool last October?

Labour's leadership must be brought to account by the

party ranks. Workers demand that the suspension of Liverpool DLP should be immediately lifted to allow the DLP to organise the much needed campaign for government resources for the council and prepare for the May elections.

United party

The NEC inquiry must be dropped. All Labour's energies should be devoted to exposing all factions of the Tory party and defending Labour councillors who have implemented socialist policies.

Labour faces the greatest opportunity to defeat the Tories since 1979. We need a united socialist Labour Party with a socialist leadership that seizes the opportunity to drive the Tories out. Put the Tories on trial! Build for a socialist Labour government.

Prepared to lose election

IN THE week in which the Tory government was reeling from the impact of the Westland crisis, a report appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*.

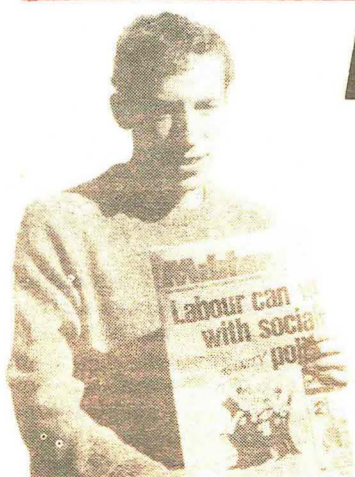
It claimed that before the Westland issue broke, Neil Kinnock told his senior colleagues he would be prepared to lose the next election by a small margin, so that the Party could "forget its sectarian quarrels and instead concentrate on forcing the Tories into another election within 15 to 18 months." The report has not been denied.

When print workers are under attack by a ruthless employer using the Tories' laws, when unemployment is reaching new heights and

poverty is blighting the lives of millions, this statement will be greeted with utter disbelief.

The Labour leadership should be straining every nerve to get the Tory government out of office immediately. Every extra day of Tory rule, let alone 15-18 months after the next election is too long for millions of workers.

If Neil Kinnock were to devote the time and effort he is spending on attacking socialists within his own Party on fighting the Tory enemy, then he could ensure that Labour will win and force Thatcher out



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