

Militant

The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth

30p

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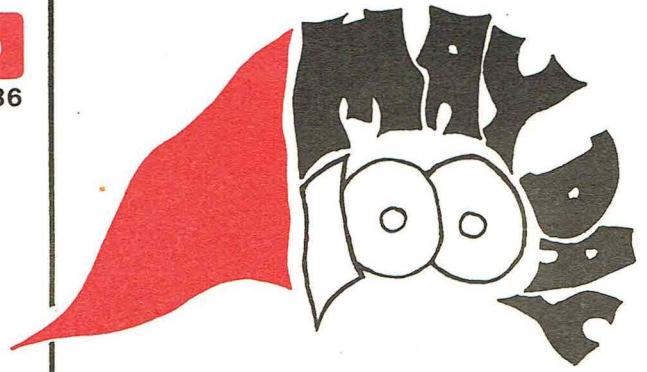
Nuclear disaster



The Chernobyl catastrophe has put thousands of lives at risk. It has raised the whole issue of the use of nuclear power and the safety of nuclear plants worldwide. See page 3

Inside...

Special 20 page May Day issue



One hundred years of May Day

—Pages 10 and 11

Liberal Tories Thatcher OUT

**VOTE X
LABOUR
ON MAY 8**

IN COUNCIL elections throughout the country working people will be registering their contempt for the Thatcher government. They will be voting to preserve local jobs and services that the Tories are out to undermine. They will be voting to protect their schools, homes, social services and recreational facilities.

What better way to celebrate the centenary of May Day, a day of international workers' solidarity, than to give the Tory-Liberal enemy a real drubbing at the polls.

The Liberals have exposed their true, pale blue colours by electoral pacts with the Tories in several wards, especially where Marxist candidates are standing for Labour.

In Liverpool we have first hand experience of the damage these two 'tory' parties can inflict on workers.

"When Labour took over in Liverpool in 1983," writes the recent *NUPE Journal*: "after eight years of Tory and Liberal neglect—5,000 council jobs had been cut, services slashed and no council houses at all had been built between 1980 and 1982. At the time there were 20,000 on the waiting list."

With the return of Labour in Liverpool: "despite the government's financial squeeze," the *Journal* explains: "the council has:

- ★ Built new homes
- ★ Frozen rents and kept rates down
- ★ Opened new nursery classes
- ★ Built 4 new sports centres."

Liverpool in Labour hands has a record second to none in defending ordinary families from Tory cuts, and in extending local provision. If every Labour council had fought as determinedly, at the very least Thatcher could have been forced into a U turn, and Labour's popular standing nationally would have been assured.

A massive victory for Labour is vital on 8 May. But not just to keep the political vandals out of our town halls. It would create the groundswell for a concerted campaign to force a general election. To kick the Tories out of power and return a socialist Labour government.

The local services we have fought to maintain were established by workers' struggle over generations. Let Labour nationally honour those past fighters, and offer its historic programme of full socialist change to rally the electorate.

By Derek Hatton

(Deputy Leader Liverpool City Council)

Liverpool Militant rally

Sunday 4 May, 7.30pm

The Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street

Speakers include:

Derek Hatton, Ted Grant, Peter Taaffe

Take us over our target

TO GIVE you the chance to rush in cash from May Day collections, rallies, socials, canvassing etc this weekend, we have extended the Fighting Fund quarter until Wednesday 7 May, first post. Just £200 from every major town or city would take us over our target. Celebrate May Day with a boost to *Militant's* Fighting Fund. Make it another record quarter.

Militant

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Keep the Red Flag flying

TENS OF thousands of party members will be working this week for Labour candidates in the local elections. But they will not have been given much heart on the 100th anniversary of May Day to see their leadership doing their best to ditch the red flag and the other socialist traditions of the party.

The point at issue over the new "Freedom and Fairness Campaign" is not its presentation. Few party members would object to the use of modern forms of technology, graphics and so on to explain policies. The real issue is one of policies. The relegation of the red flag emblem from party literature is symptomatic of the progressive abandonment by Neil Kinnock and Roy Hattersley of all the radical reforming policies adopted by conferences in recent years and, further, of their attempt to jettison the party's socialist traditions.

There is a body of advisers around Neil Kinnock who mistakenly believe that the next election can be won by the promotion of the leader as a presidential-style candidate, relying on media presentation and 'charisma' at the expense of policies and argument. To them, the TV image and glossy leaflets are everything, the effort and energy of thousands of party workers are nothing.

Almost 30 years after Hugh Gaitskell, the present leadership are trying, albeit with more stealth, to succeed where he failed: to remove altogether the fundamental socialist content and aims of the Labour Party's programme, embodied in Clause 4, Part 4 of the constitution.

Every area of policy has been shifted dramatically to the right in the last two years, becoming indistinguishable from the Social Democratic Party.

Neil Kinnock would not have been able to engineer such a shift so far and so fast, had it not been for his 'left' credentials and the support of other ex-lefts. The much-vaunted Alternative Economic Strategy of the LCC, Peter Hain, David Blunkett, Michael Meacher, Tom Sawyer and so on, has sunk without trace, giving way to incomes' policy, council house sales. Assurances galore are given to the middle-class, but there is a careful avoidance of any commitments to the unemployed. Even Peter Kellner, political editor of the *New Statesman*, was moved to write of Kinnock: "Not even Hugh Gaitskell in his heyday could have dared to dream that his left-wing critics would be reduced to such feeble numbers".

Alongside the much-publicised movement to the right, the party leadership are abandoning the pretence that the witch-hunt against Marxism is an organisational or constitutional question. As *Militant* has consistently explained, the wave of expulsions, suspensions, inquiries and hearings are an attempt to suppress *ideas*. A new circular, produced by Walworth Road even bemoans the fact that "legal action is being taken against the party, to prevent political action being taken" (our emphasis).

The majority of the Kinnock-controlled NEC are rapidly drawing up new rules to expel Marxists because they cannot be expelled legitimately on the present rules. In articles in *The Guardian*, two co-thinkers of Kinnock both admitted in the bluntest-possible terms, that the attack on *Militant* is a purge of ideas.

"What is really at issue", wrote Tony Wright, former Labour parliamentary candidate, "is the kind of Labour Party Labour now is". Ian Aitken's *Commentary* column added: "What better reason could there be for chucking someone out of a political party than their opinions, if they do not correspond even remotely with those of the party in question".

The problem for Neil Kinnock and Roy Hattersley is just the opposite: the ideas and policies of *Militant* do correspond much more closely than theirs to the traditions of the party and to the aspirations of the rank and file. The leadership are trying to purge these ideas to forestall future opposition movements in the party to their SDP brand of 'socialism'.

The overwhelming mood of the working class now is for the return of a Labour government, and that is reflected in the desire for unity in the party and trade union ranks. Unfortunately, the leadership of the movement are cynically exploiting this mood to steamroll resolutions through conferences and union executives to ban *Militant* and its supporters.

But the battle for ideas will not be decided by resolutions alone, and certainly not by expulsions. The decisive question will be the ability or inability of the incoming Labour government to fulfill the aspirations of the millions of unemployed, homeless and poor who vote it into office.

Kinnock is not creating a "new" image for the party—simply going back to the discredited policies of Gaitskell, Wilson and Callaghan. They will prove to be as useless the second time around as they were the first. The concrete evidence of that will win more Labour Party supporters to Marxism than all the resolutions and glossy leaflets in the world.

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Thatcher's war on poor

MILLIONS OF families in Britain are under bombardment—from their government. The Tories are blitzing the living standards, welfare rights and benefits of the unemployed, children, the old and the sick.

The Tories are not satisfied that they have destroyed three million jobs since 1979. From October any workers leaving their job or sacked will be denied unemployment benefit for *thirteen* instead of six weeks.

From 1 July it is threatened that the supply of glasses by hospitals will be privatised. What could be more callous than a government depriving 30,000 geriatrics and 23,800 mentally ill patients in long-term hospitals of their free glasses. Others with severe eye-sight difficulties will no longer be allowed glasses at NHS prices. They will be compelled to pay exorbitant 'free market' prices.

School meals

Under the Social Security Bill now under discussion it is proposed to deprive half a million children from the poorest families of free school meals. Local authorities will no longer have to provide free meals to children whose parents are on Family Income Supplement. The discretionary power to give them to families who just fail to qualify for state benefits would be removed too.

And Thatcher has higher education in her sights as well. This year already the student grant increase was less than the inflation rate. The latest White Paper expects student numbers to rise over the next three years, but the total cost of grants to fall. The hopes of many working-class youth of higher education will be demolished.

At the same time as they attack services, the Tories are planning to increase their costs. The local government Green Paper suggests the replacement of rates by a flat-rate 'community charge' where rich and poor will pay the same irrespective of their means.

8 May provides the chance to elect Labour councillors to provide something of a

shield against Tory aggression. But it will only be effective if they are as vehement in defending the working class majority they represent, as the Tories are in their onslaught on behalf of the millionaire minority.

By Jeremy Birch



Marxist students victory

FOR THE first time in its sixteen year history, two Marxists, Charles Collins and Steven Russell, were elected to the committee of Scottish Labour Students.

This region of NOLS, traditionally seen by the Party leadership as a stronghold from which attacks on the LPYS could be launched, opposed the witch-hunt and

the merger of Labour's youth and student organisers' posts.

For conference report see next week's paper.

Liverpool twelve face new 'trial'

LABOUR'S NATIONAL Executive Committee is still determined to press on with its attempt to expel 12 Liverpool party members, despite further evidence that its case is in tatters.

Hearings have been arranged for 21/22 May at which the NEC will act as prosecutor, jury and judge.

Letters sent out to the 12 by general secretary Larry Whitty reveal that some of the original charges have been dropped. Richard Venton for instance is no longer accused of working full-time for *Militant*. The remaining charge of 'membership of the Militant Tendency' is now backed up by nothing more than evidence that he writes for *Mersey Militant*, has spoken at *Militant* meetings and written in sup-

port of *Militant* policies in leaflets and the local press.

None of these activities has ever been declared incompatible with party membership. Indeed the previous general secretary Jim Mortimer specifically said, at the time when the *Militant* Editorial Board were up for expulsion, that the NEC "should not preclude Labour Party members from reading, selling, purchasing or writing for newspapers including *Militant*" (our emphasis).

The fact that charges have had to be abandoned shows how justified were those seven NEC members who walked out of the initial hearings in protest at the undemocratic procedures, which even a High Court judge had condemned.

A LOBBY of the NEC is being arranged for 8am on Wednesday 21 May at 150 Walworth Road, London SE17. Start to organise now! And keep the letters and resolutions flooding in.

Never easier to sell

AS WORKERS celebrate the centenary of May Day, *Militant* proudly keeps the red flag of socialism flying high.

And thanks to the recent publicity its name is better known than the Labour Party's own official paper—and more widely read. It has received the same venomous media treatment meted out to the miners, the printers and Liverpool councillors. Yet it has never been easier to sell a real socialist paper.

Last week's page on Stevenage aroused considerable local interest. Sellers were out on the

estates every day. By last weekend they had already chalked up 100. Many buyers were not just interested in the one article but wanted a regular copy or bought a copy of *What we stand for* and gave a donation.

These impressive sales prove there is a wide interest amongst workers in real socialism, and a socialist paper. The challenge for every *Militant* seller is to get out and reach these workers with the paper.

By Andy Beadle

CARDIFF CENTRAL Labour Party have flouted party rules by overturning the election of *Militant* supporter Chris Peace as delegate to Labour Party Wales annual conference.

Chris Peace was elected at a special GMC meeting to elect delegates on 8 April. He beat prospective parliamentary candidate Jon Jones, who immediately warned the press that the matter would not end there.

At the next meeting on 21 April, on a proposal from Jon Jones, they cancelled the previous election. It is now unlikely anything can be done before the conference and Chris Peace will no longer be eligible to stand for re-election to the Wales

Labour Party executive. Chris Peace commented: "This is a despicable manoeuvre. I was elected fairly and squarely. By cancelling my election the right wing have behaved more like ex-president Marcos than members of a democratic Labour Party."

Correction

MACCLESFIELD Constituency Labour Party have asked us to point out that they have not, as implied in our issue 787, passed a resolution opposing the Liverpool inquiry or the witch-hunt against *Militant*. 'Macclesfield NW' is a ward branch and it should not have been listed under 'CLPs'.

Campaign Group of Labour MPs

Send May Day greetings to the labour movement and call for support for comrades in struggle in the print, mining and furniture industries.

Joan Maynard
Alan Meale
Bob Clay

Chair
Secretary
Treasurer

Thousands dead in nuclear disaster

THE WORLD'S biggest-ever nuclear disaster in Chernobyl, Russia, has raised fears in the minds of workers about the safety of nuclear power generation.

By John Pickard

The precise scale of the accident in the Ukraine has yet to be properly assessed, but it may possibly lead to hundreds, if not thousands of deaths from radiation sickness and in the longer-run, tens of thousands of premature deaths from cancers.

There has been no 'nuclear explosion', but it is not an exaggeration to consider this in terms of a mini-Hiroshima or Nagasaki.

What particularly concerns workers about nuclear power is that it is always shrouded in great secrecy by government agencies, with the risks to health and safety continually played down. This is largely due to the close links between the industry and the military, which uses nuclear power as a source of plutonium for nuclear weapons.

But workers will also be asking many serious questions about the attempts by the Russian government to play down what has clearly become a major catastrophe.

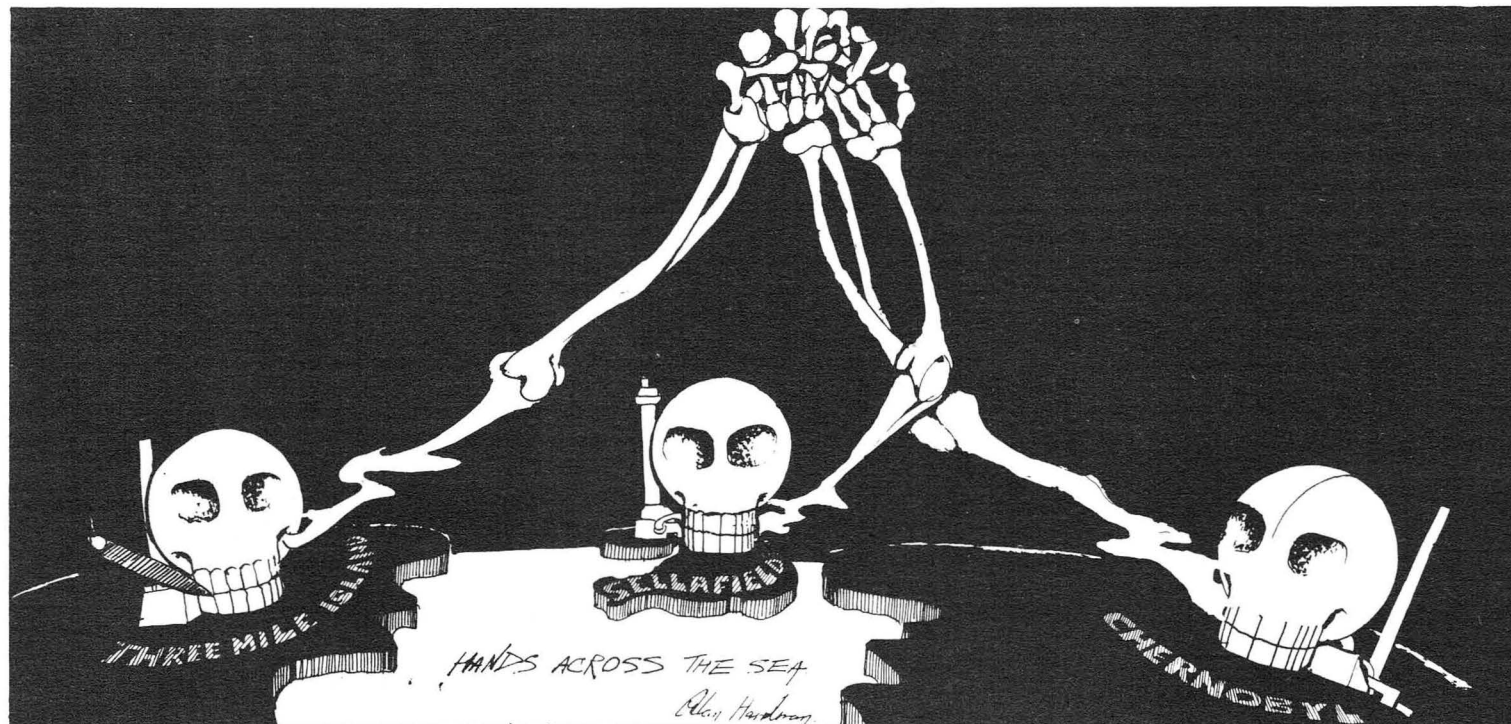
The Swedish and other governments have complained bitterly about the lack of information from Moscow, and about the fact that the Russians only admitted the accident when the radiation had already reached Scandinavia, up to four or five days later. During those first few critical days, the Russian news media also hid the reports from the mass of their own workers and even then failed to admit the scale of the event.

The official Russian broadcasts admitted to only two deaths and claimed that the "radiation situation" was "stabilised", and that three other reactors at Chernobyl had been "placed in industrial reserve".

Yet as an indication of the real situation three nearby towns have been completely evacuated, including the new town of Pripjat, housing 25,000 people. An 18 mile security zone has been established and technicians and decontamination units are being concentrated from all parts of Eastern Europe.

Other Western reports suggest up to 2,000 were killed and that the nuclear reactor core was still burning and emitting radioactive material.

Whatever is being admitted by the authorities, the radiation must pose enormous risks to millions, especially in Eastern Europe. The Ukraine is a highly populated part of the USSR with a number of big centres of



population. Chernobyl is alongside the Pripjat river which feeds drinking water to the 2.5 million residents of Kiev, 60 miles to the South.

With five or six times the normal 'background' radiation being registered in Sweden, the position at Chernobyl must be a lot worse. As one scientist put it: "if the radioactivity is a few millirem 700 miles away, I'd hate to be within 10 miles".

The long term effects on the health of workers in the whole region are clearly going to be considerable. But there could also be enormous political repercussions.

Because of the fall in oil prices and national oil production, there had been plans to increase nuclear power generation five to seven fold by the year 2000. These plans must now be in question.

Bureaucratic privileges

But the issue will raise more general political questions in the minds of many Russian workers.

The Russian economy shows all the advantages of a planned economy, in which resources are planned on a rational basis. But the absence of political democracy and workers' control of the economy means there is a huge amount of waste, bungling and mismanagement.

To protect its position and privileges, the Stalinist bureaucracy relies upon the state apparatus of police repression, coupled with a blanket of lies and disinformation fed to the working class. The bureaucracy

cannot tolerate any free and open discussion among workers, because that would pose the question of independent political activity which would threaten the position of the bureaucracy.

The state above all, cannot tolerate open criticism and discussion of economic plans and strategy, because that would publicly raise the question of special bureaucratic privileges—but also its own responsibility for blunders, waste of resources and mismanagement.

This is the explanation of Moscow's failure to admit the accident and the scale of its effects.

But it nevertheless faces a dilemma. It was able to cover up the effects of a previous disaster in 1958, at least for many years, because it occurred in a remote area of the Urals.

But in this instance it has to involve other governments and international energy agencies. Moreover, it must necessarily involve millions of Russian workers in evacuation, decontamination and other safety measures. If it is paralysed with indecision it is because it is trying to square these needs with the need to keep the 'lid' on as much as possible.

Within two days of the disaster being made public, it is clear the radioactive fall-out has put at risk the lives and health of millions of workers. But the political 'fall-out' could be even greater, both for the Russian bureaucracy, and for the capitalist governments in the West.

End the secrecy

SERIOUS ACCIDENTS are not confined to the USSR. There have been at least ten known melt-downs since 1952.

The US authorities tried to cover up the Three Mile Island accident in 1979. On 30 April a fire raged for 90 minutes at a plant in India. A US firm, Westinghouse, helped the Marcos regime in the Philippines build a plant on a volcano on a major earthquake fault line. Only the debt crisis stopped the plant becoming operational.

After the serious fire at Windscale (later rechristened Sellafield) in 1957 there have been dozen more leaks and hundreds of incidents at British nuclear plants, which have been given a coating of government whitewash.

Repairs at Dungeness have been put off to save money. But the Tories intend to plough ahead with their expensive nuclear programme, including the new water cooled reactor at Sizewell in Suffolk which has aroused bitter local opposition.



about alternative jobs for nuclear workers.

The Labour Party should campaign on this programme. They should also demand the immediate right to open the nuclear plants for checks on safety by the unions and to open the books to ensure pressure for profits does not cut corners. Labour must campaign for an integrated energy policy based on efficiency and safety not on secrecy and military usefulness.

But Labour Party environment spokesman Jack Cunningham, whose constituency covers Sellafield, has told British Nuclear Fuels' official paper that one conference decision would not end Labour's support for nuclear power. He said he did not expect opposition to the nuclear programme to be included in the next manifesto.

Constituency Labour Parties and union branches should make sure the party does not backtrack on this vital issue. Jobs should be safeguarded by taking up the demand for a massive programme of public works, including energy conservation schemes.

If a fraction of the resources devoted to nuclear research were given over to investigating safer and renewable forms of energy production, the panicky development of unsafe nuclear power would be unnecessary.

Cunningham himself took great pride in presenting policies to remove lead from petrol at the launch of the 'Freedom and Fairness' campaign. There must be no U-turn on the far more important issue of nuclear safety.

By Roger Shrives

AUEW right put the boot in

BY 119,220 votes to 95,511, right-winger Bill Jordan has beaten John Tocher of the Broad Left for the presidency of the engineering workers' union (AUEW). Although the left's votes represent a powerful force on which to base a fightback, the result is a serious blow and will have repercussions throughout the labour movement.

The right-wing have lost no time in taking advantage of their victory. At the National Committee meeting in Eastbourne, a vote was taken to exclude *Militant* reporter Martin Elvin, a member of the National Union of Journalists.

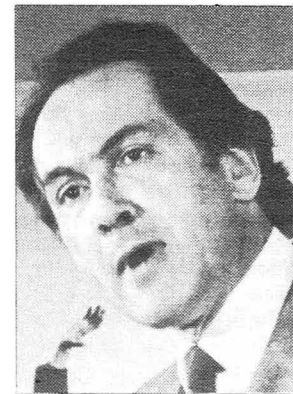
Reaction has been swift and angry. The NC youth delegates demanded that their opposition to the decision be minuted. Jim Brookshaw, an AUEW FOC on *The Times* who was sacked by Murdoch commented: "I am pleased that the National Committee took the decision not to allow News International journalists press facilities. But I am absolutely disgusted that similar action has been taken against *Militant*, a paper that has given us 100 per cent support since our dispute started".

NUJ National Organiser Guy Morton immediately challenged the decision, only to be told by AUEW General Secretary Gavin Laird that he

"didn't think it was in the best interests of the AUEW to have a representative of *Militant* there".

This action sets an extremely dangerous precedent. It shows the intolerance of the extreme right whose disregard for the democratic traditions of the labour movement knows no bounds. This issue will be taken to the whole trade union movement, especially members of the AUEW itself and the NUJ.

Protests should be rushed to the AUEW, 110 Peckham Road, London SE15.



Nuclear power supporter John Cunningham at launch of 'Freedom and Fairness' campaign.

The Labour Party and the unions must put a clear alternative. The 1985 Labour Party conference passed a resolution calling for a halt to the nuclear power programme and a phasing out of all existing plants.

It called for funding of research into alternative forms of energy production including liquid fuel from coal and of renewable resources such as water, wind and sun power, for energy saving policies and discussions with the unions

May Day Greetings

Militant supporters on the North West Labour Women's Committee Support the demo on 31 May Rochdale Women's Council Support the Womens Charter

North West Region Labour Women

Demonstration and Rally

End Low Pay Fight Privatisation

Saturday 31 May

Speakers from:
Women Against Pit Closures
Silentnight
Tailor and Garment Workers Union
USDAW

Assemble: All Saints (near Mancunian way) Manchester 11.30am
Rally: Crown Square, Manchester 1pm to 1.30pm

Creche available at the start of the march

Labour must win on May 8th

CANVASSERS IN Kensington ward (Broad Green) and Anfield ward (Walton) have been overwhelmed by the response on the doorstep during the local election campaign.

One canvasser found only two Liberal voters in two streets, in an area which had previously been known as Liberal. Many people who were doubtful at first have been won over to Labour, once we have discussed the achievements of the council with them.

One young woman, who at first was not going to vote at all was won over when she discovered that the nursery her child went to was introduced by the Labour council.

Liberal Echo

This shows that if you can spend time with people on the door step you can cut through all the distortion in the press. The *Liverpool Echo* has been playing its usual venomous role recently and has in fact stepped up its efforts in the last week. Obviously this is their contribution to the Liberals' campaign.

Personal attacks on Derek Hatton do have their effect on voters, but the *Echo* is in

By Mary Jennings

danger of going over the top. One canvasser met a middle-aged woman who asked if he supported Derek Hatton. This canvasser was a little cautious but explained that Derek carried out local and national Labour Party policy and so he did support him. The woman replied that if he did not support Derek Hatton she would not be voting Labour!

This is a common theme in the elections, with many people saying straight away that they are opposed to the expulsions.

Very few people in Liverpool have any faith in Kinnock. A real election atmosphere has been created now that Labour posters are out. One man took two posters, one for his window and one to stick on his ice-cream van.

Canvassers in Anfield found a wealth of personal experience of struggle, both national and international, whilst talking to voters. One

old man who was 90 years old and fought in the First World War explained that he was one of six survivors out of a regiment of 30,000. He said that he was saying the same things as Tony Benn is saying now, only 60 years ago.

The same canvasser came across a man whose father was the north west regional organiser for the International Brigade and who fought in the Spanish Civil War. Needless to say both will be voting Labour on May 8.



No hope for "Liberalpool"

THE LIBERAL/SDP election manifesto for Liverpool came out last week. They call it *New hope for Liverpool*, but for trade unionists and local authority workers, it is a warning of what would happen should Labour lose control in the city on 8 May.

While promising to "guarantee the job security of the council workforce", trade unionists will be highly suspicious of the Alliance's commitment to: "review the

work of the city's Direct Labour Organisation and ensure all tenders comply with the 1980 Planning and Land Acts".

The record of the Liberal-Tory coalition council in Hammersmith and Fulham reveals the Alliance's real policies when in power. The Liberals have voted 300 times with the Tories and only once with Labour. In four years no council houses have been built and purpose-built

accommodation built under Labour, has been sold off. The Direct Labour Organisation has been cut from 516 in 1982 to 183 now.

As part of the Liberals' "no redundancy" package, Sam Bond is to be dismissed and all appointments under Labour reviewed! Criticising Labour's "total commitment to building council houses" they have the nerve to say that this ignores the "real needs of people and

their aspirations".

The Alliance manifesto, already scathingly referred to as "no hope for Liverpool" should be a spur for all trade unionists and council workers not only to vote Labour but come out and canvass in the marginal seats. Make sure Labour keeps control of Liverpool council.

By Martin Lee

Socialism can stop the rot

WOODHOUSE PARK ward in Wythenshawe, Manchester has all the problems of a decaying inner city area. It has the largest modern housing estate in Europe. Male unemployment is running near 30% and youth unemployment is treble that figure. 80 per cent of children are on free school meals.

This growing deprivation has led to a massive rise in crime and the break up of homes - over 40 per cent of children come from broken homes. Along with this has come the cancer of heroin addiction, which is spreading like wildfire through the estate.

Amid this deprivation, the Tories, the Liberals and the SDP have chosen to fight the seat using the "Poundswick Affair" as a cover for their real policies of rent increases, redundancies and cuts in services.

Thieves fall out

Rather than posing an alternative to this suffering, an ex-Labour Party member, now Liberal, is standing as a Poundswick Parent candidate on a "Discipline and Standards" platform. Originally the Tories, Liberals and SDP agreed not to stand, leaving the one candidate to run,

hoping to combine their vote and defeat Labour.

But the Labour campaign with candidate Eric Bullocks fighting on a real socialist programme, has provoked these thieves to fall out. Now they are all running against each other.

At last the people of Woodhouse Park feel they have a fighting Socialist councillor. *Militant* is selling out on most canvasses and dozens of people have been recruited to the Labour Party. Youth especially have taken up the slogan of "Don't relax! Fight back!"

The petition against the witch-hunt is readily signed. One older voter who said he wasn't voting Labour finally said in frustration: "The Labour Party is too busy witch-hunting good socialists to care about me. I remember the '30s in Glasgow, in those days the Labour Party was full of militants, that's what we need now." He has since joined the Labour Party and wants a regular copy of the *Militant* which he sees as the present standard bearer of all those socialist beliefs he fought for in the slums of Glasgow.

Once again it is seen that a bold socialist campaign will win people to the Labour Party. Neil Kinnock, please take note!

Defeat Tyneside traitors

ON NORTH Tyneside ex-Labour traitors, the Liberal-SDPs and the Tories have formed an alliance against the official Labour Party.

In March 1985, 12 members of the then-ruling Labour Group crossed the floor over the delaying of setting a rate. They have formed an unholy administration with the Tories and elected ex-Labour leader Jim Bamborough, as the new council leader.

He attempted to justify his

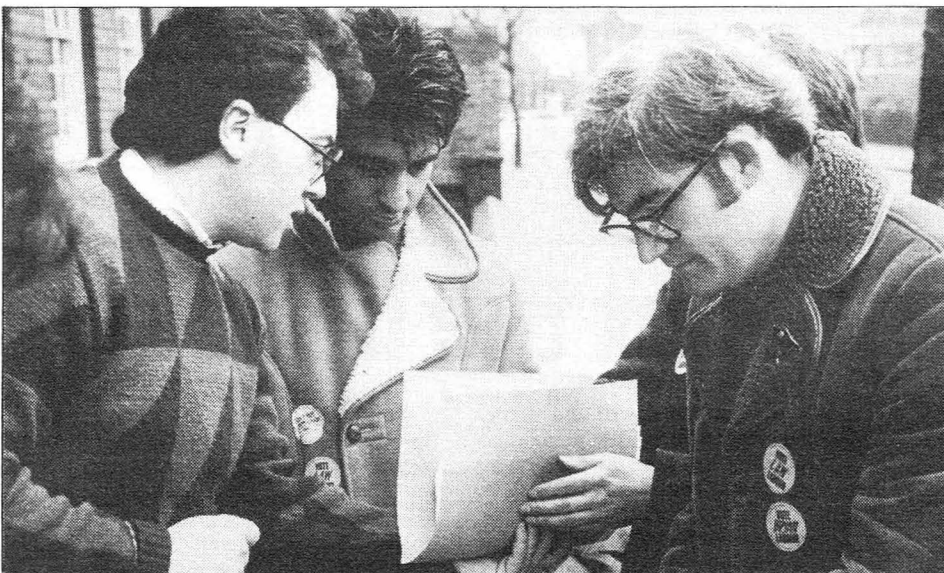
betrayal by saying "we don't vote with the Tories, they vote with us to pursue sensible policies" - at the same time as they imposed a 50 per cent rate increase.

Alliance

Labour has a nine-seat deficit for an overall majority on the council. Next week 20 wards go to the poll, in which seven of these ex-Labour scabs are standing under the banner of "support Labour against

Militant".

An agreement has been hatched between the Tories, ex-Labour scabs and the Alliance, where in some seats there is a two-way fight between the official Labour Party and the scabs or Alliance. However these enemies of the working class have miscalculated. There is enormous hatred for these traitors amongst Labour voters and even life-long Tories are so disgusted that they have pledged support for Labour.



Join the mass canvass on Sunday 10.30am at: Spa Road Housing Office, Grange Road, Bermondsey. Or help in the week—phone (01) 232 2666 for details or turn up at Spa Road Housing Office 10am, 1.30pm or 6.30pm.

Cost of Lothian's Tory coalition

LOTHIANS HAS been governed for the past four years by a Tory/Alliance coalition.

All the services built up by the previous Labour council have been slashed: 6,000 jobs axed, 1000 less nursery places for the under 5s and the abolition of free bus passes for the elderly are among the cuts.

This coalition has been extended to the election with the Tories standing down in certain Labour seats to give the Alliance a free hand.

Press campaign

This is the case in the Musselburgh ward where long-standing *Militant* supporter Keith Simpson is the candidate.

To coincide with the campaign the local press have launched a vicious anti-*Militant* campaign, especially highlighting Kinnock's attitude towards the Marxists.

Supporters in Lothians have responded magnificently with over 100 out for two nights of canvassing.

The response on the doorstep has been excellent with solid support in the Labour areas. In one better-off area which the Alliance had canvassed, their tactic had been to highlight Keith's role as a *Militant* supporter. The response from one man was "so the candidate's a militant, well in my book a militant is only a moderate who's got off his knees."

Liberals' dirty deal

IN BERMONDSEY'S Bricklayers ward the most striking feature is the universal hatred of Thatcher. Kicking her out of office is the mildest response shown by most workers.

Unfortunately in Bermondsey the Tories have a substitute team in the Liberals and local Liberal MP Simon Hughes. The Tories are not even standing a candidate.

The Liberal 'Tories' are trying to play up some of the mistakes of the Labour-controlled Southwark council. No doubt if the Liberals had held office here, as in Liverpool in the past, they would have carried through savage cuts and job losses. But because the Labour council backed off from standing up to government spending cuts, some services have deteriorated and a few illusions in the Liberals could exist.

Turn 'em off

Yet local Labour candidate John Bryan and others have pushed all the way for a real fighting campaign to protect jobs and services.

Here are some typical replies on the doorsteps: a trainee doctor, previously a Tory voter, said he would not vote Tory after the Libyan bombing.

One comment about Simon Hughes was: "he does not do any work, he just appears on TV." Local Labour supporters are banking on workers in the ward to switch the Liberals off.

By Bernie O'Connor

**LIVERPOOL FIGHTING FUND
COURT COSTS APPEAL
£135,000 NEEDED NOW!**

Pay Cash/Cheques/P.O.'s to:

"LIVERPOOL FIGHTING FUND"
Councillor Tony Hood
Room 42
Municipal Buildings
Dale Street
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Hitch hikers guide to socialism

WHEN THE surcharged Liverpool councillors went to the High Court in London on 14 January, there were not enough coach seats available for all those who wanted to accompany them.

Instead of staying behind in Liverpool Lee Murray, an unemployed youth from Anfield along with his friend decided to hitch-hike to London. He spoke to *Militant*: "I used to be one of those who believed everything I read in the *Echo* about the city council and Derek Hatton.

"I now realise that most of it is outright lies. The people of Liverpool elected this council to carry out its policies, build houses, keep down rents and rates, create jobs etc. and they've actually done all these things.

Guaranteed job

"Now the Tories are trying to crucify them for it and I felt the least I could do was show my support. I've been unemployed for eight years. I don't know what a job is. I've been on four separate

training schemes that taught me nothing and which I wouldn't recommend to anyone.

"Liverpool council however has taken on 100 YTS trainees on trade union rates of pay with a guaranteed job. I've actually seen the council's policies in action where I live.

"An area of land that lay derelict for years has been built into a park. Houses have been built and the council has been trying to buy houses in my street from the landlord who refused to make improvements and repairs.

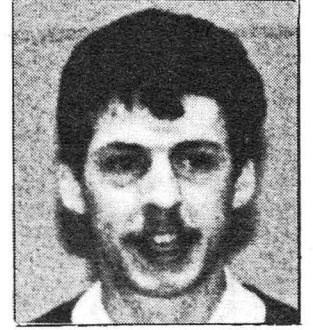
"This City Council is doing what councils up and down the country only talk about. I can't understand why it hasn't had the full backing of Labour's leadership."



A new housing scheme in Liverpool—"that's where I'm going to live"

Worthy of its name

THE ACTIVITIES of the LPYS in Liverpool have won thousands of young people and workers to support our Labour Council.



By Rob Owen
(LPYS NC Merseyside)

The YS has done the majority of flyposting in the city, advertising rallies, and public meetings. The YS hands out leaflets and information about the council's struggle in the city centre come rain or shine.

The YS has held street theatres in the city centre during which the stooge "Young Tories" played by YS members usually end up with something thrown at them, or old ladies attacking them with umbrellas!

On all demonstrations in the city and elsewhere we have the loudest and liveliest contingents. We've organised public meetings on local problems and issues from the Fowler review to South Africa and Chile.

We've leafleted schools, colleges, YTS schemes, conferences, factories, dole queues and youth clubs. Very few young people on Merseyside haven't had a leaflet or seen a poster produced by the LPYS.

Social life

The LPYS represents working class youth whether YTS trainees, unemployed, at school, college or university or amazingly under Thatcher, working. We have no Robert Maxwells in the YS, nor members of the YS working at Fort Murdoch every day, like Labour's candidate for Stevenage.

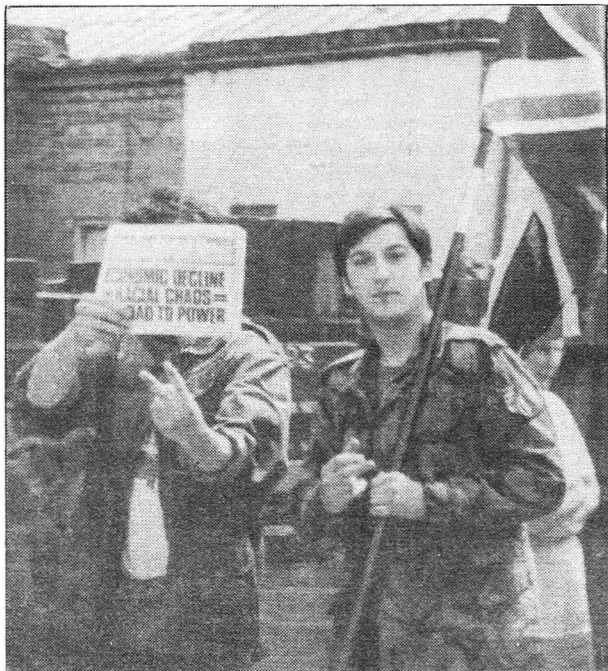
The YS's on Merseyside also have a social life and enjoy a good laugh. The best laugh of all is when there's a public 'debate' with the Tories or Liberals. We've also organised gigs attracting up to 350 people and huge discos. In a three week period last October we had four lobbies, held public meetings throughout the city, attended a demonstration on drugs and had a social as well as taking part in Labour party activities such as leafletting, canvassing and meetings.

The Merseyside YS held a public meeting on Libya less than a week after the bombings. The NEC of our party doesn't even discuss Libya; they'd rather expel 12 activists from the party.

We will keep up the fight for working class youth, starting by canvassing first time voters to ensure that they get out on May 8 and vote Labour.

We have a socialist youth organisation worthy of its name. The Labour Party should copy our methods and build a mass socialist party.

Stop the fascists



The labour movement must stop the NF.

THE NATIONAL Front have threatened to march in Liverpool on 7 June.

They are marching under the slogan of 'Ulster says No', hoping to whip up sectarianism in the city. The labour movement must stop the NF, who are exploiting the crisis in Northern Ireland.

Over the last couple of years the NF have been developing links with the loyalist paramilitaries and will attempt to draw on Liverpool's Orange Lodges for their march through the city.

LPYS members and *Militant* supporters in Liverpool have recently been involved in successful campaigns to kick the fascists off the streets. The fascists are trying to build in London as well.

Over 150 anti-fascists massed at Green Park, London, April 19 to stop an NF pageant. The supposedly secret pageant was later held in Southwark.

Liverpool mass Militant rally

Sunday 4 May 7.30pm.
The Philharmonic Hall
Hope Street, Liverpool

**Speakers: Peter Taaffe,
Ted Grant, Derek Hatton
and Addenbrookes speaker**

A place to grow up

IT WAS interesting to read the article by a single parent in *Militant* 794 because it wasn't until I became a "single father" myself that I fully appreciated what the councillors were really doing in Liverpool.

I used to smile when *Militant* reported that the houses being built were 'real houses with real gardens'.

Well, my children and I were living in a dangerous, mould-ridden, one-bedroomed flat with nowhere for the children to play. You can't believe the depression and tension that builds up when your living room is also a bedroom, dining room, playroom and substitute garden.

Because mine is a Tory borough, it took the intervention of several agencies before the council would even consider me for rehousing. In February I was told that I hadn't been rehoused because not enough old people had died this year. That's the only way houses become empty here.

Rehoused

I've now been rehoused in a real house with a real garden. My kids are never indoors, if I'd let them, they would play outside in the rain.

Whilst still in the flat I was lucky enough to get my children into a nursery three days a week. At the time it was a life-saver but in addition

my children are developing so fast there, it's unbelievable. Every child should have the chance to go to a nursery.

In this area even to need a place is not enough you have to have what they term 'special needs'. One council nursery of less than 50 places is meant to serve a population of over 100,000.

The Liverpool councillors deserve medals because they understand the needs of the working class people they represent and have done something about it.

We should all have councillors like that. In fact we should have a Labour government like that.

By Alan Horne

Scottish YS march to lobby Tories

ON SUNDAY 4 May, 20 young people will set off from Glasgow on a 120 mile march to lobby Tory Party Conference two weeks later in Perth.

The march has been organised by the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign (YTURC) as a protest against mass youth unemployment and the Fowler review.

After a traditional May Day march, Eric Clarke of Scottish NUM and Bob Gillespie of SOGAT '82 will address a send off rally for the marchers. They will pass through Gartcosh, Bellshill, Cumbernauld, Falkirk, Stirling, Alloa and Glenrothes and will end up in Perth on 15 May.

Many letters of support have already been received from trade union branches and constituency Labour Parties. TGWU 7/2000 branch has donated £200 to cover the cost of sponsoring two marchers.

45 workers involved in the Morris' Furniture dispute in Glasgow are sponsoring two young sacked apprentices to go on the march. AUEW members presently in dispute in Dundee will join the later stages of the march. Clydesdale steelworkers



Scottish YS members in action.

who have been on strike recently are considering sending a young steelworker on the march.

Pollok unemployed workers centre has sponsored Stevie McDickens, an unemployed youth, to accompany the march.

Trainees

At a recent Scottish TUC conference over £200 was collected for the march in just one day.

Even a Tory supporter in Clydebank who said the young could find work if they tried hard enough, believed that 4½ million on the dole was "slightly too high" He signed the YTURC

petition and donated £1.00.

Supporters of the YTURC march include Ron Todd TGWU, Jimmy Knapp NUR, Ray Buckton ASLEF, Eric Clarke Scottish NUM, Bob Gillespie SOGAT '82, Ted Knight Lambeth Council, Tony Higgins secretary of Scottish Professional Footballers Association, Pollok unemployed workers group, Albion Motors JSSC, TGWU 7/2000 branch, CPSA Glasgow and Pollok CLP.

Send messages of support and any inquiries to: Patricia Moore, Organising Sect. YTURC, West Scotland, Aildonan Place, Motherwell, Lanarkshire.

Your £s answer the Tories

MONEY IS still coming in for the end of the quarter. A final total will be in next week's issue.

However, don't relax your efforts in the campaign to raise fighting fund. The Tories are on the run, so now is the time to re-double our efforts, build our resources and expand our paper.

Providing the cash is crucial, enabling our ideas to reach more and more people. Every day in the press *Militant* is attacked by the bosses and the Tories. Unfortunately some Labour leaders see fit to echo the rantings of Murdoch, Maxwell and the rest of the bosses' press.

Build Militant!

However every renewed attack on our paper brings forward more people to register their support both morally and financially. Robert Halpin from Northfleet this week returned a slip asking to become a *Militant* supporter and sent us £1. We need to answer every lie and every attack. Every answer needs cash! Thanks for your help.

Militant has a fund raising record second to none but we must not ease off in the struggle to reach our target. Every donation, large or small, helps to build our

FIGHTING
FUND

Quarter ends
6 May

This week
£2688

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target
1 London East	3377		3500
2 London South East	1848		2200
3 London South West	1145		1500
4 Humberside	1321		2350
5 London West	1615		2900
6 South East	1274		2400
7 East Midlands	1487		3050
8 Manchester/Lancs	1954		4200
9 Merseyside	3070		6900
10 South West	922		2150
11 Eastern	1409		3450
12 Yorkshire	2257		5600
13 Scotland West	1515		3850
14 Southern	1218		3100
15 Scotland East	1162		3200
16 Wales East	426		1450
17 West Midlands	1264		4500
18 Wales West	859		3150
19 Northern	1151		4550
Others	2579		5000
Total received	31851		70000

paper. *Militant* has grown from a four-page monthly first produced in 1964 to a colourful 16-page weekly. This week we have a special 20 page issue.

These improvements have only been possible thanks to the contributions from ordinary working class people donating their hard-earned cash. The Tory papers spread their rubbish daily.

We can answer them by going forward now to a daily *Militant*. Help us do that with your donation.

By Ruth Campbell

SPECIAL THANKS this week go to:
Alan Wells, Scunthorpe, UCATT £140; Bill Clarke, Strathclyde NALGO £2.50;

Alan Tees, Strathclyde NALGO, Bill Elliot, Coventry 75p; Paul Phillips, Coventry 75p; Bernard Howgate, Birkenshaw £1; FW Vasey, Batley £2; Steve Lorne who gives £1 every week; A Healy, London £6; Bob Wylie donated press and TV fees £50; S Howard "The demon Butcher of Grimsby"!; Tommy Cummings, Kirby, GMBATU £4; A Howard, Brighton £10.

PETER HADDEN, author of the newly republished 'Divide and Rule' pamphlet explained to *Militant* why this publication is relevant to Northern Ireland today.

"The pamphlet deals with the role of Labour and the working class in Ireland in a period when sectarian division and even the danger of civil war loomed large.

"This period ended in partition, the worst defeat ever suffered by the Irish labour movement. Partition was possible because of the mistakes by the Labour and trade union leaders of Ireland and Britain other than Connolly and Larkin.

"Today the Anglo-Irish agreement has again raised the issue of sectarian conflict to the forefront and today's labour movement leaders are repeating the mistakes of their forefathers.

"A common capitalist

Divide and rule - then and now

myth is that partition arose naturally from the conflict between Unionists and Nationalists in Ireland. In fact all the major Irish parties opposed partition. It was imposed by the British ruling class, mainly to divide the working class of Ireland along religious lines.

Revolutionary wave

"1918 to 1921 saw a revolutionary wave in Ireland, movements on the land towards rural soviets, strikes and occupations in the towns. North and South,

Catholic and Protestant at one time were all affected.

"British imperialism had other reasons, like maintaining direct control of the more economically developed North and access to Ireland's ports, but their main purpose was to divide the working class and stop revolution spreading to Britain, hence our title '*Divide and Rule*'.

***Militant*: How can the Border be overcome now?**

PH: "The labour movement could have prevented partition had it placed itself at the head of the national struggle and fought to unite the working class for a socialist solution. Instead the leaders allowed that struggle to fall into the hands of petit-bourgeois nationalists of Sinn Fein. Inevitably it was diverted along narrow sectarian lines.

"On a capitalist basis the national problem is irresolvable and can only result in more and worse conflict. The poverty-ridden northern state cannot be stabilised, but the million protestants will never accept unity with the present southern state. The Anglo-Irish Agreement proves that any attempts to coerce protestants into a capitalist united Ireland will end up only in civil war and repartition.

"The working class is still the only force that can overcome partition. The key is the unity of the working class both in the North and throughout Ireland, fighting for a socialist united Ireland

and a socialist Federation of Britain and Ireland."

***Militant*: Is workers' unity really possible given the present sectarianism?**

PH: "Yes. Before partition the working class were already potentially the decisive force, now the Labour movement is much stronger. The Irish Congress of Trade Unions has 440,000 members in the south and 225,000 in the north.

"On class issues these workers stand together. Despite the last 16 years of sectarian violence not one strike in the north has been broken by sectarianism. Even now, bus drivers in Belfast are taking industrial action in protest against violent attacks.

Inaction

"Unfortunately the movement's leaders have not built on this by campaigns for a socialist solution to the conflict. This inaction allows sectarianism to continue.

"This book can equip socialists and union activists with the real history of the home rule crisis, the origins of the labour movement in Ireland and partition.

"Study the mistakes of the past to avoid them in the future. The real purpose of *Divide and Rule* is to direct the activities of socialists in Ireland and Britain who support the struggle for a socialist solution.

"Make sure the present conflict results in a victory for the working class, not in a disaster as in 1920."

ads

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Militant scarves made in colours of your choice. Two colours (red and yellow unless stated) writing lengthways. Two/three colours writing across width cost £5 each. £4 each if five or more brought. Hats in two or three colours. £2.30 each from Mick Fallon, 64 Woodbrook Avenue, Mixenden, Halifax, West Yorkshire.

MILITANT pamphlet on the General Strike—articles by Trotsky, Grant and Taaffe. Special anniversary offer. Single copies £1 post free, 5 for £4. From World Socialist Books, 3/13 Hepscoth Road, London E9 5HB.

Marxist Study Guide: James Connolly and the Easter Rising. Articles by: Lenin, Trotsky, Grant and Hadden. Introduction by Dermot Connolly. Single copies: 30p plus 20p postage. Five for £2 post inclusive. 20 or more post free. Order from: World Socialist Books, 3-13 Hepscoth Road, London E9 5HB.

NEWBRIDGE Marxist Discussion Group, every Monday 7pm. Newbridge Miners Institute, High St, Newbridge.

"Militant fights back" meetings

SCOTLAND

Airdrie: "Expel the Tories, not the socialists." Tuesday 20 May 7.30pm, Tudor Hotel, Airdrie. Speakers: Bob Wylie, Patricia Moore (LPYS), Sam Harty (TGWU Convenor Imperial steelworker)

NORTH

Spennymoor: Memorial Hall, Town Hall, Spennymoor. Wednesday 7 May 7.15pm. Speaker: Norman Hall.

NORTH WEST

Ellesmere Port: Civic Hall, Ellesmere Port, Thursday 29 May 7.30pm.

Liverpool: Sunday 4 May 7.30pm Philharmonic Hall, Hope St, Liverpool. Speakers: P Taaffe, D Hatton and Addenbrookes Speaker.

South Manchester: Thursday 15 May, 7.30pm Longsight Library, Stockport Road

SOUTHERN

Portsmouth: Monday 19 May. Speaker: Peter Taaffe.
Bracknell: Tuesday 13 May, 8.30pm, Coopers Hill Youth Centre. Speaker: Keith Dickinson.

WALES

Welsh Region Labour Party Conference: Fringe meeting, Friday 16 May.

LONDON

Southwark: Tuesday 20 May, 7.30pm, North Peckham Civic Centre, Old Kent Road, London SE15.

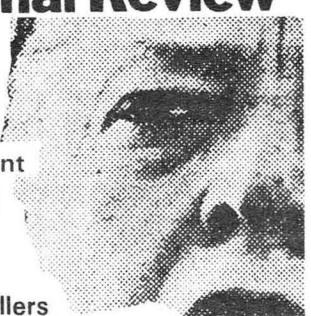
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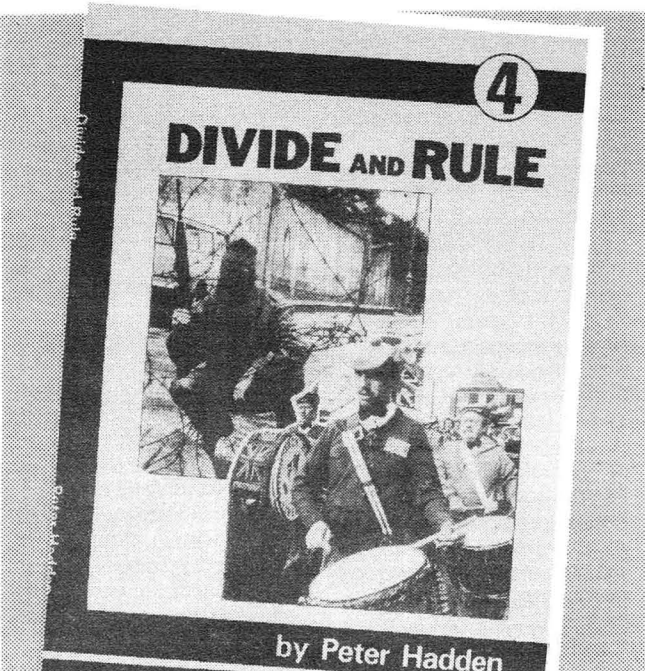
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Fleet Street strike now the only way



Brenda Dean has been greeted as the acceptable, even attractive, face of British trade unionism. The Murdoch dispute has shown that the 'new realists' rejection of militancy is immediately disastrous in an industrial struggle—their political exposure may take a little longer.

"THIS BIENNIAL Delegate Meeting recognises the Stockport Messenger dispute as one of the most crucial in the history of the union, where not only the closed shop and the Fair List but the very ability of the NGA to function as a national trade union is placed in jeopardy.

"We declare that any action necessary to win such a dispute should be undertaken and we instruct the National Council to organise all forms of industrial action, including an all-out strike of the whole membership, to defend the right of the union to take effective action to defend our members."

In rejecting this motion, at the NGA conference in 1984, general secretary Tony Dubbins sealed the fate of the coming struggles unless the leadership changed course dramatically.

Lack of confidence in the support of the union membership for a strike over the Warrington battle with Eddie Shah meant the rejection of such a tactic in further battles.

New Realism, which runs scared of confrontation, is disastrous when in charge of a strike.

When the leaders of the current dispute have called for solidarity action they have only gone part of the way. They have expected other workers to take action. But there was no clear

By Peter Jarvis
(London Region NGA)

strategy for victory. And those being asked for solidarity saw it as being asked to fight alone.

Print workers involved in this dispute don't require martyrs but victory. The print union leaders have allowed it to slip through their fingers.

Murdoch's original proposals, which were declared completely unacceptable to any trade unionist, have been conceded elsewhere. The leadership would now grasp any deal that would allow them to salvage something. The heritage and strength of the unions is being sacrificed.



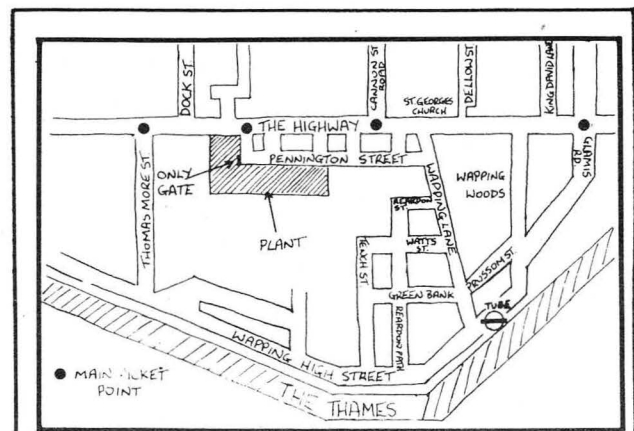
NGA leader Tony Dubbins with Brenda Dean of SOGAT.

Fear that other proprietors, if their papers were off the streets, would copy Murdoch, has been one of the reasons they have backed away from issuing the call for a Fleet Street stoppage.

But the press barons have taken the opportunity to stick the knife in. Thousands of jobs have gone and agreements based on Murdoch's ideas have been signed.

The strike is approaching its most important stage. At stake is the unions' strength. It can only be maintained by straining every muscle to its maximum. Any other course leads to disaster.

★ Stop Fleet Street now!
★ Total blacking of Murdoch's work, send flying pickets to all distributors.
★ One day national print strike leading to all out action if necessary.



Siege of Fort Murdoch

FOR A SUCCESSFUL picket it is normally necessary to control the Highway from Thomas More Street to Glamis Road. In past weeks when the number of pickets fell the police smashed into those remaining and made a path through for the scab lorries. Last week they blocked the Highway. We can stop them this Saturday if we stay firm all night.

The agreement signed with United Newspapers management at the Express shows how far the print union leaders have accepted the very conditions which provoked the dispute with Rupert Murdoch at News International. Here are some extracts.

Murdoch: The employer will select all employees.

Express: Selection of employees will be the sole prerogative of the management.

Murdoch: The employer shall determine the number of employees required in any capacity in the work of the plant.

Express: Staffing levels and the deployment of staff are the responsibility of the management.

Murdoch: The employer reserves the exclusive right to manage.

Express: The chapel collectively, and on behalf of its members, recognises without exception, the right of management to manage.

Murdoch: The employees who take part in strike or other industrial action will be subject to immediate dismissal and shall have no right to appeal against dismissal under the disciplinary procedure.

Express: Any employee who ignores the procedures and who individually or collectively takes part in a dispute affecting the publication of any title will be subject to disciplinary measures, including dismissal from the company without compensation.

Employees should carefully note that the above provisions shall not detract from management's right to dismiss any employee with immediate effect and without compensation who has taken part in unauthorised and unofficial dispute which has affected production.

Murdoch: Manning levels will be determined by the employer.

Express: Levels of staffing established within departments by the management will be subject to change according to production requirements.

Murdoch: The employers will respond flexibly to any change required in working practices, working conditions and duties technology and manning levels.

Express: Acceptance of the management's right to change work programmes with immediate effect should it be necessary.

Casuals' strike call in defence of all jobs

JOHN BLOOM, one of the organisers of the unofficial Fleet Street Casuals' strike committee talked to Militant about the progress of the Murdoch dispute.

THE MAJORITY of the 2,700 casuals of the London Central Branch, Society of Graphical and Allied Trades '82 (Sogat) have been dissatisfied at the handling of the dispute by our leaders.

Our first mass meeting at the beginning of the dispute took place on the day the union funds were sequestered. Although we never knew the funds would be sequestered we had issued a leaflet calling for a total strike within Sogat if sequestration took place.

At the meeting Teddy Chard (branch secretary) ad-



John Bloom

dressed us and informed us we had been sequestered that day. We were absolutely flabbergasted when he told us that the union leaders, him in particular, never expected the courts to sequester our funds.

It was quite evident from that meeting that if he did not know that we were going

to be sequestered he was the only one in the London Central Branch who didn't.

We understand that an issue is now needed around which we can issue the call for a total shut-down of Fleet Street. Sequestration could have been such an issue. It was completely mishandled and misjudged by our union officials.

The Casuals' Committee which has been set-up, has passed a motion for resistance to all redundancies regardless of what newspaper, if necessary resorting to strike action. This feeling is not hard to understand because they are our jobs being sold, not those of the regulars.

Another of our criticisms has been over the picketing, especially of Wapping. At the outset national and even

branch officials were opposed to calling on other trade unionists for support, in particular the miners.

Our union leaders, in their wisdom, thought the dispute could be won by a boycott campaign of the scab titles. And that our own members should be the only ones to picket Wapping. Brenda Dean to our knowledge still holds this point of view.

Hit distribution

Many of the officials explain that the dispute affects the whole trade union movement. So to have any chance of winning we must involve the whole of the trade union movement.

Apart from Wapping there are the TNT depots, these can be hit effectively, especially if we are aided by

other unions. It is serious that still some members are handling Murdoch's material. The wholesalers who were instructed to black his titles at the beginning of the dispute, which was the reason for the sequestration orders, in general have ignored the instruction.

The right wing on the national executive use the excuse that the blacking is not working as the reason for going to the courts to purge their contempt. The decision of the judges to hand back the branch funds destroys such arguments.

In London the wholesalers are 100 per cent solid despite threats of massive redundancies and wage decreases. This approach should have been adopted with the colour supplement printers at Watford and Liverpool. After issuing

a directive to continue as normal the leadership instigated a ballot which as expected went against blacking. It was pointed out even this recommendation, if accepted would mean the plant would close.

Respect pickets

But it must be clearly said that those who cross our picket lines have to live with their decision. As an individual I have never crossed a picket line—official or unofficial. I could never live with the echo of the word "scab" in my mind.

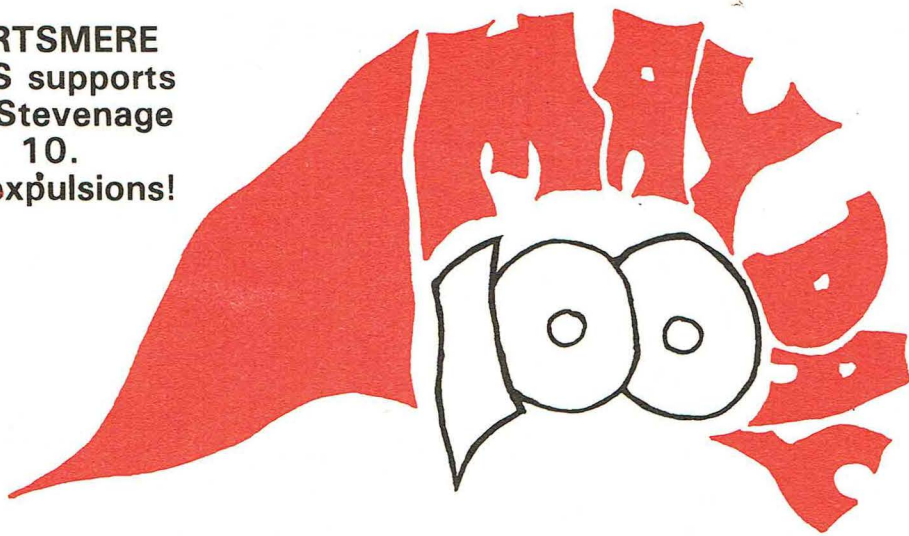
If we are going to win, all printworkers have to stand together. We are fighting this battle to preserve jobs, including those at Watford and Liverpool.

BRADFORD TRADES COUNCIL says endorse the fight for socialism and democracy across the world.

HERTSMERE LPYS supports the Stevenage 10. No expulsions!

Socialist greetings to the international working class, workers of the world, unite! Coventry South-East CLP

Fraternal greetings to all workers in struggle from **BELVEDERE BRANCH, ERITH AND CRAWFORD CLP**



TGWU 6/643 say no to witch-hunts! Labour to power on a socialist programme!

Islwyn Militant supporters say to Neil Kinnock: "Don't let the Tory press decide your policies, fight for socialism."

GREETINGS

BROADGREEN SOUTH LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS.

No to expulsions! Forward to a daily Militant. Forward to a socialist Labour government

Bridgend Amalgamated Branch UCW sends May Day greetings to all workers and socialists.

Netherley Ward Labour Party. Support those councillors guilty of breaking Tory laws. Expulsions will not be accepted.

Socialism is not about witch-hunts but getting Tories out. *Militant* readers in Arundel CLP.

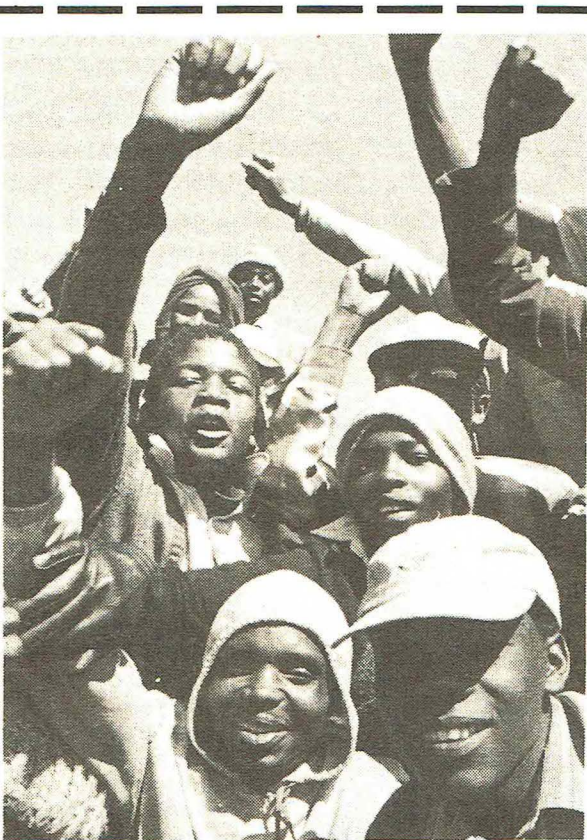


Photo: Morris Zwi (Reflex)

Revolutionary greetings from *Inqaba Ya Basebenzi*, journal of the Marxist Workers' Tendency of the African National Congress.

- ★ Victory to the British printworkers!
- ★ Forward to the general strike of 16 - 18 June!
- ★ Build a mass ANC on a socialist programme.

Nuevo Claridad & Ezkerra Marxista Marxist papers in Spain. For workers' unity around the globe.

1/874 BRANCH TGWU LITTLEHAMPTON
May Day greetings to all socialists. Unite against witch-hunts and Tories

Vauxhall LPYS say there is an alternative to the dole queues and slave labour schemes—fight for socialism!

CARDIFF SOUTH LEGAL DEFENCE FUND.

Andrew Price, Dave Bartlett, Diane Mitchell send fraternal greetings on May Day to all members of the labour movement. We would like to thank those MPs, councillors, trade union branches, trades councils, CLPS, ward parties and the many activists in South Wales who gave so generously to our fund and who helped us get reinstated to the party.

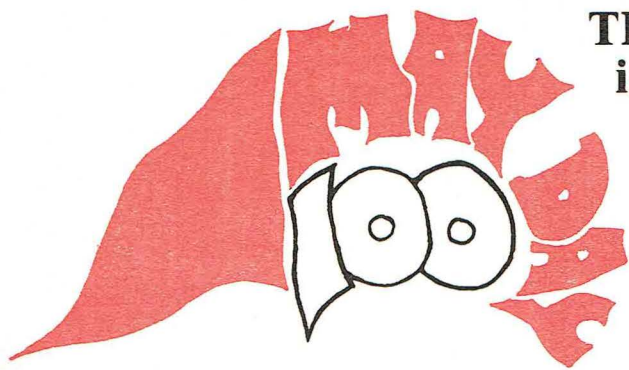
★ Stop the witch-hunt

★ For workers' MPs on workers' wages.

★ We call on the next Labour government to nationalise the Commercial Bank of Wales.

★ We wish Jim Callaghan a long and quiet retirement.

Swansea Labour Party members tying the knot of history. No expulsions of Militant supporters from the Labour Association, the Executive Committee, the District Labour Party, Women's Council and Bonymaen, Castle. Cockett, Cwmbwrla, Landore, Llansamlet, Morrison, Mynyddbach, Penderry, St Thomas, Sketty, Town Hill, Uplands, Killay, Dunvant, Mayals Ward LPs. Forward to socialism.



THE LABOUR Party was founded on the traditions of socialism and the rights of workers to organise into trade unions. Now, Labour's leaders are trying to escape these traditions by abandoning socialist policies and dropping the Red Flag from it's Freedom and Fairness campaign. The Red Flag is the symbol of workers' struggles internationally from the time of the Paris Commune to the present day. *Militant* looks at the implications for the Labour Party.

What socialism would mean

LABOUR LEADERS, even in the party's early days, have attempted to steer the party away from a full commitment to socialist change.

But despite this in 1918 the constitution was changed to include a programme of public ownership and production for need, under clause four, part four.

Neil Kinnock and the leadership want to get rid of the old 'cloth cap' image and 'unpopular state control'. Yet these images are the result of previous failures of moderate policies.

Past Failures

It was the failure of the first Labour government to break with capitalism which led to the unemployment of the 'thirties.

It was the failure of successive Labour governments after the war

to carry through the nationalisation of Britain's collapsing basic industries to its logical conclusion: the nationalisation of the economy, to establish a socialist plan under democratic control.

Nationalisation of coal and the railways gave hope to millions of workers. But when it became clear that it had been carried out in the interests of the capitalists then the illusions were broken. Huge amounts of compensation were paid which still burden these industries today. There was no genuine democratic control—but unaccountable rule by refugees from private industry. It was a Labour government which appointed Tory Michael Edwardes to head British Leyland, which led to the loss of thousands of jobs.

Nationalisation of all the major industries, the banks and the financial institutions would mean an un-

paralleled growth of the economy. The limited and partial nationalisations would be replaced by a full scale plan of production which would eliminate all the waste and inefficiency under capitalism.

More than 20 per cent of Britain's industrial capacity is not used. If all the resources of capitalism were used then the working week could be reduced to 19 hours while maintaining incomes and with full employment.

Four million jobs

It is reckoned that the cost of keeping people on the dole is £4,000 per person per year, a total of £14,000 million. The loss of production from unemployment is calculated to be £50,000 million a year. Spending on defence, including the wasteful Trident missile programme is £18,000 million and

advertising is £4,000 million. So the immediate potential for a socialist plan would be £86,000 million. This is enough to create four million jobs at £120 per week, plus a 50 per cent increase in spending on the NHS and education, the doubling of pensions and child benefit and the building of a million new council homes.

On top of this, huge investment in new technology and the re-tooling of industry would provide the basis for planned economic growth on a scale not seen before.

Why doesn't Labour campaign on these policies? This is how the Party could win the support of millions of voters, including middle class voters and beat the Tories and Alliance into the back of beyond.

A planned economy, under democratic control of workers would guarantee real freedoms of

everyone in society to exploit their own capabilities. Education, training, health and housing would be available free, on demand to anyone regardless of age or background. Then we could see the full development of all aspects of society, of art, culture, science.

This is the programme of socialism which Labour should be proud to defend.

By Ben Eastop

Militant—What We Stand For

Price 30p

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3-13 Hepscoot Rd,
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Strides to the right

BEHIND THE attack on *Militant* and the left by Labour's right wing the Party's socialist policies are being stolen away.

Bit by bit the party is being disenfranchised as Neil Kinnock and his small band of mis-advisers invent new policy, conveniently forgetting the policy decided by Party conference.

Even the *Financial Times* (23 April) commented on the new Freedom and Fairness campaign: "It said virtually nothing about policy that has not already been said by Dr David Owen and the Social Democrats, and it would have been hard even for some Tories to take offence".

Incomes policy

In defiance of conference policy the Shadow Cabinet has effectively embraced wage restraint. Roy Hattersley is now openly talking about incomes policy as soon as Labour is elected. First he talked of the need to control wages while unemployment is being tackled, now he is attempting to blackmail the unions by claiming that there is nothing which can be done about unemployment unless there is an agreed incomes policy.

Full employment

Four million on the dole—yet those who demand a commitment to full employment are accused of being 'impossibilist'. Hattersley has said that a future Labour government would give the attack on inflation a higher priority than expanding the economy.

The target is now a million jobs in three years. But how long will the other three million unemployed have to wait?

Re-nationalisation

Roy Hattersley and John Smith (shadow trade and industry secretary) have pinpointed only two areas for immediate action—British Telecom and British Gas. Party policy is quite clear: all privatised industries should be re-nationalised by Labour. But according to Smith, in an interview in *Tribune*, "The notion that we take over a whole industry and sometimes all the problems of a whole industry, seems to be out of date in some areas". Even right winger John Golding in his new job at the top of the NCU is opposed

to these half-baked measures, in the case of British Telecom.

Public ownership

Hattersley has said: "I do not propose an extension of nationalisation".

Instead he wants to see a "substantial extension of social ownership", more co-operatives, more local authority public enterprise. This is hardly a substitute for the rebuilding of Britain's chronically sick industrial base through planned, and democratically run public enterprises, which should be at the heart of Labour's economic programme.

Trade union legislation

Conference policy calls for a complete repeal of existing Tory anti-trade union laws. Yet Kinnock and Prescott are bending to supposed public opinion (manufactured in Fleet Street), and are now talking about retaining some of the provisions of the Tory legislation.

Failed consensus

The shift to the right in policy, the party's new Habitat-and-computers image, and the witch-hunt against the left are not unconnected. The right wing, Kinnock and the ex-lefts who now provide the cover for the right have no perspective for socialism in the future.

The Party's new image is nothing but the same old failed consensus politics of the 'fifties and 'sixties. Then it was possible for the labour movement to win a few reforms from a more prosperous capitalist system. Now there is an acute crisis, of which there is at least a dim awareness by Hattersley and Kinnock. But having no faith in the potential support for socialism, as an alternative they seek sanctity in the policies of the SDP and the left wing of the Conservative Party. This course will eventually be a disaster for Labour.

It is therefore in the interest of every party member and trade unionist to defeat the present witch hunt, and defend the socialist programme which is at the core of the Party.

By Sandra Davis



Stealing the Tories' clothes

THE THIRD part in the right's strategy for Labour, after attacking the left and abandoning socialist policies, is to change the party's image and invent a new range of policies.

The Freedom and Fairness campaign is aimed at winning over the middle class voters. But the glossy new campaign, and the idea that socialism puts off these voters is merely a guise for ditching the socialist core of the party.

Marxists defend the need to win support from the 'middle class' but this cannot be done by an appeal to middle class prejudices—on law and order and freedom of the individual which are essentially ideas for the defence of capitalism.

Middle class voters, and these are very different to the middle class of the twenties who were used as a blockade against socialism, will be won to Labour on the promise of fundamental change which

would directly benefit them.

In the Fulham election, despite the party's zealous moderation, analysis of a Harris/ITN opinion poll shows that Labour's victory did not rest on the middle class vote. Amongst home-owners the Tories had a 21 per cent lead, whilst amongst council tenants the Labour Party had a 65 per cent lead and a 42 per cent lead from the unemployed. Most significantly Labour had a 32 per cent lead amongst skilled workers, from a previous 6 per cent lead for the Tories.

Middle class

The Labour leadership have drawn the conclusion that to win over the middle class voters, which it must do to win a clear majority in the next general election, it needs to steal the Tories' clothes. But it is precisely the issues which gave the Tories support in the past which middle class voters are turning

away from.

Moreover the party is in danger of neglecting the issues which are important to working class people who form the bedrock of support. On housing the new campaign talks about the right to buy for council tenants but there is no mention of the need to build new council homes.

The projected cost of the whole campaign is £3.7 billion. But it has been estimated that even to repair Britain's council housing would cost £5 billion. Even the CBI has called for a reflation of £6 billion. The Labour Party could not hope to make any lasting and far reaching reforms on this limited basis.

Any voters, including middle class voters will not be fooled into thinking that Labour can carry out Tory policies better than the Tories.

By Ken Smith



MAY DAY 1986 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of 1 May as international workers' day. There are only two countries in the world where no demonstrations of the official labour movement will take place: the USA and Canada, where 'Labor Day' is celebrated in September.

Here, the nightly TV news on 1 May will be filled this year as in previous years with pictures of rockets and tanks rolling through Moscow to be saluted by the Russian bureaucracy. If previous years are anything to go by, no mention will be made of May Day demonstrations in any other country. At the pre-

sent time, few Americans are aware that it is celebrated outside of Russia.

But least of all will CBS, ABC or NBC tell their viewers the real story of the origins of May Day, in the mass strikes of the US working class 100 years ago; in their titanic struggle for the eight-hour day; in the scandalous frame-up and judicial murder of five of the leaders of the movement in the 'most American city', Chicago; and afterwards, in cities across the country, in a political upheaval which as never before, shook the capitalist parties to their foundations.

The eight-hour day

WORKERS IN the US have never lacked class-consciousness. Their history is of their struggle to express that consciousness as a political organisation.

After the Civil War, the growth of the factory system had lengthened the working day, until workers were forced to work 10, 12, 16 or 18 hours a day. The legal limit of eight hours on the working day was set for Federal employees and for workers generally in a number of states before the end of the 1860s. But it remained a dead-letter. Only united action by the working class could enforce the law; the various legislatures would not. It was around this issue that the struggle for working class politics crystallised.

The eight-hour day was a simple idea, which would unify the working class in a direct struggle with capital. It was an idea that had to be fought for. More, even than wage demands it would strengthen the hand of the workers by giving them power over their own lives.

Bloody battles

THE GREAT uprising of 1877 was an outburst of working class anger against the wage-cuts forced by the employers in the depression of the 1870s. This tremendous series of events shook US society as deeply as the Paris Commune had shaken Europe. In particular the Mid-Western cities of Chicago and St Louis, where the conservative bureaucracy of the craft unions which had already developed in the East, had not yet taken hold, were the scenes of bloody battles between workers and Federal troops who were brought in from the Indian wars because the state militia sympathised with the workers.

In both cities a prominent part was played by the socialist 'Workingmen's Party', which had been formed the previous year.

Chicago in the later nineteenth

century was, in the later words of the great American socialist, Eugene Debs, writing in 1902: "Like all other great commercial centres unfit for human habitation. The Illinois Central Railroad Company selected the site on which the city is built and this consisted of a vast miasmatic swam far better suited to mosquito culture than for human beings... everything that entered into the building of the town... was determined purely from profit considerations and without the remotest concern for the health and comfort of the human beings who were to live there... As a rule hogs are only raised where they have good health and grow fat. Any old place will do to raise human beings".

Chicago was then the fastest-growing city in the world, the Mexico City or Caracas of its day. Even before the Civil War, its large immigrant population—mainly German at that time—had led the country with their early support for the nomination of the one-time laborer, Abraham Lincoln, an Illinois lawyer and politician who opposed the efforts of Chicago businessmen to divide the workers of the city along language and ethnic lines.

On other occasions Lincoln defended the right to strike as a fundamental democratic right. But Lincoln was the last American politician who could be described without irony as a 'friend of labor'. The workers of Chicago were to lead the nation again in recognising the need for political independence.

Socialist Labor Party

THE CAREER of Albert Parsons, who was to be foremost among the victims of the 'Haymarket Affair', illustrates the development of a layer which was to lead the working class for a brief period. It was as colourful as any in the colourful and dramatic history of labour. Generous, impetuous, and brave to the point of foolhardiness, Parsons, raised on the Texas frontier but apprenticed to a printer at the age of 12, ran away to become a Confederate cavalryman at the age of 13.

Returning to Texas much changed at the end of the Civil War, he founded and edited a newspaper

which called for the acceptance of the slaveholders' defeat and for wholehearted support for Reconstruction (full political and legal rights for the freed slaves). Afterwards he worked for the Reconstruction administration of General (later president) Ulysses Grant.

Moving to Chicago in 1873 he joined the Typographical Union branch no 16 (which today is on lockout at the *Chicago Tribune*) and became involved in the struggle of the unemployed workers.

Parsons found, like thousands of others, that "the desire to know more... led me in contact with socialists and their writings, they being the only people who at that time had made any protest against or offered any remedy for the enforced poverty of the wealth producers". He joined a party based on the policies of the German socialist, Lassalle, and went to the 1876 congress which founded the Workingmen's Party of the US.

In the 1877 labor uprising he presented a meeting of 30,000 workers with the programme of the WMP as he saw it: "The exercise of the sovereign ballot for the purpose of obtaining state control of all means of production, transportation, communication and exchange" and urged the workers to join the party. Hundreds did so.

The following day he was fired from his job at the *Times* and was collared by some thugs who dragged him before a crowd of the city's leading citizens, who accused him of 'inciting the working people to insurrection'. These worthies had taken it into their heads that the 'honest workingmen' would never have protested their condition had not this 'nigger-loving' Texan rabble-roused them to do so.

As Parsons, by his own account, pointed out, he had simply been a speaker at a meeting: "The strike arose from causes over which I as an individual had no control; I had merely addressed the mass meeting advising to not strike but to go to the polls, elect good men to make good laws and thus bring about good times". But the good citizens were only prevented from lynching the innocent man then and there by their fear that "the working men were much excited and that act might cause them to do violence".

In the following period Parsons and others ran for office repeatedly. The WMP changed its name to the "Socialist Labor Party" in December 1877. At a time when voters in cities like Chicago and New York quite literally voted 'ear-

May Day

ly and often' for the highest bidder, (as many still do) and the SLP must have been alone in offering no money for its votes, it was phenomenally successful, immediately winning thousands of votes wherever it ran.

Knights of Labor

THIS WAS a period of rapid turns and changes, most of all in the working class, which was growing with enormous speed (the population of Chicago, which had been under 5,000 in 1840, doubled in every decade until 1890 when it reached a million).

The question of the eight-hour day came to the fore again. The mass of workers, partly out of the same disgust with the blatant fraud which characterised electoral politics, sought to unite behind the demand for shorter hours of work and was ready to go into battle again on the issue. 'Eight hours for work, eight hours for rest, eight hours for what we will!' was the refrain of one of the scores of songs which expressed the mood of the movement.

The letters and resolutions which passed between workers and their organisation at the time show that thousands of workers were well aware of the challenge to the capitalist system which they were making with this demand. In this connection anarchism showed its reactionary spirit: meeting in Pittsburgh in 1833 the anarchists opposed the eight-hour struggle as a 'compromise with the wages system'.

To this day the martyrdom which the anarchists were to suffer deflects attention from the true heroes of 1886—the nameless thousands of workers—340,000 and their families—who struck, marched, sang, rallied and picketed for the eight-hour day.

At this period workers in their thousands were joining the Knights of Labor. The Knights, unlike

almost all the trades unions then in existence welcomed all-comers as long as they worked for wages. Their insistence on class unity took a strange, religious guise, but they organised men and women, black and white, skilled and unskilled under the slogan "an injury to one is the concern of all".

As they grew so did a huge gulf between the members and the Christian-Socialist clique which had founded them, which among other things was totally opposed to strikes, and which as they began to lose control, tried to limit this growth. They grew from 9,000 in 1878 to 70,000 in 1884 and between 700,000 and a million in July 1886.

Under the pressure of the Knights' competition, the craft unions founded in 1881 their own national organisation, the Federation of Organised Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada—the future American Federation of Labor (AFL). It was this traditional organisation which in 1884 named 1 May 1886 as the day on which the eight-hour day would become a reality through nationwide strike action.



Hunger marchers demonstrate in Wash

100 years after 1 May became workers' day, JOE WEYDEMEYER from Chicago, where May Day was first celebrated, describes the great American union struggle for the eight hour day.

st ay

As PJ McGuire, then a socialist and delegate for the Carpenters' Union, put it: "the way to get it... is by organisation. In 1868 the US passed an eight-hour law, and that law has been enforced just twice. If you want an eight-hour law, make it yourself." This nudge from the leadership of the small section of the class that was decently organised, proved to be all the workers needed.

General strike

IN THE fall of 1885 the rising mood of the workers saw the victory of a Knights of Labor strike against the notorious railroad 'baron', Jay Gould, who had boasted that he could "hire one half of the working class to kill the other half". His defeat gave a massive impetus to the workers: they flocked to join the Knights of Labor and ignored its leaders when



100 years of US workers' struggle—(far left)—National Guardsmen rounding up workers in Boston when the police struck in 1919. (Above left) The Haymarket bomb in 1886. (Above right) Strikes in the US today.



they told them not to strike on 1 May.

350,000 workers in 11,562 establishments downed tools on Saturday 1 May 1886. It was the first national general strike in history. In Chicago alone the Central Labor Union led 80,000 workers and their families in a singing, cheering parade; 40,000 struck and another 45,000 obtained the demand without striking. The packinghouse workers, the men of the lower depths, struck and won eight hours without loss of pay. It is estimated that the hours of a half a million workers were substantially reduced, and years later Samuel Gompers, head of the AFL, stated that even after the employers' counter-offensive the movement had reduced the average day of working people of the United States by "fully one hour's labour".

"They must be hanged"

THE EMPLOYERS lost no time. Already on 1 May the *Chicago Mail* had prepared the ground for what was to come by naming Parsons and another leading anarchist, the German-born August Spies, as 'ringleaders': "Mark them for today. Keep them in mind. Hold them personally responsible for any trouble that occurs. Make an example of them if that trouble occurs". In the light of subsequent events it is obvious that the editor knew something that

his readers and Spies and Parsons did not.

The Chicago police, more even than in most cities, acted as company goons for the employers. They still do, but in 1874 and again in 1877 they had gone out of their way to club workers to death. In 1889 the Chief of Police was to testify that certain officers received extra pay from the employers to run a regular trade, like the czarist police of the same era, in setting up phony terrorist organisations the better to keep an eye on the workers.

On 3 May a force of 350-500 police herded some 300 scabs into the McCormick (International Harvester) works where the Knights of Labor had been striking for weeks for the eight hour day, and an end to wage cuts and the piecework system. When the unarmed workers surged forward, the police opened fire and killed several workers. A meeting was called in Haymarket Square, to protest the shooting. August Spies produced a handbill with the banner "Workingmen to Arms!" to which the printer added "Revenge!" across the top.

The meeting was peaceful. The mayor, a liberal who depended on the labor vote, attended, and when the crowd had dwindled to a couple of hundred as it began to rain, rode over to the nearby police station and ordered that the policemen waiting there should disperse. Instead, the police captain had the mayor followed and when he was at home, marched 180 men to attack the meeting. As the police arrived a bomb was thrown and the police opened fire. It was never established who threw the bomb; at the trial of the anarchist leaders the prosecution said it was irrelevant, and the judge agreed.

In all, seven police and an unknown number of workers were killed. Several of the police received bullets in the back, in the confusion, but the press whipped up a mood of national hysteria (notwithstanding the fact that the same press had previously called for the use of dynamite against strikers). Hundreds of workers were arrested all over the country. Meeting halls, printing offices, homes were ransacked without warrants; suspects were beaten, tortured and bribed.

Finally eight anarchists including Parsons and Spies were put on trial (Parsons had escaped and was safely in hiding, but with his customary and in this case Quixotic bravado, turned himself in to stand trial). Neither Parsons nor Spies, and only one of the others, had been present when the bomb was thrown, and that one was the speaker and could not have thrown it. The court stated that they were on trial for

having been in favour of throwing bombs, which would have been of dubious legality to begin with, but the *Tribune* gave the game away with its shrieking headline "Hang an organiser from every lamp-post!"

The trial was absurd. The jury, packed with employers and even relatives of the dead policemen, included people who had sworn they were already convinced of the defendants' guilt. Witnesses and jurors were bribed. The judge played tic-tac-toe (noughts and crosses) with young society ladies during the testimony; the defence was prevented from defending the accused properly while the prosecution introduced bombs, guns, etc as evidence when they had no bearing on the case. A local businessman summed up the bourgeois point of view:

"I don't consider these people to have been guilty of any offence, but they must be hanged... I'm not afraid of anarchy, oh no, it's the utopian scheme of a few, a very few philanthropic cranks, who are amiable withal, but I do consider that the labour movement must be crushed! The Knights of Labor will never dare to create discontent again if these men are hanged".

Worldwide protests

INTERNATIONAL PROTESTS followed the inevitable verdict. As far as the Knights of Labor were concerned, the businessman's prophecy proved correct; their leaders remained deathly silent. Taken together with their attempt to sabotage the eight-hour strike and the fact that they had arranged a sell-out on the Gould railroad system, this was the end of their organisation. Instead it was the AFL which assumed the leadership of the class for the first time.

Scores of prominent lawyers and politicians also protested at "The greatest wrong that ever threatened our fame as a nation". Marx' daughter Eleanor and her husband Edward Aveling, Bernard Shaw, Oscar Wilde, William Morris and others addressed huge meetings in England and Ireland. A group of the French Chamber of Deputies and the City Council of Paris protested at this 'political crime' which would be an everlasting mark of infamy upon Republicanism". In Germany (most of the condemned men were German-born) Bismarck dared allow no meetings. Workers in Russian, Holland, Italy, and Spain held protest meetings. Even-

tually five of the death sentences were upheld.

A quarter of the population of Chicago turned out for the funeral. Subsequently the grave site of the Haymarket Martyrs was to be the spot where many of the great class fighters of later generations were buried. The founding convention of the IWW visited the site. But the real monument is to the eight-hour struggle of the working class. At the suggestion of the AFL, the founding convention of the Second International, held on the centenary of the storming of the Bastille by the workers of Paris, adopted 1 May as International Labour Day.

"We are socialists"

IN THE wake of the bombing, the police, judiciary and Pinkerton 'detective' agency were given free rein to smash the workers' movement. New York was 'under a reign of terror'. Picket lines were smashed, meetings broken up, strikers and boycotters arrested for 'conspiracy'. In response to this a cross-section of the labour movement, including the AFL and the SLP, determined to organise politically. The ideas of the anarchists were forgotten. Gompers, leader of the AFL, after initially opposing political action, joined the campaign under pressure from his members and campaigned vigorously.

A Red scare failed to deflect the campaign. To quote an officer of the New York Central Labor Union: "If it is socialism to see our wives and children properly housed and clothed, and to strive for better conditions, then we are socialists".

Flames blaze up

TODAY IN the US, labour is again under attack. But in the words of one of the Haymarket Martyrs to the trial judge: "... you think that... you can stamp out the labour movement... the movement from which the downtrodden millions, the millions who toil in want and misery, expect salvation... Here and there you will tread upon a spark, but there and there, behind you and in front of you, and everywhere, flames blaze up. It is a subterranean fire. You cannot put it out".

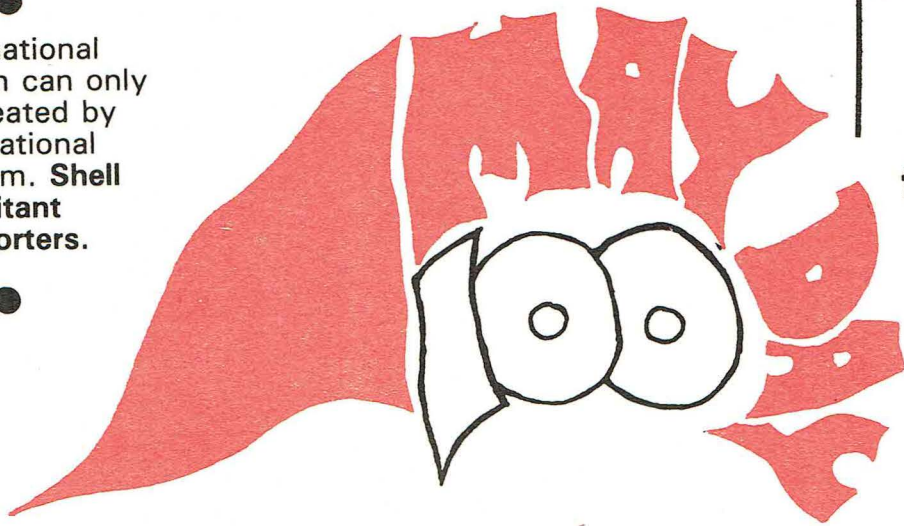


gton in 1927.

Newham North East CLP, Central Branch. "We'll keep the red flag flying here". Labour to power on a socialist programme.

Multinational capitalism can only be defeated by international socialism. Shell Militant supporters.

No expulsions! Socialist policies for Labour. May Day greetings from Poole and Bournemouth Militant supporters.



GREETINGS

BROADGREEN Constituency Labour Party sends May Day greetings to all socialists and trade unionists. No expulsions. Restore the Liverpool DLP.

Greetings to all workers in the trade union and labour movement and all supporters of the Militant on this May Day 1986 to commemorate International Working Class Solidarity Day. Fraternally: MILITANT SUPPORTERS—NORWICH

SILENTNIGHT STRIKERS thank all those who have given their support to us in the past and all those who will continue to give their support in the future.

"In common struggle the yoke of capital will be broken, and socialism will be finally won!"—VI Lenin. Fraternal greetings from Oval Militant Supporters.

LIVERPOOL BROADGREEN Ward Militant supporters. No to witch-hunts. Forward to a daily Militant.

Hounslow Militant supporters send May Day greetings to the workers of the world. Keep the fighting fund rolling in— together we can make it bigger than Gwyneth Dunwoody's restaurant bills!

Labour MPs show us you mean it—take a worker's wage.

Fraternal greetings from Northavon Labour Party Young Socialists.

Expel the Tories not the socialists! Anfield Ward Labour Party.

Endorse Pat Wall. BRADFORD NORTH Labour Party GMC.

Militant supporters in LIVERPOOL BRANCH No 5 GMBATU say No to witch-hunts, for democracy in the union, build the left.

Forward to socialism. Idle Ward Labour Party members. Bradford North CLP.

No witch-hunts. Unite to defeat the Tories. Mansfield LPYS.

ROCHDALE LPYS. Jobs and socialism, not bombs and barbarism.

Bakers, Food and Allied Workers' Union send May Day greetings to Labour Party and trade union members. "Only socialist policies can unite the movement".

J Marino Gen Sec
D Ruffle Vice Pres
T O'Neill Pres



The Southern African Labour Education Project (SALEP) sends fraternal May Day greetings to the workers' movement in South Africa, Britain and internationally.

- ★ Support the BTR strikers.
 - ★ Support the South African National Union of Mineworkers' struggle.
 - ★ Support the 16 June 3-day general strike.
- For workers' power, democracy and socialism.

RIVERSIDE CLP Militant Supporters send May Day greetings and call on everyone to keep Liverpool Labour.

South Sefton Health NUPE

Fight privatisation. Save our Health Service. Kick out the Tories!

Support the printworkers and Liverpool City Council. Nationalisation of the press under democratic workers' control. Forward to socialism. Fraternal greetings from Townhill Ward and Castle Ward Militant supporters in Swansea.

Bristol West CLP Militant supporters. No witch-hunts! Labour to power on a socialist programme!

Newport East LPYS—Build international links and solidarity—For a socialist world!

Fight for every job! May Day Greetings from the Left in the West End District Branch (National Communications Union)

TGWU Region 1 Broad Left 85 sends May Day greetings to all comrades. A witch-hunt will only strengthen the Tories. Attack the Tories, not the socialists.

ARUN DISTRICT TRADES COUNCIL May Day Greetings to fellow trade unionists. We oppose witch-hunts

Kingsweston Labour Party greets socialists everywhere.

Revolution in the Philippines

THE WORLD situation in the last part of the twentieth century is characterised by an enormous crisis of capitalism on a world scale.

First part of a three-part article by TED GRANT

For the first time in history the workers' struggle has become genuinely international, affecting every part of the world.

This is because much more than ever before in history, the world economy has become one single interdependent whole, a greater part under the economic, if not military, domination of the EEC powers, Japan and the United States.

This neo-colonial domination is characterised also by a crisis within the developed capitalist world with its enormous scale of unemployment and the crisis of production. This marks a definitive crisis of the entire capitalist system on a world scale.

Even in the periods of "boom" in the metropolitan countries only 80 per cent of productive capacity can be used. In periods of slump 70 per cent, or less in many industries can be used.

Capitalism has now become an absolute fetter on the development of the forces of production, its crisis is revealed also by the fact



Mass demonstrations and rallies in Manila were the basis of the movement that overthrew Marcos.

Photo: Piers Cavendish (Reflex)



Ferdinand Marcos milked the Filipino people

Photo: Reflex (II)

that the neo-colonial domination of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America is absolutely vital for the continuation of capitalism in the developed countries.

One of the factors in the present "boom" in the West is that during the course of the last 18 months, a 'present' of \$79,000 million from the colonial peoples has been given to the western industrialised powers, due to changes in the terms of trade. Food and raw material prices have been falling—tin, copper, other raw materials and foodstuffs and now even oil—while the prices of industrial goods—engineering products and capital goods especially—are rising. This difference in the terms of trade constitutes the main method of the super-exploitation of the colonial peoples.

Movement of masses

The West's shaky boom might continue to next year, or possibly the year after, but will be succeeded by an even greater crisis than the previous slumps of the 70's and 80's. Now, for the first time, the serious and sober strategists of capital in the economic journals are speaking about the possibility of a new '1929'—a 'boom' in which increases in prices were not related to increased production of goods which led to the collapse and gigantic depression.

Even on the basis of this 'boom' however, explosions and revolutions, in response to the intolerable conditions imposed on the masses, are already beginning to take place

in Asia, Africa and Latin America. During the course of 1986, there have been revolutionary disturbances in South Africa, Sudan and Egypt, riots in Panama, South Korea and Chile, revolution in Haiti and now also the collapse of the Marcos regime in the Philippines.

The removal of Ferdinand Marcos marks the opening phase of the revolution in the Philippines, which will have profound consequences in the Pacific region as well as more remotely in Africa and in Latin America.

Marcos, like Duvalier in Haiti, was an agent and puppet of American imperialism, propped up by them for 20 years. On generous terms, he gave them the Clark and Subic Bay military bases.

After the experience of the revolution in Haiti and revolutionary disturbances in other countries, the main preoccupation of the American imperialists was how to get rid of Marcos without provoking a revolution of the Filipino masses. Yet even after the glaringly obvious rigging of the elections in favour of Marcos and his stooges in the Philippines Congress, Reagan tried to justify the rigging by saying that the opposition had also rigged the votes.

With the enormous movement of the masses which began to affect the army however, there was no alternative for the Americans but to find the speediest and least painful way to get rid of Marcos. It was obvious that if they continued to prop him up, they would be involved in the inevitable collapse of the

regime through an uprising of the masses in Manila and other cities.

Necessity knows no laws and there is no gratitude in politics. With a tear and sigh, Reagan indicated to Marcos that his time had come, that he should resign and the Americans would supply the airforce planes to take him to safe and comfortable exile. They had to behave in this way, in spite of the effect it might have on their other dictatorial puppets in South Korea, Indonesia and in other areas, because a revolutionary overthrow of Marcos would have an even more disastrous effect. In addition the CIA had presented a report to the American government arguing that unless reforms were carried out, the guerillas of the National People's Army (NPA) would be in power within three years.

US investment in the Philippines constitutes 50 per cent of its economy. Other foreign investments make up a further 30 per cent. But even more than this, it is the Philippines strategic position which worries the Americans. It would cost billions of dollars to move the bases to other areas of the Pacific and they would not be as convenient as the Philippines for the domination of the whole of the Pacific.

Looting of the state

It is significant that after the painful lessons of Vietnam, the American imperialists have not even considered the question of direct military intervention against a nation of 55 million people. They realise it would cost them as much as Vietnam and with a like result.

Marcos has been one of the vilest of the puppet rulers of America. He has used the state as his own private milch-cow. He has looted the treasury, looted the economy of the Philippines and has illegally exported \$10,000 million to various parts of the world. This must make him one of the richest, if not the richest, man in the world.

This looting was from one of the poorest third world countries where the economy is in great difficulty and where the debts to the metropolitan bankers amount to \$27,000 billion. More than a third of the debt could be redeemed if it were not for the money that has been stolen by Marcos.

Reagan and his predecessor were quite prepared to be accomplices in

the theft of the resources of the Philippines. A bribe of \$45 million was given to the election funds of Reagan and Bush and further millions went to Carter's. Thus these capitalist politicians were direct accessories in the plunder of the Filipino people.

The Filipino people have traditions of guerrilla wars against the Spanish imperialists, who dominated the Philippines for 300 years and later against the American imperialists who were compelled to give nominal independence when they saw the process that was taking place in Asia and the throwing out of the imperialist powers from India, Vietnam, Indonesia and other countries.

Marcos had his fingers in every pie. The telephone, telex, telegraph and satellite communications and the three biggest private television networks were controlled by him and his family.

The state was a looter and parasite on the economy and the people, a regime like those of the fascist gangsters in Italy, Germany and Spain, but without the mass support.

With the premonition that they wouldn't be able to maintain this domination and looting of the state indefinitely, hundreds of millions of pounds of profits were sent illegally abroad each year. Several tons of gold worth another \$222 million, taken from the treasury, were smuggled out every year.

Marcos and his clique lived a life of profligate luxury which can only be compared to the feudal regimes of Louis XIV of France and the Tzar of Russia. After the fall, in the palace which was her home, it was found that Imelda Marcos had a thousand pairs of shoes. In their yacht there were enough clothes for a department store and the bath in which Imelda Marcos bathed was plated with 24 carat gold.



Cory Aquino, new Philippines president.

Photo: Piers Cavendish (Reflex) (II)

They were absolutely remote from the lives of poverty, want and semi-starvation of the mass of the population. Probably even the majority of the Philippine capitalists were in opposition. They were terrified of the guerilla war being waged by the NPA and the mass discontent and wanted to find a way to get rid of Marcos.

Split in ruling class

Thus there was a split in the ruling class. The majority of the local capitalists and landowners were envious and horrified at the looting of the state by the gangsters in control. They wanted their share of the profits. All the most lucrative industries which were not owned by foreign capital, were owned and dominated by Marcos and his cronies. As the opposition put it, it was 'cronism'.

Hence the capitalist opposition parties headed the movement against Marcos. In the villages where the NPA were not dominant, sections of the landowners and planters who were not in favour with the Marcos regime, were also in opposition, though the majority of landowners probably supported Marcos.

This split in the ruling class opened the way to the intervention of the masses and the beginning of the revolution.

Continued next week

Chile Socialist Defence Campaign.

This May Day collect cash for Chilean workers! Smash Pinochet. For a socialist Chile.

ECCLESHILL Labour Party, Bradford North CLP. 1982, now 1986. For the right of a local party to select its own Parliamentary candidate.

When the revolution starts, it will be in South West Herts, there's nothing left to say but to have a great May Day! Fraternal greetings from SW Herts LPYS.

Huddersfield, Colne Valley and Holme Valley Militant supporters send greetings from our growing readership.

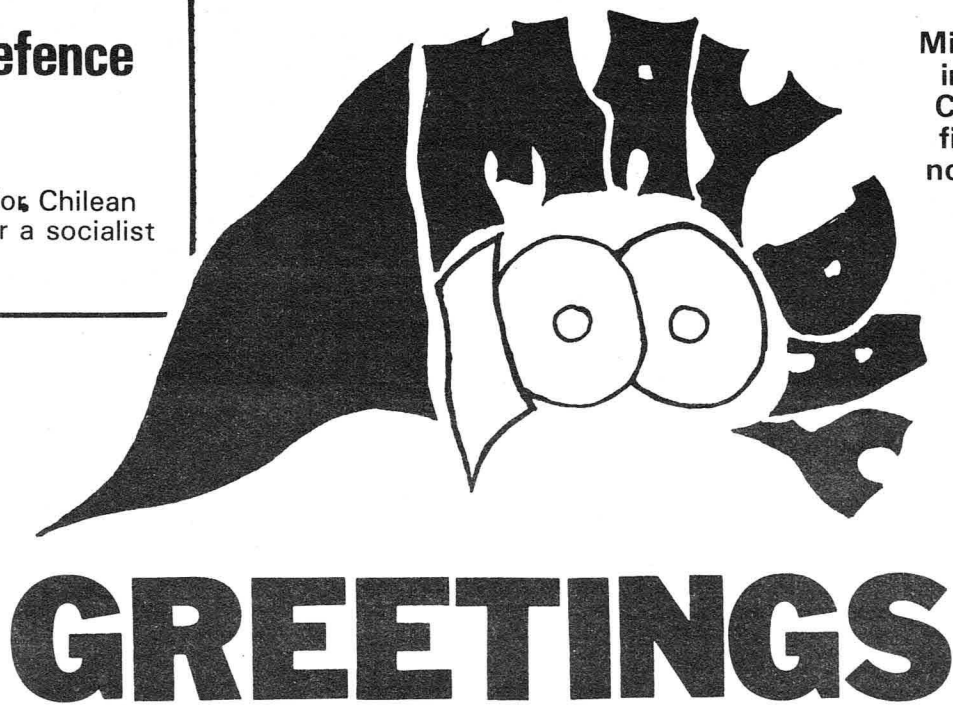
St Helens LPYS *Militant* supporters. Ain't no stopping us now!

Brentford and Isleworth LPYS send fraternal greetings to the labour movement. Remember the words of Connolly that "there can be no dignity in labour until labour knows no master".

Labour Party Young Socialists National Committee. Fight the Tories, Defend LPYS.

Tommy Sheridan
Andy Clachers
Gary Ironmonger
Richard Wheeldon
Mark Meredith
Rob Owen
Andy Dival
Janice Glennon

Beverly Woodburn
Linda Douglas—NEC Rep
John Ellen
Andy Costello
Mark Ovenden
Jess Beishon
John Hird
(in personal capacity)



Militant supporters in Sittingbourne CLP & LPYS say fight the Tories, not the socialists.

Victory to Marxist ideas—we're getting there! From all Bradford South Militant Supporters.

No to expulsions—yes to socialism. AUEW Coventry No 2.

Militant Supporters on Labour Party Wales Youth Committee—Paula Hanford, Jane Fox, John Fletcher, Kevin Dupe, Simon Raine, Tony Wedlake, Clive Lloyd and Rob Owen—(personal capacities). 'Wales Youth' strike back at Fowler on May 2nd! Join the LPYS! Forward to Socialism!

Fraternal greeting from Wakefield East & West LPYS. Unity to defeat the Tories. No to witch-hunts, forward to socialism.

Ipswich and Colchester Militant supporters say unite to fight the Tories, not the socialists.

Socialism knows no boundaries—young workers of the world unite—rise up and declare yourselves internationalists! Hornchurch LPYS

UPLANDS Branch of Swansea West Labour Party greet the working class throughout the world on May Day—Fight for socialism

ISLE OF WIGHT CLP Militants and the four expelled greet the labour movement. Labour to power on socialist policies.

SWANSEA BRANCH NCU calls upon all fellow trade unionists to unite and campaign for the return of a Labour government committed to carry through the socialist transformation of society. Oppose all witch-hunts.

SOLSAY (Socialist Links with South African Youth) sends greetings to workers and youth. Fight Apartheid education! Unban COSAS! Support June 16 General Strike!

PONTEFRAC AND CASTLEFORD LPYS. Fight the Tories not the socialists.



Hull youth marchers send May Day greetings to all sponsors and supporters in the labour movement. Ray, Neil, Ian, Jo, Darren, Dave, Eddy. A small step towards socialism, but a bloody long way to march.

ROCHDALE Militant supporters. Run Tebbit, run. Socialism is on its way.

SOUTH GLAMORGAN Socialist Education Association. Fraternal greetings on May Day.

"Don't expel socialist councillors—follow Liverpool's example on education".

CARDIFF WEST LPYS sends May Day greetings to the movement and registers its support for one of its members, Tony Wedlake, in his fight to keep his party membership.

Greetings from *L'Avance Socialiste* French Marxist paper. Forward to a socialist Europe and a socialist world.

NEWCASTLE POLY Labour Club says no to the witch-hunts, workers unite against the education cuts.

Remember Salem! Greetings from Hartlepool Militant supporters. Fight the witch-hunt! Socialist policies for Labour!

UXBRIDGE CLP Executive sends fraternal May Day greetings to all socialists. Stop the expulsions. Attack the Tories.

Peasants look to socialism

THE PROBLEMS of the Third World economies have been deepened by the collapse of world commodity prices in the last year.

In response to the crushing poverty of the East, the clarion call of the Marxists has always been for international solidarity, for direct aid from the workers of the West to the forces of the socialist revolution in the East.



NSSP leaders Vasudeva and Vickremabahu arrested during 1980 general strike.

"Yes, socialism's all very well for the future, but we have to do something now to help the poor", comes the shrill refrain from middle-class do-gooders. But what is the actual experience in the colonial world?

In *per capita* terms, Sri Lanka has received one of the highest levels of aid and loans from the imperialist countries. Much of the aid has gone to the Mahaweli irrigation, land settlement and hydro-power development programme.

JAYANTHA MENDIS, a poor peasant from Thambuttamma village in one of the Mahaweli irrigation areas, is the general secretary of the Govi Jana Sammellanaya (Peasant People's Organisation) and a leader of the Nava Sama Samaja Party (NSSP, Marxist workers' party). In an interview with *Militant*, he explained the problems facing the peasantry.

How have the millions of pounds in foreign aid benefited the peasant farmers?

All the money has gone into the pockets of the ministers and private contractors who support the ruling party. Every irrigation dam in the Mahaweli area is disintegrating because the contractors built sub-standard canals.

No cultural life

You can look for yourself at the existence that we lead, and answer your own question. Our children are lucky to have a sharpened pencil to take to school. Our huts are made of baked earth, clay and *cadjan*. There is no piped water. Only five houses have toilet facilities.

We have no cinemas or sports grounds. After a hard day in the fields, most men spend their evenings guzzling home-brew spirits. So what benefits have we got from

foreign aid?

But what about the World Bank and International Monetary Fund assisted loans given to uplift the farmers?

Yes, we are up to our necks in debt. 98 per cent of Mahaweli peasants have debts of more than 10,000 rupees (about a year's wage for a manual worker). The interest on our bank debts accumulate at the rate of 9 per cent for the first nine months, then at 21 per cent per year.

How will you pay back these debts?

Most peasants farm about three acres of land, which is not enough to live off, so many mortgage their land to shopkeepers, Mahaweli bureaucrats, contractors or policemen. Some of these people have accumulated 30 or 40 acres in this manner. The peasants then work on their own land as labourers. Therefore some villagers are semi-workers.

At the start of the Mahaweli project, the government said that a peasant family could earn 2,000 rupees per month. But today the Central Bank report shows that one peasant earns only 250 rupees per month. So how can we afford to pay back the debts?

What other problems do you face?

Water is of crucial importance for us because without it we couldn't grow paddy (rice), which is the most important crop. The Mahaweli scheme means that today's farming is of capital-intensive cash crops. For us this means heavy investment, debts, and greater exploitation.

But the government is asking us to pay a water tax for irrigation waters from the Mahaweli. We are expected to pay 350 rupees this year. This is the main issue facing the peasants in our village.

What are the main demands of your peasants' organisation?



Above: Peasant meeting; Right: water supply for workers

We call for abolition of the water taxes; cancellation of bank and cultivation debts; a justifiable price for our products; and no lands should be given to foreign companies. Give the land to every peasant youth over the age of 18.

What happens when your members refuse to pay water tax?

Already our president, comrade John Edidasuriya, and 41 others have been taken to court and fined, with the threat of imprisonment and seizure of his land if he carries out his threat to defy the court.

I am also being taken to court for non-payment of taxes. The case of John is being taken to the higher courts as a test case. If John and others are imprisoned, it will make thousands of peasants liable to prosecution. Therefore we plan to organise massive protests around these court cases, and call down the left leaders like Vijaya and Vasudeva, to show that they and thousands of others are prepared to fight and even go to jail in order to defend the peasants.

How do you aim to unite peasants from different parts of the country?

We are trying to expand our peasant organisation and build a national anti-water tax committee. We are also linked to farmers who are fighting the multinational agribusiness corporations, who have already swallowed 84,000 acres of land.

Struggles

What is the political consciousness of the peasants?

The majority of peasants in this area are against the UNP (right-wing) government, and support the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP, a bourgeois opposition party). There was a drift of poor peasants to the SLMP, the new workers' party. But its leaders have not consolidated this, nor given an alternative leadership.

What do the peasants think about collective farming and socialism?

Today they are not really aware of the advantages of this. They want to keep their own plots of land, but without paying water taxes etc.

Under socialism, the best tractors and modern machinery could be used to end the drudgery of peasant life. For instance, it takes one person 60 days to sow the paddy by hand. Now there are machines in the West which could do this



Lever Brothers workers

whole job in less than one day.

But even today the peasants realise that the best way to combat pests is through collective large-scale methods. So there is a tendency towards that already.

How do the struggles of the peasantry compare with those of the working class, and what is the way forward?

The workers are well-organised in the factories. They get similar wages or salaries, they go through struggle in common action, with strikes and general strikes, and they develop a similar consciousness. They have a discipline from the factory and an organisational framework.

But the peasants are not like that. They are limited by the boundaries of their land. They try to increase their plot of land, and sell their

crop at the highest price.

They are more volatile than the workers. Trotsky once said in a speech in Copenhagen that the peasants are like bears. They will suddenly arouse and spontaneously fight on their issues. But like the bears, the peasants can't get off all fours and stand erect on their hind legs. They do not have the consciousness and organisational structure of the working class.

Combine

We believe we can combine the peasant struggles with those of the workers in the towns. Just as the government hands out land to private firms, they are privatising state corporations, and the water taxes have been imposed in the towns also.

The leaders of the workers and left parties in the United

Direct links strengthened

DIRECT LINKS between South African and British workers have been strengthened during a four-week visit to British by SA Transport & General Workers' Union president Jeremiah Zulu.

Jeremiah, a bus driver, had an excellent reception from workers at bus garages and railway depots up and down the country, and was made a full member of both the British TGWU and NUR. TGWU stewards at Heathrow airport promised that any victimisation of Jeremiah by the apartheid regime would be met with industrial action to ground SA Airways.

Unfortunately this internationalist spirit has not been shared by exile leaders of the now defunct South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) and their 'Communist' Party supporters. For instance, SACTU spread the allegation that the visit—sanctioned at branch, regional and national level within TGWU(SA)—was unofficial as Bro Zulu had resigned three months ago as union president and from the Congress of SA Trade Unions central committee!

However, such incidents did not succeed in marring the comrade's itinerary.

Just before returning home, Bro Zulu attended the House of Commons to hear a debate on the year-long BTR Sarmcol strike by members of the SA Metal & Allied Workers' Union, moved by Dave Nellist MP. As Dave pointed out, Jeremiah's presence enabled him to "speak indirectly to the 500,000 organised workers in COSATU".

These workers, Dave said, will want clear answers about the government's role in propping up apartheid. A special edition of Dave's speech is being printed for distribution by Coventry South-East Labour Party and the Southern African Labour Education Project.

Order from SALEP, 28 Martello Street, London E8 3PE. 30p per copy incl p&p.

By Phillip Masters

Left Front have the duty to give leadership to the struggles of the peasants and link them to those of the workers, to build the separate anti-government struggles into one mass movement.

How do you see international solidarity?

When the workers go into struggle, they get help from workers internationally. We want to publicise our struggles, to build links with peasant organisations in India, Pakistan, the Philippines etc., and with the working class internationally. We recognise that the struggle against capitalism and for socialism is international, and so we look forward to your support.

Interview by Mithy Niranyan

The right go mad in East Hull

Dear Comrades,

The right wing argue that the witch-hunt is not about ideas but organisation.

A section of the right-wing in East Hull Labour Party know different. The following resolution was passed at a Longhill ward meeting earlier this month:

"This party records its disgust at the action of seven of the Labour Party NEC in openly opposing Labour Party policy regarding the *Militant* Tendency and endangering the success of the Labour Party candidate in the Fulham by-election.

"The NEC is asked to consider if action can be started for the expulsion of these disloyal members from the Labour Party".

Similar resolutions condemning the NEC walk-out were sent from three other wards.

Yours fraternally
Alistair Tice
Hull

Kinnock ditches the red flag

Dear Comrades,

Neil Kinnock constantly tells us to go out and listen to the people because we are supposedly out of touch.

Well, I'd like to know after the ditching of the Red Flag, who is Kinnock listen-

ing to?

Could it be a certain Lord Hailsham? I recall that when Kinnock became leader of the Labour Party, Hailsham gave him a lecture on how to be a statesman. The old monument said "England is

a land covered by mists and the middle class... and the people like their politicians grey"!

Yours in disgust
George Knell
Huddersfield

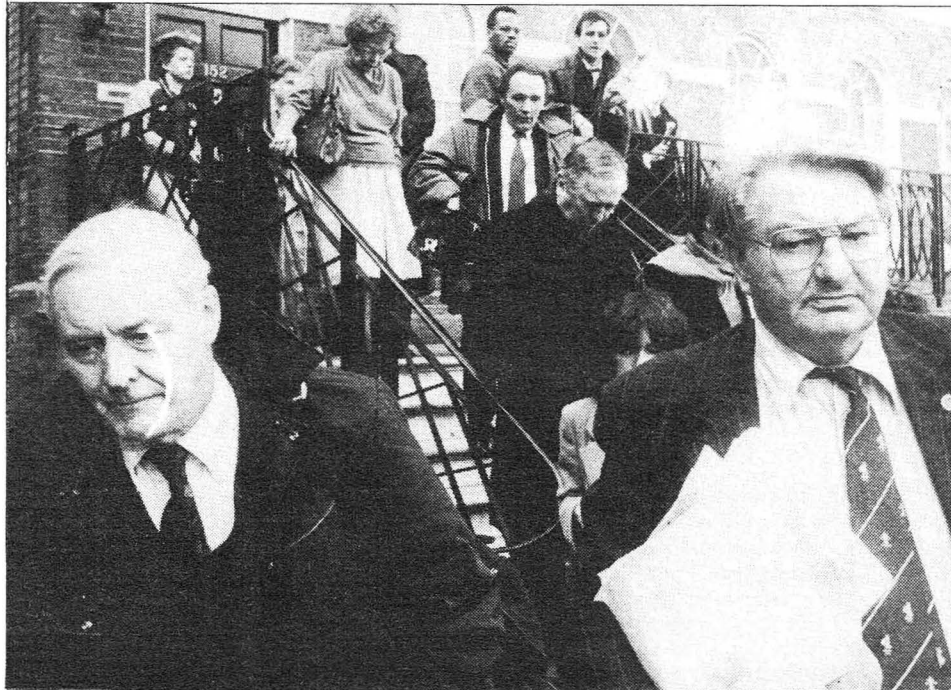


Photo: Dave Sinclair

Seven members of the Labour Party's National Executive Committee walked out in protest at the trial of Liverpool Labour Party members. If members of East Hull Labour Party had their way the seven would be in the dock themselves.

Blinded by simplicity

Dear Comrades,

Recently, while selling the paper at the Leith shopping centre, I was accosted by a powder-puffed woman in a fur coat shaking a rattling-cane.

She explained to me that she was collecting to help pay for an old folks home and asked if I would like to donate anything.

I said I'd make a donation if she bought one of my papers. This got the reply: "Buy that Commie rubbish? You must be joking, I'm a

Tory."

I thought about this and asked her why it was necessary for her to beg in the street for an old folks home when surely she had voted Tory to see them provide such services.

Blinded by the simplicity of this she scoffed, "So you're not going to help the old folks, some socialist you are!" and away she scuttled.

Yours fraternally
Kevin Williamson
Leith Labour Party
Young Socialists

Forking-out on foliage

Dear Comrades,

When we demand better wages, living conditions etc. we are told time and time again there's not enough money available.

At the company where I work, they are having a new reception area fitted. Imagine my shock when I discovered that they are paying £83 for one item. (On top of the £3,000 already spent.)

What could it be? A filing cabinet? A new chair? A

typewriter? No, they are prepared to pay £83 (more than they pay me for a week's work) for a house plant!

With all the money they make and all the flash company cars, hotel bookings and business lunches that they buy, the working class are getting conned.

Yours fraternally
Jackie Haslam
Wombwell Labour Party
Young Socialists

Letters

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

Liberals washed-out

Dear Comrades,

On phoning the Liverpool Liberal headquarters to give them official notification of a public youth debate, we asked for the address of their youth section. "I am sorry" apologised an embarrassed Liberal "but our youth section has disintegrated".

How fitting for the Liberals to have an alliance with the SDP—the 'Slowly Disintegrating Party'.

Yours fraternally
David Read
Deputy Convenor
Merseyside Area
Student Organisation

Islwyn inspiration

Dear Comrades,

I just had to put pen to paper after attending the *Militant* readers meeting in Islwyn.

I thoroughly enjoyed and was very satisfied by the speeches made by both Derek Hatton and Peter Taaffe. They said everything I wanted to hear. As a struggling single parent *Militant's* programme gives me hope for my child and for the future.

Only one thing disappointed me and that was that the pickets outside the meeting did not come in and put their view.

I only wish they had, but they are obviously gutless and furthermore should be ashamed of themselves to encourage children to stand with placards and shout words which they have no comprehension of.

Yours fraternally
A Responsible single parent
Swansea

Magazine propaganda

Dear Comrades,

The other day, while browsing through a women's magazine, I came across an article: "Cheers For the Capitalist Feminist!".

In it the author bemoans "The hijacking of the women's movement by the left" and goes on to criticise socialists who argue that the emancipation of women can only be achieved once capitalism has been rejected by the working class as a whole.

Dismissing this fundamental idea as "utter nonsense", the author advises us that

"The route to equality is through capitalism... women have to beat capitalism at its own game, to master it..." etc.

The article's flimsy conclusion shows a total lack of understanding of the lives of working-class women.

What chance do these women have of "mastering capitalism" when it's enough of a struggle to make ends meet?

Yours fraternally
Mora MacLean
Garscadden Labour Party
Glasgow

Regular reader

Dear *Militant*,

After reading and being brainwashed by Tory papers for most of my life, I bought a copy of *Militant*.

The result is a regular *Militant* reader. I may be only 17 but I am aware of what goes on around me. For a long time I have thought that the ideas and opinions of youth are not taken seriously,

but thanks to *Militant* I have been able to put my ideas and opinions forward.

No longer shall I hide behind my parents' political opinions. Thank you for my newfound independence!

Yours fraternally
Caron Mason
Howdon Labour Party
Young Socialists



Photo: Militant

Shopworkers face low pay and long hours. Low paid workers must get organised. Join the 'Fight Low Pay' rally in Leicester on 17 May (details p6).

Unions must attack low pay

Dear Comrades,

As a shopworker I have first-hand experience of low pay, but recent events have brought home to me how widespread poverty wages are.

Whilst chatting to a customer he told me that as a security guard on a building site he is paid £1.25 per hour to look after houses that will be sold for £50,000 each.

On the picket line during the recent Swan Hunters dispute I talked to skilled men who worked a full week in appalling conditions but had to claim Family Income Supplement (FIS) because their wages were not enough

to keep a family on.

In the store the shop assistants are poorly paid, but the cleaners are even worse off. On being privatised they were re-employed at a lower rate of pay and are now paid only £1.50 per hour.

Just a few examples but there must be thousands more. Isn't it about time that the leaders of the Labour Party and the trade unions stopped attacking *Militant* supporters and started fighting the real enemy, the Tories?

Yours fraternally
Lynne Collins
Wallsend

Leadership's champagne celebration

Dear Comrades,

The news of the Tory defeat on Sunday trading was the best news for shop workers. However, the leadership felt it necessary to celebrate with champagne. How many shopworkers can afford to have champagne?

It's a question which the leadership should be able to answer.

Yours fraternally
Mike Jackson
Kent

Dismantling the health service

Dear Comrades,

I work in a psychiatric hospital and can see our health service being dismantled before my eyes.

The Tories are increasing privatisation and competitive tendering which serves only to lower wages and conditions.

They increase prescription charges by more than the rate of inflation whereas NHS pay beds went up less than the rate of inflation.

We have the farce of throwing patients out on the streets and calling it 'Community Care'. What has been the response of the Health Service unions?

They have declared the anti-privatisation strike at Addenbrookes unofficial and have withdrawn official support for the occupation of the threatened Neasden Geriatric Hospital after a High Court injunction.

COHSE President Cyril Ambler and NUPE Assistant General Secretary Tom Sawyer have been using their NEC positions to witch-hunt socialists in the Labour Party.

Yours fraternally
Jane Barclay-Taylor
Hertfordshire

LEFT and RIGHT

Cancer of the NHS

A NEW anti-cancer drug developed in Britain but now produced by an American multinational is being offered to the National Health Service at £340 a time. A course of the new drug could cost over £2,000. Too expensive for the NHS to buy, it will probably be restricted to use in private medicine. Cancer treatment is obviously a very lucrative business for some.

Rambo takes cover

SYLVESTER RAMBO Stallone, the fear-nothing, ready-for-anything, defender of the 'free world' was due to attend the Cannes Film Festival later this year. Far be it for Rambo to be influenced by scare-stories of terrorist bombings—but he's decided not to go all the same.

Fight the Rail Board not the socialists

THE NATIONAL executive of the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) has referred resolutions on Liverpool and the expulsion of NUR member Geoff Bright from the Labour Party to its political and transport sub-committee.

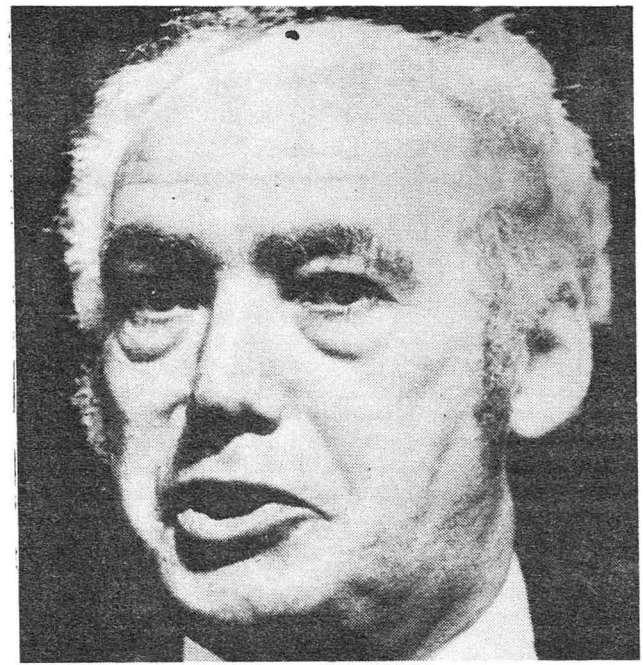
Members of the sub-committee will be seeking the views of the membership and taking into account motions from the branches.

It is particularly important that members make their feelings heard on these issues as there are indications of skulduggery at the union's headquarters, Unity House, which many thought had ended with the departure of the previous general secretary.

Executive members have been led to believe that only a few resolutions supporting Geoff Bright and Liverpool have been received. This is not true. Inquiries around the union have shown at least thirty resolutions on the two issues have been sent in, along with a number of letters.

Some have even received replies from Jimmy Knapp. But they aren't satisfactory to the branches concerned. Fresh resolutions and copies of past correspondence resolutions must be presented to the political and transport sub-committee. Pressure must be exerted to ensure these issues are not ignored.

Reports by Martin Elvin and Andy Viner.



Jimmy Knapp, NUR general secretary



Guards lobby Unity House in opposition to flexi-rostering.

A SERIOUS discussion about the response of the rail unions to Tory attacks is urgently required. We cannot afford to ignore the drastic situation the industry faces in the hope of salvation at the next general election.

20,000 jobs have been lost since 1980. Privatisation of hotels, Sealink, National Carriers, workshops (many of which have also been shut), have hit the industry and the unions hard.

Drivers face continuing battles over single manning of trains, doing away with the drivers assistant whilst guards' jobs are hit by one person operation. Flexible rostering has proved massively inefficient and now threatens to produce demands for shifts of up to ten and twelve hours.

In the first three years of Tory government National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) members were handicapped in their attempts to defend jobs by the right wing leadership of Sidney Weighell.

He did deals with British Rail management which began most of the problems faced today. Flexible rostering, driver only operation, the open station concept (which will mean reduction of station staff), were all agreed by Weighell.

Unfortunately, the drivers' union ASLEF was also party to these agreements. Faced with the introduction of flexible rostering they did, however, mount a fight. One of the bitterest strikes since the war took place over two weeks. It was undermined and sabotaged by the TUC as a result of the efforts of NUR general secretary Weighell.

His departure under a cloud quite soon afterwards for breaking the union's mandate in elections to Labour's national executive was a major breakthrough for the union.

His successor Jimmy

Tory rail disaster

Knapp was swept to power on the slogan 'Together a new start', defeating the heir apparent, assistant general secretary Charles Turnock.

Knapp was the left candidate. His election marked a new era in relations between the rail unions, breaking down the animosity which existed at the top between the NUR and ASLEF.

Political stance

The shift to the left within the union which his election expressed took it out of the right wing camp within the wider labour movement. It was particularly important for the aid given to the miners during their year-long strike.

But this strike also brought into sharp focus the weakness of the left rail union leaders. Early in 1984 a marvellous opportunity was lost to make up the deterioration in wages and conditions over previous years.

The Rail Board and the Tory government were terrified of the miners being joined by the railworkers. Nevertheless, the rail unions settled quickly for just under 5% with no guarantees for the preservation of jobs and conditions.

They did not even use the opportunity to halt flexible rostering and driver only

operation which the Board had previously been insisting on but suddenly dropped in order to get a settlement.

This was symptomatic of Knapp's lack of a strategy to counter the attacks on the industry. No consistent campaign has been waged in the union and amongst the membership to break the old right wing machine and mobilise the members.

Even when victimisations of workers occurred at Coalville and Shirebrook for blacking coal movements there was no decisive lead given in their defence.

An attempt was made, however, to get industrial action on London Transport against one person operation. The lack of support for the strike here, and then the rejection of the executive's recommendation of strike action by guards on British Rail over driver only operation, was undoubtedly a blow to Knapp and the NUR leadership.

In line with the new realist ideas of the TUC leaders they have drawn the false conclusion that workers are not prepared to fight. Instead of blaming their lack of campaigning to prepare the members for action they have opted for keeping their heads down and hoping for a Labour government.

This has played into the hands of the rightward swing

by the tops of the trade unions and Labour Party. It has been expressed in the lack of fight on the industrial issues and failure to oppose the witch-hunt in the Labour Party.

Disarming

It is a bad mistake, however. The members will not thank the leadership for sacrificing jobs and conditions and disarming them politically. The right wing's policies will not win the enthusiastic support of the activists decisive to a Labour victory. It is mistaken to sacrifice militant opposition to the Tories' attacks now on the assumption of a Labour victory in a year or two.

Equally, many members are under no illusion about the prospects for the industry if the abandonment of socialist policies by the Labour leaders continues. We have seen the railways butchered under previous Labour governments.

We need to organise a massive fight back now to protect jobs and conditions as part of the campaign to get a socialist Labour government committed to defence of our industry.

The key way to do that is by building the Broad Left. Its journal Left Lines, is available from: BL Railway Workers, 3 Sturkley Road, London E7.

THE SUM total of Labour Party national executive committee member Charles Turnock's report to the NUR executive about his activities as chair of the inquiry into Liverpool District Labour Party is two paragraphs:

"The report on the Liverpool District Labour Party has been presented to the NEC and interested members will have obtained a copy of the synopsis of the report.

"It would be better for public debate if the media had concentrated on positive policies for the reduction of unemployment."

In this way he hopes to avoid questioning on his leading role in the witch-hunt of socialists in Liverpool without any consultation with the union members he represents on Labour's executive. His whole report is rank with hypocrisy.

He refers to the role of the media and those "keen to assist them in this" whilst trying to distance the inquiry team from any blame for the damage being done to the party. Or perhaps Turnock is referring to Neil Kinnock, who has repeatedly run to the media to attack Liverpool's councillors?

Political cowardice

In fact the inquiry report was founded on malicious gossip, unfounded allegations and downright lies, delivered behind the scenes by people opposed to the politics of Liverpool Labour Party but incapable of winning the arguments in public.

This attack on members of the Labour Party for following party policy in defending their city against Tory cuts is simply part of a political purge against the right wing's socialist opponents.

And Turnock has voted with the right wing consistently, even for the expulsion of councillor Paul Green from Sheffield Attercliffe Labour Party, which also expelled NUR member Geoff Bright.

Most striking about the

report to the union is that it fails to say where Turnock stands on any of these issues, let alone justify them. The omissions tell far more than the contents. He fails to mention that the inquiry produced a minority as well as majority report. He even neglects to mention that he sat on the inquiry, let alone chaired it, none too impartially.

Nevertheless, his role has been noted by many NUR activists and there is a rising demand for him to be made accountable to the membership. As a result of that mood the 1984 NUR annual general meeting voted that their representative on Labour's executive be expected to provide a report of activities.

Contact executive

So unhappy were they with this report that they have taken the rare step with reports like this, of referring it to the political and transport sub-committee for further consideration.

Some executive members feel that the sub-committee should now look into the real situation in Liverpool, consult with the union membership and produce a report for the next executive meeting in order to settle policy on the issue.

The executive must be prepared to stamp their authority on the union. Despite Sid Weighell's departure too much power still lies with the general secretary. He and the Unity House bureaucracy dictate the time and format of meetings. So far general secretary Jimmy Knapp has supported and defended Turnock.

The next meeting of the political and transport sub-committee is to be held in May. It is essential that the members of the committee ensure it goes ahead. Members should back them up with letters and resolutions to head office and demands that Liverpool be on the executive agenda.

A programme of action to defend the industry

★ A living wage for all railway workers of no less than £125 per week.

★ 35 hour week with no loss of pay.

★ No job losses.

★ Prepare for industrial action if necessary to defend jobs, conditions and the industry.

A Labour government must be committed to:

★ renationalisation of all rail related assets privatised by this Tory government

★ a massive programme of investment in the industry

★ a fully integrated and nationalised transport system under democratic workers' control and management.

Industrial Reports

Hull Labour bus sackings

WITHOUT DISCUSSION in the Labour group let alone the city party, Hull City Council leaders issued redundancy notices last week to all 700 City transport workers.

A small clique of Labour councillors are supporting general manager Bastow's attempt to slash jobs, wages and conditions prior to privatisation under the Tory Transport Act.

The council, three months before even legally required under the act, are demanding 330 redundancies, ending of overtime, shift and penalty pay, longer hours and harsh new disciplinary procedures. And Bastow is to be rewarded with a 25 per cent salary increase and a new car!

With a new, younger branch leadership and after a partial victory in a recent

three month dispute over accrued holiday entitlements, Hull's busmen are in no mood to accept these attacks without a fight.

Last Friday, 25 April, a five hour strike brought 1,000 busworkers and other council workers on to the streets of Hull in the city's biggest demonstration since the health service strike.

Fighting mood

At the rally that followed anger was vented against Bastow and Phyllis Clarke, chair of Personnel Committee, but speakers from the platform and the floor argued that busworkers should take their fight into the Labour Party and get rid of those doing the Tory dirty work and elect councillors prepared to defend their own employees.

A left-wing councillor opposed to the council's policy

explained that it was militants threatened with expulsion from the Labour Party who were supporting the busmen and that the right wingers threatening expulsions were the ones sacking them. To emphasise the point five out of the eight speakers from the floor were *Militant* supporters and we collected 18 names to join the Labour Party.

Unfortunately, a message of support from Jeremiah Zulu, leader of South African Transport Workers, visiting Britain did not arrive in time to be read out—because of a postal workers' dispute!

As our *Militant* leaflet explained, although the trade unions nationally failed to lead a co-ordinated campaign beyond marches and lobbies against the Bill, it is still not too late for Labour authorities, backed by supportive industrial action to

defy what is now the Transport Act.

Short of taking the Liverpool road, however, Labour councils will become nothing less than Tory agents in redundancies and cuts. The Hull city council Joint Shop Stewards Committee has pledged to support further industrial action by the busworkers, which coupled with political action inside the Labour Party, must force a change in council policy and the withdrawal of all redundancies and the new terms and conditions.

By Colin Sowter
(Shop Steward, East Yorkshire Motor Services)
and Alan Shadforth
(City Council Joint Shop Stewards Committee, personal capacities)



Bus workers are under attack all over the country.

UDM appeals for Amnesty

MINUTES OF the Executive and Council meetings of the so-called 'Union of Democratic Mineworkers' (UDM) have been passed to *Militant*. They reveal the desperate situation the scab union is in. And, every attempt they make to gain credibility exposes them still further.

At a time when the National Coal Board have made their 'intentions' for Notts coalfield clear (2,000 job losses), the UDM mis-leaders have agreed to invite none other than Ian MacGregor to their 'national' conference.

He will be joined on the platform by that well-known class fighter Eric Hammond of the EETPU and Lord Marshall on behalf of the Electricity Board (CEGB).

Don Concannon (MP for Mansfield) has been invited to address the UDM conference. Already, the Labour Party NEC have avoided taking action against him for his open support and alleged membership of the UDM. But they will be forced to act if he accepts this gracious invitation.

It may be that Concannon is already considering the possibility of standing as an independent at the next general election. He is only too well aware that the ground is shifting beneath him. He and his right wing friends have failed to root out the Marxists locally. And Mansfield CLP today is in the process of moving to the left.

Terrified

The UDM is terrified of a Labour government after the next election. Kinnoch could be forced to instruct the NCB to officially recognise and grant full negotiating rights to the NUM in Notts and South Derbyshire. This would result in a mass flood back to the NUM.

Little wonder that Concannon should be to the fore in the attempts to expel socialists from the Labour Party and thus lessen the prospects of a Labour victory. He must recognise that his future, like Lynk and Prendegast, lies outside the labour movement.

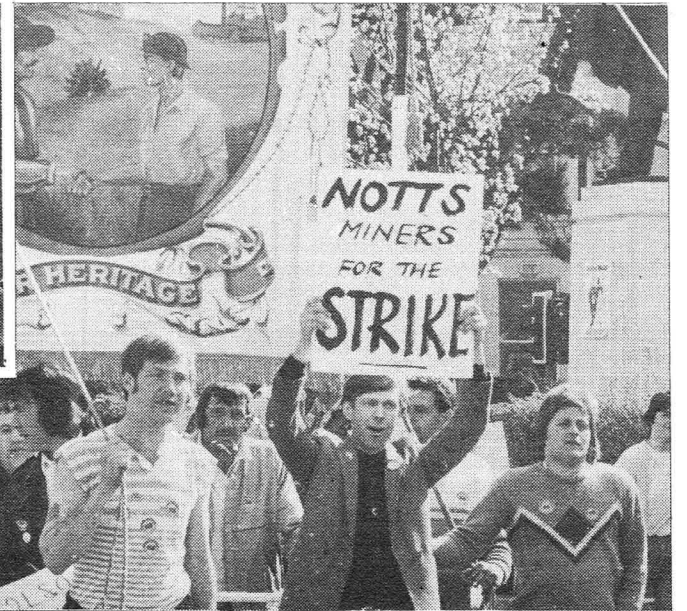
Amnesty International are considering the affiliation of the UDM. A wave of opposition will sweep the trade unions if they are accepted. Many would disaffiliate. Pressure must be exerted now to prevent the acceptance of the UDM affiliation.

More dangerous, however, are the UDM's attempts to make international links. According to the UDM minutes, a representative of the French miners have assured their support for affiliation to the "Miners International Federation".

Approaches are also being made to the IGBE in West Germany to gain their support. All the links built up by the NUM leadership and rank and file miners in the cause of the '84/'85 strike



Don Concannon (inset) refused to support the brave struggle of striking Notts miners



NCU—fight for left leadership

THE BROAD Left in the National Communications Union faces its second major election in four months.

For the first time, all three of the union's executives will be elected by individual membership ballot. This will initially favour the right-wing, not because NCU members will not vote for the left-wing policies and candidates, but because the resources of the left-led branches have been channelled into the defence of jobs.

The right, however, have made no effort to campaign along these lines and will be able to concentrate solely on defeating the current left majorities.

Engineering Section Executive Broad Left supporters have issued 60,000 leaflets asking for support, but have refused to use the Broad Left logo or make any reference to the left.

This decision was taken without consulting the Broad

Left National Committee. The membership will not be coned by such an omission and instead will treat the leaflet with suspicion.

The Clerical Executive looks likely to retain its soft left majority easily. But in doing this, most of the sitting Broad Left tenants are campaigning against the official Broad Left slate which includes three *Militant* supporters.

Major role

Since the formation of the NCU in early 1985, the Broad Left has played a major part in the development of the union. It ran an excellent campaign for Phil Holt in the recent General Secretary election when 20,000 members (a quarter of those voting) saw the need for a strong Left leadership.

It must build on this and not hide from it. All Broad Left supporters should be



New NCU general secretary Golding has frightened the soft left on his executive

linking the picket issues with the need to elect Broad Left executives. The two are inseparable. If this link is made and genuinely campaigned for, the NCU membership will respond by returning the Left into office.

By Dave Gorton
(NCU West End District branch secretary, personal capacity)

must be utilised to stop this happening. We must ensure the continued isolation of the scab union.

There is a steady stream of miners abandoning the UDM and rejoining the trade union movement. Continuing pressure could result in the bursting of the dam. This company union will end by destroying itself and its own creators, Lynk, Prendegast, Greatrex and Concannon.

By Chris Herriot
(Sacked Monktonhall Miner)

Pickets build support for cleaners

PICKETING HAS been stepped-up at Huyton dole office in support of the striking cleaners. Rubbish is piled round the back and ants and vermin are overrunning the building.

Management tried to bring in a private contractor, as the Knowsley bin men refused to cross the picket line. They said "We're in the T&G and we're not crossing a picket line".

Knowsley bin men and local authority workers are now actively picketing because they can see the effect of privatisation. One bin man even lay down in the road in front of the van.

Environmental Health have been asked to come in, but they won't cross the picket line either. Cleaners

elsewhere are turning up now for mass pickets, including Richmond House, Silkhouse Court, Exchange Flags, United Biscuits, the Law Courts, the Halifax building, and DHSS offices. The DHSS cleaners at Birkenhead have been threatened with the sack.

Victimisation

The DHSS manager, Williams, appears to be victimising strikers' families. Is it just coincidence that the shop steward's husband, appears to be the only person in Ford who had money stopped after being on strike?

The police are also becoming heavy handed. In the last week there's often been two

riot vans with nine police and 10 women. One day there were even two police to one woman—one even went for a stroll to the Asda he was so embarrassed!

The strikers sent a representative to BLOC and will be going to the *Militant* rally to get support and meet the Addenbrookes strikers and get them on the mass pickets.

Messages of support to: Mrs Jockins, 12 Horrocks Close, Huyton, Liverpool L36 or TGWU 6/577, Transport House, Islington, Liverpool L1.

By Marie Jockins
(Shop steward)
and Lesley Holt
(Regional LP Women's Committee)

NEW PAMPHLET

Produced by Militant Miners. Articles on: Lessons of the miners' strike. Electricity supply, Women and youth in the strike, Future for coal.

Available from: World Socialist Books, 3-13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB.

S Wales postal workers stop mail sacking

TWO AND a half thousand South Wales postal workers have gone back to work after a week's strike.

At the time of writing it is reported that they will be "properly paid", so it appears that management have backed down from their earlier stance which caused the walk-out.

The dispute started over the victimisation of Jimmy Quigley, a member of Cardiff UCW branch committee and Cardiff West LPYS.

It escalated following a 24-hour strike in support of his successful appeal. Upon the workers' return to work management insisted upon using casual labour to clear the backlog of mail.

The 2,000-strong Cardiff branch refused to return on these terms. Some businessmen took their mail to Newport where the work was blacked. The same happened in some smaller offices who refused to accept re-distributed mail.

More suspensions followed and more workers walked out. Talks have broken down. The Cardiff branch formed a strike committee and were prepared for mass picketing if the management brought in casuals.

Post Office management have forced the public to pay a high price for a dispute which started over Jimmy Quigley not being able to complete his delivery on a very cold morning when there was difficulty starting the vans and he began his round late.

By Tony Wedlake

Protest at state of British prisons

PRISON OFFICERS look set to escalate their industrial action over negotiating rights on manning levels. 1,800 of the 18,000 Prison Officers Association refused to accept new prisoners in Britain's already over-crowded jails last Thursday.

Thirteen officers at Gloucester prison who were suspended for refusing to carry out duties until the dispute was settled were locked out on Tuesday morning by management, who are guarding the prison themselves.

This incident followed the break down of negotiations with the Home Office because the government was demanding that industrial action be abandoned altogether. The union had already agreed to suspend their action while negotiations took place but the Home Office seem determined to provoke further action.

Prison Officers are meeting today to discuss escalating their action, possibly including all-out strike action. If they do, it will be the first time since the war.

By Anne Mckay

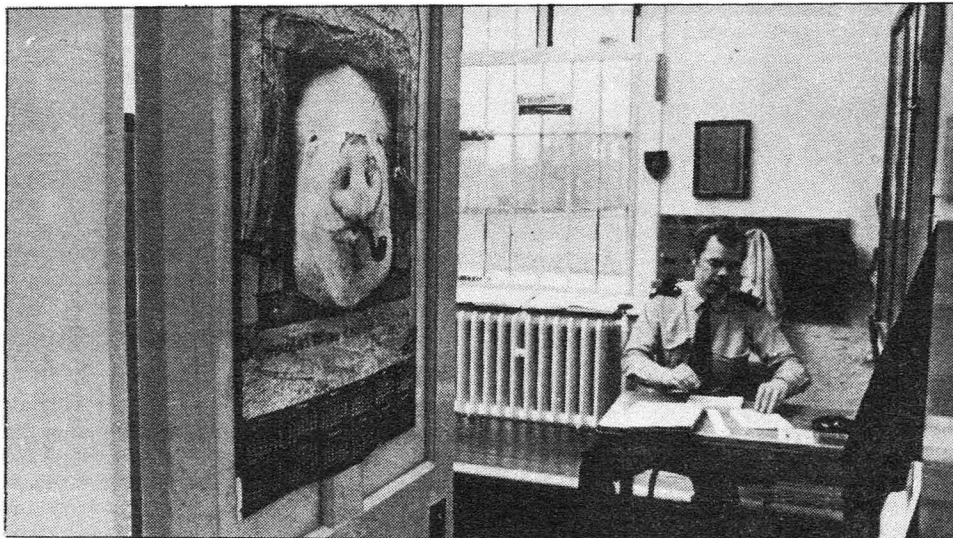


Photo: Carlos Augusto Guarita (Reflex)

Tass leaders stay firm on left but still soft on policies

THE CONFERENCE of engineering union Tass opened with a strong attack by both the president and general secretary on 'new realism', the lack of fight from the TUC, and unions which act as employers' agents.

General secretary Ken Gill went on to explain that we need a new type of Labour government, prepared to work with organised Labour and challenge the establishment. We don't want a repeat of the past—a Labour government with SDP policies leading to disenchantment and defeat, he said.

Workers' control

The good opening to the conference was not always borne out in the debate, however. A debate on renationalisation ended in the defeat of calls for no compensation and workers' control of nationalised industries.

A discussion on the

By Jane Hartley

economy passed a resolution supporting the Alternative Economic Strategy, now completely abandoned by the labour movement's leaders, like the other radical policies agreed by past Labour and trade union conferences. A resolution calling on the next Labour government to abolish the financial institutions was also passed.

In the debate Jim Black explained that the takeover of Westland by Sikorsky had now made the widely publicised offer to the workforce of two million man hours work conditional on their being 'competitive'. But the company refused to say whether it means com-



Ken Gill.

petitive with Taiwan or the United States. The only alternative, he explained, is government control, to fight the multinationals.

Key role

A resolution on Liverpool put the blame for the council's crisis fairly and squarely on the Tory government and previous Liberal administration and called upon the next Labour government to restore finances to the 1979 level.

Tough on Tuffin

POSTAL Officer/Assistants (PO/PA's) members of the Union of Communication Workers faced a choice at our Special Conference (14/15 March): accept the report and accept the Executive Council's recommendation, or take "industrial action".

As the Executive Council gave no sort of lead or campaign to fight management's proposals, conference refused to reject the report.

However, given the fears of many postal workers that management's proposals could cause upheaval, with massive cuts in full time jobs, conference amended the report considerably. This showed that had the leadership campaigned against management's proposals then the members would have been prepared to fight.

The major amendments carried showed that UCW members were not prepared to allow hard fought for conditions to be lost: one hour main meal relief was to be maintained, no temporary/casual or part time workers were to be employed until a branch agrees—plus a lead in payment to accept



Alan Tuffin, UCW general secretary.

these changes of £1,275.

UCW Militant supporters were ordered not to sell the paper or carry it around with them, yet no such ban existed on delegates carrying *The Sunor The Times*. Tony Clarke UCW deputy general secretary member of the NEC's Liverpool inquiry Team would do better to implement Conference decisions, mobilise the UCW members against Post Office management's proposals to decimate the UCW and stop his witch-hunting activities against socialists in the Labour Party.

By Eddie Thorpe

Defend Liverpool GMBATU

THE GMBATU Senior Representatives Committee in Liverpool has been forced to distribute the following reply to attacks on leading GMBATU members.

Dear Colleague you may have seen the letter issued by Peter Lennard (branch 80 convenor) entitled "Stop the Militant Tendency infiltration in our union." This is in stark contrast to the last letter you received from Peter Lennard which was probably your redundancy notice delivered to you by your convenor or steward in a taxi.

It is nothing more than a tissue of lies and distortions. **Lie:** "Militant supporters have infiltrated branch 80".

Fact: To be a member of branch 80 you have to work in education. To work in education you have to be nominated by Peter Lennard for a job. Is Peter Lennard nominating Militant supporters for jobs and then claiming they have infiltrated the branch?

Lie: "Peter Lennard confiscated the unemployed registers" (to prevent abuse by Militant

supporters—Ed).

Fact: The central unemployed register was set up by GMBATU senior representatives committee and administered by the committee. The person elected by the committee to administer the register was a member of branch 80 and was nominated by Peter Lennard.

The person who had overall responsibility for the register was the chairman of the Senior Reps committee—who was that—you guessed it, Peter Lennard.

Responsibility

If there was any anomaly in the register, Peter Lennard must bear responsibility as the person who had overall control of the register.

The registers themselves were kept in an office in Byron Street Polytechnic buildings under the control of Peter Lennard. Is he sug-

gesting that he confiscated the registers from himself.

Lie: Derek Hatton and Felicity Dowling tried to second two Militant supporters into salary-type jobs in education."

Fact: A request was made to Peter Lennard for two members of branch 80 to assist the promotion of the council's race relations policy in education.

On many occasions in the past, members of branch 80 had been seconded to help with various council campaigns. On this occasion the request was turned down.

It is not true that the people concerned are Militant supporters.

Lie: "Militant supporters have tried to split branch 80."

Fact: The proposal to split branch 80 into three or four separate branches comes from Peter Lennard's new-found friend—the regional official from Edge Lane. The GMBATU Senior Reps Committee is opposed to any branch being split against the wishes of the branch.

As far as the allegations of threatening phone calls are

concerned there is no way Militant supporters or any other trade unionists who have disagreements with Peter Lennard would condone this.

We would condemn any such threat if in fact any such threat had been made, although no evidence has been brought forward to verify the claim.

We find it sad that Peter Lennard has changed his stance on many of the things he has stood for in the past—for example he has always believed that members have the right to elect the people who represent them. Yet he has been appointed by the regional officials to represent 9,000 GMBATU members on the Trade Union Forum.

The other GMBATU branches within the council have refused to accept Peter Lennard as their representative and have demanded the right to elect our own representatives on the forum. We challenge Peter Lennard to debate the issues.

For further details of this dispute see last week's issue p 13.

DHSS finance office out

CPSA MEMBERS at DHSS Regional Finance Office (RFO) in Cardiff have gone out on official strike against a staff inspection which threatens to cut jobs and downgrade work.

RFO's pay the wages of casuals in DHSS local offices and the huge expenses paid to doctors who examine claimants applying for invalidity and disablement benefits, so their strike will have an immediate effect.

Contact is being made with the local office network in the region and the six other RFOs to prevent any work being shifted there from Cardiff.

Messages of support and cash to: Ann Rimell, 14 Hilda Street, Barry, South Glamorgan.

**KEIGHLEY TRADES COUNCIL
SILENTNIGHT STRIKERS**

**March and Rally
Keighley**

SATURDAY 17 May 12.00

"11 months on strike—show your support for the Silentnight strikers"

—Speakers—

BEN RUBNER	FTAT General Secretary
DENNIS SKINNER MP	Labour Party NEC
DEREK HATTON	Deputy Leader Liverpool City Council
TERRY BENNETT	Chairman FTAT Cravendale
STEVE PRICE	FTAT Convenor

WOMENS SUPPORT GROUP

Assemble: 12.00	Lund Park
March: Leaves 12.30PM	
Rally: 1.15PM	Cliffe Castle

"Forward together — always together"

Militant

SOGAT • NGA • AUEW • NUJ • SERTUC

**Printworkers' march for jobs
Glasgow/Newcastle to Wapping**
Join us on Saturday 3 May in London at
7.30pm on the Embankment for a march
to Wapping and a massive National rally
opposite 'Fortress Wapping' at 9.00pm.

Printers can win

'WE CAN win!' is the message from the most active pickets at Wapping to the print union leaders. But it will need a thorough reappraisal of the strike, a change in tactics and a campaign to spread the action.

Many strikers now see that the print union tops who issued the strike call never seriously intended to engage in an all-out battle.

Their policy of appeasement towards Murdoch has convinced many strikers and supporters that from the outset their leaders were really only fighting for a compromise. Now the 'reasonable' approach has led to a dead-end.

Reject new offer

The offer to create a new body, News International National Joint Council (NINJC), which would destroy the power of the unions has been rejected by many of those on strike who understand the danger such a body would pose.

The only redeeming aspect of the agreements reached with other national news-

By Mick Carroll
(London Region NGA)

papers is that the union, although severely restricted is left basically intact.

Concern is also being expressed about re-examining Murdoch's latest offer of his old printing premises and plant in Grays Inn Road, plus £15 million. The central point of the strike is **union organisation at Wapping.**

Murdoch prepared well as can be seen by the way his friends ensure his papers escape past the pickets. They deploy over 1,000 police each Saturday night.

This Saturday will see the biggest effort yet to stop the papers leaving Wapping. Thousands are expected to attend the all-night picket. This can be successful as long as the numbers turn up and stay.

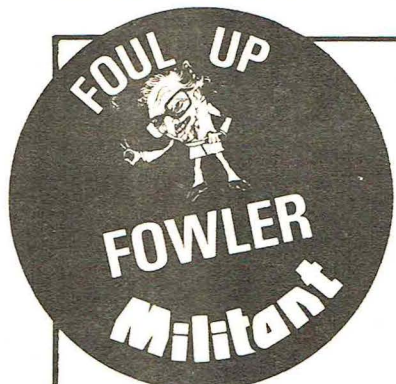
A victory in stopping Murdoch titles reaching the newsagents should be used to re-launch the campaign. It would change the tempo of the battle and turn the eyes of all print workers and other trade unionists to what can be achieved.

Fleet Street then could be the next target. Nearly all other national papers are pushing through new agreements. Major concessions have been made because the union leadership are on the defensive. What is needed is to go onto the attack.

- ★ Re-launch solidarity campaign.
- ★ Stop Fleet Street.
- ★ For a 24-hour print strike.
- ★ MOC/FOC conferences throughout the strike to discuss action.
- ★ Defend the chapel negotiating rights.
- ★ No redundancies.
- ★ Defend the closed shop.
- ★ Nationalisation of the press facilities under workers' control and management.



Pickets at Wapping and backing from a young supporter on the march through London.



Students-unity to beat Fowler

THOUSANDS OF students will be in action on 2 May in protest at the Fowler White Paper on social security. In Portsmouth, South Wales and other areas there will be strikes.

The South Wales area of the National Union of Students (SEWSA) has been campaigning in all the colleges with meetings of up to 450. All voted for strike action. SEWSA has also linked up with the Cardiff School Students' Union and leafletted schools. The response at many has been 100 per cent in favour of striking against the two year YTS and the abolition of free school meals.

But it is not just students who are under threat from the Tory proposals.

The Civil Service union, the CPSA, estimates that 10,000 of its members' jobs could go and NUPE have already seen 50,000 school meals jobs destroyed. SEWSA has linked up with the CPSA, who have sent joint letters and leaflets to their members.

Organise together

The welfare state was won through the struggle of the labour and trade union movement. It can only be defended by workers and students organising together in a public sector alliance. Six public sector unions have been approached to back the 2 May rally, and the campaign. Speaking at

the Cardiff rally will be Terry Fields MP, Kevin Roddy (CPSA DHSS section organiser) and Linda Douglas (LPYS NEC representative elect).

Students in South Wales are showing that they want to take a full part in the labour movement. SEWSA are affiliated to the local trades council. The NUS should follow their lead, campaign for affiliation to the TUC and join the trades unions in a national battle to protect the welfare state and education.

By Simon Kesic
(Area Convenor,
South Wales NUS)



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