

Socialist Challenge

**WE
SHALL
NOT
BE
MOVED**



**CARNIVAL!!! AGAINST THE NAZIS
SUNDAY APRIL 30/EVE OF MAYDAY*11a.m. RALLY/TRAFALGAR SQUARE
MARCH TO VICTORIA PARK* TOM ROBINSON BAND AND STEEL PULSE**

ORGANISED BY ANTI NAZI LEAGUE, 12 LITTLE NEWPORT STREET, LONDON WC2, TOGETHER WITH ROCK AGAINST RACISM, HACKNEY CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM, HACKNEY CRC, AND TOWER HAMLETS MOVEMENT AGAINST RACISM & FASCISM

EDITORIAL

Socialist Challenge, 328/9 Upper Street, London N1.
Editorial 01-359 8180/9. Distribution and
Advertising 01-359 8371.

May Day message

MAY DAY is a public holiday this year in England and Wales. Scotland will, for some reason, have to wait till next year. But Labour could not even take this decision in a firm way. This traditional workers holiday will be a Bank Holiday — in other words a bourgeois holiday on every Monday preceding 1 May. A symbolic indictment of Labour government policies.

It is also ironic that the same Labour Government which declares May Day a holiday also imposes bans on demonstrations. The one in London is due to be lifted on 29 April, but in Leeds the ban remains. Accordingly Yorkshire miners and the Leeds Trades Council are going to defy the ban and march on Saturday. Absolutely correct. That is the best way to make a mockery of such bans.

SHADOW OF RACISM

But May Day 1978 will be celebrated this year under the growing shadow of racism. The Select Committee proposals, Thatcher's speeches, the refusal of the Labour left to fight on this issue, are all an objective aid to the peddlers of race hate and Nazi ideas. If the National Front is growing today it is because the policies of the Labour government have created the conditions for it to do so.

Our May Day message this year therefore concentrates on replying to the racists. That is why we have been building the Anti Nazi Carnival. And that is why we say: All Out this Sunday.

Their lies: our replies

They say black people take white jobs.

If you believe that, just go down to Brixton. One in every four young blacks hasn't got a job.

One in every three unemployed school leavers in London lives in Brixton — because it's a black area. So whose jobs are they taking?

They say black people live off the welfare state.

Well, there isn't much welfare state left. And that's because the state has cut its spending, not because of blacks.

In fact, many black people came here to do jobs in public services.

A Tory Government once sent a Minister out to the Caribbean to recruit this 'cheap labour'. That minister was Enoch Powell, who now wants to 'send them back'.

They say black people are overcrowding our schools and cause larger class sizes.

But there are thousands of unemployed teachers — and it's government cuts which caused that, not the blacks.

Every time a Labour politician comes out with this crap the only people they help are the dinosaurs of the Tory party and the NF loonies.

So why do they do it?

First: immigration controls divide us. And when we're divided it becomes far more difficult to resist unemployment, school closures and authoritarian teachers.

The argument that black people cause the economic crisis diverts attention away from our real enemies.

Second: immigration controls give the bosses the power to exploit black people even more. They get the shittiest jobs, the lowest wages, dreadful housing, and they're the first onto the dole queue.

All this is bad enough. But there's worse on the way.

Recently, there was a report from a Parliamentary Select Committee. Written by Tory and Labour MPs it recommended even tighter controls on black people coming into this country.

It said that families should be broken up. If you are over 12 and your parents are from India or Pakistan, you just wouldn't be allowed in.

The Select Committee also said that all black people should carry identity cards. It's a small step to identity cards for the whole population.

All this is coming if we don't fight back.

There is a simple solution. All working people and their families should be allowed in.

There's plenty of room.

British bosses aren't worried about national boundaries. They are quite happy to take their cash to more profitable climes.

If we can get our hands on that money there'll be plenty to pay for schools, housing, hospitals, and jobs for everyone.

There's room for everyone but the bosses.

If you agree with these principles and want to be involved in activities by Socialist Challenge supporters in your area, fill in the form below and send it to us:

I am interested in more information about activities in my area.

I would like additional literature and enclose 50p to cover costs.

[Delete if not applicable]

NAME

ADDRESS

Send to Socialist Challenge, 328/9 Upper St, London N1.

HOME NEWS

Fighting racism and fascism

Where to go after the carnival?

THE ANTI NAZI LEAGUE was founded in the autumn of 1977. In a short space of time it has achieved a number of successes. How best can we build it in the coming months? What are the problems and how can they be resolved? TARIQ ALI poses some questions and suggests how they should be answered.

The founding statement of the ANL concentrated all its attention on the growing threat posed by the Nazis. It warned of the impact of the NF in the next General Elections and argued that this had to be countered. It accordingly sought to unite all those opposed to fascism within a common organisation.

The leading force behind the ANL was the Socialist Workers Party. Clearly worried by the isolation of the far-left and the obscene witch-hunts in the media following Lewisham and Ladywood, the SWP attempted to break out of the circle. It did so by constructing a tacit alliance with a number of left socialist-democrats and ignoring both the Communist Party and the rest of the revolutionary left. We pointed out at the time that this was an error. We still hold that opinion.

PROPAGANDA

The main effort of the ANL was in producing mass propaganda of an agitational character. They answered the fascist lies and arguments. Given that their propaganda was directed essentially at people far removed from any form of socialist politics this was correct. Arguments that their leaflets and posters are too 'simplistic' cannot be sustained when it is understood who the ANL is trying to speak to and for what purpose. We should acknowledge that it has done an invaluable job.

With the help of Rock Against Racism, the ANL managed to reach layers of youth who would have otherwise remained totally immune to the excellent pamphlets, press and other propaganda of the far left and many anti-racist committees. The development of SKAN (School Kids Against the Nazis) to counter the YNF is one such example.

EVENTS

If the ANL had confined itself to simply producing propaganda and getting famous people to sponsor it, we would have been forced to conclude that it would remain stillborn. For useful though its posters and leaflets are, they are not

enough. But the ANL has begun to organise activities such as the Carnival. It is beginning to organise local activities and actions as well. It picketed and interrupted Judge McKinnon; it hounded the Waffen SS, etc. In other words it sees itself as an activist organisation. That is why it is continuing to have an impact. And therein lies its importance.

PROSPECTS

But what concrete focus does it offer the thousands and thousands of anti-racists in this country? Not just after the Carnival, but after the next general elections? It is difficult to say at the moment. Many veteran anti-racist activists are openly contemptuous: 'It's a short-term operation. They'll be gone tomorrow and we'll be left to pick up the pieces.' Now there is an important grain of truth in this assertion. How should we deal with this problem?

In the first place we should organise local ANL branches. 'But they won't let us', reply some comrades. 'No one can stop you' is our reply. Set up the ANL, distribute its literature and produce your own in every locality to take account of local problems. Where local ANL groups exist, work to build them. I can already hear protests: 'Stop, stop, stop. What do we do where there are local anti-fascist committees?' An important point. But the decisive criterion is whether they are organising activities. If they are, then they should affiliate to the ANL nationally, while maintaining their local identity.

CONFLICT

We are clearly not in favour of counterposing the ANL to bodies such as ALIARE (All London Teachers Against Racism), or ALARM (All Lambeth Anti Racist Movement), or WARAF (Women Against Racism and Fascism), but we do believe that they should affiliate to the ANL.

There is a disturbing division today between the older, more experienced activists in the anti-racist committees (many of them being delegates from labour movement bodies) and the young, militant anti-

fascist activists of the ANL. In our opinion this is an unnecessary and dangerous counter-position. It can be got rid of in a stroke by calling a conference of the ANL in the autumn.

DEMOCRACY

Such a conference should be open to all those active in the ANL and it should do two things which are, at present, lacking. It should adopt two clear demands: **No Platform for the Nazis and Repeal the Racist Immigration Acts.** The growth of state racism and the rise of fascism are intimately linked and this should be recognised by the ANL. Other demands should be formulated by local ANL committees or by groups like SKAN, Doctors Against the Nazis, Media Workers Against the Nazis, etc. Secondly, it should elect a Steering Committee to introduce the missing element of

accountability in the functioning of the ANL.

Such an orientation would enable the ANL to develop a medium-term political perspective and offer a real lead to all militants who want to engage in anti-fascist and anti-racist activities.

The forthcoming conference of the National Co-ordinating Committee Against Racism and Fascism will be the first assembly of anti-racists since the formation of the ANL. It would be disastrous if this conference decided to ignore the ANL because of some justified complaints. Instead what has to be mapped out is a set of proposals to unite the old and the new. That is what the bulk of anti-racist activists want. They are fed up of bickering and squabbles, regardless of who is to blame. Unless we stem the rot many of these will become passive in the coming months.



Photomontage: PETER KENNARD

OUR POLICIES

Capitalism is in crisis. The leaders of the Labour Party and the trades unions offer solutions that are in the interests, not of the workers, but of the capitalist class.

Socialist Challenge believes that the two vital tasks confronting revolutionary socialists are:

★ To build broad-based class-struggle tendencies in opposition to class-collaborationism in the labour movement. These should be multi-class in character, grouping together militants holding a wide range of political views.

★ To begin to fight for the creation of a unified and democratic revolutionary socialist organisation which can, through an application of united front tactics, begin to be seen as an alternative to thousands of workers engaged in struggles.

Such an organisation should be based on the understanding that:

1 The struggle for socialism seeks to unite the fight of the workers against the bosses with that of other oppressed layers of society — women, black people, gays — struggling for their liberation. This socialism can only be achieved by creating new organs of power and defeating with all necessary means the power of the capitalist state.

2 Our socialism will be infinitely more democratic than what exists in Britain today, with full rights for all political parties and currents that do not take up arms against the socialist state. The Socialist models of 'socialism' in the USSR and Eastern Europe have discredited socialism in the eyes of millions of workers throughout the world. We are opposed to them and will offer full support to all those fighting for socialist democracy.

3 The interests of workers and capitalists are irreconcilable on a world scale. Capitalism has not only created a world market, it has created world politics. Thus we fight for working class unity on an international scale. The only way in the long run to be decisive in defeating both the imperialist regimes in the West and the brutal dictatorships they sustain in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

In Britain it implies demanding the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Ireland and letting the Irish people determine their own future.

4 The Communist Parties in Europe are in crisis. Neither the 'Euro-communist' nor the pro-Moscow wings have any meaningful strategy for the overthrow of the capitalist state. New revolutionary socialist parties are more necessary than ever before. Conditions today are more favourable than over the preceding three decades. But such parties can only be built by rejecting sectarianism and seeing internal democracy not as a luxury but as a vital necessity. This means the right to organise factories and tenders.



Photo: ANDREW WILKINSON (Report)

Immigration laws give cops the green light Stop and search

Police are not waiting for recent immigration proposals to be implemented, but have already stepped up attacks on foreign workers.

It's nothing new for police to use their stop and search powers against people because of skin colour. But cases reported to Socialist Challenge indicate that we may be entering a new phase in spot checks on foreign workers.

In one instance a man walking home was stopped and asked for his papers simply because he was of Mediterranean appearance. Police claimed that he might have been an illegal catering or hotel worker!

The reason cops feel able to do this is the recent Select Committee and Green Paper reports on immigration and nationality.

Although Home Secretary Merlyn Rees has said he rejects some of the Select Committee's more extreme proposals, such as identity cards, this doesn't worry the police.

SELECTION

They know that Rees will be only too happy to implement most of the Report's proposals, while throwing out one or two to keep up liberal appearances.

And a future Tory Government would implement the lot.

The Select Committee proposals are designed to transform Britain's black population into unsettled migrant workers. The suggestion for pass laws is only part of this.

Another aspect is the division of families, to keep out husbands and fiancés of women already here and separate children over 12 from their parents.

This transformation of British immigrants into rootless migrants has been the aim of all immigration laws, including the last one in 1971 which introduced 'patrial' status to discriminate against black immigrants.

The Select Committee report does away with the verbal niceties and states explicitly that the 'problem' is immigrants from the Indian sub-continent.

A little-known Green Paper does the same thing as the Select Committee, but on the legal aspects of nationality and citizenship.

As well as the present patrial qualifications there would be tests to determine whether the behaviour of the 'alien' was acceptable, even if they had no criminal record. Everyone who applies to be naturalised will be subject to this vetting.

The remaining caste of 'aliens' would be deprived of voting rights, the right to stand for public office and the right to work in government service.

This is not just a threat for the future. It already has its effects in legitimising racist politicians and the hoodlums who back them up, and gives a green light to police to

escalate harassment of black people.

The cops already have a battery of laws to do this: from the immigration laws, through stop and search powers under drug laws and local police by-laws, to 'sus'.

PASS LAW

The sus law — 'loitering with intent' under the 1824 Vagrancy Act — gives the police a free hand to arrest anyone simply on suspicion.

The Runnymede Trust recently surveyed sus cases in London courts. In all but three of its sample of 38 cases the defendants were black and in every case the complainant was the police.

A logical extension of forthcoming immigration legislation will give the police even greater powers against black people: identity cards.

This idea has already been put forward in the Select Committee Report. It is a small step from ID cards for immigrants to pass laws for the whole population.

ID card advocates like Manchester police chief James Anderton and Labour MP George Cunningham went to model the system on the cards introduced by the British in post-war Malaya.

The card has personal details, photo, thumb prints, and comes in four colours: blue for citizens, red for permanent residents, green for limited stay residents and brown for ex-convicts and 'political offenders'.

Any identity card would have to be in this format or it could be easily forged. And the British state has the advantage over post-war Malaya that it would computerise all this information.

WARNING

None of this means that there is a police state around the corner. But it is a warning that if we don't fight to remove all immigration controls now we may find that 1984 will be less than six years away.

And not just for black people, but for all of us.

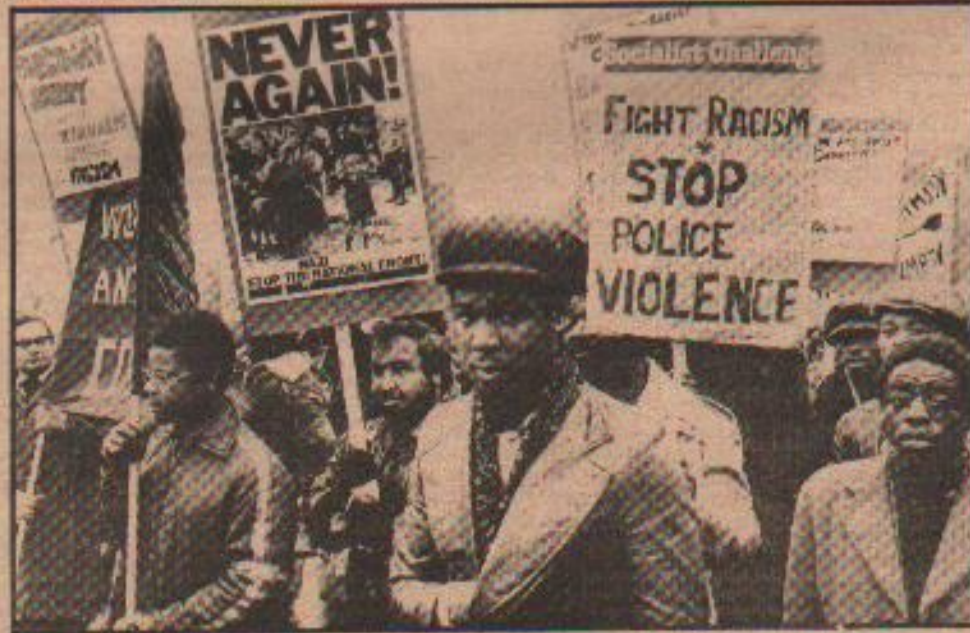


Photo: ANDREW WILKINSON (Report)

News from nowhere

Liberal blues

THE NUNEATON and Bedworth Liberal Group thought that as they do not have any chance of winning they might as well select a black as their parliamentary candidate for the next general election. Little did they realise that it would stir a hornets nest within their own ranks.

Several Liberals have now stated that if Gus Williams is the next Liberal candidate they will not support him. Liberal Councillor Mrs Florrie Carvell was quite open about her views: 'I honestly do not believe and a lot of people in Bedworth share the same view, that we would be doing ourselves any good by putting up a coloured man. It would be taking a step backwards.' Another Councillor Bob Lee stated that the decision was an 'electoral disaster' even though Williams was a 'charming, open-minded fellow.' More resignations are expected soon.

The Young Liberals, it should be recalled, voted at their last conference to campaign for an end to all immigration controls. Their views on the Bedworth scandal would be well worth publishing.

The racist bandwagon

RACISM IS respectable. Bidwell and Thatcher have seen to that. Backing is now coming in a big way from the right-wing press. Note the article entitled 'Conspiracy on Race' by a John Allegro in the Sunday Telegraph 'Colour Magazine' on 2 April, 1978.

Allegro defends racism and attempts an 'intellectual' rationale for it. 'Man needs his racial differences to survive; widespread miscegenation, far from solving the human dilemma, may undermine our biological viability...The policy of separate development may in the past have offered only a shallow excuse for racial exploitation, but it is, nevertheless, the one that best accords with the biological and cultural needs of the human species.'

The 'Opinion' column of the magazine where this appears is normally full of right-wing trash. Allegro's Nazi opinions, however, mark a further degeneration, even for the ST.

Their men on Keele campus

SPECIAL BRANCH detectives wanted a list of active leftists in Keele. The people approached by SB to compile the list were the Head Porter, Colin Brunt, the students union Treasurer, Pete Marks and Gus Puke, the head of Keele's Officer Training Corps [OTC]. The Union agreed unanimously not to provide any information.

But Brunt, Marks and Puke provided the SB with a list of 22 names. The students union meeting voted to remove Marks from the Treasurership, sacked Brunt and banned royalty from visiting the campus. It was Margaret's visit which was used as a pretext to solicit information.

The Union also passed a motion banning the OTC as a group from all union facilities and demanded that the OTC withdraw amenities from the OTC campus detachment. OTC literature defines its tasks as 'maintaining a link between the University and the Regular Army'.

There is an ironic footnote to this sordid tale. The list of 22 'subversives' was compiled from the SU handbook. It contained names of Labour Club members. The Special Branch were openly contemptuous of the 'list'. They explained that their existing one was much more 'comprehensive'. But who compiled that one?

Mercenaries for Britain

PAUL DANIELS is the founder of the British Military Volunteers Forces, a strike-breaking 'unofficial' army. He claims 500 members. Recently, Daniels told reporters that ex-army officers in Portugal had approached him to raise 1,000 mercenaries for a civil war in Portugal.

'I told them that I had no intention of getting involved because I felt our energies should be concentrated in Britain rather than Portugal... They said the men would have to be ex-army men. They were not interested in amateurs. Arms would be supplied... There was a lot of money involved.'

Daniels is a paint manufacturer and a member of the Royal Society of St. George. He served in the Royal Tank Regiment.

Highland fling

'THE GREAT characteristic of press freedom here,' declared Lord Shawcross in a lecture last month, 'is that it is really the freedom of the individual writ large.'

Like, for example, the excellent investigative reporting of the West Highland Free Press, which has so upset Highland Lairds and the aforementioned Shawcross, chairperson of the Press Council.

When, earlier this year, the Free Press and its editor, Brian Wilson, were called to appear before the council to answer a quibbling complaint from Lt.-Cdr. P Dalziel-Job, president of the Ross and Cromarty Conservative Association, Wilson refused to do any such thing.

He wrote: 'The Press Council is a menace because it gives the public impression of upholding press standards while, in fact, remaining mute in face of worst examples of salacious, distorted drivel that the popular press can hurl at its readers.'

Shawcross was incensed. The same Shawcross, that is, who joined the 1945 Labour Government with the declaration 'We are the masters now', and now has a dozen company directorships to emphasise the point.

The same press-freedom loving Lord who has endorsed a Press Council proposal to notify the Highlands and Islands Development Board of its disfavour with the Free Press. The paper receives a grant from the board.

See ya' there
And don't forget the Socialist Challenge Conference on 27 May, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. Send in your form today — see page 14 for details.

IRELAND

Nazi activities in Ireland

By their friends you shall know them

ALTHOUGH the National Front screams most about black people, it has other causes. One of its most popular is the NF's support for the Loyalists in the North of Ireland.

With the help of information published in the latest edition of the Belfast produced Workers Research Bulletin, GEOFF BELL looks at the Nazis' activities in Ireland.

The National Front has never made any secret of where it stands on the Irish issue. In June 1974, at a meeting in London's Conway Hall, NF leader John Tyndall spelt it out clearly:

'This party has a duty to do all it can to support those in Northern Ireland who fight for the preservation of British rule. We have gathered here tonight to declare our solidarity with the British Loyalists of Northern Ireland.'

The NF's 'solidarity' has not been confined to words; the Front has been trying for a number of years to build support in the North of Ireland. In doing so, the fascists have aligned themselves with some of the most violent Protestant extremists.

They first appeared in the North of Ireland in 1973, when Tyndall and Martin Webster visited several areas there in an attempt to persuade candidates to stand in local elections.

They concentrated their efforts in South Down, where Enoch Powell was to be elected as MP the following year. The Front leaders met the head of an organisation known as the Down Orange Welfare, which despite its charity sounding title was a Loyalist paramilitary organisation, with guns uniforms and army-type structures. At the time this outfit claimed the support of 5,000 followers.

What became of these talks is unclear, but in April 1974 the Front set up headquarters in a Loyalist district of East Belfast.

This was followed by talks with two more groups of Loyalist extremists — the Ulster Defence Association and the Ulster Volunteer Force. Both these organisations were then indulging in sectarian murder campaigns, killing Catholics for no other reason than that they were Catholics.

When, in July 1974, nine members of the UDA were found guilty in a court in Blackburn of arms possession and illegal gun training police evidence indicated their close con-

tact with the NF.

As for the UVF, it made its attitude clear in April 1974 when its magazine *Combatt* declared: 'Combatt wishes every success to the National Front in Northern Ireland and trusts that it may grow in strength.'

The Front's chief contact and supporter in the UVF was Billy Mitchell, a former member of the League of Empire Loyalists, a forerunner of the National Front. Mitchell was also the one-time chauffeur of Ian Paisley.

He is now serving a life sentence for the murder of two members of the UDA, committed during one of the many feuds that take place between

the extremist Loyalist groups.

At one stage, the UVF and the NF were planning to form a joint organisation and they even went so far as to set up a 'Loyalist Front' in a number of areas.

All of these sinister schemes came to nothing. The NF wanted the new organisation to be open to Catholic fascists as well as Protestant ones, and this the UVF wouldn't agree to.

The alliance with the UDA fell apart when the NF accused that organisation of operating protection rackets.

Nevertheless, the NF didn't waver in its support for the Loyalist cause. The Front distributed a pamphlet in Belfast in 1974 outlining its attitude: 'The half-baked campaign against the IRA must stop.'

'We are at war with the IRA and all necessary force should be used to smash it. The Army should be given the instruction that to destroy the IRA is its sole task.'

'Civilian security forces should be organised and equipped to the full extent necessary and should not have their powers emasculated just in order to appease Republican opinion. Acts of terrorism should be punishable by death.'

Recently the NF has been trying once again to establish links with the Loyalists in the North of Ireland. Tyndall himself planned to speak at a meeting at the University in Belfast a couple of months ago, but opposition forced the cancellation of the visit.

However, with Loyalist groups themselves presently going through a series of crises, the NF has a better chance to win support from a significant section of Loyalist opinion than ever before.

The North of Ireland Loyalists and the National Front certainly have a lot in common. Both share a view that Britain should stay in Ireland — no matter what the majority of people in Ireland say.

Both argue that the British Army should smash the resistance to British rule in Ireland; both believe in Britain's right to intervene against people who oppose them, whether in Africa, Asia or Ireland.

They are all 'Empire Loyalists'. While the NF's main target is blacks, the Loyalists' main target is Catholics.

But the link is that both the Loyalists and the NF have a belief in the right of the white Anglo-saxon British 'race' to treat those outside their ranks with discrimination and repression.

But if there is a link between the NF and the Ulster Loyalists, the Catholic people in the North of Ireland and blacks in this country have a lot in common. After all, the British police's techniques of 'riot control' — helmets, shield, 'snatch squads' and the rest — were first tried out against Catholics demanding civil rights in the North of Ireland.

The connection is best illus-

trated by evidence from pacifist Pat Arrowsmith who has recounted how on a recent trip to Belfast she saw British soldiers wearing uniforms which had 'National Front' embroidered on their flack jackets.

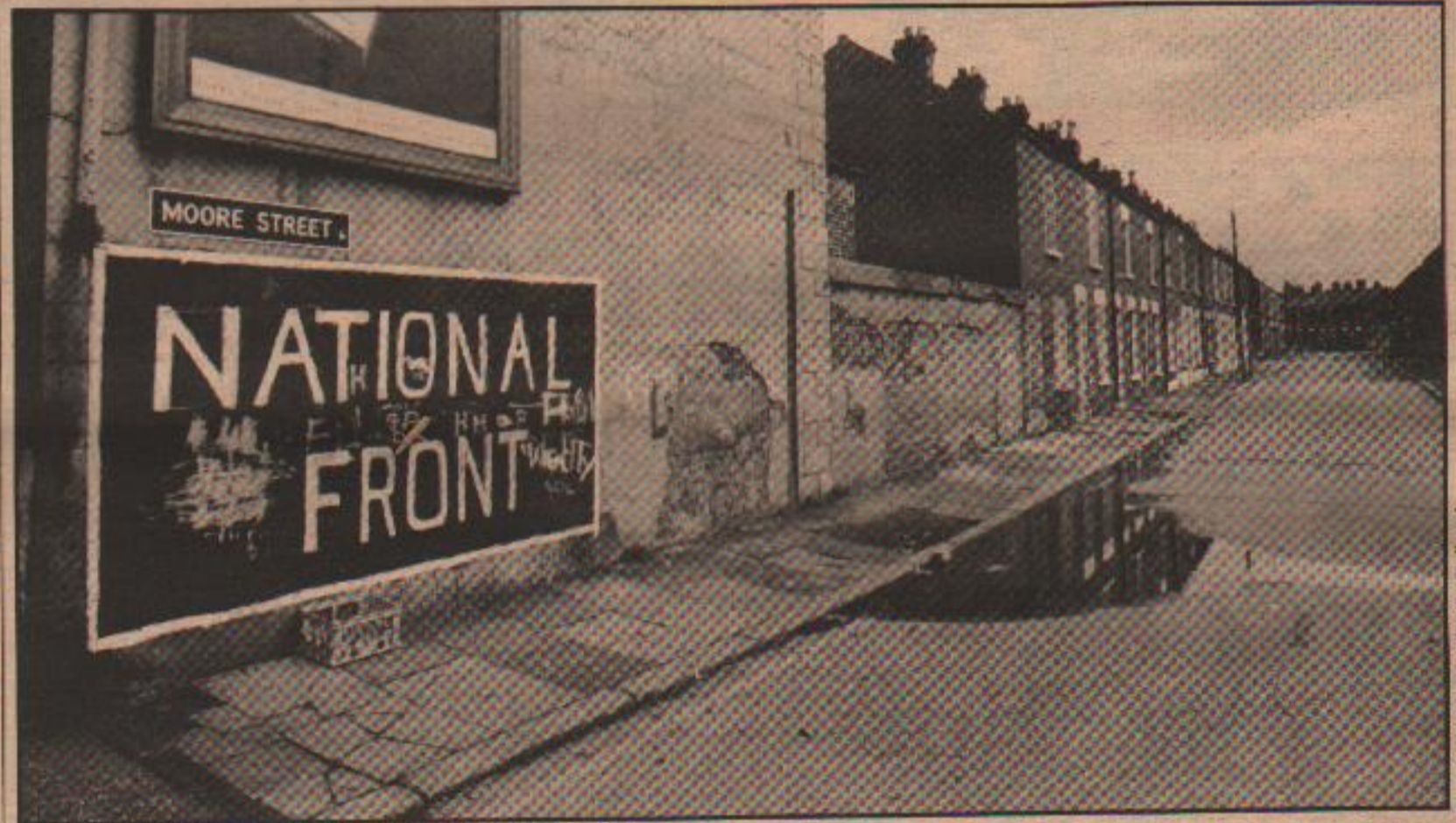
Perhaps that is the real reason why the National Front has not grown in the North to the extent it has in this country; the British Army is already doing much of their dirty work for them.

What the British Army and the National Front share with Loyalists is a common policy towards — as Tyndall put it — 'the preservation of British rule' in Ireland.

The answer from anti-fascists in this country is obvious: 'Solidarity with the Irish resistance!'

*British troops out of Ireland now!

Workers Research Bulletin No. 3. Price 50p from the Other Bookshop, 328 Upper Street, London N.1. 15p extra for orders by post.



NATIONAL FRONT wall slogan in the Loyalist district of East Belfast

Photo: G. M. COOKSON (Socialist Challenge)

ANTI-RACIST NEWS

LEEDS — St. George's Day

MARTIN WEBSTER'S visit to Leeds last Saturday landed him in hospital, unconscious. The NF was literally run out of the town, reports JOHN COLMAN.

The fascists chose Leeds to celebrate 'St George's Day', and when their march was banned, they decided to hold a meeting instead. Only 67 attended it.

Nearly a thousand anti-fascists arrived to picket the meeting at the Central High School, mobilised by the most broad-based united front committee that the town has seen.

The Labour Party Young Socialists, various Labour Party branches, the Anti-Nazi League, and Leeds CARF

— together with several black organisations — joined up to ensure that the NF had a warm reception.

The committee behind the mobilisation was formed at a public meeting earlier this month. Over two hundred attended, and the committee elected included street representatives from Chapel Town, where most of the West Indians in Leeds live.

The blanket ban on marches was announced on 17 April. Two hundred anti-fascists volunteered to go into the NF's meeting on Saturday, but they were prevented from doing so by the fascists and the police.

A police superintendent told the pickets that it was up to the chairperson of the meeting to decide who could go in. That was this cop's interpretation of the Representation of the People Act.

But the 1,000 police on the streets were unable to prevent the pickets from dealing with the fascists after the meeting.

Webster led the majority of his supporters to the railway station, where most arrived nursing injured bodies as well as egos.

The anti-fascists suffered 20 arrests.

Although Leeds Trades Council was notably absent from Saturday's events, the executive is reported to be going ahead with its May Day march. The ban on marches does not end until 7 May.

ILFORD NORTH

THE FASCISTS did not manage to march through Ilford North during the recent by-election campaign, but they are evidently determined to make their mark on the area, reports GEOFFREY SHERIDAN.

During the early hours of Sunday, 16 April, swastikas together with National Front slogans and obscenities were

daubed across cars, windows, and walls belonging to 17 families, nearly all of them Jewish.

They live less than a mile from the school where the NF held its police-protected meeting.

A few nights earlier, the fascists had visited the same two streets to wrench wing mirrors, windscreen wipers, and aerials from a dozen cars. Loretta Berman, whose taxi-driver husband had Nazi slogans scrawled on his cab, says:

'It is obviously a worrying thing to happen. This is how it started in Germany in the 1930s.'

While Ilford's Jewish community set up patrols and guards to protect synagogues when the NF held its meeting in the borough, their concern is not shared by community leaders elsewhere.

When a synagogue in Finchley, NW London, was daubed with swastikas and anti-semitic slogans earlier this month, the minister, Rabbi L. Baum, told his congregation: 'It is a minor sickness. There

are far greater problems in the world.'

PORTSMOUTH

NE SUPPORTERS among Millwall fans found some opposition when they arrived at Portsmouth for their side's match against Bristol Rovers, earlier this month.

Anti-fascist leaflets were distributed outside the ground in the first activity of the newly-formed Portsmouth branch of the Anti-Nazi League. Some of the football fans responded with pro-NF and racist abuse, but others said 'That's what's needed' when handed leaflets.

The leafleting was agreed by a 100-strong founding meeting of the League in the city and it may become a regular activity in answer to sections of the home supporters who shout NF chants.

Another proposal was that Portsmouth Trades Council should be urged to make anti-fascism and anti-racism the theme of its May Day march.

HOXTON

ON SATURDAY 29 April, the NF is holding an evening meeting in a Hoxton school in East London. A counter-picket is being planned. Details from Alan on 01-226 0571 during the day on Thursday and Friday.



DEREK DAY

DEREK DAY, one of East London's most strident racists, was sitting on the jury last week at the Old Bailey. Identified by an alert lawyer in a case involving a Rastafarian, Day was challenged and removed from the jury for that trial.

Defendants and lawyers clearly need to be well briefed on their neighbourhood racists.

Windscale—what now

Workers power, not nuclear power

FEW PEOPLE expected Justice Parker to do more than a balancing act before recommending that British Nuclear Fuels should build its reprocessing plant at Windscale.

In the event he has produced a report so biased that it will eventually embarrass even hard line advocates of nuclear power, writes **TONY WEBB** of the Socialist Environment and Resources Association.

The objections raised are distorted, omitted or dismissed with a high handedness that reveals Parker's underlying assumption that the nuclear industry needs reprocessing and therefore it should have it.

We just don't have an energy policy in this country. We have had a series of ad hoc decisions made under pressure from the nuclear lobby which already give us enough power stations to generate 40 per cent more electricity than we ever use.

Serious doubt has been cast on the forecasts of future energy demand and the likelihood is that we will only need 60 per cent of present energy consumption if we use the simple technologies we already have to conserve and use fuels more efficiently.

While we have more energy than we need at present, we still have families and old people who cannot even afford to heat their homes properly. Generating more, expensive nuclear electricity will not help them, but energy conservation would.

In fact, the 'need' for nuclear power is based on the needs of industry not the consumer, as the decision to order 2 AGR (NUCLEAR) and Drax B (coal) stations has indicated.

Reprocessing of spent fuel to produce plutonium and the development of so-called 'fast breeder reactors' are the two key decisions which will lead us to a plutonium economy. Both these decisions will be made in the next year or so and the first within the next six years. That's why we need to be concerned about the issue now!

Plutonium equals Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Windscale was originally built to provide plutonium for the weapons programme. Throughout the industry there is a hazy line between military (security and secrecy conscious) and civil uses of nuclear fuels and especially plutonium. Plutonium being shipped around the globe will have one inevitable consequence: someone somewhere will try and probably succeed in making a nuclear bomb. It is these terrorists who exist in national governments who might wish to hold the world to ransom.

No system of treaties, inspection systems, or 'technical fixes' of the plutonium can safeguard us from the production of a nuclear bomb built from reactor grade plutonium. In certain circumstances this could be done in a matter of hours on a change of government or a government's policy.

For Britain to go ahead now is even more irresponsible when the United States has called a halt to reprocessing; when Britain is party to the International Fuel Cycle Evaluation Programme; and when there are international efforts to try to prevent the sale by Germany of this technology to Brazil — which hasn't even signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty — and by France to Pakistan.

Workers Power not Nuclear Power

The threat of 'terrorism' is



being used to erode civil and trades union rights. Workers in the nuclear industry are subject to a wide range of legislation including the Official Secrets Act, the Atomic Energy (Special Constables) Act 1976 — which creates the first permanently armed private police force in the UK, and the Emergency Powers Acts, 1920 and 1964.

It is obviously a secrecy and security ridden industry. The extent of this can be seen by the fact that both BNFL and the UKAEA union agreements contain 'no strike' clauses. During the 7-week unofficial strike at Windscale last year, not only were troops ready to fly in safety equipment (the need for which was disputed by the strikers) and Tony Benn implicitly threatened to use troops, but one strike leader we talked to was threatened with imprisonment under the Conspiracy and Protection of

Property Act 1975.

We know of the extent of personal and political vetting that takes place in industry as a result of the Reinforced Steels occupation. The Flowers Commission report states that workers in the nuclear industry and associated trades 'will be required to be screened before being employed and they may be subject to unusual surveillance during the course of their employment'.

General surveillance 'might include the use of informers, infiltrators, wire tapping, checking bank accounts, and opening of mail'. State Research has recently shown how police computers are being used to store information on a wide range of political activities, as two 'hunt saboteurs' recently found to their cost. When after all this you appeal against unfair dismissal, your claim may be

dismissed by the whisper of 'national security' in the chairperson's ear.

The provisions for disclosure of information to shop stewards for bargaining purposes under the Employment Protection Act are similarly restricted by a 'security' clause. With the difficulty we had getting any information on the Japanese contract at Windscale, you can kiss this 'right' goodbye as well.

Finally, the Health and Safety at Work Act provides for disclosure of technical information to trade union appointed safety reps. The Act specifically exempts the employer from supplying 'any information the disclosure of which would be against the interests of national security'.

In its evidence to the Parker inquiry, the TUC stated: 'Safety representatives... having met relevant security regulations should have access to health and safety information, details of hazards and accidents and access to their members workplaces'.

If this was the price of TUC backing for the Windscale plant, Parker has repaid them by totally ignoring its suggestion.

He did, however, use the fact that the TUC had given supporting evidence to dismiss the points above as hearsay evidence and suggest that all the workers at the plant were happy with the arrangements.

Create Jobs not Plutonium

Nuclear power is very capital intensive. It will cost £600,000 for each job created at Windscale. A massive insulation programme would cost less and would create more jobs than the nuclear programme — and save more energy than could be produced by nuclear power.

A programme of small combined heat and power

stations (linked to district heating) would create jobs for workers in the power engineering industry and in the control systems, piping and domestic heating installations for many more. In the longer term there's the alternative 'renewable resources' — wind, wave, tidal, geothermal, and solar power.

Wave power systems being developed at present would employ workers in the shipyards. Wind-electric systems could provide jobs for aerospace workers. There's no end to the possibilities given the right funding and given that we can halt the growth of nuclear power.

But the Government wants nuclear power and most unions have bought the lie that nuclear power will underpin job security and prosperity.

The truth is very different. Nuclear power is very expensive — it will soak up what little investment capital there is and starve other developments and create few jobs. Its main 'virtues' are that it reinforces the tendency towards centralised control, ensures long-term profits for the big energy consortia and helps the Government and CBI sidestep the power of the NUM.

Nuclear power is a technical fix for the problems of capitalism. There are viable alternatives which would be less dangerous, which would present less of a threat to organised labour and which would create more jobs in more areas of the country across a broader range of skills and be more amenable to workers control. So who needs nukes?

Further details from SERA — 9 Poland Street, London W1. Tel: 01-439 3749. The following pamphlets are available: 'What choice Windscale' — Czech Conroy, from Friends of the Earth, 9 Poland St, London W1 (£1.20 incl. p&p). 'Meet your new industrial relations manager' — SERA (25p incl p&p).

An old campaigner looks back

The successes and failures of CND

If Britain was the last major Western country to develop a movement against civilian nuclear energy it was not because people here have been unconcerned with the issue.

Twenty years ago we saw the first real post-war mass movement, and it was around the issue of nuclear weapons. **RICHARD KIRKWOOD**, a member of the Workers League and an observer on the Socialist Challenge editorial board from the International Socialist Alliance, recalls some experiences of the movement.

At its height, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament claimed that 100,000 had rallied at the end of the Aldermarston march. The Committee of 100 — part of the campaign, led by Bertrand Russell — pledged itself to civil disobedience against the bomb. It rallied 15,000 in Trafalgar Square, and 1,300 of us were arrested.

Although CND persistently refused to clarify the political meaning of its demand for the unilateral renunciation of nuclear weapons, this demand retained its threat for both the politicians of the right, and for Labour's right wing. As they never failed to point out, the fight for this demand challenged Britain's role in the NATO alliance.

The campaign also raised problems for the Communist Party. The radical implications

of the demand might, it feared, detract from the CP strategy of a broad peace alliance linked to the Russian policy of peaceful co-existence.

Thus in 1958 and 1959 the CP actually opposed CND. It only took up support for the campaign in May 1960 after the mounting success of Aldermarston marches, especially following the Easter 1960 march which pulled many of its sympathisers into the movement.

The other reason for CP reticence was that unilateralism implicitly — and sometimes explicitly — questioned Russia's nuclear weapons. The more radical supporters of the campaign opposed Great Power politics as such, and many leading members of CND were ex-Communists, disgusted with the Russian intervention in Hungary.

The CND had a big impact in youth. Schoolchildren all over the country were wearing CND badges in 1961-2. The main beneficiary of this youth radicalisation was the Young Socialists.

Labour's relaunch of its much-purged youth movement coincided with the growth of CND. The need for wider politics led many CND activists into the YS. Here they came into contact with radicalised young workers, and with the tiny handful of revolutionary socialists revitalised by the Hungarian revolution. This combination laid the basis for today's revolutionary organisations.

REAL SUPPORT

But most importantly, CND — despite its middle-class leaders and activists — achieved real support in the labour movement. Aldermarston marches were enlivened by colourful trade union banners in fairly significant numbers.

When a German peace march was banned, we were joined by an impressive contingent of 500 German metalworkers. The Islington CND Trade Union Committee, largely animated by a member of Socialist Review (later the International

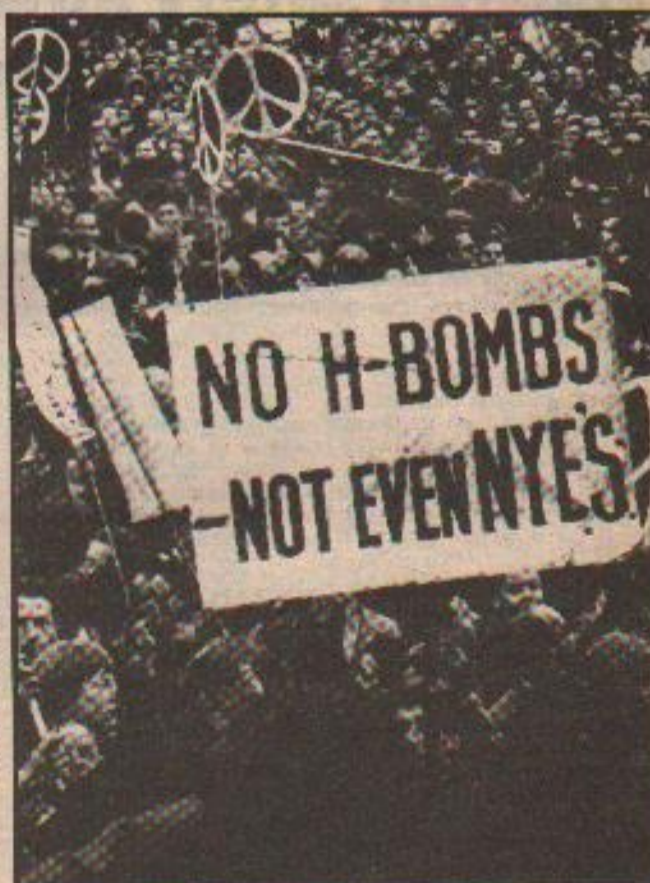
Socialists, now the Socialist Workers Party) had more affiliated unions than the local Trades Council.

The height of CND success in the official labour movement was its victories at the 1960 TUC and Labour Party conferences. The TUC decisions were confused. The right wing leaders of the Engineering Union decided to vote for both the unilateralist motion as mandated, and for official Labour policy which contradicted it. The TUC was thus left supporting both at once!

At the Labour Party conference it was the trade union block vote which swung the conference against the leadership, despite a vigorous effort by party leader Gaitskell.

But in the end, CND failed to gain a real working-class base. The attempts of the Direct Action Committee, and later the Committee of 100, to organise strikes against the bombs were a failure. This was because they came from outside of the labour movement, as moral exhortation.

The lasting monument of CND is those small groups of working class youth who went on to form the basis for revolutionary politics today.



CND Rally, Trafalgar Square, 1959

HOME NEWS

NALGO backs 9 May strike

Liverpool sabotage

THE conference that never was. That's what delegates to the Liverpool Trades Council were saying after their meeting last Thursday, 20 April.

They expected to hear about action on unemployment following the 9 April conference attended by over 500 delegates, which called for a one-day general strike on Merseyside. VIV PHILLIPS and AL WALKER, both Trades Council delegates, report.

Delegates at the Trades Council meeting heard little about mass action. It seemed that anything the Communist Party did not agree with from the conference was simply filed in the waste paper basket. And anything that called for mass action was blocked.

'The Conference calls upon the Trades Council to set up a Council of Action composed of trade unions, political parties, tenants associations, unemployed workers, community groups, etc. to

formulate policies and co-ordinate the struggle against the economic genocide of the Merseyside area'.

Quite clear and direct for anyone who voted for it. So what did the Trades Council executive who opposed this plan do?

They called a meeting on 14 April of the bodies who sponsored the conference — the Building Workers Union, the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, the National Union of

Seamen, and so on — but did not inform 'Trades Council delegates, political parties...' and the others.

This meeting then declared itself a Council of Action and...proceeded to call for a day of action, not a stoppage.

'A one day general stoppage of all industry, services, shops, etc. throughout the county on 9 May.'

LOBBY

Instead of the union leadership on Merseyside calling for all members to support this, they passed the buck, and left it up to each workplace and union branch to decide.

It is not going to use the day for a mass demonstration in Liverpool and visits to other factories in the country.

The Trades Council has instead organised a lobby of

Parliament. With this sort of perspective it will be very difficult to win support for strike action.

Full support for the unemployed, a Right to Work march from Liverpool to London to be held in late May.

The executive claimed that the conference did not support the Right to Work march, but instead had decided to support a march of employed and unemployed people — which the Trades Council would organise!

John Deason, secretary of the Right to Work Campaign, unfortunately made a tactical error at the conference by not sticking by the dates for action in the original resolution supporting the march. This gave the executive the excuse to avoid giving support to the Right to Work campaign.

This sort of manoeuvring by the Stalinists and their likes

makes the formation of a left caucus on the Trades Council a major priority. In practice the CP's alliances with trade union officials means backing down from any real action to fight the bureaucracy.

The trade union bureaucracy do not want strike action lest they embarrass the Labour Party in the Council elections on 4 May, and the general election on the horizon.

Despite the bureaucracy's attempts to sabotage any action, it is imperative that the

9 May stoppage is built. Already the Liverpool NALGO branch executive has called a special meeting to recommend support for strike action by its 5,000 members. Trade unionists in Speke concerned with direct closure of the TR7 assembly plant are meeting next week to discuss the re-establishment of a Speke area trade union committee.

And the Right to Work campaign, despite Trades Council opposition, is pressing ahead with its march which begins 29 May. It has gained sponsorship with many shop stewards committees in Merseyside including from Birds Eye, Metal Box, Massey Ferguson, and the AUEW Docks and Harbour Board.

Further details can be obtained from Bobby Kilbride, 2A Dawson Street, Liverpool, tel (051)-709-1844.

Speke jobs crisis Left unity can save jobs

SPEKE workers have rejected Leyland's not-so-golden handshake. This gives a good basis for the union leadership to mount a fight against the Edwardes' plan, writes PAT HICKEY.

But the combine committee shows no sign of even attempting to fight. The decision of Speke workers is seen as nothing other than a negotiating ploy to squeeze a few more pounds from the company for the 3000 jobs at Speke.

Combine committee leaders aren't trying to build real support for Speke workers throughout the combine. While Derek Robinson, Communist Party chairperson of the combine, declares that 'not a bolt will leave the TR7 plant', he is continuing negotiations over an incentive scheme which will cause up to 10,000 more jobs to go!

And this, despite the overwhelming vote against the scheme only two weeks ago. The combine committee remains committed to a massive improvement in productivity so Leyland can compete in international markets.

With this kind of perspective, workers who have little faith in the combine's determination to lead the fight against the Edwardes' plan are not far from wrong! Speke workers are being used as negotiating fodder while management is being assisted in the plants.

This leadership must be fought in every Leyland plant. Militants should be pressing for delegations to attend the Liverpool Trades Council sponsored lobby with the message of 'No to the Edwardes' plan'.

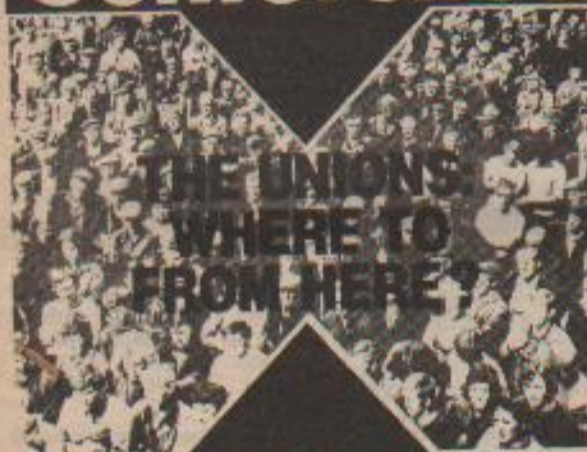
Delegations of shop stewards and shopfloor members should go to Speke to discuss the situation with Speke shop stewards, to offer resistance, and report back to their members.

A coordinated fightback by the left in Leyland could rock the present leadership and force a change of course. But this needs left unity and agreement on a common project to be fought for throughout Leyland.

This is the only way the disastrous cycle of job losses and declining wages and conditions can be stopped, and a fight for a workers' solutions to the crisis can begin.

Socialist Challenge

Trade Union Conference



**Saturday, 1 July, 10.30 am
Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham**

See you at the Conference!

SOCIALIST CHALLENGE is holding a Trade Union Conference. We have invited delegates from all major unions to discuss the current situation and to plan for the future. The conference will be held on Saturday, 1 July, 10.30 am at Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham. It is a free event and open to all workers. For more information, contact the Socialist Challenge office, PO Box 10, London, SE1.

... why don't you?

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____

Vauxhall safety strike Bosses come unstuck

LAST WEEK, Transport Union members came out on strike at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant over unsafe work conditions.

CHRIS ERSWELL, a trim shop worker at the plant, reports on the dispute, and argues that only action by workers can do away with health hazards on the job.

The dispute began when a trim shop worker returned to work from sick leave thanks to the effects of working with the adhesive Bostik 1437. This glue is used for sticking parts of the interior trim to the car body, as it passes down the track.

Over the years, this job has been notoriously unpopular because the fumes from the glue cause dizziness, nausea and headache. The turn-over on the job has been high.

PROTEST

The worker concerned requested that he be allowed to do some other job on his return. The foreman thought otherwise. And although the union safety officer was called for, management refused to allow him to be released from

his section. A meeting with the area manager for the trim shop to lodge a protest didn't solve anything. The safety officer was not qualified to deal with the matter in the view of management.

HAZARDOUS

Trim workers then left the job, and a mass meeting of the IGWU was called. It demanded to know the chemical constituents of the glue and its safety; and finally voted to go home for the rest of the day. This was followed by the night shift, and the next day's shift.

The company's attitude quickly changed. Expensive ventilation equipment was flown in to appease the workers. By Thursday the

dispute was over.

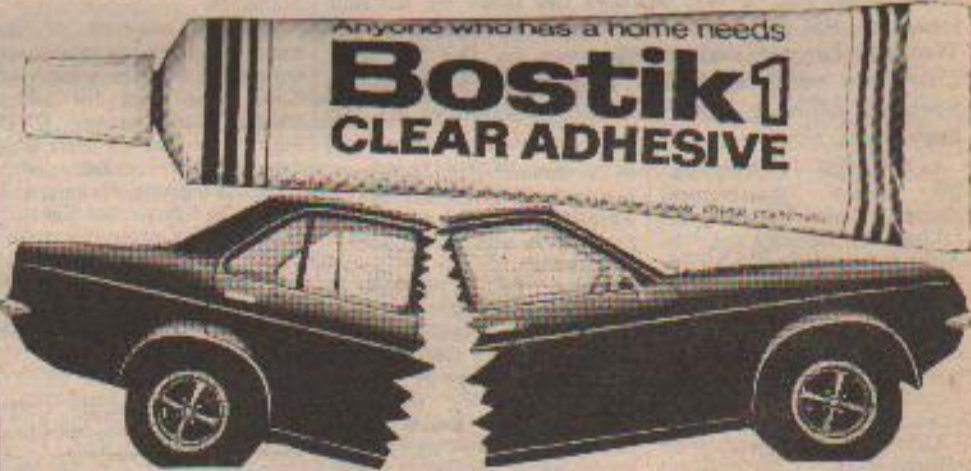
The glue was analysed and found to contain toluene. Safety engineers took measurements of the concentration of toluene vapour in the air. It was well above the threshold limit value (TLV) — the scale used to measure safety limits — but when the ventilation equipment was installed it was below the limit.

The possibility of getting rid of the glue altogether and replacing it by using studs is now being considered. This is better. Commercial toluene is highly hazardous. It contains benzene, a carcinogen.

The method of measuring the concentration limits of toxic substances is suspect at any rate. The TLV scale is decided by an American body — the American Conference of Industrial Hygienists (ACIH). This isn't a government body; it's virtually a company front.

Some of the limits on the scale are based on nothing better than 'reasonable freedom from irritations, narcosis, nuisance, or other forms of stress'.

And they are based on



inadequate information from animal experiments, observation of obvious symptoms among workers, and from guessing, inspired by experience of similar substances.

The ACIH does not conduct research to detect long-term risks from small exposures. And even if it did, the chemicals would still be marketed in the meantime. Even ACIH doesn't claim all workers will be safe if its levels

are kept to. The only way to protect everyone, would be to screen every worker for particular sensitivities or existing diseases.

Furthermore, in this country, there is no legal force to implement the TLV, once it is calculated. And many substances have not been rated.

The lesson from the dispute at Vauxhall's is that workers mustn't accept bald management's statements that their

conditions are safe. It's necessary to rely on our own judgements and common sense when questions of safety arise.

And various management-inspired safety measures are clearly not trustworthy. The aim should be to fight for a pure atmosphere by getting chemicals removed and by reorganising the work. This can cost money, and it's only workers' action which can achieve it.

Cowley victimisations Round One to militants

THE campaign to defend victimised Cowley militants received a boost when last week's enquiry of the Transport Union into charges brought by Oxford Trades Council was adjourned sine die, reports JOHNNY HAINE.

Three of the militants — Alan Thornett, Tony Homer and Dave Pinnington — faced spurious charges brought by John Power, Trades Council president, and Keith Dansey, secretary. Power — now facing the sack from Leyland for alleged fraud — had blown the gaff at an earlier Trades Council meeting when he said that the TGWU enquiries were 'designed to curb the activities of certain individuals'.

DISOWNED

When faced with this exposure, TGWU regional secretary Brian Mathers, quickly disowned Power. He ruled that on the basis of the evidence presented, it was impossible to proceed with the charges against the militants.

The 'evidence' was two lengthy letters written by Dansey purporting to have come from the Trades Council.

Although they were written six months ago, Council delegates had never seen them, let alone voted on them!

INTRIGUE

Such is the web of intrigue that Dansey openly stated that the officers had the full support of the TUC for their blatant and anti-democratic manoeuvres. But this was too much for Mathers, who insisted that the letters had to be endorsed if the enquiry was to proceed.

Mathers has been forced to change, because of the overwhelming response in the ranks of the TGWU to the campaign launched recently to defend the Cowley militants.

From TGWU branches in all parts of the country, resolutions have arrived on the desks of Brian Mathers and general secretary Moss Evans, calling for the charges to be dropped.

Of course, the struggle is far from over. Other charges are still to be considered at the regional committee meeting in July. And Trades Council officials will try to recover their position.

AFFILIATE

That's why the organising committee for the campaign

has decided to step up its activity. Socialist Challenge supporters in the TGWU are urged to get their branches and shop stewards committees to affiliate to the campaign.

Campaign Organising Committee, c/o 23 Overmead Green, Blackbird Leys, Oxford.

Convenor defended

THE 5/293 branch of the Transport Workers Union — chaired by Alan Thornett — passed a resolution last week promising full support to defend John Power, convenor of Engineering Union workers at Horsepath service division of British Leyland.

Power is threatened with the sack for alleged fraud involving his travelling expenses to participation meetings.

WITCH HUNTER

Power is suspended on full pay, and full-time officials have done little to fight management's moves against him. They have urged normal working while a further meeting with the company is planned.

John Power has played a leading role in the witchhunt against the Cowley militants. Nevertheless, while he is now himself a victim of Leyland



ALAN THORNETT

bosses' attacks, all temptations to let him go to the wall must be resisted.

His sacking would be a major blow to trade unionism and a victory for the Edwardes' plan, which Power has so slavishly supported.

BIRMINGHAM

A.J. Lees, a small engineering firm in Birmingham, pays wages as low as £26 a week. Even its 'high' paid workers receive only £40 a week.

Not surprisingly, the company is determined to stop any attempts to unionise the firm. When Richard Green, a young worker at Lees, started recruiting members to the National Society of Metal Mechanics, he was promptly sacked.

Those who joined the union are now on official strike. Comparisons are already being drawn with Geunwick.

Financial support is needed urgently, as is help on the picket lines. Donations, resolutions and inquiries to: National Society of Metal Mechanics, 70 Lionel St, Birmingham.

OXFORD — Nurseries

AN OXFORD Council representative had to withdraw in confusion when he attempted to evict the Oxford nursery occupation last week, reports CHRIS YOUNG.

Several hundred supporters gathered outside the nursery last Wednesday to stop the threatened eviction, and now the new term has started with more children than ever attending the class.

The nursery has now been occupied for over five weeks. The Council has ignored the support of 5,000 petitioners and pleas for discussions from trades union branches, the Trades Council, local and regional Labour Parties, from Joan Lester MP and even from a local newspaper.

After the failure of the attempted eviction on 19 April the Council continued to voice uncertain threats.

The campaign is quite clear about its plans however. It intends to keep the nursery open and to resist all attempts to close it. Whatever happens the fight will go on.

A national rally is planned for 27 May. Speakers have been invited from groups active against the cuts all over the country. Everyone concerned about the cuts, or facing them is welcome to this meeting. Come and help us make it a success to take the campaign into new areas with fresh ideas.

Information from Chris Young, 38 Hurst St, Oxford. Donations and resolutions to Michelle Flood, 35 Alexandra Rd, Oxford.

HULL — Cuts

THE HEALTH Service axe is being swung again, this time in Humberside.

But as PAT CROSS of the Hull Working Women's Charter Campaign reports, the local people are not giving in without a fight.

Two hospitals are due to close, both small and friendly, with a reputation for good relations between patients and staff and a high standard of concern for patient welfare.

The hospitals, a gynae-

cological unit and a maternity house, are both on the same site in west Hull. The Humberside area health authority plans to transfer all their services to hospitals in east Hull.

The effects of the 'rationalisation' of these services would be drastic. Not only would some hospital staff lose their jobs, but pregnant women would face long and tiring journeys across Hull!

Those needing gynaecological operations would be put on even longer waiting lists than now. And there would be a loss of the autonomy and special skills of GPs and midwives in favour of unnecessary medical intervention in childbirth and more impersonal treatment.

A committee to save the hospitals, formed at a public meeting in January, has already built considerable support in the area, including a petition of 20,000 signatures. A meeting with speakers from the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and Hounslow hospitals is planned to discuss the next steps in the campaign.

Further information from: Pat Cross, Flat 2, 49 Spring Bank, Hull.

LEICESTER

THE Leicester Mercury has recently opened its pages to a campaign of red baiting. Why?

Because Leicester Trades Council decided to send a delegate to the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions conference.

A series of letters has appeared in the paper berating this decision, claiming that it does not accord with majority views; that the far left is sapping the authority of the trades council; and that workers should boycott the May Day rally.

Instead, demand the Mercury's correspondents, workers should pledge themselves to a day of extra hard work, no strikes, and no action.

The pillars of moderation in local trades unions who started this correspondence rapidly received enthusiastic support from two of the town's Labour MPs, Tom Bradley and Granville Janner and from the prospective Tory candidate, Ray Goodhall.

Local trade unionists have dissociated themselves from these letters and articles. Printers and journalists should join with the trades council in demanding a right of reply.

NUJ Conference An end to distortion

THE LABOUR Government was condemned as attacking democratic rights more than any other government since the war by Denis MacShane, the newly-elected president of the National Union of Journalists, at its conference last week, reports JEREMY GARDNER.

Condemning Sam 'Suppression' Silkin, and the manoeuvres to protect the identity of Colonel B — Hugh A Johnstone — the conference gave backing to industrial action on the opening day of the Aubrey-Berry-Campbell trial in September.

Delegates also gave their support to a condemnation of distortion and self-censorship by the media itself in its coverage of Ireland.

Some Belfast delegates from pro-Unionist papers claimed: 'There is no war, there is no suppression. We get on very well with the RUC.'

ALL VIEWS

The successful motion called for an end to distortion, so that the views of all sides in the conflict could be heard — not just those acceptable to Roy Mason and Airey Neave.

New guidelines on reporting and exposing the NF and other racist organisations were agreed. Perhaps significantly the only hands to go up against the guidelines were from London Evening paper delegates, who claimed that they hampered the freedom of reporters.

Among the freedoms 'threatened' are those to 'sensationalise the activities of racist organisations.'

PROVINCIAL

Decision-making power took a shift towards the base of the union when it was agreed that delegates meetings of provisional newspaper chapels will determine wage claims within general union policy, which is for a return to free collective bargaining.

This is a move towards greater union democracy. But proposals that would restore and protect living standards through a sliding scale of wages to keep pace with inflation were defeated.

On the introduction of new technology, which threatens the jobs of journalists and printers, a policy of work sharing with no loss of pay was also lost.

FAILED

Right wingers fared badly in the elections for president and vice president, failing to offer any answers to censorship, new technology, and pay.



HUMPHREY BOGART defending the National Union of Journalists' code of conduct. Well, that's what the slogan on this official union poster says!

It is now up to the left and in particular Journalist Charter to take up campaigns on the positive policies that were passed and to fight for those that are still needed.

The most immediate task is to build solidarity with journalists in Thomson regional newspapers and the Westminster Press provincial paper group who are taking action over pay.

A newly-formed Media Workers Against the Nazis

group secured the signatures of many delegates to a petition. The group is to hold a joint meeting with the Campaign Against Racism in the Media in London on 3 June.

Peace News Picket

MASS PICKET, HIGH COURT, STRAND, LONDON WC2 — Tuesday 2 MAY from 10am.

'H.A. Johnstone' placards and 'H.A. Johnstone' banners are especially welcome.

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN CONFERENCE
29-30 APRIL

Saturday April 29: 10am - All day
Sunday April 30: 10am - All day

COACHES leaving from London for the National Abortion Campaign conference will depart from Kings Cross at 8.30pm Friday.

Birmingham

A year of unimagined growth

SOCIALIST UNITY was born in Birmingham. It was born when Raghieb Ahsan stood in the Ladywood by-election in August 1977 as the first ever candidate of Socialist Unity, writes **GEOFF BELL**.

The decision to stand came from experiences of the previous year which highlighted the twin themes of what Socialist Unity stands for — active militancy and left unity.

The seeds of the new movement can be traced back to February 1977 when Brian Heron stood as the Socialist (International Marxist Group) candidate in the Stechford by-election.

As a Leyland shop steward, Heron was one of the first to stress the need for a single far left candidate in elections. But his pleas for discussion were turned down by the Socialist Workers Party who insisted on standing their own candidate, Paul Foot.

In the election, Heron received 494 votes to Foot's 377, but for all those involved with Heron it was the lessons of the campaign which hit home hardest.

DEMOCRATIC

It seemed that the beginnings of a militant opposition to the Tories, the Labour traitors and the Nazi Front could be built — providing: the campaign was open to all who agreed on its policies; it was run openly and democratically; and the simple need to struggle together was put before the interests of any one group.

In the May local elections in Birmingham last year, the importance of such 'unity in struggle' became even more obvious when Raghieb Ahsan stood as the candidate of an alliance of anti-racists and Asian workers. He polled 11 per cent of the vote, defeating the National Front in the process.

Out of that experience came Socialist Unity, and when Ahsan stood as its first candidate in Ladywood, he received 534 votes, more than three times as many as the SWP candidate.

Today Socialist Unity has grown in Birmingham to a size few would have imagined a year ago. It is fielding seven candidates in the local election, concentrating in areas of inner city decline.

TYPICAL

Typical of the type of people who have been attracted to the new organisation is Billie Campbell, secretary of the National Union of Public Employees branch at All Saints Hospital. At the last local election Campbell stood as a Communist Party candidate. For next Thursday's election she is carrying the banner of Socialist Unity in the All Saints ward.

The major reason for her change of allegiance is the fight against racism: 'I wasn't getting sufficient support from the Communist Party for the anti-fascist struggle. I felt we should be giving black people more support, but the Communist Party told me "we can't do that, we'll alienate the whites". I have a long history of work in the anti-fascist movement and I wasn't going to accept that. I knew Socialist Unity wouldn't accept it either.'

LABOUR

Many supporters of Socialist Unity have come from the Labour Party. Laurie White, the Socialist Unity candidate in the Small Heath ward of Birmingham, was until recently the ward secretary of Selly Oak Labour Party. He explained why he too has switched to Socialist Unity:

'Selly Oak is a left-wing branch of the Labour Party. But what many members of the branch say in private, Socialist Unity says in public.'

Another Labour Party defector is

SOCIALIST IS FIGHTING

To help build the fight against the Government's anti-working class policies, over 40 Socialist Unity candidates will be standing in the local elections to be held on 4 May.

Reports on these pages with the Labour campaign supporting in Brent; the e

Chris Adamson, a full-time union official standing for Socialist Unity in the Saltley ward. Adamson explained:

'The attraction of Socialist Unity is that it has the support of a number of left-wing groups and a whole number of individuals who have said we should work together. Socialist Unity gives the chance to put forward revolutionary politics without being sectarian.'

PLATFORM

On the anti-racist struggle Socialist Unity has been active in building the Anti-Nazi League and the local Saltley Committee Against Racism and Fascism.

On cuts Socialist Unity supporters have played a leading role in the fight against hospital closures. Chris Adamson is secretary of an action committee against the closures which has attracted the support of the trades council and all the major unions.

On women's rights Socialist Unity is stressing in its election campaign the appalling lack of abortion facilities in Birmingham. In March, supporters of Socialist Unity organised a local conference on abortion rights.

On Ireland Socialist Unity supporters are active in the local branch of the United Troops Out Movement and are planning a local conference on Ireland for later in the year.

In the car industry, Socialist Unity candidates Pat Hickey and Raghieb Ahsan are shop stewards at Rovers and have been among the most active opponents to the management's plan to slash the Leyland workforce.

On students, Chris Pateman, Socialist Unity candidate in Duddleson is Birmingham area secretary of the National Union of Students. Leading members of the Labour Party and the union executive at Pateman's university are backing his election campaign.

CORRUPTION

This is the type of unity in struggle which Socialist Unity stands for in Birmingham. It is active in a city in which the local Labour Party is known more for corruption than anything else. A city in which the Communist Party appears as little more than a mixture of the tired politics of the Labour Party and the 'community politics' of the Liberal Party.

By contrast, Socialist Unity is a young and active organisation, intent on avoiding a watering down of politics and determined to fight against disunity on the left. It is understandable that it has made the anti-racist struggle the major issue in the elections. Election agent Rick Hatcher summed up the organisation's attitude:

'For us, fighting the NF in the election is important, but not enough. Fighting the fascists through the Anti-Nazi League is important, but not enough. We believe in exposing racism whether it's in the Labour Party, the Tory Party, or the Front. Socialist Unity stands for a fightback now, whenever and wherever we can find it.'

Brixton The far left's suicidal course

THE BY-ELECTION in Lambeth Central last week shows to all those on the revolutionary left not affiliated with congenial sectarianism the urgent need for united left action, writes **BOB PENNINGTON**.

Despite the fact that only 44 per cent of the voters turned out, 888 votes were cast for one or other of the five candidates to the left of Labour.

John Chase, the Brixton Socialist Unity candidate, polled 287 votes; Corin Redgrave, Workers Revolutionary Party, received 271; Tony Bogues, standing for Flame and the Socialist Workers Party, polled 201. The Socialist Party of Great Britain picked up 91 votes, and a Maoist candidate received 38.

MORE RADICAL

In the 1974 General Election, the WRP candidate received only 232 votes in a 75 per cent poll. This shows that increasing numbers are looking for more radical socialist solutions than those offered by Labour. Unfortunately, most of the organisations of the far left — instead of encouraging this grassroots opposition — act as an obstacle to its growth.

By rejecting collaboration and refusing to agree on joint candidates, the revolutionary left appeared as a bewildering collection of disunited and squabbling groups. In contrast, the extreme right through the National Front offered a straightforward alternative to its supporters.

The Socialist Workers Party as the largest organisation on the far left must take the main blame for the

disunity. Once again, as in Stechford and Ladywood, the SWP adamantly refused to support a joint campaign, and insisted it was either their candidate or no one!

CONFUSED

This ensured that many independent activists were not drawn into the election campaign. It confused voters who were sympathetic to the far left and legitimised the sectarianism of the WRP.

A joint campaign by the supporters of Socialist Unity and the Socialist Workers Party would undoubtedly have polled more than their combined vote of 488. It would have attracted larger numbers of people into working for the candidate. Without doubt it would have been a real means of encouraging militants, both locally and nationally, to take up the fight for a socialist alternative.

The nature of such a campaign would have opened up whole new avenues to the revolutionary left enabling us all to make new supporters and members.

SUICIDAL

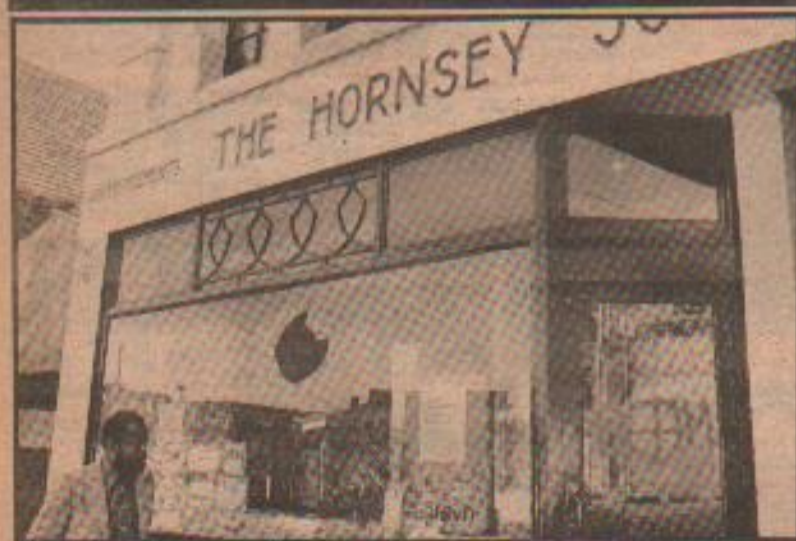
As the General Election draws nearer, time is running out for the revolutionary left. If it follows its present suicidal course, it will dissipate this crucial opportunity to lay the foundations for a broad based socialist alternative.

Socialist Unity has no intention of marching into the ghetto of sectarianism. Its Lambeth campaign drew in revolutionaries from the Brixton and Croydon Collective, a black organisation; comrades from the International Marxist Group, Big Flame, Workers League, women from the Socialist Feminist groups, comrades from South London Gay Liberation, and the Union Place Collective, as well as many independents. This shows the potential of united activity.

EXTENDED

That can and must be extended on a national scale if a fightback is to be organised.

BOB PENNINGTON is national organiser of Socialist Unity.



THIS WAS the revenge of racist thugs who smashed the window of a North London paper which published stories about racist attacks on black and Jewish people in the area. The racists hurled a lump of concrete through the glass leaving their trademark — the symbol and initials of the British Movement — smeared across the front door. The Hornsey Journal has been a target of threatening phone calls and letters from racists ever since the paper condemned the big fascist march through nearby Wood Green a year ago. It recently reported damage to a black bookshop and covered a spate of vicious threats and racist daubings

aimed at terrorising local families. The smashing of the window came from the morning after the Journal published a front-page story on how racists had fired a powerful nail gun through the living room of an elderly Jewish couple. Members of the Hornsey Journal's NUJ chapel are determined that the attacks on their paper won't stop them maintaining their hard line against racism. Says one journalist: 'It's no coincidence that this violence comes at a time when the NF is standing 59 candidates in our local elections. But the racists won't prevent us from exposing them and their supporters at every opportunity.'

ST UNITY NG BACK

examine some of these local
id tactics. Plus an interview
andidate Socialist Unity is
election alliance supported by

the Socialist Workers Party in Swindon — and the
lessons of Brixton.

Islington Fighting Labour's local 'Murphia'

'ARSENAL for the Cup. Labour for Islington'. Believe it or not, this sentiment emblazoned on posters is the main slogan of the Islington Labour Party in the local elections.

However, Arsenal's record as a football club has been far more impressive than that of the 100 per cent Labour council in this North London borough over the past four years, writes JAMES GOSLING.

Despite lavish claims for the council's housing programme, the pre-war tower blocks in the north of the borough are either in need of extensive repair or demolition. Yet the council has turned these decaying blocks into 'dump estates' for so-called problem families.

CAMPAIGNING

The six Socialist Unity candidates in the three wards covering this area — Highview, Hillrise and Tollington — have been campaigning vigorously on this issue. Socialist Unity is the only organisation that supports the demand by tenants of Blythe Mansions for demolition and immediate rehousing. This has met with a ready response on the estates.

Despite the council's miserable record, North Islington remains a Labour stronghold dominated by the clique led by the anti-abortion MP, Michael O'Halloran. Steve Bundred, a left-wing councillor elected in a recent ward by-election, was voted off the Highview Ward candidates' list

for no better reason than trying to recruit campaigning council tenants to the Labour Party.

The 'Murphia' — as the right wing is known because of its close links with J.T. Murphy, a local building contractor — described such tenants as 'agitators' and refused to let them into the party.

Next to housing, racism is the big issue in the election. The National Front is standing in 50 out of 52 seats and supporting an independent racist in the other two. No less than 19 of the fascist candidates work at the Upper Street post sorting office.

FESTIVAL

The only people to counter this menace have been independent socialists, Socialist Unity supporters, and left-wing Labour Party members who recently united to form the Islington Campaign Against Racism and Fascism.

In a matter of weeks, the campaign organised a Festival Against Fascism

**ARSENAL
FOR THE CUP
LABOUR
FOR ISLINGTON**

on Highbury Fields which attracted a thousand or more people during the course of last Saturday afternoon. A collection raised over £260 and 20,000 special 'Don't Vote National Front' leaflets were distributed to every major estate in the course of the afternoon along with Anti-Nazi League material. Sixty-nine copies of Socialist Challenge and 48 Socialist Unity badges were sold.

However, the major concern of the Labour council wasn't the racist threat but whether the Festival would provoke Front violence.

Since the summer of '76 there has been an increasing number of racist attacks throughout the area, including the stoning of a Pakistani woman wheeling her baby along the Tufnell Park Road and the vandalising of the Asian Centre.

Socialist Unity candidate and election agent Michael Simpson has also received a bomb threat from a group calling itself the 'White Freedom Fighters' if he continues to publish 'any more socialist material'.

Socialist Unity is underlining the fact that it is the Labour Government's policies of cutting living standards and its support for immigration controls, which are all racist, that have provided the breeding ground for the fascist Front.

Socialist Unity campaign teams are going out from 6pm every night. Help is particularly needed with canvassing and posterage over the next week. If you want to help, contact the Committee Rooms at 110 Hornsey Lane Estate or ring 263 3387.

Far left unity at the polls

SWINDON, unlike other towns south of the Midlands, has been since the industrial revolution overwhelmingly working class. There are almost as many working men's clubs as pubs to testify to this.

MOIRA KELLY reports on the election campaign by Socialist Alliance.

Swindon became the engineering and administrative centre for the Great Western Railway. During the latter's long period of decline, Plessey, Vickers and Pressed Steel have absorbed much of its skilled workforce.

But during the '50s, Whitehall decided to expand Swindon, to make it into one of London's overspill towns.

It could have been made into a good town. But Swindon is yet another example of how the rule of profit has twisted and distorted this potential — with empty office blocks,

poor services, faceless estates, and unemployment.

Socialist Alliance is a broad front of socialists whose supporters include members of the Labour Party, the International Marxist Group, the Socialist Workers Party, and independent socialists. Its candidate, Bob Chorley, was selected at an open meeting, and it was at open meetings that all the policies of the Alliance were discussed and voted on.

Bob is an SWP member and was an apprentice at Plessey. 'The main points we're taking up in the campaign,' he says, 'are jobs, cuts,

racism, and women's rights. Swindon is ruled by multinationals. Plessey, Garrards, and Spillers have all announced redundancies in the town. I stand for a fight for the right to work.'

'We are also taking up the nursery issue,' he adds. 'Here in Swindon, Wiltshire Council has not provided one nursery. Socialist Alliance is campaigning for an end to this and for nurseries to be financed by the local authority, but to be under the control of parents and the local community.'

Bob says that he is personally not in favour of abortion — 'but I firmly believe that it is a woman's right to choose: better to end an unwanted pregnancy than to have an unwanted child.'

On the issue of racism, the Alliance has given its full backing to the Carnival against racism in London on the weekend. At least two coachloads will be going from Swindon,

Brent Labour candidate supports SU policies

TIM McMAHON is a Labour Party candidate in the council elections in Brent North, London. He agrees with all Socialist Unity's policies, including opposition to all wage and immigration controls, and Socialist Unity supporters in the area decided to support him rather than running a separate campaign.

JUDE WOODWARD talked to McMahon about the Labour Party and the coming elections.

What do you think are the major issues in the Brent North election?

The major single issue where I am standing is nursery education. But I think that the major overall issue is who controls what. Whether it is closed committees of the council or the people themselves.

I think that councillors should be recallable and accountable. And they should try to hand over as much responsibility as possible to people in the community. For example, our manifesto includes a clear commitment to democratising the running of schools in Brent, to include school students not just parents, with no reserved areas.

Being a councillor should not be one's only role, as some of them seem to think. It is a point of political pressure, but it should go with work in the organisations of the working class, not as an alternative to them.

Socialist Unity calls for the return of the Labour Government, and it won't stand in marginal Labour seats. It doesn't see itself as an organisational alternative to the Labour Party. But it hopes to be a political pole for those people who want to fight back against the Government's Tory policies.

In many areas Labour Party members couldn't get agreement to an election programme like yours. Do you think that Socialist Unity can be useful for class struggle militants in that situation?

To a certain extent it may help militants and socialists within the Labour Party because they can say: 'Look, if we'd been acting on our policies they wouldn't be working outside the Labour Party.'

But although I see that some members of the Labour Party and trades union bureaucracy have denied their origins and their working class base, I still feel that all working class militants and socialists of whatever hue should be in the Labour Party.

It is the party of the working class even if it's not a democratic proletarian party. I think that party democracy is a major issue. Others should be in the Labour Party fighting for this with me.

If there was a mass proletarian party then I'd be in it. Not because I am a Leninist but because I believe in working class control and working class democracy. Not spurious social democracy. Most ordinary members

of the Labour Party would agree with this.

But Socialist Unity is a young and small grouping, not a mass party. Nor is the Socialist Workers Party. In fact there isn't one. But we do have the Labour Party. It represents the interests of the working class, however inadequately. We have to fight within it. Though I do welcome the support of Socialist Unity and all other socialists in the elections and in campaigns such as anti-racism where I work with the Anti-Nazi League and Socialist Unity supporters.

I question whether Socialist Unity is really a pole for the fightback. We are recruiting many people to the Labour Party in Brent at the moment. I think, in general, class struggle militants still go to the Labour Party and fight within it.

What do you think of the Socialist Unity manifesto?

I agree with all of the policies contained in it absolutely. But most of these are also the policies of the Labour Party. Where I disagree is when it says it is fighting back against the Labour Party's bankrupt policies.

I don't think that the Labour Party's policies are bankrupt whatever we may think of the Labour Government. The problem is how to get the Labour Government to carry out Labour Party policy. That's why I think you should be fighting inside the Labour Party not outside it.

YOU can help the Socialist Unity campaign in your area by leafleting, canvassing, and assisting with meetings.

Your local Socialist Challenge group, listed on the supplement, can put you in touch with Socialist Unity.

Comment

The SWP in Spitalfields

DO THE comrades in Spitalfields Socialist Workers Party realise that half the population of the world are women? I think not, and neither will anyone else reading their election address.

There is no mention of abortion — an inexcusable omission. However, even worse, two parts of the address refer to 'your kids and wife'. I was under the impression that women had the vote — or perhaps the SWP knows differently!

For any revolutionary left party to produce such leaflets is scandalous and is another example of the left's 'lip service' towards women.

I have been a member of the SWP for more than a year and do believe that SWP has a very important role to play in the fight for socialism. However, while the SWP continues to produce such leaflets as those it is circulating in Spitalfields I am not prepared to remain in the organisation.

I suggest that any other comrades writing manifestos study Socialist Unity publications before going to print. They might learn something. CANDY ATHERTON (London N.1)

including many school students

I asked Bob Chorley for his views on the Lambeth by-election results and the experience in Swindon of the Socialist Alliance campaign.

VOTING

'The final judgement here in Swindon will be the voting,' he considers. 'So far it's great to have got to know each other. We should and have worked together. In Lambeth I see what I call a multi-duplication of resources to achieve one thing: to get across a similar programme of struggle to fight for a socialist alternative.'

'In an election you are a Commie. The job must be to give a platform to those in struggle to point the way forward and to build the party. We can do this best if we unite.'

That unity will take a further step forward on 3 May when Duncan Hallas, chairperson of the SWP, and Socialist Challenge editor Tariq Ali will be speaking at an eve of election meeting.

Tokyo airport struggle

End of the ugly dream

THE STRUGGLE to prevent the construction of Narita airport outside Tokyo, is more than a decade old. It began at the height of the Vietnam war. It is still going on.

On 26 March a sensational protest initiated by the militants of the Fourth International and backed by the Farmers League postponed the opening scheduled for 2 April. The Fukuda Government was thrown into crisis. Our Tokyo correspondent sent in this report:

'Under a spreading clear blue sky, a warm spring breeze is gently blowing across the green fields of the Hokusai plain. There isn't even a shadow of the huge jet aircraft that was supposed to fly over this plain from 2 April.

The widely publicised "March opening" for which the Fukuda Government tried so violently and forcefully, by evicting farmers from the land they had lived and worked on for generations and by polluting this rich agricultural plain with noise and exhaust fumes, was finally smashed.

'The ugly dream of the people in power is indeed a failure. The just struggle of the mass of people has won a great victory. What a splendid spectacle we are observing!'

APPEAL

These were the opening paragraphs from the 'Appeal to the Japanese People' issued by the JRCL (Japanese Revolutionary Communist League - Japan-

ese Section of the Fourth International). Its euphoria reflects the most important victory in the 12-year history of the Sanrizuka struggle.

The struggle has continued for so long because the Sanrizuka farmers and residents have refused to capitulate to successive governments.

SOLIDARITY

Most of these farmers tended to be supporters of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, but the struggle detached them from ruling class politics.

They united instead with the only political organisations who were prepared to help them in action. These were the far left groups.

Of these the most consistent work was done by the JRCL. This is now commonly acknowledged in Japan.

The commando-type operation which led to the occupation of the control tower and the destruction of its equipment spearheaded by the militants of

Seinen Kyoto (the youth organisation of the JRCL).

It was an extraordinary feat, fully supported by the United Anti-Airport League, the organisation backed by farmers and workers.

CAMPAIGN

The JRCL comrades explained that this was no isolated action. It was only made possible because of a huge rally attended by 20,000 workers, farmers and students in a nearby park, which attracted the attention of the 14,000 riot police.

The latter had been mobilised nationally to ensure that the airport opening was not postponed.

The JRCL has been attacked widely in the Japanese press and some have called for it to be outlawed.

But the comrades insist that they reject any form of terrorism as a method of struggle. Their aim was to stop the opening and they succeeded.

MILITANCY

They stated: 'The militants who occupied the control room acted under clear instructions: 1. Not to injure any workers in the tower. 2. Not to take hostages under any circumstances. Despite the false accusations in

the media, our militants remained firm to these revolutionary principles.'

After its defeat an emergency cabinet meeting considered the crisis. It asserted that the actions were an 'outrageous act of violence by extremists which has nothing to do with opposition to the airport by some local farmers.'

This attempt to separate the revolutionaries from the farmers was dealt an immediate rebuff. Hasegawa Take, a 70-year old leader of the Anti-Airport League's Women's Brigade replied: 'We've been struggling together for so long. No matter what you read in the papers you can't separate the farmers from their supporters. We've become like one body.' Tomoura Issaki, the Chairperson of the United Anti-Airport League backed her up: 'My present feeling, frankly, is that I'd like to raise the victory sign.'

ABANDONED

'We'll struggle to have the airport abandoned utilising all sorts of tactics from now on. Peace will not be restored to Narita until the government abolishes the airport and returns the land to the farmers.'

The two large workers parties in Japan had differing reactions to the crisis.

The Socialist Party was surprisingly mild. They were opposed to 'illegal actions', but criticised the government for constructing the airport without the support of the people.

The Communist Party at one stage was extremely active in the Sanrizuka struggle. Now they are urging the Government to take a determined attitude against the 'violent, gangster groups.'

SECTARIAN

But the CP remains opposed to the introduction of emergency measures.

The Japanese far left (with the exception of the JRCL) often conveys the impression of warring bands of samurai.

The Chukaku and the Kokumaru are the two other important far left groups. For over a decade they have now been engaged in physical attacks on each other.

This sectarian warfare is known as 'uchigehu'. The JRCL has consistently opposed this lunacy and argued for a united front against the common enemy, but without much success.

Whether its new prestige gained as a result of the 26 March victory will allow it to exert more influence remains to be seen.

PICKETS

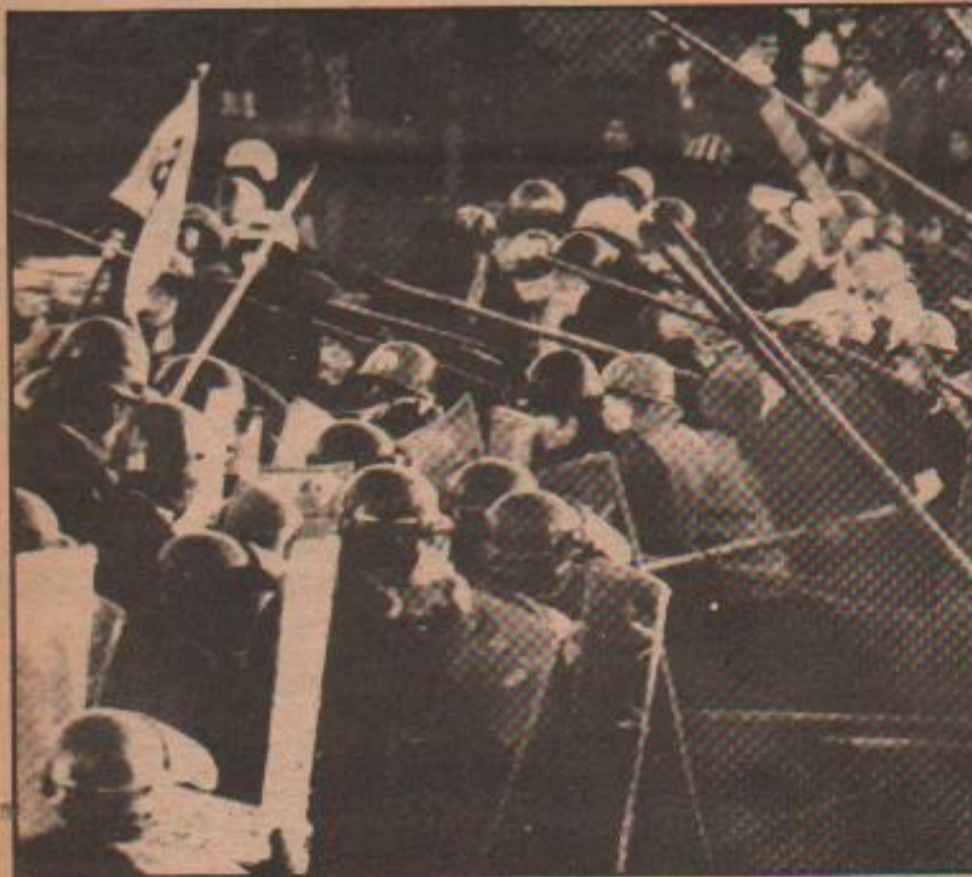
The Fukuda Government is now planning to open the airport some time in May. Rumour has it that the date selected is 20 May, an important day in the Buddhist calendar.

This is the sixth attempt to open the airport. If it fails the airport might never open.

More importantly the Fukuda government might fall, precipitating a general election. That is the importance which the Japanese ruling class attaches to the opening of Narita.

The Japanese militants fighting the government have asked for a campaign of solidarity throughout the world. They want people in all the capitals to picket the Japanese Embassy on the day of the next attempted opening.

We hope that readers of Socialist Challenge will respond to this appeal.



French youth organise

Three weeks ago 1,000 young people gathered in Paris. They came from all over France to make plans for the formation of the Jeunesse Communiste Revolutionnaire [Revolutionary Communist Youth] later this year.

The JCR will be the youth organisation of the Fourth International in France.

Hundreds of young militants from the schools, technical colleges, universities and factories are already reading Barricades, a monthly paper

for youth produced by the Fourth International in France. Sales have reached 6,000.

The meeting, which included 200 young workers, discussed the political situation in France after the failure of the left to win the elections; what sort of youth paper was needed; and how the JCR would be built and organised.

There were workshops on subjects such as internationalism, sexism, and the World Cup.

The meeting outlined a number of campaigns for the next months. The most important centred on the participation of France in the World Cup in Argentina, a

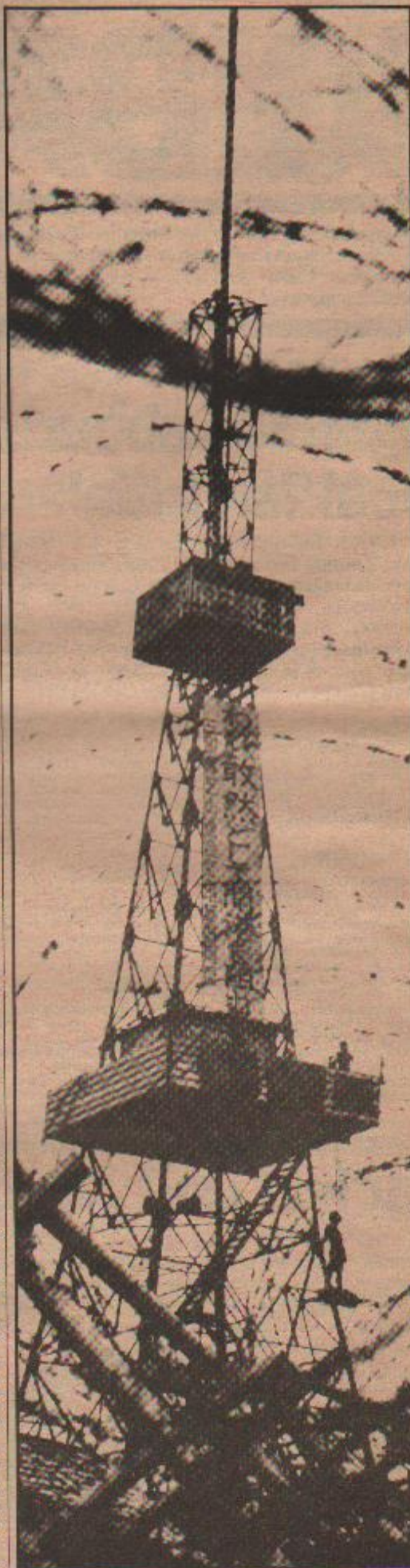
country where military repression leaves thousands of worker militants imprisoned and tortured.

The conference ended with a rally where Alan Krivine, the editor of Rouge, the Trotskyist daily, was the main speaker.

Also on the platform were militants from the Canadian, Spanish and British sections of the Fourth International.

But the warmest ovation greeted the leader from the Spanish youth organisation of the Fourth International. The JCR in Spain already has 2,200 members, three quarters of whom are young factory workers and nearly half women.

Here is an example to follow.



MILITANTS built towers to block runways.

Swiss movement appeals for Anti-nuclear international

The Swiss anti-nuclear movement has launched this appeal for international co-ordination of the struggle and a day of action later this year. We fully endorse these sentiments and hope that the British movement will be involved in this important development.

IN A number of so-called 'developed' countries the anti-nuclear movement has undergone a great development in recent years.

Conflicts over energy, and especially atomic energy, have become a political problem of the first rank. The movement is growing daily.

On the other hand, it is evident that our opponents, the energy trusts and the state, are reacting to our opposition with a combination of repression and superficial concessions.

They are determined to carry out the main body of their nuclear programme, even

though they do not know how to solve the problem of the elimination of radioactive waste.

The losses that society will undoubtedly have to bear, but which don't affect profits in the short term, are of no concern to them.

What makes this state of affairs even more serious is the fact that our opponents hold the levers of power for the time being.

Everywhere the anti-nuclear movement is confronted with the problem of trying to alter in a decisive way the relationship of forces, which remains at the

present time unfavourable to us.

That is why it is necessary to address ourselves to the working class and the trade union movement, which up until now has, in its majority, remained outside the anti-nuclear struggle.

It appears to us that an improvement in this relationship of forces requires immediate international collaboration between the different national movements.

UNITY

It is not necessary to detail here the fact that, despite the disagreements and competition between countries and continents, the nuclear programme is the work of an enemy which has wide-ranging international

links.

We believe that consciousness of the need for international collaboration can only be stimulated by a concrete action. This could be an international day of action marked by demonstrations organised simultaneously in several cities and/or in the vicinity of nuclear establishments.

Moreover, we believe that the demand for a general halt to construction — a moratorium — could constitute an additional point of unity.

This demand offers the advantage of relevance to those outside the active anti-nuclear movement, and addresses itself to the unresolved problem of the disposal of radioactive waste.

We should discuss whether or not the international day of



action could and should be directed against certain key projects of the international nuclear programme.

Such a proposal, if it is supposed to launch a serious

international collaboration, must be prepared in an open and democratic manner. This is why we propose it for the autumn of 1978, or even later.

We will be able to convene a two-day meeting in Switzerland in June which will allow delegates from different movements and organisations to decide upon the principle of this international day of action, and to discuss its technical organisation and content.

This appeal is addressed without exception to all organisations of the anti-nuclear movement, and more broadly to the movement for defence of the environment, regardless of their particular standpoint.

The National Coordination of Swiss Anti-Nuclear Organisations.

Interview with Australian anti-nuke Putting a spoke in the nuclear cycle

JIM FALK is a leader of the Australian movement against uranium mining and co-author of Red Light for Yellowcake — a definitive study of the dangers of uranium. He was in London recently and talked to Socialist Challenge.

Can you explain why the mining and export of uranium would be bad for Australia. I am thinking of some reasons particular to Australia.

The mining itself would largely destroy the culture and the quality of life of the Australian blacks up in the area where the mining actually occurs and they are practically the only aboriginals left that maintain their culture in any integrated form. Mining would create alcoholism, prostitution and so on. It would decimate a way of life.

There is also the exposure of the miners themselves to radiation and gas.

But the reasons that propel the movement forward are the same ones as elsewhere: the unsolved problem of nuclear waste, the dangers of reactor accidents and, perhaps most of all, the accompanying nuclear weapon proliferation.

I think it is recognised in Australia that uranium mining would just be the tip of the iceberg.

Once uranium mining starts, the next thing is uranium enrichment, nuclear reactors to power enrichment, the possibility of waste storage in the centre of Australia and eventually a full nuclear fuel cycle in Australia, so I think Australians do see it as shutting the stable door before the horse bolts.

What sections favour the mining and export of uranium?

The mining corporations themselves, of course. They have spent over a million dollars in advertising in the last year to try to persuade sections of the Australian population that it is in their interest.

The right-wing unions like the Australian Workers union, who are very small have come out in favour, because they accept the argument that it will provide some economic advantage to Australia.

Some of the Liberal voters and of course the Liberal Government who are thick as thieves with the Mining Corporations.

And of course there are pressures on all the political parties from countries like Japan, America, Germany and Eng-

land who can see that if Australia withholds its uranium on the grounds of the hazards involved, this will have serious political consequences for nuclear fuel cycles around the world.

What about the position of the Australian labour movement, the Labour Party and the trade unions?

The Australian Labour Party last year changed its position on uranium. They had previously been in favour of uranium mining, and on 7 July they adopted as policy an indefinite moratorium on uranium mining until the hazards that are associated with nuclear fuel cycle had been completely solved.

The reason that policy was adopted was massive pressure from the rank and file.

On 15 November the bi-annual Conference of the Australian Council of Trade Unions passed a motion. It was the main issue of the Conference.

The right-wing trade unions put up a motion that uranium mining be allowed to go ahead. That was defeated by about 5 to 1.

The left-wing unions put up a motion that an indefinite moratorium should be agreed to. That was defeated by a reasonable margin, but the executive who are pro-uranium mining were forced to put up a fairly strong anti-uranium motion, and it was the motion that was carried.

The Government would be given the following ultimatum that they must agree to within two months: that there be a 12 month moratorium on uranium during which there would be a public financed debate.

At the end of 12 months there would be a referendum and the unions would abide by the result.

The Government has already announced it would not have a referendum. The motion went on to say that if the Government refused the referendum, ACTU would recommend to its members that all labour be withdrawn from uranium mining, the building of uranium mines, and the transport of uranium and the process of recommending and consulting the rank and file is now in

progress.

One union, the Waterside Workers Federation, which has already taken action on nuclear power, has already had a series of mass rank and file meetings, which have announced that they will not handle Australian uranium or materials for the mines, past 15 November.

What is your attitude to the referendum?

We have consistently taken the position that a referendum on the issues is the wrong way to solve it.

The companies would pour vast amounts of money into the debate before the referendum actually occurred, as they did in the United States, and may well be able to buy themselves a hasty decision from the Australian people.

What strategies have you evolved to further the campaign?

We have not aimed our strategy at Parliament at all. Our concern to get the Labour Party to adopt a policy of opposition to uranium mining was to keep the issue alive not because we thought the election of the Labour Party would end the matter at all.

Citizens' opposition can be manifested in various ways: by citizens occupations, by the withdrawal of labour.

Hasn't the Government threatened to use troops if necessary?

Yes it has threatened to do that, of course the Government can do many things if it is politically possible. At the moment it would be very difficult to see them building the mines with troops, as it would be doubtful if they would have the skill.

What about Queensland where the State Government has banned anti-uranium marches? Why do you think that has happened, and do you think other states might follow suit?

The banning of anti-uranium marches in Queensland is only one part of escalating repression in response to the effectiveness of the movement.

The other escalation has been the decision to carry out the uranium mining under the Atomic Energy Act which means any person obstructing any part of uranium mining would be guilty of an offence which

could land them in jail for a year or a \$10,000 fine.

This includes writing or speaking about stopping uranium mining, encouraging others to withdraw labour from the supply of materials for uranium mining.

It is true that the Australian police have been told to collect names and addresses of people involved in the anti-uranium movement?

The Prime Minister announced that he called on all Australian police to collect dossiers on

all anti-uranium demonstrators.

It is well known that the Special Branch and other parts of the police and secret police do keep files on activists of one sort or another and it is felt that the call by the Prime Minister had two motivations: to intimidate demonstrators and to provide dossiers for the implementation of the Atomic Energy Act.

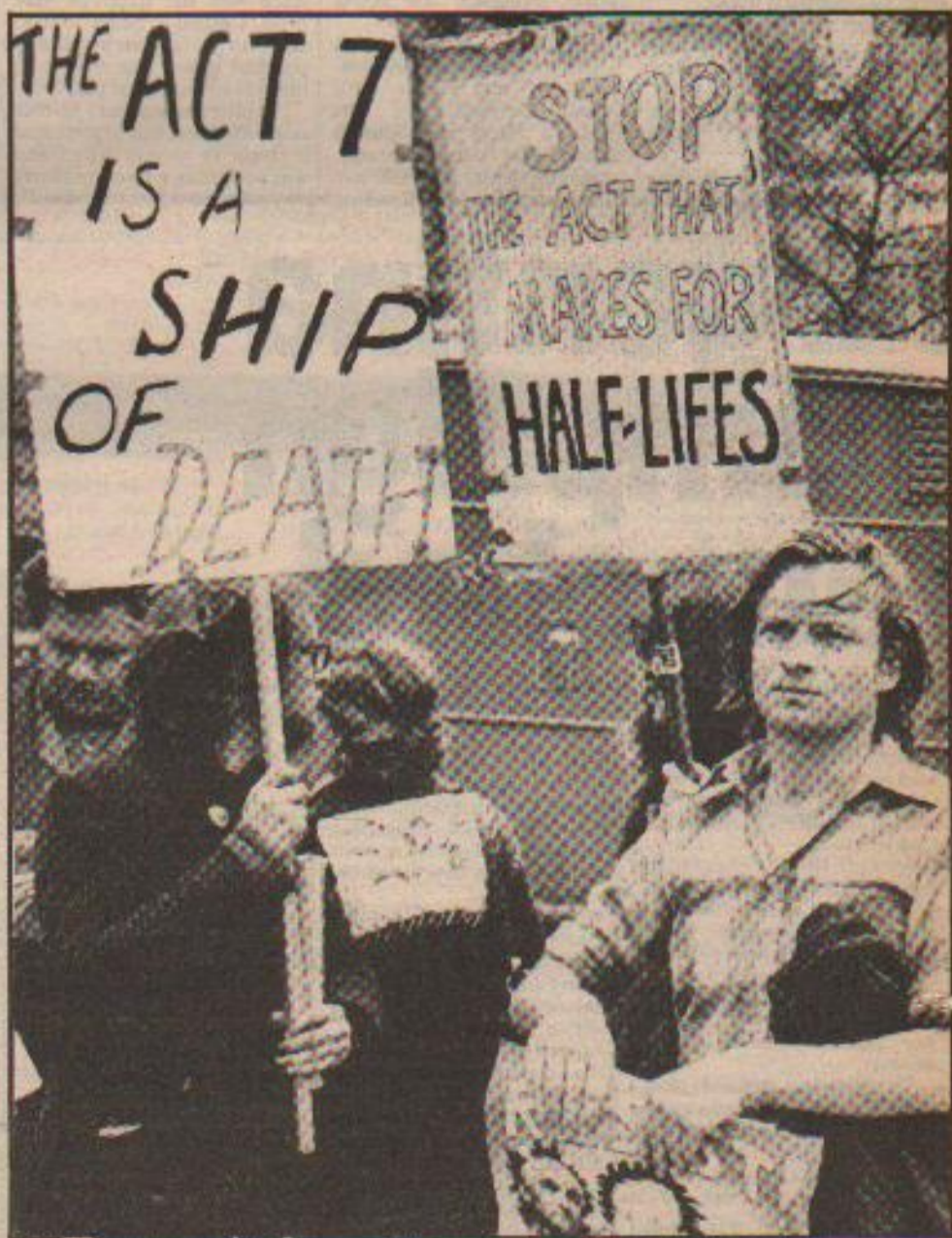
Have you been able to get much international support for your campaign?

We don't regard it that way

round, so it's a difficult question. We regard our campaign as support for the international movement.

The argument for keeping Australia's uranium in the ground is not that you will that way stop nuclear power. There is going to be a uranium glut because of the success of the anti-nuclear movement around the world.

But by keeping our uranium in the ground we support those movements in other parts of the world which are successfully stopping the nuclear fuel cycle. It's our part in that.



PICKET outside Australia House protesting against the arrival of Uranium Ore in Britain.

Photo: MARK RUSHER/DFL

INTERNATIONAL

Spanish CP congress

25 per cent vote to stay 'Leninist'

Amid new salvos of denunciation from Moscow the Spanish Communist Party (PCE) has made its 'historic' decision formally to drop its 'Leninist' label. RICHARD CARVER reports.

The debate on the controversial thesis 15, which redefines the party as 'revolutionary Marxist and democratic' dominated the regional conferences in the run up to the Ninth Congress, the first in Spain since before the Civil War. But the congress itself took place in a discussion on the issue and it was something of an anticlimax when 75 per cent of the delegates stuck up their 'anti-Leninist' hands in the assembly hall of an expensive Madrid hotel late last Friday.

SYMPTOMATIC

The lack of debate was symptomatic of a problem which angered many members throughout the pre-congress discussion.

Even supporters of the leadership line in areas like Andalusia were moved to condemn the lack of open discussion.

In Asturias, where there was a substantial minority against thesis 15, many delegates walked out of the regional conference. And in Catalonia, where a majority opposed the leadership, all hell broke loose.

What upset these oppositionists was that general secretary Santiago Carrillo seemed more concerned with adapting to the needs of capitalist democracy than restoring democratic principles within his party.

Along with the end of Leninism comes the end of 'democratic centralism'. 'Democratic centralism has engendered organisational practices which in reality lead to bureaucratic centralism,' explained one party leader.

But hopes that this might lead to real Leninist internal democracy were quickly dashed, when it was explained that the party would maintain its ban on 'factional activity' and organisational tendencies.

The Moscow daily Pravda

reacted in typically venomous style. Eurocommunism, it said last Sunday, 'serves the blackest purposes of reaction.' Parties which ignore Marxism-Leninism 'doom themselves to wander in the dark. This is the experience of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.'

There is a tiny dose of hypocrisy in this. It was the 'Marxist-Leninist' leadership of the PCE in the 1930s which got rid of internal democracy and initiated the collaboration with capitalist parties which Carrillo continues to this day.

What worries Moscow is that the PCE has always been the spearhead of the European Communist Parties' moves away from Moscow.

The abandonment of Leninism is determined more by local than international considerations, but still the Kremlin is concerned that it may signal a new stage in the turn away from Moscow and towards the national imperialist class.

The PCE has gone furthest in this direction because of the relative strength of social democracy in Spain.

OPPONENTS

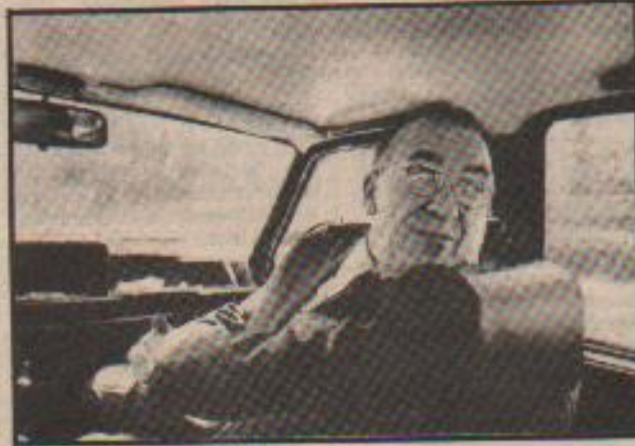
The Socialist Party (PSOE) got five times the vote and six times the deputies of the PCE in last June's election.

And the PSOE-backed UGT has come from nowhere to challenge the PCE-controlled Workers Commissions for the allegiance of trade unionists.

Leadership speakers at the congress attacked the PSOE's go it alone attitude and its desire to create a two party system alongside the ruling bourgeois UCD.

In contrast the PCE calls for a 'government of national concentration' and is the most fervent defender of the Moncloa Pact, the Spanish version of the Social Contract.

Explaining why the PCE had



SANTIAGO CARRILLO

dropped the term 'Marxist-Leninist', Carrillo argued that the party had a lot of lost ground to make up: 'We cannot wait another thirty years, as the other European CPs have done, to get the electoral percentage which will allow us

to be a determining force in our party.'

The opponents of this line, the 25 per cent who did not back thesis 15, are a mixed bunch. They range from pro-Moscow (though there are only a few of these) to sections like

Asturias where members, especially the young, have come under the influence of the Trotskyists and Maoists.

Some, like the Catalan theoretician Manuel de Cristal, have linked up with intellectual oppositionists in the French party, such as Louis Althusser and Etienne Balibar.

But the leading opposition strategist is Manuel Sacristan who has gradually taken his distance from Althusser's positions.

He argues that: 'The Eurocommunist analysis doesn't take account of a revolutionary dialectic. Eurocommunism is not a strategy for socialism.'

'Eurocommunism as a socialist strategy is a crass utopia, according to which the dominant classes will be prepared to abdicate in full swing, while an ascendant class will be able to change the relations of production, beginning with property relations, without using coercion.'

'In general the CP position in the capitalist countries where they have any importance, is a position à la Bernstein.' (Bernstein was an early social democratic theorist who was subject to a blistering polemic from the Marxist wing of the movement.)

But, although Sacristan tries to bridge the gap between the everyday practice of the party and the final seizure of power, the rift is too great for him to fully shake free.

And he explicitly accepts the Eurocommunist analysis of European politics, which argues that the capitalist class is now stronger than ever.

The Eurocommunists use this inversion of the truth to justify gradualism and class collaboration. Sacristan wavers.

The strength of the opposition and this continuing irritant on the party's left flank mean that the Ninth Congress will not signal the end of the debate. It was just the beginning.

Russel Tribunal's first hearing West Germany does violate human rights

The first session of the Russell Tribunal on human rights in West Germany has reached its conclusion.

The session was concerned with Berufsverbote and dealt solely with the question: Are West Germans being denied access to professions because of political views. The answer to this was a unanimous yes.

The international jury further concluded that this represented a threat to human rights and was applied in a discriminatory



BERTRAND Russell Foundation press conference, preparing the tribunal.

way against people of particular views.

A narrow majority felt that a supplementary question on whether discrimination was practiced by other bodies, such as trade unions and professional bodies, could not be answered for insufficient evidence.

The obstructive attitude of the authorities prevented the Tribunal taking verbal evidence from the government side, so it had to confine itself to published official positions.

It reviewed more than 500 cases before selecting 12 which were thoroughly researched and documented.

The preliminary report says the evidence showed the following:

- * The intelligence service gathers information about every kind of lawful political activity of West German citizens.
- * Intelligence reports of lawful activities are used to cast doubts on the political loyalty of applicants for public service.
- * Legal political parties who are critical of government policy can be considered 'hostile to the constitution'. Even association with members or sympathisers of such parties can cast doubts on a person's 'loyalty'.
- * The prospective employer hears the case behind closed doors. Applicants are interrogated on their political opinions. Refusal to answer or

attend is taken as admission of guilt. Denial of radical views is often disbelieved, even without evidence to the contrary.

* Concepts like loyalty are vague and undefined, exposing subjects to uncontrolled and arbitrary rulings.

* Some people may be considered 'loyal', but because of their associations likely to become disloyal.

The jury which heard this evidence is composed of distinguished European figures, such as the Norwegian Professor Galtung and the French theologian Professor Casalis.

British members include barrister Lord Gifford, Labour MP Jo Richardson, Professor Ruth Glass and playwrights Howard Brenton and Trevor

Griffiths.

One jury member who was not there was Otelo de Carvalho, leader of the 1974 anti-fascist coup in Portugal. The Portuguese authorities stopped him leaving the country after West German intervention.

The Tribunal has been subject to a constant campaign of slander and disruption. A confidential government document now published in Germany and Britain reveals Interior Minister plans to harass Tribunal members and supporters (see Socialist Challenge 16 February 1978).

The evidence and conclusions of the first session show why the West German authorities have so much to fear.

Argentina Campaign launched

AS Argentinian dictator Videla goes into an even closer huddle with his expensive New York PR firm, British militants have used the run-up to the World Cup as an opportunity to launch the British Argentina Campaign.

Backed by the Argentina Support Movement and Third World First, its founding meeting was attended by a range of working class political organisations, from the Labour Party to the International Marxist Group, and already has significant trade union support.

The campaign demands that: 'The British Government grant visas to Argentinian political prisoners.'

* All arms trade between Britain and Argentina must end.

* Britain break all diplomatic links with the dictatorship and

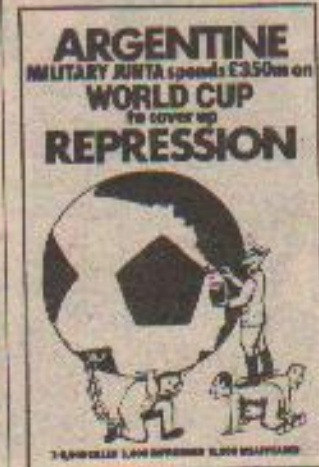
use influence within the IMF and World Bank to end the junta's international support.

The IMG delegate to the founding meeting explained that the Fourth International, along with most European organisations fighting repression, favoured a boycott of the World Cup.

But the IMG felt that the important thing was the maximum unity against the dictatorship, even if the campaign did not support that position.

As part of BAC's campaign Celia Guevara from Argentina [Che's sister] has been on a speaking tour. The remaining meetings are in Liverpool on 27 April at The Swan, London Road, and Leeds, 28 April, at the Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre, Leeds University. You can get in touch with the

campaign at 232 Cowley Road, Oxford [0865 45678]. Copies of a petition to Callaghan and Videla are available from that address.



The politics of education

by JAMES DONALD and KEN JONES

HUNDREDS of teachers will be meeting in London this weekend at the 'Politics of Education' conference called by the Socialist Teachers' Alliance and sponsored by Radical Education and Teaching London Kids.

The conference is timely. Teachers are today experiencing the threat of redundancies, compulsory transfer and school closures. Alongside this insecurity, their competence is being questioned. The autonomy they thought was theirs — about course content, teaching methods, and methods of assessment — are being lost. How will teachers respond?

The conference hopes to develop a framework to help teachers understand and respond to changes in their work. This is vital as it is becoming increasingly evident that the ritual howls of professionalism from the National Union of Teachers won't help teachers. To be told that teachers only need adequate resources and that they should then be left to 'get on with their jobs' doesn't aid teachers in meeting the mounting problems they are facing.

WHAT IS the crisis in education?

It is not enough to say that it arises simply from the changed 'needs of industry'. It is also an aspect of the political and ideological crisis in the workers' movement. Here, as elsewhere, the inadequacies of reformism are highlighted.

The extension of secondary education after 1944 and the later moves towards 'comprehensivisation', developed in accordance with the needs of late capitalism. They also corresponded to, and absorbed, the limited demands of the working class organisations. While these organisations led a movement to develop equality of educational opportunity and to expand educational provision, they never tackled the problems of who should control education and what the content of education should be.

SERIOUS

The first problem they left to parliament, the Department of Education and Science and local authorities; the second, to the teachers in the schools, working with state bodies such as the Schools Council and the inspectorate. To make these points is not to deny that the comprehensive movement was a major democratic advance; but it is to affirm that the reform movement did not seriously concern itself with the class nature of education — its structural relation to capital.

The National Union of Teachers, the single most important political

influence on teachers, supported, somewhat belatedly, the pro-comprehensive movement. It utilised the opportunities provided by educational expansion to increase its influence over the curriculum and organisation of education. It did this in co-operation with a part of the state educational apparatus, which pushed for the transformation of education to meet a dual need: on the one hand, the requirements of 'society', on the other, the needs, as interpreted by educationalists, of the individual child. Teacher initiative was seen as the best means of achieving this change at the level of the curriculum.

By the early 70s, a complex system of affiliated interests existed. The labour movement, backed by the NUT, supported the extension of education on egalitarian grounds. The same reforms and proposals were endorsed by most sections of the capitalist class — not as a means of fundamental social change, but because they seemed to offer a means of training suited to developments in production techniques, and to the growth of new sectors of employment. Comprehensive were also seen as a means of 'breaking down divisions' between classes, and as the best way of educating working class children in the responsibilities of 'citizenship'.

Under the impact of the social and economic crisis the consensus achieved then is breaking apart. Important sections of the ruling class want to take back many of the con-

cessions made to teachers and working class interests during the 60s. Now, they want to relate education much more closely to industrial training, to strengthen those aspects of education which assist in the social control of youth, to reduce expenditure on less directly productive aspects of education.

CONTENT

That is why the attack on education doesn't simply take the form of cuts. Some areas of educational spending have been increased — especially on the Manpower Services Commission, whose educational projects will provide a low level of post-school industrial training, in a purely vocational manner.

But there is nothing in the recent traditions of the labour movement, of the NUT, of progressive teachers, of the organised educational left to encourage such a response. Until the last two years, most forces have found the existing system of educational control adequate to their aims. The labour movement saw its task as only to press for the further extension of education: the Labour Party and the local education authorities were seen as adequate tools for this task. Teachers were happy with a system that seemed to allow them a free hand, and associated the development of education with the furthering of their professional interest.

The content of education was likewise seen as unproblematic. Education was thought to be good in itself — bringing better jobs for school leavers, providing a higher level of culture, benefiting industrial production and the development of ser-

*** The conference organisers inform us that the conference is now booked out, and to avoid being turned away after travelling long distances, the organisers urge only those registered to come.**

vice and white collar sectors, distributing social privilege more equally, allowing the development of pedagogical theory and practice.

Yet it is the existing system of control, and the existing content of education which are now being attacked by the DES and industry. And these are the questions we on the left have to raise if we are to redefine the purposes of education, and activate forces in the working class movement to fight for them.

But there are many obstacles. Foremost is the professionalism of teachers, as expressed by the NUT. The

1978 NUT conference re-affirmed all the union's past weaknesses. A resolution proposed by the Communist Party insisted that teachers alone have the 'necessary professional expertise' to develop the curriculum. Executive members poured scorn on the idea of an alliance with the working class movement, to develop education in the interests of that class.

The conference voted to continue in partnership with the DES and the LEAs — its past, but not its future allies. While complaining of moves to centralise control of the curriculum, it nowhere noted the source of these developments in the changing requirements of industry. The NUT preferred to interpret current debates as a discussion taking place purely within education. A firm stand by teachers, it was argued, could put the mandarins of the DES back in their place. It was not necessary to ally with the working class to do this — it was enough to firmly restate the old terms of the partnership.

CONSCIOUSNESS

The Communist Party has fostered this consciousness. While it was in the forefront of the movement for comprehensive reform, it has never in practice gone beyond the view that the problems of education are questions of quantity, access and class bias. It did not see the process of education as a matter of class domination.

Leading CP teachers now answer the problems of content and control by denying that there is anything radically wrong with the existing system.

But there are problems, too, elsewhere on the left. Though they have fought the CP's policy of alliance with the bureaucracy, militant groups within the NUT have tended to put 'educational' issues as secondary in the political struggle to narrow economic questions — teachers' pay and working conditions, the quantitative aspects of the cuts. The assumption has been that teachers can be radicalized simply by engaging them in such campaigns.

CURRICULUM

But this ignores the way that teachers' consciousness is shaped by their part in the educational process and the relation of education to the main social classes.

The Socialist Teachers' Alliance established itself as an organisation which would try to relate both educational and economic struggles to political goals. Even so, it has been slow to respond to the educational crisis — though its record as the only force to oppose the NUT resolution on the curriculum is praiseworthy — and to

establish education as an area of concern for the whole working class.

At the other extreme, some radical groups and individuals have failed to relate their educational practices to wider struggles — even though they are acutely conscious of the effects of the educational crisis on teachers. The confusion of many 'progressivist' teachers, for instance, stems from the deeply ambiguous relation of 'progressivism' to socialism.

Its radicalism has always been individualistic; it has sought ways of teaching that value rather than repress the unique experience of each child. It actually originated in a liberal political desire to achieve social control through consensus rather than coercion. Its main rationale is an often muddled version of bourgeois psychology.

PROGRESSIVE

It is from such Utopianism/Liberalism that what is good in 'progressivism' has to be rescued. Socialists can only do this if they overcome a 50-year old weakness of their own, and recognise and assimilate the strengths of progressive education — the insistence that what we teach and how we teach really does matter.

What we are faced with at the moment is a deliberate devaluation of the whole process of education. We have to think what sort of organisation will be able to respond most effectively to that challenge without losing the strategic perspective of working class struggle. It will have to be socialist. That means combining an efficient political organisation with a materialist theory of education. It is not a question of either/or.

PROFESSIONALISM

Without the one, it could offer only an academic critique; without the other, it will be just another professional pressure group. It must be concerned always with teaching, and not just the conditions in which teaching is done. It must contribute to an oppositional educational practice, for politics happen in the classroom as well as in the union. It should not be defensive, but must be prepared to intervene aggressively in public debates.

Finally, it will have to be an alliance. That means breaking down the professionalism which still divides teachers from students; parents and other workers in schools and colleges. It means drawing to it not only teachers from all levels of education but from different radical traditions with differing modes of thought and action.

Those differences will be objectively present and there will be tensions between them. But that is the challenge to the Socialist Teachers' Alliance. Can it achieve political unity while encouraging the genuine debate which is necessary for the development of socialist strategies? That is what this conference is trying to achieve. That is why it is important.

Rates: 3p per word. Display 12 per column inch. Deadline: 3pm Saturday before publication.

REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST Papers No 2 — Theoretical Journal of the Revolutionary Communist Tendency. Special issue on Ireland. Articles on British imperialism and the Irish Crisis and the revolutionary position on self-determination. Available from BM RCT (SC), London WC1V 6XX. Price 50p plus 15p postage. Cheques and postal orders payable to RCT Association.

CARE No. 4 NOW OUT. Price 15p (Bulk orders 12/p + p&p). Features articles, news, exposes, and reviews on Racism and Fascism and the left back. Address as above and all progressive bookshops.

GLASGOW Socialist Challenge May Day Disco. Sat 29 April. Bar 8pm-11pm. Disco 8pm-2pm. Food on site. Saints and Sinners, St Vincent St, Glasgow. Adm 80p, claimants 50p. (Available from Socialist Challenge Books, 64 Queens St, Tel 221 3481).

FLAT SHARE in Camber Town. Phone 01-287 8050.

WOMEN'S DAY School 'Socialist feminism and the revolutionary party'. Organized by women from the Coordinating Committee for an International Socialist Alliance, 13 May, N London Poly, Holloway Road, London N7. Creche available. Further details from Len Scinger, 142 Hunter House Road, Shortland 11.

PRISONERS AID Committee public meeting. Demand Political Status for Irish political prisoners in accordance with the Geneva Convention, demand

amnesty for Irish political prisoners within the context of British Withdrawal from Ireland. NUFCU Hall, Jockey Fields, London WC1, Fri 5 May, 7pm.

THE CRISIS INTENSIFIES: Which Way Forward for the Working Class? Revolutionary Communist Party Day School, Sat 5 May, 10am to 6pm, rooms in evening. Details from: Dayschool, RCG Publications Ltd (S), 49 Pallion Rd, London SE24 6LN. Registration £1 (50p students and unemployed).

FOUR SOCIALISTS looking for 4 roomed flat/house in North or East London. Phone Mick 01-350 8301.

HULL AND DISTRICT TUC May Day march and rally. Sat 29 April, assemble: Queens Gardens, 1.15pm for 1.30 start. Rally at College of Higher Education. Speakers include John Prescott MP, David Cairns TGWU Reg Org, Tony Martin NUPE, Janet McGuire ASTMS, Ken Bore NUT and others. Evening, buffet and dance, 5pm to midnight at Bevin House, George St, Hull. Adm. £1.00.

'THE CRISIS INTENSIFIES: Which Way Forward for the Working Class?' RCG Dayschool, Sat 5 May, 10am-6pm, social in evening. Session 1: David Valle — the crisis and the labour movement. Session 2: Brian Mitchell — Eurocommunism — no way forward. Details from: Dayschool, RCG Publications (S), 49 Pallion Rd, London SE24. Registration £1 (50p students) — unemployed.

DEBATE: Specialist League as International Communist League. What programme for the socialist revolution? 7pm Fri 5 May, Essex Rd Locky, Essex Rd, London N1.

BRITTON SOCIALIST Club music and singing with Frankie Armstrong, Sandra Kerr and friends. 8pm Fri 5

LIVERPOOL MAY DAY FESTIVAL Stanley House, Upper Parliament St, Liverpool 8 1 May, 10.30am-5.30pm and 7.30pm-midnight

DAYTIME Leon Rosselson: Unity Theatre; Films; (Attica, Reggae etc); discussions, music, printing, and photography workshops; poetry, songs; food; drink; bar; exhibitions; bookstall; kids games; creche and lots more

EVENING Clapperclaw (Feminist folk band); Goodtime Charlie (Jazz); Bluebells (Steel band); films, dancing and late bar. Tickets (day 50p, evening £1) and further info from News From Nowhere, 100 Whitechapel, Liverpool 1, 051-708 7270.

April, The Canterbury. Canterbury Crescent, Adm 90p.

WORKING WOMEN'S CHARTER Campaign national conference, Manchester Poly, 17 and 18 June. Further info from: Pat Cross, Flat 2, 48 Spring Bank, Hull. Tel: Hull 443 245.

'A WORKERS ANSWER to the Crisis', platform of the expelled left faction of the International Socialist (ISWP) who are now constituted as Workers Power, is available from Workers Power, 14 Comberwell Grove, London SE8. Price 35p.

TWO ENERGETIC people wanted for community work with the elderly in North London. Relevant experience essential. Must be willing to participate fully in democratic team. Salary £3.125 p.w. under review. Take Police. Tel 01-495 4231. Closing

date 5 May. **WANTED:** Accommodation for a recently arrived Chinese couple and child in West of South London. Please contact Sergio, day 01-242 3462, evenings 01-727 5288.

THREE ISSUES of the Irish Prisoner with full details of the Trials and Treatment of Irish Political Prisoners in England. Special offer. Send £1 to Prisoners Aid Committee, 182 Upper St, London N1.

THE OTHER BOOKSHOP is looking for a part time worker to look after the computer and newspaper sections. Hours are by negotiation but will include one Saturday in three. The wages aren't particularly good, but the company is revitalizing and the job is interesting. Positive discrimination will be applied. Anyone

interested should apply to Sarah or Alan at the shop, 325 Upper St, London N1. Tel: 01-226 0671.

NURSES for A Woman's Choice in Abortion — contact A Webber, 119 Mackintosh Place, Cardiff. Tel 0222 30183.

SIAN and her new daughter Rhian — love and comradeship greetings, Cardiff Comrades.

FLAT SHARE: socialist feminist woman to share comfortable North London flat with two others. Available July for about a year. Approx £50pm inclusive. Please write to: Margaret Hickman, 97 Golborne Rd, London W10.

OXFORD and surrounding areas: ex IS/ISWP comrades interested in meeting to discuss work and experience since leaving IS/ISWP. phone Oxford 43541.

EDINBURGH Public Meeting End the Repression in Ireland. Fri 5 May 7.30pm Edinburgh Trades Council, Picardy Place. Speakers from Belfast — the Realities Action Committee and the Women Against Imperialism Group. Sponsored by Socialist Challenge and the Edinburgh Irish Solidarity Campaign. For further information contact the E.I.S.C. c/o First at May Becks, Nidd St, Edinburgh.

BROADSIDE Mobile Workers' Theatre requires versatile socialist musician (full-time). Long term commitment. Acting ability an advantage. Write: 58 Holborn House, Holborn Place, London SW1. Phone (01) 480 6982/730 5395.

WHO'S TAPPING your phone? Find out in the new *Leveller*, the magazine that brought you Colonel B. Plus: Socialist clarity in Lambeth Centre. Left labour and local

workshops; Debate on Irish republicanism; John Berger interview; Pictures from Polaris; Unemployment grants; Noreen Winchester; Red Brigade kidnapping; Jamaica massacre; Socialist theatre argument; Germany before the RAF and lets more good stuff. 35p single copy; £5.00 annual subscription. At good shops or direct from: 150a Drummond Street, London NW1. 7.84 in The Life and Times of Joe of England by John McGrath. 7.30pm. One night only. Rio Cinema, 107 Kingsland High Street, Dalston. Tickets from Cambridge or on door. £1.75, £1 claimants 50p (with card). Presented by Hackney Communist Party, Fri 28 April.

HACKNEY FESTIVAL of Socialism, 11.30-6.30. Fleewood School corner of Stone Newington High Street and Northwood Road. Children's entertainment; Films: The Big K, Charlie Chaplin, Miss/Mrs. Kids cartoons; Community stalls for racial harmony, women's movement, community organizations; international solidarity; Political discussions and debate with Dave Cook on racism, Communist-Labour strategy for Hackney, Gordon McLennan on the British Road to Socialism and a Soviet speaker on democracy in the USSR today; A day music with The Partisans, Zimbabwe Freedom songs, classical guitar, folk and rock, showcases, food, refreshments all for a staggering 50p, children 10p. A welcome all day. Organized by Hackney Communist Party, Sat 29 April.

EVENING SOCIAL to round off the Hackney Festival of Socialism, 8-11.30. Dancing to the Jelly Roll Jazz Band. Licensed Bar, Fleewood School. Tickets £1 on the door. Sat 29 April.

W H Smith takes us!

AT LAST we are delighted to announce that from 4 May our readers will be able to buy Socialist Challenge from branches of W.H. Smith, RICHMOND reports.

The paper was originally given an eight-week trial in 10 branches in London. It proved to be so successful, especially in the main line railway terminals, that this period has been extended by a further six months.

The number of branches has also been increased to include other railway stations, such as Liverpool Street, and towns outside central London such as Oxford, Cambridge and East Croydon. This is the full list of W.H. Smith shops where the

paper will be on display: Brent Cross, Cambridge (Market Hill), Cambridge (Lion Yard); Charing Cross; Kings Cross; Liverpool Street; Oxford; South Hampstead; St Pancras; Victoria; Waterloo.

What is equally important is that Smith's is prepared to meet individual orders through any of its 375 branches.

This system, entitled customers' special orders, will enable a person, virtually anywhere in Britain, to obtain the paper week by week by

placing an order.

So if you know somebody, somewhere having difficulty obtaining the paper tell them at once.

As the Royal Commission on the Press pointed out in its final report of July 1977: 'W.H. Smith, John Menzies and Surridge Dawson dominate wholesale distribution. They distribute between them nearly 70 per cent of national daily newspapers and periodicals.'

For a small circulation socialist newspaper to break into these distribution networks, even on a limited scale, is a tremendous advance. Now Socialist Challenge can be available to thousands of militants who previously were unable to obtain it.

Most readers buy the paper from street sellers, but clearly this is a very limited distribution method. We believe that all socialist papers should be available via the three main wholesale and retail outlets — Smith, Menzies and Dawson.

The fact that Socialist Challenge has made a small inroad into the national distribution chains is a step forward for the entire left press.

The new six-month period begins with the issue published on 4 May — the best May Day

present the paper could wish for.

However, since Smith's has

Branch	Sales of issue number:										
	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39			
Basilidon	2	4	0	2	5	1	3	2			
Brent Cross	5	7	9	5	15	6	10	9			
Charing Cross	18	10	10	12	10	18	27	22			
Edgware	1	3	5	1	4	1	10	3			
Golders Green	3	3	0	1	4	5	4	6			
Kings Cross	14	13	18	22	25	30	30	30			
St. Pancras	3	0	5	3	6	8	3	4			
South Hampstead	6	7	4	6	10	14	14	22			
Victoria	8	11	12	11	24	27	30	27			
Waterloo	12	4	11	3	14	14	17	?			

agreed to distribute us, we see no reason why Menzies and Dawson's should not do likewise.

We have already written to them.

So remember, from 4 May ask for Socialist Challenge in WH Smith.

Our trial sales were:



Our Socialist Challenge Conference

- is on 27 May
- is open to all supporters of Socialist Challenge
- is your chance to say what's good, what's bad, or what's missing from your newspaper
- is your chance to vote on the paper's politics and on who should control the paper
- is a living example in readers' democracy

Be there, or be square!

'We're coming' to the Socialist Challenge Conference

I would like to attend the annual conference of Socialist Challenge supporters and enclose £1 registration fee.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

SOCIALIST CHALLENGE GROUP (if any)

Please fill in and send to Socialist Challenge Conference, PO Box, 50, London N12PX.



THE OTHER BOOKCLUB

A joint venture between The Other Bookshop and Socialist Challenge, this new bookclub is designed to make available at reasonable cost both new works of Marxism and classics of the labour movement.

The Other Bookshop will provide five selections of books a year from which members must take at least two which will cost less than £5. The first selection will be:

1968 and After by Tariq Ali
Harry McShane: No Mean Fighter by Harry McShane and Joan Smith

This selection (No 1) will cost £5.30 plus 25p postage (Post free if books picked up from 329 Upper Street, London N1)

Name.....

Address.....

MAY DAY GREETINGS to Socialist Challenge Readers, from Rank and File Teacher (Scotland).

WORKERS of the World Unite! May Day Greetings from Battersea and Wandsworth Trades Council.

6/522 BRANCH TGWU sends May Day Greetings to Socialist Challenge and all its readers. End the Employers Anti-Union Offensive — Support the Grunwick, Garners and Sanders on Workers!

OUR FUND DRIVE

£103.65 is all that has been collected for the fund drive in the last two weeks. In the first three weeks of April we have accumulated just over £236.

Not good enough. By the end of June we must raise over £2,000. So get cracking.

Look at this issue — an extra four pages. That has cost us over £150. A lot of money for a small paper, but we felt the Carnival on Sunday was important enough to warrant it.

We hope hundreds of militants who have never seen Socialist Challenge will buy it for the first time.

The fact that WH Smiths, as from the first week of May, will be taking the paper in selected shops again offers us big possibilities. But will also cost us money.

For example, for WH Smiths to take the paper it has to be read for libel every week. That costs money. So if we are to seize the possibilities that exist, we need your money.

Send it without delay.

Our thanks this week to:

- Cardiff supporters 7.50
- Chilean Socialist Party member 3.00
- London committee, IMG 3.00



SUBSCRIBE NOW!

Domestic: 6 months, £5; 12 months, £10
Abroad: Airmail, £16.50. Surface, £10 per annum.

Name.....

Address.....

I enclose a donation for the Fighting Fund of

Cheques, POs and Money Orders should be made payable to 'Socialist Challenge'.

Complete and return to:

Socialist Challenge, 328/9 Upper Street, London N1.

Socialist Challenge EVENTS

NORTH WEST

WARRINGTON Socialist Challenge group meets regularly. Ring Manchester Socialist Challenge offices for details, 061-236-2352.

GREATER MANCHESTER Socialist Challenge School students who support the paper and would like to get involved in anti-fascist activity please contact Chris 273-5947 (daytime), or Steve 228-4287 (evening), or write to Manchester SC Centre, c/o 14 Poadilly.

PRESTON Socialist Challenge supporters can be contacted by ringing Preston 54516.

LIVERPOOL Spoke Socialist Challenge group meets every Wednesday evening at Noah's Ark pub, Spoke, Liverpool 8pm.

SOUTH MANCHESTER Socialist Challenge group meets every other Thursday at the Albert Inn off Wilmshurst Rd. Help sell Socialist Challenge between 11.30am and 1pm at Moss Side shopping centre or Longsight Market, Dickenson Rd. Further information from 061-236-2352.

YORKSHIRE

Huddersfield Socialist Challenge group meets next on 4 May and fortnightly thereafter. 7.30pm. Friendly and Trade Club, Northumberland Street (opp station).

NORTH EAST

DURHAM Socialist Challenge supporters group meets regularly at Big Jug Pub, Graypath, Durham City. Details from J. Fox, 41-The Avenue.

DARLINGTON Socialist Challenge sales on Saturdays outside Northern Rock on High Row, 11am-1pm.

MIDDLESBOROUGH Socialist Challenge sales on Saturdays outside Boots at Cleveland Centre, 11am-1pm. Socialist Challenge is

also available from Harrison's (newsagent) in Linthorpe Street.

WALES

SWANSEA Socialist Challenge group meets every other Wednesday at 7.30pm in St Helena Inn, Vincent Street. All supporters welcome. Next meeting, 10 May and fortnightly thereafter.

CARDIFF Socialist Challenge meeting, 5 May, with speakers from the paper's Editorial Board to present for the SC conference. Four Elms pub, Elm St, c/o Newport Road, 7.30pm.

SOUTH WEST

SOUTHAMPTON Socialist Challenge, sales every Saturday from 10am-1pm above bar, Post Office, Bargate.

BRISTOL Socialist Challenge supporters meeting, 2 May, The Swan, Stokes Croft, 7.30pm.

PORTSMOUTH Socialist Challenge sales, Saturdays, 11.30am to 1pm, Commercial Road Precinct.

SOUTH EAST

COLCHESTER Socialist Challenge supporters sell the paper every Saturday outside Caters from 10.45am-1pm. Further information of local activities from Mike, 11 Angelsea Rd, Wivenhoe.

BRIGHTON Socialist Challenge sales regularly on Saturdays at the Open Market, London Road, from 11am-1pm.

COLCHESTER Socialist Challenge supporters meet regularly. Details from Steve, 1 Abigail Street.

SCOTLAND

For information about the paper or its supporters' activities throughout Scotland contact Socialist Challenge Books, 64 Queen St, Glasgow. Open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons. Phone for alternative arrangements (221-7481). Wide range of Fourth International publications.

EDINBURGH socialist Challenge supporters group meets regularly. Phone George at 031-348-0456 for details.

GLASGOW Socialist Challenge May Day disco, Saturday 28 April. Bar from 8pm-1am, Disco till 2am. Food on site. Seint and Sinners, Vincent St., Glasgow. Tickets 50p, donations 50p. Available from Socialist Challenge Books, 64 Queen St, Phone 221-7461.

DUNDEE: Information about Socialist Challenge, activities from 64 Queen St, Glasgow. Join in SC sales outside Boots (corner of Reform Street) each Saturday, 11am-2pm.

GLASGOW Socialist Challenge group, first meeting. 'The elections and the fight for a socialist alternative'. Speakers: Pat Kane, Socialist IMG organiser and Peter Perreux (invited). SWP candidate in the Garscadden by-election. Wednesday, 3 May, 7.30pm. Scottish Socialist Books, 64 Queen Street, top floor.

LONDON

HAMMERSMITH Socialist Challenge groups fortnightly — details from PO Box 50, London N12PX.

HACKNEY Socialist Challenge group meets next on 10 May, and fortnightly thereafter. Socialist Unity, 7.30 Britannia Pub, Wain St.

near Town Hall, Hackney. GREENWICH-LEWISHAM Socialist Challenge group meets fortnightly. Details from Ray on 01-639-1157.

NEWHAM Socialist Challenge Forums occur regularly. Details from PO Box 50, London N1.

WALTHAM FOREST paper sales every Saturday, 11am-noon outside the post office, Hoe St, Waltham-forest, London E17.

LONDON CPUSA Socialist Challenge readers. We are establishing a CPUSA supporters group to work in the union and Broad Left. If you are sympathetic to Socialist Challenge's ideas, write to London SC organiser, c/o PO Box 50, London N1.

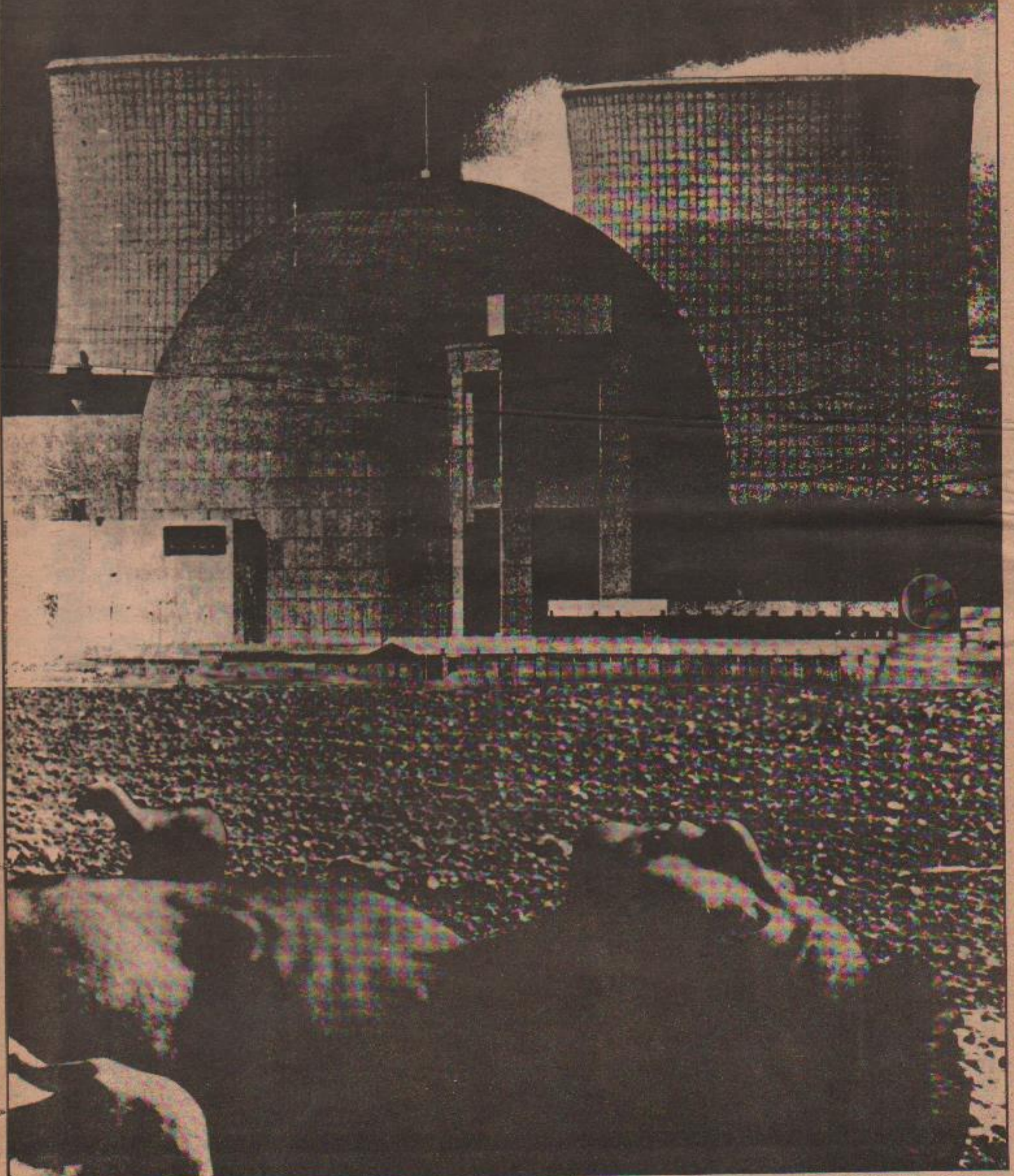
MIDLANDS

WOLVERHAMPTON Socialist Challenge group meets next 9 May. 'Nuclear power, pollution, and the struggle for social-ism'. Speaker: Dave Ashcroft, Labour Party, The Vine, Stafford Street, 7.30pm.

LEICESTER Socialist Challenge supporters meet fortnightly at the Highfields Community Centre. For details ring 0533 25854.

Socialist Challenge

STOP WINDSCALE NOW



**WINDSCALE
DEMONSTRATION**

**SATURDAY 29 APRIL
TRAFALGAR SQUARE 3.00**

Assemble Speaker Corner 12.00 for March to Rally, Trafalgar Square 3.00

**Anti-Nuclear
International p11**

**The Fight Against
Windscale
by Tony Webb p5**