

After the election
what now for Labour?

Militant public rallies
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Labour election defeat

Prepare to fight back

THE TORIES have won their third term. The losers are millions of workers on poverty wages, pensioners struggling to survive the next winter, the sick facing growing waiting lists, the unemployed with no hope and above all the young who have been denied a future.

The next five years will be a nightmare if Thatcher is allowed to go on and on with the policies which have already brought such misery.

But workers will be angry, determined to make the Tories rue their victory and get their revenge for the heavy price they will have to pay. Trade unions will be preparing for mighty struggles to defend jobs, wages and the welfare state.

The civil servants and teachers who are already fighting for a living wage will be joined by one group of workers after another in a life-or-death struggle to defend themselves from the Tories.

The election campaign of the Tories and their press millionaire friends was one of lies, smears and scandals. No dirty trick was left unused to divert attention from the reality of Tory policy and try to frighten middle-class voters with scares about 'extremists' in the Labour Party.

'Get the Tories out before their five years are up'

The truth is that it is Thatcher and her class who will now be implementing 'extreme' policies, to create an even more divided society.

Even before the election, nearly £7 billion was added to share prices, as City fat cats anticipated a Tory win. While the champagne swilling spivs of the City of London will be free to make more billions, the overwhelming majority of the population will endure the hardship which will follow the looming international economic crisis.

By Pat Craven

For Labour, this was a major defeat. The successes in Scotland and Wales cannot hide the failure of the party leaders to convince thousands of workers in the South and Midlands that they have a socialist alternative which will really improve their lives.

Labour's election campaign was undoubtedly more professional, but that was never enough. It was only where Marxist candidates fought the election on clear socialist policies and took the arguments on to the doorsteps and workplaces, that Labour achieved the kind of swings which would have brought victory if applied nationally.

In Liverpool in particular, where a great tradition of fighting for working people with socialist policies has been established, most of all by the surcharged and disqualified City Council, the election results were the exact opposite of the national trend.

That tradition must now be adopted by the Party nationally. Behind the glossy packaging, there must be a socialist content. Labour has to re-establish itself as a crusading body which is going to act, as well as talk about the injustices of capitalism.

It has to show in practice that there is an alternative socialist form of society, that there is no need to accept the squalid values of Thatcherism.

As the first step towards this transformation of the party, all divisive witch-hunts must be stopped immediately and the Party rededicated to a united fight to adopt fighting socialist policies and get the Tories out before their five years are up.



Photo: Andrew Ward (Report)

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Scottish miners' gala



The fight for pit jobs
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Civil servants strike
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Militant Editorial statement Election '87

Labour leaders let in Tories

THE PROSPECT now of another Thatcher term will fill all Labour workers with a sense of dread. Millions were not taken in by the myth of "booming Britain", or the tax con. They voted for jobs and to defend the welfare state. And Thatcher clearly has the health service, state education and benefits in her sights, in her hidden manifesto.

But the Tories have far from received an enthusiastic popular mandate for further attacks on the working class.

In 1979 Thatcher got in, due to the disillusion with the spending cuts and wage restraint of the right wing Callaghan/Healy Labour Government. She was re-elected in 1983 with a reduced share of the popular vote, only due to the Falklands victory and her opportunity to bask in the role of world stateswoman, apparently restoring Britain's lost might. The Tory newspapers crow about "Maggie the third," it will prove to be a bitter victory. The Tory share of the vote in 1983 was their lowest since the war and in 1987 it stands no higher.

The Tories went into this election brimming with overconfidence—Labour was in disarray, the local elections indicated a clear victory and Thatcher's personal respect was unassailable. With the press in their pocket, the Tories were supremely sure of their success. And they had to call the election now, before the real signs of looming economic crisis could no longer be covered up.

Tory smears

Towards the end of the campaign, as some polls hinted that Labour was running very close (at one point just four per cent behind) panic set in at Tory headquarters. Even Saatchi and Saatchi were threatened with the chop. But it was Tory complacency that had allowed the publicity campaign to lag behind.

Fleet street loyally answered the call. Smears against Labour, especially the left, hit new lows. The Tories brought their 'experts' on the left into the centre of their campaign planning, to coordinate the dirty tricks.

The capitalist press was more viciously anti-Labour, more hysterical than ever. The ruling class realised that this was not the Labour Party of Wilson or Gaitskell. A majority Labour Government now, whatever the leadership, would be under the intense pressure of the growing leftward mood of the Party and union ranks. It had to be stopped.

Thatcher even raised the idea of the heads of the armed forces resigning in the event of a Labour victory. What would prevent the Tories in the future, faced with a left Labour Government, calling upon the military to directly intervene?

The Tories had failed to grasp the depth of class hatred towards Thatcher, the personification to millions of capitalism with all its teeth barred.

At the start of the campaign she was talking of a "fourth term", of going "on and on" into the next century. By the last few days she had been reduced to hinting that she might step down in mid-term.

In Scotland the Tories have



Kinnock and Hattersley—'the dream ticket', now another five year Tory term.

collapsed. In Liverpool with the mass politicisation that has been the result of the militant struggles of the local council, they have been reduced to a sect with just four council seats, and no MPs. Back in 1959, the Tories secured a majority of votes in Liverpool and Birmingham and even 45 per cent in Glasgow.

From the bitterness of the miners' strike, the battles in Liverpool to the Wapping dispute, a chasm has opened up between the classes in Britain.

The Alliance was squeezed between the contending class forces. In many areas it became widely accepted, that a vote for the Alliance was a vote for Thatcher. Owen had made clear his willingness to sustain a Tory government. The idea that might have existed in 1983, due to the failure of Labour to present a socialist alternative, that the SDP was new, different, radical, has now disappeared. Although they still retained some following in Tory areas of the South, as a tactical vote against Thatcherism.

Only in pockets like Bermondsey, Liverpool and Tower Hamlets, have the Liberals supplanted the Tories as the party of big business.

Who can deny then that for Labour the opportunity for victory was there to be won? Cuts, mass unemployment, 80 per cent of 16 year olds without proper jobs, attacks on the unions, the glaring callousness of Thatcher towards the poor and sick, how could the Labour leadership lose it?

The mere three per cent swing to Labour nationally, is a terrible indictment of a campaign that considered style and presentation more important than socialist policies to offer a way out for millions. A campaign that dropped left wing policies, and which was preceded by a continuous attack on the left in the Party.

This was the election more than any other, when ordinary voters wanted to discuss on the doorstep, they wanted answers—get rid of Thatcher, then what? They wanted to be convinced that Labour could manage the economy, create a million jobs without renewed inflation or the heavy taxation the Tory press incessantly warned of. Would Labour act decisively in their interests this time, after the demoralising failure of previous Labour governments?

The right wing domination of Labour's campaign completely failed to provide the answers. Some of the broadcasts, and even the *Daily Mirror*, supplied some

effective anti-Tory agitation. But it failed to convince millions of doubting voters that Labour could find the resources to deliver.

Labour concentrated on Thatcher's personality as responsible for the deprivation in society, rather than explaining Thatcherism as a product of an economic system in decay, and then outlining their alternative to capitalist ownership.

Labour's campaign began, studiously avoiding making too definitive promises. The manifesto was deliberately vague, guarded and uninspiring. But as the campaign went on the Labour leadership felt compelled to offer more, and to do so with more vigour.

Another Tory term will face all the hatred and rage that has accumulated.

However, Labour did not inspire many of the most downtrodden who saw no point in voting at all, nor the at least 17 per cent in run down areas who do not even think it worth registering. This section of the working class, many of them young, are cynical about all politicians, but they could have given Labour a majority, if they had been convinced that in office it would transform their lives.

As for many of the active Labour workers, their enthusiasm for Kinnock had already been dimmed by the witch-hunt launched against supporters of *Militant*. Four weeks of Kinnock's slick presidential campaign could not undo the damage, among the most politically conscious leftwing workers, of four wasted years as leader, attacking the Liverpool councillors and the Marxists, and letting the Tories off the hook.

The Independent speculated that "not being able to grapple with Thatcherism," he preferred to fight enemies he thought he could beat, within his own Party.

How do the Labour leadership now account for the 'Liverpool factor'? Responding to a council that fought on their behalf, that kept its promises, the Liverpool workers turned out enthusiastically for left and Marxist candidates.

Terry Fields conducted an openly fighting socialist campaign in Broadgreen, and secured a major swing to Labour. He attracted 400 to a public meeting to hear Tony Benn, and 1,000, in one ward, for Arthur Scargill. If

the enthusiasm generated among the activists and the committed Labour voters in Broadgreen had been repeated by the national leadership, the press could have been neutralised and Labour would now be in government.

How on the other hand can the Labour leaders explain their dismal results in the West Midlands, home to some of the leading right wing figures in the Party.

The Midlands have been ravaged by closures and redundancies under Thatcher, but Labour failed to win the arguments.

This election saw a sharper regional divide than ever. The traditional Labour areas of Scotland, Wales, the North and North West stayed firm. But in the Midlands, the South and South West, Labour's results were dismally poor.

Employed workers in these areas were definitely deterred by the Labour right's commitment to increase taxes. A Labour government campaigning on full socialist planning for the economy, could have convinced voters that it would be able to afford to create jobs and restore the welfare state, while reducing taxation for workers.

But Hattersley compounded his critical blunder of guaranteeing to take back the 2p tax cut from everyone, by announcing that he personally was one of the top 5 per cent who would be taxed somewhat more heavily. In contradiction, Labour candidates who pledged to live on a skilled workers' wage, received a ready response.

On defence too, by watering down its commitment, Labour failed to carry conviction. It did not adequately explain that the minor nuclear arsenal Britain could afford, could never be a deterrent to a super power. But with their determination to spend the money saved from Trident on conventional weapons, they could not explain either, the social reforms that could be afforded by scrapping nuclear defence.

Labour's campaign was all packaging and presentation. And this election has proved, that while it may have an impact on the Labour voter, it is not enough to convince the doubting and sceptical. Neat packaging and the film star treatment can seem impressive in its own way, but it could not hide the gaps in Labour's right wing programme.

In the main, those behind the styling of Labour and Neil Kinnock's campaign—the advertising volunteers and film makers—have little or no record of activity in the labour movement, nor any

real knowledge of the thinking of ordinary workers.

There were no real public meetings. There were stage managed rallies for Party members. But it is through meetings and real public activity that ordinary Labour voters are enthused to get out and compel their friends, workmates and neighbours to vote Labour.

Short lived victory

It was where fighting socialist candidates stood, in Bradford, Liverpool, Coventry SE and Bermondsey that the methods of campaigning that built the Party were recreated. Not just public meetings, but street meetings were used to explain the message of full-blooded socialism. In these constituencies the numbers participating and the enthusiasm on the weekends before, were like election day itself anywhere else.

But the victory nationally for the Tories will be shortlived. Within nine months of her 1983 victory, Thatcher was embroiled in a year long miners' strike. The possibility of a general strike hung in the air, with a hardening of class relations not seen for half a century.

Another Tory term, with a reduced majority, will face all the hatred and rage that has accumulated against Thatcher and capitalism.

Thatcher boasted of having buried socialism and seen off the unions. Yet in the very week of the election, civil servants and teachers continued their national action. And despite the miners' defeat, only 15 out of 125 pits were not hit by industrial action last year.

These provide just a foretaste of the struggles that will come. There is the likelihood also of movements of blind despair breaking out, in the inner cities that the Tories have ignored.

This election defeat in no way represents any genuine movement to the right amongst ordinary workers, enthusiastically embracing Thatcher's philosophy of 'popular capitalism'. The outstanding results for left Labour candidates confirm this. But also the swing to the left in the trade unions — the victory of *Militant* supporter, John Macrae, in the CPSA, and the outright majority won by the Broad Left on the union's executive; and the victory for the left in capturing control of the NCU executive, just a year after leading Labour right winger, John Golding, had defeated *Militant* supporter, Phil Holt, for general secretary.

It is no accident that these unions have been two of the most recently involved in national disputes, and the members have had the opportunity to contrast the unwillingness to struggle of the right, with the determination of the left.

Following this election a new period of class battles will unfold, but also a period of debate and conflict inside the Labour Party and the unions. Despite the defeat for Labour, the programme of Marxism within the labour movement has proved its appeal. With a renewed radicalisation amongst workers and youth, many more will come to recognise that the ideas of *Militant* show the only real way forward for the working class movement.

Labour's class fighters

Coventry S.E

Beacon in West Midlands gloom

THE VICTORY of Dave Nellist in Coventry South East was the culmination of a bigger and still more dynamic campaign even than in 1983. The response of workers to the ideas of socialism was stronger and the public meetings bigger.

The day before polling, a retired bus driver pressed £50 into Dave's hand, in the street, as his contribution to the campaign. One Labour canvasser going around a supermarket, was approached by one of the shop's workers, who offered to knock £1 off the bill in return for a Labour sticker. "This firm gives enough money to the Tories," she added.

There was no threat of tactical voting in Coventry. The Tories told Alliance voters to back them as the only party able to stop Dave, and the Alliance said the same to Tory voters.

"One issue"

The Alliance eve of poll leaflet was directly aimed at Tory voters. Even the *Coventry Evening Telegraph* commented that the Alliance candidate was a "classical one issue politician, and that issue is *Militant*"

Dave nearly trebled his majority from 1983, to well over 6,000. He had the votes of the youth, the unemployed and those in need, but also the support of employed, supposedly better paid workers.

At a Rolls Royce factory gate meeting, there was an enormous cheer when he pledged to remain a workers' MP on a worker's



Dave Nellist.

wage, and another big cheer when he pledged to fight the privatisation of the company.

This result in Coventry is still more outstanding when across the West Midlands, there was a mere two per cent swing to Labour. The Party failed to win the key Tory marginals in the region which were so vital for the national campaign. Roy Hattersley, in Birmingham Sparkbrook, only obtained a 1.6 per cent swing.

But in Coventry South East at least, a real fighting socialist Labour Party is making its presence felt

By Dave Bartlett

More election reports from around the country in next week's *Militant* out 19 June.

Bradford North



Pat Wall	Labour	21,003
Lawler	Tory	19,376
Berkeley	Alliance	8,656

PAT WALL commented:
"This is a historic decision after years of Tory attacks, we now have a victory for the working people of Bradford. We need a Labour government. There is no solution for working people except a democratic socialist government."

Socialist gain from the Tories

IN BRADFORD North, Labour took the seat from the Tories by taking our socialist alternative to the working class.

This started from day one when the Labour Party Young Socialists gave the Tory Lawler a redundancy notice and put him on the defensive.

The constituency was fully canvassed several times but we concentrated on working class areas going back several times to doubtful or against votes or even solid Labour voters. Many votes were won by ten minute or even longer doorstep discussions.

Every weekend two hundred canvassed for Labour. We knew the media were against Labour. In this constituency you could not fail to notice with front page attacks in the *Sun* and *Daily Express* and more refined sneers in the *Guardian* editorial column.

Arthur Scargill pointed out at the rally that Keir Hardie and Nye Bevan were smeared in the same way. Our way to victory was by convincing workers at home, at work and on the streets.

Dozens of meetings were organised. Every night at six, there were street meetings; even in the rain, fifty or more turned up. At every nursery and primary school, parents were leafleted about their children's future.

There were also meetings at workplaces, for asians, for women and general meetings in the town centre. There were several car cavalcades getting thumbs up and clenched fists in support. There was a big campaign of posters going door to door urging Labour voters to show their support.

Including the manifesto, 70,000 posters were sent out. It was hard to find a Tory or Alliance poster. The election combined socialist policies, energy, hard work and good organisation even including computerisation of canvassing returns.

But above all else it was the clear socialist policies of Pat Wall and the party which convinced the voters to ignore the smears and elect a workers' MP on a worker's wage.

By Sharon Heal
 (Bradford North LPYS)

Marching against low wages

BRADFORD's youth march against low pay and the Tories on 6 June. A feeder march of 150 from Bradford Moor joined 300 on the main march. LPYS, Labour Party and COHSE members who had been at a morning conference on low pay where Pat Wall had spoken thundered through the city.

The rally was addressed by Bradford's three Labour candidates, Razina Boston of the LPYS Hector Mc Kenzie, general secretary of COHSE and Arthur Scargill. It made a great impact. A woman who had previously said she was voting Alliance explained that she had bought a copy of *Militant* on the march. The article on low pay and the enthusiasm of the march had persuaded her to vote Labour.



Bermondsey

"THIS HAS been a brilliant campaign...Hughes bragged at the beginning of this campaign that he would walk it with a 6,000 majority, he has had to eat his words tonight."

These were the comments of Labour activists at the count in Bermondsey. Even though John Bryan had lost, he had halved the Liberal majority, with a 3.6 per cent swing to Labour. Sitting MP, Simon Hughes was a nervous wreck by the end, petrified that his parliamentary career was to be dashed.

Bermondsey ran the most vigorous campaign in the whole of the South. Even the humiliated Tory candidate congratulated John Bryan on "a professional campaign, easily outstripping the other parties."

But it was not just "professionalism". Bermondsey Labour Party has rekindled the spirit of real socialism in the minds of the local people. They were determined to come out to vote Labour. One elderly man, who had lost both legs, would let nothing deter him getting to the poll. He had to leave his wheel chair four times, in the pouring rain, but he was going to vote.

Bermondsey was in complete contrast to results in the rest of London. Labour lost Walthamstow, where the local labour council had increased the rates by 60 per cent, following the national leadership's strategy of the "dented shield." Unfortunately Labour also lost Battersea and Fulham, where a moderate candidate had been so praised for winning the by-election last year.

'Just the beginning'



The turnout for John Bryan was despite a very dirty campaign by the Liberals, of smears, anonymous scare leaflets and appeals to Tory voters, telling them "the Tories cannot win," and to vote Liberal to keep out the left.

After the count, John Bryan recommitted himself to complete the job of see-

ing off the Liberals in Bermondsey.

Way forward

"I've lived in Bermondsey all my life," he said, "I'm not going anywhere else. Nor is Bermondsey Labour Party. We have rebuilt the Party in Bermondsey from the days of

neglect of the long time right wing Labour MP Mellish, and we are going to continue the fight to finish off the Liberals. This is just the beginning of building a mass working class socialist Labour Party, which will show the way forward for the whole of London."

Mersey rally

LIVERPOOL LABOUR'S pre-election rally helped to boost Labour's vote in the city with a vision of socialism.

Arthur Scargill and Terry Fields got a great reception. But one of the biggest ovations from the 2,000 strong audience was for surcharged councillor Tony Mulhearn, who wasn't even on the platform.

Unlike other Labour rallies, this was open to the public. The high socialist awareness of Liverpool workers was on display. For example, the best received parts of speeches were on general exposures of the capitalist system, like when Arthur Scargill said "The problem is not the North-South divide. The problem is capitalism."

Political strike-breaking Court order bans LPYS in campaign

BIRKENHEAD'S right-wing Labour MP, Frank Field, continued his crusade against Labour candidates throughout the election.

After calling on voters not to vote for *Militant* supporters in the Liverpool and Birkenhead council elections, he then assisted Thatcher's Foreign Office minister, Lynda Chalker, in Wallasey.

He told a Wallasey resident who asked if he backed Lol Duffy, left-wing Labour candidate for Wallasey:

"I can tell you in the most definite terms that I shall not be supporting Duffy. I have refused to appear on any platforms with him. And I hope Cammell Lairds workers similarly refuse to give him a hearing when he tries to gatecrash on our factory gate meetings during the election campaign."

This witch-hunter of *Militant* openly condemned the Cammell Lairds sit-in against redundancies, when Lol Duffy was sacked and imprisoned. Now he talks as if he owned Birkenhead, and Cammell Lairds.

Until now, Field has used the smokescreen of 'tactical voting' for the Alliance as a cover for opposing Labour candidates. But Wallasey was one of Labour's target Tory marginals. Field's action was political strike-breaking.

Field denies rumours that he is about to defect to the Alliance, but he has done everything else short of defecting! His stance only serves to demoralise Labour activists.

His campaign in Birkenhead was a shambles. *Militant* supporters offered to canvass and build the Party, so that regardless of whether Field defects, a working-class socialist will take up the banner of Labour in Birkenhead in the future. But officials did their best to prevent them.

In Wallasey, although *Militant* supporters have profound differences on policy with Lol Duffy, they were amongst the hardest fighters to get him elected. To his credit he had pledged to accept only a worker's wage when elected to Parliament.

During his campaign, however, it became apparent that its organisers regarded Marxism as an embarrassment and a vote-loser. Events across the Mersey had gone unnoticed by some people!

Militant supporters turning up for a canvass were informed by an organiser that the agent had instructed him not to give out canvass cards to *Militant* supporters and that *Militant* was not to be sold on canvasses, or indeed anywhere in the constituency during the campaign.

Militant supporters agreed under protest to desist from sales of the paper on the canvass. But they will fight against these undemocratic manoeuvres in the Party and defend their right to express their ideas.

By Richard Venton and Jimmy Roberts

LABOUR Party Young Socialists played a major role in the Party's election campaign. In some areas however, Party candidates and officials failed to take full advantage of their support and even intervened to obstruct their work for a Labour victory.

Nowhere was there such a shameful example as in Glasgow Springburn, where Michael Martin, defending an impregnable majority of 17,599, spent three days of his campaign obtaining an interim interdict from the Court of Session in Edinburgh to stop members of his Party playing any part in his campaign.

EMMA PHILLIPS, of Springburn LPYS, describes what happened:

"There were nine of us, giving out Labour Party stickers and leaflets and selling *Socialist Youth*. Michael Martin came up, ripped off one of the comrade's stickers and said: 'I don't want you associated with my campaign'."

"He said we had been selling *Militant*, which he had not seen anyone doing. (I think he thinks *Socialist Youth* is the *Militant*!) and that action would be taken against us."

"Then he came over to me and a couple of other women comrades and said we had no right to collect money, which we were not doing—I had a tin, but it

was for *Socialist Youth* money.

"But, despite our objections, he took the tins off us. He again said he did not want us associated with his campaign and said 'Give me back all my literature with my name on it'. We gave it all back to him."

"He also asked me if *Militant* had been sold. I said I was not selling *Militant*. But you didn't object to it being sold!" he retorted.

He ripped off a sticker and said: "I don't want you associated with my campaign".

"Then there was a bit of a fracas, as the candidate's son went for one of our comrades when he asked for the tins back. He threw the comrade up against a wall. He's not very big, our comrade, and the son is six foot."

After Martin left the street, a man came up, bought a paper and asked if those nutters" were the Tories. When told it was the Labour candidate, he said: "My God, and they say *Militant* is ruining the Labour Party!"

In the following days, several LPYS members were visited at home by the police, asking if they had been involved in collecting

money for the Labour Party.

"Martin alleges that the money for *Socialist Youth* would be going to the *Militant*," says Emma Phillips, but we never said anything of the sort. He was just asserting that.

"The interim interdict alleges that we were associating our literature with the petitioning party (Martin) that we were using abusive language and attempting to molest and assault Martin, which is total lies."

"The interdict in effect instructs us to stop collecting, canvassing or going out in the streets to give out literature."

The following week, a local butcher revealed that the police had been round to ask him to identify people who had been collecting money. He angrily demanded that instead of driving Labour Party members off the street, the police should be harassing the drug pushers who sell there.

The LPYS have taken legal advice and are contesting the interdict. They are also appealing to all party members and branches to protest against this outrageous assault on Party democracy and basic civil rights.

Send protests to Labour Party Scotland, 1 Lynedoch Place, Glasgow G36 AB, copies to Stevie Lees, 182 Ark Lane, Glasgow G31 2JS.



The LPYS demonstration in Bradford—winning support for Labour.

Purge continues

IN THE middle of the election campaign several Stevenage Labour Party members were amazed to receive letters from the Party's National Agent, David Hughes, informing them that the National Constitutional Committee has decided on the dates for their disciplinary hearings, on 23 June and 6 July.

It is scandalous that senior officials should have been neglecting the election to spend time on divisive internal action against Party members!

Winning youth to Labour

IN EVERY corner of the country, Labour's youth have been campaigning to get the 6.2 million votes of the young behind the Labour Party. They have demonstrated what a dynamic, campaigning force for socialism they are.

Over 500 young people took part in a 'Kick out the Tories' demonstration organised by the Labour Party Young Socialists (LPYS) in Bradford North, addressed by Arthur Scargill and candidates Pat Wall, Bob Cryer and Max Madden.

70 people turned up to a 'Youth for Labour' rally in Barnsley; 20 signed up to join the LPYS. Speakers who demanded the reinstatement of sacked miners got a rapturous reception.

Dundee East LPYS organised a 'Rock against the Tories' gig, with local bands. It attracted over 100, of whom 20 agreed to join.

In Edinburgh West, the LPYS organised three special estate sales of *Socialist Youth*, selling 37, 42 and 38 papers and signing people up to join.

40 people attended a meeting in Portobello, Edinburgh East, organised jointly between the Labour Party and its youth section.

In Kent, LPYS branches organised 'Youth for Labour' rallies. 20 attended



LPYS pantomime donkey on a protest against Liverpool Broadgreen Liberal candidate's reference to Labour voters as 'donkeys'.

and 13 joined in Tunbridge Wells. 40 attended in both Lydd and Folkestone to hear Mark Green of the LPYS National Committee and Labour candidate Vidra Anand.

In Thanet South, the only public meeting of the campaign attracted 35 people and ten joined the LPYS.

Paisley

In torrential rain, over 70 marched through Paisley against the Tories and 20 signed up for the LPYS. In Glasgow Shettleston, 60 turned out and 18 joined.

Despite the room being cancelled at the last

minute, 45 people came to a meeting in Glasgow Pollok. It was held on the steps of the hall. 20 joined the LPYS.

Over 100 came to hear John Bryan and London LPYS Chair, Mick Moore at a meeting in Bermondsey, and over 50 attended a youth rally in Coventry. At a Bedford rally of 30, the candidate was joined on the platform by Janice Glennon, LPYS National Vice-Chair.

In Blyth more than 70 heard the new MP Ronnie Campbell and Linda Douglas, LPYS representative on the Party's national executive, and 40 were at a 'Youth for Labour' rally in Birmin-

gham Perry Bar.

Labour's youth also intervened successfully in the Red Wedge concerts. 184 joined the LPYS at their two London gigs and 70 *Socialist Youth* were sold. In Coventry, Dave Nellist MP spoke from the platform and 50 papers were sold and the same number of names collected.

In Leicester, 60-70 Asian youth attended a day-time event organised at a day's notice. Gwyneth Lloyd of Leicester East LPYS spoke with Labour candidates and a member of the Blow Monkeys. 35 names for the LPYS were collected.

Sell
Militant
Election bonanza

Photo: Tina Carroll

THE GENERAL election has brought thousands of extra sales all over the country. Door-to-door sales, street activity and sales in the work-places have all been very successful—now let's keep it up!

Sellers in East Edinburgh found 50 people who wanted a regular copy. Every area should have plans to chase up every single buyer from the campaign and make them part of the network of regular readers we need for a twice-weekly.

Livingston sellers have not been discouraged by the disgraceful harassment of the local Party officials, who have not prevented working-class people being interested in what we have to say. Over 30 papers were sold on the Saturday street sale, despite a torrential downpour.

But perhaps the best sale of the week is the 17 sold by one seller in the Timex factory in Dundee—can you match that in your workplace?

Photo: Dave Sinclair

Cathy leaves home

Money grabbing landlords who exploit Britain's youth

'Cathy' from Gwent relates her traumatic experiences of leaving home. Part 1.

Two and a half years ago I thought that life was a bed of roses, and so it was until I decided to leave home. The house was overcrowded with my mum, dad and six brothers and sisters, and I had to share a room with my two sisters.

So off I went into the great big world. I thought I'd try the social security. They'd be bound to help me or tell me where to go.

They sent me to the council to see the housing officer. He was a lovely man who tried every way to get rid of me. When I refused to "go back and live with your parents", he said there were one or two places that put people up on DHSS.

Then to make me go away he said: "when young girls live in places like these, they are classed as an easy lay; the men living there think they are fair game".

By this time I was near enough reduced to tears, after being told that I had no right to a place to live. What he was saying was that I had no right to be independent of my parents, and if I wanted to be, then I would be thought of as a slag.

So after I insisted that I wanted a place to live in, he phoned one of the hotels and got me a room. I was later informed by the landlord of the hotel that the way to get the housing officer to send people there was to buy him a bottle of whisky for Christmas and slip him a few pounds here and there.

When I arrived at the hotel, the landlord seemed nice enough. He said that there wasn't actually any room empty, but that I could have his living room and they'd put a bed in there for me.

I looked at his living room; there was a three-piece suite, television, video and telephone; it was better than a normal room. Then came the bombshell—



Homeless youth in Liverpool.

Photo: Militant.

it cost £55 a week!

But it was OK, he said, because the social paid. Oh yeah they paid OK, and after they'd paid it I was left with £9.20 a week to buy clothes, do laundry and buy a third meal, because the landlord only did breakfast and evening meal.

Then I was taken to hospital with stomach pains and dehydration, fortunately just in time to save the baby.

Most of the time I couldn't eat the set meals, they were so horrible and greasy. I would have had to spend money on food, but I just couldn't afford it, so the answer was to go without food.

That was OK until I found myself pregnant, then I needed food. Another woman living there was also pregnant and neither of us was putting on the

Housing: the facts

★ The number of homeless families for which local authorities were obliged to find accommodation in England went up from 53,000 in 1978 to 103,000 in 1986. This does not include single homeless people or childless families.

★ Public sector spending on new housing has fallen by 75 per cent over the past ten years; private sector housebuilding is down by 10 per cent.

★ Britain's housing stock is ageing and deteriorating rapidly. In 1971 there were 1.75 million homes more than a century old: that figure would reach 3.25 million by 1990.

desired weight; in fact I was losing it. After a discussion with the midwife, the landlord agreed to do us some sandwiches during the day if the social paid for it.

So off we went to the social, doctor's note and all, only to be told that we were already getting the maximum amount of money.

Then I was taken to hospital with stomach pains and dehydration, fortunately just in time to save the baby. The doctors said I

had Anorexia Nervosa.

After a blood test was taken and I was given a thorough examination. I was put on drips and told I wasn't eating enough to keep a sparrow alive, never mind me and my baby. But the social still wouldn't relent; their rules and regulations were more important than a baby's life.

I couldn't quite get the dietician to understand that I couldn't afford three full meals and a high protein diet on £9.20 a week. I

started going home every day to eat.

Then came the final straw. The landlord started shutting the water off. He put it on for two hours a day, one hour during breakfast time and one hour during tea. So the choice was have a bath and miss breakfast/dinner or have your meal and never wash. So I started bathing at home, then I moved home.

Is it the same everywhere? Is there nowhere for young people to live decently? When you have to pay £55 a week and are told that it's too much to expect a room of your own, three decent meals and hot and cold running water, how can youth ever be independent?

Something has to be done about landlords like this who prey on unemployed people who have nowhere else to live.

For the youth in the area there is nothing. Those who work can't afford the prices; those who don't can't afford the sacrifices. To get somewhere from the council, you have to be married with six kids and be living in a bus shelter.

Murdered Catholic set up by RUC

THERE IS widespread belief in his home area that a Catholic breadman in Northern Ireland was set up for murder by the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Dermot Hackett was shot dead on 23 May outside the village of Drumquin, Co Tyrone, by the 'Ulster freedom Fighters' (a cover name used by the Ulster Defence Association).

Shortly after the shooting, the *Sunday Tribune* and *Ulster Herald* stated that reporters were told 'off the record' by the RUC press office in Belfast (80 miles from Drumquin) that the murdered man was 'a Sinn Fein activist'.

This false report was carried on BBC Radio Ulster, Downtown Radio and BBC Ceefax. It was then denied by the RUC—after the damage was done. In Northern Ireland, this allegation would have blackened his name in the eyes of the Protestant community.

Harassment

Dermot Hackett had suffered severe and prolonged police harassment. In the *Ulster Herald* on 27 September last year, he appealed for an end to this, accusing the RUC of "sheer thuggery" towards him, of constantly stopping and searching him, of raiding his home and of following him around—even at 5 am when he was setting off on his round.

He considered himself 'middle-of-the-road' in politics, was not involved in any organisation and was an active worker in the charitable St Vincent de Paul Society.

The police are alleged, by two former intelligence officers, to have passed information on known or suspected Republicans to Loyalist extremists in the past.

Even if this were not the case here, the police are still guilty. They knew that constant harassment of an innocent man, in an area where there have been a number of murders by the IRA could only give Loyalist extremists the impression that 'there's no smoke without fire' and make him a target.

By Anton McCabe

Fighting Fund

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target
1 Northern	1302		4600
2 Scotland East	719		2800
3 Scotland West	904		3500
4 Wales	1185		4850
5 London	1960		9400
6 West Midlands	1019		4850
7 East Midlands	651		3250
8 Yorkshire	1530		8450
9 Eastern	429		3050
10 Merseyside	946		7500
11 South West	202		1900
12 Southern	325		3100
13 Manchester/Lan	363		4050
14 South East	133		2250
15 National	8298		6950
Total	19966		70000

WHAT A start to the Quarter! Nearly £20,000 raised since 7 May. Congratulations to our sellers who must have worked non-stop in the election campaign to put forward the Socialist alternative to Thatcher. With record sales of the *Militant*, hundreds of new readers have contributed to our Fighting Fund.

Pride of place this week must go to Kirsty, a 13 year old LPYS member from Huddersfield who collected £3.79 at a health workers' rally. This week Manchester lead the way with £25, followed by Blyth with £23; SE Lancashire £14.27; Mansfield £12.90; Newham £12.46 and sellers in Hackney raised

£15 with our KICK OUT THE TORIES stickers.

Trade unionists, too, have been keen to show their support for our ideas with £68 from FBU Conference; a further £50 from CPSA Conference; Nigel Smith, Hull UCW £20; A.Burton Cotgrave NUM £3; Nottingham SOGAT member £60 and K Stokes Workshops COHSE £2.90.

We've even received £20 from a reader in Hong Kong!

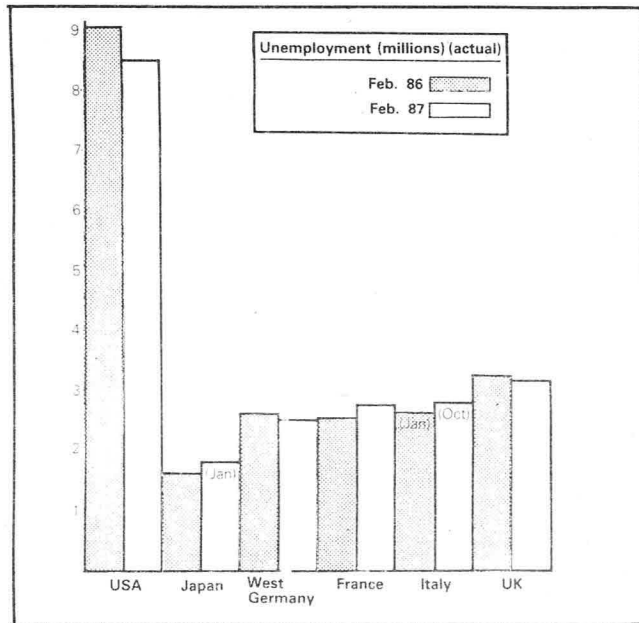
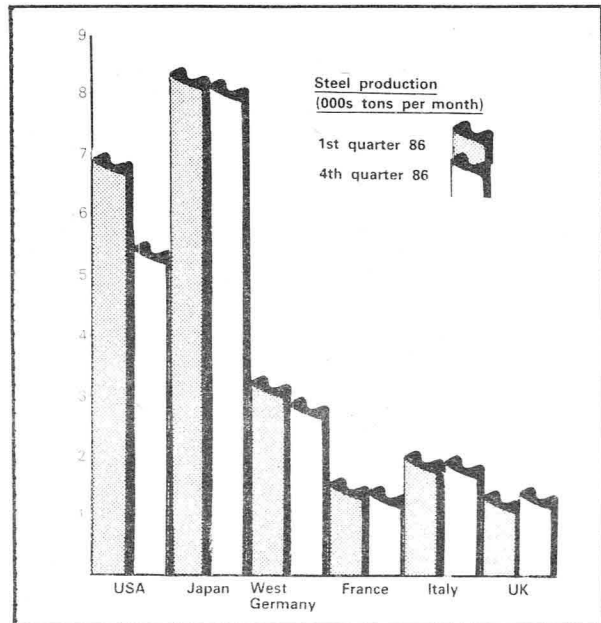
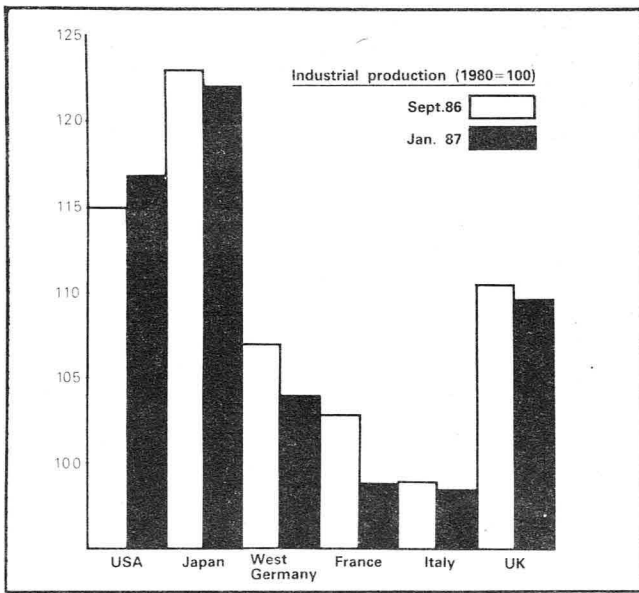
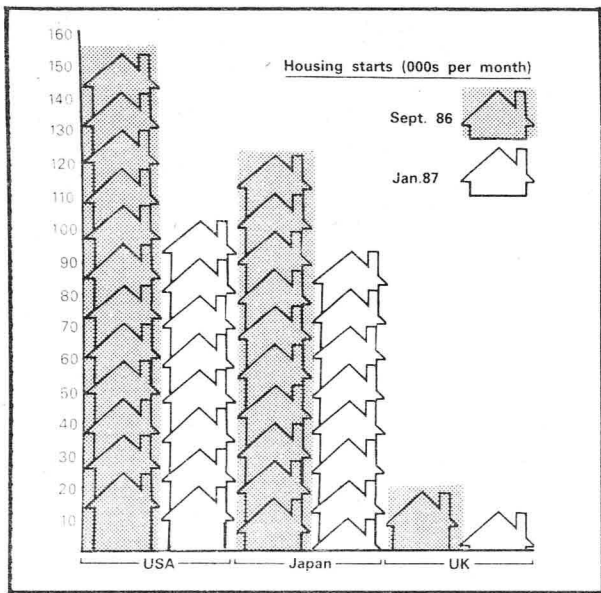
Keep up the momentum of the last 5 weeks and smash our £70,000 target by 5 August. We appeal to all new readers this week to send us a donation. Our sellers should approach every sale for at least the solidarity price. Explain what

a weapon a daily worker's paper would be in the struggle for a socialist society.

Don't forget all the other ways of raising cash, such as socials, jumble sales and car boot sales—just the thing for a British summer!

Build on our brilliant start and keep the money rolling in!

Thanks also to: J and N Ferguson Denny £10; Scottish prison officer £2.80; Colin Knight Tunbridge Wells £10; Tony Hooley Stockton £25; Paul Gerrard Bury £15; Gerry Mooney Glasgow £10; Jim Mullen Cambuslang £2.30; Martha McCartney Bridgeton £4.20 and last but not least Julie Roberts aged 5 26p



Even during the present 'boom', as these graphs illustrate, production in all the major capitalist countries has only inched ahead, or even weakened further. NOTE: The index for Industrial Production shows the level of production in each country compared with previous levels in that same country (the 1980 level is taken as 100). It does not compare the levels of production in the different countries with each other.

THE VENICE Summit of the top seven capitalist powers has taken place against the background of world capitalism in a state of stagnation.

Marxists have spoken about the crisis of capitalism for generations. This means that the capitalist system internationally has reached its limits. Far from developing the productive forces, it has become an absolute obstacle to further economic and social progress.

Capitalism restricts the productivity of human social labour because of the restrictions imposed by the nation state on the one hand, and the distortions caused by the private ownership of the means of production on the other.

This is illustrated by the facts and figures below.

Between 1950 and 1975, the enormous upswing of world capitalism seemed to refute Marxism. There were no deep slumps in that period, which witnessed an unprecedented growth of the productive forces. World trade grew at over 12.5 per cent a year on average.

But now that period has ended. This is shown by the nature of the 'boom' that capitalism has experienced since 1982, described by the capitalist commentators themselves as a "growth recession". Output in the major capitalist nations has just crawled ahead by 2 to 3 per cent per year overall. Between 1950 and 1975, on the other hand, average growth of 6 to 8 per cent year in Europe and the USA, or more in Japan, had been quite normal.

This latest 'boom' would have collapsed earlier if it had not been for the massive US armaments programme, which has now

By Ted Grant

reached the staggering figure of \$375 billion a year. Reagan's military spending has put into the shadow even the arms programme of Hitler before 1939.

As under Hitler, it has been a policy of guns instead of butter. Reagan's deficit financing (spending more than the state's income) has not gone to improve the infrastructure, social services, pensions, etc. Growth has been at the expense of these sectors, and of wages, which have fallen by 14 per cent in the last ten years in the US.

This has obviously benefited the military-industrial monopolies, and helped US imperialism and its puppets to menace revolution in the colonial world, as well as threatening the USSR.

A by-product of this military spending has been an expansion of the world economy, which has particularly benefited Japan. US spending has sucked in goods from other countries, and created a huge deficit on trade for American capitalism. The budget deficit in turn, has been financed by capital from abroad, attracted by high interest rates, which drove up the value of the dollar to its highest level in decades.

Another factor which has helped to prolong the boom in the industrialised countries has been the fall in the price of raw materials and oil, which has bled the colonial countries white, increasing their foreign

debt to over \$1,000 billion.

Yet all that this so-called 'boom' has been able to achieve is a relatively sluggish growth in production. Only 80 per cent of productive capacity has been utilised in the industrialised economies during the 'boom' years.

Capitalism is in a crisis of overproduction—not in the actual production of goods, but in the capacity to produce. For example, only 68 per cent of steel capacity was used at the height of the boom. What will happen in the slump which now impends?

This overcapacity exists in spite of the efforts of capitalist governments to destroy the capacity of major industries like shipbuilding, textiles and steel. Even during the boom, the EEC has reduced steel capacity by 31 million tonnes, and is demanding a further reduction of 20 million tonnes!

Debt

Now, just as in Germany in the 1930s, the Reagan armaments 'boom' has reached its limits.

The US budget deficit of \$200 billion, its trade deficit of \$170 billion, and its foreign debt of \$410 billion now makes it the biggest net debtor in the world. Its total debt exceeds Gross National Product by 1.7 times—the highest ratio since the depression of the 1930s.

The hegemony of the USA in the world economy is collapsing, just like that of Britain in the late 19th century.

Japan now has a \$50 billion surplus of trade with the US, and the dollar has plunged by over 40 per cent against the Japanese yen.

But Japan cannot provide a market for US exports. Total imports take only 5 per cent of Japan's home market.

Wasting less resources on arms (still only one per cent of Gross National Product) and with state backing for industry, Japan has gained a lion's share of the post-war increase in world markets. It has protected its home market by non-tariff barriers, and has become the world's leading exporter of finance capital.

Now Japan's Gross National Product per head of population is higher than the USA's. It has invested \$50 billion in US government bonds and \$20 billion in Eurobonds, to become the world's largest creditor.

At the same time the debts that the US and the third world have piled up threaten to provoke a financial collapse.

US banks have loaned out \$1,400 billion, much of it to third world countries which will never be able to repay. 135 banks in the US failed during the boom and nearly 1,500 were in difficulties.

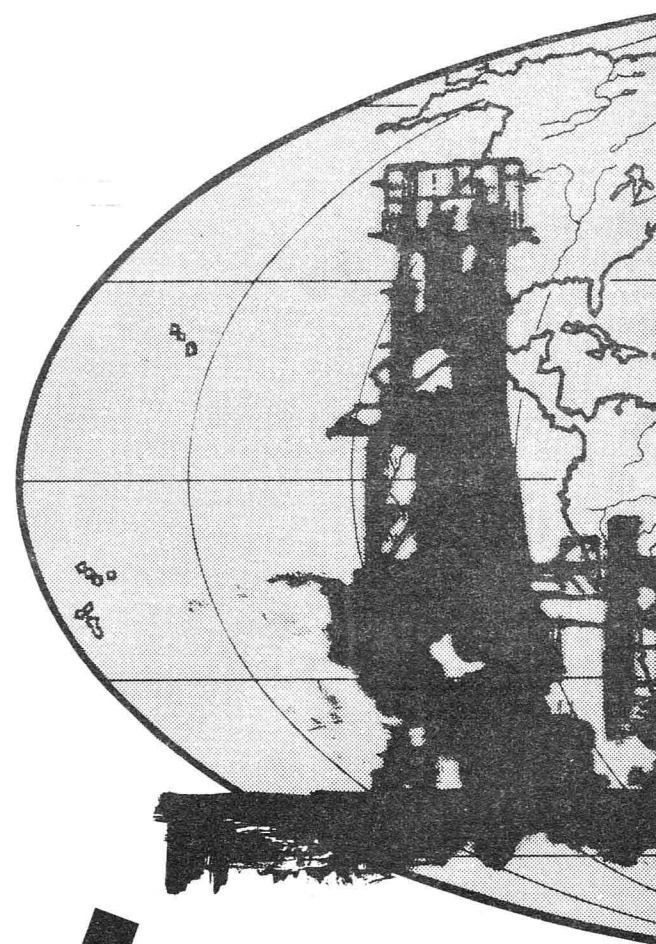
The organic crisis of capitalism is revealed by the fact that even in the boom unemployment has steadily increased. Only the USA has registered a fall, with new jobs mainly in the service sector. At the same time wages have been held down, further cutting the market for capitalism.

In 1986, overall growth in world trade was only 3 per cent—the lowest for 30 years. And it is expected to slow down further to 2.5 per cent in 1987.

Faced with surplus capacity, all the capitalist nations are searching for new markets. The falling

Capitalism threatens ultimately, nuclear war with socialist powers

World



heads

dollar is intended to increase US exports by making them cheaper abroad.

But the other capitalist economies cannot allow their own exports to decline. So there has been an undeclared trade war, with competitive devaluations of each country's currency, as in the 1930s.

Trade war

Now trade wars are breaking into the open, as trade sanctions are applied by one country against another, triggering off retaliation. 'Free trade' is only possible when world production and trade are expanding. When it is not, it is each one for himself and the devil take the hindmost.

In the 1930s the capitalist powers, faced with slump, turned to war as a way out.

Today the contradictions in the world economy are even greater. If it were not for the threat to the capitalist system presented by the planned economies of Russia and Eastern Europe, and the danger of nuclear war, then the world would be on the road to war between the EEC and Japan, or between the USA and Japan, or even the EEC and the USA.

All the contradictions of capitalism are piling up. Though the big powers may twist and turn, arriving at temporary and unstable compromises, these will only exacerbate the problems in the long run.

Sooner or later, the unbearable tensions between the capitalist powers will result in the outbreak of a major trade war.

The contradiction be-

ens mankind with disaster and, war. Only the working class, armed policies, can provide a solution as...

A economy



s for slump

tween capitalism and the planned economies of the Stalinist states represents the basic contradiction of this epoch. However, an actual war between the capitalist powers and the USSR could only take place in the event of the destruction of the labour and trade union movement in the USA, Western Europe and Japan by the capitalists.

Nuclear conflict

This could only be achieved through civil war and the installation of military-police dictatorships in the major capitalist countries. This tendency is already manifested in the attacks on trade union rights in Britain and other countries.

But this is on an entirely different scale to the physical destruction of the workers' organisations in the fascist states before the war.

Full-scale war between the capitalist powers and the USSR is ruled out at present. A nuclear conflict would give no country satisfaction because everyone would be dead—no markets, no loot. A conventional war is also ruled out as the USSR, because of the balance of forces, would win.

With world war ruled out, a deep slump is inevitable at a certain stage. The timing of such a development cannot, of course, be predicted with absolute accuracy. It is not completely ruled out even for next year. But within the space of the next three

years it is the most likely outcome.

At all events, the economic policies of the different capitalist powers aimed at avoiding a slump will only serve to make it deeper when it finally comes.

Class struggle

There will be falls in production unprecedented in the post-war period. In the slump of 1979-81, world production fell by 0.5 per cent. In the next slump it is likely to fall by at least 3 to 5 per cent.

Capitalism is at an impasse. We are now on the eve of great developments in the working-class struggle. There have been no serious defeats of the working class in any country in the recent period—certainly nothing like the defeats suffered in the 1920s and 1930s in Italy,

Germany, Spain and France.

On the contrary, even the first tremors of the oncoming economic crisis have resulted in movements of the workers (mainly unreported in the capitalist press) in many countries. These are dress rehearsals for future struggles.

This is a period of storm and stress, the most revolutionary period in history: crisis in the underdeveloped world, crisis in the deformed workers' states of Eastern Europe, and crisis in the advanced capitalist world *simultaneously*. This is unprecedented in the history of capitalism.

A fuller analysis of the international crisis of capitalism, by Ted Grant, will be published in the forthcoming issue of *Militant International Review*.

After the Venice summit Time-bomb of third world debt ticks away



BENEATH THE bland statement about "policy coordination" from the Venice Summit lies a serious worry that the world economy is entering a new recession.

Estimates of West German growth levels are continually being revised downwards, with industrial output actually beginning to fall. (See graph, page 6)

Japanese industrial production has been flat for the last twelve months, with profit levels on exports crucified by the rise in the yen against the dollar.

A US dollar now buys only 140 yen as against 260 little more than a year ago. As a result, Japanese and German goods are being bombed out of their American export markets which provided the basis for the fragile 1982-87 upswing.

Dollar fall

Yet commentators believe the dollar may fall another 30 per cent.

The major capitalist countries have already abandoned the philosophy of free floating exchange rates. The Bank of England alone has spent £5 billion in recent weeks selling sterling to stop it rising against the dollar.

But coordinated intervention in foreign exchange markets has not been working. The dollar had already been falling for six months before the Plaza accord of September 1985 decreed it should go down.

It is still falling four months after the Louvre accord proclaimed it had gone down enough.

The real danger of a dollar 'free fall' is posed by the US federal and trade deficits which will not go away.

Reagan has been trying to bully his allies into a reflation to take the strain off the dollar. Germany has politely declined to get into the same mess as America by providing a market for everybody else's goods.

Japanese prime minister Nakasone has promised a \$21 billion growth

By Mick Brooks

package, but his lame duck government seems unlikely to deliver.

The world economy is seriously out of synch. As a result, the threat of trade war rumbles on. Reagan has only lifted \$50 million of his \$300 million sanctions on Japanese electronic imports, showing goodwill is in short supply.

The row between Thatcher and the Japanese government about Cable and Wireless's access to the Japanese telecommunications market continues.

The summit has done nothing to allay the danger of 'beggar my neighbour' policies, that could plunge the world into a new slump.

Nor did the summiters go near the time bomb ticking away beneath the complacent industrialised countries—third world debt. Now standing at over \$1 million million, the 'write down' by the Chase and Citicorp banks has made it quite clear that much of their money will never come back.

Bank losses

In fact, the big two US banks have only acted to damage their competitors. Bank of America and Manufacturers Hanover will find it particularly hard to bear the losses involved.

The Summit accord states that there will be an "increasing use of economic indicators" to plan the future. But capitalism is an unplanned system.

The yo-yoing of currencies, the persistence of US deficits, the ever more open trade war, and the open wound of third world debt are all signs of a crisis that will overwhelm the capitalist world, whatever its economic ministers think or say.

Sri Lankan crisis

Conflict in Tamil region deepens

RECENT WEEKS in Sri Lanka have seen new Army offensives against the Tamil (minority community) areas in the north of the island, the killing of Sinhalese (majority community) priests, attacks by Sinhalese guerrillas on military bases, and the increasing threat of Indian intervention.

Despite partial successes, the Sri Lankan military are no nearer to crushing the Tamil guerrillas. After recapturing Valvettiturai, the military arrested all men between the ages of 18 and 35, showing the widespread hostility to the Jayawardena regime.

The Indian government's attempt to send a relief convoy to Jaffna and its parachute drop of supplies was an unmistakable warning to the Sri Lankan government not to attempt a purely military solution.

Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, is not acting out of genuine concern for the Tamils. He is motivated by mounting pressure

By a Sri Lankan correspondent

from the 50 million strong Tamil population in India to prevent further massacres of Tamils in Sri Lanka. And by his need for a foreign policy success to divert attention from the mounting problems within India. But he also fears the repercussions inside India of victory for the Sri Lankan Tamil separatists.

The massacre of 33 Sinhalese, mainly priests, seemed to be an attempt by some of the Tamil guerrillas to provoke a new pogrom against the large numbers of Tamils who live in Sinhalese areas. Clearly

they hoped that in this event India would intervene. But any Indian invasion would only be aimed at safeguarding the interests of Indian capitalism. It would not serve the interests of the Tamils.

The Sri Lankan government is desperately attempting to prevent an anti-Tamil pogrom such as that of 1983. Thousands of youth, both Sinhalese and Tamil, have been rounded up and placed in detention without trial.

Economic decline has produced a big layer of disaffected youth who, in the absence of any clear alternative from the workers' movement, look either to Tamil separatists or Sinhalese chauvinists for an answer.

In particular the JVP, a petit bourgeois group which combines radical



Illegal May Day rally in Colombo, called on the initiative of the NSSP: workers' unity in the face of national divisions.

rhetoric with extreme anti-Tamil chauvinism, have gained support among some Sinhalese youth in the universities and rural areas.

Though both imperialism and Indian capitalism would like to see some kind of negotiated settlement, there is the danger of further communal clashes. But even if a deal is worked out, it cannot provide a lasting settlement as long as capitalism rules.

The inability of capital-

ism to harmoniously develop a neo-colonial country like Sri Lanka is the fundamental cause of this conflict.

However, even a temporary deal would allow the class issues to come to the fore again.

Although recent weeks have seen strikes by the Tamil tea plantation workers, the workers' movement has not come forward with an independent position. Three of the left parties—the CPSL,

SLMP and LSSP—have called for a campaign to defend democratic rights. But only the Marxist NSSP is advancing concrete proposals for action.

The workers' movement has to take the initiative out of the hands of the capitalist parties, and unify Tamil and Sinhalese workers, peasants and youth in a struggle against oppression, landlordism and capitalism, for the socialist transformation of society.

Spanish workers continue the fight



Jubilation at the election of a PSOE government standing 'for change' has turned into bitter struggle against government's efforts to prop up capitalism at the expense of workers' jobs and living standards.

THE STRIKE wave dominating Spain over the last two months has had two main aims: wage increases and defence of jobs against the austerity policies of the PSOE (Socialist) government.

Workers have scored important victories on the question of wage increases. Many of the key sectors and factories have signed agreements with an average increase of 6.5 per cent according to official figures—significantly higher than the 5 per cent maximum imposed by the government.

The figure could have been much higher if the leaders of the two main unions (the UGT and Workers' Commissions) had provided their members with a fighting leadership. Unfortunately these leaders seem to throw cold water on any movement, revealing their lack of confidence in the workers' struggle.

Even at the height of the struggle, with key sections in action up and down Spain, their excuse was that the conditions for a general strike didn't exist. But in the Basque country, with the demand for a general strike by the

Marxist-led UST union, this flimsy excuse was exposed: it was only their refusal to support it, combined with active opposition from the ultra-left, that prevented the strike call from going ahead.

But the fighting mood among workers was shown at a magnificent 2,000-strong UST rally of in Vitoria on 28 May, despite a sectarian rally called half an hour later!

Elections

With municipal, regional and European elections to be held on 10 June, the absence of a lead from the workers' national leadership, combined with the attacks on living standards by the Socialist government, has had an inevitable effect. Many workers feel there is no point in voting. Recent opinion polls show the Socialist Party losing one million votes in comparison with last year. They also show the right losing votes, while the vote of the so-called centre shows an increase.

But the expected increase in abstentions gives the clearest indication of

workers' disenchantment.

In contrast, the sectors in crisis are continuing the fight. This is concentrated mainly in Asturias (coal mines), Reinosa (steel), and Cadiz (shipyards).

An important meeting has been organised on 12 June in Puerto Real (the heart of the struggle in Cadiz) by the marxists supporting the paper *Nuevo Claridad* and the School Students' Union, to discuss the future of the sectors in crisis.

The president (convenor) of the workers' council at Cenemesa (one of the two main plants in Reinosa), Juan Ignacio Ramos (leader of the SSU) and the president of the shipyard workers in Cadiz will all participate.

This could be an important step forward towards uniting the sectors in struggle and providing an alternative to workers suffering the effects of a capitalist crisis.

From correspondents in Spain

S African rail strike ends in victory

AFTER THREE months on strike South Africa's black railway workers, organised in the SA Railways and Harbours Workers' Union (SARHWU), are celebrating victory.

They have faced the full repressive powers of the apartheid regime and its State of Emergency. Sixteen thousand strikers were dismissed. Six were shot dead by police and the headquarters of the Congress of SA Trade Unions (to which SARHWU is affiliated) ransacked and bombed.

Thirty-three of SARHWU'S negotiators were imprisoned. But the workers refused to be cowed.

Pressure on the regime was increased by the fraternal delegation sent to South Africa by the National Union of Railwaymen in Britain.

Last week management yielded. All the strikers will be reinstated, with no victimisation or loss of benefits. For the first time, black

workers will be able to gain permanent status—a right previously reserved for white workers.

The victory is a testimony to the massive, pent-up power of the organised black working class, spearheading the national liberation struggle. Outright repression can no longer bring more than a partial and temporary respite.

By making concessions, the regime is no doubt hoping to lure trade union leaders into the net of their industrial relations procedures, as a means of bogging down the movement.

But the bosses and the state are irreconcilably opposed to the workers' basic demands for democracy and decent living standards. The struggle will build up again and again, exploding beyond any legal limits that the government tries to set, until apartheid and capitalism have been smashed.

By George Collins

Ivin Malaza Memorial Fund

THE DETERMINATION of workers internationally to continue the work of Comrade Ivin Malaza, assassinated by the reactionary UWUSA scab 'union' of Gatscha Buthe lezi, was shown again this week.

A magnificent £1,227 was sent by socialists in the USA. From supporters of the Greek Marxist paper *Xekinima*, came £125. Labour movement activists in Northern Ireland sent £35. They said:

"Our initial shock was replaced by a determination to do what we can to ensure the work of the Marxist Workers' Tendency of the ANC in South Africa goes ahead."

An excellent £14.50 was raised by BPCC Chromeworks *Militant* readers in Ivin's memory. Jimmy Roberts, a member of Wallasey CLP and the NUJ, sent £5.

Delegates to the NCU conference contributed £200. One delegate was so inspired that she donated £20 saved for a pair of dungarees.

We appeal to *Militant* supporters to match these contributions with personal donations and also by using the appeal sheets to collect money from workplaces and the labour movement.

Money to assist Ivin's family and continue his work should be sent to: Cllr L. Faulkes, 143B Amhurst Road, London E8 2AW.

Letters

Send us your views, comments or criticism.

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

No 'vote Labour' call from NUS

Dear Comrades,

I was surprised to see that the National Union of Students president Vicky Phillips only called for students to vote "for whichever party and candidate best represents students' interests" instead of a clear call for a Labour vote.

The NUS leaders need reminding of the Conservatives' future for education. If your college does not specialise in science and technology for the use of the capitalists, you run the risk of studying in an underfunded establishment.

Students have suffered through the Fowler review; most full time students can not claim state benefits when term time finishes. What next? Grants on a loan system? And what working class student could afford to pay back £7000 after a three year course?

Vicky Phillips should be advocating socialism as the only way to save education from the Tory menace.

Yours fraternally
Nik Numan
Bradford North LPYS

Spotting the extremists

Dear Comrades,

A radio interviewer asked Liberal campaign organiser John Pardoe about his list of 101 extreme left MPs who were supposed to take over once a Labour government was elected. How were they chosen? Criticism of Neil Kinnock and

membership of the Campaign group, Pardoe replied.

The interviewer asked how Tam Dalyell who certainly did not profess to be hard left and had not openly criticised Neil Kinnock, got on the list. Pardoe replied: "If Mr Dalyell will openly say he

is not a socialist and a supporter of Mr Kinnock's mainstream views that would be fine." Makes you think, doesn't it?

Yours fraternally
Gary Nightingale
Kent County NALGO
personal capacity

LEFT and RIGHT

Embroidery classes

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS may have difficulty getting any books. The private schools have been cooking theirs. Trading standards officers in west Sussex say that minor private schools often mislead parents who try to buy education.

Schools which are official examination centres boasted about the results of all the candidates examined on the premises but educated at other schools! One establishment was particularly economical with the truth, claiming 183 'O' level passes when the real figure was 51. Another school with higher standards in embroidery than in arithmetic claimed a 90 per cent pass rate in history when nobody at all passed.

Are these the people who have been compiling Thatcher's unemployment statistics?

Turning a blind eye

THE LAW AND order loving Tories are soft on crime when it is committed by their own kind. Wages inspectors who monitor appallingly poor wages made two thousand fewer visits in 1986 than

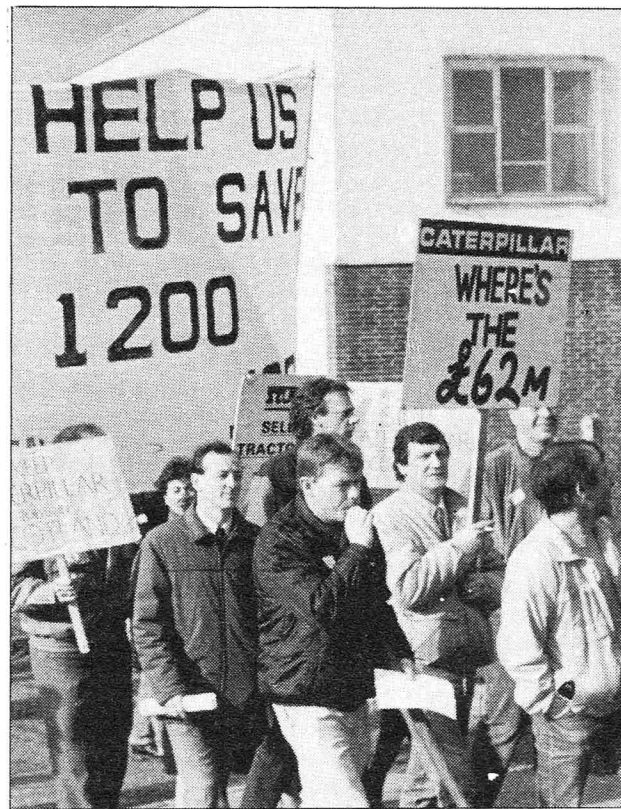
in 1985 because of cutbacks. Sweat shop bosses can expect a visit now once every fifteen years even though one third of the establishments visited were breaking the law.

There are now just 71 travelling inspectors to cover 375,000 establishments. There were only 177 of them in 1979 but the Tories have made super-exploitation along with such upper class delights as insider dealing the most easy crimes to get away with.

What's in a name?

"THE ITALIAN Communist Party is democratic and there will be no revolution...it is not my fault if the party still happens to have the old habit of calling itself Communist."

Guido Rossi speaking. University professor, wealthy corporate lawyer and pillar of the Italian business establishment. Hardly the first person to spring to most people's minds as a candidate for the Communists in the forthcoming general elections in Italy. But then not everybody would expect the Communist Party paper L'Unita to give the latest stock market prices every day.



'Scottish' industries like US-owned Caterpillar have been under attack, what solutions do the SNP put forward?

What Scottish industry

Dear Comrades,

In a recent broadcast by the Scottish Nationalists, actor Bill Henderson talked about "the demise of Scottish industry." I'd like to know what industry Scotland owns. Did he mean major factories like Caterpillar and other multinational giants like Shell and Esso?

The SNP have no intention of taking all the big multis who control the economy into public ownership and most of the party's members are Tartan Tories, so the SNP have no solutions for the problems facing the Scottish working class.

The final joke on the broadcast was when Bill Henderson, trying to seem one of the people, said the only job his son could get was: "one of those government schemes." Stange that. I know his son Paul; he got a degree in chemical engineering at Heriot Watt university!

Play the Scottish card, the SNP say. It's a joker!

Yours fraternally
Kevin Williamson
Edinburgh

Telecom piratised

Dear Comrades,

I asked a British Telecom engineer who was repairing our telephone what working conditions were like since privatisation

He shook his head despondently saying, "It's really awful now. Before we had a list of about eight jobs to do for the day, but now we have to phone the supervisor after we have completed a job so that he can keep a check on us and tell us where to go for our

next job".

He had gone to an 87 year old widow's house to replace the wire to her phone and replaced it free of charge. He was subsequently called in to his supervisor's office to be reprimanded for not charging this widow £22 for the replacement of a bit of wire!

Yours fraternally
Eddie Edmonds
Glasgow

'Socialist' countries still at war



'Socialists' like Mao look after their own interests.

Dear Militant,

Your assertion that "only a socialist change of society in Britain and internationally can eliminate the danger of a nuclear holocaust" is naive, if not downright spurious.

Do not get me wrong. I wish it were true. But events provide overwhelming evidence to suggest otherwise. The Soviet Union and China deploy a substantial part of their armed forces (including nuclear weapons) along each other's borders. And have shown a willingness to use force to settle their differences.

The Vietnamese 'socialists' having dispossessed and kicked out most of the ethnic Chinese 'socialist' minority, are busy killing fellow (sic) Cambodian 'socialists'. If we are to believe Peking they have also invaded the People's Republic. So much for the peace that was to descend upon Indo-China after the Americans pulled out. The fighting has spread to Thailand. As 'socialism' has spread through SE Asia, so has war, that is a fact.

Going 'socialist' has not ended conventional war. Why should anyone think it to be the only way to eliminate the danger of a nuclear one?

If you mean what you say, your beatific vision of a peaceful socialist world does credit to your imagination, but seriously calls into question your sense of political realism.

Yours Sincerely
L Richardson
Rumney College,
Cardiff

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.

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○ Female comrade moving into inner London seeks accommodation before 26 July. Tel Carol Moya 07375 57587.

Workers Education Group. Socialist Summer Camp '87. Saturday 8 August to Saturday 15 August. Bracelands campsite, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire. Courses on Marxist Economics, Youth and the struggle for socialism, the Russian revolution, USA, the third world. Plus rallies, debates, discos, sports, creche. Cost £40 (£75 for family booking). Brochure available now. Write to Workers Education Group, PO Box 332, London E15 33Y.

○ Jack Collins Memorial Meeting and Social. 13 June 6pm. Chislet Miners Welfare Club Hersden, near Canterbury. For invitations please phone 0304 367840 any weekday morning, or write to: Magness House, Mill Hill, Deal, Kent.

○ Comrade seeks accommodation in or around London area. Contact Tony Conlon (0236) 720390.

○ Offensiv camp in Sweden. Monday 6-Saturday 11 July 1987. For information write to Offensiv Brahegatan 2, S-415 01 Göteborg, Sweden. Tel 031 844 162.

○ Cassette tapes with two issues of Militant (one each side). Available fortnightly. Tapes £3.50 per quarter, £13 per year. To be returned or send blank C-90 tapes. Contact Dave: 14 Harrowby Road, West Park, Leeds 16. Tel: 0532 624917.

Marxist Discussion Groups

○ Salford every Monday, Black Horse, The Crescent. 8.30pm.

○ Chapelton: The Commercial Pub. 8.15pm. Tuesday 9 June. "Private industry or public ownership."

○ Chorlton every Thursday, The Southern Hotel, Mauldeth Rd West, Chorlton. 8.30pm.

○ Eccles every Thursday, Duke of York, Church St, Eccles. 8.30pm.

○ Blackburn every Wednesday. The Trades Club, 8.30pm

○ Sheffield "After the election a fighting socialist programme for Labour". Speaker Mike Forster. The Zetland Hotel, Queensgate (opposite the Poly). Monday 15 June 7.30pm.

○ Portsmouth "Lessons of the General Election" Tuesday 23 June 7.30pm. Menhain Room, Central library, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth.

○ Marxist discussion group. Wednesdays 12.30pm. 7 Goodwin Close, Millbrook, Southampton. Creche provided.

○ Barnsley: The Victoria Pub, corner of Sheffield Road and Cemetery Road. 8.15pm. Tuesday 9 June. "Private industry or public ownership."

○ Wigan every Tuesday, 7 Stars, Wallgate, Wigan. 8.30pm.

○ Bolton every Wednesday, Clarence Hotel, Bradshawgate, Bolton. 8.30pm

After the election What now for Labour?

Exeter June 15. 7.30pm.
Plymouth June 16. 7.30pm.
Reading/Bracknell June 18.
Coventry June 18. 7.30pm. Speaker: Peter Taaffe.
Rochester June 19. 7.30pm. Speaker: John Piccard.
North Tyneside 7.30pm Thursday 25 June. Richardson Dee's school. High St East, Wallsend. Blythe details to follow.
Gateshead 7.30pm Wednesday 24 June. Trinity Centre, High St, Gateshead.
Sunderland. Details to follow.
Middlesbrough 7.30pm Wednesday 24 June. St Mary's Centre, Corporation Rd.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne 7.30pm, Thursday 25 June. Lonsdale Public House next to West Jesmond metro. Speaker: John Piccard.
North Tyneside 7.30pm Thursday 25 June. Richardson Dee's school. High St East, Wallsend. Blythe details to follow.
Gateshead 7.30pm Wednesday 24 June. Trinity Centre, High St, Gateshead.
Sunderland. Details to follow.
Middlesbrough 7.30pm Wednesday 24 June. St Mary's Centre, Corporation Rd.

Industrial Reports

British Coal withdraw ambulance

British coal has recently withdrawn the ambulance services at Easington and other pits in our area, an act that all the unions at the collieries deplore and industrial action has not been ruled out in the unions' fight to get this service back.

The system we now use is to share two ambulances based at another colliery with three other pits. It does not take a clever person to realise what could happen if more than two accidents happened at different pits at the same time.

There have already been a few instances. One of which was when a man was brought out of the pit with a head injury and was taken to hospital in an ambulance. After receiving treatment he was allowed home but found no ambulance to take him.

He asked a nurse to phone the pit and was told they would send one to collect him. After an hour he rang again to find the ambulance had broken down and that they would send a taxi to collect him.

Callous

If British Coal is going to continue this use of ambulances and taxis, do they also expect taxi drivers to give treatment in case of a relapse?

In a time when more coal is being produced than at any other time and underground accidents are on the increase it seems callous of British Coal to withdraw this vital service.

Is this another way of cutting costs or are they still rubbing our noses in the fact that we lost the strike?

That's in the past. We must learn from our mistakes and get off our knees. United action must be taken throughout the coalfield with all the unions involved. We must fight to keep those things that our forefathers won.

By Brian Gregory
(Easington NUM)

Gateshead HFW Plastics talks fail

THE STRUGGLE for the reinstatement of 47 sacked workers at HFW Plastics in Gateshead continues following a break down in talks between management and Sogat.

The talks, organised by Acas, broke down after five hours when management, flatly refusing to take back all 47 workers, wished instead to discuss the possibility of compensation. This itself was outrightly rejected by both union officials and the entire membership involved.

Together with the oncoming general election the dispute, now into its 11th week, has been dominating both the local press and media. Headlines such as "Gateshead's Wapping" have hit the front page of many journals and local radio and TV stations have described it as "the most bitter dispute in Gate-

head for many years."

Over 40 people have been arrested, many of them for what I can only describe as the most ridiculous of reasons such as singing after 8.30pm or for sitting outside Gateshead police station. Most of those arrested were later released without charge but everyone of us has been photographed and put on file.

Scab workforce

In the meantime 3 women have been injured by speeding scab drivers entering the factory. On two occasions the police were present but no charges have been brought against those responsible. Two of these incidents have involved a local haulage firm—K and B transport—in which one of the lorries has no current tax disc or MOT and the driver had no HGV licence.!

On top of this the bus bringing in the scab workforce (now around 60) is blatantly overloaded and still nothing is done about this. In fact the police actually escort in it.

On the 29 May an accident inside the factory highlighted management's contempt of the health and safety of the scab workforce. In the push for production (ie profits) Jackson put an untrained 17 year old lad on an automatic guillotine. The horrific result was the lad having 3 of his fingers sliced off. Without a union to fight his case compensation will no doubt be the minimum.

In a further development a vicious scathing attack by the Tory PPC for Gateshead accusing the sacked workers and "other extremist elements" of, among other lies terrorising Jackson's 12 year old daughter, has been angrily denied by all involved.

Dr Frank Rogers, who has never been down to this factory, wrote in a local newspaper of "jobs and extremists" determined to put a "family firm" out of business. But the truth of the matter is that these so-called "jobs and extremists" who loyally served this firm for 14 years of more, are the very people who have helped to keep it going when in crisis by agreeing to wage freezes and even pay cuts.

Today, with HFW having a full order book, the loyalty of these workers is repaid with the sack.

However the determination of the sacked workers to get their jobs back is unmovable and picketing is now being stepped up, with a number of lorries carrying plastic already being turned away.

By Bob Harker

Taylor Woodrow Sellafield

OVER HALF of the workforce at the Taylor Woodrow site at Sellafield in West Cumbria are still on strike at time of going to press.

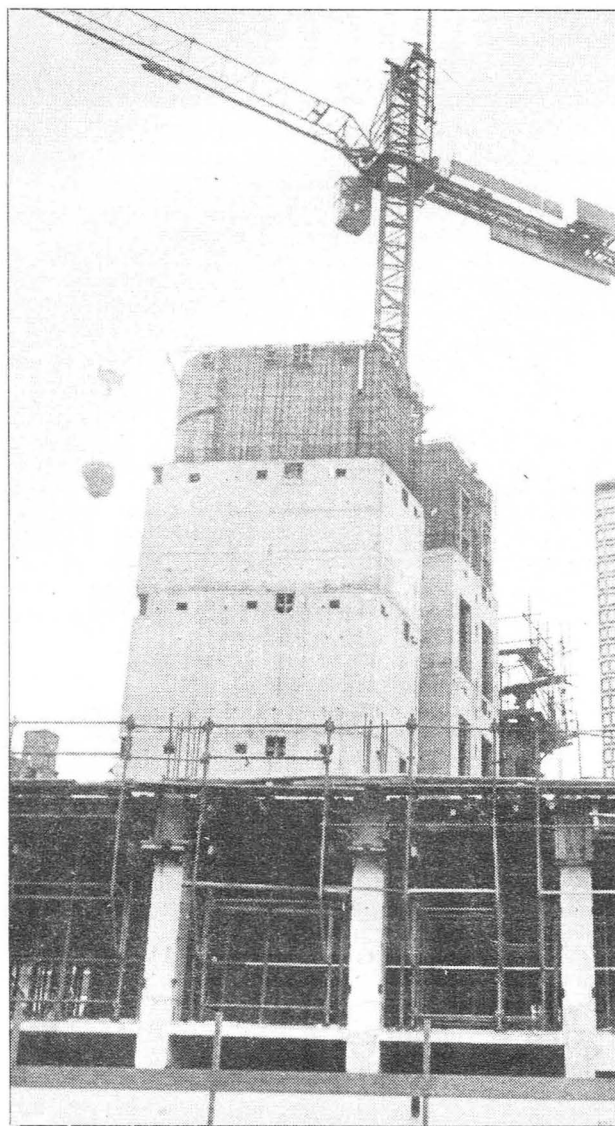
By a Camden
Ucatt member

to work if it wasn't.

Industrial relations on big sites have been covered by the national agreement for the engineering construction industries (NAE-CI) since 1980. This, combined with a shrinking work load has kept industrial unrest, not to mention wages, down to a minimum.

However, over the next couple of years a whole series of major projects are about to start, creating a marked upswing in the engineering construction and construction industry generally. The building industry bosses know full well that it is in periods like this that workers become aware of their potential, not just to win better money but to run the industry for themselves.

McCarthy and Stone (Sutton), Laing (Liverpool, London Bridge and Surbiton), Tarmac (Wapping and Liverpool), Taylor Woodrow (Surrey and Sellafield): all of these recent disputes are the rumblings of a gathering avalanche in the building industry.



Nalgo

NALGO conference has voted to ballot for a political fund in a resounding response to recent court victory for members of the Conservative Trade Unionists Association which declared the unions' 'Make people matter' campaign illegal. NALGO's annual conference on 9 June voted by the required two thirds majority to ballot the membership to set up a political fund. Under the terms of the resolution the National Executive Council are instructed to campaign at branch, district and national level for a 'yes' vote, a marked change from their position in the 1981 ballot when the NEC gave no lead whatsoever and the ballot vote was lost.

The NEC originally opposed the ballot resolution, but as a result of the court action was forced to take back their recommendation.

The mood of conference was overwhelmingly in support of a swift campaign in order to gain maximum benefit from the resentment of the Tories' actions.

An amendment from the NEC, seeking to give them discretion to delay the ballot was defeated.

Clearly the time is right to mount a vigorous campaign to set up a fund to make it clear to the Tories that NALGO members will not put up with Tory interference in their union's activities in defence of jobs and services.

By Roger Bannister
(Knowsley branch)

vetted to ensure they had no Militant sympathies.

A right wing supporter called for bans and proscriptions to be extended from Communist Party members to Militant supporters. The 1989 rules revision conference could produce further attacks. But with the EC now accepting that it is the right of branches to elect their own delegates Militant supporters will expect all restrictions on their rights to be removed.

By a conference
delegate

EETPU leaders head for 'business unionism'

This year's EETPU conference was the dullist in years. General secretary Eric Hammond set the tone on the first day by calling on delegates "not to rock the boat" during the election.

Also the police presence at the conference/hotel complex, checking only those with credentials entered and regularly moving on paper sellers provided a sobering comment on the hostility which the EETPU leadership have created against our union.

On the conference floor the leadership were pleased to despatch the critical composite motion on News International calling for a lay

inquiry in a carefully stage-managed debate. Side-stepping the role of EETPU officials involved. Hammond deflected attention to the role of the NGA and Sogat.

Willis

It was defeated by a two thirds majority. The vote reflected the ignorance of the events and the effect of head office on the composition of the delegates far more than the real feelings of the rank and file.

Later on Norman Willis was to slap the wrists of the leadership over Wapping and to call for multi-union agreements in place of the

single union variety pursued by our leadership.

Obviously aware of the tensions which exist between the officials and officers Willis caustically commented: "Last night I dined with the EC. I didn't feel the need to bring a food taster but I noticed each of them had one."

Ranged against the News International motion the EC motion on union relations sought a restructuring of the TUC which would lead to unions becoming membership competitors on the road of business unionism. "Let workers decide which union they prefer."

In contrast a delegate

raised the question of the Hitachi factory where the EETPU have a single union agreement and workers were told by management "not to make arrangements for Christmas".

Future split

It looks very much as though the leadership are paving the way for a split with the TUC at a future date. Discussions with the AEU and others would give a new union formation a million strong. Militant supporters within any new union would resist moves to split the movement.

Alarming, the expected flag waving for the Labour

Party did not occur. In Hammond's short speech he left the door ajar again for a split with the party at a future date. Later, as a measure of how far to the right the leadership's supporters have been drawn, conference voted against moves to close early and return to their areas to work for a Labour victory. The derisory collection of £400 for the election fund from the 700 delegates merely highlighted the point.

In the last motion of conference Militant supporters were identified by the right for bringing to conference a warning that Labour Party branch delegates were being

Fight now for Scottish pits

THE 41ST annual Scottish miners' gala congregates in the wake of another Labour defeat at the general election. Neil Kinnock who is speaking at the gala will no doubt feel little comfort from the fact that the Tories were smashed in Scotland yet again.

By Alex Shanks
(Chairman, Monktonhall SCEBTA, personal cap.)

They will no doubt be a little shocked that the Tories have won again. Kinnock will have a hard job explaining why, with the backdrop of a year long miners' strike and all the other struggles which workers have been involved

in, coupled with the massive hatred for the Tories, the Labour leadership could not lead the Labour Party into government.

Lessons will have to be drawn from the campaign, the most important being that if the enthusiastic campaign had been linked with left-wing policies, then Labour would have won the election easily.

However, British mine workers now have to face up to the reality that they are now facing another Conservative government which will be just as determined as before to attack jobs, wages and conditions and pave the way for privatisation.

As *Militant* has consistently warned, the introduction of the Coal Industry Bill and the changing of the legal name to British Coal

Corporation is not merely a cosmetic exercise but a step towards the selling off the coal industry in order to make huge profits for the Tories' friends on the stock exchange. If our industry is privatised, not only will one of the most valuable national assets be sold, but wages and conditions and safety will be sold down the river also.

Contractors

Privatisation is creeping in through the back door already, Monktonhall, Sallsgirth, Castlehill and Seafield all have private contractors. There is rumoured to be nearly 2,000 men working for private contractors in the Yorkshire coalfield. Far from being a far-fetched possibility, primarily is the openly

voiced intention of the Chairman of the Board, Sir Robert Haslam.

The increasing moves towards Americanisation of working conditions, the weakening of safety with the proposals to replace present legally-enforceable provision with mere codes of practice' is an attempt to break down what the profit-hungry owners would see as a barrier to production, the mines and quarries act.

Proposals around Margam for six day working indicate the future is one of longer hours, worse conditions and increasing pressure at the point of production. The barrier remains the miners and our union. Despite the Tory victory there is no cause to sit back and accept their dictats. Rather we must increase



Arthur Scargill speaking at NUM rally during miners' strike.

our opposition to their plans, for our own sakes and those of our families, communities and industry. The struggle must go on. Thursday's result proves

one thing, if nothing else. From this system we can have nothing. Socialism is not a pleasant phrase for holiday speechifying it is a burning necessity now.

200,000 civil servants join two day strike

Thousands of London civil servants struck on 8/9 June as part of the national pay action.

Despite pouring rain a thousand strikers marched through Whitehall and attended a rally at Waterloo.

Speakers included John Ellis CPSA general secretary and his opposite number at the SCPS, Leslie Christie. They both pinned their hopes on a teacher-type industrial action strategy. Both were sceptical about calls for all out strike action.

Members are still in a mood to fight the government but there are doubts about winning support for a further period of limited action in July as members increasingly come to the view that such action is insufficient to shift the government.

The strategy of a campaign leading to a ballot for all-out strike action argued for by *Militant* supporters at the May CPSA conference is the only way to win.

The new Broad Left leadership of CPSA must plan such a campaign now.

By Marion Dennison

CPSA members in the Civil Aviation Authority struck for 24-hours on Monday 8 June as part of the pay action.

The withdrawal of support services to Air Traffic Control officers caused massive dislocation to air traffic world-wide. A combination of delays and cancellations by airline companies reduced flights by half. CPSA members, ATC assistants, specialist teleprinter operators and administrative workers supported the strike in impressive numbers from Heathrow in the south to Prestwick in the north.

At the London ATC centre in West Drayton 90 per cent of members affected joined the strike, with a similar level of support at Heathrow, the busiest airport in the world.

Domestic flights took the brunt-hitting business

commuters to and from most provincial locations. International flights too were severely hit. In all, over 400 flights at Heathrow were cancelled. Similar stories emerged from most provincial airports.

The strike, though short in duration, demonstrated the strength of organisation and union support in this vital area.

By CAA striker.

On the second day of the national strike the CPSA Youth Committee of Glasgow Department of National Savings organised a picket of Tory headquarters.

Over a hundred joined the picket. Two delegates were allowed in to ask for someone to address the pickets but the Tories declined.

The delegates were given copies of the Tory manifesto. They pointed out, however, that as low paid civil servants they could not afford to pay for them.

The lobby was addressed

by Kevin Roddy one of the newly elected Broad Left members of the national executive.

The turn-out of young people showed their anger at the £5.75 and £3 offered to 16-17 year olds.

By Mary Curran

About a thousand attended the rally in Glasgow and 600 in Edinburgh. In Edinburgh newly elected NEC member Danny Williamson outlined the poverty of young CPSA members and the magnificent support shown in the two day dispute.

He pointed out the anger against Thatcherism demonstrated by 200,000 normally placid civil servants striking during the election campaign and manning picket lines up and down the country.

He called for support for Labour but also for members to be ready to ensure a Labour government carried out its promise to civil servants. In the dis-



Whitehall picket line

cussion DHSS member Angela Boyd received enthusiastic applause when she called on the union leaderships to build the campaign for all out strike.

In Glasgow representatives from four political parties were invited to speak. Tory Allan Stewart was booed throughout. Labour's George Galloway got an enthusiastic response to start with but when he

finished people were demanding to know where he stood on their pay claim, which he had not mentioned.

New CPSA deputy general secretary John Macreadie rescued the situation. He urged members to vote Labour but added that which ever government was elected civil servants expected to be treated fairly.

By Kenny Mckay

NCU right wing on the run

Following the demand earlier last week by the NCU's engineering group for the resignation of general secretary John Golding the demand was repeated at the NCU's national conference.

Moving the motion, Derek Rowsley, told how incensed his members were at the action of Golding. Before, during and after the strike Golding had shown utter contempt for the membership.

Elected as a moderate man with moderate policies, on the platform of exceptional negotiating skills, in just one year he has clearly demonstrated himself to be incapable and incompetent as a representative of the NCU, devoid of any negotiating ability.

Golding's history in the labour movement has been confined to a behind the scenes Mr Fix it. And one of the principal advocates of witch hunts against socialists. As one delegate said I am glad he is not in the Labour Party causing the sort of divisions he is infamous for.

A few delegates who made attempts to defend Golding, explained his failure on the divisions between the engineering and clerical sections, ignoring the fact that when Golding was elected as general

secretary he undertook to overcome these divisions.

Not, as Mark Taggart pointed out, to use cheap political innuendo against our members and sow further divisions at a time when the rank and file was demanding unity. on the picket lines.

Right wing delegates attempted to divert attention from Golding saying that as a servant of the union, he was responsible to the NEC, and it was that committee that should be censured. Yet these same delegates had earlier opposed censure of the NEC.

In fact everyone knows that Golding pulls the strings behind the scenes and that the right wing executive committee is little more than a puppet. This was why the membership of the NCU removed the majority of the right wing "NCU

First" NEC and elected in their place Broad Left candidates in the recent elections.

In replying to debate Golding tried to mislead delegates that the union had emerged strengthened and unscathed. If that was true BT would not be in a position to continue the victimisation of members in the City of London.

Political attack

Two members in that area have been sacked. A substantial number of members have also been disciplined and moved to other areas. Such incidents have occurred up and down the country but the main target of BT's attack has been the London City district, an obviously political attack.

The City of London district is of vital importance

to big business, housing most of the large financial institutions BT are deliberately moving to weaken if not destroy a well organised workforce loyal to the union.

Golding negotiated the return to work agreement. It was supposed to include a commitment to no victimisation. He not only dismissed the victimisation which has taken place he heralded that agreement as a victory.

His utter contempt for the membership for the NCU was demonstrated when he told conference point blank that he would not resign whatever the decision of conference. A card vote gave 72,604 in favour of his resignation to 77,372 against.

The vote, although lost, shows the seething discontent and the lack of confi-

dence that the membership have in him. The engineering group, which should be his power base have already declared their verdict on Golding, guilty, resign.

There should be no doubt about the gravity of the situation facing him. Almost half of the union has demanded his removal. In some areas this figure is higher. Donald Macdonald from Stirling told conference that 75 per cent of his members signed a petition demanding Golding's resignation. The other 25 per cent would have but hadn't time to wait in the lengthy queue.

£1,386 raised for the *Militant* fighting fund, 200 papers were sold.

By Yvonne Harrison
(NCU, personal cap.)

Militant

World economy
heads for slump
pages 6/7
Sri Lankan crisis
page 8

Liverpool Labour's stunning victories

LABOUR'S TRIUMPHS in Liverpool provoked wild celebrations in the early hours of Friday morning. Although there was an underlying soberness, knowing the scale of the Tory victory nationally, hundreds of Labour supporters shouted themselves hoarse as the city's results were announced.

In safe Labour seats, Bob Parry won 73.2 per cent of the vote, Bob Wareing 65.3 per cent and Eric Heffer 62.3 per cent. In supposedly marginal Garston, Eddie Loydon won 54 per cent and even in the Alliance seat of Mossley Hill, Labour came close to winning with 38.8 per cent.

But it was Broadgreen which brought the biggest cheers. In a seat of mainly owner-occupiers, a Tory marginal in 1983, Terry Fields increased his majority from 3,800 to 6,047, with 48.6 per cent of the vote.

The press did everything in its power to undermine Labour's campaign. The *Echo* published a poll showing Terry Fields winning, then told voters having seen that poll to consider voting tactically, claiming that a vote for Labour would not be for Kinnock's Party but for *Militant*.

City councillors

There were wild allegations of 'intimidation' which even the Tory agent had to deny.

The Broadgreen result reaped the political harvest sown in the historic fight of the now disqualified Liverpool City Councillors for homes, jobs and services. As Terry Fields said after the declaration:

"This victory was built on the struggle of 49 men and women of our class, taking on Thatcherism and the ruling class on behalf of

By John Pickard

our people. They were vilified and dragged through the courts, but stayed loyal to the working class.

"We won because the working class saw socialism in bricks and mortar. Socialist ideas won the hearts and minds of the people of Liverpool."

Terry Fields attributed his victory to high level of consciousness of the Liverpool workers.

Against a background of national defeat, the Liverpool results are of profound importance for the Labour Party. They were not only crushing victories over the Tories and Alliance, but a crushing answer to those in the Party's national leadership who have expelled leading Liverpool Party members and derided the fight of the councillors.

How hollow now is the argument that the Marxist policies adopted by the councillors lose votes. How monstrous it now looks that the Party's main election broadcast should have repeated Neil Kinnock's hysterical denunciation of those councillors!

The Liverpool factor turned votes Labour's way. The city's labour movement has set an example to the rest of the country of how the Tories can be taken on and defeated.



Terry Fields campaigning in Liverpool Broadgreen.

Photo: Tina Carroll

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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 tied to the cost of living for all, including sick and disabled people.
- A socialist plan of production democratically drawn up and implemented by committees involving the trade unions, shop stewards, the unwaged and small business people.
- Opposition to the capitalist Common Market, the EEC. For a socialist United States of Europe as a step towards a World Socialist Federation.
- 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 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.