

# Militant

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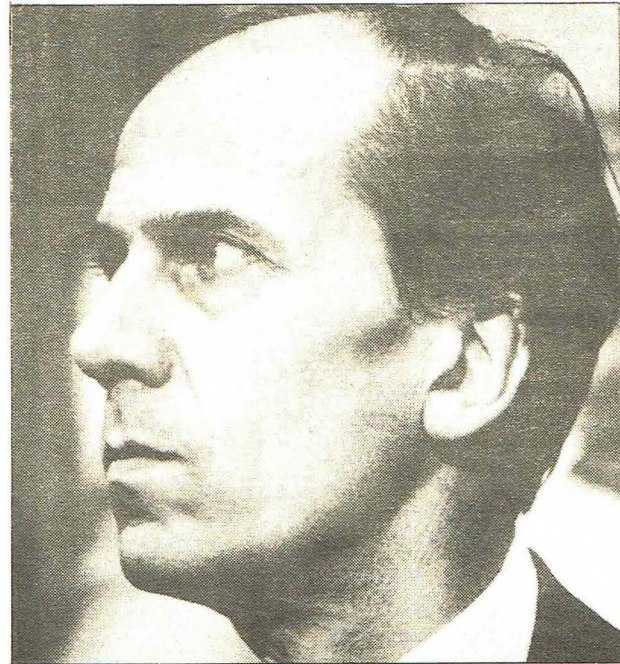
Inside...

Labour's conference

Analysis—Pages 8-9

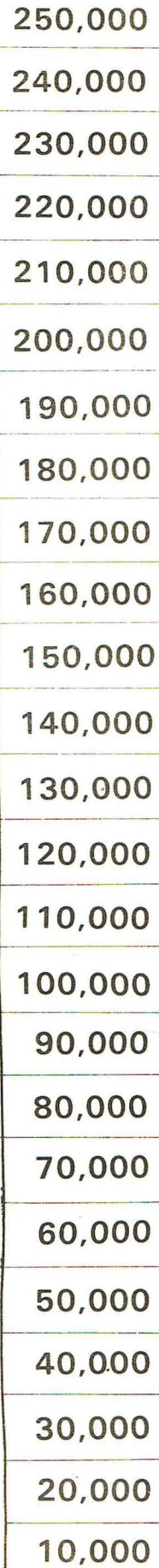
Reports—Page 4

# Tories don't care



## Militant Fighting Fund

£250,000



## Let's kick them out

ELECTION TIME is approaching and this week's Tory Party conference has been trying to kid us that the government care.

They will have a tough job. Opinion polls say most people think Thatcher and her cabinet are insincere, untrustworthy and uncaring. Most people are right.

We can't wait until '88

to get them out. Join the Labour Party Young Socialists' demonstration on 18 October. Follow the example of Newcastle CPSA who have booked a coach. Further education students in Liverpool have booked six coaches. The London jobs march has already raised £4,000 (See reports page 5).

## LPYS demo Tories Out

Saturday 18 October  
Assemble 11.30am Southwark Park, London SE16. March to Trafalgar Square.

### About jobs

- ★ Only 7 per cent of people are satisfied with the government's record on jobs.
- ★ They have thrown three million on the scrap heap to create record unemployment and record levels of bankruptcies.
- ★ Manufacturing investment has gone down 25 per cent destroying whole industries.

### About education

- ★ Teachers' jobs cut by around 10 per cent.
- ★ 60,000 higher education places have vanished with a further 15 per cent cut due by 1990.
- ★ Local authorities which try to keep up spending are threatened with rate-capping or even suspension.

### About health

- ★ Only one in seven believes the NHS is safe with the Tories.
- ★ They have forced through cuts and redundancies by cash limits at local level.
- ★ National spending has not kept pace with NHS prices or increased need.
- ★ As with education Tories favour private schemes. ie rationing through wealth.
- The Tories care for only one thing—profit

ERIC BATES, from Broadgreen received his first pay packet for £79 and handed it over unopened to our Fighting Fund.  
Tony Priddle, a building worker from West London, has given us £100 with another £200 to come. £1,691 was raised at Labour Party conference.  
Some examples of the excellent response to our campaign to raise a quarter of a million by the beginning of December! See page 7.



# Militant

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## Fear of defeat haunts Tories

THE SPECTRE of past election defeats is haunting this year's Tory Conference. Despite the painstaking stage-management, the speechified optimism, and the predictable ovations, the spectre is ever-present, looking over the shoulder of every delegate and breathing down the neck of every government minister.

Almost universally the press is speculating about whether or not it is possible for the Tories to avoid the general election defeat now predicted by every opinion poll. The strident, radical and abrasive phase of the Tory government, it is argued, must now give way to consolidation, and a softer image.

Even the most loyal Tory MPs are contemplating the possibility of a defeat. Teddy Taylor MP an ardent admirer of Thatcher, commenting on 1945, feared the Party "could be heading for a similar shock to that sustained by Churchill". (*Guardian* 6 October 1986).

Tory die-hards and dozens of resolutions on the agenda complain about the inadequate "presentation" of Tory policies. But more astute Tories see through this. "It is fashionable" writes Julian Critchley, "for governments in difficulty to put the blame for their unpopularity on 'poor presentation'. This is, of course, nonsense; but it is a device which serves to reassure the party faithful."

"The public is worried," he continues, "about the quality of education, the availability of National Health Service care, and about the social and economical consequences of unemployment". His blunt message to Norman Tebbit is to "leave the sandbags at home. And for God's sake keep out of the pulpit."

The Tories have good cause to fear the coming general election. Their policies have opened up a gulf between the social classes on a scale not seen since the 1930s. The bitter miners' strike was a watershed, demonstrating the class conflict developing as a result of Tory policy and the crushing crisis of British capitalism. Tory wets, bishops and even, reportedly, the Palace, were wincing visibly at this evidence of the growing chasm between the classes.

On every one of the key questions that concern workers today there is an overwhelming opposition to Tory policies. According to the *Guardian* Marplan poll, 87 per cent of voters believe Tory policies on jobs have failed. That is hardly a surprise, but 78 per cent believe the same on the health service, 77 per cent on the standards in schools, and 75 per cent on "protecting the weak". Even among Tory voters, 77 per cent believe Tory policies have failed on employment.

Probably the single most important step that could be taken to refurbish the image of the party would be the replacement of Thatcher herself. This is not completely ruled out, but those in opposition seem to have left it too late and the wets in the Party now seem resigned to fighting the next election under her leadership.

Thatcherism has demonstrated in the starkest possible terms the impasse faced by British capitalism. But the harshness, cruelty and cuts in living standards have not been a result of the personal characteristics of Thatcher and her Cabinet. They have been the logical expression of the need of the capitalist class, facing irreversible decline and decay, to drive down living standards and curtail the democratic rights of organised workers.

It is as a reaction to the crisis and to those policies that class conflicts have been sharpened in recent years and that there is a huge groundswell of opposition to the government.

The Labour Party is marvellously well placed to exploit the unpopularity of the Tories and win an election triumph. But there is a warning for Labour. The more the Tories are detested for their mass unemployment, their decimation of health and education the more that workers will expect Labour to change things and reverse the Tories' cuts. Unless however the Labour government has a programme that will deal concretely with these issues then that government also will face disillusionment, anger, and a collapse of its support.

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Mass trespass at Coulport to oppose new Trident missile bases—part of a weekend of activity against nuclear weapons organised by CND. 45,000 people linked arms across Scotland on Sunday.

Photo: John Harris (FL)

## NI Unions to act against intimidation

THE NORTHERN Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (NICTU) has launched a campaign against sectarianism and intimidation. A major conference is being held on 25 October in Belfast.

Leafletting and postering is planned for all the cities and main towns with the support of the trades councils.

The NICTU leaders have been pressurised into action by the trade union rank and file and by the activists within the movement.

Bus workers, DHSS

workers and council workers have taken strike action to resist the bigots. Since the beginning of the year, the Labour and Trade Union Group have spearheaded a campaign inside the trade union movement for a conference of the entire movement.

But the plans for the conference itself are totally inadequate.

It is only scheduled to last for two and a half hours, from 10.15am to 12.45. This includes the chairman's opening address, the procedural arrangements, and

the vice-chairman's concluding comments. This leaves less than an hour and a half for discussion.

While 500 community groups are being invited to send up to six delegates each, no provision is being made for the trade union branches to send delegates. NICTU leaders are also pushing for the churches and the employers to attend.

In their statement of principles, the NICTU leaders are urging the main political parties to devise arrangements which meet the main needs and aspirations

of working people, and eliminate poverty, poor housing and deprivation of all kinds. This is ridiculous, given the role of these anti-working class parties over the past 17 years.

In Northern Ireland, political parties are either Tory, sectarian or both, and offer no solution to the problems which beset workers. The only conclusion to be drawn is that the trade union movement needs its own political voice—a party fighting on a clear socialist programme.

## Sales success

THE SALES campaign showed some of the potential which exists to boost the sales of our paper. From all over the country reports are coming in of new sales which were organised for the first time and increasing numbers sold at established sales.

Despite the attempt by the media to present the Labour Party Conference as a triumph for the right wing interest in the *Militant* was greater than ever. Over 700 papers were sold during the week at the conference and 100 were sold in Blackpool town centre on the Saturday before the conference.

Swansea sellers have doubled their sales in the city and surrounding estates.

Our sellers got a tremendous response on the Cable Street march with the centre page article going down very well. Over 150 copies of the paper were sold.

Also 40 were sold at the dole queues in Rochdale, 8 at GEC in Manchester, 45 were sold on the street in Carmarthen and 20 on an estate sale in Llanelli. These regular weekly sales are crucial steps in laying the base for a daily paper. So don't get discouraged if at first you don't sell dozens—keep it up and let us know.

By Dave Fryatt

SWANSEA SELLERS have doubled their sales in the city and surrounding estates.

Over 60 were sold on the Townhill estate. Sellers are planning a *Militant* public meeting with Tony Mulhearn speaking. (15 October at Townhill Community centre 7.30pm).

Right wingers have attempted to get the meeting called off but several local residents objected.

Meanwhile Townhill's right-wing councillor, and City Council leader, Lewis, has just opened a new branch of Barclays—noted for its dealings with South Africa.

By Pete Rodgers

## Auntie gets true-blue Duke

NEW CHAIRMAN of the BBC Marmaduke Hussey should be just the man to sort out alleged "left-wing bias".

In 1978 as managing director and chief executive of Times Newspapers, he tried to take on the print unions—and lost. The paper was off the streets for 11 months.

But he has all the right connections. In his teens, he was an officer in the Grenadier Guards. Then, he went to Trinity College, Oxford before moving into newspaper management. He is now a director of a number of companies.

His wife, Lady Susan, is the elder sister of Tory Environment Minister William

Waldegrave, and the Queen's most senior lady-in-waiting.

Hardly surprising, then, that "Duke", as he is known, always votes Tory!

And despite his reported astonishment at his appointment it's hardly a surprising choice to bring the Corporation back to Mrs Thatcher's heels.

Jake Ecclestone, deputy general secretary of the NUJ, hit the nail on the head when he said; "Mr Hussey's background does not give me any confidence that he is equipped to defend the public interest in broadcasting against Government interference and privatisation."

Royal Albert Hall  
**Militant**  
**RALLY '86**

Tickets £4

Sunday 16 November

Speakers: Ted Grant, Peter Taaffe, Tony Mulhearn, Derek Hatton, Nimrod Sejake

★ Videos ★ Exhibitions

Order your ticket now! From *Militant* Rally, 3/13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB.



# Knowsley demands right to choose

MEMBERS OF Knowsley North Labour Party are incensed at the suspension of the party's reselection process. They are determined to choose their own parliamentary candidate.

The party has demanded that the inquiry into Euro MP Les Huckfield's nomination is concluded within a week. It says that the selection conference must be held before the end of the month when parliament sits.

Party Officers have contacted the national executive committee to arrange a meeting to resolve the reselection problem.

The Liberals have been threatening to move the writ for the by-election. Party activists believe that the right-wing on the national executive committee aim to impose a right-wing candidate, using the excuse that time is running out.

A special general management committee meeting last Friday demanded that the party is allowed to exercise its democratic right to choose a candidate.

An emergency motion was passed expressing unwillingness to play a part "collectively or individually" in any selection process, or the subsequent by-election, unless a selection conference takes place with all the nominations so far declared.

The selection conference was due to

take place on 12 October. The procedure has been carried out with scrupulous care by ward parties and trade unions.

The inquiry team set up by the national executive committee to look into Les Huckfield's nomination, includes veterans of the Liverpool District party inquiry such as Charles Turnock. That inquiry led to the expulsions of seven Liverpool members. Suspicions have been aroused that the Knowsley inquiry is on a similar mission.

Militant supporters have always held the view that they will work to elect a Labour candidate to keep out the Tories and Liberals. The delay and confusion aroused by the NEC's actions can only assist Labour's enemies.

Any candidate imposed by the national executive against the party's will would have to face reselection after the next general election.

Resolutions defending Knowsley's rights should be rushed to the NEC with copies to the party secretary, Mike Maguire, 65 Coplehouse Lane, Fazakerley, Liverpool 10.

★ The reference in last week's article to Labour Party officials "monitoring the whole procedure" should have referred to Knowsley North's selection meeting and not the Merseyside East constituency party meeting.



# 'They shall never pass'

## "Don't give up"

AS I walked through Toxteth, a black lad, a complete stranger, asked me my name. When I told him it was Richard Venton, he said:

"I thought so, I work for the council. I'm 21 and I never had a job until the last two years."

He let his mate go on, and stayed for 15 minutes to discuss the expulsions and the city council. The goodwill shown for Liverpool's socialists was captured in some of his phrases.

Pointing to new council building he said, "There was nothing there since 1981,

now the council are building homes. Round here we've had nothing but crap until Labour took over. You can't argue with that."

Referring to the expulsions he added, "I've been in court and I know you don't get justice but if somebody comes as a witness against you, you get to answer him. You people didn't even get that. What's Kinnock afraid of? Did he think you'd buy off the cameramen?"

As he left, he shook my hand and said, "Keep fighting Richie—don't give up your struggle."

**50 YEARS after the Battle of Cable Street, Londoners again took to the East End streets on Saturday to demonstrate their opposition to the fascists.**

About 5,000 people joined the march, which went past the scenes of many recent racist attacks.

Leading the parade were the veterans of Cable Street, who had stood firm against Mosley's blackshirts and forced them into retreat.

As 75 year old Arthur Shute explained, "The street was just packed with people for about three quarters of a mile. We just stood there as the police tried to clear a way for the fascists to get through. But they could not do it."

"It was probably the most inspiring experience of my life. Anyone who was interested in the labour movement and was in London on that day—you were duty bound to go to the East End."

"In those days, there was a much more militant attitude. Every weekend there would be a battle on street corners all over London," he said.

### Vigilance

Gerry Ross said, "Fascism is either at your throat or at your knees. In 1936 it was at our throat. In 1939 it was at our throat. In 1945 we believed it was at our knees—but the price of peace is eternal vigilance."

"At that time, there were people at the highest levels who secretly, and even openly, would have welcomed fascism in this country. It was no accident that the police used every means possible to try and get the fascists through—they had been given their instructions from the highest level."

"But there are still people in high positions today who look with friendly eye on the racists and fascists of South Africa."

Solly Kaye said, "The



Above: Gerry Ross, veteran of the Cable St anti-fascist demonstration 50 years ago. Below: Young Socialists from Hackney and Tower Hamlets on the anniversary demonstration last Saturday.



lesson has not been learned. There is a lot of work to be done in order to rid the people of this country and the world of menace of racism.

"I have a marvellous picture in my mind of the women of Quinn Street chasing the blackshirts out."

The 1986 version was predominantly young.

"You don't have to think

it through, you just come to fight against the racial attacks," explained 20 year old Sally Pye from Hackney.

Linda Douglas, the LPYS representative on the Labour Party's NEC, also joined the march.

"It was all very worthwhile—a show of strength by the Labour movement, marching

through all the places where fascists hung out. But it mustn't end here.

"The same people who went on the demo must be prepared to mobilise whenever the local community needs them," she said.

By Jane Lincoln

## Asian boy killed in racist attack

ON 17 September a 13 year old Asian boy, Ahmed Iqbal Ullah was murdered on his way to his school in Manchester, allegedly by a 13 year old white boy who attended the same school.

The shock and grief of the community was shown when over 1,000 attended a special memorial service for the boy on 23 September. A march called at a day's notice attracted over 500 and was joined by black and white youth from the school.

### Bullying

The Bangladeshi community were proud that Ahmed had stood up alone on occasions for other Asian students against racist bullying at the school.

All evidence points towards a racist motive for the attack, but police have concluded that this wasn't the case. A number of other

racist incidents had occurred previously at the school, and a local paper reported that recently the situation had become so bad that some Asian pupils had to leave the school 15 minutes before the white pupils.

After the attack, the Manchester Evening News refused to print a statement by the Manchester City Council calling for an inquiry into the events.

The Manchester Bangladeshi Association are also calling for an inquiry and for steps to be taken to help eradicate racialism in schools.

The inquiry must involve school trade unions, council representatives and representatives from the Asian community. Emergency action must be taken to ensure the safety of black students in schools.

Withington LPYS are calling a public meeting against the attack.

Photos: Mark Sorill



# LABOUR PARTY '86 CONFERENCE

# Reports and comment

## Labour's youth fight for their rights



Young Socialists protesting at the chair's refusal to take a vote on the reference back.

Photos: Dave Sinclair

**THE FUTURE of Labour's youth organisation, the Labour Party Young Socialists (LPYS) hangs in the balance after a vote for a consultation process about changes in the LPYS structure was railroaded through the party conference.**

Although many of the proposals will be welcomed, especially a move to involve more young trade unionists, others are a danger to the LPYS's democracy and independence. It is particularly vital to defend the right of the LPYS conference to formulate its own programme for youth and to elect its representative on the party's national executive. A move to reduce the age limit to 21 must also be fought.

The conference debate on Youth Organisation was unfortunately shunted to after five o'clock on Thursday afternoon when the television cameras were off and a marvellous opportunity to reach thousands of young people was missed.

### Young workers

A resolution moved by Margaret Lynch of Glasgow Hillhead attacked the LPYS for its sectarianism. She made slurs upon the reputation of the LPYS although she had to wrap up her attack by referring to the need

By Frances Curran

to win young workers to the Labour Party.

In contrast Mike Morris, Liverpool West Derby, defended the record of the LPYS and stressed the overriding issue for young people was, 'Jobs, jobs, jobs', and the Labour Party had to address itself to that.

Tommy Sheridan, Glasgow Pollok, and LPYS National Committee, powerfully described the conditions faced by young people. "The LPYS will work with NOLS, NUS, Red Wedge and the trade unions to elect a Labour government" he said, "but the LPYS will fight just as hard for youth under Labour as we do under the Tories".

Eric Segal, Folkestone and Hythe, to loud applause from the NUM delegation, told conference how "The NUM and LPYS jointly organised a demonstration and rally in Elvington village, Kent, when 600

miners, their families and young socialists marched, led by the present LPYS National Chair John Ellen".

When the chair of conference tried to move to the summing up in an attempt to curtail the debate, John Ellen immediately got to the rostrum to protest but the microphone was turned off. The Chair was clearly not following his script, because after a word in his ear he agreed to take one more speaker, not the National Chair of the LPYS but an opponent of the LPYS from National Organisation of Labour Students.

### Accused

Tom Sawyer, Chair of the party's youth committee, from the platform acknowledged he could not answer the political ideas of the LPYS, saying: "this debate is not about youth unemployment, YTS or the miners". He accused the LPYS of being sectarian and called the LPYS leadership an unrepresentative clique. He even tried to suggest that the LPYS was afraid of young workers coming into its organisation!

The Chair refused to take card votes on the amendment, which were clearly asked for and because of the uproar suspended conference until the next day.

On the Friday morning the section of the NEC report on youth came up including the part on reducing the LPYS age limit of 21. Bob Gillespie of SOGAT opposed the reduction and emphasised the political training he and countless other party members had received in the LPYS. "I and two other

members of my delegation were former members of the LPYS. I would never have got involved if the age limit had been 21 in our day. I insist that we do not deny our young people, these thousands we are trying to attract, the education that I had" he said.

Alex Shanks, LPYS member from Edinburgh East and a young miner, listed trade union youth sections which had age limits of 26 including NUPE in Scotland and the NUM which changed its age limit from 21 to be in line with the LPYS. Despite a clear call for reference back and a card vote, the chair refused to follow the rules of conference as laid down in the delegates guide. Larry Whitty was called in and stressed that the 21 age limit was up for consultation and that if it was opposed then it would not be implemented. A number of delegates mounted a strong protest to secure their right to a reference back and a card vote on the 21 age limit, but it was obvious the chair had been instructed that on no account was a vote to be taken.

The report was accepted but with a few delegates refusing to vote because of the way it was railroaded through. Despite the stage-managed debate and stacked votes at conference, the standing of the LPYS will not go down in the wider movement. There is no mandate to attack the LPYS. On the contrary we must now take the trade union leaders at their word and demand the setting up of democratic youth sections in the trade unions.



Linda Douglas

### Campaign group

AT THE biggest fringe meeting of the conference, organised by the Campaign Group of Labour MPs, Linda Douglas, elected to the new national executive committee to represent Labour's youth, appealed for support from the party to prevent any attack on their democratic rights and for an increase in their budget, so that they could continue the fight to win young people to Labour.

Eric Heffer MP, just voted off the executive, held up a copy of Liverpool City Council's new brochure *Success against the odds* and declared: "I am proud of my Liverpool comrades." It was his unflinching support for the city council that caused some right-wingers to plot his defeat. The meeting's anger at Eric's defeat was intensified when it was reported by Joan Maynard MP that his successor, Tam Dalyell, had voted for Neil Kinnock for vice-chairman, against Campaign Group MP Dennis Skinner.

### Liverpool pride

THE ACHIEVEMENTS of Liverpool City Council were described to a fringe meeting. Finance and Strategy committee chairman Tony Byrne reported that the council had built more new houses than any other ten authorities put together. "We are not waiting for the next Labour government" said council leader John Hamilton.

The reason that the councillors were to appear before the House of Lords was that

they had carried out the promises made before the election, said deputy leader Derek Hatton: "10,000 private sector workers have been employed in the Urban Regeneration Strategy. Liverpool is the only council building nurseries. 20 out of 100 apprentices taken on this year were black. We are proud of what we have done in the past and proud that we will continue to carry it through until the voters of Liverpool decide otherwise".

### Support for councillors

IN THE debate on local government, loud applause greeted David Blunkett's call for support of those Liverpool City Councillors facing surcharge and disqualification in the courts for standing up to Thatcher.

He vowed that the next Labour government would not let them down, as happened with the Clay Cross councillors years ago, but would reverse the court orders.

He called on conference to make sure that Lambeth councillors did not go bankrupt because of the surcharges ordered against them, and to back up Liverpool councillors in the courts "despite what has happened subsequently".

### MPs' money

THE DEBATE on finance was brought to life when Eric Segal, Folkestone and Hythe asked why the NEC report made no mention of MPs' donations. Individuals like Robert Kilroy-Silk make thousands by writing garbage at the expense of the Labour movement. He said "Roy Hattersley is said to make thousands a year for writing drivel in *The Guardian*. Is there no mention of this because nothing comes back?"

"Why is there no mention of the income of John Cunningham from his consultancies with Albright and Wilson and Dow? We must demand that our representatives follow the example of MPs such as Dave Nellist and Terry Fields who are



Eric Segal

prepared to represent their constituencies earning the average wage of a skilled worker and donate the rest back to the movement. How can you represent a class when you are earning the wages of the bosses and their class?"

### Tories' friends

LAST WEEK *Militant* referred to the stands in the conference complex rented out to big business corporations. Euro MP Les Huckfield, at the Campaign Group fringe meeting, revealed how much some of these donated last year to British United Industrialists and the Tory Party: Plessey—£30,000; Flexilink (European Ferries)—£33,250; Allied Lyons—£57,000 and Euroroute—£64,600. These friends of the Tories were allowed to publicise their views at Labour's conference while sales of socialist papers were ruthlessly banned.



Build for 18 October

# Jarrow's new crusaders

ON 5 OCTOBER, 1936, singing the Red Flag and the Internationale, unemployed workers set off from the Tyneside shipbuilding town of Jarrow to march to London.

The "Jarrow Crusaders" hoped the Tory government would provide jobs for their devastated town.

Fifty years later, little has changed. Shipbuilding on the Tyne has been decimated since 1979, and in Jarrow male unemployment stands at 31.5 per cent.

The Labour Party has organised a re-enactment of the crusade. 20 year-old Mick Hunter from Blydon LPYS who is joining the march told *Militant*:

"I wanted to protest at the mass unemployment the Tories have created as part of an organised body on a national level. The media seem to ignore local protests.

"The only job I have had since leaving school in 1982 was on YTS. This was an attempt to train me for a job

which never materialised. The pay was £25 a week so after expenses I was worse off than on the dole. I remembered this during the miners' strike. It was their fight for real jobs which sparked off my interest in politics and the LPYS."

*Militant: As this is a Labour Party march, what message would you give to Neil Kinnock as the next Prime Minister?*

"This is a march to highlight the problems of youth unemployment in the North East. I will still be here after the next election and I will still be wanting a job.

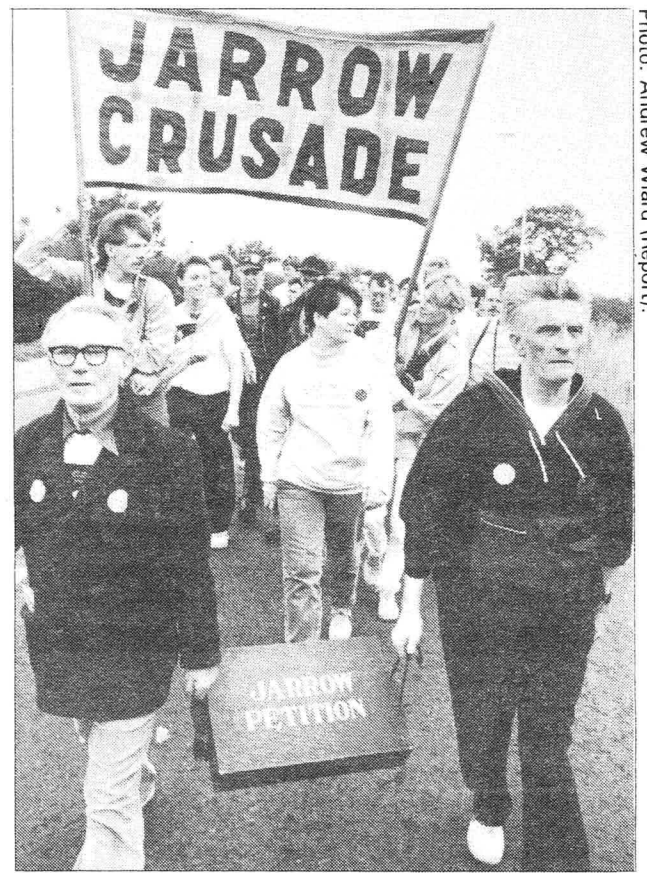
"Labour must have a

## Welcome the Jarrow marchers here:

Darlington (9 October) Nottingham (24)  
Northallerton (10) Loughborough (25)  
Ripon (11) Leicester (27)  
Harrogate (13) Market Harborough (28)  
Leeds (15) Northampton (29)  
Wakefield (17) Bedford (30)  
Barnsley (19) Luton (31)  
Sheffield (21) St Albans (1 November)  
Chesterfield (22) London (2)  
Mansfield (23)

commitment to a return to full employment, a reversal of the NHS cuts, decent housing for everyone and adequate social security

payments for those in need. The first step should be to take over the commanding heights of the economy."



Jarrow: October 1986. Marchers carry the original petition box.

Photo: Andrew Ward (Report).

## Round London march for jobs

# Diary of a marcher

"WHY AM I going on the march? Since the Tories abolished the GLC I've been unemployed. I've tried loads of jobs but no joy, so I'm going to fight for a future by getting rid of the Tories" Nairesh Chauman Beckenham LPYS.

THESE WORDS would be echoed by all of us on the London Youth March for Jobs. We are winding our way through 22 London boroughs, 120 miles. Look out for us with our red caps and jackets—the Red Army on the march walking and talking to local people.

We got a great response in the Bermondsey streets, held a brief rally at New Cross. Then we marched in bright sunshine through Deptford to Greenwich and Woolwich shopping centre where 50 people joined our rally where

the mayor, a sacked printer, and council leader John Austin Walker and marcher Paul Kershaw spoke. Great disco in the evening where a marcher's cap and T-shirt were raffled.

Sunday 5th. Day of rest. Over to Newham by Woolwich ferry. We performed a bizarre Morris dance with Margaret Thatcher, and raised £10 from people waiting for ferry.

Monday 6th. "I love walking but I hate getting up" says our organiser Mick Moore. Good response from East Ham to reception at Barking unemployed centre, where local MP Jo Richardson and marcher Paul Couchman speak. Local GMBATU branch secretary gives £30 when another hat an T-shirt are raffled.

On to Barking job centre where a number of people sign up for the local coach

for the 18th. Sun bearing down on us. On our way to Fords Dagenham, one of Murdoch's victims, a sacked printworker left his house and joined us for a couple of miles.

Got a good reception from afternoon shift at Fords. At the club, an ex-Fords worker, an OAP of 81, emptied his pockets as he told us of the 1930s. On to Redbridge Tech and an evening reception at Barking Football club.

We'll be getting lots of people on the march on the 18th. Hope you'll be there too!

PS. The sun's still shining on us. Watch Thatcher at Tory conference and see if she prays for rain.

By Sue Kahn  
(Southall LPYS)

DHSS Enfield and Haringey Branch Committee CPSA agreed to sponsor the youth march and circulate material advertising the CPSA and YTURC youth rally on 8 October. One member Mike Dolphin agreed to take a day off work to meet marchers and join in the march.

THE NATIONAL LPYS demonstration and the round London march both start in the Bermondsey area. This has brought a good

response from local people.

A young bus driver from Camberwell Bus Garage told us: "another year of Tory rule means another year of deprivation. Get a Labour government in power on socialist principles and then it will be able to give young people a future".

In London College of Printing, nearly 40 people are interested in setting up a Labour Club—in anticipation of massive Tory education cuts. Flyposting has hit the whole area and two public meetings are in hand locally.

# Youth Training Swindle

COVENTRY SOUTH East LPYS, in conjunction with USDAW, the shopworkers' union, have started a campaign against firms abusing the Youth Training Scheme (YTS).

USDAW provided us with details of concessions it had won from larger stores like Sainsbury's and Tesco's then we went to a city centre store, Owen and Owen and set up placards detailing YTS

conditions. Many shoppers stopped and said they would not go in. Others told us of worse conditions elsewhere.

One young girl who used to work at the store told us she had left because of the treatment of YTS. "It took us five months to get something towards our travel costs...and then only £1...and as for the extra staff discount they told you we got and the food

vouchers...we never saw them."

The LPYS collected £25 and twelve names for the demo then went to the local radio station who gave a good report on the main news. The real push in our local campaign will come towards Christmas when shopworkers really are poorly treated.

By Paul Sharry

## Fighting Botha's regime



LPYS members on June's anti-apartheid march.

THE LPYS have been actively opposing the apartheid regime throughout Britain. In Glasgow LPYS members occupied and picketed a store with large but hidden links with the Botha regime.

Benetton, Europe's largest knitwear manufacturer has stores in South African cities. On 25 September 15 young socialists entered a branch in Glasgow. We told the non-union staff of the reasons for our visit, while outside 40 more YS members started a noisy demonstration and explained what was going on to interested passers-by.

The staff knew nothing of the links but were quite friendly, we made it plain we

had no difference with them only their bosses.

When the police came and asked us to leave we refused and stayed there to make our point for a bit longer. When we finally left we were greeted with cheers, stayed outside with clipboards and collected 500 signatures.

Every LPYS branch should take an active part in solidarity with workers' defiance of apartheid. Information on the Benetton campaign from Tommy Sheridan, 265 Linthaugh Road, Pollok, Glasgow G53 5YE

By Tommy Sheridan  
LPYS National Committee

WANSBECK LPYS, in Northumberland attracted 200 local people to their "Rock against apartheid" following a very successful day of action, pickets and petitions in the local area.

We raised £130. 25 people put their names down to go on 18 October demo, and two people paid for their tickets down on the night.

By Sue Curry

## Rocking out the Tories

BRIGHTSIDE LPYS attracted over 600 people to a gig in Sheffield with the Housemartins the main musical attraction, together with four local bands.

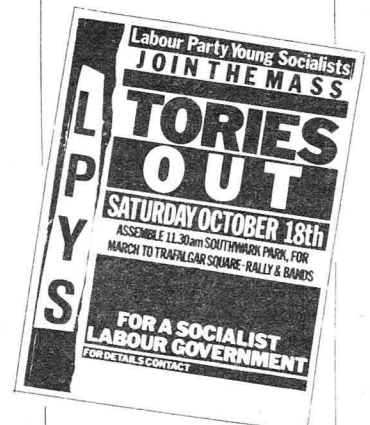
The Housemartins donated £500 to workers at Keeton's Engineering, on strike for 14 weeks. Mark Simms, AEU deputy convenor at Keeton's was one of the speakers.

The bands and disco were from the Ashington Young Musicians Collective set up after Wansbeck LPYS campaigned for leisure facilities for local youth. The bands, St James Infirmary, Last Orders and Branded repeated the YS messages musically through the night.

By Sue Curry



October  
4-18.



Labour  
Party  
Young  
Socialists  
Mass  
demo  
against  
the Tories

Saturday  
18 October

11.30am Southwark  
Park



# At last it can be told...

The Secret Diary of Adrian Kiljoy-Sulk (aged 15¾).

## January

Have discovered a place up north called Knowsley North. Apparently I'm its MP. Good Lord.

## February

Thought I'd better show my face at the local Labour Party General Management Committee. Shouldn't have bothered. All these rough types going on about nationalisation, jobs, houses, Liverpool City Council and nuclear disarmament. What has that got to do with the Labour Party? Found it all very intimidating.

## March

Am gripped by cold, stark fear. I have got to stand for reselection! I didn't have to last time, when Ormskirk was merged in with Knowsley North, or whatever it's called. Party HQ fixed that one for me. The GMC delegates will vote yes *vote*, if they want me to stand again. What a travesty of democracy! One Trot even went on about MPs living on a 'workers' wage'. Ye Gods, don't they know the price of houses in Buckinghamshire?

## April

Am fighting back. The forces of the Labour movement are on my side. Well, the BBC, Fleet Street and the party machinery anyway. The papers have a smashing piece about how a 'Merseyside MP' offered me another seat if I don't stand in Knowsley North against *Militant*. *Militant* has replied

IN A WORLD EXCLUSIVE *Militant* brings you the most authentic memoirs since Hitler's Diaries. Personally authenticated by well known historian Lord Duper.



this is impossible. They don't want me to stand anywhere. Cheek.

## May

My fanatical *Militant* opponent for the seat is picking up support. Leaving aside his commitment to reselection, his vow to take only a worker's wage, and that as a Liverpool City Councillor he is putting his home and family on the line to defend jobs and housing, it's quite clear he is driven by naked

political ambition. Unlike myself of course.

## June

My mole Trevor the full time official, has unearthed how *Militant* pack the GMC. Firstly, making sure their parents live in Knowsley North, they get born into the working class. Then, they join trade unions and the Labour Party and turn up for meetings (which should have made us suspicious to begin with).

Then they stand for election to the GMC—and win! Apparently this blatant conspiracy is party policy. Incredible isn't it? Now, I much prefer the old right wing method. You select a few respectable types such as a headmaster, lecturer etc. They then track down an electrician, go up to him and say: "I recognise you as a member of the EETPU and claim your place on the GMC". Much more sensible.

## July

Things going well. The EET-PU has now got lots of their people onto the GMC who'll vote for me. They speak with the true voice of the Labour movement—can't understand why they've all got Birmingham accents though.

## August

BBC came up and did a story, so had to address ward meeting (yuk!). Gave a pretty impassioned speech about

fighting redundancy and saving jobs. (Mine in particular).

## September

*Militant* have been rumbled! Trevor has found out some TGWU delegates are from Unemployed Centres. The unemployed may be alright for taking down to No.10 on a publicity stunt, but we're bloody well not having them in the party!! Besides, the TGWU is for transport workers. Alright, so I joined the union when I was a university lecturer in 1966. Well, I travelled about a lot.

## October

Great time at Labour Party conference. Only marred by usual bully boy tactics from the left. One youngster was rude to me so I had to put him through a plate-glass window.

## November

Victory!!! At last reason has triumphed, sanity has returned and the forces of democracy have won through. To be more precise the Labour leadership has suspended the party and expelled my *Militant* opponent.

But we must remain vigilant. The forces of good within the party like myself and the *Daily Mirror* must shine out like beacons lighting up the dark corners of the movement where the extremists plot and fester. In the interests of the British people we must fight, fight and fight again. We shall never surrender.

Have been offered a nice little number with the BBC. I'm off. Bye!

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## Prior's commitment

A NEW BOOK by Tory ex cabinet minister Jim Prior "A Balance of Power" shows the divisions and problems faced by the Tories, British capitalism's number one defender.

Prior is a Tory wet. He wants the House of Commons redesigned so that opposition parties don't confront each other. It's nasty. In his early days he said he could never work for a party with a policy of unemployment.

But that was in the boom days of the early 1960s. He became a cabinet minister in a world recession when British capitalism was far weaker. Prior did not like the way Thatcher, his leader, tackled these problems; her cabinet's policies destroyed industry and jobs.

The first Tory budget shocked him and he was scathing about the Treasury's monetarists. "None had any experience of running a whelk stall let alone a decent sized company. Their attitude to manufacturing industry bordered on the contemptuous. They shared the view... that we were better suited as a nation to being a service economy and should no longer worry about pro-



Jim Prior with fellow wet Norman St John Stevas.

duction. I could not see how this could be reconciled with the employment of .23 million people."

But the representatives of industrial capitalism, like Prior, now chairman of GEC, did not object to the weakening of union rights. And Prior appointed his son's colleague at Lazard Freres, a certain Ian MacGregor, to butcher British Steel and later the NCB on monetarist lines.

Prior is no friend of the workers, but he can tolerate some workers' leaders. He invited Moss Evans to dinner before that first Tory budget which dismayed Jim so. A steady stream of union leaders discussed industrial relations over a bottle of wine.

Jim Prior differs from Thatcher in wanting to involve the labour movement's leaders more in forging their own manacles. He wants

Kinnock to fight the "hard militant left". He regrets that the Tories did not back Labour's "dynamic" *In Place of Strife* anti-union proposals in 1969.

A cynic might wonder if he was angling for a place in a "new realist" Labour government. But the pay as chairman of GEC is better. No wage restraint for Jim!

By Roger Shriver

## Currie's ignorance

DOES EDWINA Currie read her own government's statistics? They are the best answer to her claim that ill health has nothing to do with poverty, but is caused by 'ignorance'.

The government's own Family Expenditure Survey shows that low income households spend only £1.53 a week on alcohol and £1.78 on smoking. The wealthy spend £19.47 and £5.18

respectively!

The poor spend a higher proportion of their income on food, but a healthier diet would cost a low income family 35 per cent more. All the figures underline the fact that unemployment and poverty cause stress and illness.

If ignorance caused ill health, Mrs Currie would be a hospital case.

## Thatcher's 'democracy'

TORY PARTY conference doesn't pretend to any sort of democracy. Once the Party leader has been selected by the MPs, he or she runs the show.

Thatcher is the demigod, she appoints Cabinet Ministers, the Party chairman and other officers. Conference is only a democratic veneer.

The resolutions picked for the agenda are carefully selected to avoid controversy. The delegates have no say in party policy, government ministers speak and the 'Standing ovation-ometer' (the Tories' version of the 'clap-ometer') is the nearest you get to a vote. Under five minutes and it's back to the back benches.

But this year, a subversive

element—the Charter Movement for Conservative Party democracy want the constituency party members to have some say in selecting the party leader and deciding policies.

34 motions have gone to the conference calling for greater democracy within the party and the extremists may attempt to get the conference's standing orders overturned if none of the motions are taken.

The leadership don't want to show their divisions just before an election. Otherwise the undemocratic split-ridden party will be in danger of being shown up for what it is.

By Anne Lewin



# Conisbrough - the enemy without

TRAVEL ALONG the Sheffield/Doncaster railway line and you may notice a small boarded-up station, standing in the shadow of Cadeby Colliery.

It might appear as just a small blot on the decaying industrial landscape of South Yorkshire. But 17,000 people live in Conisbrough and Denaby and they are counting the heavy costs of seven years of Thatcherism.

Unemployment is 27 per cent and still rising; 70 per cent of school leavers are without work or further education; 53 per cent of households are in receipt of housing benefits; 25 per cent are on supplementary benefits and up to 71 per cent of pupils in local schools receive free school meals.

The twin towns were founded upon the coal industry. In years past workers here would be described by vote-hunting politicians as 'the backbone of British industry' and 'the salt of the earth.'

After the bitter months of the miners' strike, communities like these were condemned as 'the enemy within'. But for the new generation, going from school to the dole, 'the enemy without' would be more appropriate. Under the Tories they are without work

By Kevin Hanley

and without a future.

"We are trapped here on the dole," said unemployed Steve Williams.

"The few folk around here who have any qualifications are getting out."

21 year old Martin Ward has never had a job: "I went South last year looking for work, and ended up out of pocket. You can't get a job without experience, but how can you get experience without a job? I would give my right arm for a job."

But Steve went into fits of laughter when he recalled the Liberals' plans to revive the area:

"Their answer is to create 17,000 ice cream men as part of a tourist attraction to see the rundown old Conisbrough castle. It may be several hundred years old, but it is still in better condition than some of the local council housing."

The local Doncaster council has just built a new leisure centre. But for Steve, unemployed in Conisbrough, the massive fare

increases forced by the Tory government on to South Yorkshire transport, have meant "it may as well be on the other side of the moon."

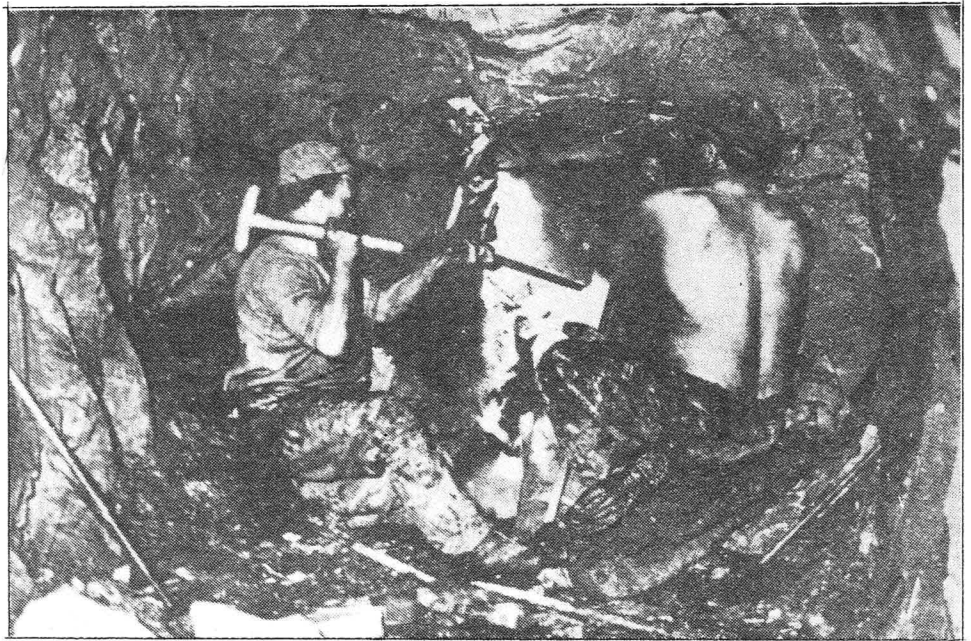
Of course there are all the government schemes, designed to improve the unemployment statistics and at least keep young people off the streets. Mick Hanley is 21, and is now on his fourth scheme since leaving school in 1980.

Gardening and bricklaying are the skills he has picked up on these schemes. "But they can't help me at all," he complains. "Firms can pick and choose these days, they only want apprentice trained people."

"There have been no apprenticeships round here for years. I only stay on the schemes because they at least get me out for a couple of pints at the weekend."

Wayne Kilner was made redundant last year, and he tried the Tory recipe—self-employment on the enterprise allowance scheme. But his window cleaning round fell through.

"Thatcher should come and live here and see how she likes it," challenged Wayne. "See if she can manage without."



Yorkshire miners at the turn of the century.

## 'The blood on your coal'

A SERVICE was held recently at the local church to remember the 88 people who lost their lives in the Cadeby Colliery disaster of 1912.

"In addition to these deaths, a book in the local library—appropriately entitled 'The Blood on Your Coal'—records a further 130 fatal accidents at the pit prior to nationalisation.

In all 218 men and boys (some as young as 13) have given their lives to this merciless industry at Cadeby.

74 years later the pit is earmarked for closure having allegedly outlived its usefulness.

A joint union appeal by both the NUM and NACODS has been rejected following the Colliery Review Board decision to close Cadeby pit.

Hatchet man Ian McGregor was wheeled out for his last national board meeting as chairman. According to him 'there was no alternative to closure as the pit had no prospect of improving performance and results to achieve economic viability'.

Yet this follows a spate of record breaking weeks at Cadeby Colliery. In the first seven weeks since the D16s face came into production, weekly output has risen steadily

from 8,355 tonnes to 13,600 tonnes.

This so-called loss making pit needs only to produce 5,500 tonnes to break even—and those figures are for coal sold, not the full take. Moreover, it is the highest quality coal the pit has ever produced.

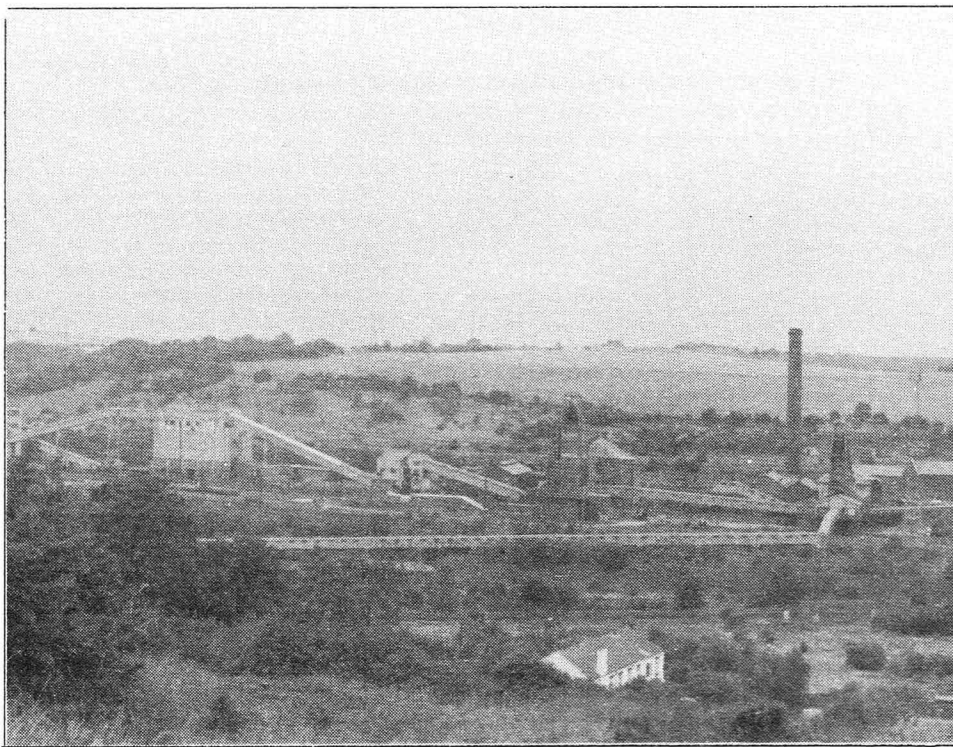
But while the Coal Board are bragging about rising production around the coalfield, Cadeby has not had a mention.

The record breaking flag flies over the pit top, but production has already been stopped.

Cadeby has a strong militant tradition. During the year long strike, support was virtually solid. Only a tiny minority crossed the picket line as the strike drew to an end.

"Now the pit's thousand members have been reduced to a hard core of 321 committed men" said Delegate Mick Rodgers. To him the consequences of closure can be summed up in just two words—'Ghost Town.'

But while they await the outcome of an appeal to an independent tribunal, Branch Secretary Keith Spooner remains defiant: "We have absolutely no confidence in the Coal Board and if they try to shut us we will not go down without a fight."



Cadeby colliery.

## The poor are always with us

POVERTY is not new to the area. Both Conisbrough and Denaby were singled out for special help following the publication of the Plowden Report in 1969.

The idea was that teams of social workers and extra educational resources should be poured into the area, to snap people out of their poverty and disillusionment.

But while such a project could not even hope to scratch the surface of the fundamental causes of poverty, at least coming out of it was a much-needed welfare rights centre.

Over 15 years on, however, the Red House

social and community centre has had its urban aid grant stopped.

Doncaster's Department of Social Services is in deep trouble. The Metropolitan Borough lost out heavily this year in the rate support grant settlement. Another third of a million pounds will have to go, on top of the Depart-

ment's cuts of £2.5 million over the last five years.

More jobs and services will be lost, added to a list of three old people's homes and nine children's homes which have already been squashed under the iron heel of Thatcher.

Conisbrough and Denaby Labour Party Young Socialists public meeting.

"Conisbrough fights for a future"

Speaker Gary Ironmonger (LPYS national committee). 16 October 7.30pm. Cadeby and Denaby Miners Welfare.

# Quarter of a million - you can do it

IN LAST week's issue we launched a bold new Fighting Fund target of raising £250,000 by the first week of December, appealing to all our readers to send us a donation of at least one week's income.

To any other paper such a target would be impossible. But barely had we announced our aim than readers from all over the country were letting us know that their contribution was on its way. There is no better way to respond to the attacks on us at Labour Party Conference than by ensuring that we raise this cash. The money raised will enable us to develop our resources in the run-up to a General Election and especially to produce a much-needed twice-weekly *Militant*.

Within three days of the new

target being announced our total had shot up to £22,105 London took a giant leap forward with £4,500 contributed by readers sending in their week's income. Many readers have promised us much more than a week's income.

Such is the determination of our readers that we have had donations ranging from £150 from Councillor Mike Smith in South Yorkshire, to £7.50 from a school student in South Wales, from £50 from Muriel Browning, a long standing reader in Llanelli, to £80 from NUPE steward Bill Graham in London. Bill, a single parent with two children, started reading the paper just over a month ago. Matthew Howarth, a student in Manchester, sent us £50 with his paper subscription and D Taylor from

Reading was the first to return our special Appeal Letter along with £50.

We appeal to all readers not only to send us your contribution of a week's income, but to go and ask others, your mates at work, at college, at school, to do the same.

Remember, also, to continue all the normal fund-raising activities. A Wirral reader raised over £42 last week from extras on sales of the paper. A social in Sittingbourne raised £20. In Skipton a public meeting raised £40.02, a sponsored bike ride £9, and selling beer £4. Selling *Militant* T-shirts in Glasgow made £30.

Trade Union expenses and work place collections continue to raise money. In Gwent £6.51 and £2.84 was raised outside Six Bells Colliery

### New Targets for Fighting Fund.

Eastern	£ 9,700	Southern	£ 10,300
East Midlands	£ 10,450	South East	£ 6,700
London	£ 40,450	South West	£ 6,750
Manchester and Lancs		Wales	£ 15,850
Merseyside	£ 12,850	West Midlands	£ 15,350
Northern	£ 25,000	Yorkshire	£ 23,900
Scotland East	£ 15,300	National	£ 36,000
Scotland West	£ 10,400	Total	£ 250,000
	£ 11,000		

and Marine Colliery respectively. Use the collecting tins and ask for the solidarity price.

Let's see all the cash come flooding in.

Forward to a quarter of a million pounds!

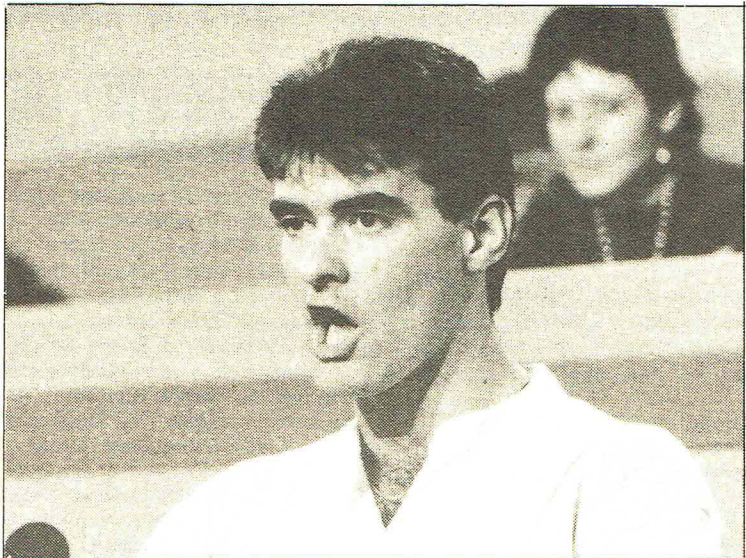
Donations this week include: L Fountain Chesterfield NGA £4.50; R Rankin Fulham £9.10; A Healey Fulham £5; S Wright Bath UCW £4; C Jones AEU Blackwood £10; Ted Winship Redcar £10; Cllr K Brooks Mid Kent CLP £1.40; Tim Neave CPSA £12.

(New chart next week).



# LABOUR PARTY '86 CONFERENCE

Million votes for arms for South African workers



Tommy Sheridan

ONE DEBATE in which the platform could not stifle the voice of Marxism within the Labour Party was on South Africa. Seconding composite 41, Frank Doyle, Glasgow Shettleston, described a society where "five million whites consume as much food in a year as the 28 million blacks, a society where five per cent of the population own 88 per cent of the wealth and live in luxury".

"The Labour Party and trade unions" said Julie Harris, Poole, "should not be trailing behind the liberal advocates of sanctions but should organise workers' sanctions to support the black South African trade union movement and the youth in the townships in their struggle against apartheid and capitalism."

Frank Doyle reminded delegates that "the Spanish Civil War was 50 years ago this year. If it was right then to fight for our brothers and sisters it is right now". He was supported by Tommy Sheridan, Glasgow Pollok, who argued that trade union federation COSATU, "represents the emergence of a giant, but unlike Gulliver, this giant does not face the little people, but a state machine, brutally efficient and awesomely equipped... Our brothers and sisters, the youth of South Africa, need arms for defence and to fight for freedom, democracy and socialism. We have a duty to provide those arms".

## Sharp contrast

This was in sharp contrast to Denis Healey's call for "mandatory sanctions through the United Nations".

For the national executive Sid Tierney praised the workers who had taken action against apartheid, but failed to back the call for workers' sanctions. He opposed composite 41 by attacking statements which were not in it—that it was telling the South African workers how to struggle and stuffing a political programme down their throats. His only response to the call for arms was that "the ANC were seeking to control the violence".

The composite was lost on a show of hands after the chair unconstitutionally refused a call for a card vote. His reason for deliberately avoiding a recorded vote became clear afterwards when it emerged that nine unions, NCU, UCW, UCATT, FBU, BFAWU,

ACTT, SOGAT, CATU and the NUM, with over a million votes between them, voted for the resolution against the NEC. This shows the great potential for a campaign within the British trade union movement on this programme.

By Phil Masters

## Composite 41

This conference salutes the struggle of the black majority in South Africa against the apartheid state and the system of capitalist enslavement which that state sustains, and pledges our committed support for the overthrow of the racist dictatorship which is based on white domination and privilege, and its replacement with the democratic rule of working people in a state free from racial privilege and class exploitation.

Conference reaffirms its support for the African National Congress which the oppressed masses are striving to build in South Africa under working-class direction and control in order to carry out the struggle for national liberation and socialism.

Conference will do all in its power to obtain the release of a wrongly imprisoned man, Nelson Mandela, and all political prisoners.

Conference recognises that the apartheid regime and the South African ruling class will never surrender power peacefully and that this makes unavoidable a mass struggle for the armed seizure of state power by the majority. Conference supports armed action to defend the movement and preparations for a future armed insurrection, while at the same time avoiding acts which can only have counter productive and reactionary results.

Conference calls on the next Labour government to end past practices of collaboration with Pretoria and to end diplomatic relations with South Africa. It also calls for the mobilisation of the labour movement to introduce economic sanctions and to provide arms and other material support to the revolutionary movement in South Africa for use in the struggle against the apartheid state.

THE ARGUMENT from Tierney that composite 41 sought to impose a socialist programme on the South African workers, has been answered by one of the biggest South African trade unions, the Metal and Allied Workers' Union. Their Congress has just passed unanimously a resolution which proclaims: "We are committed to building socialism and committed to the leadership of the working class in the struggle".

# Labour vi ...but workers'h



THE 1986 Labour Party Conference was very much a pre-election rally. An end to the disastrous years of Tory rule is in sight, and Labour leader Neil Kinnock held out the promise of "a government that is determined to adopt the policies of investment, production and growth". On jobs, disarmament, a minimum wage and the repeal of Tory anti-trade union laws, despite many qualifications and much vagueness, workers see the chance of a decisive change for the better with the election of a Labour government.

This enthusiasm for a Labour victory however, was exploited by the leadership to stage-manage the conference, stifle debate and present an image of unity behind Neil Kinnock.

Rules of procedure were quite openly flouted whenever there was a danger of a serious challenge to the platform. The majority of speakers in all the key debates were MPs, prospective parliamentary candidates and union leaders. On economic policy not a single constituency delegate was called!

The right's victory was not quite total. Conference voted to put a stop to any proposals to undermine the right of parties to re-select their MPs. The NEC was defeated on the demand for a Minister for Women in the cabinet. Yet on the most critical issues there was no debate, just attacks on the Tories and vague promises of better things to come from the next Labour government.

Kinnock's big speech was full of rhetoric but empty of specific pledges. He demagogically appealed to 'morality' and 'patriotism'. He declared that he would die for his country. But which country did he mean? The Britain of the 20,000 millionaires or of the 3,500,000 unemployed? There is no common interest between Britain's 'two nations', yet Kinnock's policies, on jobs, production and social ownership were imbued with the idea that there is a 'national' interest, as if there could be an 'interest' separate from those of the capitalists and the workers.

The NEC statement *Labour: The party of production*, talks of "a National Economic Summit—involving government, trade unions, employers, local authorities and consumers... It will mark the beginning of a new process of discussion and consultation, involving all sections of the community—a process we have called the *National Economic Assessment*" (their emphasis).

This is precisely the policy put forward by Hawke in Australia. It has proved impossible to imple-

ment and instead the government has imposed a budget of austerity and cutbacks in workers' living standards.

The NEC statement on *Social ownership* spelt out that the next Labour government will operate within an economy in which "there will still be a flourishing private sector. Democratic planning will co-exist with competition, which will remain the most effective method of providing for many areas of personal consumption."

Not one speaker was called to challenge this commitment to the 'mixed economy'. But the right wing cannot manoeuvre with history. The arguments of the party's Marxists, which the leadership tried to stifle in this conference, will be vindicated by the experience of the next Labour government. No amount of expulsions and procedural sleight of hand can save the right-wing leaders from the economic hurricane which the Marxists are warning awaits Kinnock's government.

## Monopolies

Kinnock today is saying much the same as Harold Wilson in 1963. In a far more favourable economic climate, the 1964 Labour government showed that a 'mixed economy' and a 'national plan' are utopian illusions in a society dominated by multi-national monopolies. Experience of socialist governments more recently, in France, Spain, Greece and Australia, have demonstrated the same thing—that not only can lasting reforms not be carried through within a capitalist economy, but that left governments which try to operate within a 'free market system' are forced to move from reforms to counter-reforms.

Kinnock's government would face a crisis far worse than Wilson

did in 1964. He may set out with sincere intentions to carry out reforms, but in an economy where the level of investment does not now even cover the depreciation of industrial plant, it will be impossible to reach agreement with the private sector to invest at anything like the level required to finance the kind of reforms that workers will be expecting. Big business does not invest in the 'national interest' but for profit and there is no way that the kind of bribes suggested by Roy Hattersley to prevent the export of capital will persuade the monopolists to invest in British manufacturing industry if it is not going to be profitable for them. There would be a 'strike of capital' if Labour tried to carry through the kind of increases in taxation of the rich and public spending which they are suggesting.

Far from wanting to undermine party unity, the delegates trying to reach the rostrum to make these points were acting in the best interests of the party, by warning the pilot of the icebergs ahead. But the party leaders demonstrated a pathological fear of the ideas of Marxism. They feared any discussion of the desperate crisis of British capitalism which would bring to the conference the harsh reality of the world as it is and disrupt their smug, ill-founded self confidence.

Those party members who applaud the right today, however, do so mainly from a determination to unite to get rid of the Tories. They have high expectations of what the Labour government will do for them when it comes to power. Although practically nothing specific was promised these workers will expect great things.

The statement on *Social Security and Taxation*, for instance says: "We must apply restraints to ways in which wealthy and powerful groups can use their wealth and power—so that millions are no longer impoverished and national resources are no longer squandered on private greed". Workers will read specific promises into such statements, despite their vagueness, and will be angered when the reality fails to match the promises they thought had been made.

That is when the Marxists around *Militant* can gain an enormous echo. For another feature of the 1986 conference was that there is no other serious challenge being made to the rightward drift and



# Victory in sight... Hopes must not be dashed



Photos Dave Sinclair

Party leaders sing Auld Lang Syne at the end of the week.

## Revolution and roses

AT THE Labour Party Conference I was at a fringe meeting with Dennis Skinne. He was talking about the book that he and Brian Sedgemore have written on the Big Bang. He is not getting any profit from it; all the money it raises is going into Campaign Group funds.

He then made a joke that he was thinking of writing his autobiography, but he had only got as far as the title, which would be "Revolution and Red Roses." The phrase stuck in my mind. When I came home I sat down and wrote this poem.

Terry Bennett, Chairman  
Silentnight Strikers

Revolution and roses  
as everyone knows,  
a real thorny subject  
that continually grows.

Revolution's deep red,  
a rose, a soft hue,  
one trying to merge  
as on a set cue.

Create a new image,  
one free from strife  
hardly revolutionary,  
or true to life.

Tempting the voters  
a move to the right,  
if they move any further  
they'll be out of sight.

Look to the people  
at the grass roots,  
don't try to con them  
they'll put in the boot.

Give them the facts.  
Give them the truth.  
Try to deceive them,  
they'll hit the roof.

A rose, nice to look at,  
yet it is no lie  
the first signs of winter  
will see the rose die.

Revolutions go on,  
all round the year  
fighting for truth  
with nothing to fear.

Fighting for justice,  
by day and by night  
constantly working,  
for all that is right.

Fight, for your future.  
Fight, for your cause.  
Don't wither and die,  
leave that to the rose.



Only then could investment and production be planned to provide jobs, raise living standards and provide for people's needs. The alternative is to accept the demands of big business and follow the path of Mitterand, Gonzalez, Papan-dreou and Hawke, imposing austerity on the workers.

Marxist ideas terrify the present leaders of the party. Everything was done to keep them out of the

Winter Gardens in Blackpool last week. But ideas can never be expelled and Marxism will continue to haunt the labour leaders as it wins the allegiance of wider and wider layers of Labour movement activists and the working people of Britain.

By Pat Craven

emasculate the Labour Party Young Socialists, the acceptance of which they called 'an important breakthrough'.

The Campaign Group, linked to the Labour Left Liaison, although reflecting rank-and-file anger at the expulsions and the move to the right, appeared stunned by events, especially the defeat for two of their supporters, Eric Heffer and Margaret Beckett in the NEC elections. Their support may well grow as they emerge as the main parliamentary opposition within the party to the policies of the next Labour government. But their achilles heel, as always with such groups, is their lack of theory.

It is an understanding of perspectives, obtained from a study of events in the past and throughout the world, that enables Marxists to warn in advance and prepare workers who move into struggle for all the pitfalls which lie in their path and advise them how these can be avoided. Even at the conference, some delegates drew the lessons which *Militant* is teaching. "I didn't come here as a *Militant* reader" said Sue Newman, delegate from Honiton, "but I will

probably go away as one." No new image or stage-managed unity at party conference, no block votes lined up behind vague policies will arm the movement for the struggle which lies ahead to overthrow the power of that big business minority in society which is responsible for the crisis.

### Public ownership

We are saying now, that the next Labour government, which Marxists will fight as hard as anyone to get elected, will find itself crushed between the demands from below for radical improvements in workers' lives and the demands from above for spending cuts, wage freezes and curbs on the unions. If the workers' demands are to be met, there will be no alternative but to follow the policies of *Militant*. The Labour government would have to bring public ownership back into the forefront of its programme, take over the monopolies which are holding the government to ransom, with compensation only on the basis of need, and place them under democratic workers' control and management.

The stage-management of conference was at its most blatant when conference was to hear appeals against expulsion by eight party members from Liverpool. The procedure to be adopted was that of a show trial, to provide the media with a demonstration that dissent was not going to be tolerated. The big union block votes decided in advance of the appeal which way they were going to vote. The eight had no alternative but to walk out of the conference when it became clear that in a session from which the TV cameras were banned so that the world outside could not hear them, they were to get only five minutes to de-

fend themselves against a catalogue of charges. Their walk-out was fully vindicated when, despite the fact that by not appearing they had withdrawn their appeals, the chairman put them to the vote. Kinnock and his allies were determined to demonstrate the huge majority of block votes which had been stitched together. Robert Maxwell and Eric Hammond, who have been responsible for the loss of thousands of jobs are welcomed to the conference, yet socialists who are building houses, creating jobs and expanding services are hounded out of the party.

### Campaign Group

To answer this, Hattersley used and distorted the arguments of the Marxists to show how utopian it is to imagine that a government can stop the capitalists moving their money around the world. Exchange controls, as used in the past, are as full of holes as a colander and clever financiers would find a way through them in ten minutes flat, he said. His own plan to provide 'incentives' to the capitalists to keep their money in Britain is of course every bit as utopian. The LCC also pushed for support for the Liverpool expulsions and were the architects of plans to



**Southern Ireland, Northern Ireland**

# Irish coalition on knife-edge

**ONE ECONOMIST** summed up the state of Irish capitalism today: "A banana republic without any bananas"!

The economy is terminally ill. Unemployment stands at 240,000 — 17 per cent of the workforce. 70,000 of these are young people under 25.

In the last five years, another 75,000 people have emigrated. One million people, out of a population of under 3.5 million, are on or near the poverty line.

The national debt is 130 per cent of Gross National Product. The 1987 budget deficit is expected to be over 10 per cent of GNP. Economists talk of a "black hole" in the economy swallowing over £2,000 million per year.

This is caused by the multinationals, exporting up to 75 per cent of their profits out of Ireland, and by Irish capitalists investing abroad.

## Horror story

Presiding over this economic and social horror story is a coalition government of Fine Gael (a right-wing capitalist party) and the smaller Labour Party. It is the most unpopular government in the history of the state, even less popular than the Tory government in Britain.

In spite of Labour's presence, this government has savagely attacked the working class and the state sector. Irish Shipping, the state shipping line, has been closed down and the workforce sacked. All state and semi-state companies have been blitzed with redundancies and cutbacks.

An example is Dublin Gas. While natural gas was being discovered offshore, this privately-owned company was facing bankruptcy. The government could have bought a majority stake for £250,000.

Instead they marshalled all the state's resources to bail out Dublin Gas. The state-owned gas company was compelled to supply it with gas on unlimited credit.

As a result, over two years the 2,500 private shareholders (owning 75 per cent of the shares) have lost £1.6 million. The state, with 25 per cent of the shares, lost £124 million. Four hundred workers are to be sacked—the 'savings' on wages being almost identical to the interest payments due to the banks.

Massive profits have thus been guaranteed for the financial institutions out of a venture that was a disaster for workers and taxpayers.

Such measures have been the hallmark of the coalition. It is now in the twilight of its term of office. Elections will be inside twelve months at the latest. But they can come at any time since the govern-



Labour Youth march against unemployment. (Below) Fianna Fail leader Charles Haughey

ment, under intense pressures, has only a knife-edge majority.

For the government there are no more easy decisions, and Fine Gael and Labour are split on almost every issue. There are also splits inside both parties as backbenchers, staring at electoral disaster, manoeuvre for "an issue" to save their seats.

As one politician concluded, "every issue has become a crisis". An example was the referendum to legalise divorce, called by Prime Minister Fitzgerald to establish his 'liberal' credentials.

Most of his TD's (MP's) refused to canvass in support of it, and some condemned it publicly. The Labour Party membership turned out and fought for a 'yes' vote. The Labour ministers took time off from imposing cuts to launch their slogan "Put compassion in the constitution".

But the divorce issue could not be separated from the government's record. The coalition managed to reverse a 60 per cent 'Yes' sentiment to a 60 per cent 'No' vote on polling day.

Because of Labour's role in coalition and the lack of any apparent alternative, the stage is set for the return to office of Fianna Fail, the main capitalist party, led by Charles Haughey. The third capitalist party, the newly formed Progressive Democrats, composed mainly of parliamentarians who split from the other parties, will

win some seats but will not be a major force.

Labour faces a drop in vote to below 5 per cent and the defeat of many of its 14 TDs. Against this background, what are the longer term perspectives?

With Labour in the coalition, its trade union links have been used to dampen rank-and-file eruptions against this government. In spite of this the government has had to face a one-day public-sector general strike last October. The government was forced to retreat on its imposition of water rates due to mass opposition of tenants organisations and trade unions.

Fianna Fail, in government, would enter the stormy period ahead without the "shock absorbers" of right-wing Labour leaders. Under the pressure of ever-increasing convulsions, capitalism will reap the whirlwind of a far more generalised struggle by the labour movement. It will be similar to the period 1979-81 when the government (also at that time Fianna Fail) was battered by waves of strikes and limited general strikes.

## Crossroads

But most important of all is the crossroads Labour has reached. Its conference in November will accept a report from an 'electoral commission' set up at its last conference. The conclusions of the report are an exposure of the damage coalition has inflicted on the party. This will drastically reduce the room for manoeuvre by the leadership.

Already Dick Spring, Labour leader and coalition deputy Prime Minister, has been forced to say he would "be proud to lead the party on an independent socialist strategy"!

The elemental force of the party's rank and file opposition to coalition, along with the hostility of the masses of the labour movement, has thus produced a situation where the party's leaders, even as they sit as ministers in the coalition cabinet, are forced to admit that the whole strategy has been a disaster. Their only success has been to draw the sting out of the condemnation of their methods by fudging and muddling the terminology of the report.

The result will be that coalition, while not ruled out in principle, will



almost certainly be ruled out for the next five to ten years. Labour's fall in support at the next election will further weaken the base for coalition.

After 15 years of political nightmare Labour has been severely damaged. Many branches verge on collapse. Its membership and vote have been decimated. But the damage is by no means irreparable. Its strength has been demonstrated in a negative sense by the failure of any of the self-styled alternatives to overtake or replace Labour.

In the period now opening up, with Labour moving away from coalitionism, polarisation along class lines can accelerate. With every section of the trade union and labour movement drawn into

repeated battles, the need for an effective political arm will be apparent to activists in growing numbers.

They will look to Labour. This will open the way, in the coming years, to an influx of workers and youth into the ranks of the party.

But policy will be the key factor. Provided the party is committed to a programme of social transformation answering the demands of the vast mass in society, the possibility of a majority Labour government carrying through the abolition of capitalist rule will be placed on the agenda.

By Ted Gannon  
(Irish Labour Party)

## Life in the North

THE LABOUR and Trade Union Group (LTUG) brought a picture of the harsh reality of life in Northern Ireland to the Labour Party conference.

"Over 100 catholic families have been burnt out in the small town of Lisburn" the speaker Kate O'Hanlon pointed out; "There has been rioting involving four to ten year-olds."

The LTUG are fighting for the trade unions to put a class alternative to the Anglo-Irish agreement between the London and Dublin Tory governments. "The silence of the union leaders means that the bigots raise all the issues first—on a dangerous sectarian basis. But if the trade unions raise the issues

first, they can get a big response.

"If the labour and trade union movement remains intact in Northern Ireland, it will be despite the 'bipartisan' policies of Kinnock and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions."

Kate O'Hanlon summed up that there was no way that catholics would accept partition or that protestants would accept a united capitalist Ireland. The only solution is a socialist Ireland.

She was supported by Terry Fields, Labour MP for Liverpool Broadgreen, who stressed: "The Tories in Westminster and Dublin have nothing in common with our class. Socialism has got to win over the whole of Britain and Ireland."

**Militant Irish Monthly**  
October edition  
25 pence

Articles on  
Dublin Gas,  
'independent  
Ulster' and  
Shorts.





# US boom runs out of steam

**RECENTLY, TWO New York men were arrested for a multi-million dollar "check-kiting" swindle.**

They had opened accounts in several banks, depositing bad checks from one bank to another. Then, before a check could bounce, a check from a second bank would be deposited in the first, and so on.

In this way, huge accounts were built up of literally fictitious capital.

The current recovery in the US economy can best be likened to a giant check-kiting scheme. The economy is being bilked for huge profits based on an increase in debt rather than on industrial production.

The federal deficit now stands at \$220 billion and is completely unmanageable.

Consumer spending has played an important role in the recovery. Real wages are 13 per cent lower than in 1973, but private non-financial debt now stands at 1.7 per cent of national income, compared with 1.3 per cent in 1982.

Corporate debt has also mushroomed. The corporations have converted \$175 billion of corporate equity into debt through an orgy of mergers and take-overs.

The ratio of business's interest payments to cash flow is now 39 per cent, compared with 20 per cent in the 1960s.

Rising federal, corporate and private indebtedness, combined with the crises in the oil states and the farming regions of the US, is leading to serious problems for the banking system. A record number of banks are going under, and \$60 billion

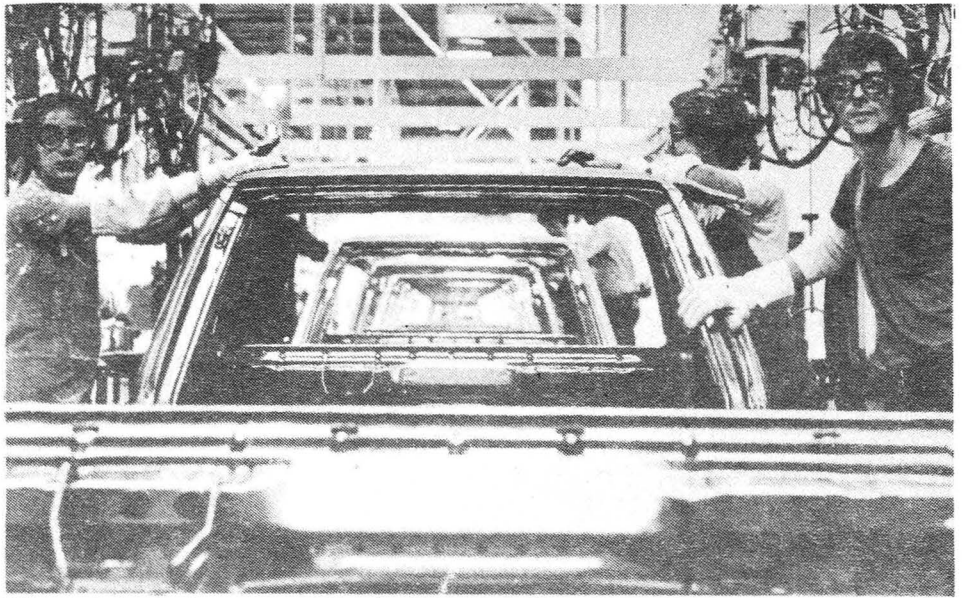
is now admitted to be tied up in bad debts.

The major productive industries are in decline. The six largest steel producers scored a total loss of over \$500 million last year. LTV Steel, the second largest, has gone bankrupt—the biggest bankruptcy ever in the US.

The auto manufacturers are increasingly looking to "financial services" (loans), rather than building cars, for their profits. The Big Three manufacturers of Detroit are cutting output by 11.8 per cent.

## Recession

Despite these strains, the economy is not yet in recession. Unemployment has dipped from 6.9 to 6.8 per cent, and in August the number of factory jobs rose slightly for the first time in



US auto industry, bosses are cutting back

months.

Without government stimulation, we would almost certainly see a recession by the end of the year. But some stimulation, especially in the form of lower interest rates, is likely. On this basis, the economy can stagger on for possibly another year or so.

But the longer the recession is delayed, the harder it will be when it hits.

As Marxists in the US predicted a year ago, the recovery has led to renewed militancy. Over the last four months, the *Wall Street Journal* has reported strikes

involving over 300,000 workers.

These strikes have occurred in all sectors of the economy.

At the same time, the Administration is facing explosive crises internationally. Reagan's anti-sanctions stand on South Africa has ended in humiliation. In the longer term, the ruling class will have even more serious problems in trying to keep a lid on the revolution in Central America.

Reagan is now exploiting the drugs problem, trying to create hysteria about the Colombians and Bolivians

supposedly forcing drugs on helpless American youth. This seems part of the attempt to whip up jingoism in preparation for a possible invasion of Nicaragua.

But desperate foreign adventures, no less than debt-creation at home, can at most postpone the massive movement against the ruling class, and for fundamental social change that is taking shape beneath the surface.

By John Reimann  
Carpenters' Local,  
Oakland, California

## Workers of the world unite

### Sri Lanka

WE, THE 800 manual workers of Levers (Ceylon), a subsidiary of Unilevers are currently facing the most serious industrial dispute since the general strike of 1980.

On 26 August 1986 Brother Mahinda Ratna, an active member of the union executive was sacked by management on a baseless charge in order to provoke a dispute.

Through the struggles of the Commercial and Industrial Workers Union, of which we are members, Levers workers have become amongst the highest-paid in the private sector in Colombo. The present management is jealous of the unity and power of our union, and have on many occasions tried to break us.

They are out to smash this union. They are extremely racist and anti-Tamil. Our union organises Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim workers. 100 per cent of the workforce are organised. We have consistently taken an anti-racist stand, campaigning for the unity of all workers against the bosses and their dictatorial government.

Workers have launched a successful week-end overtime ban since September 20. Our demands include Mahinda Ratna's reinstatement and a wage rise. If management do not respond we will have no alternative but to go for all out industrial action.

Unilever is a giant multinational. On many occasions workers in various countries have shown that the solidarity of our class is a match for the international pillaging by this and other monopolies.

The Sri Lankan trade union movement appeals to

you today to give this matter your urgent attention.

In Sri-Lanka if a worker is sacked he has no dole to support him. If the union is smashed, wages will go down to starvation levels.

Please rush messages of support, telegrams, and donations to:

Commercial and Industrial Workers Union, 143 (3rd floor) Kew Road, Colombo 2, Sri-Lanka. (Make cheques payable to Commercial and Industrial Workers Union)

Also send messages of protest demanding the reinstatement of brother Mahinda to:

Levers (Ceylon) Ltd., 258 Grandpass Road Colombo 14, Sri-Lanka.

### South Africa

**SOUTH AFRICAN chemical workers may strike in solidarity with 20 workers in Royston, Herts, made redundant when their work was transferred to Johannesburg.**

Management of Matthey Rustenburg Refiners wanted to introduce new shift patterns to increase platinum production in SA, while cutting back in Britain. But the SA Chemical Workers Industrial Union have refused to accept the plans, and are considering strike action.

The firm also wants to "do a Murdoch" and set up a plant in the Bantustan of Bophuthatswana, where the law obstructs trade union organisation.

Johnson Matthey workers in Britain should show their appreciation for this solidarity by building direct links with their SA counterparts, and providing solidarity in the struggle against apartheid.

Messages to: CWIU, PO Box 18349, Delbridge 4014, Durban, South Africa.

### Australia

**TWO LEADERS of the militant Building Labourers' Federation, that has come under vicious attack from employers and the Labour bureaucracy, have now been jailed for "trespassing" on a building site to check on health and safety issues.**

The bail conditions were that they could not go back to the site. They refused to sign, and now face remaining in jail until their case comes up next February.

The charge has a maximum fine of A\$50 (£20)!

Much solidarity is being organised in Australia. But international help is needed. Please ask MPs, trade unionists (especially in the building trade) and other labour movement activists to sign the pledge below, and send copies to: BLF Solidarity, c/o PO Box 1256, Parramatta, NSW 2150, Australia.

To: Premier Unsworth, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney, Australia.

I strongly oppose the gaoling of BLF officials, Steve Black and Ron Owens, whose only crime was to carry out their duty of serving their members.

When they were arrested, Brothers Black and Owens were carrying out important work attending to outstanding compensation entitlements.

The use of the state prison and police system to exclude union officials from their members' work places is an alarming violation of trade union rights.

I call for their immediate release.

## 'Hot autumn' in Italy?



Fiat workers will demand their share of the profits.

**STRIKES THREATEN** in both the private and public sector in Italy. The prospect of a "hot autumn" faces the Socialist-led coalition government.

As explained in *Militant* 815, this government is already in difficulties. Only the frustration and ebb in the workers' movement has allowed it to survive.

Now national negotiations are taking place, covering some ten million. Negotiations take place every three years and have always been the occasion for long disputes. The negotiating years between 1977 and 1983 cost six times more working days than in France, 364 times more than in West Germany and 2.7 times more than the UK.

At the same time the government is presenting a budget that will make big cuts in public spending. Health service prescriptions are to go up once again. The fact that some union leaders are discussing the budget and criticising for the first time their own past tactics, gives an indication of the unrest amongst workers.

This unrest below the surface is ready to explode in spite of the apparent calm.

Already the metal mechanics (1.5 million) seem set to down tools. A one day strike has already been organised in the province of Brescia for 14 October. Further strikes are planned for the chemical workers.

But the industrialists too may be pushing for a confrontation. They have become confident over the past three years, misinterpreting the lull in the movement for a lack of fight on the part of the workers.

The workers, in the face of passivity from their

leaders, have only become more discerning in their choice of tactics against the bosses. They are tired of striking for the odd hour here and there, losing pay to no effect.

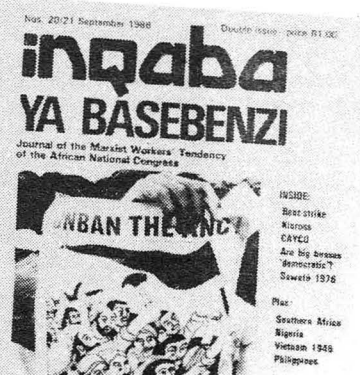
New struggles are inevitable with the attacks that the bosses have in store. Workers are aware of the superprofits that the bosses have been making. FIAT for example is expected to make 6,500 billion lira (over £3,200 million) this year.

Now they will want a share in the increasing wealth they have produced.

By Soraya Lawrence

### ORDER NOW!

September issue of *Inqaba* Price £1 plus postage. Write to *Inqaba*, BM Box 1719, London WC1N 3XX





# Bus drivers' success

Dear Comrades,  
After we read your article (*Militant* 815 on Stevenage bus drivers) we cut it out and left it on the table for all the committee members to read.  
Every one of us said how accurate it was and how it was the truth. We took your article into our board meeting with management and showed it to them. Their response was: "We would advise you not to go running to the press as it could damage your case."

However, Green Line (our bus company) and Jubilee Buses are amalgamating on late night buses and they have agreed to now provide us with radios. But it's thanks to your article that we've actually got our radios. All the lads thought it was really good. Congratulations.  
Yours fraternally  
Ben Farrow  
Bus driver, TGWU, Stevenage

## Loughton Hall

Dear Comrades,  
I would just like to correct your report of the Loughton Hall incident (*Militant* 815). I was arrested when a massive police presence stopped any attempt by *Militant* supporters to rearrange a

*Militant* meeting which was restricted to readers to keep to the hiring agreement.  
The hall cancellation was a deliberate political act to prevent the *Militant* viewpoint being expressed in the Loughton area.  
Yours fraternally  
Bob Edwards  
Harlow

## Student hardships

Dear *Militant*,  
I have just started at Polytechnic and like many other students face considerable financial hardship. My grant of £2.75 (ie. 275 pence!) for a year might make comrades think my parents are well off but I can assure you they are not. Students should not get bogged down in 'student

politics' but should talk to the people who keep the college running. Most of the work of caretakers, cleaners and catering staff is done behind the scenes and some students don't appreciate all that they do.  
Yours fraternally  
Andrew Craig  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne

## Disciplinary charges

Dear Comrades,  
The news of the new Labour Party offence "Conduct prejudicial to the party" reminds me of section 69 of the Army Act 1955. This offence; "Conduct unbecoming of a member of HM forces" allows any individual with rank, or clique of individuals to charge, fine or imprison, members of the lower ranks even if they hadn't committed an offence.  
It's a case of "If I don't like you I'm going to get you". The familiarity between these two "offences" is disturbingly obvious.  
Yours fraternally  
West London *Militant* supporter

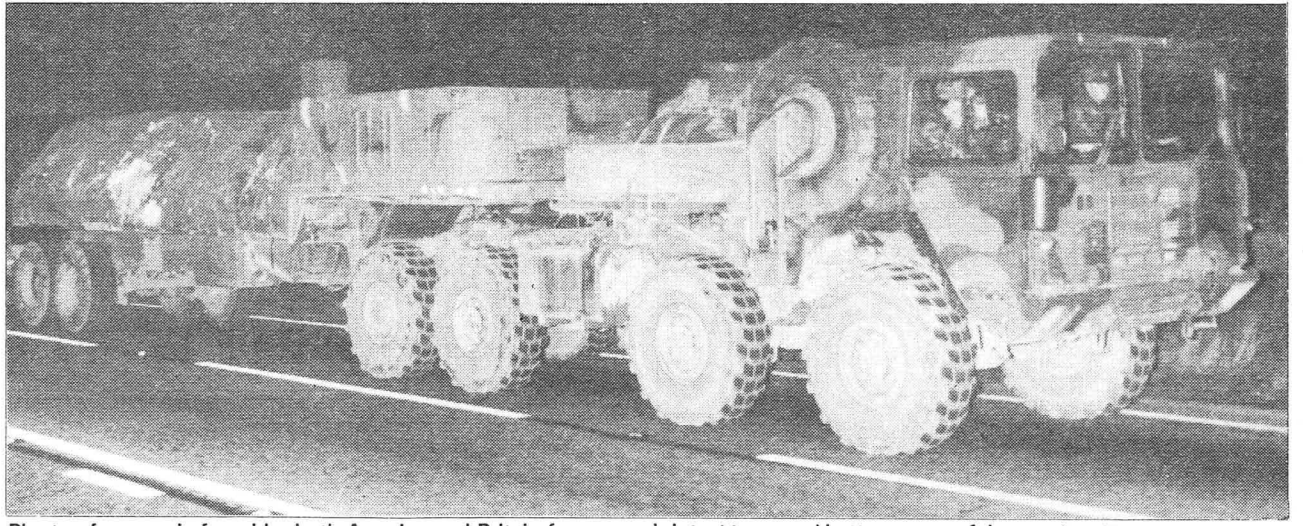
# Letters

Send us your views, comments or criticism.

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

## A matter of priorities

Dear Comrades,  
A fair reflection of the priorities of a country is the allocation of its Research and Development resources.  
In contrast to the recent TV appearance by Nancy and Ronald Reagan, showing their 'concern' for drug abuse, the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration budget for drug abuse research increased by one tenth of a per cent from 1985 to 1986.  
Total Research and Development by the National Institute of Health fell by 4.9 per cent in real terms. Child Health lost 2.5 per cent of research funding and Ageing Research 3.8 per cent in the same year.  
Total Department of Defense research funds for 1986 were \$34,952 million, a 19.6 per cent increase on the previous year. With figures like these on defence, who needs to worry about ageing?  
Yours fraternally  
Gwyn Morris  
Bedford



Plenty of money is found by both America and Britain for research into bigger and better means of destruction. This cruise missile launcher alone carries a destructive power equivalent to 76 Nagasakis.  
Photo: John Harris (IFL)

## The great Argentinian banking swindle

Dear *Militant*  
"Argentina has been rocked by a financial scandal about a \$110 million swindle involving Alas Bank..." reports the *Telegraph*.  
This scandal took place while Argentina is currently seeking new loans from the World Bank and

obtained breathing space on its repayments of debts currently totalling \$50,000 million.  
The *Telegraph* complains "the money involved in the swindle is estimated to be enough to cover 10 days interest payment."  
\$110 million is certainly one hell of a swindle,

but what sort of swindle is the money drawn off the working people of Argentina in interest payments every day, 365 days a year?  
If 10 days interest payment 'rocks Argentina' what must 365 days worth do?  
Yours fraternally  
Dave Griffiths  
West Midlands  
Labour Party

## MSC project behind the times

Dear Comrades,  
I read with interest your article on Wolverhampton I-Tec (*Militant* 813). I work for Bishopston Community Programme as a Community Project on a Community Programme. Part of the project is North Bristol I-Tec, employing YTS trainees.  
When I was over there a few weeks ago, I saw a notice on the door warning that trainees caught leaving the door open will be liable to a half days reduction of wages. Could the firm not afford a hydraulic door closer? I thought such things as fines at work were a thing of the past.  
Yours fraternally  
Colin Toogood  
Bristol, NUPE

## Classified ads

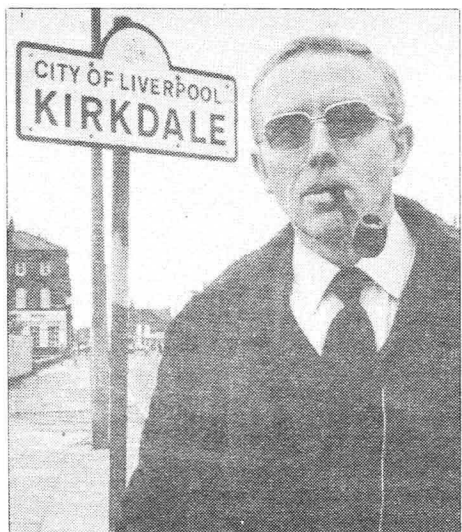
- 15p per word, minimum 10 words. Semi-Display £2 per column centimetre. Three weeks for the price of two. *Militant* meeting ads free. All advertisement copy should reach this office by first post on Friday, the week before publication.
- Address books 60p, bookmarks 40p, plastic sleeves 20p, sew on badge 40p, pens 30p plus post to: *Militant*, 8 Woodside Court, Woodside Rd, Portswood, Southampton.
- SALEP broadsheet *Workers and youth direct links campaign 1986*, 20p plus p&p from: PO Box 77, London E8 4TB.
- *Militant Rally in the Albert Hall*: Can all parents who will require crèche facilities during the rally on 16 November please contact the Rally crèche, 3/13 Hepscoth Road, London E9 5HB for a crèche booking form.
- *MILITANT* miners' badges. Cost £1.50 each including post and package. Cheques payable to *Militant Miner*. Available from *Militant*, 3/13 Hepscoth Road, London E9 5HB.
- New video *The Launch of COSATU*. Available for hire from: PO Box 77, London E8 4TB.
- Congratulations to Wayne and Christine Jones on the birth of baby Faye from Nottingham and Derby *Militant* supporters

- NUJ Broad Left presents Ragged Trousered Cabaret. Starring: Some like it Hot, Sheila Hyde, P.R. Murry, Ian Saville. Albany Pub, Great Portland St (opposite tube station), private room, bar, dance floor. Saturday 11 October, 8pm 'til 12. Tickets £3.50/£1.50 unwaged, £3 in advance from NUJ BL. Wapping strikers free.
- Out now! Lenin and Trotsky on Rosa Luxemburg. 4 articles 25p (40p including post) 5 copies-£1.50. Read it before you see the film! Order from World Socialist Books, 3/13 Hepscoth Road, London E9 5HB.
- Surplus Value require singers and musicians to build for the revolution. Phone Mark/Tim 01-254 9551.
- Halloween Disco and bar 9pm-2am. Friday 31 October, at White Hart. 231 Lower Clapton Rd, 50 yards from Lea Bridge Island. Entrance by ticket only, £2 in advance. From Brian Debus 533 3311 and Dave Webb 254 2495. Buses: 35, 48, 253, 55, 255, 106, 52, 400, N96. Proceeds to FF.
- Sittingbourne Marxist discussion group. Every second Tuesday at 29 Waterloo Rd, Sittingbourne, Kent. For further details ring Sittingbourne 72632.
- Wroxall Marxist discussion group. 2 Mountfield Rd, Wroxall, Isle of Wight. Every Wednesday. Phone Vic Dale on IOW 854759 for details.
- Caerphilly Marxist discussion group. Working Mens Hall, Caerphilly, every Monday 7.30pm.

### Militant Meetings

## Marxists in the Commons

Dear Comrades,  
I was pleased to read your article on the work of our two Marxist MPs. They are a public example of the benefits of Marxist ideas cutting through the polite traditions and class collaboration of many Labour MPs.  
However I feel you did Terry Fields a disservice if you only published part of where his money goes to, only £2,000 was detailed. I know they give accounts to their constituencies but perhaps you could publish some more details in the paper too.  
Yours fraternally  
Joanna Slattery  
Nottingham North  
Labour Party



Terry Fields, MP for Liverpool Broadgreen pledged to live on the average workers' wage as part of his election campaign. Photo: *Militant*

## Right-winger goes off his trolley

Dear Comrades,  
Kilroy-Silk is not the only right winger to revert to threats and thuggery when socialists threaten his career. Not content with excluding *Militant* supporter Chris McCann (an unemployed 17 year old

from joining the Bromsgrove Labour Party, local right wing councillor Peter MacDonald, verbally provoked, swore at, and insulted Chris last week.  
Unfortunately for the councillor the incident was videoed and recorded by another young socialist. This video nasty is sure to be a box office hit at *Militant* socials throughout the West Midlands.  
Yours fraternally  
Birmingham Labour Party member

## Edwina Currie passes the buck

Dear Comrades,  
The newly appointed health minister Edwina Currie launched an amazing attack on the people of the North while speaking in Newcastle last week.  
She said that there was no link between ill health and poverty and incredibly suggested that personal health was taken more seriously in "advanced societies" (which presumably the North isn't).  
She had the nerve to suggest that people were failing to recognise that they do have

some control over their lives.  
Not as much control as a government which through unemployment and low pay drives people to desperate measures such as alcoholism and drugs.  
It's typical that the Tories always look at the symptoms of a problem instead of the problem itself which they have created.  
Yours fraternally  
Andy Walker  
Redcar Labour Party  
Young Socialists

## Leadership takes no action

Dear comrades,  
Having been a regular reader of *Militant* since 1966 I write to congratulate all concerned on the magnificent centre pages article on Dave Nellist and Terry Fields.  
On the same day as I read the article on Terry and Dave *The Times* in the college library was advertising the serialisation of Kilroy-Silk's new book. It makes my blood boil to think that some right wingers would expel Terry and Dave yet take no action against class traitors like Kilroy-Silk.  
Yours fraternally  
Andrew Price  
Cardiff South and Penarth Labour Party







## Engineering feature

# Paxman lock-out

ON 9 SEPTEMBER the first meeting was held of a support group for six hundred workers locked out since 24 June at Paxman's Diesels, an engineering firm in Colchester.

This dispute, featured prominently in the local press as a dispute about pay, in fact is about a number of wider issues as well.

The unions put in for a pay rise last October and were offered 3 per cent. When they pressed for 12 per cent the management offer was withdrawn. A mass meeting of the workforce produced a ballot result in favour of industrial action and an overtime ban was imposed.

The company reacted with a letter to be personally signed by all the workers giving management complete control over the negotiation of each individual's hours of work (unlawfully, at the time it seems).

By Russell Tandy  
(Colchester LPYS)

The members were advised not to sign and 400 of the 60 letters were handed in to the shop stewards unsigned (only a handful of workers actually signing). Then these workers were sacked by management as they were unwilling to agree to work unlimited overtime at a time of massive unemployment.

The workers were out for four days, after which management repeated their offer, hoping to have weakened the resolve of the workers. With GEC, Paxman's parent company, currently sitting on £1.5 billion

in the bank, the company was easily able to afford this concession.

A meeting of the workers voted two to one to accept this three per cent offer and return to work the following Monday.

Management then attempted to reimpose strings attached to the deal (including the loss of two teabreaks) and the overtime ban was renewed.

### No talks

The conciliation service ACAS was called in and were met by Jack Fryer, the managing director. Fryer agreed to drop the strings but later that week phoned ACAS to say he had changed his mind. Management then refused to meet the unions.

On 24 June the 600 workers were locked out.

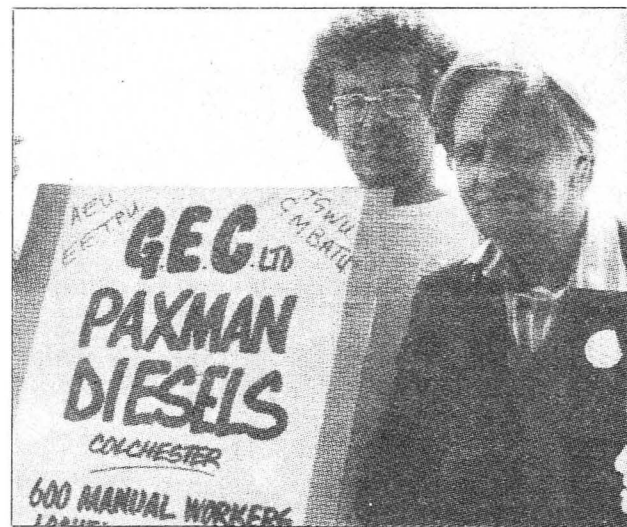
The workforce has been maintaining a 24-hour picket line with good support and financial contributions from all over the country.

Colchester Labour Party Young Socialists, collecting locally on Saturday mornings and at their disco have raised £73.29 for the lock-out fund.

Delegates from the union have been touring the country raising money and spreading the news of the dispute most recently in Harlow, Norwich and Manchester.

Members of the UCW at the Post Office have refused to cross the picket line with deliveries despite the vacillation of their leaders after a threat of legal action by Paxman's management.

The management have been totally unscrupulous in their handling of this affair—giving concessions to



get important orders out on time and then going back on their word. A set of gates previously locked for ten years were suddenly opened to allow scab lorry drivers wearing SAS-type balaclavas to pass through with supplies.

### Whitewash

The managing director has now gained the nickname of 'Liar Fryer' and a great deal

of graffiti is appearing to this effect—Paxman's are now employing someone full-time to scrub it out.

The dispute can and must be won as it is being watched with great interest by both bosses and workers locally. Donations and messages of support should be sent to:

Mick Spurgin, Secretary Paxmans JSSC, 77 Artillery St, Colchester. Tel: Col. 68817.

## Build from lobby against engineering deal



Engineering workers from Sheffield and London lobby the meeting between CSEU (Confed) and Engineering Employers Federation leaders. Ken Randall of the Sheffield AEU District Committee seen centre picture lobbying Confed general secretary Alex Ferry told *Militant*: "We are not at all happy with the comments of the engineering union leaders when we questioned them over the negotiations. The concessions they seem prepared to give to the employers are too profound, they are talking about giving away too much. More pressure must be applied from all branches of all unions within the Confed, not just the AEU. These proposals will worsen working conditions throughout the engineering industry."

## Brum union battle

AFTER MANY years of poverty wages and poor health and safety conditions the twenty mainly women workers of a small metal pressing firm, Borderway Ltd of Birmingham, decided they had no option but to try and set up a trade union in the factory.

The boss's reply was swift, he immediately sacked two workers who were instrumental in setting up the union. The works manager was heard to brag "I've broken unions before".

For the last six weeks the strikers have maintained a picket line day in day out, relying on strike pay and labour movement donations to keep them going.

### Some reward

One worker explained why they are so determined: "For a 39-hour week we were getting £1.40 per hour...In the past we have worked shifts and been extremely flexible for no extra money. This is our reward."

As one male worker on the picket line pointed out: "People think the women here are working for pin money but many of them are bread winners." As for conditions in the factory: "When we returned from our Easter break we were dismayed to find our only drinking water supply cut off".

Despite the appalling wages, pickets made the point that: "It's not so much the money as the principle of being able to join a union that we are struggling for."

Now the the dispute has dragged on for nearly two months it is clear that the strike has to be stepped up a gear, not only in terms of approaching local factories and labour movement bodies for much needed finance but also in campaigning for increased support in blacking Borderway goods.

Donations and messages of support should be sent to: Tass Craft (Metal Mechanics) section, 70 Lionel Street, Birmingham.

By Les Kuriata

## Mysons turn the heat on Thorn

IN A blaze of publicity in the national press, Myson PLC purchased the four factories in Thorn EMI Heating Ltd six months ago.

On 17 September the workers staged a 24-hour strike to resist further cut-backs and for the reintroduction of lost conditions. Jason Hunter, an AEU shop steward at the Padiham factory explains what happened.

FOR SOME time Thorn EMI had been experiencing difficulties with profits down, shown in the sacking of chairman Peter Laister in 1985.

In a scramble for cash Thorn EMI sold off a number of companies: the Heating Group, including factories at Padiham, Birtley, Team Valley and Bridgewater.

In a deal worth over £40 million Myson paid partly in cash and partly by giving Thorn EMI over 20 per cent of shares in Myson itself. This makes Thorn EMI the biggest single shareholder in Myson.

A whole range of conditions given to Thorn EMI employees have been withdrawn since the takeover.

Myson PLC is a small company, employing roughly 2,000, doubling in size as a result of the takeover. At the time of the takeover its rate of profit was double that of Thorn EMI Heating.

Management have made clear that they wish to boost profits in the factories taken over to the level of Myson generally. Thorn EMI Heating chairman, John Sweet, welcomed the takeover only to be sacked some weeks later.

Since the takeover the Thorn EMI redundancy agreement has been withdrawn from 20 September 1986, reducing compensation to the legal minimum.

All sites have had a redundancy exercise, in the case of the Padiham site alone saving £1/2 million, 10 per cent of the wage bill. A death-in-service insurance scheme has been withdrawn.

A profit sharing scheme has been removed at the very time a drive is being made to boost profits. (This has in the past paid as much as 5 per cent of earnings to all employees in a lump sum).

Pension contributions have been frozen, whilst in Thorn EMI as a whole they have been reduced.

At a local level each factory has seen their working practices examined, resulting in a dispute (now amicably resolved) at the Padiham site.

In each case above (except for the last) the union representatives in all factories were told that the decision had been made by senior Myson management and could not be altered by local management.

When requests have been made to see senior Myson management they have been refused on the grounds that it is not the style of Myson to meet unions.

The train of events strengthened links between all unions in the new Myson Heating Group. A meeting

held in July for the first time saw all unions in the four factories meeting together.

A call went out from the meeting for the reintroduction of conditions lost and for a meeting with senior Myson management. The strike took place on Wednesday 17 September and received overwhelming support.

The AEU at Padiham voted three to one in favour. AEU, EET-PU, Astms and Apex at Birtley supported, Tass (sheeties) and Astms at Team Valley.

The Bridgewater factory, employing only 100, was given dispensation as it is already working a 3-day week.

At the Padiham factory just over 100 staff worked. Tass members were deprived of a ballot by their own union representatives' slowness to move, whilst Apex (45 members) was the only union to vote no, though 15 voted yes and a number donated the day's pay.



# Industrial Reports

## Miners fight back in Notts and Derby

### Hucknall

THE CAMPAIGN to save Hucknall pit in Nottinghamshire will continue, despite a vote for closure by UDM members there.

300 people had attended a council-sponsored meeting to start the fight back. But a week later the UDM balloted its members and accepted the closure by 645

votes to 282. The result came just 16 days after the area director's announcement.

Apparently, some UDM men were going round the pit with a petition calling for severance pay to be increased to £1,500 a year and for the closure to be accepted. So much for any attempt by the UDM to fight the closure!

This emphasises the point made by speakers at the public meeting; that there must be only one miners'

union in Nottinghamshire—the NUM. The UDM leadership will make no effort to save the pits. Their whole approach raises the question of whether they connived with British Coal over this closure.

NUM members at Hucknall were not balloted on the issue.

Despite the UDM vote, the "coalfield community" campaign will continue—to save Hucknall and to warn other Notts pits.

450 jobs are to go at Benthinck and the fight is starting now to safeguard the future of the southern part of the coalfield.

The County Council must ensure that surveys of the effects of closure, and independent mining engineers' reports, are produced immediately for every pit. There can be no confidence in British Coal's reports, nor in the UDM leadership's.

### Ollerton

A WALK-OUT at Ollerton colliery in Notts last Friday over bonus payments left only 47 (mainly outbye and craft) at work out of a shift of 250 and no coal was turned.

About 20 per cent of the men who walked out were UDM members. Of the night shift half the men walked out, mainly NUM members but including about ten UDM.

Bonus payments at the pit had been low over the past five weeks. The final straw came when the European record of tonnes per shift was broken and the colliery record for tonnage was smashed but bonus stayed the same as the previous week.

Apparently UDM officials at the pit were told by a

senior UDM full-time official that if they took part in any contract meetings including NUM chargemen they would be sacked from their positions.

At the weekly contract meeting with management, when the NUM face chargemen came in and the UDM branch officials walked out. It ended with the bonus improved by £1 per shift.

This dispute shows that only the NUM is prepared to fight for the miners' interests. Ollerton pit membership stands at about 400 NUM, 450 UDM.

Six UDM members signed over to the NUM immediately on Friday and the NUM is hoping to achieve a majority of the workforce before the end of the year.

By Paul Shawcroft

### Markham

COAL MINISTER David Hunt proved decisively last week...the miners' drift back to work goes on!

On a visit to Markham No 2 colliery in Derbyshire he dismissed a protest walk-out as "insignificant".

He claimed on local radio

that 900 men were still underground during his visit. This is a bit puzzling because only 800 men work underground at the pit and only 350 on days: eighteen months after the strike they are still cooking the books!

In fact not only did part of the day-shift walk out, but even on afternoons, long after Mr Hunt had gone, some men were still refusing to go down.

In spite of the defeatism of some cynics in the movement, miners are still fighting. Less than two weeks ago Markham ground to a standstill in a dispute over bonus—one of many strikes in this and other Derbyshire pit over the last year.

On this occasion the whole pit was ready to stop—only the hesitancy of branch officials in the pit at the time prevented a 100 per cent

stoppage.

No doubt even that would have been described by the Tory minister as a "minor detail". If so, why have management sent out threatening letters to Markham men warning them against taking any more "unofficial action"?

By a Markham miner

## News in Brief

### ICI jobs

CHEMICALS multinational ICI has announced a massive shake-up in its British operations, threatening thousands of jobs across the country. From 1 January the company are merging the agricultural fibres, petrochemical and plastics divisions into one group to cut costs. Support services like office staff would be centralised and cut.

The biggest losses are feared in Teeside, already reeling from the plan to close Smiths Dock. Now there could be a new disaster area at the eight storey block of the agricultural division at Billingham, with no union consultation, the HQ moving to Run-corn. TGWU officials say these job losses would percolate through to manual jobs as well. ICI will try to divide workers across the country. There must be a united fight, a national campaign to stop the devastation.

By Andy Walker, TGWU 8/3, personal capacity

### London DHSS

MEMBERS OF civil service unions CPSA and SCPS at DHSS Kensington have been on indefinite strike since 16 September for reinstatement of a CPSA member who has been suspended by management.

The member had been arrested along with a colleague for alleged offences involving national insurance numbers. One was charged but the other released and police have stated that they do not want to see her again. Management, however, have refused to reinstate her and said that once the affair is over they cannot guarantee she will be reinstated in that office.

The CPSA has given official backing for this dispute but the SCPS have refused so SCPS members at Kensington have had no strike pay for over three weeks. Members of the SCPS and CPSA have been visiting offices in London to explain the dispute and ask for sympathy action by other offices. CPSA members at Greenwich Park ILO voted overwhelmingly to support and struck on 3 October. 11 out of the 33 SCPS refused to cross picket lines.

### Cleveland bus

BUS WORKERS on municipally owned Cleveland Transit in the North East are on indefinite strike. Grievances have been building up against the Labour-controlled body as jobs have

been lost and a depot closed. The 1986 pay award is nine months overdue.

The three district councils responsible, Langbaugh, Middlesborough and Stockton state there is no money to pay the back money to the anniversary date of January. Transit workers remain local authority employees until 26 October, De-regulation day, when the roads will be open to every cowboy bus operator creaming off the most profitable routes and undermining services on less popular routes.

The workers are disgusted at the Labour-controlled body and on the picket line compared the actions of local Stockton council unfavourably to the role of Liverpool council in fighting cuts. The background threat is that with de-regulation the company could be put into liquidation if they continue with their claim for £272,000 back pay. The company will be run by a shadow board of directors, with Labour councillors sitting on it.

But the workers are determined to fight. There was a three to one vote for strike action and there are only seven scabs, one in Middlesborough and six in Stockton.

Thanks to W Raine, Secretary, combined shop stewards committee, Cleveland Transit

### Woolwich Ford

FORD WORKERS at the Woolwich plant in London staged a 24-hour walk-out last Wednesday against closure of the plant. It is due to close by 1989 with the loss of 280 jobs after 31 years producing parts for Ford engines.

Ford is currently either trying to outsource a lot of its work to second and third world countries and is setting up its own production units in areas where the labour costs are cheaper, such as Brazil and Mexico.

Nick Smith, one of four Militant supporters on Greenwich council and an hourly paid employee at the plant, said: "They are closing a plant that has consistently made them a profit for over 30 years. Ford's overcapacity in Europe and Britain seems to have come about by their exploitation of cheap labour sources throughout the world and now we are having to pay. It doesn't matter any more whether you are efficient or profitable they will kick you in the teeth whenever they can. Workers in the automotive industry in general should take heed of our situation and learn a lesson—fight for your rights. We're not finished yet!"

Letters of support should be sent to: T Franklin, convenor Ford Motor Company Ltd, 2-6 Griffin Manor Way, London SE28 and/or Councillor



Sacked workers picket the Roehampton Factory of artificial limb manufacturer J F Hangar. Representatives of Hangar workers from around the country met at the weekend to discuss solidarity action. On Monday workers took management by surprise with a march round the factory. Photo: Phil Tracey

Nick Smith, c/o Town Hall, Wellington St, London SE18.

### Telecom pay

ALL MEMBERS of the National Communications Union (NCU) are to be balloted on British Telecom's 'final' pay offer of 4.5 per cent on basic rates conditional on acceptance of a list of regrading proposals.

Unfortunately the right wing led Engineering Group executive is handling the issue differently to the Broad Left led Clerical Group.

They are calling this a "consultative ballot" and say that even if members vote against the offer there will have to be a second ballot in line with the Trade Union Act.

They are refusing to recommend rejection, merely saying they "cannot recommend it". The Clerical Group are being recommended to reject and give the go-ahead for industrial action.

The three week period available for campaigning before balloting begins must see a vigorous campaign against the offer linking pay to the issue of job losses and the call for a 32-hour, four day week.

By Dave Gorton, West End Branch NCU, personal capacity

### Teachers

DURHAM TEACHERS reaffirmed their determination to keep fighting for the improved working conditions won during the last two years, despite the Coventry Agreement, the backsliding of the NUT Executive and renewed threats of docking of pay from the local authority at a mass meeting on 25 September.

Suggestions that there was no longer any stomach to continue the fight, and that they would be forced back to three-day cover, were contemptuously brushed aside. Speakers made it clear that they had not fought the last two years just to give up now. There was undisguised anger at the concessions made by the executive in signing the Coventry Agreement and the get-out clauses in the Interim Cover Agreement.

The mood was that if the authority wanted a dispute it could have one, but they were not going to get NUT members going back to cover for more than one day. Durham Division is applying now for full National Action Committee support in their fight with the local authority. It is essential that their backing is given.

By Ian Hunter, Chester-le-Street NUT

CORRECTION. Apologies to Anita Dickinson and Bob Sulatycki for a sub editor's error inserted in their articles last week describing the national 'Coventry Agreement' as locally negotiated.

### A&P shipyard

SHIPYARD WORKERS at Austin & Pickersgill and Southern Shipbuilders on the River Wear have voted at mass meetings to back the Shipyards Negotiating Committee (SNC) in breaking off negotiations on pay and working practices with British Shipbuilders' management.

This overwhelming vote shows that shipyard workers are prepared to defend hard-won conditions when a lead is given. British Shipbuilders management have been attempting to increase the use of contracting, compulsory redundancies and new working practices. This has been tied

to a two-year pay deal which will leave pay levels for 1988 at the same level as 1985.

If this deal is allowed to go through trade unionism in the shipyards will effectively cease to exist. As we go to press it looks as if other yards in British Shipbuilders are also taking a determined stand on this question.

### Aslef apartheid

ON TUESDAY 7 October the recalled Annual Assembly of Delegates of train drivers' union Aslef saw the executive succeed in overturning the AAD's decision earlier this year to disinvest in companies with South African links.

It was lobbied by Aslef members from all over the country disgusted at the executive's decision to call the conference.

Delegates expressed concern that the conference was recalled merely because the earlier decision had gone against the executive.

When amendments were proposed by delegates to the executive's rule change they were not allowed. Even a compromise amendment saying that the executive need take no further action until the next AAD was not taken.

The executive's main arguments were that they would lose money by disinvesting and would thus put the union's independence in jeopardy.

Some delegates condemned the investments as blood money and others pointed out that even on purely financial criteria, given the internal situation South Africa could not be considered a sound investment. The executive's rule change was passed by 34 votes to 11.

By Andy Viner



# Militant

**John Macreadie vindicated** — Page 10  
**Conisbrough feature** — Page 7

## CPSA Election

# Right press for reballot

“A game of football between the Electoral Reform Society and the union’s Returning Officer, with the CPSA National Executive acting as the referee and the membership being treated worse than away fans at a Luton Town game.”

That was how John Macreadie, CPSA General Secretary-elect, described the latest bizarre twist of events in the desperate attempt of the union’s right-wing, backed up by the Tory press, to prevent him taking office.

The Electoral Reform Society has produced not just one report, but two into alleged irregularities in the General Secretary election. It is supposedly an impartial body, merely employed to inquire into the claimed irregularities and to report to the union’s Returning Officer. But it has overstepped its remit by recommending that the ballot be re-run. The Returning Officer, who alone has the power to order a re-run of the ballot, has endorsed this recommendation, but left the matter to the right wing controlled CPSA NEC which under union rules is not em-



CPSA conference democracy at work, but right want to trample over the rule book.

powered to act in this situation.

But the Electoral Reform Society has at least completely exonerated John Macreadie and his supporters from any hint of ballot rigging, and has nailed the slanders in the press etc.

The Returning Officer is basing his recommendation on the second report which is still being kept secret from all but the right wing. The union president, Marion

Chambers, has not even told John how many branches have called for a special conference of CPSA, which John and his supporters have been calling for. The union’s NEC will meet on 13 October. The right wing majority on the NEC are hell bent on pushing through a re-run, and are prepared to flaunt the union’s rule book.

John Macreadie and his supporters are urgently calling upon all CPSA members and branches, to demand

that the special CPSA conference on pay on 27 November also discuss the General Secretary election, and decide the question of whether or not the ballot should be re-run. If the right do overturn the democratic wishes of the membership and force a new election on the union, it is quite possible they will seek to do so on the basis of a postal ballot. John Macreadie said: “CPSA conference has previously rejected postal balloting. There

can be no changes to the current election procedures, without conference authority. Anything else would be ignoring the union’s rules and constitution. But if there is a re-run, I will seek to be re-elected. I am confident of winning twice, despite the campaign of lies that will be unleashed by the Tory establishment.”

By Brian Ingham

## What we stand for

- The immediate introduction of a 35-hour week without loss in pay as a step towards the elimination of unemployment.
- Reversal of all Tory cuts and a massive programme of public works on housing, education, the health service, etc.
- A minimum wage of £120 a week for all, including pensioners, sick and disabled people.
- Opposition to the capitalist Common Market, the EEC. For a socialist United States of Europe as a step towards a World Socialist Federation.
- A socialist plan of production democratically drawn up and implemented by committees involving the trade unions, shop stewards, housewives and small businessmen.
- Workers’ management of the nationalised industries. These should be run on the basis of one-third of the places on the management board coming from the unions in the industry, one-third from the TUC representing the working class as a whole, and one-third from the government.
- Opposition to the Tory government’s anti-union laws and the reversal of attacks on the trade unions.
- Massive cuts in arms spending. Support for unilateral nuclear disarmament, but with the recognition that only a socialist change of society in Britain and internationally can eliminate the danger of a nuclear holocaust.
- Nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies, including the banks and insurance companies which control 80 per cent to 85 per cent of the economy. This should be through an Enabling Bill in Parliament with minimum compensation on the basis of proven need.

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