

Militant

The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth

30p

ISSUE 807 18 July 1986

Inside...

Broadgreen p8-9

Miners' gala reports p2-3

Spanish Revolution p13

Time to GO

S. Africa sanctions

Northern Ireland

Economic disaster

THE THATCHER government is on the rocks. The Tories' popularity is plummeting, they are split amongst themselves, and the problems of running capitalism mount up.

Seven years of class rule have shown that this system does not work—for millions on the dole, the eleven million living in poverty, for young people, miners, print workers, and those living in misery in the inner cities.

Divisions

Now years of boom on the stock exchange have ended with a rapid fall due to the collapse in oil prices. Britain's manufacturing industry has been decimated so there is no chance of recovery while the profit system is maintained.

The economy has created divisions in the Tories' ranks—but the issue of sanctions for South Africa has driven a gulf between them. Thatcher refuses to budge on sanctions—now she is more

isolated than ever.

The Commonwealth Games are threatened by the boycott of the African countries, and the Commonwealth itself—Britain's last token of the Empire—could be rent apart.

In Northern Ireland the Anglo-Irish agreement is falling apart as bloody sectarian conflict mounts.

The Tories are in disarray. So they resort to lashing out at any opposition to their anti-working class policies like cornered rats.

Socialist councillors in Liverpool are hounded and banned from office. Printers are attacked by police for fighting to save their jobs. Tory MPs demand a purge of militants from the civil service and back the attempts in the CPSA to block a democratically elected socialist general secretary, John Macreadie.

Socialism is the only alternative to the havoc created by the Tories. The Labour leaders must act now while the Tories are weak and divided. They must force the Tories to resign and demand a general election now to elect a socialist Labour government.



Photo: Carlos Guarita (Reflex).

Belfast: Anger as Militant supporter is shot

IN THE early hours of Monday morning *Militant* supporter Colm McCallan was shot by Loyalist assassins outside his home in North Belfast.

As we go to press Colm is on a life-support machine in Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital but he is not expected to live.

Colm, who was 25 years old, was an ex-production worker at Michelin and a

member of the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union (ATGW). He became a *Militant* supporter in 1981. Extremely proud of his socialist ideas, he once remarked that his decision to join with *Militant* was the most important he had ever made.

Those who knew Colm will remember him above all for his boundless energy, his humour, and his love of life.

He was an absolutely fearless class fighter with all the rough edges of someone whose life has known only struggle.

Sectarianism

Now he has fallen victim to the very sectarianism against which, as a socialist, he fought. His killers are almost certainly the same UVF gang, which murdered Catholic building worker,

Brian Lennard, on Belfast's Shankill Road a few days earlier. Like him, Colm was shot because he was assumed to be a Catholic.

Words cannot begin to express the anger and disgust felt by his comrades at this killing. Words alone are also an insufficient tribute. Colm would have preferred the tribute of peace. His death can only be given some meaning if it leads to socialists in Ireland, Britain

and internationally applying themselves that much harder to rid the world of such violence as sectarianism by fighting for a socialist future.

Our condolences go to all of his family, especially his wife and comrade, Bernadette and her son, Seamus, and to his brother and comrade Frank.

By Belfast
Militant supporters

THIS SECTARIAN murder is one illustration of the increasing sectarian violence in Northern Ireland, more ferocious and widespread than at anytime in the last eighteen years. Yet this violence has gone almost wholly unreported by the British radio, TV and press. A further report of the situation is inside, on page 3.

Fund raising and sales weekend 26 - 27 July

Militant

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Thatcher's isolation

THE DIVISIONS within the Tory party have never been so open. Already shaken by falling oil and share prices, the sectarian clashes in Northern Ireland and repeated defeats in the House of Lords, the British ruling class is now deeply split by Thatcher's stubborn refusal to contemplate any action against the South African apartheid regime. She has alarmed even the majority of her Cabinet.

Foreign Secretary, Howe, has been humiliated by snubs from virtually every national leader both within and outside South Africa. Leon Brittan, formerly one of Thatcher's most loyal cronies, has condemned her decision not to even threaten sanctions, saying that without them Howe's mission is "utterly hopeless". The 'Tory party at prayer', the Church of England synod, voted 294 to 21 for sanctions against South Africa. One state after another has withdrawn from the Commonwealth Games in protest over her stand. She is at loggerheads with the bulk of the capitalist class both at home and abroad.

Praise for her "uncompromising stand" has come only from the South African Broadcasting Corporation on behalf of Botha's regime, which had the gall to complain of "manufactured world opinion" in favour of sanctions. The almost identical arguments against 'immoral' sanctions used by Thatcher and Botha have demonstrated in the crudest possible way that her 'morals' are based on investments and profits, and that means supporting a racist, totalitarian and repressive regime.

Yet the moralising of Thatcher's big business and Tory opponents is riddled with hypocrisy. Malcolm Frazer, leader of the 'Eminent Person's Group' and former Australian prime minister, spelled out why they believe that sanctions are needed—to prevent the victory of a "radical black government... whose first act would be to nationalise all Western interests". Far from supporting the aspirations of the black workers and youth for one person one vote in a socialist South Africa, these people want to build a facade of a non-racial government behind which the exploitation of cheap black labour by the multi-national monopolies could continue.

Their argument with Thatcher is tactical—how best to prevent the revolutionary explosion against apartheid from also destroying the capitalist system which has spawned it. It is possible that at the Commonwealth conference in August Thatcher will agree at a few minimal measures, which will have a negligible effect, but create the illusion that she has responded to pressure to act. Such 'sanctions' will have no effect on Botha. He is convinced that there is no alternative to the iron heel of repression if the white capitalist elite he represents is not to be overthrown. He will not be persuaded, by such fake sanctions or by Howe's diplomacy to dismantle the pillars on which the apartheid system rests.

But capitalists elsewhere know that no amount of repression can hold down the black majority indefinitely and that the longer the struggle takes the more uncompromising will be the victors. That is the dilemma which lies at the heart of the split within the ruling class. They fear the explosive consequences if they do nothing, and confirm the black workers' view that all capitalists are in league with the apartheid regime, yet they tremble at the risk of taking more than token measures against Botha which could cause serious economic disruption, and affect their profits.

For workers, the sanctions question is entirely different. The Labour Party and trade union leaders should not be trailing behind the liberal advocates of government sanctions but organising workers' sanctions to support the South African black trade union movement and the youth in the townships in their struggle against apartheid and capitalism.

Workers' sanctions, organised by the trade unions internationally, involving the suspension of all trade and transport with South Africa, will give a mighty boost to that struggle. The measures being proposed to the TUC for three days of action at the beginning of August could be a breakthrough if the leaders seize the opportunity to take South Africa to the shop floor and explain the issues at stake to British workers, among whom there is already great sympathy for their black South African brothers and sisters.

Union sanctions can force the Botha regime to release union leaders and others detained under the emergency. They will raise the morale and confidence of black workers who are keen to build links with trade unionists.

The best contribution of all that British workers can make to the struggle of South African trade unionists is to exploit the cracks within the Tory party and the British ruling class to drive Thatcher and the Tories from office. Never have the opportunities been greater, with Labour well ahead in the polls and anger against the Tories never more intense. Thatcher's support for Botha has revealed the brutality of the system she stands for. Her overthrow would be a major victory for workers in Britain, South Africa and the rest of the world.

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

Miners welcome Hatton



Photo: Stefano Cagnoni (Report)

"DEREK HATTON, expelled from the Labour Party for supporting the Militant Tendency, got one of the biggest cheers of the day at the Durham Miners' Gala yesterday".

This admission by the local Tory rag, the *Sunday Sun*, reflects the real mood amongst rank and file miners in Durham. Leading the Monkwearmouth miners' lodge delegation as their elected guest of honour, Derek Hatton was cheered by the crowd as he waved his crutches at Neil Kinnock, standing on the balcony of the Royal County Hotel and shouted "You won't get

rid of me that easy, lad".

Derek was applauded not only by the guests on the balcony. Neil Kinnock however, looked acutely embarrassed and retreated from the balcony into the hotel.

Derek Hatton was well-received throughout the day, with a constant stream of workers congratulating him on Liverpool's struggle and urging him to keep on fighting.

Later at the rally on the gala field, the best reception was won by Dennis Skinner. To rousing applause he condemned the "childish witch-

hunt mentality" within the Labour Party.

The enthusiasm for Dennis Skinner contrasted sharply with the lukewarm response for the final speaker Neil Kinnock. By the time he had finished his second sentence, hundreds were streaming away and at least one lodge band struck up and marched off the field, banner flying proudly. The party leader's disgraceful role in the strike has not been forgotten.

By Kevin Miles

Councillors denied right to answer charges

THE LIVERPOOL councillors' appeal could be concluded at the end of the week with the judges' decision at the end of July. The councillors are in court defending their decision to act in the interests of working people. But the councillors have been denied their basic rights to answer the charges brought by the District Auditor.

Throughout the history of local government audit there has invariably been the right to an oral hearing. But the Liverpool councillors were

denied the chance to answer the allegations of wilful misconduct argued their counsel, Louis Blom-Cooper QC. For this reason the surcharge and disqualification was unfair and should be dropped, he said.

The crucial background to the case is the decline of inner city areas, particularly devastating in Liverpool. While claiming to continue assistance to them, the Tories have deprived them of more and more resources.

The Labour group considered they were acting

responsibly and lawfully when they delayed making the 1985 rate to try to get more cash from the Tory government.

In 1984 the District Auditor took no action over the delay in ratemaking. Initially in 1985 he alleged that there were losses from notional interest the council would have accrued from various payments withheld by the government. In September, however, he produced further allegations of wilful misconduct on entirely new grounds, including

that the July 14 rate was itself illegal. Casting aside the whole history and practice of District Auditors, the DA offered them no opportunity to challenge this new string of allegations.

Mr Blom-Cooper also outlined Liverpool's legitimate reasons for delay, their defence of the legality of the July 14 budget and their rejection of the charge of 'wilful misconduct' in carrying out the policies on which they were elected.

By Lynn Walsh

New threat to Labour youth

ON TUESDAY 15 July, the Labour Party's Youth Subcommittee put forward proposals designed to severely reduce the membership, internal democracy and campaigning activities of the Labour Party Young Socialists.

The proposals to go forward to the NEC on 30 July and this year's party conference, include cutting the LPYS upper age limit to 21, the replacement of regional conferences by "rallies with workshops and practical sessions" and the abolition of the right of the LPYS National Conference to elect its own NEC representative.

The LCC-backed proposals, moved by former left winger Tom Sawyer, are an attack on the political orientation of the LPYS and an attempt to create a tame, apolitical youth wing—to turn out for election work but otherwise to stick to youth club activities.

Party members, young and old, and of all shades of opinion, will be outraged by these proposals. There is a clear need for more resources not criticisms to be given to the LPYS.

Letters of protest should be rushed to Larry Whitty, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JT.

LPYS benefit for the
Chile Socialist Defence Campaign
Friday, 18 July, 7.30pm
Chats Palace, Brooksby's Walk
(Off Homerton High Street,
Near Homerton Station)
£1.50 waged; £1 unwaged

Come to LPYS Summer Camp



Saturday 26 July to Saturday 2 August 1986. At the Bracelands Campsite, near Colford in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire. Only £35 for the whole week! Book now, write to Andy Bevan, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JT. (Tel: 01-703 0833)

Court rules against expelled members

IN A blatant political judgment which showed scant regard for previous rulings, a High Court judge removed the injunction which had restrained Ipswich Constituency Labour Party from proceeding with the expulsion of two *Militant* supporters—Teresa and Roger MacKay.

Justice Sir Douglas Franks ruled on 15 July that a previous injunction should be lifted because Ipswich CLP had "followed a correct procedure" for expulsions, an argument which was not substantiated by the facts of the case.

Both Roger and Teresa MacKay argued strongly that they had not had a fair hearing under party rules or the rules of natural justice.

In November last year, the Mackays were invited to a meeting with the officers of Ipswich CLP, but weren't told the nature or purpose of the meeting. After a vigorous interrogation, the officers drew up a report stating that both were *Militant* supporters and should be expelled from the party. They have never denied that they support *Militant*, but both denied at the meeting that they had any formal organisational links.

As the issue had seemingly been prejudged the Mackays went to the High Court and obtained an injunction. With the lifting of this injunction Roger and Teresa have now got 28 days leave to appeal.

The judge said he thought that they both had had "a fair crack of the whip in every respect". Yet he also noted that both had had a long and loyal record of service to the Labour Party and movement.

Ipswich CLP have to decide whether to proceed with expulsions and risk further legal action and a political backlash for ignoring basic rights and freedoms in the labour movement.

'Sentence' commuted

LABOUR PARTY members in Telford who were expelled by their local constituency have been reprieved by the appeals and mediation committee of the national executive. It is recommending to the NEC that the expulsions be reduced to suspensions. Since most of the time for which they will have been suspended has already elapsed, they will very soon be back in the party. This victory is all the more remarkable, given the track record of the appeals committee in endorsing expulsions by local parties.

Kilroy-Silk's obsession

WITHIN THE sanctity of the House of Commons Labour MP Robert Kilroy-Silk has made a slanderous attack, worthy of any Tory, on John Macreadie and his election as general secretary of the CPSA.

In an amendment to a motion put by Terry Fields and Dave Nellist congratulating John Macreadie, Kilroy-Silk showed his obsessional loathing of Marxism, and his double standards in denouncing an election fairly won by the left.

His amendment reads: "This House deplores the election of a *Militant* Tendency candidate, John Macreadie, as the new general secretary of the largest Civil Service trade union, the CPSA, and believes that this election is the direct consequence of the cheating, lying, bullying, intimidation, political corruption and the anti-democratic methods invariably associated with the *Militant* Tendency masquerading as the broad left."

N. Ireland close to all out conflict

LAST NOVEMBER, when the Anglo-Irish Agreement was signed, *Militant* warned that it could lead to an explosion of sectarianism.

In the past week this prognosis has been borne out. Northern Ireland has experienced vicious and widespread sectarian fighting and is now dangerously close to all-out conflict.

Almost as extensive has been the cover-up operation of the British media. Most press and TV commentators painted a picture of a relatively peaceful 12 July Orange parade, with the exception of some rioting in Portadown.

But over the weekend of 11-15 July, according to police figures, which are always a gross underestimation, 200 people were injured, 281 plastic bullets were fired and 79 families were intimidated from their homes.

In Portadown there have been nights of fighting between Catholic and Protestant crowds and between both sides and the police. There have also been sectarian troubles in other areas: Belfast, Derry Limavady, Ballymoney, Ballynahinch, Maghera, Kilkeel, Antrim, Rasharkin, to name but some.

The most sinister feature of this new escalation has been the development of hand to hand fighting on the streets between rival crowds of Catholics and Protestants. In the Manor Street area of North Belfast and in Maghera there have been nights of fighting.

Elsewhere there have been systematic and organised attacks, as in the mainly Catholic village of Rasharkin which was attacked by

60 masked Loyalists. While Catholic homes have borne the brunt, there have also been retaliatory attacks including the petrol-bombing of Protestant homes in North Belfast and Derry.

The shootings of Colm McCallan and Brian Lennard and other attempted killings by the UVF shows the Loyalist paramilitaries are now beginning to flex their muscles. On Monday the UDA planted a no-warning car bomb in the mainly Catholic town of Castlewellingan.

These incidents threaten a return to all the horror of the early 1970s, only worse. In such a context the escalation by the Provos of their military campaign, as seen in three major incidents last week in border areas, can only be put down as deliberate and very dangerous provocation.

On top of this sectarian nightmare workers on both sides face the brutal tactics and daily harassment of the RUC. Protestants have had a taste of the repression which has been a daily diet of Catholic areas for years.

In Catholic areas, as *Militant* predicted would be the case, the Anglo-Irish Agreement has resulted in an increase in repression. West Belfast and Derry are now suffering a saturation RUC and army presence in the streets. There have been numerous cases of Catholic youths being beaten up by the RUC.

All this is on the basis of the state having backed down in the face of Loyalist pressure, to allow an Orange parade to march through the Catholic Gavarghy Road area of Portadown. This defused a

potentially far worse confrontation, but at the cost of enraging the Catholic community and further exposing the Anglo-Irish Agreement for the sham that it is.



Ian Paisley—encouraged sectarianism

Photo: Derek Spiers (Report)

The Agreement was first presented as a step towards stability. Eight months on, largely as a result of this Agreement, the province is virtually ungovernable. This is without any element of the Agreement actually having been implemented.

Over the summer months, especially in August, with the anniversary of internment, marches in Catholic areas and the Loyalist parade in Derry, further violence is certain. Given the continuation of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, these events could even overspill into civil war.

It is time that the Labour leaders in Britain broke ranks with the Tories on this question. Their support for the Agreement has assisted the Tories to maintain it and they therefore share responsibility for

what is now taking place.

There can be no grounds for continuing to support this worthless pact. Instead, the Labour Party should campaign to have it scrapped. In place of this capitalist solution, they should put forward a socialist alternative along the lines of the Northern Ireland policy document passed at the 1981 Labour Party conference.

Additionally, the Labour Party should give its full support to the labour movement in Northern Ireland as the only force powerful enough to stamp out sectarianism. Backing should be given to the call for action by the Northern Ireland trade union movement to organise the physical protection of workers against attack, and for the building a trade union-based Labour Party to challenge the sectarian parties.

Among the working class in Northern Ireland there still exists strong support for such an alternative. There is widespread disgust at the excesses of the bigots and thugs. But the silence of the trade union leaders has paralysed this potential class opposition.

At the recent ICTU conference in Belfast, the executive committee maintained its shameful stance of "no comment" on the Anglo-Irish Agreement and no involvement in politics.

Socialists in Northern Ireland are campaigning amongst the trade union rank and file to force the movement into action. It is now urgent that some of the pressure be put on Kinnock by Labour's rank and file in Britain to stop him supporting Thatcher on Ireland.

By Militant reporters



Tenants fight racist attacks

SOUTHALL LPYS held a highly successful public meeting recently against racist attacks.

The 80 people present, including 30 local tenants, both black and white, heard calls for the eviction of all known racists from estates in line with current council policy.

On the Gollinks estate, renowned for its bad conditions and lack of facilities, a survey showed that 51 per cent had suffered racial harassment.

Tenants have called on the council to take action against the tenants' hall which residents feel is a drinking hole for known racists. It is said that they are operating a colour bar in the hall and many racial attacks have taken place outside the hall.

No councillors attended the meeting and it was agreed that there should be a lobby of the next full council meeting.

The meeting ended by voting to march to the tenants' association and for the tenants to join on block to turn it into an organisation which can fight for the demands made in the meeting. On the way to the tenants' hall the march was swollen to over a hundred by people who supported the aims of defeating fascism and racism and ending the social conditions which breed them.

Kent miners back Liverpool Labour

THE KENT miners' festival, first held during the miners' strike in 1984, is becoming an annual event for the labour movement.

Steven Love, Labour candidate for Dover, a seat that must be won if Labour is to win the next general election, said that he would not rest until the sacked and victimised men were reinstated. The major feature of this year's festival last Saturday was the

display of photos, posters and cuttings from the strike.

Terry Harrison, vice-president of Liverpool District Labour Party spoke on the record of Liverpool City Council and his expulsion from the Labour Party. He received a presentation from George Beaver of Snowdown NUM and convenor of the festival. He pledged the support of the Kent miners to the Liverpool Labour Party and

those councillors under threat and opposition to the expulsions from the Labour Party. He said: "If there are going to be witch-hunts in the Labour Party, it should have started in the House of Lords with people like Lord Chapple and Lord Gormley."

By Eric Segal
(Folkestone Labour Party)

By Pat Lacey
(Southall LPYS)

BLOC conference

Stop the Tory pirates!

THE BROAD Left Organising Committee conference last Saturday 12 July attracted 350 delegates and visitors. They were determined to fight the Tories' threat of privatisation through building a campaigning socialist movement.

The conference was a great step forward for the left, allowing full political discussion and debate on strategy and tactics across industries and unions.

Dave Nellist Labour MP for Coventry South East opening the conference, showed what Thatcher's government had done in the cause of tax cuts for the top five per cent of capitalist society.

A private tender for refuse



Dave Nellist.

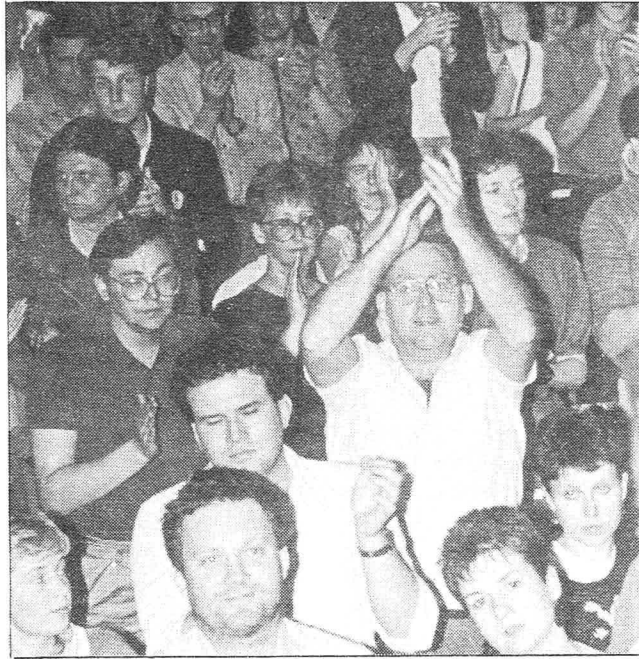
collection in the Wirral expected each dustman to lift five tons while running 28 miles a day at an average of 9mph; just outside the qualifying time for the marathon!

The directors of privatised companies had given themselves an 85 per cent rise in two years while the shareholders had declined in number. People's capital-

ism? In Cable and Wireless, 467 people owned two-thirds of all shares.

Dave Nellist called for renationalisation of all privatised services and industries with a management board made up of one-third from workers in the industry, one-third from the TUC and one-third from the Labour government to ensure the working class had a majority.

Compensation should be paid only to those who needed it. In the miners' strike the Tories "deemed" every striker had received £16 a week regardless of whether they had or not. The next Labour government should 'deem' that large shareholders had already received the benefit from their purchases and only give compensation to the poorest shareholders.



Conference delegates came from across the country, from a large variety of industries and unions.

National campaign against privatisation

THE AIM of the first session was to start a national campaign against privatisation.

Bob Russell from the Railworkers' Broad Left called for a campaign to force the union leaders to take up the issue. The Broad Lefts should circulate literature, organise Broad Left meetings and build links with all unions affected.

He was confident that the defeat of the ballot on industrial action over BREL closures would not stop local activities, and action was the only way to stop the Tories. But this needed a national campaign: isolated guerrilla movements were not enough by themselves.

He stressed the importance of the next Labour government renationalising all industries on the basis of workers' control and management.

Peter Howarth, COHSE

Broad Left called for BLOC, together with the BLs in the health service to create a health service broad left to fight privatisation. The national union leaderships had come off the fence in the last year, but into the camp of the Tories over disputes such as Addenbrookes and Neasden hospital.

Solid basis

Sue Ball, a NUPE member in the NHS showed the success of the Greenwich NHS Broad Left, which meets monthly, in building the left's influence locally through mass meetings and publicity. That is the way to build a solid basis for campaigns.

All the speakers stressed that Broad Lefts had to be active, campaigning bodies which built up the activists, spoke to all the members and got workers involved.

Delegates welcome Macreadie

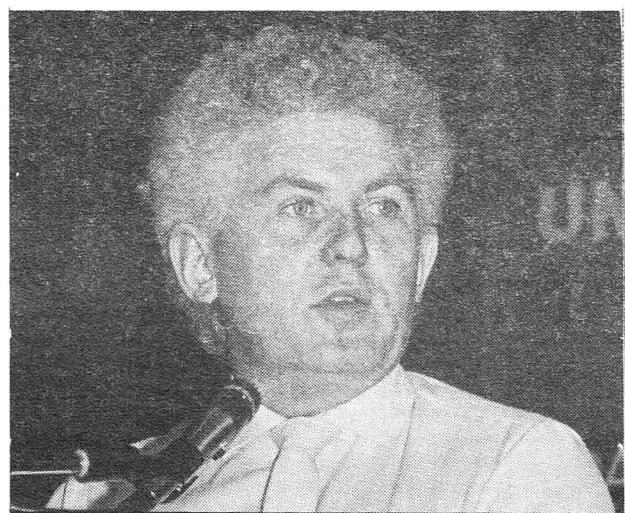
THE NEWLY-elected general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA), John Macreadie got a standing ovation from the conference.

He explained why he had won the election and why the right wing and the Tories are so anxious to stop him becoming a union leader.

The rank and file had told the old union leadership they had no confidence in them. The right wing's only reply was a vote of no confidence in the rank and file!

The hard work of Broad Left supporters had seen victory because seven years of Thatcher had cut 150,000 jobs from the industry, abolished union rights at GCHQ and attacked them everywhere, and tried to privatise vital services.

The right wing leaders' response had made CPSA members dissatisfied. 90 per cent thought the leaders were out of touch. The election showed how wrong it was to say that socialist ideas were



John Macreadie.

unpopular and that the movement was demoralised.

Trade union activists should not lose confidence over the panic actions of the right wing cabal. John Macreadie stressed that members reject the smear of ballot rigging and will fight now to stop Tory attacks as well as campaigning for a Labour government.

Macreadie pledged to

fight for CPSA affiliation to the Labour Party, but he would be pushing for a government which fights for the working class like Thatcher does for the bosses. Trade unionists would not just sit back and wait for Labour, they would fight now to stop Tory attacks as well as campaigning for a Labour government.

Young strikers win backing

STRIKERS FROM the dispute at Nove Leather in Liverpool were at BLOC conference collecting. One of the strikers spoke at the conference.

Janet Bowman told *Militant*: "We tried to start a union at the firm. On 4 July I was voted TGWU shop steward. The very next day I was made redundant for 'cash flow reasons.' That was just a feeble excuse.

"At a meeting on Monday night we decided to strike. If we were not reinstated we would all be out. Then the management sacked everybody the next day. We've had a mass picket, some of the people sacked at Wapping have been up which really kept our morale up.

Adopted

"We've been getting cash and support here at this conference from some of the best trade unionists in the country".

These workers are mainly young and have organised themselves against all opposition. The LPYS have adopted the strike in the Merseyside area.

Show your support as well. Messages of solidarity and donations to Nove Leather Strike Fund, c/o Tony Hayes, TGWU, Transport House, Islington, Liverpool, L1.

Scab labour threat

PS: On Monday 14 July the sweatshop owner brought in scab labour. This is in line with his decision to pay one of the few workers not recruited to the TGWU a pay rise.

The boss is not lacking a few pennies despite claims of poverty. He has a C registration Volvo. The strikers have to rely on workers for their support. A collection last Friday in Liverpool raised £90.

Build solidarity with South African workers

THATCHER IS supporting her class brothers in the Botha regime. Britain's bosses have enormous investments in South Africa.

The TUC and Labour Party must look after their class brothers and sisters in South Africa by organising workers' sanctions. The shadow cabinet and TUC should launch a national campaign of industrial action against a government which has imprisoned thousands of trade unionists, BLOC delegates demanded.

Conference gave a standing ovation to two South African workers' leaders. Nimrod Sejake, former leader of the iron and steel workers' union pointed out that the struggle in South Africa was a class struggle. From the earliest days the

bosses had needed a subject race and pass laws to safeguard their profits. Industrialisation had created a black working class and a white working class. A black miners' strike in 1920 and a white miners' strike in 1922 had both been crushed by the government.

But the Communist Party in South Africa had fallen in behind the white miners' banner demanding "workers unite for a white South Africa" and failed to lead a struggle for real multiracial workers' unity. Now its successor denies there is a class struggle in South Africa, saying democracy, national freedom and an end to apartheid must come before socialism is on the agenda.

But the workers are spearheading the movement against both apartheid and



Nimrod Sejake.

capitalism. Mineworkers are coming out on strike to tell the government to release trade union activists. The links between Britain and South Africa economically make British and South African workers one class. Workers must build links and go forward to socialism.

June Rose Nala, former secretary of the metal union



June Rose Nala.

(MAWU) had just returned from South Africa. She also stressed the need for workers to take action. "Living in the townships is hell. The state of emergency has meant unfettered freedom for the forces, which is like letting the National Front free on black and Asian areas of Britain.

"In the Chesterville

township, oppression is growing with drunken security forces and constant shooting. Houses are being terrorised, walls are full of gunshot.

"The regime could not organise collaborators so they released bandits, who roamed the streets escorted by the forces. The trade unions were all either in

detention or in hiding. Now they are back in activity and COSATU have decided to fight. Their efforts can be successful if active workers get out and campaign".

NUM member Ian Isaac reminded conference that BLOC had always called for direct links. He spelled out to conference that workers' sanctions can only be won by going down to the factories, pits, shops and offices and arguing for them.

TGWU member Bill Mullins told delegates how they had won a ban on sale of Land Rovers to South Africa by a campaign of leaflets and meetings some years back. He also called for BLOC to demand that the next Labour government reinstate and compensate any workers who lose their jobs as a result of sanctions.

Labour MP's big business links

JOHN CUNNINGHAM, MP for Copeland, is renowned for scathing attacks on Liverpool City Council. As Labour's spokesman on the Environment, his statements (against party policy) that a future Labour government could 'live with' nuclear energy are well-known.

His business links are not so well publicised. Party members will be surprised to discover that John Cunningham is an Industrial Policy Advisor to Albright and Wilson (UK) Ltd, the chemicals giant and is also an advisor to Leather Chemicals and Dow Ltd.

Consultancies

Consultancies are an important way of companies gaining influence at Westminster. Albright and Wilson also have a Tory MP acting on their behalf, Alan Haselhurst.

Whilst it is normal for Tory MPs to have outside interests in such boardrooms Labour Party members will want to know how Labour MPs can properly represent working people's interests while advising the bosses on in-

dustrial policy.

A cornerstone of Labour's Freedom and Fairness campaign is concern for the environment, so it is the height of hypocrisy for Labour's environment spokesman to have direct links with a company that apparently has so little concern for the environment.

Albright and Wilson is now owned by Tenneco Ltd. Tenneco holds the American record for the company with the greatest number of health and safety violations to be tried in one case—617 in all. According to *Everybody's Business*: "Tenneco has legal scrapes, labour troubles and environmental problems in seven different industries" and provides "everything from nuclear subs to raisins".

In 1977, a church group took Tenneco to the Labour Relations Board for harassment of the United Farmworkers' organisers during their union elections.

Albright and Wilson operates extensively in South Africa with at least two wholly-owned subsidiaries and links with at least three others. They claim to: "Comply with the Voluntary European Code of Conduct for South African Employees".

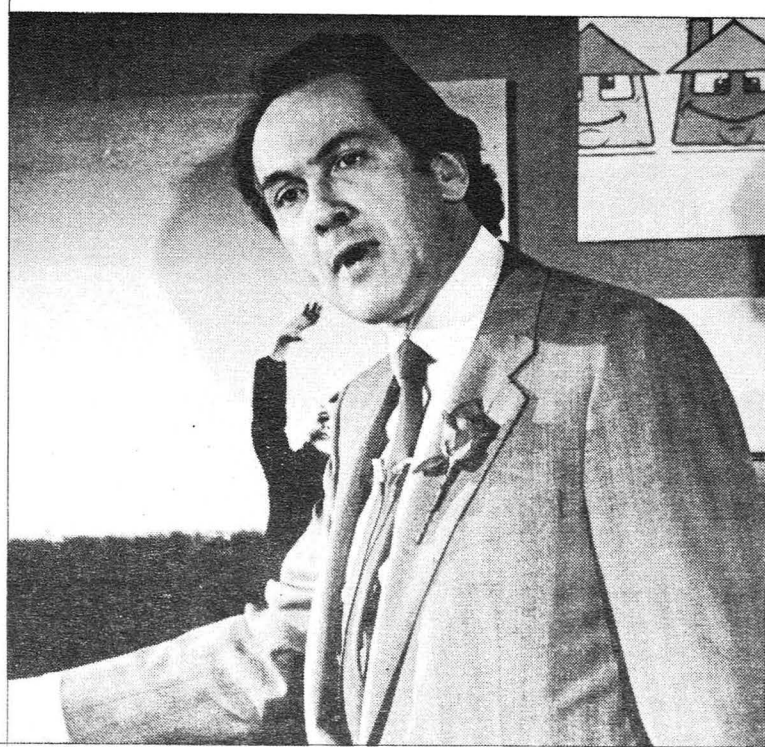
Information on wage levels is difficult to find but it appears that

Albright and Wilson is amongst those 96 per cent of British companies who pay at least some of their black employees less than the EEC minimum wages target of £35 per week. But even the EEC code accepts the principles of apartheid—they accept that black workers in South Africa need fewer razor blades than 'coloured' workers and that they don't need to eat oranges and so on!

We wonder what sort of advice John Cunningham gives Albright and Wilson over sanctions against South African goods?

John Cunningham is a keen supporter of the nuclear industry. Many Labour activists understood this as concern for workers' jobs at Sellafield in Cunningham's constituency. But behind the genuine fears for their jobs lie the even more deepseated fears of these workers for the safety of themselves and their families.

The board of Albright and Wilson has extensive connections with the nuclear industry. The Commercial Director is John Robert Wills OBE. He is also a non executive director, appointed by the Tories in 1984, of British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. John Wills is also the 'independent chairman' of the Cumbria MSC. Amongst the 5



John Cunningham speaking at the Labour Party's 'freedom and fairness' campaign.

'employer representatives' on the Cumbria MSC is Mr WJ Sorrel, who happens to be Personnel Manager for Albright and Wilson. Until recently, one of the other employer reps was Mr MJ Wyatt of, yes you've guessed it, BNFL.

Trips abroad

Cunningham has been on trips abroad at the invitation of different nuclear companies. In October 1984, he visited France as the guest of Nuclear Transport Ltd and the French company COGEMA. In July 1983 a trip to the USA was sponsored by AMAX and other mining and manufacturing companies.

AMAX is not noted for concern

for the environment or friendliness to the unions. It is a partner in the major South African gold mining company, Charter Consolidated, renowned for their exploitation of the black working class in South Africa. AMAX was transformed into its present position by none other than Ian McGregor, now of the NCB, who headed it for eight years in the seventies.

There is nothing 'improper' about John Cunningham's association with these companies, but Labour Party members will see Cunningham's statements on nuclear energy and South Africa in a new light. They will want to know how such extensive links with big business influence his activities in the labour movement.

A long socialist tradition

LABOUR WILL probably win the by-election in Newcastle-under-Lyme on 17 July caused by the resignation of John Golding, now General Secretary of the telecoms union NCU.

This is despite Golding's wife Llin succeeding him as Labour candidate, which has already led to criticism of 'dynasty' creation.

Labour leaders will hail any success as a victory for moderation, but the history of Newcastle-under-Lyme tells a different tale. Ever since 1842, when the government sent troops into Newcastle to put down the first-ever general strike, the town's politics have been dominated by socialism.

The first local Labour MP was Josiah Wedgwood of pottery fame who defected from the Liberals in 1918 because he could see the growing influence of socialist ideas. He was hailed in the press as an 'independent thinker', in other words, he opposed many of Labour's socialist policies.

"Full socialisation"

The local labour movement had different ideas, however. The Newcastle-under-Lyme Labour Party was formed in 1918, just after party conference adopted, under the impact of the Russian revolution, clause 4, part 4. It was formed largely under the inspiration of the Social Democratic Federation, a Marxist group who even had a full-time organiser in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

In 1942, when the party needed a new candidate, the unemployed John Mack was selected. The local party was keen to ensure that its experiences with Wedgwood were



John Golding (left) replaced a series of left wingers in Newcastle-under-Lyme. His associates were people like Wrigglesworth and Williams who later defected to the SDP.

not repeated. Mack was adopted as a left winger and only after he had promised to accept constituency party policies.

His selection led to a period of intense activity and growth for the local party whose membership increased by 500 per cent in 1944. In 1944 their resolution to the national party conference called for: "full socialisation as the only means to full employment". So "unpopular" were these new left policies that by 1948, Newcastle Labour Party had 1,000 members and by 1950, 2,000. Some streets had as many as 20 or 30 members.

In 1945, Mack was returned to Parliament with a 17,000 majority. The growth in membership was overwhelmingly working class and the members were critical, as was John Mack, of the Attlee government for failing to go far enough.

When Mack retired in 1950, his successor, adopted by over

150 delegates, was Steven Swingler, a popular left MP who became the first Chairman of Nye Bevan's 'Victory for socialism' group and was threatened with expulsion from the Labour Party for his views. The voters however continued to support Swingler. During his period in Parliament, he increased his majority from 8,000 to 12,000.

Bold policies

When Swingler died in 1969, Golding was selected to succeed him, explaining sometime later how he had packed the meeting with 50 of his own supporters to secure nomination. At the by-election, Labour was defending a majority of 12,000 and was expected to win by 6,000. However, Golding had a majority of 1,042.

Most significant was the high number of Labour abstentions. The Tory vote only increased by

1,277 whilst Labour's dropped by 9,762. Apparently, John Golding's moderate policies had far less appeal to Labour voters in Newcastle than did Steven Swingler's left wing ideals.

Newcastle-under-Lyme, of course, is not isolated from national politics. However, before 1969, Labour never received less than 55 per cent of the vote and obtained 61.8 per cent of the vote in 1966. Since Golding became MP, Labour has never received more than 50 per cent of the vote with only 42 per cent at the last election.

Unfortunately, the lesson of Liverpool Broadgreen at the last general election has not yet been learnt in Newcastle-under-Lyme. It is not so-called moderation that wins elections, but clear, bold socialist policies that will inspire working people to turn out and vote Labour.

By Dave Campbell

Out of order



The members' working lunch

A FEW weeks go, I received an invitation from the Central Electricity Generating Board to a meeting with senior management followed by a 'working lunch'.

The same invitation was extended to other Labour MPs in the West and East Midlands.

I was tempted to throw the letter straight into the rubbish bin, which is where all other such invitations end up. However, my assistants reminded me that we had recently received many letters from constituents, who were worried that the Chernobyl disaster could be repeated in this country.

I should therefore use this opportunity to see CEGB management, and ask them to reduce reliance on nuclear power and use safer fuels instead.

We decided on a compromise. I would go to the meeting with management but would not stay for the 'working lunch'. The CEGB was informed and accepted my proposal.

On the day before this was due to take place, the CEGB phoned my office. I was the only MP who had agreed to attend the meeting, and because there had been such a poor response it would have to be cancelled.

Several other MPs, however, had indicated that they would be 'available' for the 'working lunch'—therefore *this* part of the proceedings would go ahead!

I only wish that the importance MPs place on eating during the course of their everyday duties was extended to the thousands of working class children who will shortly lose their entitlement to free school meals.

By Dave Nellist MP

Why the Tories are gunning for Stalker

A POLICE chief, Colin Sampson, is leading an inquiry into allegations that the suspended Manchester deputy chief constable John Stalker was too friendly with a Tory businessman Kevin Taylor.

Sampson has also taken over Stalker's investigations into the Royal Ulster Constabulary's "shoot to kill" policy. He has only six men working on this case—there are ten working on the Stalker affair. Martin Lee explains why the ruling class are so keen on stalking Stalker.

THE SUSPENSION of John Stalker has aroused suspicions of Whitehall and even MI5 involvement.

Stalker has been suspended ostensibly for his admitted friendship with a dubious Manchester businessman and ex-Conservative Association Chairman Kevin Taylor.

Obviously the links between senior police officers and the criminal world should not surprise us though they should be exposed.

But according to *The Observer* (29 June) the chief constable James Anderton, who relieved Stalker of his duties has also socialised, holidayed and accepted gifts from Manchester businessmen of no great reputable standing.

In reality if Stalker is under investigation then so should Anderton.

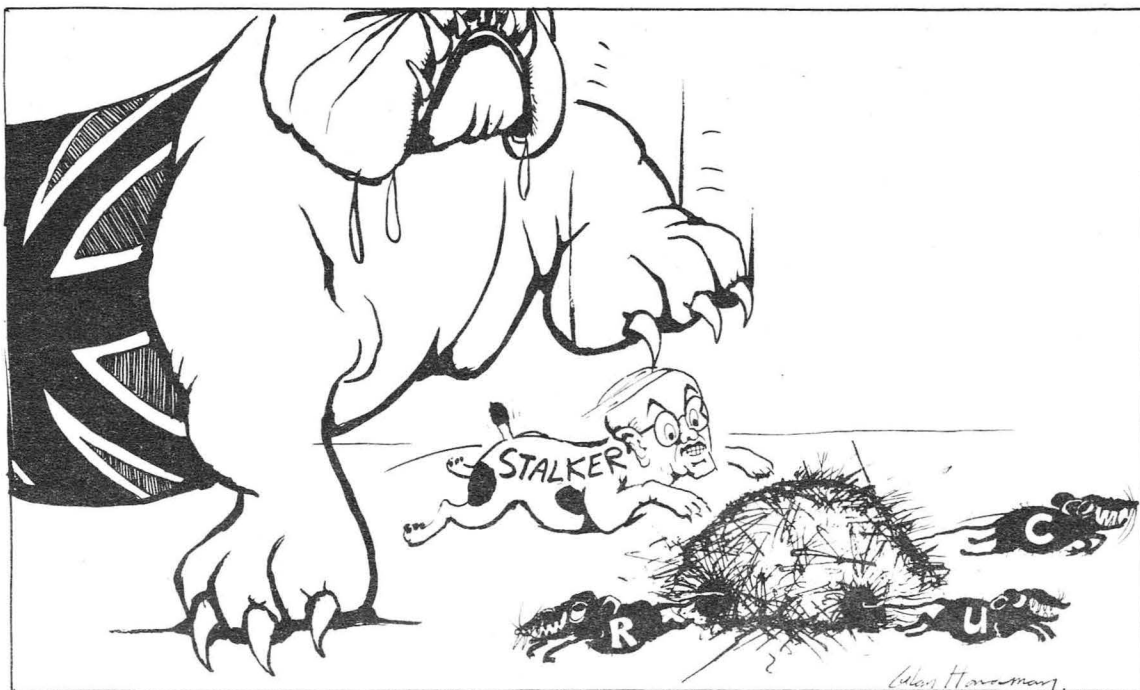
The real reason for Stalker's suspension is that he refused to whitewash the inquiry he was leading into the alleged shoot-to-kill policy of senior RUC officers in Northern Ireland.

Indeed *The Observer* editorial

admits: "Stalker was just on the point of gaining crucial (my emphasis) information by one final visit to Northern Ireland... instead he was summarily and abruptly informed that he himself was under investigation and... worse than that Sir John Hermon (RUC chief constable) promptly arranged for the RUC inquiry to be taken away from him and given to the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Colin Sampson who was investigating Mr Stalker".

The Observer adds that this decision had the connivance of the Attorney General and Douglas Hurd's chief police advisor.

The media have whipped up public sentiment for Stalker on a personal basis; an honest cop victim of a witch-hunt of "30 jackbooted police officers going back into files of 30 years ago" in order to find 'evidence' to discredit Stalker. They have failed in the most part to explain the true reasons. The media's support for Stalker contrasts sharply with the way they gloried in Derek Hatton's alleged police investigation.



We should have no truck with this 'honest cop' nonsense.

Students hounded

Stalker is the person responsible for refusing to do anything about tracing two police officers who have allegedly hounded two students in Manchester for 18 months. They were key witnesses and recipients of a violent attack by Greater Manchester's police Tactical Aid Group on student demonstrations at a visit to Manchester University by the then Home Secretary Leon Brittan on 1 March 1985.

Stalker declined to appear on a BBC *Out of court* programme with

the two students involved. He said that the union demonstration showed that: "there exists within student circles in Manchester a group of violent people".

The two students involved have suffered physical brutality, psychological intimidation and burglary—allegedly by undercover officers.

We do not echo the demands of the press; we demand that the next Labour government carry out its conference decision to make the police democratically accountable to the community through their elected representatives.

The Tories have moved towards a form of Parliamentary bonapartism resting more and more on the

forces of the state to rule.

The question is what will Labour do when it gets returned about MI5, about CS gas, plastic bullets and police accountability.

The omens are not auspicious. Gerald Kaufman, Labour Shadow Home Secretary and MP for Manchester Gorton spoke at the Police Federation's annual conference and launched an attack on Manchester City Council's Police Monitoring Committee.

This body has done an excellent job in not just exposing police behaviour but in raising a positive political programme for controlling the police.

Left and Right

Mercury rising

DAVID SCHOLEY chairman of Mercury Securities, parent of the SG Warburg merchant banking group gave himself a pay rise in 1985-6 from £218,000 to £478,000 a year, that's about 120 per cent. Five of the firm's directors earned over £270,000 compared to none in 1984-5. This is part of an incentive bonus scheme which pushes the bosses' salaries up with rising share prices. Will they get a salary cut if the Mercury goes down? What a suggestion!

Seabird favour

MILITANT HAS got on some quite unlikely press release lists. The Falklands Islands Development Corporation tells us of a press conference to discuss its first year of operation. They will be serving "seafood from the Falklands Islands the first to be eaten in the United Kingdom." The

first person to call the new Falklands airport an albatross round the economy's neck gets thrown out.

Red stars

THE NAME of *Militant* is becoming better known. A Radio Rentals shop advertised its range of TVs "Cabinet changes—from 'true' blue to 'militant' red".

But more significantly the TV astrologer and Roy Hattersley look-alike Russell Grant thinks we are influencing the stars and planets.

His horoscope column in the *Yorkshire Evening Post* of 21 June predicted for Leo: "Militant tendencies could try to recruit your support but do not be coerced into anything unless you truly believe it represents your feelings or opinions".

So if you do find socialism represents your feelings become a *Militant* supporter. It is in the stars.

Next week Gwynneth Dunwoody is consulting the Runes—look out Liverpool!

Militant Marxist Weekend School September 13/14 London

Courses on: Theory of Marxism, Russian Revolution, South Africa and Colonial Revolution, Ireland, Marxism and the trade unions, Women and the struggle for socialism, Black struggles, Marxist Economics.

Militant International Review rally: Hungary 1956 and the struggle against Stalinism today.

★ Debate: Peter Taaffe (editor *Militant*) and Martin Jaques (editor *Marxism Today*) on "The socialist way forward".

Film: Battleship Potemkin

Video: Kemira—Diary of a strike (Australian miners stay-down strike).

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Prepare to boost Militant's sales



Selling *Militant* at a student and school student demonstration in Cardiff.

THE LAST week in July will see the media gushing over the royal wedding. The weekend for *Militant* 25-27 July will provide an antidote to this reactionary poison.

Make your plans now to build the sales of *Militant* over those three days. The sales potential is shown in the following examples.

The Durham Miners' Gala was a great day, for the workers' movement and for *Militant* who sold over 300 copies. On the same day at

the anti-privatisation conference of BLOC we sold over 60 *Militants*.

At big events there is a direct link between the numbers sold and the amount of pre-planning. Make sure all entrances and exits are covered and organise a rota of sellers. It's well worth spending time as it pays dividends in extra sales.

Small regular sales are just as important. A phone call from Broadgreen told us of

sales activity where small groups go out selling door to door for half an hour at a time. A group of five sold three copies, four sold five copies, five sold five and so on. They become regular readers and in turn can be enlisted to help sell the paper themselves.

Consistent sales pay off: the regularity of the sale outside Queens Park tube station means three sellers now sell between 20 and 30 *Militants* every week.

South Wales summer camp

THE SOUTH Wales *Militant* Summer Camp over 23/24/25 August combines the best in Marxist education with a holiday atmosphere where young and old alike can enjoy themselves.

Ted Grant will open the political sessions, speaking on

Leon Trotsky. The other sessions include topics such as Colonial Revolution, Marxism and Feminism, and Britain in Crisis. A crêche is available during each of the political sessions.

On the entertainment side a cabaret is planned, along with

a disco, sports competitions, camp quiz, children's fancy dress and olympics.

Prices have been kept down to a minimum so comrades with their families and friends can have an enjoyable and inexpensive weekend. Numbers are restricted so book early!

A show for the minister

KENNETH BAKER the Secretary of State for Education visited Caterham High School in Ilford on 6 June on a "fact-finding" mission which was reported as a success in national newspapers.

Simret Parmar, a sixth form student at the school, told *Militant* about the visit.

"The Tory council of Redbridge is forever telling us that it can't afford to pay school cleaners to work overtime. However, it suddenly changed its mind before Baker's visit.

"Polished corridor floors, weeded flower beds and repaired curtains were but a

few of the feats performed by cleaners overnight. Even the first year students were made to clear up litter.

"Having been thoroughly briefed by a group of men resembling something out of *Yes Minister*, sixth formers waited in the entrance hall to receive Mr Baker. Closely followed by Fleet Street photographers we led him into the dinner hall where he suggested in an over-enthusiastic school-boyish voice that we might queue up for dinner so that he could 'mingle with the kiddies'.

"He was very impressed by the quality and variety of food but not half as much as we were! Fancy flan dishes, lasagne, steaming pies, kiwi

fruits, cakes and puddings were all served by dinner ladies in immaculate black dresses with white pinafores and hats.

"Mr Baker then sat down to lunch with the sixth form who began to question him about the hypocrisy surrounding his visit, the crisis in the education system and if he could reveal how many cabinet ministers actually send their children to state schools. These and many other questions were ignored, he preferred to talk to other pupils about their PE lessons. One of the first years aptly summed up the whole event: 'Bit of a put-on, wasn't it?'"



Baker's visits to state schools are totally hypocritical. The Tories are destroying education for the working class. They are only interested in education for people with money.

Cardiff: "Don't close our school"

LABOUR CONTROLLED South Glamorgan county council has decided to close Howardian High School in Cardiff.

Right wing councillors led by Lord Brooks claim that the closure of a secondary school is necessary in order to obtain Tory approval for their plans to introduce a system of tertiary education.

The Welsh Office has already said that it wants six secondary schools in South Glamorgan closed by 1990. However, Labour councils are not elected to carry out Tory cuts and there is hardly any sense in planning better education provision in one field simply to cut it in another.

The High School is used as a county centre for adult education with 2,500 people attending evening classes. It also has a special language unit used particularly by Asians and a unit for special education needs.

Cardiff Central CLP and four of its six wards have already passed resolutions condemning the plans. Their action has been backed by the County Labour Party.

An action committee has been set up to fight the proposed cut. It consists of more than 100 parents, teachers, students, and members of the Asian community. Two public meetings have already been held and each has attracted

more than 600 people. A resolution has been overwhelmingly passed calling for the resignation of Labour councillor Dr Rita Austin as chairman of the Board of Governors, since she is one of the strongest supporters of closure. Further action is planned.

Lord Brooks has labelled the anti-closure campaign a *Militant* plot, and this has been echoed by the anti-*Militant* "Democratic-Left" students organisation who are supporting the closure.

By Chris Peace
(Cardiff Central Labour Party,
personal capacity)

Liverpool's model agreement

LIVERPOOL CITY Council is leading the way once again in improving conditions for workers and school students.

The National Union of Teachers says that it has arrived at an agreement with the council which would be the first of its kind. The agreement for secondary school teachers provides contractual guarantees of class size and non-teaching time.

No class will exceed 30 pupils and at least 12.5 per cent of the working week will be for non-contract time (this covers time for marking and preparation).

There will also be local collective agreements establishing target pupil to teacher ratios, ranging from



Croxtheth school, Liverpool

12:1 for sixth formers to 20:1 for first-year pupils and setting the average non-contract time target at 22 per cent of the week.

Another important innovation is that "supply" teachers (who cover for absences) will be put on a career basis and expanded to 122. At the moment these

teachers have no security and no regular source of income.

The NUT Deputy General Secretary, Doug McAvoyn said of the agreement: "It shows what can be achieved if all the parties want to do the best for the education service".

By Soraya Lawrence

The worst sweatshop-home

I AM a housewife with two small children. Due to the high unemployment in our area my husband is unable to find a job, so to try to earn some money to supplement the pittance paid by the social I decided to work from home.

For the past 15 years I have been a sewing machinist in many low paid workplaces, but I never thought the day would come when my own home became the worst sweatshop I have ever been in.

I put the word out to former employers that I had two sewing machines and was looking out for some work. To my surprise these people were falling over themselves to offer me work.

The first wanted me to make 200 pairs of adult trousers at 35 pence per pair, going flat out I was able to make three pairs an hour, so this comes to the grand total of £1.05 per hour. That has to cover both labour and electricity. When you con-

By a Militant supporter
(Glasgow Maryhill)

sider that these trousers will eventually be sold in the shops at £15 per pair, this is a massive profit by any standards.

The second parasite wanted me to overlock whole pairs of trousers (this is to stop the material fraying) at the princely sum of 4 pence per pair, again going flat out I was able to make 80 pence per hour.

"Unreasonable"

When I told him to come and take the work away or increase the rate I was told I was being unreasonable, he

then phoned me three times within 15 minutes—raising the rate a penny each time!

Eventually when he came to take the work away he pleaded with me to reconsider his last offer as he was in a desperate situation telling me I didn't understand running a business, he only made a profit of £50,000 last year. He even had the cheek to ask me to sell the machines to him.

There must be thousands of other women in a similar situation. They must write to *Militant* describing their experiences, and get organised to mount a campaign that will recruit home workers in the unions.

It is only through effective trade union action that they will achieve any improvement in wages and conditions and ultimately rid society of slave driving bosses and poverty wages.

Fighting Fund

This week:
£1,898

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target
1 Humberside	1379		2300
2 London East	1527		3550
3 South East	897		2400
4 London South West	519		1500
5 London West	985		2900
6 London South East	641		2250
7 Manchester/Lancs	1085		4150
8 East Midlands	764		3050
9 West Midlands	1065		4500
10 Scotland West	864		3850
11 Merseyside	1547		7000
12 Yorkshire	1173		5600
13 Southern	633		3100
14 Wales West	619		3350
15 Eastern	581		3450
16 Northern	641		4550
17 Scotland East	367		3200
18 South West	196		2150
19 Wales East	179		2150
Others	7927		5000
Total	23588		70000

Organise weekend of action

"IN South Humberside, the petition is being used to good effect" write supporters from Grimsby and Cleethorpes. "All the sellers now take the petition on all paper sales.

One comrade last week knocked on a door and was met with: "I think he (Derek Hatton) should be expelled". After explaining the achievements of the Liverpool City Council, he said "give us that petition" and promptly put 50p in the rattling tin saying: "I don't suppose they'll do that sort of thing here!"

Another seller is currently threatened with expulsion from Grimsby Labour Party. On the night of an article in the local rag on the witch-hunt he went round to a gig where the socialist band, the Expanding Wallets, were playing and collected many signatures along with £5.48 in the fighting fund.

A leading member of Gainsborough and Horncastle CLP signed the petition, gave £1 and asked our local LPYS to 'come and infiltrate' his constituency, so disgusted was he with the actions of the Grimsby Labour leadership.

Why not take up these ideas in your area. Only two weeks are left so no time can be wasted in helping us to raise our full target. 'Weekends of action' are being held up and down the country.

Let's have a national fund-raising weekend from 25 to 27 July to finish the quarter off with bumper collections around factories and in the streets; set up a stall to sell stickers, posters; use the petition around the estates or in the town centre; organise a party—'Not the Royal Wedding' socials to take your mind off the current sycophantic rantings of the press and TV.

Follow Hull's lead. "Rain in the morning wasn't going to prevent us raising the cash needed to support our socialist ideas" writes Janet from Hull. "Tables were made from scrapwood, equipment loaned from sympathisers to our cause, home-made beer, wine and food stored. Sponsored pickled egg eats (!) raised £3. £30 was raised in all".

So get organising, raise cash and have a fun weekend too.

By Ruth Campbell

THANKS TO:

Tim Bolwell £10 from sale of skateboard; Southampton supporters £30 proceeds from jumble sale; Joe McCarthy £5 Glasgow; D Malloch £1 Newcastle; Glasgow DNS workers (CPSA) £3; £147 collected from delegates to NUR conference; Hull readers' meeting £104 after expenses; £35 Birmingham supporters' proceeds from a trip to Blackpool; £25 from a social at Thornaby, Teesside.



Keep Bro Labour

THE ELECTION of Terry Fields in the Tory marginal seat of Broadgreen in June 1983 was a remarkable achievement. While votes and seats elsewhere were falling to the Tories, in Broadgreen there was a 4.5 per cent swing to labour. Terry Fields won with 41 per cent of the votes and a majority of 3,800 over the Tory, an 'independent' Liberal, and the former MP, SDP renegade Dick Crawshaw.

It was a testament to the fighting Marxist policies of Terry Fields and the hours of

work on the doorstep and in meetings by his hundreds of helpers.

Even more remarkable is that Broadgreen is not the type of constituency normally regarded as 'safe' Labour. In every ward, there is a majority of private housing. In Childwall ward less than ten per cent of the houses are council-owned.

Yet Broadgreen is not immune from the ills which have blighted Merseyside. Out of an electorate of 64,000 there are 15,000 pensioners and of the rest 8,000, or 17.4 per cent are

unemployed. In five years its population has fallen by 2281. In all the wards except Childwall, unemployment is higher than the national average. In Kensington it is a staggering 33.5 per cent—2,438 on the dole, more than half of them for over a year. In Tuebrook, Old Swan and Broadgreen wards the figure is over 20 per cent.

Poverty also stalks the constituency. Even in Childwall, over a fifth of school children receive free school meals. In Tuebrook, Old Swan and

Broadgreen the figure is over 40 per cent, while in Kensington it is 52.2 per cent.

There are plenty of good reasons for the voters to look forward to the downfall of the Thatcher government. So the fight is on to keep Broadgreen Labour.

But it will not be an easy fight while the Tories in Liverpool are becoming an extinct species, the Liberals and the SDP have patched up their quarrel and on the basis of votes in the council elections within the constituency, the

Alliance believes it can win. Terry Fields and the Liverpool Labour Party, despite all their battles against expulsions by the NEC and the surcharging and disqualification of city councillors, are determined to keep the seat for Labour.

In this feature, some of the people of Broadgreen talk about the many problems they face, what they are doing to fight back and how they have been helped by Terry Fields, their 'workers' MP on a worker's wage'.

Plessey's workers lobby for higher wages

ALL AROUND Broadgreen constituency factories have closed or are closing. Lyons Maid closed years ago and the United Biscuits' plant is all but finished. The once-thriving Edge Lane area of Broadgreen has lost thousands of workers over the last few years.

Another large factory under threat is the Plessey Telecommunications plant in the Kensington ward. A joint delegation of unions from Plessey numbering 400 recently went to Parliament on a lobby over BT's new policy of importing parts and machinery from abroad. Terry Fields MP met the delegation and also put down an Early Day motion in the House.

Mike Morton of the LPYS spoke to Graeme Casey, branch secretary of TGWU 6/643:

What are the present conditions at Edge Lane and what is the mood like amongst the workers there?

"The position is far from stable. There is always the threat of redundancies hanging over us. In the contract cleaners department they have been told to get 20 redundancies out of a full-time workforce of 30.

"One of the problems we face is

that of health and safety; for example, we have great problems with asbestos. There is a lot of asbestos cement in the walls and it crumbles and falls on the floor. It is obviously unsafe although the bosses say that is legal."

How has Terry Fields your MP been able to help you?

"The TGWU have won a pay rise which was helped by the campaign waged by Terry when he showed that the wages were so bad that some workers were having to claim state benefits to live. Even with state benefits people find it difficult to live. Another thing about the plant is that the work is very dehumanising; it is very soul-destroying.

"The mood in the workplace is more ready to struggle, especially after the lobby of parliament. On the train coming back they felt that something was happening at last. However I made the point that so long as Plessey, GEC and BT were private that their main interest would be profit and we would always be threatened. To achieve stability we must call on the next Labour government to nationalise the telecommunications industry."

Fifty years a socialist fighter

IN OCTOBER Jack Roberts will have been a member of the Labour Party for 50 years. He talked to Tony McMahon about his experiences as a left-winger over all those years. He is now treasurer of Tuebrook ward where Tony Aitman is an expelled member.

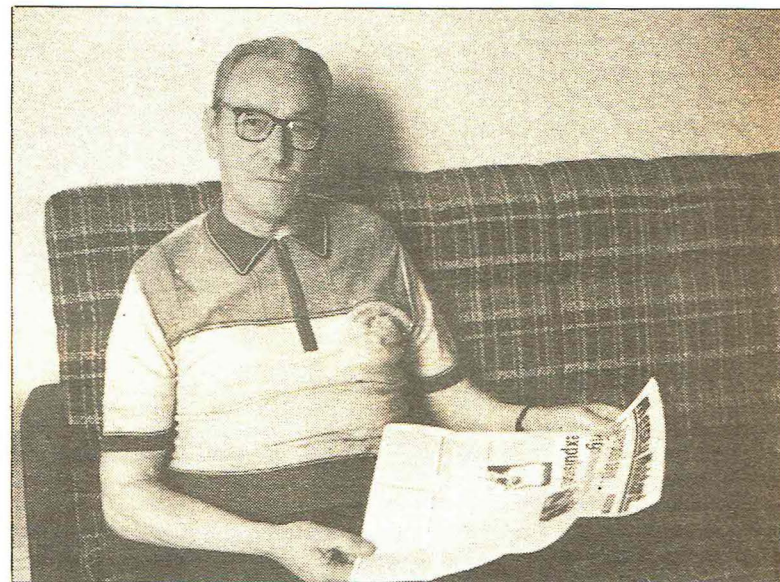
"I joined in Kensington Ward in October 1936. I had no illusions that it was a fully socialist party but it was the nearest to my idea of militant socialism. I don't like labels, but I would say that I am a militant socialist, and in all my years in the Labour Party I have not seen my ideas come to fruition until the last three years in Liverpool. Before I joined the Labour Party, I gave out leaflets at the age of eight for Jack Hayes, the first Labour MP in Liverpool. Then when I was 15 I joined the Labour Party."

What do you think of the witch-hunt being carried out by the leadership of the party?

"You know it is very sad seeing all the energies and finances of the comrades being used to try to reinstate other comrades back into the party. That time and energy should be used to fight the real enemy of the working class: the Tories and their pale blue imitators the Liberals.

"I have known Tony Mulhearn for years. I have known Terry Harrison for 25 years and Tony Aitman for 20 years since he joined the Labour Party. I have not always agreed with these comrades on every point, but I have never found this to be a reason to expel anyone.

"I first met Derek Hatton 11 years ago when he worked for me in the council elections. He was the



Jack Roberts, Labour Party member and socialist for 50 years.

hardest worker I have ever come across. In 1979 I worked with Derek on the council and we believed as militant socialists that we should serve the people who elected us. Eventually our policies were put into practice. That was in 1983 but unfortunately by that time I was no longer on the council".

I believe you were involved in the general election campaign that elected Terry Fields in Broadgreen. Do you think that there are any lessons for the movement in the way the campaign was conducted?

"Broadgreen was formed in 1983 and was considered a safe Tory seat. It then became regarded as a marginal Tory seat, then a winnable Liberal seat. But Terry Fields turned it into a Labour seat. This election saw the biggest band of dedicated workers I have ever seen at any election. With the correct policies, enthusiasm and good organisation, we showed in Broadgreen that there is no such thing as an unwinnable seat. The right-wing say that socialism is electorally unpopular. I find that when you knock on doors people say that Labour is not socialist enough, or that when Labour comes to power it forgets socialism."

Were you involved in the Young

Socialists when you were young?

"There was no LPYS then, only the Labour League of Youth. As a member I was putting forward resolutions like those the LPYS puts forward now, for decent housing, jobs and socialism. I must praise the LPYS for their tremendous support in elections. If they did not turn out there would have been occasions when no-one would have been there to canvass.

"The NEC should be boosting not cutting their finance. Young people are the lifeblood of any organisation. Without them we wither and die. I find it encouraging the number of young people joining the party here and sticking with it, not just drifting in and out."

It has been three years since Terry Fields has been in parliament. Do you think he has lived up to his promise to live on a worker's wage?

"I know that he has kept his promise because I was treasurer of Broadgreen CLP for two years and he has donated money to the party. During his election campaign, support from the trade unions was fantastic and was inspired by Terry's promise to live on a worker's wage."

MARXISM ON TRIAL



New Militant pamphlet, covers the NEC show trials, the frame-up and expulsions of Liverpool socialists

50p plus 20p post & packaging from World Socialist Books, 3-13 Hepscoth Rd, London E9 5HB

Broadgreen



Fields canvassing in the 1983 general election.

'A Militant for my class'

AS THE member of Parliament elected on 9 June, I didn't even have time to take a breath before being faced with the shock announcement of the closure of United Biscuits in Binns Road, with the loss of 2,000 jobs, in my newly won constituency.

By Terry Fields MP

The incident itself was unremarkable, given the history of closures in Liverpool prior to and since 1983. But for me, having spent nearly all of my working life in the trade union movement, fighting alongside other workers in dispute, and with my own union during the firemen's strike in 1977, the additional responsibility of being the elected community leader, to whom people in difficulty looked for leadership, it by far eclipsed all other disputes.

From that single incident, my life has been conditioned to represent individuals and groups of individuals struggling against the multitude of attacks made on the people of Broadgreen by the Tory government and the system they represent.

The cold statistical figures of lost jobs, bad housing and lack of opportunity for our class hide the human misery Liverpool people continue to suffer.

A 'maiden' speech is by tradition supposed to be non-controversial, but given the plight of our people, I refused to abide by the conventions of Parliament, and used my maiden speech to do two things.

Firstly, to explain to the nation the nature of the crimes being committed against Liverpool people and secondly, and perhaps more importantly, to warn the Prime Minister and her government that workers would not be prepared to tolerate further attacks on jobs and their living standards.

Subsequent history has proved me right, for within twelve months



Terry Fields, MP for Broadgreen.

of my speech, the miners were forced into the bitterest dispute in the history of the movement, by the government who had laid their plans as long ago as 1979. The miners did not win, but workers gained in seeing the true nature of the state and the bankrupt system we live in.

Support

So too did the Liverpool people react with tremendous support for the Labour City Council, battling for more resources to repair the years of depredation and neglect bought on when the two Conservative parties (the Liberals and the Tories) were ruining the City. Every device has been used against Liverpool and its elected councillors, whose only crime has been to stand up for the people against the onslaught by the government. The national media and the local press who back the government's

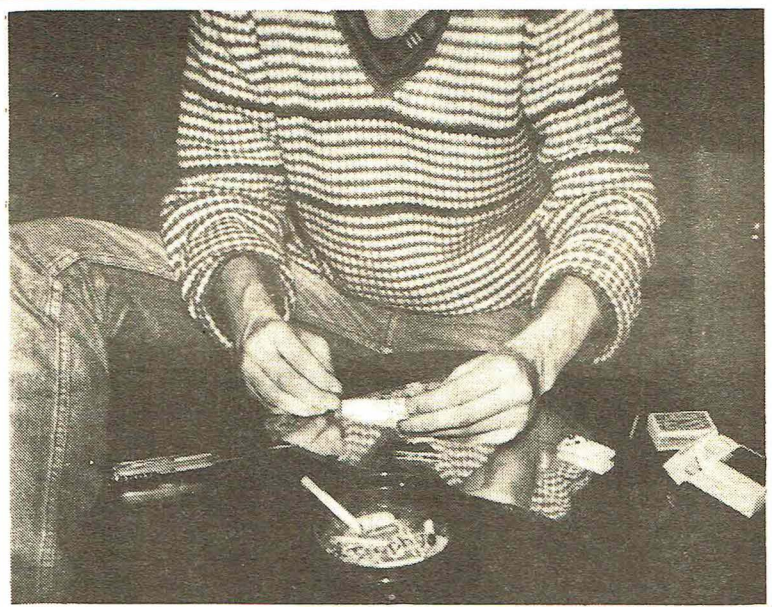
attacks refuse to print a single word of praise for the achievements of Labour in Liverpool.

That particular struggle will continue in Liverpool and elsewhere, as the next recession looms and the oil revenues dry up, and workers will either have to battle to turn back the tide, or go under, in the crisis which inevitably will ensue in the next period.

In this respect we need a Labour government elected to power, prepared to change the nature of society, with the same enthusiasm for our people as the Tories have for their class.

I would therefore urge people in Broadgreen not only to support Labour, but to join us in the Labour Party to ensure that such a change can become a reality.

As I have said in parliament, I am a militant for my class—a moderate who has got off his knees. Join me and get up off your knees.



Menace of drugs

DRUG ADDICTION has blighted many inner-city areas like Broadgreen. But, helped by Liverpool City Council, residents are fighting to eradicate it. One, who wishes to remain anonymous, spoke to MARY JENNINGS:

What made you think that you had to do something about the drugs problem in Dovecot?

The problem of glue-sniffing and heroin is very widespread on one particular side of the estate and I felt that I had to do something to solve this problem because so many young people are affected. So I decided to try to set up a parents' support group and I approached Terry Fields and Broadgreen Ward Labour Party to hold a public meeting. After that we decided to go to the youth centre one evening each week between 7 and 9, but then we changed this to the daytime so that it would be more convenient for people to call in and ask for advice.

What kind of a response have you had?

A good response. Parents are coming in distraught because they do not know what to do about the problem. We can't wave a magic wand but I am there to give advice, give out leaflets and generally we support one another. The most important thing is that a parent who has a child who is an addict knows that they are not alone and that they know that there are other people going through the same thing who they can talk to and get support from.

Also the problem and the related problems like vandalism are more widespread than I originally thought. Now I get people coming up to me in the street and telling about empty houses that are being used by glue-sniffers and smack-heads.

What support have you had from

Liverpool City Council?

Lots of support; without their help I do not think that I would have been able to carry it through. They have put leaflets out for me and they have supported me in a lot of ways. For example we report flats that are not being occupied that are being used by the smack-heads and the glue-sniffers and the next day it is boarded up. We have just had a shop boarded up in Dovecot which was being used by 9 and 10 year olds. So in their way they are trying to help me.

What made you personally get involved in the battle against drugs?

Because my own son is a heroin addict and has been for about five years. I look at the way he has destroyed his own life. He has lost everything, his home, his girl, and I feel angry, bitter and frustrated. He has changed from the happy-go-lucky laughing lad to a stranger that I don't even know. He is a broken man in body and spirit, so I want to do something to help all the others in this area.

I believe that you help out at an acupuncture clinic; can you tell us something about that?

This is a new thing that is being tried out and uses methods which are non-addictive. They use a needle which stimulates a hormone that gives the same buzz as heroin, but which can be controlled so that eventually the need for the high can be reduced. We have a couple of hundred people pass through each day.

You have a big family to look after; how do you find the time for your campaigning work?

Well I make the time because I am very, very concerned about what is going on on the estate. Also I believe in what the city council is doing and I am active in supporting them because they are concerned about working-class kids. I just find the time.

'Always skint'

NEARLY HALF those unemployed in Broadgreen have been out of work for over a year. *Militant* spoke to a few of them as they left their signing-on point. The worst point of 'Maggie's Millions' was summed up by one young lad:

"There's definitely two things that really get on your nerves, the boredom and the complete lack of cash. There's not much that you can do all day, but even if there was, you're always skint so you can't afford to do it anyway."

There was also complete unanimity as to who was responsible for the current deprivation suffered by so many people in Britain today:

"It's got to be the government hasn't it? I mean, they're all just in it for them and theirs, they couldn't give two hoots for the ordinary people of this country".

When they were asked about the

work that Liverpool City Council had done, however, the response was slightly different.

"They've done alright, I suppose. I don't know why everyone knocks them; after all, at least they've done what they said they'd do, what with the houses and so on.

"I'm a single parent, so what they've done with the nurseries is absolutely brilliant. I can go out sometimes of a day now, without having to worry about lugging the buggy on and off the bus and around town.

"I'm not totally certain of everything they have done, but it's got to be better than what the *Liverpool Echo* says. All they ever do is knock Derek Hatton. I don't really care what he has for dinner or what he wears; all I'm interested in is that he hasn't sacked anyone or stuck my rent up again"

Brazil, Argentina

Brazil: Austerity v inflation

THATCHER'S WAR on wages has been fought in the name of the "battle against inflation". All over the world, workers are warned of "inflation of Latin American proportions"—i.e., of 100, 200 or 400 per cent—if they don't take the medicine of austerity.

Meanwhile it is reported from Latin America that countries such as Brazil, Argentina and Bolivia are back from the brink. Inflation has been "stopped dead", they say.

In Brazil, the biggest country of Latin America, money was losing its value at the rate of 400 per cent last year. This has now been reduced, apparently, to under 20 per cent.

How was it done? Can it last? And who lost out?

These questions are doubly important because events in Brazil only demonstrate, in an extreme form, processes taking place in every capitalist country.

State spending

The roots of inflation lie in government spending.

In Brazil, nearly half the national wealth is produced in the public sector. The state has intervened on a massive scale to build up the economic infrastructure. It has made the industrial Sao Paulo area, for example, a potential world beater.

The state has a monopoly in post and telecommunications, gas, electricity (including hydro-electricity and nuclear power), oil, coal and railways.

It also controls three-quarters of steel production among 500 nationalised companies.

But infrastructure costs

By Mick Brooks

money. The government has paid its bills by printing money. As a result it has racked up a state debt of \$24 billion on top of Brazil's \$100 billion of foreign debt. By the end of 1985 the money supply was growing at 300 per cent a year.

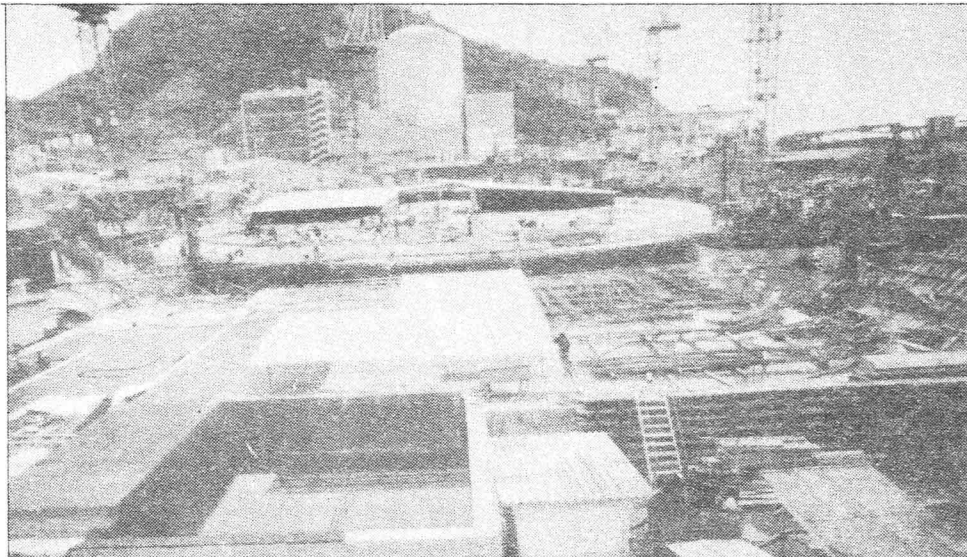
Inflation feeds on itself. The government finds its tax revenues won't go far enough, and makes up the difference by printing more money. Eventually inflation surges out of control.

This has forced the government to try and turn the tide. On 28 February this year, President Sarney imposed an austerity package and a price freeze, strongly supported by people desperate for some respite from inflation.

Brazil could survive these potentially lethal potions because it is the fastest-growing economy in the world, with an 8 per cent spurt in production last year, and 7 per cent expected for 1986. Yet even in Brazil the workers have had to suffer painful symptoms of deflation, with cuts in subsidies on essentials and rising costs of living.

Thus, for the working class, it has been a case of putting up prices to fight inflation!

Always the "fight against inflation" is conducted by attempting to end the index-



Nuclear power station under construction—paid for by the government printing press. (Below) Food raid in Sao Paulo supermarket.



ation of wages to the cost of living. This has happened in Italy and Israel, for example, as well as in Brazil.

But if wage rises only follow the cost of living, they cannot be the cause of price rises! In reality, the wage freeze is an attempt to unload the burden of crisis onto the working class.

In Brazil the price freeze

has been enthusiastically enforced by the working class. But this defeats the whole purpose of the manoeuvre—to let prices rise while keeping wages down.

Privatisation

If inflation is caused by state spending which is excessive compared with pro-

duction, then state spending will have to take a cut. In Brazil, in February, the government sold \$400 million worth of shares in its oil monopoly, Petrobras.

This is nothing but Thatcherite privatisation—today a worldwide phenomenon. It means that public-sector workers are called on to pay the penalty for government

blunders and to subsidise the capitalist class.

Yet, despite cuts, state spending continues to rise!

One reason is paradoxical. The more the government cuts, the more workers it throws on the dole. These people then have to be maintained, at least partly, at state expense. Cuts can be very expensive!

Paradox

Though capitalist governments of the 'left' as well as the right lay about themselves like mad axemen in times of crisis, some things are still sacred. One of these is interest payments on the national debt to the financial institutions.

In the case of Brazil, the big banks are doing rather better out of the squeeze than the workers. Five per cent of the country's total production is exported free—without any return—just to service the interest on the \$100 billion foreign debt.

With sacred cows like this to feed—not to mention arms spending—there will not be a fundamental turn in the tide of state spending. Capitalism is more and more rotten, and needs more cash injections instead of less.

Like fever in a patient, inflation is a symptom of the sickness of capitalism on a world scale.

In the more advanced, wealthier capitalist countries, the economy is better able to contain inflation. But even here, the same processes will make themselves increasingly felt as production slows down in the coming period, and pressure to "reflate" builds up.

Workers versus austerity

IN ARGENTINA, 13 June was the first anniversary of the "Austral Plan"—President Alfonsín's austerity programme.

The CGT, the main trade union federation, organised a 24-hour general strike to commemorate it. It was the third general strike this year, and the sixth since Alfonsín was elected in October 1983.

Between January 1982 and February 1986 prices in Argentina rose by over 59,000 per cent! It was when inflation topped 1,000 per cent per annum that the President announced the "Austral Plan"—freezing wages and, supposedly, prices.

In the year since then, living standards have fallen by an estimated 30 per cent. It is not surprising that, in a country where 35 per cent of all wealth is owned by the richest 10 per cent, the net result has been to fuel the workers' struggle.

The CGT's calls to action have been fully supported. According to government statistics, 86 per cent of the country's 8.5 million workers (including the press) took part in the January 1986 general strike. For the general strike in March they give the curious statistic of 60.87 per cent, with a

By Mike Waddington

demonstration of at least 120,000 in Buenos Aires.

Reports of the 13 June strike suggest that overall support increased still further. Even according to the police, industry was functioning at 10 per cent of normal and commerce at 30 per cent.

This degree of support is amazing considering the number of times the workers have been called out by the right-wing CGT leaders without any clear perspective. Significantly, Alfonsín has lashed out at the CGT leaders for allowing "infiltration by Communists and Trotskyists bent on revolution"!

Alarmed

Strike action has also been called by 180,000 teachers, and eleven other major unions are planning similar action. To say that the government is alarmed is an understatement.

The *Financial Times* reports: "The Government



Mass meeting in Buenos Aires of the Peronist movement, traditional mainstream of the Argentinian working class.

has begun to hint that it may have to introduce limitations on the right to strike if the labour situation worsens. If it is more than bluff, such a move could prove politically suicidal for President Alfonsín." (25 June)

The overwhelming power of the working class is also reflected in Alfonsín's decision to move the federal capital 200 kilometres south from Buenos Aires, to Viedma. Buenos Aires has 40 per

cent of the country's population and three-quarters of all industry. Alfonsín would obviously prefer to put more distance between himself and the big battalions of the working class!

Foreign debt

At the root of this instability lies Argentina's economic problems.

The country's external debt stands at around \$50

billion. Debt repayments swallow up a crippling 80 per cent of export earnings—the highest proportion in Latin America.

One of the CGT's central demands was for repudiation of this debt in order to finance jobs and wage increases. The workers' understanding of the foreign bankers' role was shown by the riots which greeted David Rockefeller, chairman of the bank consortium managing

Argentina's debt, when he visited the country in January.

Despite Alfonsín's majority in Congress and his reputed "charisma", his government could be brought down by the movement of the workers. Even in last November's Congressional elections, held under a state of siege provoked by terrorist bombings, the vote for Alfonsín's Radical Party went down.

Alfonsín has already been forced to make concessions to the CGT, whose leaders are under pressure from the ranks. No doubt he will try to reach an "understanding" with the right wing of the CGT, backed up with the threat of force. But such a strategy has little future as the forces that have been unleashed spell continuing crisis for the country.

A new military coup would seem to be ruled out at present, not least because of the power of the workers and the struggles it would spark off.

Only a government of the working class could resolve the crisis by breaking with the capitalist system and carrying through the socialist transformation of society.

Belgian workers demand all-out action

A CONSPIRACY of silence by the media has surrounded the recent struggles of the Belgian working class. The announcement of 199 billion Belgian francs worth of cuts by the Catholic-Liberal government provoked a huge movement.

On a scale never witnessed before, Catholic and Socialist trade unionists, French and Flemish speaking workers, public and private sector workers joined in united struggle.

The movement has subsided as a result of the spineless inaction of the union leaders. However, the government has been unable to inflict a defeat on the workers. With the programme of cuts remaining to be implemented, it seems likely that the struggles will flare up anew in the autumn.

The economy, according to the Belgian *Kredietbank*, "has reached a new limit". With the highest public-sector deficit in Europe, the Belgian ruling class is determined to make the working class pay with cuts threatening over 60,000 jobs in the next two years.

School students

Even before the cuts were announced, the very rumour of the attack brought workers and youth out onto the streets.

In March, 25,000 school students under Marxist leadership struck against government policies. In April the miners took action.

Under mounting pressure, the trade union leaders called a one-day public sector strike. The strike was absolutely solid. Pressure was building up for an all-out battle with the right-wing government. The union leaders responded by calling another 24-hour strike ten days later.

But the Charleroi railway workers moved into action four days in advance of the

planned strike and drew out the rest of the railways with them. The railway workers remained on strike, in opposition to the leaders' instructions, until 31 May.

Following the lead of the railworkers, many other sections who joined the 16 May general strike also remained out for another two to three weeks.

On 23-24 May another general strike was called, for 48 hours this time, which again was highly successful.

At each stage, the union leaders tried to restrict the movement to the traditional religious and national barriers.

The leaders of the Catholic union, the CSC, failed to give a clear strike call to their members, and continually tried to negotiate with the government.

However, more and more Catholic workers linked up in action with workers in the Socialist union federation, the FGFB.

The Catholic party, and consequently the whole government, has been riven with splits as a result. In one incident 100 party members burned their party cards outside the party head office in protest at government policies.

The workers' movement terrified the ruling class and the union leaders—not only the CSC but the FGFB leaders also.

From 6 May the movement gathered momentum. Even sections of the police, organised in the FGFB, took action and participated in demonstrations.

On a demo in Antwerp, for example, police were told by their HQ that the paramilitary National Guard were being sent to attack a nearby picket line. The police immediately formed into lines and led the demo at the double to defend the picket line!

In the Walloon area, workers overpowered the sentries and occupied National Guard barracks in opposition to any attempt to break the movement by

military force.

Clearly the movement was going beyond the limits of industrial protest action, and was beginning to raise questions of state power.

On 31 May the FGFB called a demo in Brussels. 250,000 workers—equivalent to two million in Britain—marched through the city. 100,000 red flags streamed past the bourgeois centres to the music of the *Internationale*. The workers were masters of the streets for that day.

All-out strike

There is no question that, if a clear call had come from the workers' leaders, an all-out general strike would quickly have materialised. Not only would the Martens government have fallen within hours, but the opportunity of socialist transformation would have been posed before the workers.

Already, many groups of workers have drawn revolutionary or semi-revolutionary conclusions. Among activists the main call is for "A general strike to the finish".

The main factor holding the workers back has been their own leaders. In this battle the FGFB leaders have exposed themselves as never before.

But the workers have been far more critical than in 1983, and furious at their leaders' inaction. A movement has built up against the union bureaucracy. Intersectoral Committees have been formed, bringing together the best militants in the public sector, which have tried to link up with similar committees in other cities and with private sector workers.

At the inaugural meeting of one such body in Brussels, attended by 320 shop stewards and activists, an older tram worker summed up the general mood:

"I have been on the trams for over forty years. I participated in the strike of 1948, in the general strike of



Catholic and Socialist workers demonstrate together in Liege

'60-'61, and in 1983. I have never witnessed a demonstration like that of 31 May. But I have also never witnessed such open and scandalous betrayal as I have seen today by our trade union leaders.

"They have tried to divide the working class into small sectors. Before 1979 we had one united Socialist Party, now that is divided. Now they want to do the same with the unions and with Belgium.

"I recognise no barriers. We have to change things for the rank and file."

Many militants have eagerly taken up demands for greater democracy and accountability in the unions.

As one worker put it: "If we are tigers led by mules, then it's time we ate the mules!"

The Socialist parties in Wallonia and Flanders have given no lead to the workers. If the present government falls, the Socialist leaders might be taken into the next government to carry out the cuts.

But the workers' opposition now developing in the unions will also find its reflection in the Socialist parties.

The teachers have now called for strike action in the autumn. The prospect could open up of a new upsurge in the coming months, deepening into a fundamental crisis for the capitalist system in

Belgium.

Even the British *Financial Times* has been forced to conclude: "With the working population two thirds unionised, the trade union chiefs could theoretically put the government out by overturning the parliamentary majority on the streets".

The union leaders must not be allowed to dissipate the energies of the working class in a new series of limited actions to let off steam. What is clear above all is the need for Marxist leadership to galvanise and direct the enormous power and combativity of the Belgian working class.

By Steve Morgan

International notes

THE COLLAPSE of Tolentino's lunatic coup attempt in the Philippines must surely rank as the most ignominious ever seen.

There was no support for the self-styled new "President", who was Marcos's running mate in last February's rigged elections. Even ex-Marcosites in government realised it would be suicidal to support him.

Facing total humiliation, Tolentino's "excuse" had to be heard to be believed: "I have not taken this step in order to have a confrontation with Mrs Aquino. That is the furthest thing from our thoughts".

Adding insult to injury, the would-be dictator of the Philippines has been presented with a bill for the time he 'ruled' from the hotel!

Yet behind the farce is a serious warning that reaction is not dead in the Philippines. Failure by Aquino to carry out her promises will increasingly lead to mass disillusionment, embolden the reactionaries, and create conditions where the right wing could make a real bid for power.

IS THE Chilean Communist

Party adding a "third stage" to the traditional two stages (first bourgeois democracy, then socialist revolution) that Stalinism says the workers' struggle has to pass through?

In response to the massive general strike movement of 2-3 July, a spokesman for the CP Central Committee declared, incredibly, that they will support: "negotiations with the armed forces, and a military government of transition, so long as Pinochet himself goes".

The more the working class puts the struggle for workers' democracy on the agenda, it seems, the further these self-styled 'revolutionaries' retreat from the tasks of leading that struggle.

THE EARTH'S population reached five billion last Monday.

There is a 90 per cent chance that the baby who brought up the five billion mark was born in the underdeveloped world. If it grows up, it is likely to do so in poverty, disease, hunger, illiteracy and unemployment.

As a result it would have a life expectancy of 15 years less than a baby born in the industrialised world.

At the same time, the EEC is arguing over the problems of storing three and a half million tons of butter, three million tons of wheat and four million tons of beef which "cannot be used at the moment". Huge amounts will be destroyed in order to keep prices up.

Could there be any greater demonstration of the absolute obstruction to the development of the peoples of the world by the capitalist system, and the need for socialist transformation?

AFTER 18 days on strike, Israel's nurses have gone back with a promise from the government to negotiate their wage claim.

The nurses were fighting the Labour-Likud government's attempt to freeze public-sector wages for another 12 months. Their take-home pay averages £175 per month.

The nurses' extreme bitterness and determination was shown when they walked out of casualty wards and emergency rooms last week, leaving doctors and volunteers to run them. The government retreated after doctors began to join the nurses' action.



The National Guard attack workers' demonstration.

"We didn't have schools when I was a lad"

Dear Comrades,

I recently visited my (Tory) MP with a delegation from my children's primary school to complain about lack of resources. He argued that more was being spent on education than ever before.

We showed him photographs of water pouring into the school building down the wall near the electricity mains.

When we asked him if money could be made available for an extra computer his reply was: "When I was at school we used to learn it all with chalk and a blackboard". Not exactly the stuff to equip our youth for

the new world of industry and technology, to cite the Tories own objectives.

This morning I got a letter from the polytechnic where I do an evening class saying that due to cuts they may close courses next year.

Primary, secondary and polytechnic education all lack funds, can anyone enlighten me as to where the Tories "more money than ever before" is actually being spent?

Yours fraternally
Ed Bober
Hendon North Labour Party

Censorship of Militant

Dear Comrades,

In aid of the Labour candidate Llyn Golding in the Newcastle-under-Lyme by-election, Billy Bragg agreed to come and play in a local school hall on Sunday 6 July.

Local *Militant* supporters virtually publicised this event on their own and 200 people turned out.

However, we were told not to sell *Militant* in the hall or school grounds in the 'interests of party unity'. We complied and sold on the gates.

The Labour Party stewards then clubbed together and offered to buy 15 copies. I agreed and returned with 14 copies of last week's edition with one of this week's on top, but as they threw them away they realised they had been conned.

I refunded their money 'in the interests of party unity' and we went on to sell 18 copies of *Militant* and 26 *Socialist Youths*.

Yours fraternally
A Staffordshire
Militant supporter

Letters

Send us your views, comments or criticism.

Militant,
3-13 Hepscoth Road,
London E9 5HB

Confusion in the Communist Party

Dear Comrades,

On behalf of Burnley *Militant* supporters I would like to award ten out of ten for dress sense to the comrade from the Communist Party

whom we spotted on Saturday's Anti-Apartheid demonstration in London.

This worthy revolutionary marched along the streets proudly bearing the Com-

munist Party banner—and sporting a Union Jack T-shirt.

Yours fraternally
Andrew Sinclair
Burnley

You just can't get the staff

Dear Comrades,

Further to the article on Vaux, the Sunderland brewers, banning Derek Hatton from speaking on their premises in last week's *Militant*, readers may care to know that their chairman, Paul Nicholson, is also chairman of the Northern CBI.

Paul took charge from his pater, Major Nicholson, a few years ago. The old Major, known in some circles as an 'eccentric' and in others as a 'crackpot', forced his rural tenants and managers of pubs to get out of bed early in the morning and 'beat' for the hunt, or suffer his displeasure.

One day the old Labour Exchange sent a friend of mine to Vaux's for a job in the stables (the brewery still uses horse-drawn drays and some think the animals contribute to the quality of the beer) and he met none other than the Major.

"Excuse me, Jack", said my mate "this card says I've got to see a gadgie called Nicholson about a job". The old boy almost suffered apoplexy at being addressed in this way by the sort of chap what sleeps in his vest and chased him outside brandishing a whip!

Yours fraternally
Bob Stothard

A credible solution?



Young Socialists on the march to protest against the apartheid regime in South Africa.

Photo: Dave Sinclair

Dear *Militant*,

Having read the last two issues I wonder as to whether any credible solutions to the South African crisis exist within the *Militant* camp.

The oppressed blacks do not require any of the following:

- 1) An Early Day Motion in the British Parliament,
- 2) British workers and youth passing

resolutions of support for imprisoned workers to the NEC,

3) Workers sanctions which would be patchy, paltry and at best result in slight damage to the strong South Africa capitalist economy.

They need one thing only. Armaments! For this they require hard cash, and the slogan should be "every 50p raised would buy a bullet which

would be used to kill a South African soldier or capitalist".

You should be asking Labour and trade union branches to pass resolutions and send them to the Soviet Union and countries such as Libya urging military and financial assistance.

Yours sincerely
Ian Mayhew
Middlesex

Callous comment

Dear Comrades,

Last Friday the regular *Militant* sale at Houghton Main colliery was accompanied by a sacked miner collecting for the Solidarity fund.

Colliery manager Tony Griffin walked past us. When we politely asked him to make a donation to the Solidarity fund he said: "I've made my donation—I sack them". Laughing at his comment he went back to his office.

People like this must be summarily sacked by a Labour government.

Yours fraternally
Simon Duerden
Barnsley

Tebbit's bias-phobia

Dear Comrades,

Norman Tebbit has employed an officer to fight the anti-Tory bias of the media, especially the BBC.

Ironic considering the BBC's coverage of the election of CPSA General Secretary Broad Left candidate John Macreadie.

On the *World at One* the coverage fell into two halves. First discussions with right-wing officials alleging irregularities. Second an interview with former defence secretary Heseltine, saying how this was the thin end of the wedge, national security was threatened etc.

Neither John Macreadie himself, nor any other Broad Left activists were interviewed. Anti-Tory bias—you must be joking Norm!

Yours fraternally
Martin Dean
North West Leeds
Labour Party

US poor forgotten for 'liberty' celebrations

Dear *Militant*,

This celebration of the Statue of Liberty's one hundredth year is pure 'glitz'. There are seats being sold for \$4,000 to view the pageant.

Restaurants lucky enough to have a view of the Bay and the water festivities are charging \$450 for a luncheon and a look through the window. I am so mad, I hope it gets rained out.

The hoopla includes a huge swearing-in of new citizens.

What will not be shown on the TV screens is the cramping of these new arrivals into inadequate housing and lack of jobs.

It was that way when my father arrived in 1900 to work for \$3 a week. What is there to celebrate about that? This celebration is only for the get-rich-quick entrepreneurs.

Yours fraternally
Betty Traun
New York



Celebrations for the centenary of the statue of liberty are costing millions of dollars.

Classified ads

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Spain 1931

SPANISH REVOLUTION 50th ANNIVERSARY

18 July 1936: Franco's coup marked the beginning of Spanish Civil War

The end of the monarchy

IN THE first of a series of articles to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Spanish Civil War, ALAN WOODS examines the historical background to the explosion of 1936.

The Spanish revolution of 1931-37 was, without doubt, one of the greatest pages in the annals of working class history. Here was a mighty movement of the masses, com-

parable in its sweep and heroism to the present heroic upsurge of the black proletariat of South Africa. The Spanish workers, as Leon Trotsky explained, in these years could have taken power not once, but ten times.

Yet the final result of these struggles and sacrifices was not the dawning of a new day, but 40 years of darkness and reaction. Those who do not wish to repeat the experience are morally bound to ponder its lessons.

Marx and Engels sought the ultimate causes of social development in the development of the means of production. The historical evolution of Spain lagged behind the rest of Europe until the first World War, when neutrality and the markets provided by the combatants permitted a rapid development of industry in centres like Barcelona, Santander and Bilbao.

Even before the War the Spanish workers showed their revolutionary potential in the events of the 'Tragic Week' in 1909 when the workers' resistance to the colonial war in Morocco led to barricade fighting in Barcelona.

The increased strength of the working class found its expression in the revolutionary movements after the War, above all the general strike of 1917.

With the end of the War, the world economic recession hit Spain hardest. Despite the feverish economic growth of the War years, Spanish capitalism remained weak in comparison to its rivals.

Weak capitalism

Spain was still a backward country, in many respects similar to the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America today. In 1936 70 per cent of the population of 24 million lived on the land. Of these, three quarters were landless peasants.

The slow, protracted ignominious decline of Spain with the attendant breakdown of internal trade and communication impeded the process of unification of the different nationalities and regions. The crisis of capitalism now gave a powerful impulse to nationalist movements in Catalonia, Galicia and the Basque Country. The weak, decrepit Spanish bourgeoisie, tied by a thousand strands to the landowning and finance oligarchy, proved utterly incapable of solving these problems and dragging Spain into the 20th Century.

An indication of the impasse was the coup d'état of Primo de Rivera in 1923. The Bonapartist-monarchist dictatorship attempted to 'restore order' by cracking down on the working class.

The Primo de Rivera dictatorship lasted seven years. Yet despite a relative improvement in the economy thanks to the world economic upswing, not one of the underlying problems was solved. Indeed, the fundamental contradictions were exacerbated.

The Wall Street crash shook the Spanish regime to its foundations. By 1930 the 'strong man', de

Rivera, had resigned, handing power to the caretaker government of Berlinguer which lasted for just one year.

Under pressure from below which threatened to provoke a split in the army, Berlinguer resigned in February 1931 and elections were called in April, although in an attempt to minimize the effect, at first only municipal elections were held. As a result of the time-honoured 'cacique' tradition, by which the peasants were coerced by local political bosses, the Right won in the rural areas.

But the landslide victory of the Socialist-Republican candidates in the towns dealt a death blow not only to the dictatorship, but to the monarchy. King Alfonso fled the country. The masses came out onto the streets, the Spanish Revolution had begun.

In the June 1931 general election, the Socialist and Republican parties swept the board. The Socialist Party (PSOE) emerged as the largest party in the Cortes (parliament) with 116 seats. The right wing parties won only 60.

The election result was a spark which kindled a social conflagration. The workers and peasants immediately began to press their demands through direct action. Throughout July and August, there was a wave of strikes led mainly by the anarchists.

The anarchist CNT with about 1.5 million members was the biggest union in 1931, with decisive influence in Catalonia and the South. The socialist UGT had a few hundred thousand, based mainly in Madrid, Bilbao and the Asturias.

The Communist Party, as a result of the criminal Stalinist policies of the 'Third Period' had been reduced to a tiny sect. It probably had no more than 800 members at this time, in the whole of Spain. The Communist Left, a group led by Andrés Nin which nominally claimed to be Trotskyist, was probably as strong as the CP in numbers, although its strength was mainly concentrated in Catalonia.

While nominally a coalition of Socialist and 'Left' Republicans, the Madrid government was dominated by the pressures of the bankers and capitalists. Like Professor Hobsbawm and *Marxism Today*, the PSOE leaders arguing the need to unite with 'progressive forces' handed over control of the government to the 'Left' Republicans who served the interest of Capital.

From the very beginning the Republicans acted as a brake to prevent any serious challenge to the

interests of the ruling class, while behind the 'democratic' facade of Republicanism, the landlords and capitalists were preparing their revenge.

The decisive question facing the Republic was the question of the land. During the 19th century, the church lands had been confiscated and re-sold. But the sole beneficiary of this had been the bourgeoisie, behind whose anti-clerical posturing lay naked material interest. The rural poor, if anything, were worse off after the selling-off of the church estates than before.

Land question

By 1931 the land question had become acute. The appalling conditions of the agricultural labourers in the south had given rise to a series of revolutionary movements in 1903-1906 and during the 'three Bolshevik years' of 1917-1920.

The Stalinists later attempted to justify their counter-revolutionary role by arguing that Spain was still semi-feudal and that the workers had to ally with the 'progressive'

bourgeois to eliminate feudalism in a 'bourgeois democratic revolution.'

However, as in Russia, the Spanish bourgeoisie had emerged too late to play a progressive role. The development of industry had created a powerful proletariat with revolutionary traditions. Any attempt, say, to carry out a thoroughgoing agrarian reform, involving an open confrontation with the great landowning families, would necessarily unleash a violent movement of the workers and peasants which would not stop at confiscating the estates of the grandes, but would inevitably pass over to the socialist tasks of expropriating the banks and industries.

In reality, there was no 'progressive bourgeoisie' in Spain, any more than there had been in Russia. Capitalists, bankers and landlords formed a reactionary bloc hostile to any change which could set in motion the revolutionary masses. Historian Hugh Thomas explains the falsity of the Stalinist argument that the agrarian problem could be reduced to the

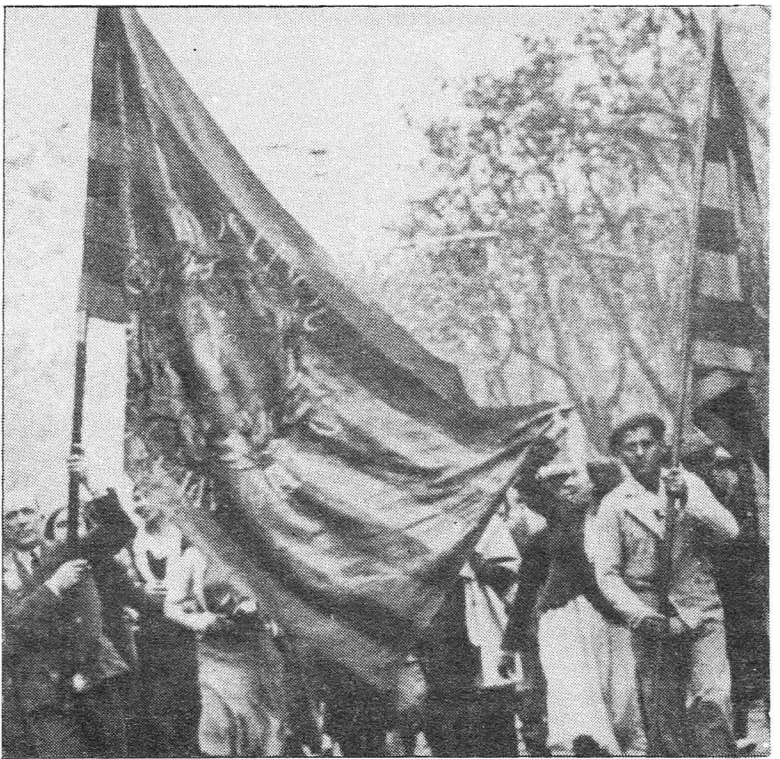
issue of 'feudal remnants':

"The problem of the *latifundia* seemed the more severe one in Spain. Accurate statistics on this matter are difficult to find. Though the church since the 19th century had ceased to be a large proprietor, the nobility continued to be; noble property constituted a quarter of the land in Toledo, an eighth in Cáceres, while perhaps 6 per cent of cultivated land as a whole was in the hands of families of title. Old families, such as the Duques de Medinaceli, Penaranda, Villa Hermosa or Alba, all owned estates of more than 75,000 acres. Nevertheless, most great estates belonged to the bourgeoisie, rather than to the nobility."

(*The Spanish Civil War* p80 my emphasis—AW)

The 'agrarian reform' of the Republic was so full of loopholes and conditions that it was never really intended to tackle the problem. Largo Caballero, the UGT leader, described it as 'an aspirin to cure an appendicitis.'

Next week's issue looks at the events preceding Franco's coup.



Valencia April 1931, crowds rejoice in the fall of the monarchy

Industrial Reports

Liverpool union probe

FINALLY, AFTER weeks of denials, the GMBATU regional officials in Liverpool have admitted in the pages of the *Liverpool Echo* that there will be an investigation into branch number five.

The GMB bureaucracy are following in the footsteps of their bedfellows on the Labour Party NEC by accepting anonymous letters and phonecalls from political malcontents within the union complaining of 'irregularities', 'corruption', etc and using them as a pretext for launching an investigation after they have decided on the verdict and sentence.

Demand answers

Readers of *Militant* will already know why John Edmonds and Co are determined to crush our branch. Branch 5 officers have written to the regional secretary

By a Liverpool branch 5 member

demanding answers to a number of points before the investigation gets under way—Who will be allowed to give evidence to the investigation? Will those making allegations be cross-examined? Can witnesses be called? No reply has been received.

Regional officials are also demanding that the books be handed over for audit of the last three years' accounts, although they will give no reason why they wish to do this and they have refused a request that a branch officer is present during the audit.

One of the full-time officials who will be conducting the investigation is Harry Johnson, a former regional officer for local authorities, who had 90 per cent of the membership in Liverpool pass a vote of no confidence in him during the 'winter of discontent'. This same officer negotiated a 103 hour week, on 50p an hour, for city council watchmen for the static security.

Manoeuvres

The other full-time official involved is Peter Horam, who like most other officers in our union has no industrial experience but worked his way up to the upper echelons like his father by starting as a clerk in the Edge Lane union office straight from school.

Whatever the manoeuvres the right wing in our union

may pull, the membership will be ready. Already the branch has condemned the investigation and last Monday a meeting of the static security unanimously passed a resolution demanding that any persons anonymously giving evidence to Edge Lane should air their grievances to the members first and discuss it in a proper democratic manner.

But the only sure guarantee that this attack on branch 5 is defeated is by the Broad Left campaigning nationally, explaining the real reasons behind this attack on the members. We urge all the Broad Left activists to sell the latest edition of the *General Worker* which explains our branch's case in detail and to invite speakers to branches and pass resolutions opposing this investigation.

Westland strike

WESTLAND Helicopters, recently bought by the American giant Sikorsky company, saw a one-day strike by 2,000 shopfloor workers last week. Action was taken at Yeovil and sister plants in Milton Keynes, Weston-Super-Mare and the Isle of Wight.

Workers want a 5.4 per cent pay rise but management have refused to implement the annual pay review. The six-monthly report showed a profit of £7.8 million but the helicopter division showed a loss of £½ million.

A few weeks ago workers rejected a 3 per cent offer with strings attached. Earlier, the company offered foremen £600 – £700 each to give up collective bargaining and trade union rights. This was rejected, showing that workers, while they gave support to Sikorsky's bid do not trust the new owners and fear that American-style management is being introduced.

By John Grana
(Yeovil Trades Council, personal capacity)

Rail workshop setback

THE TWO to one vote by BREL workers against taking industrial action in defence of their jobs was a blow to activists in the National Union of Railwaymen.

It is not totally surprising, however, since the leadership had no intention of calling anybody on strike, but wanted to use a 'yes' vote to strengthen their negotiations. Because of this, no struggle was waged to win; 6000 workshop staff did not even vote. The leadership just went through the motions of a campaign of speaking up and down the country and no attempt was made to undermine right-wing leaders.

Now the depots directly affected must start a co-ordinated campaign, appealing to other depots for support to save their jobs. The ink has not yet dried and they are already looking at



NUR General Secretary Knapp, closing Saltley works. This shows that they are not content with the job cuts already made and that more workshops will be closed before privatisation. This is far from the end of the fight to save workshop jobs, so material should be produced now to prepare for future struggles.

By Andy Viner

Irish workers fight ICTU split

OVER 100 Loyalists, members of the sectarian 'Workers '86 Committee', carrying 'Ulster says no' placards, picketed the opening of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions conference in Belfast on 1 July.

Posters displayed outside the conference centre accused the ICTU of being from 'a foreign hostile state... led by Republicans and Communists'. The ICTU "should be sent back to Dublin where they belong" and "Ulster workers should leave the ICTU and join the British TUC".

This last piece of 'advice' is designed to force a sectarian split within the trade unions in Northern Ireland. (Already Loyalist workers at Ballylumford power station have threatened to withhold contributions to the GMBATU if it does not sever links with the ICTU).

The stance of the so-called 'leaders' of the trade unions in Ireland to the rising tide of sectarianism would give the impression that there is nothing really to worry about. They are consciously throwing dust into the eyes of workers. The outgoing

president of the ICTU stated: "The trade union movement in Ireland must remain neutral in the debate on the Anglo-Irish Agreement".

The point was taken up by the delegate from the Derry Trades Council in its unsuccessful attempt to change the constitution of the ICTU to allow for debate and action on political questions: "To those who say that such issues are divisive and will destroy the unity of the ICTU, we say this: what kind of class unity are we talking about? Is our class

unity so fragile that it cannot withstand an open, honest, frank exchange of views? If the unity of the ICTU is so paper thin then how are we going to defeat the capitalists and imperialists who control the country? Only a class unity based on principles and fraternal debate has the strength and staying power to create the socialist Ireland we all desire".

By Bill Webster
(Chairman, Labour and Trade Union Group)

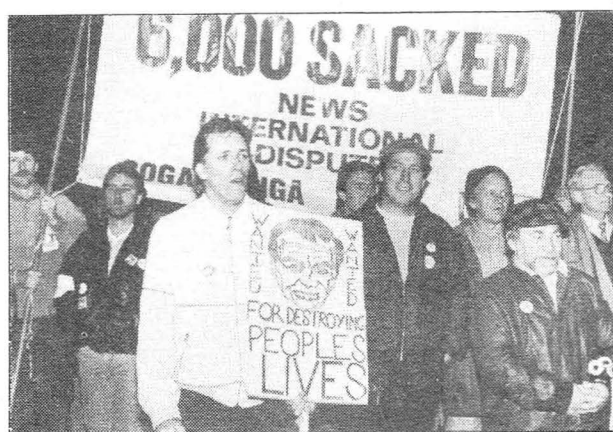
Magnificent support for printers

JOHN BREEN, Deputy Father of Chapel in the National Graphical Association at the *News of the World*, who has been picketing and collecting funds for the fight to defend the workers sacked by Rupert Murdoch, spoke to Peter Jarvis (London NGA) about the struggle which is now nearly six months old:

6 We have been forced to look at where we can gain support for our dispute. We took our own initiatives, without the 'blessing' of senior union officials. Invitations grew after the publicity surrounding the events at Wapping, especially on Saturday nights. Thousands of trade unionists from all over the country have seen the search lights, barbed wire, helicopter videos and the fortress.

The most moving thing that has been arranged was with NUPE workers in the North East earning extremely low wages. The management refused permission for the meeting. To the credit of the workers they struck for 24 hours so as to listen to our case. Their parting gift was a £50 cheque to the hardship fund.

We also spoke to the Waterford glass workers in Ireland who donated £1,000 to our funds. We have spoken everywhere. As soon as you start talking to the shop floor they stop and listen and they are willing to



Printers keep up the pressure on Murdoch.

help. Further we tapped in to the miners' support groups that had lain dormant since the end of their strike. These have been used to help promote the boycott campaign.

Miners' support

The miners have been magnificent. I have spoken at a number of collieries and almost overnight a 100 per cent boycott has been imposed. Money has poured in. But we need printers based in the areas collecting money and preparing for the trips.

What this strike is really about is the employer demanding that the pre-entry closed shop will no longer be tolerated. He will not recognise unions or legally binding agreements and will have the unfettered right to manage, to hire, to fire, to promote

or demote, to lay off.

We have had beatings and over a thousand arrests. We have seen police brutality. The miners on 18 June 1984 had Orgreave. On 3 May 1986 we had our Orgreave in Wapping. There was evidence that night, seen by trade union officials, of tear gas and baton rounds.

I understand that Hammond met Murdoch. I do not know what has come out of it. As yet there may be more talks. I am not interested in Hammond, having cut our throat without one of his members on strike, now proposing to apply a bandage to keep the head on. The EETPU should be expelled from the TUC. The print unions must move this at the next congress. If it does nothing else it will raise the issue.



Hospital workers march in Beckenham to raise money to fight against famine in Africa and to highlight the threat of underfunding to the future of vital children's wards at Maudsley Hospital.

Photo: Jez Coulson (IFL).

Wapping police debate

THE 180 seat committee room at the House of Commons was filled to capacity to hear the debate of the week—between Sir Eldon Griffiths, Tory spokesman for the Police Federation, and Dave Nellist MP on the role of the police at Wapping.

It was organised by the LPYS—the biggest contingent was from the London Young Socialists, together with sacked printers. A handful of young Conservatives turned up. LPYS members were well received when they leafleted the picket line at Wapping the previous Saturday.

Griffiths blamed the violence on the May Day picket on 'outside agitators'. But Dave Nellist said there were similarities between

the police tactics at Wapping and at Orgreave during the miners' strike. A young SOGAT member, Jim Mason, said that the May Day violence was caused by a police riot, and said he had seen a policeman throw a flare which started it. Sarah Fox, a young socialist from Wapping said that her sister had been stopped four times in one night by police.

A member of the Federation of Conservative Students backed up the role of the police and suggested that they be privatised.

Dave Nellist got a standing ovation when summed up with an appeal to defend the printers and join the Labour Party.

By Mick Moore
(London LPYS)

Industrial Reports

Welsh strikers arrested after sit-in

IN A dispute at the Port Talbot assembly plant of Tudor Garden Products, the 30-strong workforce, predominantly under the age of 25, occupied their factory for two weeks.

Management then forcibly regained control of the factory. All the strikers were arrested, even in their own homes. Three have been charged with 'criminal damage' and 'theft'.

The following day all the strikers were issued with dismissal notices, not for the charges of theft and criminal damage, but simply for taking industrial action.

The pay and conditions imposed by management could no longer

be tolerated and forced the workers to organise and join the AEU.

For full-time workers, wages of £1.16 per hour paid for working four 12-hour shifts were no longer acceptable. This was not the same for all those employed. A significant number had wages met by the government-sponsored Young Workers Scheme. Philip Samuel, along with others, received a gross wage of £50 per week for working four ten-hour shifts, including nights. At least two other workers were not officially employed but received 'under the counter' payments. A young female full-time worker recently left employment—her reward, a week's

wage, a week in hand and two weeks holiday pay, totalling £120!

Prior to taking industrial action, shop steward John Beddow attempted to negotiate better pay, less hours and union recognition, but management discounted any dialogue until the quality of work improved. The quality achieved is remarkable considering the 'clapped out' second-hand and unguarded machinery I was shown!

Exploitation

The necessary motivation for these capitalist parasites is profit and none more so than these small tin-pot employers who, squeezed

by their bigger and more competitive counterparts, attempt to drain the last drop of sweat and blood from their workforce. One 17 year old showed me the primitive hand assembly of garden spray bottles. These bottles retail for £10 each and he is required to complete at least 60 each shift. Being on a scheme, the employer does not even pay his wage yet his labour provides a potential of £2,400 per week income for the company.

On top of this exploitation there is very little outlay on premises. The unit they occupy is one of several provided on a lucrative two-year subsidy by the Welsh Develop-

ment Agency. That period is now coming to an end and rumours already suggest that this company, like the others before them, will cut and run and relocate elsewhere.

Donations and messages of support urgently required. Please send to: John Beddow, AEU shop steward, or Dillwyn Bromham, Treasurer, c/o 24 Auburn Avenue, Sandfields, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan. Cheques payable to: N Michael.

By Ian McDonald
(Swansea Labour Party)

CPSA

From back page

tract. The standard contract produced in court itself explicitly recognises that the GS shall be elected by the membership.

The judge even accepted that the NEC, instead of giving effect to the rules on the election of GS, was frustrating the process by keeping John out. The practical effect, he admitted, was that the elected candidate was excluded from office while the defeated candidate, Ellis, who happened to be the deputy GS, was left in a powerful position of authority.

The judge said he did not believe the normal rules could operate in this case, because the GS was responsible for 'receiving' complaints about the election. He discounted John Macreadie's clear undertaking to delegate this role to an entirely independent inquiry—and ignored the fact that as a result of his ruling, John's political opponents would be in key positions during the inquiry.



CPSA conference wanted democracy not right wing scheming.

"I am not interested in the political factions," the judge said: "But I cannot see how the rules can be construed in any other way."

John Macreadie's lawyers, who made CPSA conference's real intentions crystal clear, were very sur-

prised by the terms of the judgement. CPSA members will be outraged that legalistic reinterpretation of the rule book by a judge has been used to justify the action of a right wing clique in overturning the result of a democratic election.

The Broad Left, who backed his candidacy, believe that John Macreadie has nothing to fear from a fairly conducted inquiry.

However, there are well-founded fears that the right wing faction which controls the union's apparatus will manipulate the investigation to bump up support for Ellis and undermine Macreadie's vote. There are especially fears about Chamber's role in administering this enquiry, and above all because she has the final say on whether or not there will be a re-run.

Confidence

Nevertheless, John Macreadie expressed confidence that after an inquiry he would still be general secretary. "If there is a re-run election, I am sure I will be re-elected. The members clearly voted for change, and they will get change."

After the court decision, leading members of the Broad Left said that they would be calling on members to campaign for a special delegate conference to reverse the NEC's undemocratic decision to block John Macreadie's appointment. Many branches were already calling meetings to register protest, and there will undoubtedly be a flood of resolutions condemning the NEC majority and demanding John's appointment.

Cash is urgently needed to cover the cost of John Macreadie's legal action. The right wing will be presenting their bill to the union! John Macreadie's action, which is part of the battle to defend democracy in the CPSA depends on support from the rank and file. Send cash urgently to Martyn Jenkins, CPSA Broad Left secretary, 48 Elsinore Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 2SL.

JOHN MACREADIE has written to the right wing President:

"If the right wing group on the Executive are confident that they are acting in good faith, for the sole purpose of advancing the interests of the members and in line with the policies and principles of conference, then I challenge you and the right wing executive to use your powers under rule 7.2 to call a special delegate conference and let the conference decide."

NUJ to ditch Jimmy Roberts?



Trade unionists at Nalco HQ demonstrate in support of Jimmy Roberts.

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

VICTIMISED journalist Jimmy Roberts, who has been jobless since being sacked by NALGO in April 1985, is now fighting to prevent the NUJ's NEC from withdrawing his victimisation benefit.

When they sacked Roberts, NALGO's leaders claimed he had leaked a confidential document to Derek Hatton, Deputy Leader of Liverpool City Council, a charge he strenuously denied.

The so-called 'evidence' against him is entirely circumstantial and focused mainly on his politics. He is a Militant supporter.

Two strikes of NALGO's staff—one lasting a few days, the second lasting two weeks—failed to achieve Roberts' reinstatement. The issue was then taken to NALGO's annual con-

ference and delegates decisively backed the staff unions and condemned the behaviour of their own NEC.

Nonetheless, NALGO's NEC which had already chosen to ignore the views of the staff unions also ignored the views of their own conference and Jimmy Roberts was not reinstated.

Compelling

The NUJ chapel at NALGO then imposed a boycott of his post, which remained in force until November of last year. It was lifted in response to pressure from press office staff who complained about the extra work arising from the boycott.

In July of last year, the NUJ's NEC declared Roberts a victimised member

and agree to pay him victimisation benefit.

This was the situation until last month's meeting of the NEC which surprisingly resolved that Roberts should no longer be regarded as victimised and should no longer be paid victimisation benefit, unless he was able to show "compelling reasons" why this should not happen by the time of the union's finance and resources committee meeting on 16 July.

Already the NUJ chapel at NALGO and Roberts' NUJ branch (Press and Public Relations) have registered their unanimous disapproval of the NEC's pre-emptory action, and have supported the continued payment of victimisation benefit.

Roberts, who is married with a baby son, told Militant: "The NEC decision came like a bolt from the

blue. I still have not received any explanation of why this drastic step is being threatened after 12 months of being regarded as victimised".

Indignity

"I would far rather be at work earning my living but the way I was sacked by NALGO has effectively placed me on the blacklist. If the union withdraws its financial support I will be forced to seek assistance from the DHSS to get the means to live.

"I think my family has suffered long enough at the hands of the NALGO leadership without having to endure more suffering and indignity at the hands of my own union".

Support needed for Kenure workers

ON WEDNESDAY 14 May the management of Kenure Plastics, Central Way, Feltham locked out 50 members of staff. Management tried to change the hours of work from eight to 12 a day without consultation.

When the workers refused to accept this they were locked out and yet the 12 hour shift would be contrary to their contracts of employment. Many of the workers, most of whom are Asian, are only earning £94 a week. These are poverty wages when you consider the cost of living in London.

Management's response to this dispute has been to bring in scab labour from a private agency in Ealing to undermine the confidence of the workforce. In response workers are mounting a 24-hour picket line around the factory and have joined the AEU.

Money needed

They have also approached the Labour Party, the Trades Council and other factories in the area for financial and physical support. The factory

workers next to Kenure have already raised over £200 of support and a local collection is underway through Hounslow NALGO.

For more information on the picket line contact: The Workers' Support Unit, 18 Staines Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 3JS.

By Ian O'Hara
(Hounslow NALGO, personal capacity)

Militant

STOP THE expulsions! Lobby Labour's NEC in support of Cheryl Varley and Felicity Dowling. Thursday 24 July from 8am at 150 Walworth Road, London, SE17. Women's Section members from the North West are calling on women Labour Party members to join the lobby.

CPSA-Court backs right coup

EXPLOITING AN outrageous legal loophole, a High Court judge backed the CPSA right wing's unprecedented refusal to accept the election of John Macreadie as the union's new general secretary.

The court refused (15 July) John Macreadie an injunction restraining the right-dominated national executive from indefinitely deferring his appointment as general secretary and giving responsibility for investigating alleged electoral irregularities to the electoral reform society 'in association with' the 'moderate' president, Marion Chambers.

Never before have officers or NEC members, in spite of narrow majorities, and long-drawn-out inquiries, been barred until the completion of investigations.

Nobody seriously believes that if the right's candidate,

By Brian Ingham

Ellis, had won by a single vote he would not now be General Secretary. The right would have contemptuously dismissed any complaints saying that the normal inquiry procedure would be held.

"Travesty"

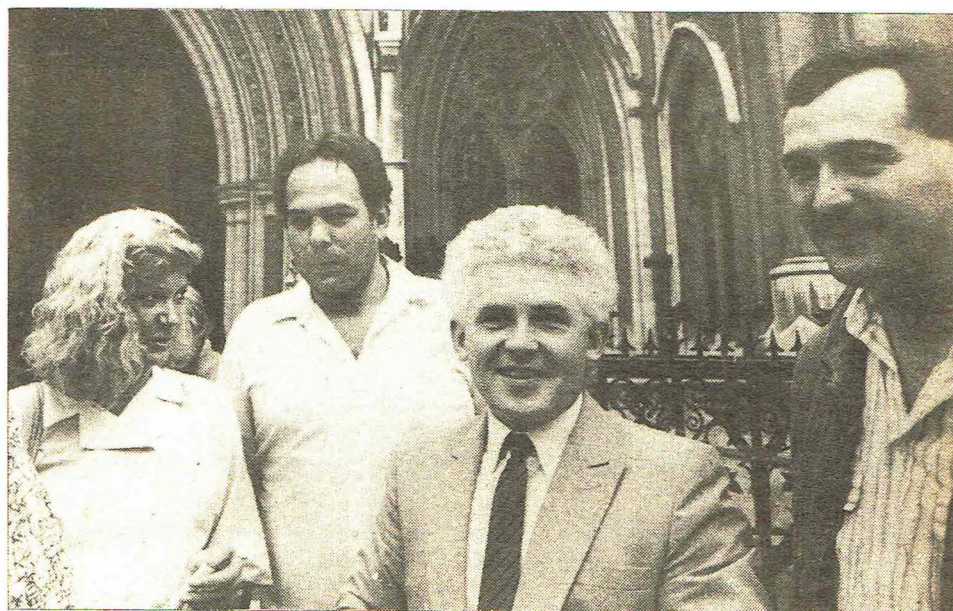
Mr Justice Vinelott, however, ruled that as John Macreadie had not yet been given a contract of employment he was not yet appointed as general secretary—and that the

NEC, in his view, was entitled to defer his appointment while the investigation was carried out.

"This is a travesty of justice," John Macreadie said afterwards: "The members regard me as general secretary, and they will be incensed at this ruling." The judge was allowing the right wing to make up the rules as they go along.

"No allegation of misconduct in the election had been made against me personally", John Macreadie emphasised. "By blocking my appointment the right are in effect prejudging the ballot inquiry and attempting to discredit me".

John made it clear that his quarrel was not with the union but with the right wing clique abusing its democratic processes. The union itself had been made "party to the



John Macreadie at the High Court

action" at the insistence of the right wing's lawyers and against John's wishes.

Rank and file

He had gone to court reluctantly, but felt he had no choice but to demonstrate that he had exhausted every means of ensuring his rightful appointment on 14 July. The judgment had confirmed that the real decision lies with the rank and file

members who must energetically fight to ensure the appointment of their elected candidate.

The judge's ruling accepted that John had been declared elected in a branch circular sent out by the former general secretary, Alistair Graham, in the normal way. He ruled, however, that John had not been appointed general secretary!

Unlike the president and

NEC members the GS was a full time officer and as such required a contract of employment. According to the judge, it was up to the NEC when it agreed such a contract.

The judge brushed aside the fact that the constitution and rules make it mandatory for the NEC to give the general secretary a con-

(Continued on page fifteen)

Back S. African workers' fight

DESPITE THE draconian state of emergency, despite the detention of hundreds of leading union activists, South African workers have stepped up their resistance.

14 July saw tens of thousands participating in a day of protest called by COSATU, especially strongly in the Eastern Cape. General Motors in Port Elizabeth was forced to close at midday, while the stoppage by East London municipal workers was totally effective.

These strikes and disruption follow three weeks of rolling strike action in the mines, transport, supermarkets and metal industry.

School students too have braved the apartheid

regime's clampdown. In many schools, up to 50 per cent boycotted the return after an extended winter break. Strict new regulations have been introduced to weed out political activists from the schools.

Release

The workers' heroism has at least prevented the state reaction from going as far as it might. It has secured the release of COSATU president Elijah Barayi and three other union leaders.

It was no accident that they were freed a few days before the day of action. But this also shows the effect of even the modest pressure so far applied to South Africa.

Workers internationally must dramatically escalate their solidarity action with those in detention, and with the South African working class fighting for an end to apartheid and capitalism.

"The support from the British working class will be decisive in our struggle", said South African NUM president James Motlatsi, on his recent visit. "We are fighting the same enemy, the same multinationals who operate in South Africa for their own profits".

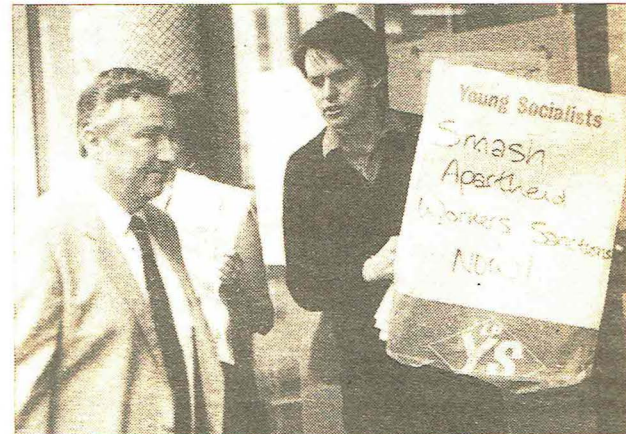
"We want sanctions now. If Thatcher is not prepared to do it, the working class here should impose sanctions. We are calling on the British TUC before South African workers lose faith in

you, go back to what you were years ago and organise support for us".

Following a TUC delegate meeting on South Africa on 14 July, the 23 July General Council will discuss a three-day workers' ban on handling South African goods. This may be organised to coincide with the Commonwealth leaders' meeting in London on 3 to 5 August.

Workers' blockade

While at the moment this is being discussed as a means to push the government into sanctions, rank and file trade unionists must still demand their leaders implement these proposals at the very least. The Labour Party Young



LPYS lobby the TUC on 14 July.

Socialists will be lobbying the meeting from 8.30am at TUC headquarters.

A wholehearted campaign for this action by the union leaders could elicit a massive response, and would demonstrate the potential for a longer-term workers' blockade of South Africa.

Whether or not Thatcher

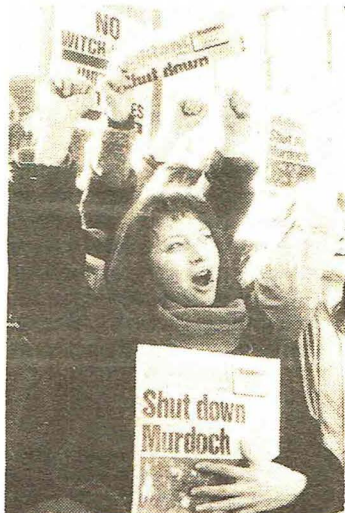
is finally compelled to introduce cosmetic sanctions, only the international labour movement can be relied upon to isolate apartheid, and defend their South African comrades.

By Jeremy Birch

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