

Socialist Challenge

TRADE UNIONS AND SOCIALISM

a conference for trade unionists

Tony Benn, Bernard Dix, Audrey Wise

18 July, Central Hall Westminster

Information from LCC (TU conference), 9 Poland St, London W1

1 UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT ATTENDANCE CARD

SURNAME	INITIALS	NI NUMBER				CODOT
THATCHER	M.	YC	54	23	15	8
NOMINATED POST OFFICE						

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT

You should make your claim for unemployment benefit at the Benefit Office on the day you become unemployed or on the day you return to the right. Produce this card on every occasion.

If you fail to claim on the day specified you may be disqualified for all or part of the period between the day you became unemployed and the day you next claim.

If you do miss a claim day you may be able to claim on the day after the day specified or on the day after the day specified if you have a good reason.

This notice ceases to apply when you start a new job or begin a new claim and you are not unemployed again. You may be able to claim benefit on the first day of your unemployment.



PUT THATCHER ON THE DOLE!

2 DECLARATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT/CLAIM FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT

If there are days between the date on which you were last employed and the date on which you started work (or the date on which you completed the declaration below).

NOTE: This form should not be signed if you are claiming supplementary allowance or other benefit.

"I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE INFORMATION ON THIS CARD"

I DECLARE that on the following date I was unemployed and did no work for any employer but was unable to

THATCHER, Pym, Carrington, Prior, Whitelaw, Joseph — throw the lot of them in the dustbin! What use are they? What do they produce but destruction, misery and deprivation?
THEY DESTROY people's lives through their obsession with their insane economic theories.
THEY DEPRIVE millions of people jobs, homes, schools and hospitals while they spend £8bn on Trident missiles.
THEY LAY WASTE to vast areas like Wales where one out of every seven is jobless.
THEY MAKE WAR on the Irish people, keeping an ar-

my of occupation that is a scandal the world over.
THEY'VE GOT TO GO — NOW!
 We have the power to get rid of them — how will we do it?
A national struggle to save jobs — Lee Jeans, Laurence Scott and Gardners show the way by occupying their factories against closure and by demanding solidarity from the rest of the labour movement.
A new leadership in the labour movement — away with the Gormleys, Chapels, Foots and Healeys. What is needed is new policies and people committed to implement them.

ted to implement them.
A democratic accountable labour movement — campaign for Tony Benn as deputy leader of the Labour Party.
A labour government committed to socialist policies — we have to fight for those policies now, taking up demands for the 35-hour week without loss of pay; nationalisation of basic industries under workers' control; abolition of cash limits on industry and social services; the launching of a huge programme of public works; banks to be brought under workers' control to provide

the finance; immediate cancellation of the Cruise and Trident programme; unilateral nuclear disarmament; withdrawal from NATO and the EEC.
 We get it by being out on the streets in huge demonstrations against the Tories; by militant action — like the miners — in the workplace; by taking on the leaders in the trade unions and the Labour Party who seek to 'persuade' the Tories to change course rather than kick them out.
 We know what we want — so let's go out and get it, let's put the Tories on the dole and get the rest of us back to work.

CARDIFF PUBLIC MEETING

The fight against unemployment

Speakers from EPTU-BSC Margam, Laurence Scott, Royal Pride, Rover SD1 Birmingham, Wales area NUM.

2.45pm in the Church Hall, corner of Cathedral Rd and Gelestown Rd.

Benn's opponents hide their policies

By David York

LISTEN for a moment to the words of John Silkin, candidate in the Labour Party deputy leadership stakes.

'Let us once and for all show that we are holding a democratic British election and not a Mafia-type American jamboree,' Silkin declared last week, in pursuit of his main preoccupation: growling at the Benn campaign.

His notion of electioneering was in evidence (just) at the Transport Union's conference.

While there were fringe meetings for Benn and Healey, Silkin hung around the bar — a lonely figure for much of the time, since few delegates accepted his invitation to be bought a drink.

Silkin endeavours to challenge the funding of the Benn campaign were taken up the *Sunday Telegraph* on the weekend. Featuring Socialist Challenge's 'Benn for deputy' badge, the newspaper sought to show that our profits on 15,000 badges could be as high as £3,000.

That would be good

news for our business manager, but as our editor's comments quoted in the *Sunday Times* made clear, the discounts offered on bulk purchases meant that we would be happy to break even.

That Silkin has rather more to say on such matters than about his own or anyone else's policies says much for the inspiring leadership he has to offer.

If anything he can be less confident now about preventing Benn receiving the TGWU's vote even on the first round (Silkin's main purpose in standing). This unremarkable right-wing nobody could end up with backing only from the agricultural workers' union, a handful of consti-

tuencies, and 40 to 50 of his pallid chums in the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Benn's real opponent, Denis Healey, lurched into action last week by producing his own list of supporters. The hundred names included trade union leaders with a distinguished record of service to the labour movement.

There was Duffy and Boyd of the Engineering Union, supporters of incoming policy, the bomb, the Tories' postal ballot system and much more besides.

Gladden

Tom Jackson of the Communication Workers added his name, which will no doubt gladden the hearts of all those of his members who have wondered what on earth has happened to their living standards under his leadership. Bill Sirs, overseer of the massive redundancies in steel, also featured.

These gentlemen certainly provide a useful reminder of Healey's own record and intentions. Two other supporters have also declared themselves — Harold Wilson and James Callaghan.

Fresh

Their performance in office is too fresh in the memory of the working class to be worth commenting on, although it is as well to note that both of these former Labour Party leaders are implacably hostile to the democratic changes which have been won in the party.

Labour renegade David Owen had his own criticism to make of Healey's campaign in a TV interview last week. He attacked Healey for running a personality campaign against Benn, rather than stating plainly where he stands on the policy issues.

Since Healey's positions are in fact close to those of the Social Democratic Party, Owen may be hoping that such

honesty could be a vote-winner for the SDP given the left's squeeze on the Labour Party leadership.

If evidence were needed that more than personalities are at stake in the deputy leadership election, it could be seen at the Benn meeting at the TGWU conference.

The main speaker was Dennis Skinner, who received a standing ovation after he explained Benn's programme and added for good measure how delegates should cast their votes on such matters as left members of the party executive whose seats are under threat.

It is a measure of how far the left has come that an MP felt able to 'interfere' in a union conference in this way.

Leaders of unions like ISTC (steelworkers) and USDAW (shop-workers), both of which voted for unilateralism and withdrawal from the Common Market, must be wondering quite where the Benn tide is going to take them.

Backing Benn with a badge

By CAROLE DAWSON

THE Marxist weekly newspaper, *Socialist Challenge*, has provided £779.80 plus VAT for 15,000 badges to be printed supporting Mr Wedgwood Benn's campaign for the Labour party deputy leadership.

The badges have a sheriff star motif in gold or silver colours and read 'Tony Benn for deputy'. They are being sold to Labour party and trade union branches at bulk rates.

Mr John Silkin, one of the two other candidates for the deputy leadership, has challenged Mr Benn to submit accounts of his campaign expenses to the Labour party.

When Mr Silkin heard of *Socialist Challenge's* financial involvement he said: "If something similar had been done for me I would have told them that this was not to be. He that appealed to Mr Benn to hold a democratic British election, not a Mafia-type jamboree."

A spokesman for *Socialist Challenge* said that Mr Benn had not sought support. They had not consulted him, but they had sent him a badge.



The Benn badge

Socialist Challenge has no official links with the Labour party. Mr Phil Hearse, the editor, describes his paper's policy as "to the left of the Communist party."

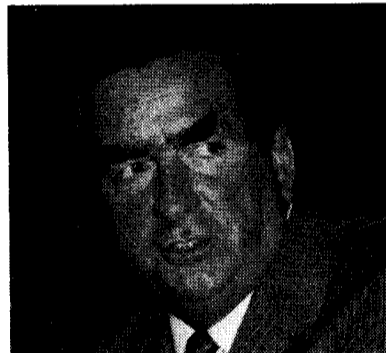
If all 15,000 badges sold at 25p each, the profit would be about £3,000. The spokesman denied that the paper would make anything like that.

"We will be happy if we just break even. The motive was not a political one. It was not to make money. We sold the first lot in bulk at around 9p or 10p each when they cost us 7p or 8p."

"Local Labour party groups and trade unions can buy in bulk. If they make money that is a good thing. If we do make a few pounds, the money will go back into running the newspaper. It will not be used for Mr Benn's campaign."

PUT YOUR UPTO 50%

Healey, Thatcher and NATO do badly at Transport Union conference



Healey: keeping quiet about his policies



Silkin: who?

By Harold Preston

DELEGATES at the Transport Union's conference last week will have made a number of enemies.

Certainly the Tories have little to be pleased about, though no doubt they and the right-wing Labour leadership will be grateful that the platform manoeuvres prevented the conference voting on a candidate for the Labour Party deputy leadership.

The fact that delegate after delegate spoke up for Tony Benn explains the

sweated brows on the top table.

Over 300 delegates attended the Benn meeting despite the absence of the candidate and the fact unofficial meetings are a rarity at the TGWU's two-yearly conferences. Denis Healey (in person) attracted about 40 to his meeting.

All the predictions

were that the delegates would have given a resolute thumbs up to Tony Benn. That was effectively denied by the conference chairperson, Stan Pemberton.

He refused to allow reference back of the standing orders decision that no vote could be taken, and when this was challenged by Alan Thornett, of BL Cowley, Pemberton won the issue on a confidence vote.

The bitterest blows to those in the leadership of the Labour Party and the TUC who want to stitch-up a Healey-type programme for the next Labour government came early on in the conference.

Role

On the very day that the TGWU delegates gave a resounding No to any incomes policy, the TUC-Labour Party Liaison Committee — which played such an inspiring role during the premiership of Wilson and Callaghan — agreed on a document entitled 'Economic issues facing the next Labour government'.

Lurking among the desultory proposals is a 'national economic assessment of the prospects for the growth of the economy ... to embrace such issues as the share of the national income going to profit, to



earnings from employment, to rents to social benefits, and to other incomes'.

In other words, they haven't got the guts to put forward what they want just at the moment, but they do give notice that plans for a Labour incomes policy will be formulated in due course.

The renewed opposition to such a policy by Britain's largest union will

add to the anxiety of the GMWU leader, David Basnett, who is the main agent of Foot and Healey in the TUC leadership.

Another blow was struck over the Tories' cuts. While the TUC's strategy against the government's policies amounts to politely asking for a change, the TGWU delegates voted for official strikes in support of public sector workers taking

direct action against spending cuts.

The motion was carried against the executive's advice after three votes, during which the proposal gained increasing support. While pressure will be needed to put this policy into effect, it starts to lay the basis for mass action to get rid of the Tories.

NATO didn't do well, either. The conference overwhelmingly carried a

resolution confirming its long-standing commitment to unilateral nuclear disarmament.

The motion called for a campaign in the labour movement to oppose Cruise and Trident, and to close all nuclear bases in and around Britain. There should also be an immediate reduction in conventional arms spending, the delegates decided.

Socialist Challenge

If you would like to be put in touch with Socialist Challenge supporters in your area or would like more information fill in the form below

Name

Address

Age

Union/CLP (if any)

Send to: Socialist Challenge, PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.



'We showed the Tories aren't invincible'

'The South Wales NUM is totally committed to joint Labour Party and trade union actions — that's why we support the 4 July Cardiff march.' **DES DUTFIELD**, vice-president of the South Wales NUM, the first mining area to strike last February, talked to **CELIA PUGH** and **BARRY WILKINS** about the miners' strike and the struggle against the Tory government.

WE haven't won all we set out to achieve in the strike, but it has been a big climbdown by the government. The temptation was to stay out longer. We had massive public and spontaneous trade union support.

We had to take into account whether this would be susceptible to media statements saying that we'd won all we demanded. We didn't want people turning against us. We'd achieved a psychological victory for a lot of people who had lost hope. They realised that the government wasn't invincible.

This is why we took the decision for suspending rather than calling off the strike. We still have a mandate to strike if they try to shut a pit anywhere in Britain, on grounds other than exhaustion.

I can understand why people may have been disappointed that things didn't go as far as a general strike. We have to be careful about how we apply industrial action. A lot of people, myself included, wouldn't have been heartbroken if the fight had developed into a far broader one. It's the only way workers in this country are going to retain anything.

We should have an organised fight with the weapons we have, industrial action

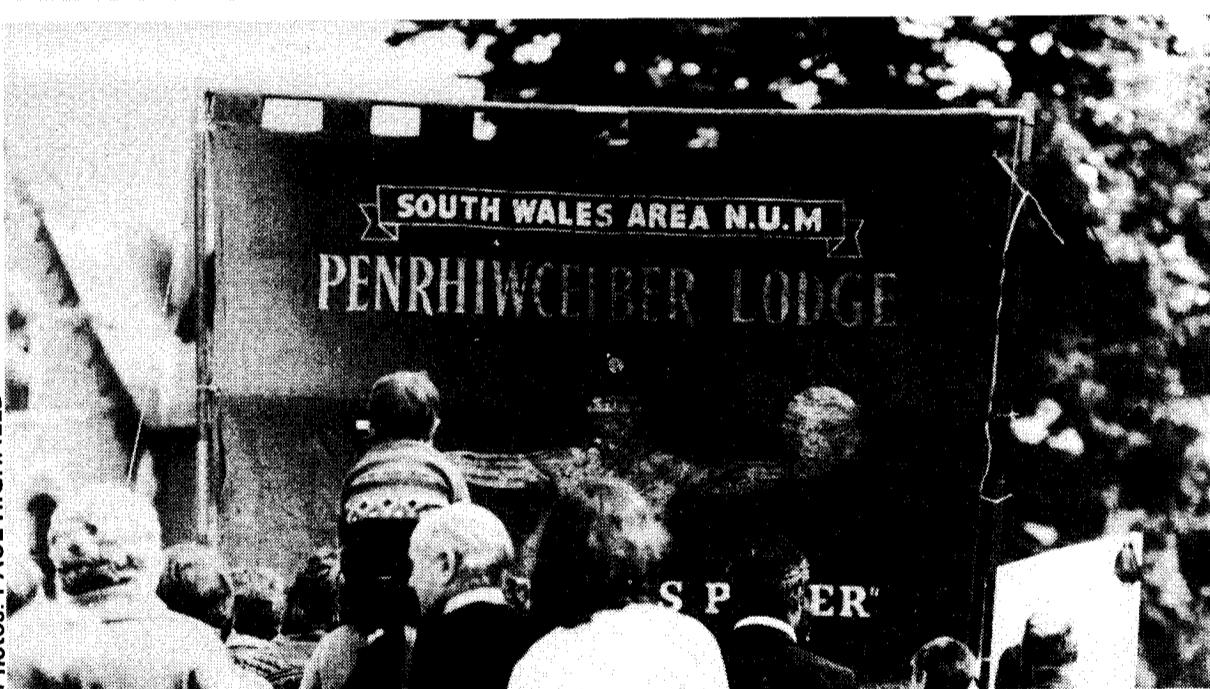
It's true that people felt let down that we didn't extend the fight, but at the same time, others felt that the strike had started to protect the mining industry.

The Triple Alliance could be a wonderful instrument if people went into it sincerely. But have you seen the picture of Gormley, Sirs and Weighell? It reminds me of the Three Stooges at the pictures in Treorchy when I was a boy.

We think the biggest opportunity to make the Wales TUC into an organisation of substance was at the beginning of last year. When they had the opportunity they blew it. They promised a mass action. First they postponed it and then they threw it out. Then we had the Day of Action, marches and what have you.

It's impossible to divide the political situation from the industrial at the moment

I don't want to undermine the initiative of the March for Jobs and the other marches that have taken place. But personally I don't believe in them any more. They have no impact on a



The South Wales miners' led the struggle to save miners' jobs last February

Photos: PAUL HIGHFIELD

government as intransigent as this one. If you're having no impact then you're wasting useful energies.

We should have an organised fight with the weapons we have, industrial action.

It's impossible to divide the political situation from the industrial at the moment.

If the Tories are allowed another two years with only verbal opposition from the TUC then we'll reach a situation where we can't recover this century.

There's got to be *real* mass action, not being used frivolously at the drop of a hat. It's got to be on major issues — the closure of a hospital for instance. We cannot leave it up to the nurses in the community, they have no weight. I mean organised industrial action against any attacks.

Occupations like Laurence Scott and Lee Jeans are good — though they are small and isolated. The Laurence Scott people spoke to us last week and we asked them for a list of equipment used in the mines. It's no good just one pit blacking this, it has to be systematic.

Anybody who assists in getting rid of this government and replacing it with a Labour government should be very proud

As trade unionists we don't get rid of governments. The declared intention of the 1974 miners' strike was not to get rid of the government. We went against the government on the issue of the day — pay. The government decided to go for us. They went to the country for backing. It was the country that got rid of them.

Creating the conditions for getting rid of the government is something else. This takes place through our actions and unashamedly so. Anybody who assists in getting rid of this government and replacing it with a Labour government should be very proud.

Arthur Scargill is our candidate. There will be a handful of people against him not because of who he is but because of the image the media creates that he is a wrecker. If the media is owned by the capitalists it is understandable that they put across their own message.

Arthur's campaign for the miners' presidency is tied in with democracy in the union. Over many years there has been flouting of decisions.

I moved the resolution against incentive schemes a few years ago. It won the day against the South Derbyshire resolution supporting the scheme. The NEC went back on this because, 'Joe knows the feelings of the lads', as he puts it.

We think Benn reflects views of the working class. We don't think any 'Silly Billies' do justice to us

He put it to ballot. The ballot defeated him. Then he got in his butties, Tasker Watkins and Denning, to say he was right. He got it introduced that way. It was a year of shame for this union.

The Benn campaign is the same. You have to give credence to people when they speak until they break that credence. Up to now he hasn't. He's spoken along the lines of conference policy and accountability.

Everything he's said is acceptable

but the media try to scare off susceptible workers. We think Benn reflects the views of the working class. We don't think any 'Silly Billies' do justice to us.

The NUM is in a bit of a funny position on the Wembley decisions. Last year the national delegation voted for retaining the old system. The next conference will be clear cut. There is a resolution to reaffirm the Wembley decision. There was a Yorkshire amendment calling for support for Benn but it appears to have been debarred by Gormley.

We look favourably on campaigns and initiatives like the 18 July Labour Co-ordinating Committee conference. People can assess the best opportunities in their own unions for advancing what they want — the tactic may be different in different unions. But you have to get the people who are active to make their presence felt. In some unions it's a hell of a job. We've affiliated to the Wales LCC.

The argument for multi-lateral disarmament isn't positive. We should unilaterally disarm.

The policies are important too, how can you disagree with Benn's policy for unilateral disarmament? You get these rubbish statements about the Soviets wanting to drop bombs on us. We know that leaderships differ and threats exist on some places, but the Soviet people themselves are similar to us.

The only people who don't agree are those with a mental chink who have delusions of grandeur about being imperialists. They'd prefer to be colonising.


The argument for multilateralism isn't a positive one at all. Everyone is waiting for someone else. We should unilaterally disarm, that comes first.

I've always said that as miners we have a wider responsibility to the working class generally. It's not one we've assumed on our own; it's built up over decades. It's a history we have to meet.

As I said at the Welsh Labour Party conference, if the miners win everything without strings, if others are losing their jobs and communities, then we haven't won a thing.

In the second part of the interview printed next week **DES DUTFIELD** talks about the jobs fight in the mining industry.

DEFEND JOBS! SAVE WALES! KICK OUT THE TORIES!



FIGHT FOR SOCIALIST POLICIES

A SOCIALIST CHALLENGE PAMPHLET 25p

Defend jobs! Save Wales! Kick out the Tories! Socialist Challenge pamphlet on the fight for socialist policies in Wales, 25p from 108 Salisbury Rd, Cardiff, Wales.

How the bosses ripped off BL

By Alan Freeman

TWO YEARS ago the *Economist* magazine, which has the ear of most bankers and industrialists in this country, echoed what many of them thought about Edwardes' Plan for British Leyland.

The article says this: if we close Leyland now, there will be an outcry. So let's do it slowly.

'At least', reckon many cabinet ministers', it concluded, the Edwardes Plan 'will mean that a Tory government cannot be accused of having acted dogmatically when BL eventually has to be wound up in, say, two years' time after another bout of industrial disruption'.

In other words, when the time is ripe we can blame the workforce, and

shut the whole thing down.

But who is really to blame for BL's present state? The workforce are the traditional scapegoats.

Yet BL's labour costs per worker are two-fifths of Toyota and under half of Daimler-Benz. And the number of vehicles produced by each BL worker — 8.7 in 1976 — compares favourably with Ford UK's 5.6 and Vauxhall's 6.8.

A different story emerges when we look at the bosses' side: above all the history of BL before and after nationalisation.

Because the root cause of BL's decline is chronic underinvestment.

By 1978 BL's assets totalled £5375 per employee, while Ford UK had £9450 and Toyota a

staggering £150,000. Yet in the six years between the formation of BLMC through merger of major British car companies, and its nationalisation, the owners doled out £70 million in dividends and £61 million in interest payments.

Profits

During the nationalisation process a special committee under Lord Ryder investigated the company. They reported:

'Profits before tax throughout 1968-74 have been inadequate ... despite this low level of profits BL has over the period distributed nearly all of them as dividends.'

How did management get away with it? Firstly, they failed to allow properly for depreciation. This meant that they could declare, as profits, money



Edwards: uses the workforce as scapegoats

which should rightfully have been used to modernise old equipment.

Ryder pointed out the

results in a detailed table showing that by 1975, in an industry where normal turnround for plant is

eight years, over two thirds of BL's equipment was older than eight years, and over a third more than twelve years old.

Second, they decreased their working capital by around £100 million. They started paying their creditors later, and getting their debtors to pay them earlier. They decreased the amount of money they were holding in the bank ... and paid it out as profits.

Claim

Then the government stepped in. But no penalty was imposed for what the owners had done.

In the first two years of nationalisation alone over £80 million went in interest payments.

What would happen if BL was closed? Surprise,

surprise, first claim would be exercised by the loan stockholders. According to the *Economist*, closing BL would mean handing over £170 million to those parasites.

Net result? Under private ownership, every BL worker made £1,000 to line the bosses' pockets while BL investment went down the drain.

Under nationalisation, these same bosses take a free ride while the taxpayer foots the bill for their greed and incompetence. And when BL folds?

The taxpayers hand these same bosses nearly a quarter of a billion pounds for the inconvenience.

Edwards calls it viability. We have another term for it: DAYLIGHT BLOODY ROBBERY!

'We stick to our guns'

Two months ago BL announced that the SD1 saloon plant at Rover Solihull was to be closed by spring next year. A campaign has been started by militants in the plant to press for action, up to and including an occupation of the factory, to save the jobs threatened.

Here, deputy convenor PAT HICKEY continues his diary of resistance.

MONDAY I go with the Rover delegation to Brighton to lobby the Transport Union conference. The coach is incredibly slow, never going over 50mph. Nevertheless the mood on the coach is good. Agree to split a bottle of gin with 4 others on way back.

Arrive late in Brighton. We had intended to be there for 12-12.15pm to catch the 12.30pm lunch break, but arrive at 1.15pm — the journey has taken more than 6½ hours. There is a dispute about what time we should start back — a vote settles it for 5pm.

Lobby starts at 1.45pm — quite a good show, everybody turns out, plenty of placards and chanting. We have a leaflet explaining the situation, calling on the officials to give a lead and to support any action necessary including occupation.

The leaflet also gives details of our 15 August demo. Some of the lobby

grabs Brian Mathers and put the pressure on. Grenville Hawley evades capture.

Afterwards have a drink, a meal and lie on the beach. Three of the blokes go for a swim in their underpants and challenge me to do likewise. I am about to accept, when I remember that mine are very small and have a hole at the back. I decline. We leave at 5 pm and arrive in Birmingham at 11.15pm.

Tuesday Get busy on the 15 August demonstration, sorting out times, route, publicity etc. Go with Mick Clarke to Transport House to organise circulation of branches with district secretary, Sean Robinson.

Agree the speakers and Sean takes responsibility for contacting them. Then on to see Clive Wilkinson, leader of the City Council, to get acceptance of the march route.

In the afternoon write bulletin 5. Start by draw-

ing the lesson of the mass meeting: those who wanted to fight for their jobs had been allowing the 'cut and run' minority to make the running.

People must get stuck into the debate with these elements, who are being used by the supervisors to undermine the campaign.

Raise the prospect of management offering an extra 6-8 weeks redundancy pay to buy off the opposition point to the 13.6 per cent unemployment rate.

Challenge the company to open the books and make much of the fact that Michael Edwards has not accepted our invitation to debate his plan to 'save' Rover.

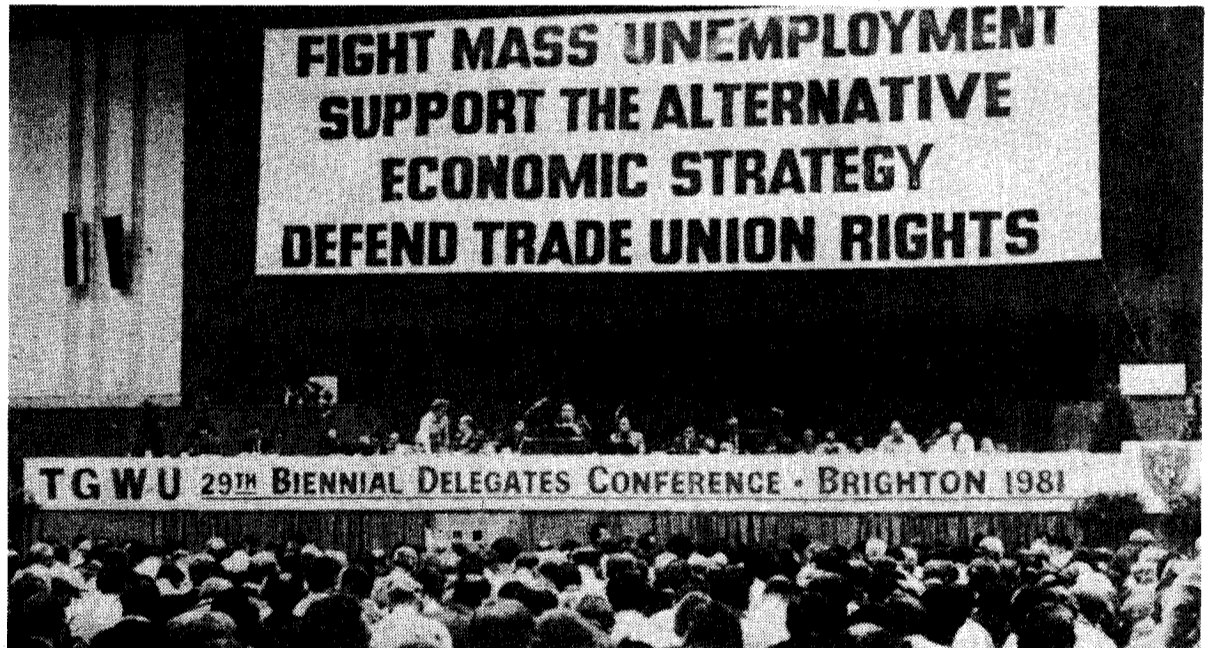
Wednesday Meeting with management in morning where we attack them on question of overtime. They have been using the need for a certain amount of overtime to keep the plant going on 40 hours. We tell them that we will recommend an overtime ban at the shop stewards meeting.

Also say that we think there is an increase in the SD1 production programme, which management are trying to conceal. The plant is short of labour, due to management making people redundant — it's their problem to get enough labour to staff the place.

Almost unanimous support for the ban at shop stewards' meeting, particularly when we point out that any shortfall in programme now can be caught back when the TR7 ceases by increasing SD1 programme to take up the slack.

Agree a mass meeting if management threaten layoffs.

Socialist Challenge supporter on shop stewards committee points to TGWU conference decision to support oc-



The Rover workforce picketed the Transport Union conference. Now it's preparing for a demonstration on 15 August

cupation against redundancies, and starts a discussion on what we will need to do to fight the closure when it comes to the crunch.

Agree need for mass meeting immediately after 6 July national conference to reject company's terms and begin the preparation for a fight.

In the afternoon I am quietly tipped off by a member of management to

'watch my step' as they're out to get me. What a relief, I thought I was paranoiac!

Thursday Management pressure for lifting of overtime ban. We stick to our guns. I get a verbal warning (first stage of disciplinary procedure) for absenteeism. I point out that all my absences, bar one for a dental appointment and one lateness have been for

trade union activities around the campaign.

Management replies that they will not authorise any absences in connection with opposition to the company's plans. Shout foul and make a pass — all good stuff to relay to the members.

Friday In the afternoon we are called to meeting where management issue a leaflet replying to our cam-

paign and giving details of the closure schedule. They also declare their intention to move some plant out during the summer holidays in July.

We challenge the management's figures on the savings involved in shutting the plant, reject the closure schedule and promise to bottle the plant up tighter than a duck's arse in the holiday. Watch this space!

Anti-racism

'The time is ripe for social justice'

By Toni Gorton

ACCORDING to Len Murray, TUC general secretary, 'the time is ripe to produce this Charter for Black Workers as part of the TUC's total campaign for social justice.'

Certainly the time seems rotten-ripe as blacks lose their jobs at twice the rate of whites; as police raid factories in search of 'illegal' immigrants, and as racial violence increases daily.

The charter, launched on 16 June, was prepared by the TUC's equal rights committee in consultation with black organisations like the West Indian Standing Conference and the Indian Workers' Association.

The purpose of the TUC charter is to promote the integration of black workers into the trade union structures, to argue against racism in the workplace, and to help black workers overcome language and other disadvantages.

Recruit

The TUC launched its charter with the St Paul's, Bristol, and Brixton events in mind.

The anger of black people and their determination to take matters into their own hands can be seen in the new political structures that are developing, such as the New Cross Massacre Action Committee, the Asian Labour Party Alliance and the various defence committees.

The TUC is attempting to get control of this situation by sorting out its own house.

The charter proposes the removal of barriers which prevent blacks from union office; the use of special publications to recruit black members; educational material; use of union journals; combatting racism at work; using social clubs; the TUC equal opportunities clause; job recruitment policies and industrial language training.

While the charter is useful as the basis for discussion it has important shortcomings.

The frustration felt over TUC inaction on racism was summed up by



Len Murray and Bill Keys visit Brick Lane in East London during the 1978 confrontations between the National Front and local Asians — did the TUC do enough?

a spokesperson for the West Indian Standing Conference at the launch of the charter.

Crisis

'We can't see the TUC sitting there talking about persuasion. Positive acts are required — positive answers to the explosive crisis we are in. The talking has got to stop,' he said.

Len Murray answered that the TUC can only persuade, it has no authority to compel unions to do anything, and then proceeded to say that 'if there is any instance of racial discrimination in the trade unions, we want to know and we'll take action.'

But what sort of action isn't spelled out.

In reply to a question about the lack of support for black workers in industrial disputes, Murray

replied that workers were not automatically right, and that such complaints should go through the 'normal trade union grievance machinery'.

Action to enforce the TUC's proposals is crucial to black workers — they need action to change their lives now.

In taking on the bosses, the demand has to be for quotas of blacks to make up for past discrimination not simple 'equality'.

The TUC has to recognise the right of black workers to organise as blacks within the unions.

Inform

There should be a 'TUC action centre' set up, well publicised and able to immediately investigate and inform workers of their rights and provide whatever assistance is necessary. The 'monitoring' that is proposed is unclear.

The TUC has to campaign vigorously against racism in the community with meetings, leaflets, and demonstrations.

It has to tackle the government head-on with the questions of unemployment and racist legislation like the Nationality Bill.

Deportation victory!

THE Home Office has reversed its decision to deport Jaswinder Kaur, the Leeds textile worker around whom a vigorous campaign had been built.

Timothy Raison on behalf of the Home Office, wrote to Sir Keith Joseph, her MP, saying, 'Jaswinder Kaur's case is finely balanced but you will be pleased to hear that... I have exceptionally decided to reverse the deportation order against her and allow her to remain indefinitely.'

He added that he had 'considerable sympathy for Mrs Kaur in view of the way that her husband mistreated her and their son, and I have noted the large number of representations that we have received.'

Police picketed

ABOUT 50 people picketed Holloway police station on 26 June protesting at police inaction over a racist hit and run attack on a black woman.

Rhoda Gerald ended up with two broken legs, a broken hip and nearly lost one eye when two white men drove their metallic purple Ford Cortina Mark 2 at her on 18 April. She is still in hospital. No one has been charged.

For further information contact the Rhoda Gerald Action Committee c/o 76 Stroud Green Road, London N4.

Defence

In situations like Coventry, the TUC should be sending teams of people to work with the local trade unions, Labour Party and black movement to confront the fascist terror, using all the resources at its disposal.

Around 51 per cent of all black workers belong to trade unions — a higher proportion than white workers. They look to the trade unions as a primary

source of defence.

The TUC charter will be a step in the right direction if it is used to develop and strengthen black organisation and political action.

It is unfortunate to say the least that it will be restricted in distribution because of its prohibitive cost — £50 for 1,000 copies.

Individual copies can be obtained from the TUC, Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1.

BLACK WORKERS

A TUC CHARTER FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Stop fascist violence

By Davy Jones

LOCAL anti-fascists and labour movement bodies have called for a rally and march against fascist violence, following last week's vicious assault against Sheila Malone in the Other Bookshop, Islington.

Fascist thugs fractured Sheila's skull with a lead-filled cosh. Fortunately Sheila is recovering well in hospital, following an operation.

Islington Trades Council heard last Wednesday that the fascist attackers had threatened all other socialists in the area with similar violence. A collection for Sheila was taken and the meeting endorsed a call by the local Anti Nazi League for a march and rally from Islington Green to Chapel Market on Sunday 12 July at 10am.

Similar resolutions are also tabled for local Labour Party branches this week — Sheila is a member of Islington Labour Party. A number of trade union branches have held collections and passed resolutions con-

demning the attack. Messages of support have come from the Caribbean Seamen's Union and numerous left bookshops.

Socialist Challenge appeals to its readers and supporters to do two things. First, if you live in London please come to the rally and march on Sunday 12 July to express your opposition to fascist violence.

Secondly, give generously to the Other Bookshop Appeal Fund to raise money for Sheila's convalescence and for improved security measures at the shop.

Already more than £100 has been raised for Sheila, and a similar sum for the shop security. Send cheques to the Other Bookshop Appeal Fund, 328 Upper St, London N1 2XP.

Anti Nazi League Day of Action Against Racism Coventry

Friday 3 July

Mass leafletting of workplaces, schools, shopping centres and housing estates
For leaflets and information contact Coventry ANL, PO Box 75, Coventry.

MARCH & RALLY Against Fascist Violence

Sunday 12 July 10am
Assemble Islington Green, N1

Supported by Islington Trades Council
and Islington Anti Nazi League



Mansfield Irish march witch-hunted

THIS Saturday, 4 July, sees the latest stage in the campaign to change Labour Party policy on Ireland.

A demonstration and rally will take place in Mansfield, the constituency of Don Concannon, Labour's spokesperson on Ireland.

But an hysterical witch-hunt has been launched against the demonstration's organisers, the Labour Committee on Ireland; a witch-hunt orchestrated by the local press and backed by the right-wing Labour council.

The *Mansfield Chronicle Advertiser* headlined the demonstration 'IRA Supporters Plan Mansfield "Sack MP" March'; the Labour council has refused to allow the rally to take place on council property; the Mansfield Labour Party has said it will be organising a

counter-demonstration, and even Michael Foot has said he will attempt to get the LCI march called off.

The slogans of the demonstration call for a break in Labour-Tory bipartisanship on Ireland, the sacking of Concannon as Labour's Irish spokesperson, and support for the five demands of the Irish political prisoners.

Hysteria

It is the call for the sacking of Concannon which has created the hysteria, which the MP

has fuelled, by saying that the march amounts to 'intimidation'. He has further slandered the march organisers by saying 'these people threatened what they were going to do to my wife on 4 July'.

Nonsense

This is complete nonsense. The target of the Labour Committee on Ireland is Labour Party policy. The committee's view that British troops should be withdrawn from Ireland is shared by 69 per cent of Labour voters, according to a recent opinion poll in the *Daily Star*.

Neither is Concannon correct in his claim that his actions are totally in line with Labour's policy on

the political prisoners.

When Concannon visited Bobby Sands on his death-bed he told the hunger striker he was in total support of the Tories' hard-line attitude. Yet before and since Sands' death the Labour Party national executive has called for concessions to the prisoners.

The Labour right in Mansfield has had some success in attacking the LCI by accusing the committee of 'personalising' the Irish issue.

Support

It also seems that Mansfield is hardly the strongest area of support for the type of policies the campaign is putting forward.

A local miners' lodge is among those who have threatened to join the counter-demonstration.

But it should be emphasised that the LCI, which is an organisation restricted to individual members of the Labour Party, has spent the bulk of its activities on attempting to promote a policy debate on Ireland within the party. A climax of that process will come at the Labour Party conference in October, where a major debate will take place on Ireland.

A further LCI demonstration there would be the next logical step for the committee to take. In the meantime the democratic right to demonstrate must be defended in Mansfield this Saturday.

The weekend I went to Belfast

London councillor arrested

CAROL TURNER, a Labour councillor in the London borough of Southwark, went to Belfast at the weekend to take part in a 'councillors against the H Blocks' march.

She ended up being arrested on the Saturday, addressing a 10,000 demonstration on Sunday, being interviewed by Irish and British television on Monday and generally hitting the headlines. Carol tells *Socialist Challenge* of her eventful weekend.

The 'Councillors Against the H Blocks Rally' had been called by Peoples Democracy councillors in Belfast, Fergus O'Hare and John McAnulty.

H Block demonstrations are never allowed to take place in Belfast's city centre, and by meeting outside the city hall the rally was an attempt to challenge this.

By 2pm about 300 people had turned up. Through a megaphone Fergus O'Hare announced that the rally would be held in a few minutes. That's when the police — the Royal Ulster Constabulary — moved in.

Peaceful

They tried to stop Fergus speaking and attempted to grab his megaphone. The cops had been waiting for us in side streets in jeeps and 'meat wagons'.

When they tried to move us on we sat down on the pavement. It was a peaceful protest and we offered no resistance. About 40 to 50 people sat down and the RUC became rough and abusive.

People lost shoes, had their coats torn, and many ended up with extensive bruising.

The RUC arrested 34 of us, and carted us away to Musgrave Street police barracks. While we were being roughed up, an Orange march was being peacefully escorted through adjacent streets by the RUC.

It seems that only Catholics or H Block demonstrators are stopped from having meetings inside the city centre.

Once in the police station we were locked up in cells for more than nine

hours. Most of us weren't allowed to go to the toilet for over three hours, and there was no food or drink.

Illegal

A young woman who had also been arrested was frightened and cried. She was 14 years of age and it is illegal to hold someone this young. She was eventually released after two and a half hours.

I was 'interviewed' by a RUC sergeant who harangued me, saying I shouldn't believe all the 'lies' about the Army, RUC and the H Blocks.

Someone in a nearby cell refused to give his name when he was interviewed — insisting he was Tony Benn!

Morale was good in the cells. We sang and chanted slogans, and played guessing games to pass the time.

Six councillors were arrested. Two from PD, two Irish Republican Socialist Party members, one from the Irish Independence Party and myself.

Jokes

There were jokes about how we were getting better treatment. When they finally brought us food, after more than four hours it was unpalatable, but there were more jokes about how the councillors were being fed with casseroles.

The first prisoners were released around 10.30pm. Everyone was out by midnight. We discovered that the press had made a great fuss about a London councillor being arrested — the Belfast evening paper said it was London leader, Ken Livingstone, who was a sponsor of the rally.



Fergus O'Hare: arrested too

On Sunday it was the national H Block demonstration. We marched up the Falls Road to Andersonstown on the outskirts of Belfast. More than 10,000 people took part.

There was no harassment from the RUC or the Army because of the size of the demonstration. The march was very impressive, with bands and slogans. The people were a bit tired, but still determined to carry on.

Useless

At the rally afterwards there was a statement about the conditions of the hunger strikers, and a sister of one of the strikers spoke of a meeting she had with Charlie Haughey, the Irish premier, which was 'useless'.

I was introduced as someone who had come to Belfast to show that not everyone in the Labour Party is a Don Concannon. I told the crowd of the success the H Block campaign in Ireland had had in bringing to the attention of the British labour movement the issue of the political prisoners.

I reported on the growing movement in the Labour Party to break Labour/Tory bipartisanship on Ireland.

There was a good reception to my speech. People came up afterwards and said, 'It's good to see you here.' They

wished me good luck for the court case the next day.

Those of us arrested on Saturday appeared in court at 10.30am on Monday. Many of the defendants were not even allowed into court to hear the charges against us — including me.

We were harassed and pushed around outside the court as we waited in a corridor to hear the outcome. We were remanded on bail.

There was a demo of about 50 people outside the court. When the hearing was over we all marched to the Europa Hotel for a press conference.

Some people were assaulted but we succeeded in demonstrating and eventually were allowed into the Europa where the point was made that if what we tried to do on Saturday was illegal, then why hadn't we been arrested that morning when we marched through the city centre.

Right

At the press conference we emphasised the point that is our democratic right to hold meetings. We appealed for international observers — including other Labour Party members — to come and observe our trial.

I returned to London later that afternoon to be met at the airport by a flashy limousine from Thames Television.

I was interviewed for *Thames News*. For a London councillor to be treated as I was in Belfast appears to be newsworthy, but for the people of Belfast it's just an everyday occurrence.

*Carol Turner and the 33 others arrested in Belfast on Saturday face the prospect of, at very least, massive fines and substantial legal costs. Donations are urgently required.

Send cheques, postal orders to: John North, Peoples Democracy, Connolly Bookshop, Avoca Park, Andersonstown, Belfast.

Labour women back Abortion Facilities Bill

By Ann Fiander, POEU delegate to Labour Women's conference

'IF THE Labour Party is not convinced that abortion is a right, what have we been doing all these years? The next Labour government must make abortion legal'

This was the appeal of a pensioner at the annual conference of Labour women, which gave overwhelming backing to an emergency resolution supporting the Facilities Bill. The bill, which comes up in parliament on 1 July, aims to make NHS abortion facilities mandatory.

It represents a historic point in the struggle to establish in law and in practice a woman's right to choose, and a change in

the strategy of the abortion movement from defending women's existing rights to actively campaigning for free abortion on demand.

Jo Richardson MP, proposer of the Facilities Bill says that no one should have any illusions that this bill could become law at this time. It marks the beginning of the campaign to convince the Labour Party and trade



Jo Richardson MP speaking to NAC/LARC lobby of parliament on 24 June

unions to ensure that the next Labour government is committed to implementing it.

Labour women demanded that their party support the decriminalisation of abortion as long as fifty years ago. But it needed masses of women taking to the streets in the 1970s to defend the '67 Abortion Act before this became party policy. The Labour Abortion Rights Campaign (LARC) was set up in 1977. It aims to commit the next Labour government to implement LP policy.

The LARC three point legislation plan covers making abortion facilities mandatory on the NHS; decriminalisation and enabling a woman's right to choose.

Delegates to Labour Party conference should be mandated to vote for the Vauxhall CLP resolution which is in line with the LARC plan.

Speakers can be arranged for local and regional trade union and Labour Party meetings, and literature is available.

If the Labour Party is to be a party for working women it must show its ability to defend and extend the rights of women. The ability to control our fertility is the key to

women being able to make real choices about their lives.

For further information about the LARC plan contact them c/o PO Box 110, London SE21 8ND.

What is the bill for?

The purpose of the bill is to overcome the tremendous variation in provision of NHS facilities which means for example that 97 per cent of abortions done in the Devon area are done on the NHS compared to 6 per cent in Dudley.

What the bill says

- 1 That the Secretary of State should ensure that District Health Authorities provide facilities for all termination within their area.
- 2 That to calculate the extent of the facilities required reference should be made to figures available relating to all terminations carried out on women ordinarily residing in that district in the previous year.
- 3 That no payment will be required from any woman obtaining an abortion on the NHS.

Labour MPs known to support the bill

Stan Orme
Frank Dobson
Hugh Brown
Martin O'Neill
John Tilley
Reg Race
Peter Shore

Joan Maynard
Alf Dubbs
John Fraser
Jo Richardson
Stuart Holland
Ernie Roberts

What the anti-abortionists say about the bill

Abortion clinics are getting like the gas chambers operated by the Nazis during the last war.

Albert McQuarrie, MP for East Aberdeenshire

Miss Richardson and her allies now want to make NHS gynaecologists ... carry out abortions as though it was some sort of pest control campaign.

Barbara Burnham, Chelmsford Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child

Vauxhall CLP resolution

This Conference believes that a woman's right to control her own fertility is fundamental to the Labour Party's commitment to equality for women.

Conference therefore demands that the next election manifesto and any subsequent manifesto should incorporate this, and a future Labour Government should take action to change the law so that:

- Abortion on request is made freely available through the NHS and existing inequalities of provision are removed by statute.
- All private abortion clinics are incorporated into the NHS and all abortions performed free of charge.
- Abortion daycare facilities are provided in all areas of the country.
- There are increased facilities for birth control in the NHS with centres set up to provide counselling on all aspects of contraception, abortion and pregnancy.
- All forced sterilisation accompanying abortion or childbirth is banned.
- Medical practitioners whose conscience forbids them to perform terminations of pregnancy are legally bound to refer patients seeking abortion to channels where an abortion can be obtained.



Lee Jeans women are marching from Greenock to Edinburgh to see Scottish Secretary of State, George Younger and then to rally commemorating the historic UCS work-in



500 women march in London on 27 June for lesbian rights

**Escape the Royal wedding!
Join the blow-out in Boulogne**

IF its getting you down now just think about the day itself! Lewisham Socialist Challenge has got the answer — come with them on a day return to Boulogne for only £10 return from London on 29 July.

Accidentally we publicised a post office engineers' test line last week to order tickets and the demand has been so big that the engineers are getting really ratty answering the phone — sorry!

The real number you should ring is 01-691 8759 as soon as possible. The cut-off date is 9 July.



Red and black on white 20p each plus s.a.e. 15p for orders of 10 or more (post paid) c/o Birmingham's Other Bookshop, 137 Digbeth, Birmingham B5 6DR. Cheques payable to Birmingham's Other Bookshop.

Gay Pride versus the police

By Jamie Gough

FOR the first time in its ten year history the national Gay Pride march this year is to be outside London. This Saturday 4 July gay people from all over the country will march through the streets of Huddersfield to protest at the vicious police witch-hunt that has been taking place there.

The police have aimed at nothing less than driving all gays in the town back into the closet. They have massively reinforced the insecurity of gay people who dare to meet other gay people, and closed down the main public face of the gay scene in the town, the Gemini club.

They have interviewed between one and two hundred gays in connection with various 'offences', using blackmail and intimidation to obtain 'confessions' and

the names of other people to interview. They repeatedly raided the Gemini and opposed the renewal of its licences.

All this is, unfortunately, scarcely out of the ordinary. What is unusual about Huddersfield, is that local gay people fought back. They launched a militant campaign against the police, whose first act was to stop the closure of the club.

It now seems likely that the police are backing down on their prosecutions. Earlier in the year they threatened to prosecute sixty people over the next six months. Significantly, they have now reduced this to six, all people who have pleaded guilty to avoid publicity.

A really big demonstration this Saturday can provide much-needed solidarity for gays in Huddersfield, and ensure that the police pay the maximum political price for their actions.

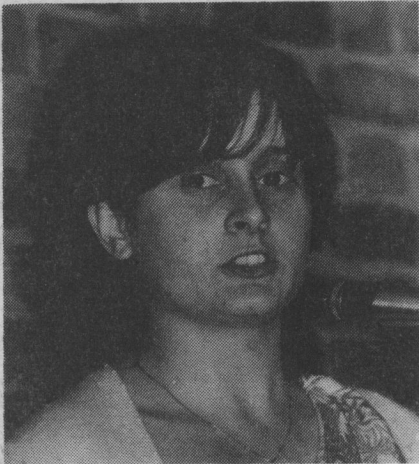
Assemble Huddersfield Town football stadium at 1pm; workshops, theatre and disco to follow.

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Jude Woodward, General and Municipal Workers Union, Manchester

Women discuss social issues more. Where I'm working we've discussed the family, Thatcher, the war drive. Women are drawn into the forefront very quickly. When they go into the Labour party, and become active in the unions, they understand very quickly the need to take on the leadership.



Ann Shirley, Post Office Engineering Union, Aberdeen

The main difference between our programme and the Alternative Economic Strategy is that ours is based on class action. The reformists argue that positive action for women will split the working class in the fight against unemployment. We disagree. Such a fight is part of the campaign, part of the build up to get rid of the Tory government. The only way we've been able to raise the question of positive action is because we've had women inside the union. There's no way you can do it from the outside.



Frank Gorton, Amalgamated Engineering Union, Hackney

When the Transport Union voted against any incomes policy it was a rebuttal of Denis Healey's position in the last Labour government. In a situation of polarisation we can say a lot more than just vote Labour. There is only one force that can commit a Labour government to socialist policies, that's the industrial unions.



Phil Davies, convener of Schreibers in Manchester

We didn't make our ties strong enough with other factories in the group.



Pete Evans, General and Municipal Workers Union, steward, Manchester

We provide components for cars, because of the crisis in the car industry, even small struggles over a wage claim come up against the question of redundancies.



Martin Collins, General and Municipal Workers Union, Manchester

We will not succeed in changing British society if we don't succeed in changing Britain's domination of Ireland. How can you go from the work place experience to taking up socialist policies? How do you take up jokes about Bobby Sands? We have to explain that the democratic rights of all workers are under attack. As we move towards a revolutionary situation many workers' leaders will be in jail. They may want to stand in elections and the right may well have been taken away unless we oppose it now. We have to look to new types of levers when we take up important issues like Ireland.

Redmond O'Neill, General and Municipal Workers Union, Manchester

Militants who get involved are faced with all the political problems. That is why they are looking towards the Labour Party and that is why we have to have supporters in the Labour Party, supporting Benn's campaign. Our newspaper is very important; it means we can begin to organise our forces. Phil Davies, convener of Schreibers and a Socialist Challenge supporter told us that the reason he likes Socialist Challenge is because it's the most bigoted, opinionated newspaper he'd seen in his life. Militants will accept you as a socialist — they are looking for political answers.

SOCIALIST PERSPECTIVES

'We're not fighting to be... we're fighting for the...'

Reports compiled by Tessa van Gelderen
Photos by Pete Grant

AS THE working class comes more and more under attack from the vicious Tory government, it is seeking answers to fundamental questions that are being posed.

How is our society organised? Why are billions of pounds spent on Trident and Cruise missiles when there are 3m unemployed in Britain?

More and more militants are finding that the answer given by their present leadership — to get the government to change course, to ally themselves with broad forces such as the church and chambers of commerce, are *not* the answers.

What is needed is socialist policies that confront the Tories head on. And

PAT HICKEY, deputy convener SD1 Rover Solihull, opened the discussion: 'We are meeting at a timely moment. There is growing mood for a fightback.

'We have seen Gardner's successful occupy for jobs and now Laurence Scott and Lee Jeans. Hopefully soon, my own plant will also take action to stop the closure.'

Pat went on to develop the theme that the policies which the Labour leaders have followed in the past — and which they follow now — are totally inadequate.

'We want a national leadership for a fight against the Tories. But it is not just a question of leadership, but of programme — what is going to solve the crisis in the interests of the working class?'

Pat pointed out that the shop stewards

organisation could function effectively in the past at local level. But now the twin pressure from the Tories' assault and from the membership means that the shop stewards look more and more to solutions at the level of government.

'The shop stewards organisation is changing,' explained Pat. 'New stewards are coming forward on the major issues of the day: unemployment, and how to get rid of the Tories, the leadership of the Labour Party.'

'This means', Pat continued, 'that the fight has to be inside the Labour Party and the official structures of the unions.'

'We have to fight for the leadership of the trade unions, not just to be a current of opposition or an electoral machine.'

The fight for a left wing inside the unions committed to class struggle

those policies will also challenge the leadership of the labour movement.

But even having a clear alternative to the Len Murray's and Terry Duffy's is not enough. We have to be able to convince workers that such an alternative will work. And to do that socialists have to be there, on the ground, not on the outside looking in.

The sectors that will be most decisive in confronting the Tories are those that have the industrial clout: the miners, the engineers, the railworkers.

At the same time, the crisis has brought to the fore whole new layers of workers who are radicalising extremely quickly: young workers, women workers, black workers are all

in the front line when it comes to unemployment, discrimination, oppression.

Socialist Challenge supported last weekend to discuss how to fight for socialist perspectives in industry and why we need worker revolutionaries.

For a lot of supporters this was only just beginning and the experience was of a very practical nature. It dealt with the problems that militants are facing in the workplace, on the shop floor, in the factory.

But above all it took up the question of fighting for our programme in industry, a programme that challenges our misleadership of the labour movement.



Pat Hickey

was opening up in a big way. The debates around the bloc vote raised important questions of accountability, and democracy, which particularly affected the major industrial unions.

'The stage is set',

stressed Pat, 'and Socialist Challenge supporters have to be part of that process. To operate effectively we have to be in the factory, on the shop floor, in the shop stewards organisations. This can't be done effectively from the outside.'

'There is more opposition now than since before 1926. We have to be part of it. We want to build a revolutionary party, not just for industrial workers but of industrial workers.'

'We are at a small beginning. The framework that Socialist Challenge can provide is a longer term orientation. We want to build a class struggle left wing in the unions and Labour Party that is akin to the Minority Movement.'

'But with one important difference — we're not fighting to be in opposition but in the leadership.'





Hazel McPherson, National Union of Railwaymen Paddington No 1



Pete Roberts, Transport and General Workers Union, North West London

All of a sudden I'm on the trades council, I'm on a course for being shop steward and I'm a delegate to the Labour Co-ordinating Committee conference. And I've only been a Socialist Challenge supporter for a year. We need to concentrate on education to arm us for the struggle.



Ailean O'Callaghan Transport and General Workers Union, British Oxygen, Wembley

Alex Kitson, acting general secretary of my union, doesn't want us to share the work, but to share the pain. When we raise the demand for work sharing, we have to say a 35 hour week with no loss of pay. This means demanding a minimum wage and consolidated overtime payments. The present economic and political situation forces you to come out with aspects of your programme in a clear way.



Revolution Youth first anniversary rally

ONE year old and going strong, if Revolution Youth's Rally held last Saturday is anything to go by. All the speakers at the rally stressed the decisive role of young people in the struggle world wide.

As Bernie Kavanagh, secretary of Sheffield Young CND said: 'The future is represented by young people. They will fight for the future that is being fought for in Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada.'

And the speakers did represent those very struggles that are taking place now, against oppression, imperialism and the war drive.

Tony, from the Grenadan New Jewel Movement, stressed that the people of his country identify with the struggles of all the oppressed people across the world.

His call 'forward ever, backward never' was a rallying cry throughout the evening.

Jacintha, from People's Democracy and the Dublin Youth Committee against the H Blocks, spoke of the involvement of youth in the struggle in Ireland where they had no political voice.

And Francoise from the French JCR, a sister organisation of Revolution Youth, explained of the important developments that are taking place in France with the election of a Socialist Party/Communist Party government.

'Something has begun to change in France. It's in the air. We want a government of the working class, not a government of class collaboration. We want an end to capitalism'.

The struggle of the people of El Salvador against imperialism was taken up by Jaime Lopez, a representative of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR).

He explained that the 'crime' of the people was to be poor and to oppose the Junta's policy. 'We are asking the people of the world to tie the hand of imperialism.'

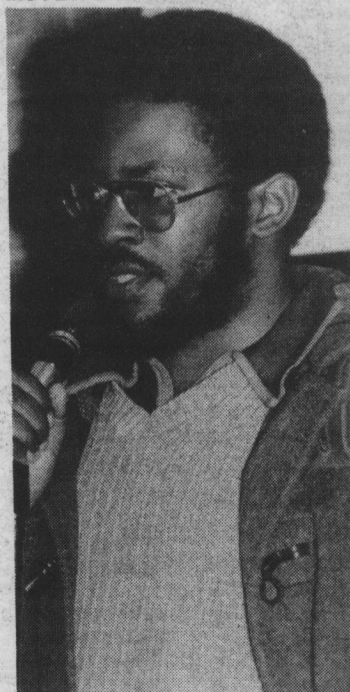
'The only way American imperialism can stop us is to kill us all.'

The rally ended with an appeal from Jed of the Laurence Scott occupation to support their struggle against closure.

The platform represented what Revolution Youth is about — building an organisation of youth, workers and students committed to fight imperialism, capitalism and oppression the world over.



Jaime Lopez, representative from the FDR of El Salvador



Tony, Grenadan New Jewel Movement

FOR INDUSTRY in opposition, the leadership'

Fighting redundancies

WE HAVE to reject the solutions put forward by the likes of Moss Evans, general secretary of the Transport Union.

According to him all we need to reduce unemployment, is to work a bit harder, tighten our belt, pull through it together, there's light at the end of the tunnel.

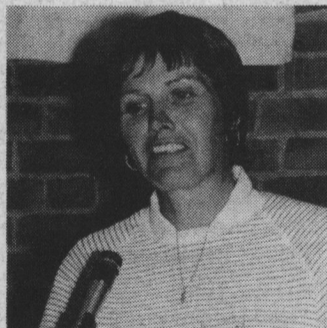
We just need to get British industry more competitive. But more and more the myth that workers can unite with the bosses to solve the crisis is exploding.

Phil Penning from Laurence Scott, explained why they had gone into occupation against the closure of their Manchester factory. After nine weeks of occupation action was being stepped up to prevent supplies from the parent company, Mining Supplies being moved.

'This is against Prior's law,' explained Phil, 'but it doesn't seem to matter if 650 jobs are going up the road.'

'This dispute will be won. If the trade unions had moved like Socialist Challenge then we would have won already.'

Hazel McPherson from the National Union of Railwaymen Paddington, explained the



Elsie Broad, shop steward from Royal Pride striking for union recognition

fight against redundancies in rail.

'Some 38,000 jobs are on the line.'

'The agreement around electrification is just blood-letting line by line. Each line has to be justified for productivity, viability and efficiency.'

'Our supporters have to take up the building of the Triple Alliance with the miners and steel workers.'

Control

Phil Davies, convenor from Schreibers in Manchester, explained that the biggest mistake they made in their latest battle against redundancies was not keeping control of the shop floor and letting the full time officers take over.

Raghib Ahsan, shop steward from Rover Solihull, pointed out that black workers are more and more convinced that there are no jobs for them. But many were not confident to take up the struggle.

However, black workers at Rovers were fighting back because 'these whites might not find a job, but we have no hope'.

Denny FitzPatrick, Post Office Engineering Union, Westminster spoke of the need to build a party of worker revolutionaries.

We want to give alternative leadership to challenge the misleaders. We can only do that from the inside. Building a revolutionary party now is not an abstract task but a vital component of leftward moving forces.

It's the differences that exist in the working class which makes such a party so necessary. Women and black workers won't just lead their own sectors.

Because they have to challenge the most entrenched labour bureaucracy on questions such as racism and sexism, they will be in a strong position to take on that bureaucracy on all other questions.

The party we want to build should be able to confront the key issues facing the class — the war drive, Ireland, unemployment.

It will not grow in ones or twos but through the big political changes that are taking place. Do workers see our organisation as a useful instrument? They can be convinced if we're there with them.

We're being thrown up to the front because the opportunities are there.



Francoise from the French JCR (left,) Jacintha from Peoples Democracy and Charlie Van Gelderen who made a rousing appeal for funds



WEN A GENTLEMAN'



aving his head chopped off

the monarchy.

One of the slogans of the revolt was 'For King Richard and the True Commons', and the belief was that the young King was being manipulated, almost held captive by the lords who surrounded him.

No doubt he was something of a cypher for his advisers, but even someone of his age could recognise that when it came to the peasants versus the lords his interests lay with the latter.

Artisans

The revolt was not strictly confined to the peasants or the serfs, who were virtual slaves on the land. What evidence there is suggests that the most active were the richer peasants, labourers, artisans and even some small landowners.

The leaders of the revolt certainly came from outside the 'rustics'. Particularly prominent were what could be described as the 'clerical proletariat', such as John Ball, who objected to the corruption of the Church.

This group, one recent writer on the revolt comments, was the 'medieval equivalent of a radical intelligentsia, bringing to the movement an ideological support'.

Common

Ball's politics went beyond those outlined in the first set of demands presented to the King. He looked to the time when 'everything be in common' so that 'we may all be equal and that the lords be no greater masters than we be'.

It was Ball who during the course of the revolt quoted the famous lines:

*'When Adam delved and Eve span
Who was then a gentleman?'*

The egalitarian views of Ball were probably shared by other leaders of the revolt, but whether such political consciousness extended to the majority of those who took part in the uprising is difficult to say.

It is true that the events of the 'June days' were not without their blemishes. For example Londoners who took part used the opportunity to massacre Flemish settlers, whom they regarded as competitors in the labour market.

Manorial

Overall, however, the participants in the revolt confined their targets to the ruling class, its property and the symbols of its rule. There was widespread burning of manorial court rules which recorded the obligations of the peasants towards their lords.

These included not just rent but a host of feudal dues — death duties, restrictions on movement and marriage, and various services the lords could call on the peasants to perform.

When the rebels destroyed such records they were attacking in effect the entire system of land ownership on which feudal society was based. This explains why when the ruling class chroniclers wrote of the events of June 1381 they tended to reflect the panic which many of the lords felt at the time.

Treatment

The 'media' treatment of the revolt therefore exaggerated and misrepresented many of the events

For instance, one report claimed the peasants 'raised the whole country and forced the people to follow, breaking into homes, consuming all the food, killing men, spoiling and destroying houses'.

How familiar such reports are today when strike leaders are often accused of 'forcing' workers to come out on strike, or 'terrorists' are accused of all manner of horrors they never committed.

Even after the revolt was over, the analysis of 'experts' writing a few years later bears a stark resemblance to present-day media treatment of the 'lazy' British workers who 'expect to get something for nothing'.

Taxation

The Peasants' Revolt, according to one account, was caused 'because of the ease and riches that the common people were of'.

Despite the obvious slander there is an element of truth in this. Although the immediate causes of the revolt was taxation and an unpopular war, it would be wrong to regard the Peasants' Revolt as an act of desperation.

Generally speaking, the peasants and those just above them on the social scale had a relatively prosperous time in the couple of decades preceding the revolt. The attempts of the ruling class to destroy these gains were the underlying cause of the rising.

Feudal

The suppression which followed the 'June days' did not halt the process of material advancement by the 'rustics'. Despite the defeat of 1381 isolated outbreaks continued. More importantly the whole feudal system began to evolve away from the old strict two-class boundaries of lord and serf.

It is significant that the revolt took place in those areas where the feudal economy was most industrialised; where the first hints of capitalism had begun to appear.

Some of those who took part in the rising were identified with what can be termed early agrarian capitalism, which was already becoming a more economic system of working the land than old, strictly feudal ways.

The Peasants' Revolt helped to speed up this process. In the decades which followed, serfdom — although it was never formally abolished — was steadily eroded and gradually disappeared.

Tragedy

This may have happened regardless of June 1381.

The tragedy is not so much the failed challenge to the prevailing economic system.

It is located in the fact that while centuries later some of the economic aims of the revolt had been achieved, what had not been and is still not achieved is the more political egalitarian ideas which inspired the leaders of 1381: the abolition of classes the message of John Ball that "every man goeth not to mass in England nor shall he till everything be in common" — we are still waiting for everything to be in common.

demands. These 'Required that henceforth no man should be a serf nor make homage or any type of service to any lord, but should give four pence for an acre of land.'

'They asked also that no one should serve any man except at his own will and by means of regular covenant.'

Rebels

To buy time the King agreed to the demands and the rebels, led this time by Wat Tyler, celebrated by seizing the Archbishop of Canterbury and beheading him. Encouraged by his success, Tyler went back to

see the King the following day and present a more radical set of demands.

Clamour

He and others 'began to clamour for liberty, planning to become equals of their lords.' But this time the King and his advisers were ready for Tyler. He was grabbed and had his head cut off.

And that was the effective end of the rebellion. The marchers broke up in disarray. Some returned home, thinking the first series of demands would be met as agreed; others fled after the death of Tyler.

As is usual with unsuccessful revolutions, the ruling class tried to ensure that the revolt would never be repeated. Repression was the order of the day.

'The time came for the King to punish the delinquents. Lord Robert Tresilion was therefore sent by the King's command to investigate and punish those who had risen against his peace.'

'He was active everywhere and spared no one, so causing a great slaughter. He condemned some to beheading, some to hanging, some to drawing through the cities, and some to disembowelling, followed by

the burning of their entrails before them while the victims were still alive, and then their execution and the division of their corpses into quarters.'

Trust

Thus ended the great revolt of 1381. Could the outcome have been different?

The leaders of the insurrection made a number of mistakes. First was the trust that was placed in the young 14-year-old King. This was not just confined to believing that he would implement the demands presented to him, but in the whole way the rebels saw

New York rally hails socialist lawsuit

By Michael Baumann, New York City

'DEFEND the Bill of Rights Against Secret Police' was the theme of a rally here on 6 June that drew close to 700 participants. The rally was sponsored by the Political Rights Defence Fund, which is supporting the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance trial against government spying.

The first speaker was Morton Sobell, the co-defendant who served fifteen years in a federal prison following the witch-hunt trial that resulted in the execution of the Rosenbergs in 1953.

He stressed an important difference with the McCarthy period. Today 'capitalism is fighting for survival'; the government's campaign to brand everything it doesn't like as 'terrorism' is going over like a lead balloon. Sobell received a standing ovation.

Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, explained why the SWP had re-

jected a government offer to settle the suit for monetary damages only. Referring to one of the documents released by the government in court a few days earlier, which admits that the programme to disrupt the left was approved by then-president Eisenhower, Barnes said:

'We believe that no amount of money on earth could buy this. It is proof positive that what we have is not a runaway FBI but a conscious decision by the president of the United States to instruct the federal police to carry out these activities.'

The fight against the frame-up on bombing conspiracy charges of the NASSCO Three, San Diego trade unionists convicted the night before on the testimony of an FBI provocateur, was brought to the rally by Gwen Ferguson, president-elect of Ironworkers Local 627.

A speaker who drew a particularly warm response from the audience was Afeni Shakur, a member of the National Black United Front and one of the Panther 21 defendants jailed in 1971 on frame-up bomb conspiracy charges.

Black activist and entertainer Dick Gregory, who had just been released from jail in Washington following a protest at the White House asked for a moment of silence for the murdered children of Atlanta.

One of the things we've found out through the SWP suit, he said, is that 'this mess has been going on for more than forty years. LBJ, Reagan, Carter, they're all the same.' He continued: 'I want to thank the SWP for not compromising in this struggle. You've got a whole lot of people's at-



Morton Sobell and other speakers at the New York rally

ention.'

A total of more than \$8,700 was contributed in pledges and donations to help further the work of the Political Rights Defence Fund. This, combined with the collection at the door, brought the even-

ing's proceeds to more than \$10,000.

Chairperson Annette Rubenstein, summing up the response put it quite simply: This case is today what the Rosenberg-Sobell case was in the fifties.'

As party congress draws near

Polish party leaders try to hold the line

By Davy Jones

THE POLISH Communist Party congress opens in two weeks' time. It will confirm the process of 'socialist renewal' opened by last summer's massive strike wave and deepen the fears of the Soviet bureaucracy.

The majority of delegates to the party congress have now been elected. Eighty per cent of them are new to such con-

ferences and a third are members of Solidarity. These are the delegates who are likely to lead the campaign for sweeping

changes to the party's hierarchical structures.

But two thirds of the delegates are not elected from the workplaces but chosen from provincial party conferences. The party members in the larger provinces like Warsaw and Katowice have not been to the forefront of the radical movement. There is therefore likely to be a majority for the 'moderate reform' perspective of the party leaders like Kania and General Jaruzelski.

Key

Kania's programme does not challenge the fundamental bases of bureaucratic rule in Poland. He does not call for a separation of the functions of the party and the state — at present the party nominates members to all the key posts in the state. Nor will Kania sanction real democratisation of the party — recallability of officials, the organisation of tendencies or rank and file 'horizontal' structures.

Kania supports the 'renewal' movement in the short term while working in the long term to restore the authority of the party over all aspects of social and political life, particularly over Solidarity. A major part of this approach is to try to divide Solidarity by the daily attacks on its 'irresponsible elements'.

Case

In the last week attempts have been made to step up censorship of Solidarity's national and local publications. In the first such case the editor of the solidarity bulletin in Pila has been summoned by the prosecutor for



Polish workers have set up new 'popular universities'

infringement of the 1946 censorship law.

In Poznan a new hard-line forum has emerged claiming 400 members. It has appealed for radical editors and others allegedly spreading 'anti-communist' ideas to be purged. The group has also complained that the Katowice forum, which received the explicit backing of the Soviet bureaucrats on its brief appearance last month, was harshly treated and 'misunderstood'.

The Soviet leaders are desperate to shore up support within the ranks of the Polish Communist Party. They are terrified of

the destabilising effects of the turnover of cadre at every level of the party.

Cadre

Already some 50 per cent of local party cadre have been replaced and in the regional party congresses as many as 90 per cent of the old party leaders have been turfed out of office. In Suwalki province in north east Poland the entire party leadership was removed in elections. Equally serious is the loss of some 100,000 working class members from the party since last August.

The source of the crisis

inside the Communist Party and the worries of the Soviet leaders is the continuing existence and growing strength of the independent union movement, Solidarity.

One important new development is the growth of 'popular universities' linked to Solidarity. They offer courses and discussions round three themes: problems of workers' rights raised in the building of Solidarity; cultural and artistic debate outside the normally heavily-censored channels; and discussion on general political, historical and scientific questions outside of the Stalinist framework.

These universities receive wide-ranging support: more than a thousand attended a debate on the economic crisis in Torun and in Wroclaw there are regularly between 100-300 people, mainly workers, at their twice weekly sessions.

Solidarity itself is approaching its first national congress at the end of August. Regional conferences have been held in preparation where Solidarity's draft programme and statutes has been discussed. Next week Socialist Challenge will look at this draft programme as well as giving further coverage to the upcoming party congress.



Hugo Blanco beaten up by police

HUGO Blanco, veteran leader of the workers and peasants struggles in Peru and a member of the Fourth International, was badly beaten by civil guards on 11 June in the capital Lima.

The attack came during a demonstration by street vendors. Blanco went to the aid of the general secretary of their union and the police attacked him. He suffered contusions, a minor skull fracture and arm injuries. He was released from hospital on 17 June.

IN MEXICO the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT), Mexican section of the Fourth International, won its battle to be on the ballot in the 1982 elections. Hugo Blanco is seen above at a rally in Mexico with Rosario Ibarra de Piedra, the PRT presidential candidate.

And Quiet Rolls the Dawn

By Jenny Flintoft

SO you've seen *Tess*. On the face of it, these two films couldn't be more different: Polanski's (based, of course, on Hardy's novel) is set in nineteenth-century rural England, marxist Mrinal Sen's in modern Calcutta

But, like *Tess*, Chinu, Sen's 'heroine', discovers to her cost how easy it is for a woman in a patriarchal society to (in Chinu's words) 'become a slut in a few hours'.

And in an entirely different way from Hardy and Polanski, but equally sharply, Sen shows us, when Chinu disappears, how the double standard operates in such a society.

'The loss of a young man,' says the old woman from a neighbouring flat, who comments on the action rather like a Greek chorus, 'is a cause for anxiety; the loss of a girl, a cause for scandal!'

Her family's shame makes them attempt to conceal Chinu's disappearance at first. But their neighbours, the other families and the interfering landlord who share with them the squalid, decaying mansion built, 'in the days of Queen Victoria', all know each other's comings and go-

ings; the humiliating secret cannot be hidden for long.

As the film progresses, the contradictory nature of Chinu's oppression is laid bare: sole breadwinner for a family of seven, she is nonetheless expected to be subservient to her parents and even to her younger, unemployed brother, Topu; her mother plans to arrange a marriage for her, and her dutiful acquiescence to this is assumed.

Feels

Her feelings are not considered: she is an obedient daughter and the family's meal-ticket.

Only Minu, the second eldest sister, has any idea of how Chinu may feel, and even she can only idealise and idolise her; she cannot accept her as she is.

Calcutta, city of seven million people, most of whom live in squalor, where women's bodies can

be bought and sold for a few rupees, is a microcosm of capitalist society.

Through this film of a world where a woman is expected to be fair of skin and spotless of reputation run images of corruption and decay: the flaking, rotting facade of the mansion, to which the camera returns again and again, obsessively; the profits to be made from women's degradation; the decomposing corpses in the morgue where Topu seeks Chinu and vomits up his horror and revulsion.

No socialist or feminist should miss this film, currently showing in London at the Gate cinema in Notting Hill. And, incidentally, if, by any chance, you haven't seen *Tess*, see that as well — and compare the two.

And *Quiet Rolls the Dawn* is due to show at the Gate Cinema until 15 July. A 16mm print is planned for the future, and this will be available for hire by organisations. Enquiries should be addressed to Cinegate, c/o the Gate Cinema, 87 Notting Hill Gate, London W11.



Our personal lives are public too

By Yvonne Taylor

CONTRARY to popular thought, 'common law marriage' does not exist in England and Wales.

The distinction between marriage and cohabitation in English law has wide ranging implications for women which are explained in a new Pluto Press publication *The Cohabitation Handbook*.

The handbook is more than just a guide to the law.

It has been written by members of the Rights of Women collective — a group of feminist lawyers and legal workers who have been giving legal advice to women and campaigning for changes in the law to improve women's situation for several years.

Reject

More women today reject marriage for what appears to be the greater personal and financial independence offered by cohabitation. But, as the authors point out, people who opt out of marriage don't avoid the concern the law has always had in relationships between men and women. Private relationships are a public matter.

As the title says, this is primarily a practical handbook. If you have chosen to cohabit and you don't know how you would stand in relation to your home, your children, your shared property and your financial rights if your cohabitant dies or you separate; if you don't know about cohabitation contracts, maintenance agreements or how to draw up a will to safeguard your own and your children's future; and if you don't know what your rights would be if the man you live with uses violence

against you, then this handbook is a must.

Nor do the authors limit their guide simply to cover people living together as husband and wife. They have included information and advice for lesbian couples as well

as for groups of people who live together.

The authors explain how and why family law has developed in England and Wales (the law is different in Scotland and Ireland) and make proposals about the type of changes we should be arguing for.

Until the eighteenth century, no formal legal marriage ceremony was required for a couple to be

married. Church law determined who could marry and recognised a variety of informal arrangements.

The Marriage Act of 1753 changed all that and marriages without license and banns were null and void.

According to the authors, cohabitation law is a mixture which incorporates some marriage

rights as well as retaining aspects of punitive laws reflecting a time when love outside marriage was a disgrace.

There is now opportunity for change but the writers make a careful examination of the sorts of options women should be fighting for.

The aim should not be to place women cohabitants in the same

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position as married women. Nor do they agree with the idea developed in the USA of legal recognition for any private financial agreements that unmarried people may come to.

Establish

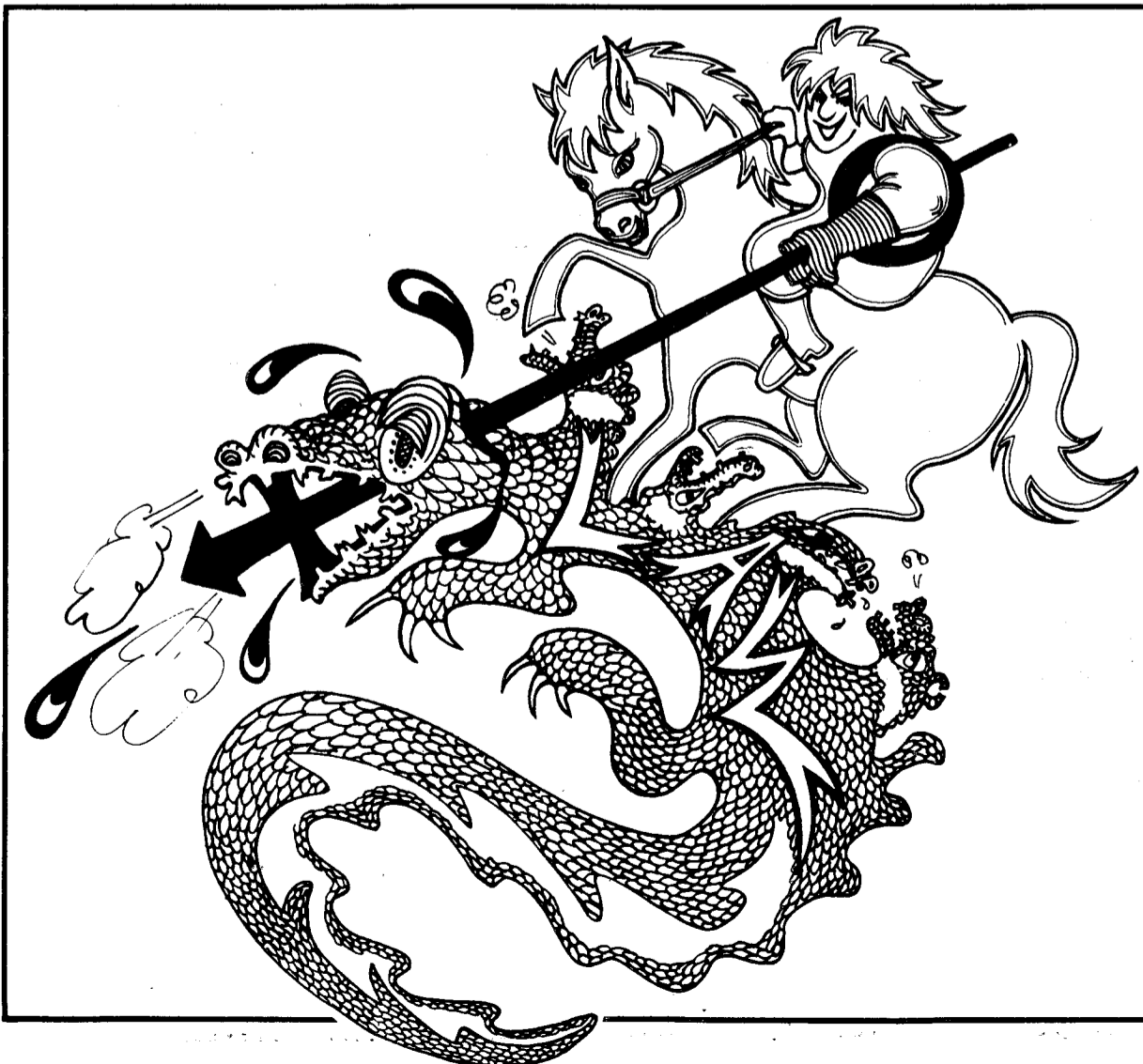
The authors assert that: 'One of the functions of marriage has been to distribute income to women and children through men.' We need to establish new principles based on the economic and legal independence of all women. On the other hand, the American model, based on individual bargains between people, fails to recognise that the people concerned have unequal bargaining power in our society.

Changes in family law alone are not adequate and the authors' proposals for improving the law 'require a programme which gives women individual access to waged work and benefits regardless of their domestic circumstances.'

The proposals that the authors have come up with merit more discussion and support in the women's and labour movements.

The most important point that this book makes is that we can't change the way we live, the relationships we have with other people, solely by our own choices. Even our most personal lives are a public issue.

The Cohabitation Handbook, a woman's guide to the law. Rights of Women, published by Pluto Press, £3.95.



International
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Why Bani Sadr is on the run

By Tom Marlowe

EIGHTEEN months ago Abol Hassan Bani Sadr was elected President of Iran with 85 per cent of the votes.

According to the constitution of Iran he thus became 'next to the leader, the highest authority in the country'.

Today, Bani Sadr is on the run, and is denounced as the 'son of a dog' by demonstrators in Iran.

The fall of the ex-president has been compared by his opponents to the overthrow of the hated Shah.

It is a false comparison, but what the ousting of Bani Sadr does show is that the series of complex events and manoeuvres which began with the fall of the Shah have still some way to go before the outcome of the Iranian revolution is clear.

Bani Sadr represented at least some of the contradictions which have been present in the Iranian situation in the last two years.

His father was prominent ayatollah and an anti-monarchist. As a teenager, Bani Sadr was active in mobilising support for the National Front government which was over-

thrown by a CIA-engineered coup in 1953.

After the coup, Bani Sadr joined the underground movement where he allied himself with the radical, socialistic Islam associated with Ayatollah Taleghani.

He took part in the 1963 uprising against the Pahlavi dynasty, was jailed after the failure of the revolt, and was later exiled to Paris.

There he studied at the Sorbonne and worked on a thesis which aimed at combining the ideas of traditional Islam and Marxist economics.

The thesis was never completed. Perhaps Bani Sadr found the combination impossible to concoct, but when he was elected president many saw these two strains in his philosophy competing for dominance.

As finance minister, immediately after the revolution, he nationalised

the banks and insurance companies, but as the one-time secretary of Khomeini he achieved his position of influence because of the support of the mullahs and the Islamic fundamentalists.

It was because Khomeini withdrew support for Bani Sadr that he fell from power. Even before he had been elected president he had incurred the wrath of some of the mullahs.

Hostages

He had spoken out in favour of a compromise on the US hostages issue, and had tended to advocate concessions to Iran's national minorities.

At the same time, because of the fragile nature of his support among the mullahs, he had tried to secure his position by attaching himself to the officer corps in the Iranian Army.

Bani Sadr attempted to balance the various tendencies thrown up by the Iranian revolution — a bit of socialism here, Islamic fundamentalism there, concessions to the

army elite in the middle and all rounded off with anti-US rhetoric.

It did not work and it never could have. The fundamental question posed during the outbreak of the revolution was which class would rule.

The alliance of conflicting elements Bani Sadr tried to construct was an attempt to suggest that this question was not relevant.

Because he personally was associated with the more socialistic aspects of the revolution he has retained support among the more left wing parties in Iran.

The only notable exception is the Communist Party who, following the line of Moscow is searching for 'stability' in Iran, whatever the class nature of that stability.

Thus, the Soviet Union recently welcomed the reactionary Ayatollah Khomeini to Moscow, the man associated with the stoning to death of 'prostitutes'.

Similarly, the Communist Tudeh Party in Iran have not sprung to the defence of Bani Sadr.

Despite this, the bulk of reports from Iran sug-



Bani Sadr — have the sands of time run out?

gest that if new presidential elections were held and Bani Sadr was permitted to stand he would win easily.

This indicates that the Iranian masses have not

yet been cowed into Islamic reaction, despite the repression against opponents of the mullahs.

Bani Sadr's socialism was always limited. Accordingly, its implementation

was dependent on the endorsement of the mullahs, rather than the self-organisation of the masses.

That is why he is now in hiding.

France's new government

Communist ministers are likely to speed party's decline

By Geoffrey Sheridan

WHEN it comes to job security, no one would put any money on George Marchais. As leader of the French Communist Party he has orchestrated the biggest election defeat in the party's history.

In last month's Assembly elections, all members of the party secretariat lost their seat with the exception of Marchais himself. The number of seats held by Communist deputies plummeted from 86 to 44.

If such a collapse had been part of a dramatic swing to the right, Marchais could no doubt shrug his shoulders and expect to keep his office chair warm until he collects his pension.

But the elections for the presidency and the legislature have rocketed the Socialist Party to power and brought the French working class something rarely achieved in elections: an absolute majority of the poll.

Seats

In the Assembly, where the Socialist Party increased its seats from 107 to 270, the combined left has 333 seats compared to the 154 held by the centre-right alliance.

With such a trail of wreckage behind him, Marchais's strenuous negotiations over the ministries to be held by Communists can be seen in

part as a determination to deliver some consolation to the party faithful. One quoted remark by Marchais indicates as much. 'The chaps wouldn't understand it if it (the negotiations) all breaks down over Poland.' That comment also points to the political vice which is shrinking the CP's influence among the working class.

Francois Mitterrand's tactics in gaining the presidency make Harold Wilson's supposed cunning look distinctly third rate.

Since 1974, when Mitterrand failed in his second attempt to instal himself in the Elysee Palace, he has shaped the ailing Socialist Party into the most successful social democratic party in West Europe.

Variety

Recognising that social democracy of the right-wing variety would not win mass support in France, Mitterrand concentrated on outflanking the CP through an alliance with its leadership.

The result was the Union of the Left, which



Jack Ralito, Minister of Health

laid the basis for the working class unity needed to defeat the Gaullists.

To move towards the Socialist Party supporters, Marchais directed his par-

ty along the road taken by the Italian and Spanish CPs, away from Moscow and towards the social democratic-like policies of Euro-Communism.

The vice tightened. With little to distinguish the CP's policies from those of the Socialist Party, the French working class considered the latter to be more socialist and democratic.

Then came the about turn. To try and recoup the Communists' losses, Marchais broke the Union of the Left, hailed the Red Army in Afghanistan, and told the Polish working

class to heed the Kremlin's wishes.

During the presidential election campaign, he seemed far more concerned to prevent a victory for Mitterrand than to defeat Giscard. But now it's love at second sight. The CP has four ministers, gained at the price of divorcing itself from Moscow.

Wedded

For the party bureaucracy, firmly wedded to the idea of installing themselves in the state apparatus at both local and national level, the bells are ringing. Each of the ministers can appoint 100 officials, providing a nice batch of jobs for the party loyalists.

For Mitterrand, the participation of the Communists in the Socialist government means staving off a confrontation with

the unions, in which the CP has considerably more organisational strength than his own party.

There can be no relaxation of the vice. The CP leadership will inevitably be compromised by anti-working class actions of the government.

Already civil servants have been told they can have a pay rise of only 3.3 per cent, over which the CGT — the Communist-controlled union — has threatened to strike. But to prove their worthiness as ministers, the Communists will go for 'respectability', and that can only mean endorsing anti-working class policies.

The crunch for the party leadership will come if Communist militants — very possibly in unison with the Socialist Party rank and file — take action to resist such measures.

Tory defence cuts - you must be joking!

TRIDENT, the new improved submarine missile, will cost Britain EIGHT billion pounds! That's the latest estimate to emerge from the defence debate last week in the House of Commons.

But with research and development costs going up all the time, the cost could reach a staggering £10bn. Despite the furore of the Tory backbenchers about defence cuts, the review of defence spending amounts to a real increase in expenditure, even if there are to be nine fewer ships for the navy.

Nott's proposals amount to a rationalisation of Britain's 'defence' effort. In order to stay in the nuclear club, and to make the nuclear 'deterrent' more deadly, British defence spending will be re-organised to concentrate on more sophisticated jets for the airforce, and above all to transfer money to the Trident system.

In effect, it amounts by default to a change in defence strategy. Once conventional navy and army forces are being run down, the threshold at which a nuclear response has to be made is lowered. In other words, if your only line of defence is the nuclear missile, then you have to use it if you want to go to war.

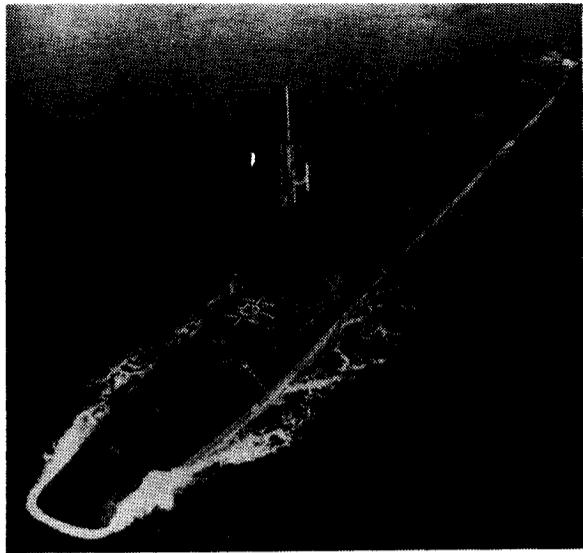
Even in their own terms, the Trident missile is an irrational weapon as far as the Tories and their military chiefs are concerned. The only situation in which it could be used is one in which Britain would be totally devastated by a Soviet counter-attack.

John Nott, in the most hilarious statement of the year, said last week, that he was 'the Minister of Peace, not the Minister of War'.

But the escalating cost of Trident is not a joke. The fight for jobs not bombs, and to commit the next Labour government to cancelling Trident, must be stepped up.

Northern Carnival Against the Missiles

Alexandra Park, Manchester
Sat 8 Aug, 1-10pm
Bands include: Hawkward, Damned, Harlem Spirit



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Turkey: state terror directed against working class

By Nick Robin

LAST week the martial law authorities in Ankara, Turkey announced that they would seek the death sentence for 52 of the hundreds of trade union leaders arrested by the military junta since it seized power nine months ago.

Included among these is Abdullah Basturk the Chairman of DISK — the radical trade union federation which organised over half a million workers before the coup. On the same day two left wing youths were executed by the junta, bringing the total of executions to eight since September 1980.

The DISK leaders are being charged under the notorious Articles 141 and 142 of Turkey's Penal Code (borrowed directly from Mussolini's) for 'advocating the domination of a social class over other social classes'!

Establishing the domination of one social class over the other social classes in Turkey is of course the General's main concern. Briefed by NATO and the IMF, the junta is determined to smash up the militant self-organisation of the Turkish workers by any means necessary — including beheading its leaders.

The 'fight against terrorism' is merely the expression they have been using to sell their repressive policies to the West; in fact what the Generals and their backers are fighting is a working class whose militancy in defending its living standards prior to the coup cost the economy dear.

In the first nine months

of 1980, 7.8 million working days were lost in strikes, six times the total of any previous year in Turkey's history. Responsible for almost half this total was the DISK metalworkers union, Maden Is, whose entire union choir was sentenced to five years imprisonment last week for the 'crime' of singing 'The Internationale' at their union conference before the coup.

A report published last week by the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva rated the prospects of a return to democracy in Turkey as 'very slim indeed'. Produced specially for the Council of Europe, the report says that 'many of the regime's legislative changes are irreversible — barring revolution'.

We agree. We should demand that the TUC and the Labour Party act immediately to save the lives of the DISK leaders. They should be campaigning for an end to all relations with the dictatorship and fighting for action to boycott the movement of goods to and from Turkey both here and throughout Europe.

The Turkey Solidarity Campaign can provide information and speakers on Turkey. It can be contacted at BM Box 5965, London WC1N 3XX.

Laurence Scott workers aim to spread struggle

SOME 650 workers at Laurence Scott Electromotors in Manchester are still occupying their factory against the threat of closure and redundancy. Laurence Scott worker PHIL PENNING told our reporter about the next stage in the struggle — a proposal to try to close down the Mining Supplies factory in Doncaster, of which Laurence Scott is a subsidiary.

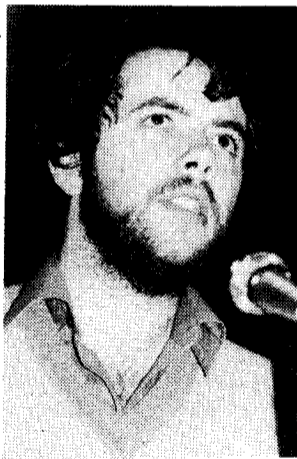
The workers are considering a plan to put a picket on the Doncaster plant to achieve this aim. 'We've tried to fight the fight just within the Laurence Scott group', said Phil, 'but we've come to realise that this isn't enough.'

'We have to take the fight to Mining Supplies' boss Arthur Snipe now. Snipe has been sending letters to our families, now it's time we started hitting him where it hurts'.

Mining Supplies makes coal cutting equipment for the NCB — Laurence Scott in Manchester make the motors. Closing Mining Supplies will effectively cut off Laurence Scott products to the Coal Board.

'We can shut Mining Supplies within three days. The British Oxygen stewards have told us that they won't cross the pickets, so that's it — Mining Supplies will shut.'

Phil thinks that Laurence Scott's boss Snipe is engaged in an asset-stripping operation. 'If he closes the Manchester plant, he'll move everything down to the



Phil Penning

Norwich plant, then he'll sell that off in five years time. When he bought the Laurence Scott group it was worth more than £18 million — he got it for £5.7m.

'If he can pull off this operation he'll pocket a couple of million pounds. While he's doing this, he hasn't even got the decency to come and talk to us'.

Another method of extending the struggle under consideration is a boycott of Mining Supplies mater-

ial by the mineworkers union — this is being discussed between the AUEW and the NUM.

If the picketing of Mining Supplies goes ahead, the Laurence Scott workers engaged in this picketing will be in breach of the new Tory Employment Act — it will be 'secondary picketing'.

Phil Penning says this doesn't matter. 'Everybody who goes down there will know exactly what they're doing. It's about time this Act was broken anyway. The TUC says they don't agree with this law — then it's about time they did something about it.'

Picket

'We can't win our dispute within Laurence Scott, we've got to hit Mining Supplies, the controlling power. If we have to break the Employment Act to fight for our jobs, then so be it. When we put the picket on the Doncaster factory we want the full support of the AUEW, the Confed and the miners.'

In order to mount this operation we need a lot of money to pay fares and so on. So we would appeal to trade unionists who have supported our occupation to send us money.

Don't let Management at Laurence Scott Steal your money. If you're a member of the AUEW, the Confed or the NUM, please contact us.

National strike to defend Mike Cooley

By Pete Rosner

COLLECT your belongings, take your money in lieu of notice and leave the site immediately — that's what Willesden Lucas Aerospace management told Mike Cooley on Tuesday 23 June.

On the following Friday, TASS Lucas workers responded with an official one-day strike at more than 10 Lucas Aerospace, Girling, and CAV plants throughout the country.

Delegations travelled from Burnley, Pontypool and Acton to join delegates from other local workplaces in a mass picket of the Willesden site.

Their representatives spoke alongside Nobel Prize winning scientist Maurice Wilkins from inside the prototype road-rail bus — one of the socially useful products in the Lucas Aerospace workers' alternative plan, which Mike has done so much to promote.

Speakers emphasised that the attack was directed against all Lucas workers. Terry Moran from Burnley explained: 'This is not an issue of personalities. It's an issue of

trade unionism.' International messages of solidarity were received from unions in Canada and the USA. CAV workers in Spain, and the 2.7 million strong IG Metall union in Germany also pledged action against Lucas and its products.

TASS members at the Willesden site and the national combine committee are now planning further action to save Mike's job. Blacking of Lucas products is already taking place at Rolls Royce in Coventry, Ainstree and Park Royal. TASS nationally has been backing Mike and messages from branches should be flooding into the executive to show massive grassroots support.



'REVOLT and survive' — new badge from Haringey supporters. 20p each plus 11½p p&p. Bulk rates: 15p each post free. Cheques/orders to: Haringey History Group, PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

'HANDS OFF THE POLISH WORKERS!'

Thursday 9 July
7.30 pm
COUNTY HALL

SPEAKERS

A Speaker from Poland Włodzimierz Brus, Eric Heffer MP (Labour Party NEC), Ken Livingstone (GLC Leader), Bernard Dix (NUPE, Labour Party NEC), Norman Jacobs (CPSA Executive), Tariq Ali, Frank Hansen

The Polish Communist Party Congress is due to open on 14 July amid efforts by the Soviet leadership to undermine the movement for reform in the Communist Party and disrupt the pre-Congress preparations. The 'Hands Off the Polish Workers Campaign' is organising the rally as part of its campaign in support of Solidarity and the movement for socialist democracy in Poland.

Hands off the Polish Workers Campaign, c/o Graham Bash, 158 Thorold Rd, Ilford. Tel: 01-514 0060.

Lothian takes the lead against cuts

By Janice McGhie

ON 30 June council employees in Lothian Region and other areas took part in a massive one-day strike and demonstration against the Tory government's plan to cut the NHS budget by £53m.

The official leadership of the strike was the trade unions are talking of selective strike action as the next step. After 15 weeks of national selective strike action by the Civil Service unions, the inability of this type of action to budge the government is obvious.

The only way forward is all-out, across-the-

board strike action by the public sector against Thatcher's policies.

There is a real danger of a 'split' in the movement if the leadership is not clear and the rank and file are not prepared to follow through.

The Lothian vote shows that the real barrier

to an all-out strike is not the lack of a leadership but a leadership who say they will be back if the membership and the rank and file are not prepared to follow through.

socialist challenge supporters in the NALGO Action Group will also be arguing that Labour Party affiliation is another crucial issue facing militants. We cannot favour bringing down the Tories yet remain unconcerned about the fight over policies currently at stake in the campaign for the Labour deputy leadership.

Support for all-out strike action and for Labour Party affiliation are the twin policies around which a new class struggle leadership in the unions will be created.

Socialist Challenge

Stop fascist violence

By Davy Jones

FASCIST thugs burned down a community printers in Islington early on Monday morning. Ten days previously the nearby Other Bookshop was attacked leaving Sheila

Malone with a fractured skull. Both buildings were on a 'blackspot' list published by the local National Front.

The attackers struck at 2.30am, starting fires in a

number of rooms, stealing money and equipment. Extensive damage was caused to the building which houses the Islington Play Association, the local People's Rights service as well as the Community Press.

In recent weeks streets had been plastered with stickers reading, 'Hitler was right, Communism is Jewish'.

When fascists attacked the Other Bookshop the previous weekend they left a taped message threatening that all other socialists were fair game for similar attacks. It seems clear that they are using the NF 'blackspot' list to select their targets. The list was published in issue 2 of 'Islington Press' published by the National Front at the end of last year.

Targets on the list include other left wing papers and bookshops, Islington Town Hall and the local paper, ethnic clubs and community centres, abortion and gay rights advisory centres and, even the *Guardian* newspaper.

The same issue of the NF rag carried an advert reading: Skins! Welcome in your thousands to the SAS (Special Action Squads) of Islington NF. c/o PO Box 40, Upper St, Islington. NF leader Martin Webster had admitted that *Islington Press* is their local newsletter.

Despite this obvious campaign of violence and hatred against local socialists and anti-fascists the police have yet to make any arrests for these attacks. They even had to ring up Socialist Challenge to ask for a copy of the NF 'hit list'!

Nor have the three local Labour MPs opened their mouths yet to protest against these outrages in their constituencies. Local labour movement activists have been more responsive.

The local Anti Nazi League and Trades Council have called for a demonstration against fascist violence on Sunday 12 July which has been backed by a number of the local Labour party wards and trade union bodies. Collections held for Sheila Malone in labour movement bodies have already raised more than £200.

Racist and fascist violence is on the increase around the country. There are daily attacks on black people by right wing thugs in Coventry. And last week another black youth was murdered in cold blood by racists.

The labour movement must act to protect the democratic rights of black people and all those under attack from fascist violence. A start can be made in London by supporting the 12 July march.

Rally against fascist violence

Sun 12 July, 10am

Islington Green to Chapel Market

Supported by Islington ANL and Trades Council

IRANIAN REVOLUTION UNDER SIEGE

By Phil Hearse

THE BOMB which killed Ayatollah Beheshti and 71 other leaders of the Islamic Republican Party in Teheran was almost certainly a provocation carried out by imperialist or other reactionary forces. No socialist can possibly support such terrorist methods.

But the bombing cannot obscure the fact that the gains of the Iranian revolution are under seige from the Islamic Republican Party and their armed thugs — the so-called 'revolutionary guards' and the 'hezbollah' — the street gangs organised by the IRP.

The mullahs and the Islamic fundamentalists are organising new attacks on the rights of the workers, peasants and oppressed nationalities because their regime is in crisis.

They have decided to repress every sign of opposition, including even the 'liberal' bourgeois opposition of Bani-Sadr.

The wave of repression, which started with the banning of all opposition newspapers has culminated with the summary executions of dozens of members of the main left wing opposition group, the Moujahadeen, who together with the Fedayeen played an important role in the overthrow of the Shah.

Zealots

The revolution is being kidnapped by the zealots of Islamic reaction.

The political crisis which has led to this wave of repression is the result of the complete failure of the clergy-led government to resolve the economic and social problems of the country.

Since the overthrow of the Shah the masses have got progressively poorer — unemployment gets worse, prices rise, and the crisis is worsened by the

catastrophic effects of the war with Iraq.

The result is massive disillusionment with the clergy among the masses.

Shah

The government has presented the struggle against Bani-Sadr as a 'third' revolution — the first two being the struggle against the Shah, and the second the mobilisation around the American hostages.

But until the bombing of the IRP headquarters the numbers mobilised by the IRP have been tiny compared with these previous events.

Both the IRP and the 'liberal' Bani-Sadr represent bourgeois political forces. The bourgeois character of the Khomeini regime is demonstrated by its failure to mobilise the masses against the Iraqi threat, its opposition to land reform and its attitude to the Kurds and other oppressed nationalities.

The IRP has systematically tried to co-opt and dismantle every form of self-organisation of the masses. While Bani-Sadr has defended certain democratic rights, including liberty of expression, he represents sections

of the bourgeoisie and petty bourgeoisie who want 'stabilisation', creating the conditions for relaunching the economy on a capitalist basis.

Unfortunately the major left organisations have either tied themselves politically to Khomeini (the pro-Moscow Tudeh Party, the majority of the Fedayeen) or to Bani-Sadr (the Fedayeen minority, the Moujahadeen and the Maoists). Socialists can give no political support to either side.

But today Iran is in the grip of white terror. The urgent need is for a united front in defence of democratic rights, to defeat the Islamic fundamentalist reaction.

Support

Despite their political allegiance to Khomeini, it is the Moujahadeen who are in the vanguard of that struggle, a struggle with which Socialist Challenge solidarises.

When Bani-Sadr makes demands in support of democratic rights, then revolutionaries should support these demands, while warning the workers that if they have to fight the Islamic fundamentalists today, they will have to confront Bani-Sadr tomorrow.

Only a policy based on the independent mobilisation of the workers and the poor — independent both of Khomeini and Bani-Sadr — can take the Iranian revolution forward.



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