Join the Labour Party Against all bans and proscriptions!

Health Workers for the Full Claim latest bulletin 10p (5p for strikers) from Anna Lunts, 78 High Street, Atherton, Lancashire (0942 877296)

Health Workers for the Full Claim badges - 20p each from the same address.

Paper of the Socialist Organiser Alliance No.99 SEPTEMBER 9 1982 (Claimants and strikers 10p) 25p

THE TUC this Thursday is likely to stop short of calling a 24 hour general strike in support of the health workers on September 22.

But the official support is strong enough for local med and The organising to make September 22 a gen-

THE STREET In Scotland, a conference of 1000 union officials and shop stewards, on September 3, endorsed a recommendation from the Scottish TUC general

recommendation from the Scottish TUC general council for a 24 hour general strike.

NUM president Arthur Scargill has called for a 24 hour general strike by mineworkers. The National Union of Seamen is likely to call for a 24 hour all-out strike, and so are the print unions.

The TGWU has directed its members to give 'maximum possible support', explaining that a 24 hour strike is difficult where it has members in continuous process industries. Liverpool docks stewards are callprocess industries. Liverpool docks stewards are call-

ing for a one-day strike.

The civil service unions are proposing 'at least one hour' of strikes. Even right-wing unions like the EETPU, the GMWU, and the ISTC are suggesting 'support' and 'selective action'. The UCW has called

for 'up to 4 hours' of action.

To pull this action together into a real general strike, going beyond the hesitations of the union lead-strike, going beyond the hesitations of the union lead-strike, going beyond the hesitations of the union lead-strike.

ers, what we need are local labour movement committees which will leaflet, agitate, and organise.

Islington, London, already has a Health Workers' Pay Campaign, which organised a local day of solidarity strikes on September 3. Coventry NHS shop stewards have called a local trade unionists' conference on

Local Trades Councils, Labour Parties, and trade

unions, should get organising now.
All out September 22!

PRESS GANG

Patrick Spilling is on holiday. Press Gang this week is by

Move this motion:

I was on the ferry coming back from the Continent on Friday September 3rd. Cut off from news of Britain in the torrid sunspots of Tuscany, I scoured the Italian press for articles about Britain containing an Italian word I could under-

The going was tough, as it seems that the phrase, 'Volare, nel blu dipinto di blu' is no longer a major part of current Italian usage. The people I was talking to hadn't even heard of Perry Como!

The only news I could find was about some 'invasione' - which I take to an 'invasion' 'volpones'

Before you go scamper-ing off for your neveropened-but-bought-withgood-intentions copy of 'Parliamo Italiano', I'll tell you what this refers to: an invasion of foxes.

'Who were these foxes?' I wondered on that Friday, hoping the papers would tell me. The effort I took to choose the most informative of the tabloids on sale

was exhausting.

The 'Daily Express' headline was THE STING. The 'Sun' headline was THE STING; the 'Daily Star' headline was THE STING too. It sounded more like an invasion of wasps at this point. So I chose the 'Mirror' - same story but it didn't have the words THE STING written

across the top.

According to the Mirror, police in Oxford had arrested 286 people for fiddling the dole. They had trapped these claimants by setting up a fake DHSS office. Foxy people these police!

Those arrested, said the article, had been claiming full money which includes payment for accommodation, while in fact many of were homeless.

By the next day, the numbers charged were published: 173. Obviously, over a hundred people were arrested and detained without any reason. One was a lad who hadn't actually made a claim; he'd just been looking for a friend.

The Oxford and District Solicitors' Association complained about suspension of protection for defendants.

The elaborate plan -likened in every paper to the fake betting shop in a Paul Newman-Robert Redford film that I suppose Oxford's Chief Inspector Plod had recently viewed on his video - netted such important criminal elements as vagrants who were 'living rough'.

Perhaps that's why the force mobilised for this important task was, according to the Oxford Mail, the Bicester-based Serious Crimes Squad. Since then it has been

reported — with rather less fanfare than either the original story, or the story about the invasion of foxes - that organisations concerned with the plight of the homeless have been trying for years to get the police to take action against the landlords who are run-

ning the claims racket. In fact, the Oxford Mail

reports that police asked them not to run a story on homelessness for fear the

would fall through. According to the press, however, the police have not arrested any landlords.

plan to arrest the claimants

No doubt when that happens, it'll be front page news again. No doubt all the tabloids will pick up the story about the plight of the homeless and unemployed and headline that too.

They'll couple that with detailed information about

the £500,000,000 worth of benefits that are

Maybe they'll include details fo what happened to the DHSS officials that refused benefit to blacks in Oldham, in 676 cases without adequate grounds.

I look forward to the day. Though I fear that if there's an invasion of foxes that day, the homeless will be kept out of the headlines again.

This union branch/Labour Party condemns the wholesale harassment of homeless and unemployed people which arose from the mass arrests of claimants at Oxford DHSS on Thursday September 2.

Such indiscriminate arrests, including well over 100 claimants known to be innocent, can only serve to intimidate the unemployed and further deter people in desperate need from claiming benefit to which they are entitled.

The fact that this - the biggest ever operation by Thames Valley Police - was aimed at the poor and the homeless is stark evidence of class bias at a time when big business tax evasion is known to flourish unscathed on a huge scale.

This branch therefore agrees to affiliate to the Oxford Defence Campaign, to donate to its funds, and to seek means of working locally in conjunction with other labour movement bodies in order to build and strengthen organisations to unite and represent the unemployed.

Another member of the

rightly been paid to the violent of Ron Brown (Labour MP for Leith) at the demonstration in Glasgow (September 1) outside the Scottish
TUC's meeting with
Thatcher. But what were
the STUC General Council members doing at the meeting?

Why were the leaders of the Scottish trade union movement meeting the CBI and the head of the Tory government in the plush surroundings of Glasgow's 'Holiday Inn'?

Do they believe that an appeal to 'Reason' will make the capitalists see the merits of a socialist system of production? Or is the STUC General Council just a shower of spineless bureaucrats who haven't got the stomach for head-on confrontation with the Tories?

What happened at the STUC-CBI-Thatcher get-together was entirely predictable. The STUC produced all sorts of figures showing the disastrous evels of unemployment in Scotland (as if it were news). Thatcher replied by saying that nothing could be done about such unemployment, that there was no money to pay the NHS workers, and that this was all very unfortunate but necessary if the British (capitalist) economy was to become competitive again. End of

meeting.
The STUC should have boycotted the meeting, just as they should be withdrawing from all the bi-partite bodies in which STUC bureaucrats collaborate with CBI and government representatives May Brown's comment after her husband's arrest indicated a much better

Stan Crooke reports on Thatcher's visit to Scotland — and the STUC's meeting with

line for the STUC to pursue: 'I would like to get my hands around her throat.

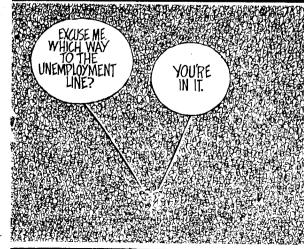
But to expect a fighting lead from the STUC is like expecting pigs to fly. Many of the union bureaucrats, including the STUC deputy general secretary John Henry, came to the meeting fresh from a 'fraternal' visit to the Soviet 'TUC'.

In the course of the delegation, Henry praised the 'major part' played by the Soviet 'trade unions (which are not trade unions at all, but effectively prisons for the workers trapped in them) in decision-making and economic planning and control in the Soviet Union.

delegation spoke of the atmosphere of confidence so obvious in Soviet factories' which reminded him of similar feelings in some Scottish factories (Clydebridge? Parkhead? Lin-wood? Carron? ...?) and leading Glasgow Labour Party member Agnes Mac-lean spoke of the 'great part' played by Soviet women in the factories and public life!

The STUC bureaucrats are therefore at least consistent. Just as they are ready to talk to the Kremlin bureaucrats whose Polish puppets have workers gunned down on the gunned down on the streets, so too they are equally prepared to talk to the head of a government which is massacring jobs in Scotland, and Britain as a

Collaboration with the Stalinist bureaucracy on the one hand, and cap-inhand pleading with the Tories on the other these two aspects constitute the essence of the STUC General Council's politics.



Stop the talks—'I thought it was a with Tories! joke, and laughed joke, and laughed'

16-year old Ian Bush told Socialist Organiser:

'I CAME back from Cornwall on the Monday. On the Wednesday I was told by the UB office to pick up my Giro from the school building.

I signed in and they told me to go to a different building 'out of that door'. was new to Oxford, so I didn't know where I was, but a couple of guys posing as workmen said to go on out of the door, where they are handing out Giros.

As soon as I walked out, two policemen jumped onto me and said 'You're under arrest'. They took me into the building and talked about charging me with fraud and deception. I thought it was a joke and laughed.

But then they took my photograph, made me empty my pockets, took my shoelaces, earring, pendant and my watch.

I was number 35. They stuck me in this room. Fifteen minutes later there were 60 people there, with no ventilation. I asked to go to the toilet - they said 'We'll see what we can do' and made me wait 2 hours.

I was in the room about 6 hours before I was taken to another room and then in to the CID. The CID bloke offered me a fag and told me to co-operate. threatened me with vio-lence. Then he realised I was a juvenile.

They asked my parents' name, address and phone number, and then rang them up, despite my objec-

After another 15 minutes or so they took me back downstairs and said they weren't pressing charges, they had nothing on me.

I said I could have told them that in the morning.

I eventually read my

rights listed on a notice on the wall while my stuff was being given back to me. I was denied a solicitor or a social worker. I came down to Oxford

because Derby careers centre told me there's no job possible until the end of September because I there's more jobs going down here.

But now I'm homeless, penniless and

scheme. It seemed like

knew I **'They** was innocent'

Tony Kelleher

'I'VE lived in Oxford for 2 vears, but broke up with my wife 2 months ago. I slept rough for 5-6 weeks until someone suggested I claim from DHSS.

They told me if I got a letter from a bed and breakfast place it would cover me for a claim. They referred me verbally to 137, Iffley Road.

So that's what I did. I got

a voucher, they gave me £2 and told me to come back next day. Two weeks later at the school I got arrested.

Our house was raided that morning by police saying they were from the 'Terrorist Squad': I told them this when I was arrested. They knew where I was staying: so why couldn't they let me go at once?

I'm thinking of suing the police for false arrest and invasion of privacy.

PAUL BRISTOW

'I'VE been made homeless by all this. I didn't collect my money on Thursday, though I signed on. And I couldn't get it after I was released by the police.

I went back to the DHSS they sent me to the dole office - and by then it was 5.30 and too late. This has left me on the

streets since Thursday. I have not received my voucher for £42 to pay my rent. I haven't eaten for days. They won't give me

appointment until Wednesday. But now I've got no fixed address - so can only claim £18.50. Where can I stay on that?'

For more details of the Defence Campaign, write to **OUWCU, 44b Princes** Street, Oxford.

Now 1 will stay

Les McLean

'AT 7 am those of us staying at 137 Iffley Road had a police officer in plain clothes come round knocking on all doors, checking who was there.

He claimed he was from the anti-Terror Squad, asking where we were between two dates in July.

Nothing else happened, so I came down to this school to sign on. I got my Giro and was told to go out of the door at the back. As I came out policemen grabbed me on either side, and marched me off.

en a number - and led over to a bloke with a Polaroid camrera, and photographed holding up my name and number. We were taken to a room, 20 foot square, with 60 people - 59 men and 1 woman.

For 2 hours we asked questions - and then I saw three notices on the wall about my rights: couldn't see them until you were going out.

My mother had heard about what was happening in Oxford and was worried until I phoned her up.
I've been in two minds

about whether to stay in Oxford: but I think I will because all this is obviously intended to drive us out

Oxford swoop a pattern for

HOW ARE we to explain the mammoth police exercise . 'Operation carried out Major' against claimants in Oxford last week?

The operation was the biggest ever carried out by Thames Valley Police. It involved the setting up of a dummy DHSS office in a disused school premises with civil service militants being threatened under the Official Secrets Act if they leaked information.

A top-secret police team [which according to the Oxford Mail used ex-directory telephones, avoiding the Oxford police switchboard, and a room with a separate entrance to the police worked for station] seven weeks to plot and plan the swoop. Hundreds of police were drafted in to carry out the arrests, cope with security, and follow up the paperwork.

A whole wing of Oxford prison was cleared in readiness for an influx.

The result was a highly publicised coup in which hundreds of innocent homeless and poverty-stricken people were subjected to harassment and vilification in the press and mass media.

Last week's round-up

of so many people indiscriminately branded 'scroungers' has enabled the press bosses to put a feather in the helmets of the Thames Valley police __ who have recently suffered a particularly bad press, following TV exposure of their brutal methods of dealing with the vict-

ims of rape. For the Tory press, brutal methods in handling the victims of Thatcher's crimes unemployment mass and homelessness - are a cause for praise rather than censure.

Meanwhile a crackdown on the growing body of homeless people Oxford's streets, and a lash of the whip hitting also many youth and older workers who have travelled to the town from less prosperous areas in the hope of finding work, can be expected to drive some out of the town and deter others from coming.

Oxford is also a town with a politically active labour movement, and a record of support for civil service and other unions for the activities of the Claimants' Union and the struggles of the unemployed.

If the police and DHSS chiefs can successfully mount an attack on this scale in Oxford, they will hope to be able to step up intimidation on similar lines elsewhere in the country.

For this reason it is particularly important that trade unionists and **Labour Party members** raise this issue in every town, and lend their voice to the petition of the Defence Campaign that has been set up with the backing of Oxford Trades Council.

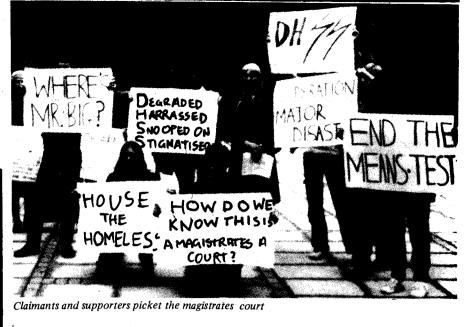
The demand must be taken up in the civil service and other unions for a full-scale labour movement inquiry into this vicious operation.

And the labour movement must heed the warning: urgent steps must be taken to organise the unemployed in ilise the support of the trade unions for their struggles.

Movement, Workers' 119 Maidstone Rd, Leicester.

every town, to defend them against the machinations of police, civil service chiefs and landlords, and seek to mob-

Contact: Unemployed



Trades Council speaks

The following press statement was issued by Oxford Trades Council and distributed to TUC delegates

'OXFORD and District Trades Union Council Thames condemns the Valley Police, the Department of Health and Social Security, Oxford Magistrates Courts, the Government for Thursday's arrests of unemployed and homeless people at a bogus 'Unemployment Benefit Office' in the former South Oxford Middle School. We protest at both the nature of operation and the manner in which it was conducted.

We think that Thursday's events are cause for national concern. Economic and social conditions are similar or worse elsewhere in the country. Similar large-scale actions involving hundreds opolice are surely planned.

Unemployment has never been higher in this We have an acute city. shortage of housing. Over 300 homeless have been sleeping rough in Oxford in recent months.

On Thursday September 2, Conservative Councillors told the City Estates Committee that a disused church could not be turned into a much needed night shelter for the homeless because it was 'near two schools and in a residential area', and to use a church in this way would

be 'going against the principles of the church'.

While North Oxford residents were 'defended' in this way against the homeless, Valley Police Thames were proceeding indiscriminately to arrest some 400 unemployed and mostly homeless claimants - not the 286 commonly men-The police admitted they had no evidence against many of those held.

The conduct of the police and the magistrates courts has been widely con-demned. Access to solici-tors and probation officers was restricted. Few of the 168 charged had a solicitor to represent them. Some defendants were only told of their right to a solicitor after they were remanded in custody. Only 14 were allowed bail. 154 are still in custody.

To claim benefits, a without person employment is required by the DHSS to give a fixed

"We have an acute shortage of housing. Over 300 homeless have been sleeping rough in Oxford in recent months".

What kind of address. law is it that requires a homeless person to commit technical 'fraud' in order to be 'entitled' to benefit? And what kind of law is it that opens the door to crook landlords?

The DHSS in Oxford has known for years and colluded with the exploitation of the homeless by landlords in this manner. Informed in writing two years ago, they were still referring homeless claimants to the 'suspect' addresses this week.

We know what happened to 'Operation Countryman' investigating Metropolitan Police corruption. cannot remember any so-called 'Operation' leading to prosecution for taxevasion by big business management. We are outraged that DHSS officials and Thames Valley Police in the latter's biggest ever single action, should direct 'Operation Major' against those daily pilloried as 'workshy' and 'scrounby Government, employers and media unemployed and homeless workers.

We are concerned that this attack on claimants will be repeated elsewhere. as part of the Government's plan to salvage profits on the backs of a working class cowed by unemployment and low pay. The intimi-dation and 'criminalisation' of claimants may also be designed to reward the government with an increase in the £500 million benefits unclaimed each year.



Out of the 168 people charged during 'Operation Major', only two are

Yet the 'Sun' cartoonist felt obliged to increase this proportion, lending a racist slant to his abuse of the homeless and unemployed.



A conveyor belt was the only way of getting them all dealt with in a reasonable time

QUESTIONS a labour movement inquiry must answer about the Oxford DHSS crackdown include:

• Who planned this massive operation — which it was known would arrest and harass hundreds of innocent people. Was it civil servants or the police?

 Who authorised the special arrangements made by civil servants to allow the police operation? Were trade unionists involved? Are similar swoops planned elsewhere?

• How often do civil servants in the DHSS operate in this way as an effective

arm of the police?

• Will the DHSS continue its practice of referring claimants to known 'sus-pect' addresses? What act ion is to be taken over the role of the landlords implic ated in this affair, and their

• Which council off or

agreed to make available the school premises which were closed after an occupation against the cuts was broken up by . How much did this

huge operation cost local

r = "



reged building, they helped bailiffs smash a nurser,

International News International News International News

"REALISM" AND THE

Why have Reagan and Begin fallen out? Harry Sloan reports

REALITY IS a messy business. In a world dominated by reactionary forces, the events which shape our lives are often unpleasant, producing 'facts of life' which we find unacceptable.

The struggle for revolutionary solutions to the problems we face begins with a refusal to accept the world as it is, and a determination to mobilise the forces needed to change it.

The opposite to a revolutionary policy is for this reason continually referred to by the capitalist class and by the various liberal and reformist politicians as a 'realistic' policy.

Since the mass slaughter in the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in May, politicians on all sides have looked for and sought a 'new realism' among the leaders of the Lebanese left, the Palestinians and the Arab states — by which they politely convey the fact that they wish to see further major retreats, concessions and betrayals by these leaders in the face of the armed might of Zionism, the pampered protege of US imperialism.

of US imperialism.

Unfortunately, they have not been disappointed. President Reagan's so-called 'peace plan' put forward last week is the most cynical move yet attempted to cash in on the military defeat inflicted on the PIO, the weakness exposed in the Syrian army, and the obvious refusal of the Arab bourgeois states to rally to the defence of the Palestinians.

The US plan appears daring in that it demands concessions from the Zionists. Reagan calls for:

• Elections among the





Reagan wants to fix up a deal which puts the Palestinians firmly in the grip of Arab ruling class leaders like Jordan's King Hussein...

Collapse of Lebanese Left

IN LEBANON itself, the new 'reality' ushered in by the Zionist invasion has produced a spectacular political collapse of the Lebanese left.

The country's new President, Bashir Gemayel, leader of the fascist Phalange, has been allowed to take office, while the government has announced a ban on carrying weapons, wearing military uniforms, manning roadblocks, firing

shots, staging unauthorised demonstrations and even writing on walls.

So far it is the left wing milities which have fallen into line with these requirements while Gemayel's gang mates in the right wing milities continue to roam freely with arms through Zionist-occupied East Beirut.

And the two leaders of the main Muslim left wing militias, Ibrahim Koleilat [Sunni] and Shi'ite Nabeih Berri, have not announced any boycott of Gemayel's government.

Were they to do so, he could find it hard to implement his constitutional requirement to appoint Muslims as Prime Minister and as Leader of the Chamber of Deputies.

But a more defiant position has come from the north of Lebanon, where an unlikely alliance of the

Sunni Muslim leader Rashid Karami and the former Maronite president Franjieh has declared its total boycott of Gemayel's regime, and proclaimed Tripoli and the north a 'liberated area'.

Gemayel can be expected to play for a while upon the weaknesses of the left wing forces in Beirut in order to consolidate his position. It is for this reason that he has kept his sponsors — the

Zionist state, who have armed and financed his fascist militia — politically at arm's length since achieving the presidency.

No doubt he explained this to them in a secret meeting with Israeli government spokesmen last week.

But with both Reagan and Gemayel posing as apostles of 'peace' and concord, the working masses of Lebanon have plenty to worry about.

He also presides over a coalition of extreme right wing and fundamentalist parties and groupings which are pressing the gov-

which are pressing the government to concede none of the territory of Biblical Israel.

announcement that seven new settlements would go ahead, bringing a further

2.000 Israeli Jews to the

simply harmless groups of Jewish farmers, a spokesman for the World Zionist

Organisation pointed out

that three of them will be

undisguised military outposts manned by 'soldierfarmers'. So far such milit-

ary/agricultural formations

have moved 25,000 Zionists

into 100 villages on the

West Bank and Gaza Strip

three quarters of them

since Begin took office in

Begin's hard line re-

sponse to Reagan flows

from his different vantage

point in assessing the 'realities' established by

the Lebanon invasion.

Reagan seeks to exploit

the mood of retreat to force

the pace for a negotiated

settlement which will neutralise the most radical

forces in the Arab camp

and provide a basis for

a long-term compromise

in the interests of imperial-

Begin sees the victory in

Lebanon as further proof

that by sheer brute force

and arrogant use of over-

whelming military super-

iority the Zionist regime

can force the Arab and Pal-

estinian leaders to accept

defeat and eventually

recognise Israel, while

making no concessions at

ism as a whole.

In case anyone believes these settlements — which, like other similar encampments, will be built upon land forcibly stolen from Palestinian Arabs — will be

West Bank.

Far from looking now to withdraw from land already conquered, the eyes of Begin and Sharon are already focused still further afield on the enforced removal of Palestinian forces from

Palestinian population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, to prepare for 'full autonomy' in these areas.

• A five year transition period in which the Palestinians would take over control, leading up to a 'final status' of 'self-government by the Palestinians in association with Jordan'.

• Israeli withdrawal from

these occupied territories in accordance with UN Resolution 242, adopted after the 1967 war.

• The status of Jerusalem to be opened up for 'negotiations'.

But in return for these concessions, Reagan's plan offers the Zionists the lure of:

:
• Peace treaties with the

Arab states and recognition of Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state,

 An explicit 'ironclad' guarantee of Israel's security.

As a gesture to create confidence, Reagan suggested an immediate freeze on Zionist settlements in the West Bank.

The immediate response

from the Begin government was complete rejection of the scheme, amid consternation that Reagan had apparently moved to outflank the Zionists with

his proposals.

Begin protested that
Israel had not been consulted beforehand, claimed a
catalogue of aggressive
acts by Jordan against

Israel, and rejected any concessions on the West Bank or Gaza.

"Judea and Samaria", he proclaimed, "will never again be the West Bank of the Kingdom of Jordan created by British colonialism".

Proof of the determination of the Zionist government was offered in the

Polish street barricades

AS more reports come out of Poland, the huge scale of the protests last Tuesday 31, on the second anniversary of founding of Solidarnosc, becomes clear.

Polish Solidarity Campaign News

30p plus postage from PSC, 69 Edinburgh Rd, London E13.

Join PSC: £8 for a year (unwaged £2) from the above address.

In Lubin, a coppermining town in the southwest of the country, the protests continued right through to Friday.

According to Polish television, barricades were put up in the streets, and fires were started at the town hall, the concert hall, and the municipal library.

The police imposed a curfew, blockaded the town, and cut all telephone links

A French news agency correspondent reported from Gdansk: 'At the exit from the Lenin shipyards, early Tuesday afternoon, about 5,000 out of the 10,000 workers on the day shift gathered around the monument for the workers killed in the 1970 riots.

'For about an hour they shouted slogans which left no doubt about their feelings: 'Free Lech (Walesa), jail Wojciech (Jaruzelski)', 'End the state of emergency', 'Free the internees', 'Freedom for Poland, bread for the people', 'The pope should come to Poland', 'Solidarnosc will win' ...'

There was also another significant slogan: 'Break with the USSR'.

Then the Zomo riot police descended, with armoured cars, tear gas, and smoke bombs. The street fighting continued until the last barricade was beaten down by armoured cars shortly before midnight

before midnight.
According to the Polish government itself, 34 out of Poland's 49 provinces were

SUDARIOS

affected by demonstrations of this sort.

For the workers, the motivation of the protests was clear. They were fighting for the freedom that they began to win with Solidarnosc, and for their economic interests. Under the ruinous rule of the bureaucracy, real incomes in Poland have dropped 25% since the beginning of this year.

Despite the workers' slogans about the Pope, the Church opposed the protests. Archbishop Glemp's comment was that there is 'no point throwing stones'

But the bureaucracy is trying to find a scapegoat. Four leaders of the KOR (Workers' Defence Committee), including Adam Michnik and Jacek Kuron,

have been arrested and charged with plotting to overthrow the regime by force. How they did this plotting when they were already interned, is not explained.

The Polish government has also declared that it will not negotiate with the leaders of Solidarnosc. Gone, at least for the moment, is the vague talk of reconciliation. The August 31 protests have evidently convinced the bureaucrats that the Polish workers can no more be reconciled than a tiger can be tamed, and direct repression is the only answer.

Further arrests and victimisations must be on the way. Our solidarity will be needed.



Tear gas, builets, bludgeons - Poland's 'socialist' cops

International News International News International News

REAGAN PEACE PLAN



... but Begin would prefer to see all the Palestinians put on boats

Tripoli in the north of Lebanon, and the 30,000 Syrian Lebanon's troops from Bekaa valley.

The Reagan administration is equally keen to see such retreats, but looks much more to a longer-term arrangement by which the Arab regimes can be tied in to a stable relationship with imperialism and with the Zionist state.

Nor are the Americans isolated from a body of support inside Begin's Likud coalition has only a wafer-thin majority in the Knesset, while the leader of the Israeli 'Labour' Party, Shimon Peres, has spoken out strongly for the US plan and it has won backing in the press.

Peres has declared himself willing to fight an election on the issue, and an opinion poll suggests that 50% of Israelis might be willing to give up

all or part of the West Bank in exchange for a treaty with Jordan.

Peres has recognised that the US plan is most likely to produce what is needed to contain the struggles of the Palestinians and the Arab working masses. To preserve a longterm peace, the Zionists and imperialists need not to annihilate the credibility of the bourgeois Arab and moderate PLO leaders by seeking to enforce a humiliating deal which will never be accepted by the masses: such an approach would leave Israel single-handed to police the Middle East.

They need instead to enlist the support of those leaders in persuading the Arab masses to accept the 'reality' of the Zionist state and its military superiority, and that an 'auto-nomous' Palestinian ministatelet is the best deal that, can be obtained.

In this dispute between gangland hoodlums, the Reagan gang wishes not to liquidate the Arab opposition, but after roughing them up a bit, to 'make them an offer they can't refuse'.

With Egypt already committed to a treaty with Israel and the Saudi regime having floated its own plan (the Fahd plan) which recognises Israel, it seems that Jordan's King Hussein would like to swallow Reagan's bait. It remains to be seen whether Yassir Arafat's Fatch wing of the PLO will also be lured by the prospect of an escape from their post-Beirut impotence to accept the 'autonomy' concept. Syrian president Assad is apparently opposed to any such compromise which leaves Syrian deprived of the Golan Heights and vulnerable to further attack.

'hardline' Two more elements of the PLO -Nayef Hawatmeh's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, have opposed the Reagan scheme. But the 'moderate' spokesman left behind by the PLO in Beirut has said that if the plan really means a Zionist withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza. then 'the rest is secondary'

On the fence

Arafat meanwhile has remained balanced carefully on the fence, refusing to accept or reject the plan - leaving the most vigorous rejection to come from Begin.
The Lebanese war show-

ed beyond doubt the refusal of the Arab leaders to lend

Debts pile up

tangible support to the Palestinians — or to the Syrian forces under attack from the Zionists. If Reagan can entice these bourgeois leaders into a sufficiently swift and favourable response he may yet persuade — or possibly seek to bludgeon Begin into accepting — that his strategy is workable. Or he may win sufficient credibility among the Israeli electorate to enable Peres to make

Much hangs upon the current Arab summit meeting in the Moroccan capital, Fez - which is one reason why Reagan broke his holiday to rush out his plan.

a real challenge on the

The stakes for the USA are huge: not only can they hope to reduce the huge cost of providing military and economic support to

the Zionist regime.

And, as an added bonus acceptance of the USA 'peace' plan would produce a framework in the Middle East which would effectively exclude the Soviet Union from any significant role.

Marginalise

As one US observer has pointed out, if a Palestinian state of some form has to be conceded, it is best that it be done on the initiative of the imperialists in such a way as to marginalise the militants.

Which goes to prove that in the world of political 'reality' there is more than one way of skinning a cat.

The bitter reality facing the Palestinians is that their rights as a nation, their very right to return to their homeland, are incompatible with the exist-ence of the oppressive Zionist state.

Yet US and world imperialism are committed to preserve that state: and the various Arab regimes — no matter how 'radical' their rhetoric - are too afraid of the potential strength of their own workers and peasants to contemplate any serious challenge to imperialism, or even the breaking of their existing links.

Embarrassment

For these leaders, the Palestinians are more or less an embarrassment which stands in the way of longer-term deals with the imperialists and an accommodation with the Zionists.

To fight Reagan's latest 'peace' strategy or Begin's butchery, the Palestinians and the Arab working classes must therefore fight for the overthrow of their existing conservative or nationalist regimes and leaderships, mobilising their mass strength to fight for democratic and economic demands as the basis for a revolutionary solution — the Socialist United States of the Middle

Yorks speakers tour

The Labour Committee on Palestine has received a big boost with the affiliation to it of the Bradford Labour Movement Campaign for Palestinian Solidarity and the Keighley Committee on Palestine and Lebanon.

With this support, the newly formed Yorkshire Region of the LCP has launched a speakers' tour of the area. Meetings will take place in Halifax, Leeds, Keighley. and Bradford

The LCP Yorkshire Region is also offering speakers and a bookstall to all labour movement meetings. In you are interested, contact Cllr Barry Turner at 7 Westfield Cres, Undercliffe, Bradford BD2 4RH.

For details of or affiliations to the LCP nationally, contact 28 Carlton Mansions, Holmleigh Rd, London N16.

Mexican takeover

ional Revolutionary Party gave proof of some remaining radical nationalist vigour last Wednesday when it nationalised all private banks, imposed total exchange con-trols, and froze all US dollar accounts in Mexico.

The measures were in response to Mexico's foreign debt crisis. Announcing them, President Lopez Portillo declared: "The banks have looted us. Mexico is not finished. They will not loot

us again".
The banks have indeed made huge profits during Mexico's recent feverish economic expansion. And recent flows of capital out of the country — which will now be blocked by the exchange controls — have helped create the state's economic crisis.

But the parallels with the radical nationalist policy of the late 1930s – when the oil industry was nationalised

MEXICO'S ruling 'Institut- - are limited. Full compensation will be paid to the bankers, all deposits will be safe, and foreign banks are not touched.

Similar to the 1930s is an effort by the nationalist bosses to get the working class to drop its own independent demands for the sake of the 'common' nationalist

struggle.
The Financial Times (September 4) reports. "The Mexican government seems to have secured trade union agreement to a freeze of wages, or only minimal increases, in return for the nationalisation and the exchange controls. This may help keep the inflation rate to less than 90% this year.
[But what will it do for

workers' living standards?]
"Sr Fidel Velanquez, the veteran leader of the Confederation of Mexican Workers the main labour organisation, with about three million members - has started

must not expect a wage increase like that of 30% cial' export income, anyway, granted after a 40% devaluation of the peso in February'

This support from the unions is important for the government in order to meet IMF austerity conditions.

opposing the talks.

The air force commanders, in a public statement last weekend, urged the govern-ment to break off talks rather than yield to pressure from Britain to lift economic sanctions and to declare a formal end of hostilities over the Falklands/Malvinas. This

caport income = 0) its official' export income, anyway, leaving out the illegal cocaine trade — is eaten up in servicing its foreign debts.

Over 60% of Brazil's export income goes the same way, over 50% of Argent-

Argentina

AS THE Bignone government continues negotiations international bankers over Argentina's huge for-eign debt, the Air Force high command has intervened,

highlights the continuing crisis in the military regime.

Meanwhile the Argentine

Communist Party has succeeded in getting 35,000 to its latest public rally. The policy announced at the rally was one of critical support for the Bignone government. The Argentine CP has had a semi-supporting attitude to the military regime for some years because of the regime's good trade relations with the ina's, and about 40% of sites for multinational invest-Mexico's And the total debt outstanding from four countries - Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Argentina – exceeds the whole national income of Brazil.

Brazil, Argentina and Mexico were all, at one time or another in the 1970s, to one extent or another, prime

tion. They built up debts on the prospect of continued rapid growth. Now that the world econ-

omy has stymied growth, the debts are running far ahead of these economies.

stay Cubans

The five African 'frontline' states involved in South Africa's war against SWAPO in Namibia have unanimously rejected a suggestion than Cuban troops should be withdrawn from Angola as part of any settlement. South Africa has repeat

edly demanded a Cuban withdrawal __ while itself launching raids and invasion forces deep into Angolan territory and sponsoring the reactionary Angolan guerrilla forces of UNITA.

Plainly the frontline states - Angola, Zambia, Mozambique, and Botswana - see the Cuban presence as some form of protection of their borders against more such aggression.



Women have come to the fore in the trade union struggle – and the fight inside the Labour Party



SWP plays down gains of Labour women workers or the rail workers

For the Socialist Workers' Party, the more militant stand in recent years of the **Labour Party** women's sections is 'feminism on the moon'. But who's really out of touch with the real world? Gerry Byrne reports.

Some people have argued that the SWP in its latest self-isolationist binge has completely lost touch with reality and no longer recognises it even when it hits them in the face. Judging from Lindsey German's article 'Feminism on the Moon' in the latest Socialist Review, this is not precisely accurate.

The SWP can still recognise reality when it hits them in the face: Lindsey notes quite accurately the move by large numbers of Party and their goal of turning the women's organisation 'to a fighting mechanism for women's liberation' Where Lindsey and the SWP fall down is in explaining this reality and especially on trying to square it with their view of the great downturn, the need to rebuild the labour movement from the bottom up and the uselessness of trying to relate to the Labour Party for this task.

It is for this reason that they have to warp reality and downplay any positive gains that have been made.

Lindsey argues Because the distinctions between reform and revolution were so blurred, there was never a strong current which argued against joining the Labour Party, and for building and in pendent revolutionary organisa-

What about the role of her own organisation in this process? The SWP may not have been 'strong' among socialist feminists reasons for this Lindsey does not explain) but it and most of the other self-styled 'revolutionaries' did argue very strongly against joining the Labour Party, artificially counterposing their own 'independent revolutionary organisation' to the Labour movement.

Sexism

It was precisely this sectarianism, towards both the Labour Party and the women's movement, combined with the sexism of much of the 'revolutionary left, which caused so many feminists to look to the Labour Party as a more habitable alternative.

Far from joining with illusions that the next Labour government would usher in the socialist/feminist millenium, they joined the Party to be part of the revolt against pro-capitalist policies of the last Labour government and to ensure



Labour women's conference oted to condemn Thatcher's Falklands war

that such an experience would not be repeated. And that is the significance of the 'conference rows' that Lindsey sneers at.

Arguments about structures to ensure accountability may not be very gripping for someone standing outside of the struggle, but they are a necessary part of the fight of the rank and file to impose some sort of on democracy sell-out merchants who head the movement: they are an indispensible part of the battle to ensure that conference policies do not take place on the 'moon' of good intentions, but are implemented.

> Paid ads 5p per word, £4 per column inch. Send to Socialist Organiser (What's On), 28 Middle Lane. London N8.

MIDEANDS People's March

for Jobs. September 15 to

18: a five-pronged march

from Stoke, Derby, Rugby,

Hereford, and Shervious

converging on Barmingham Coordinator: Sid Platt,

NALGO, 7th Floor, Tower

Block, Centre City. 7 Hill St. Birmingham B5 4JD (021 643 6084).

Far from being 'pretty harmless stuff' represent a real threat to the careerists, the bourg-eois politicians who wish to have their hands free to go back on every promise, to flout every decision, and to offload their crisis onto the working class, and disproportionately onto working class women

What is Lindsey's alternative for those most under attack? little, it seems. beyond 'men and women unite and fight

She caricat res those who attempt ic formulate an alternative ... the traditional male-defined priorities of the trade union movement, suggesting how she would answer this structural sexual inequality, in wages, jobs, conditions and job security. She picks up on phrase incomes policy' without mentioning that those who argue for it (at least those I've come across) explicitly argue against the idea that wage freezes constitute such a 'feminist incomes

policy' ridiculous to suggest that the key to the current pay battle in the hospitals is to demand that miners, the steel-

should forgo a pay increase this year so the hospital workers' claim could be met in full.'

Of course it's ridiculous, that's why nobody does argue it. It is certainly not the policy of the Labour Women's Conference. which is what her article focuses on.

But then to look at what that conference actually decided (for a national minimum wage and nationalisations, against NATO and the Falklands war etc.) would rather undermine her case, so it's best to distort it and maintain one's sectarian complac-

And it does come rather ill from those who have just decided to wind up their rank and file movements. and turn their back on organising women trade unionists round basic democratic demands, to lecture those who are engaged in a real struggle for democracy, on the need for organising the rank and file. for real accountability. regular elections etc.

Lost

All very fine words, Lindsey, we agree absolutely, but why, in practice, have you and the SWP decided to do the exact opposite?

The answer is that the SWP have already decided that that battle is lost.

'The Left has been routed by the right. Even in the increasingly unlikely event of Labour winning the next election, the composition of the parliamentary party will be almost the same as the last one

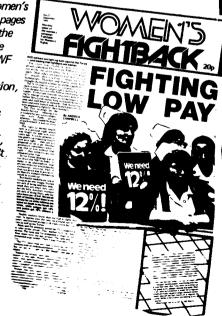
Towel

Indeed? Even if on a sober assessment that were the most likely outcome (and that is certainly disputable) it is hardly the job of self-styled revolutionaries to throw in the towel while they have an ounce of breath left. Accepting defeat before the battle Accepting indicates the worst kind of demoralisation.

The right-wing may well succeed in their witch-hunt drive, but it will be at terrible cost to themselves (and their careers). The real revolutionaries will see to that.

And the way to ensure that militants (especially women, who have shown an incredible determination not to be fobbed off) emerge from the bloodbath ready to fight again, is to organise them, explain what is going on and how much of a threat our democratic demands pose to the right's way of organising (and betraying), not to throw cold water on the whole effort and say it's doomed before we start.

New issue of Women's Fightback — 16 pages and articles on the NHS dispute, the jobs campaign, WF summer space, sexism in education, Judith Williams, xour women's conference, etc. 20p from WF, 41 Ellington St. London N7.



COMING UP Women s Fightback AGM. October 23 County Hall London. Open to all women, but only members and delegates from affiliated groups can vote. For conference details send s.a.e. to 41 Ellington St, N7; to join WF too send £3 (or £5 to include regular mailings and the paper).

SHEFFIELD Socialist Orga-September 8: "he Alternat-

ive Economic Strategy. September 22. The Labour Party witch-hapt.
At the Brown Cow, The Wicker, starting 7.30.

LAMBETH/ SCUTHWARK Socialist Organiser group forums: 8.30pm at 41 Camb erwell Grove, London SE5. September 16: The fight against black oppression. September 30. Fighting women's oppression.

NOTTINGHAM Socialist Organiser meets every Friday 7.30pm at the International Community Centre, 61B Mansfield Rd.

TURKEY Solidarity Campaign activities to mark the second anniversary of the

coup in Turkey.
Friday September 10:
11.30 to 1.30pm. picket in Fleet Street to protest at KTOOL : THE events in Turney since the

Sunday September 12: 2pm. Join the picket of the Turkish Embassy organised by CDDRT

ISLINGTON Socialist Organiser. next meeting Sunday September 12, 3pm at the Thornhill Neighbourhood Project, Caledonian Road. Speaker from Labour Committee on Palestine, on the Middle East. Tea, coffee, and sandwiches provided for baby-sitting phone Nik, 607

LABOUR Committee on Palestine (Yorkshire Region). Speaking tour on 'T

Palestinians and the lessons of Lebanon'. Speakers. Omar al-Ahmed, Barry Turner, Garth Frankland.

Roland Rance.
HALIFAX. Friday October 8, 7.30 at AUEW Club,

opposite Bus Station.
LEEDS. Monday October 11, 7.30 at Trades Council
Club, Saville Mount. KEIGHLEY: Wednesday October 13, 7.30 at Keighley Library Theatre.

BRADFORD: Friday October 15, 7.30 at Central Library, Meeting Room 2.

PACE TO GE en pampaier on the point ics and practice of the Spartacist League, 🧺 Jonn Lister, 70 pages, £1 pmas 26p postage, from WSL. PO Box 135, London N1.

MANCHESTER Socialist Organiser meetings.

Sunday September 5. The fight for gay liberation. Speaker from Labour Campaign for Gay Rights.

Sunday September 12: Solidarnosc two years on. Speaker from Polish Solidarity Campaign. Sunday September 19.

Ireland, a nation divided. Speaker from Labour Committee on Ireland.

All 8pm at the Lass O'Gowrie, Charles St.

POLISH SOLIDARITY Contact addresses Solidarnosc Trade Union Working Group, Acorn House, 314/320 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8DP. Tel: 01-837 9464. Glasgow Polish Solidarity Campaign. Ian McCalman, 18 Mossgiel Rd. Glasgow G43. 041-632 1839. Edinburgh PSC. C/o Edin-burgh Trades Council, 12 Picardy Place. # #57E >

110 Leman St., London El.

Speakers: Tony Benn, Michael Meacher, Les Huckfield, Chris Mullin, Ian Brown (EETPU Shell Carrington), Johnny Aitkin (EETPU London Press br.)

TRIBUNE Rally. Unite to

Tuesday September 14, 7.30 at the Free Trade Hall,

Advertisement Workers' Socialist Review no.2 FALKLANDS - WHOSE

IT .VOW! 40 pages: single : x es 70p plus 20p P&p, 5 cacles £3.50 post free. Groers: WSL, PO Box 135 London N1 ODD.

M 1.27



Councillors say'No

THE FOUNDING conference of the Association of Socialist Councillors in London is now planned for October 9,

The aim is to organise Labour councillors who are

IN last May's borough elections, over 500 of the 1800 Labour candidates signed the d by statement London Labour Briefing. After the

elections, in June, 200 London Labour Councillors attended a conference at County Hall to discuss setting up the Association of Socialist Councillors in

Deputy Leadership

sultation exercise' last year

a majority of regions de-clared for Healey, but on members represented Benn

But while the Times

appears to be jumping the gun on the outcome of the EC and delegation de-

cisions, the pressures to

accommodate to the witch-hunt in the TGWU are very real. On the Labour Party NEC, Kitson did vote

for the register and its

immediate implementation.
And the TGWU bureau-

cracy remains wedded to

the Foot leadership. Evans himself said: 'There is no

equivocation: we support Mr. Michael Foot completely as leader of the

Labour Party' - the same Foot who, also at the week-

end, reiterated his commit-

ment to the register and consequent disciplinary

action as central parts of

than town-hall managers for the Tories. A draft statement for the October conference is now being circulated Excerpts.

Since then Heseltine has announced his intentions to cut Council's budgets yet further for 1983/4, by reducing rate support grant from 56% to 53%, which will have a crippling effect on the services and programmes of many boroughs? We reassert what we said in the Briefing statement; 'Defend the jobs, services and living standards of the people of London. We will refuse

ready to be class fighters against the Tories, rather

We recognise that this means a change in the traditional attitude Labour Councillors to the communities they represent. We want to see an end to 'behind closed doors' dealing and diplo-macy with the Government. Labour Councils Labour Councillors should become leading organisers of the resistance and

to cut Council provisions no matter what the pressures and threats.'

counterattack. Where threats of legal action - including sur-charges - are made, we announce in advance that we will not tolerate these as reasons for abandoning manifesto · commitments; instead we will as necessary defy not only the

rulings of the District Auditor but also the whole undemocratic system of rule by unelected judges.

The Association opposes the witch hunt against socialists in the Labour Party. We assert our absolute right to organise together with those who think like us in the Party, and we deny the right of the NEC to curtail in any way discussion in the Party. Accordingly we support the Unregistered Alliance and declare that we will not register ourselves should any register be set up.

We will take active steps to make links with Socialist Councillors outside Lon-don, and with active groups of socialists everywhere. We will build links with all levels of the trade union movement, on the basis of this declaration and the Briefing statement, in order to unite the Labour Local Authorities and the Trade Union Movement into a mass campaign to bring down the Tory Government and the system it represents.

Contact: Keith Veness, 155c Green Lanes, London N16. Delegate's fee for October conference

Which way will TGWU votes be cast? by John Bloxam During the adership 'con-Regions.

ON Monday the Times reported that the TGWU's support for the register is virtually sewn up. quarterly EC meeting is not until September 20, but 'Most of the TGWU's lay regional councils have sent in motions to the union's national executive calling for support for a new register of political groups permitted the party ... On the basis of opinion from the regions it seems certain that the traditional left will go along with the move to rid the party of its Militant incubus.

'Support from the transport workers practically guarantees that the reforms

will be implemented.'
The TGWU's official response to this is 'no comment', but its accuracy has been questioned. TGWU member told SO,



Over 30 supporters from 21 groups attended last Saturday's Socialist Organiser Alliance Delegate meeting. Lengthy discussions were held on the witch-hunt and Party Conference. Minutes will be circulated shortly to groups and supporters, but immediate practical

Next Delegate Meeting, October 16th. The SO AGM decided that some of this meeting would be given over to looking at the Alliance's Constitution, and considering possible amendments. The deadline for such amendments has now been put to Monday, October 4th, and we urge all groups and supporters consider the matter before then.

■ The resolution on 'Police Accountability' and amendments to AGM resolutions on the Worker's Government and unemployed work were referred to the Delegate Meeting on 16th

October. There was a lively discussion on improving the paper: full report next



Union votes will be decisive at Labour conference

'It's a typical attempt by the media to stampede people. And from the timing of the report on the first day of the TUC, not

only people in the TGWU. What evidence exists does little to back up the Not all regional councils have taken a posi-

It is known that Scotland (Region 7) passed a resolution against all bans and proscriptions, including of Militant. Probably the including right-wing can be certain of only 3 Regions (2,4 and 8). Even the South-West

Region (no.3) is on record

as having moved the CLPD model resolution on 'Party Unity' at their Regional Labour Party Conference this year.

But even to have 'most' regional councils does not mean that witch-hunters have a majority, because of

Crucial

his leadership.

'It would be an absurdity if someone who continued or persisted in supporting the Militant Tendency were to be a Labour candidate.'

Of course, on one issue the Times is right. The TGWU vote is crucial. Rank and file pressure over the next week can still play a decisive part in ensuring that the EC declares for it being cast against the register and

Campaign for Democracy

AN EMERGENCY resolution for the Labour Party conference is being circulated by the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy.

Constituency Labour Parties are asked to put emergency resolutions on the following lines:

"This conference is grave-ly concerned that conference amendments on the recom-mendations of the Militant

Tendency Report have been ruled out of order by the Conference Arrangements Committee on a basis which does not conform with the

Party's custom and practice.
"Conference therefore resolves that these amendments shall be accepted as being in order and shall be placed before this year's conference for consideration in the normal way

A new broadsheet is out from the Unregistered Alliance. Its lead article — which we reprint here calls for a campaign in the unions against the NEC's proposed register.

Simple, clear resolutions are needed and fast, especially in the TGWU, GMWU, NUPE and USDAW.

Send copies of the resolution to your union executive and to the Unregistered Alliance, 28 Middle Lane, London N8.

Copies of the broadsheet are available at this address.

ACCORDING to the Tory press, even 'left-wing' Trade Unions are straining at the leash to endorse the NEC's Register and embark on a programme of

expulsions. Luckily, this is mostly

wishful thinking.
Of the Big Five, only
the AUEW (ES) is certain to press for a witch-hunt. Of the others, both the GMWU and USDAW are specifically opposed to such a course by virtue of decisions taken at their own

1982 Conferences. both the TGWU and NUPE can reasonably be expected to appreciate the folly of internal quarrelling at a time when the needs of their members cry out for a total concentration on attacking the Tory government.

Michael

Nevertheless, there are no grounds whatever for complacency. It will be argued that we must Do it for Michael It.

will be argued that Tony Benn backed a (voluntary) Register as long ago as 1980. It will even be 1980. It will even be argued that the Register is not a witch-hunt at all!

Urgent pressure is therefore required in every Labour-affiliated Union, particularly the four big tione Some Union leaders still don't appreciate the appalling divisions which the NEC's Register would cause in Constituencies up and down the land.

It would not just be undemocratic. Its implementation would be messy, bitter and prolonged. It would guarantee that we lost the next Election. The Labour movement simply can't afford it.

These basic facts must now be forcefully brought home. Executives, delegations and individuals must be vociferously lobbied to oppose the Register. Your own individual initiative could make all the difference in Black-

The next few days are erucial. So make them really count.

Socialist Organiser Alliance	
Ger	sed!
Organis	
Socialist Organiser is not just a paper. We fight to organise workers in the struggle for a new leadership in the labour movement. If you agree with what we have to say, you can help. Become a supporter of the Socialist Organiser Alliance—groups are established in most large towns.	
To 'Get Organised' in the fight, or for more information, write at once to us at 28 Middle Lane, London N8.	71 M
Name	ALL I

The law and gay workers PREJUDICE RULES

THE CASE of Judith Williams, sacked from her job for being a lesbian, is, unfortunately, nothing particularly unusual.

About a year ago, Susan Shell, a nightcare attendant in a residential home for girls, was similarly dismissed for admitting her homosexuality. A gay civil servant was asked to move offices almost immediately after a previous transfer because, according to Michael Foot, Minister for the Department, he was "an unsuitable person to be put in an office where the public might have access".

Tony Whitehead, a trainee manager with British Home Stores, was forced to resigned after he appeared on a television programme about being gay. Apparently there was a danger that customers might not want to buy goods from a homosexual!

A woman teacher was informed that she was 'medically unfit' teach. According to the Occupational Health Off-"A lesbian cannot be trusted to teach in a girls' school where some of the girls are quite well developed".

These examples represent just the tip of the iceberg of anti-gay discrimination at work. Many other cases, particularly involving gay women, workingclass gays or gay members of ethnic minorities who have problems enough anyremain unknown

Unlike racial discrimination or discrimination on grounds of sex marital status, anti-gay discrimination is not outlawed by legislation. No one is suggesting that the Race Relations Act, Sex Discrimination Act or Equal Pay Act are the panacea for all the ills of discrimination, far from it (especially after Denning's parting shot on the issue of Sikhs). they do, however, indicate some kind of recognition of the problems faced by women and racial groups. Homosexuals just don't seem to exist at all!

As a result of this, many discriminatory practices at work can continue with impunity - victimisation, no promotion, no jobs to gays.

The only situation where there is any scope for legal redress is if a gay worker

Deb **Baxter**



can show that she or he has been unfairly dismissed. The Employment Protec-(Consolidation) Act 1978 provides an employee with the basic right 'not to be unfairly dismissed by his (sic) employer', although the Tories have now limited this right to employees who have worked for the same employer for 52 weeks (longer in small

Dismissal will be fair if it relates to one of four specified reasons, including the workers' capability to do the job and her or his conduct, or for 'some other substantial reason of a kind

such as to justify the dismissal of an employee holding the position which held.' The employer must also have acted 'reasonably'.

In other words, the determination of a fair or unfair dismissal is left largely to the whim of the industrial tribunal or court concerned. Given the concerned. Given the general anti-gay bias, especially the prevalent 'corruption theory' (linking homosexuality with child molesting and evil influence), let alone the bourgeois male propensities of tribunal members, it is unsurprising that of the few gay workers who have claimed unfair dismissal, even fewer have succeed-

Initially, unfair dismissal cases are decided by local industrial tribunals. If the employer or employee is not satisfied with the tribunal decision, then she or he may be allowed to appeal to the Employment Appeal Tribunal for a more authoritative ruling, from there to the Court of Appeal and, ultimately, to the House of Lords.

No gay worker has, however taken a case further than the Employment Appeal Tribunal. In fact, only four cases have ever

Scottish National Camps Association where the Employment Appeal Tribunal came down most heavily on the side of the employer to

John Saunders was a

maintenance handyman at a children's camp. He was dismissed when his employers discovered he was

gay.
According to a letter they sent him: 'The reason is that information was received that you indulge in homosexuality. At a camp accommodating large numbers of schoolchildren and teenagers it is totally unsuitable to employ any person with such tendencies.

Despite a psychiatrist's report stating that Saunders was neither promisattra children and evidence that homosexuals are no more likely to 'interfere' with than hetero-the Industrial children sexuals. Tribunal declared the dismissal fair. This decision was upheld on appeal.



Having accepted that dismissal purely on the grounds of homosexuality probably had no scientific justification, the Employment Appeal Tribunal cleverly sidestepped a contentious issue. The employer, it stated, could not be faulted for doing 'what in his judgement is just and proper'.

Effectively, therefore, an employer may legally dismiss a gay worker simply on the grounds of her/his sexuality despite proof that such action is totally arbitrary and the result of mere prejudice.

Because decisions of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, unlike those of individual Industrial Tribunals, have the force of precedent (i.e., oblige future Industrial and future Industrial and Employment Appeal Tri-bunals to decide similar cases in the same way) Saunders' case jeopardises the employment of thousands. Its implications extend far beyond the gay

workforce too. In a later 1980 Employment Appeal Tribunal case, the Saunders decision was used to justify the dismissal of an epileptic worker. In effect, the Employment Appeal Tribunal has legalised a purge of those 'undesirable' sections of the workforce that smacks more of Hitler-style fascism than so-called 'British

democracy'.

In the interests of objectivity (to maintain a Fleet Street tradition!), it must be said that, unlike the Employment Appeal Tribunal, Industrial Tri-bunals have, on occasion, supported gay employees' claims of unfair dismissal. Ironically, though, the behind their reasoning has support been motivated by and actually seems to reinforce anti-gay prejudice.

In a 1976 case, for example, concerning a senior social worker, Ian Davies, dismissed after a conviction for gross in-decency, the Industrial decency, the Industrial Tribunal ruled that the dismissal had been unfair and recommended immediate reinstatement.



Their main reason for making this decision? Davies' Ian work mainly administrative

did not bring him into contact with members of the community, except occasionally, and then only in groups ...'! In other words, the tribunal accepted that homosexuals are potentially a dangerous species but, in this instance, the employee was out of the way of temptation and, therefore,

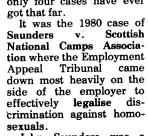
remain in his job. Davies' case is typical



"Unacceptable" - open show of out' in their masses



Sey people fly in the face of sexual stereotypes. Above: nomen protest against 'Miss World' contest.





Like the demand for abortion rights, the call for gay rights is a dea

homosexual affection: it is time for gay workers to 'come

ay workers, in that it oncerns a male homoexual sacked following onviction for a sexual offence', usually gross ndecency. (Because of he common beliefs concering female sexuality, that are essentially passive, there is no corres-'offence' onding

esbians.) Gross indecency 'offenoccurring as they often do, in public lava-

Low penalties

The criminal law itself recognises this by provid-

tories, are easy targets bored policemen wishing to increase their conviction rates. In reality, there is nothing 'offensive about them as they almost always occur behind closed

ing low penalties.

The silent -2 million-

by Martin Thomas and Tony Brockman

gay worker, however, the

implications of such

minor coviction may extend

to job loss and beyond.

Employees of the Depart-

ment of Education and

Science, for example, may be blacklisted on the official 'List 99' and, especially at a time of high

unemployment, never be

able to re-enter their pro-

fession. And all because

of totally unfounded beliefs

Message

The message for gay workers is clear. They are a

danger to society, they corrupt young people, they

are ill or abnormal and,

more fundamentally, al-

though it is rarely consider-

ed, let alone verbalised,

they are a threat to the

existence of the family unit on which the wealth

It is time for gay workers to 'come out' in their

masses and force society's

acceptance of homosexu-

ality as an alternative rather than a deviance.

Victimisation

of capitalism relies.

about their sexuality.

SOME BLACK primary school children, when asked to draw a picture of themselves, will produce a figure with a white face. So strong is the pressure of racialism that they deny their own skin colour.
With another minority in

this society, the process of self-negation is more dramatic. The members of that minority will try, painfully, throughout their lives, to appear 'normal'. And not without cause. Otherwise they may risk imprisonment, electric shock treatment from 'helpful' psychiatrists, losing their jobs or houses, having their children taken away from them, or being

beaten up.
This is the homosexual minority. It is a very large minority, far larger than

many people think.

According to surveys conducted in the USA by Kinsey, 4% of men were exclusively homosexual, 10% had been so for three years or more. 19% of men aged 20 years were bisexual or predominantly homosexual. 37% of men had had some homosexual experience going as far as orgasm.

About four per cent of women were exclusively homosexual from the age of 20 to 35, and 13% had had some homosexual experience to orgasm.

The socialist attitude on gay rights should surely be that people's individual sexual preferences are a purely private matter, and the state (or employers, or education authorities, or doctors) have no right to interfere. "Everyone", as Marx put it, ' 'should be able to attend to his bodily needs without the police sticking their noses in

It is simple enough. Yet all the existing 'socialist' states oppress homosexuals to one degree or another. And in the writings of Eng-els we can find reaction-ary sentiments on the

The 1967 Act which legalised homosexuality between 'consenting adults in private' (in England and Wales) lays down an age of consent of 21 (instead of 16 for heterosexuals) - and there have been cases of up to 18 months' jail for sleeping with 'under-age

hands in public, etc. can be prosecuted under

What are the prejudices

 'Homosexuality unnatural biologically'.

just about on the level of if God meant us to fly, he would have given

is 'unnatural' — but are we against civilisation? A certain amount of heterosexual activity is - or, at least, until very recently has been — 'natural' in the sense of being necessary for the continuation of the species. But that doesn't mean that homo-

survey 76 primitive societies about which information was available. In 49 of them homosexuality was

D.J.West, a writer who describes homosexuality as a 'perversion', 'deviation', and so on, nonetheless writes in his book on the subject: "Exclusive preference for the opposite sex is an acquired trait, and involves the repression of a certain amount of homo-sexual feeling which is natural to the human

were unusual. 'Homosexual activity is

So is heterosexual act ity if looked on with a cold

• Many people still associate homosexuality with loitering in public lavatories or with child-molesting.

number of homosexuals in the population, it is clear that if any large proportion were accustomed to loiter in public lavatories, then every lavatory in the country would be choc-a-bloc. A few do seek sex in public layatories Why? Because the great true of normal

question of homosexuality.

ent and aggressive childmolesting is almost exclus-

Nearly all socialists

would feel ashamed to

come out with obviously

prejudiced remarks about

gay people. Yet the pre-

judice is often there,

tion of comrades who have

discovered that I am gay

has been one, not so much

of hostility as of embarrass-

ment mingled with an un-

easy tolerance. 'Yes, of

course, you're oppressed and we sympathise but really the best thing to do

is to work for the overthrow of capitalism'... No doubt if

such comrades encountered

an obscure minority like

one-legged green men from

the Cayman Islands, they

would say something similar" (Bob Cant in 'Gay

from being an obscure and irrelevant minority. Of

around 25 million working

men and women in Britain,

something like two and a

half million must be more

or less active homosexuals.

The sort of pressures

"All the time I have to

pretend to be what I'm not. I have to make up girl friends that don't exist and

even tell anti-queer jokes.

Sometimes the strain gets unbearable". (Quoted in

Will this worker come to

the forefront as a militant

or will his embarrass-

ment make him try to stick

timidly to private life? If he

were to join a socialist org-anisation, would he be able

to work harmoniously there, or would he feel a

Above and beyond the

strain on gays, prejudices against homosexuality

link up with the ideologies

which express the oppress-

ed as 'abnormal' because,

by separating sexuality

from the begetting and up-

bringing of children, it can-

not fail to challenge the

sanctity of the bourgeois

family and the associated

as defined by 'acquiring'

women must condemn as

queer' those men who

And female homosexual-

ity is simply ignored. If

sexuality is seen as a matter of men acquiring wom-

en, then the very idea of

women having a sexuality which doesn't depend on

men can hardly be recogn-

ised - even as a 'per-

the

amount of homosexual feel-

ing which is natural to the

human being' anti-gay bigotry expresses a hatred

and fear that the bigots feel

for their own seruality

The call for state repression reflects serial guilt

The public has the inecession to the public has been presented to

opt out of that race for

Men who see manliness

Homosexuality is regard-

constant strain?

ion of women.

sex stereotypes.

acquisition.

version'.

Given

against

'Gay Marxist' no.1).

involved are indicated by

this statement from a gay

mechanic in a Coventry

But homosexuals are far

Marxist' no.2).

factory:

"The most common reac-

ively heterosexual.

covered over.

holding 'Soliciting'

common law. In Stockport police have drilled holes specially in the walls of public lavatories so that they can arrest gays for 'gross indecency'

which back up the reactionary attitudes to homosexuals?

At best, this argument is

Obviously all civilisation

sexuality is unnatural. anthropologists

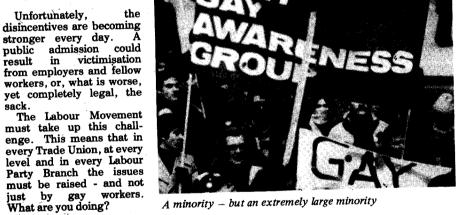
considered normal.

being".
In this sense, it is the person who is totally nonhomosexual who is 'unnatural'. All the indications are that in a society with a minimum of repression, most people would be to one extent or another bisexual, and it would be the people who were attracted only to one sex who

disgusting'. and jaundiced eye!

Given the enormous the great of the society is security in the society in the society in the society in the society is society in the society in

THE THE PERSON heterosex = TE



Defend Judith Williams!



ior individuals to have the choice on how to dispose of their own bodies

Care Concern is holding very well", a spokes-person for the 'Defend Judith Williams' campaign think it is having a major

effect"

Care Concern is a private firm which runs homes for people put in care by local authorities. Judith worked at Berwyn College, a home for adolescent girls in North Wales. She was sacked on May 27, not for any fault in her work — which had been praised — but for being 'temperamentally unsuitable', in other words for being a lesbian.

Blacking

NALGO members are blacking all placements of children in homes run by

The actiones can also seeking blacking of Care Concern by other unions. At least eight branches of the TGWU's white

ACTSS, collar section, have called for blacking by the TGWU.

Twelve Trades Councils and nearly 100 trade union hes INUPE. TGWU. NATFHE, NALGO, CPSA SCPS, NUT...] have passed resolutions supporting Judith, and so have many Constituency Labour Parties. The campaign is planning a picket of the headquarters of Care Concern in Ruthin, North Wales, around the end of October. You can help by:

 Sending from your union branch a resolution calling for reinstatement and for blacking of Care Concern; and a letter of support to Judith personally;

 Sending a donation to the campaign: · Letters of process to Care Comment Lumm Berg

William and Greencroft London NW6 3PE.

الله الله المعارضة المنافعة ا ومن الله المنافعة الم

Stan Crooke reports on a long struggle by tenants in the Gorbals

'GOD bless her, and all who sail in her.' Although there is no record Queen Elizabeth II actually using these words to open the Hutchesontown E the housing scheme in the Gor-(Glasgow) in July 1972, they are certainly the most appropriate words she could have used; so bad was the dampness in the scheme that it rapidly achieved a national notorie-

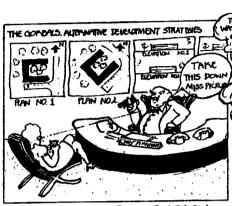
The Hutcheson E scheme consisted of two high-rise blocks (24 storeys) and low-rise twelve (7 storeys), with 384 flats in the former and 759 in the latter, housing a total of 2,500 people. The blocks were built between 1969 and 1973, using the TRA-COBA system of design and construction.

The TRACOBA system, first used in France in 1959, basically involves building housing blocks from pre-fabricated kits, like Lego though on a larger scale The system has both advantages and disadvanadvantages for tages: penny-pinching district councils and money-grabbing private contractors, disadvantages are for who

ends up living in the flats. In 1967 the National Building Agency issued a Certificate allowing the British concessionaires of the TRACOBA system the right to use it in Scotland - but not for low-rise blocks. It was in the low-rise blocks that the worst dampness occurred.

The first tenants moved into the scheme in December 1971 And the first complaints about dampness were made in ... December

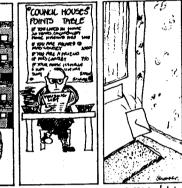
As more tenants moved



TRACOBAR







YOU !!!

IF A FEW SIMPLE RULES ARE FOLLOWED

THERE IS NO REASON

FOR THERE TO BE DAMPNESS OR ANY

OTHER AGGRAVATION

SITUATION

... BY THE BEST IN EUROPE ASSEMBLED WITH LOVING CARE ... FOR .

ITS ALL A QUESTION OF

LIFE STYLE

As soon as the burgh). hearing opened, the dissolicitor Council's announced that the Council was not pursuing the case. The same happened with further cases, and soon over 130 tenants were on rent-strike. At the same time, though, the cam-paign's own plans to use the courts ran aground. A vague promise by the Council to do 'everything against practicable' the dampness was, in legal terms, an adequate defence for the council

under the 1897 Act. So the campaign continued. On November 28, 1976, 500 people attended a campaign meeting itself, 150 attended an overspill meeting in the same building, and many others had to be refused entry due to lack of space.

The meeting was covered by the national media, and there could no longer be any doubt about the GADC's mandate from the population. Gorbals The District Council backed down slightly and promised in December 1976 to recompensation and as rapid re-housing as possible

Since 1978 the GADC has struggle continued against the District Council, though on a lower level of militancy since its mass base has been eroded by re-housing. The bulk of its work has been about negotiations with the District Council over the level of compensation and details of re-housing.

in a Re-housing has, manner of speaking, finally been sorted out. speaking. Only nine flats are still occupied in Hutchesontown E. Eight of those nine have already signed agreements to move into a new house. The ninth is waiting for repairs to her new house to concluded before

signing the agreement.

But the issue of compensation and repayment of rent arrears remains even now - 101/2 years after the first complaint about dampness, and seven years after the first tenant going on rent strike - still far from settled.

And now, after the mammoth struggle against

into the scheme, more complained about dampness. But the complaints were ignored: in 1972 the ignored: authorities passed the flats as fit for human habitation, and the remaining blocks were built using exactly the same method.

Seventy per cent of the TRACOBA flats in the Gorbals suffer from dampness.

First there is the unpleasant, musty smell. Then the wallpaper bediscoloured and comes begins to peel away. Fungus and mould cover the walls.

The fungus and mould spread to the furniture, clothing. carpets and Some tenants have had to throw out new carpets which had become rotten and stinking after only eight weeks.

Health suffers Respiratory diseases

are aggravated by dampness and possibly caused by it, and dampness is a health hazard for asthmatics, sensitive to the fungus spores.
Other features of the

TRACOBA flats include flooding in the verandahs, inadequate sound-proofing between rooms, lack of drying areas, regularly faulty lifts, lack of playinadequate waste space. disposal arrangements,

etc., etc. For the tenants in the Gorbals, these conditions are part of a whole way of life: high levels of unemployment, low wages for the few with work, social isolation caused by the large number of high-rise flats, remaining pockets of the old slum tenements, large tracts of derelict land rat-infested ab**andone**d buildings, lack of child-care facilities (made even worse by recent cuts), traffic hazards, and corruption in local government.

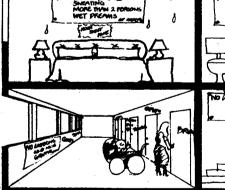
In the early seventies, continual complaints to the then Glasgow Corporation produced only a visual inspection of some of the flats by a Clerk of Works, and a few tips of insulting advice.

Tenants were told to leave all windows open and turn up all heating - and never mind the massive electricity bills.

Stop

dampness

ed by the Corpora-'heavy breathing So stop breething? ted that







To prevent growth of fungus on furniture, it was suggested that furnishings should be moved 18 inches away from the walls (effectively halving the usable room space).

Following in the traditions of Victorian capitalists who said that poverty was due to workers' fecklessness, the corporation tried to blame the dampness on the tenants.

But the tenants started to organise.

in May 1975 Hutcheson nts Association and m Tenenta Associed a public

The campaign committee wrote to the District Council demanding a remedy of the dampness problem in line with the 1897 Public Health Act; and on getting no response, began preparing for legal action against the Council.

Attempts were made to get legal aid for eleven tenants who would act as a test case, but aid was refused.

Some tenants had gone on a rent strike in protest at the dampness, and in 1976 the Council began taking some of them to The first case 27.5

house tenants living in damp housing, and not to re-let damp flats once they became vacant.

But promises are one thing, action quite another. In the first six months of 1977 only 35 families were rehoused. It took a lot more campaigning - includ-ing a 1,000 strong rally on May Day 1977 - to get over 100 re-housed in the second half of 1977.

GADC activists felt, justifiably, that they had made more than their fair share of sacrifices and that it was time for others to take over the leading posi-GADC was th was elected, and campriorities were maximum dampness, the area is faced by the threat of the District Council selling off the property to private contractors. Did the people of the Gorbals fight against inadequate council housing for ten years in order that it might be replaced by inadequate private housing? Or wasn't the aim all along, and still is today, for decent council housing in place of council's purpose-built slums in Hutchesontown E?

The GADC used a variety of methods of struggle at the same time, it refused to fall into the trap of relying exclusively on one form of action - even a militant one like a rent-strike - and thus giving the council an easy run since it can focus resources on that one



Yours Socialists branches are or



pressure point.

The GADC also refused to be tied down by traditional forms of campaign-At a certain point, tactics such as pickets become routine and 'institutionalised', and lose their cutting edge. The GADC avoided this, for example, by organising impromptu pickets to force impromptu with Council meetings officials.

Links

Whilst concentrating on mobilising in the Gorbals itself, the GADC also built links with other campaigns further afield. such as the Wester Hailes anti-dampness campaign in Edinburgh.

The GADC also took care not to make the mistake of accepting the first offer made to it by the Council. Rather than accept the Council's compromise offers and thereby themselves short, the GADC effectively used such offers for propaganda purposes, by pointing out that such offers showed that the Council was weakening, and therefore fur-ther campaigning could achieve the demands in

Courts

In relation to the use of courts against the Council, the GADC was equally careful not to rely on them to achieve their aims. In both cases of the courts being used - the planned prosecution under the 1897 Public Health Act., and a later rates valuation appeal - the courts failed to come up with what the GADC But the propaganda and campaigning work carried on in preparing the court cases contributed to building support for the campaign.

Finally, the campaign showed that the more militant the tactic, the more responsive the Council became to its demands.

The ten year long battle also has lessons for Labour Party activists.

The campaign showed

strong District Labour Party, powerful enough to fully monitor and control the actions of a District Labour Group. Glasgow District Council, like Glasgow Corporation before it. has always been Labourcontrolled, and yet it was Labour-controlled District Council which was the main enemy of the

GADC.

Labour-controlled Council brought in private builders to build the scheme, permitted the use of the TRACOBA system, ignored complaints from the tenants, tried to blame the tenants themselves for the dampness, attempted to undermine support for the GADC, took tenants to court for withholding rent, dragged its feet over re-housing, and offered only nominal compensation for all the hardship and loss for which it itself was to blame.

The Labour District Group now seeks to add another chapter to this sorry record, by hiving off Hutchesontown property. The Labour Group managed to get away for ten years with its Tory-type approach to the Gorbals. A strong campaign needs to be built right now in Glasgow, to finally call to account the Labour Group and those members on it who prefer doing a deal with private builders to rebuilding from scratch the Hutchesontown E scheme.

Labour record

Throughout the ten years of struggle, the local Labour Party branch in the Gorbals had a record little better than that of the District Labour Group. The Gorbals Labour Party branch is rather like the constituency Lbour Party rooms: decrepit, continually on the verge of collapse, and the personal property of the local MP.
Instead of lining up with

the GADC against the Labour-controlled council, the branch adopted a stand-offish attitude towards the campaign and the camp of the District

Labour Grove ras f Labour District Councillor had the same attitude to the campaign and did nothing to help it. Both she and the branch got their just reward in the 1977 District elections: she stood as an independent after being disowned by the branch over a corruption scandal, and the SNP candidate defeated both her and the official Labour candidate.

Base

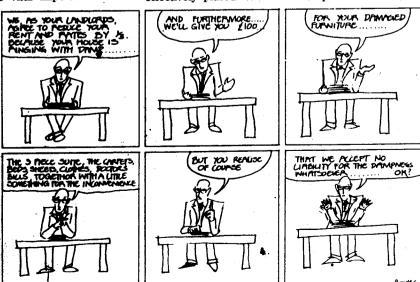
If the branch had thrown its lot in with the GADC instead of lining up with the District Council, it could have won the election, and, more important, built a mass base in the area, and used that mass base to control the actions of both the Regional and District councillors, and the MP, Frank McElhone.

From McElhone, it has been, as always, all mouth and no action. He was prepared to speak at public meetings and condemn the dampness (the tenants were, after all, his electorate), but do nothing.

He also tried to close own the Laurieston downInformation Centre (which had been an operating base for the GADC ever since it was sunched) in order to get his own back on the camprage militante.

Aithough the Hutchesontown F scheme is now virtually canpty, many of the problems associated with the decode-mag anti-damptess campaign remain: a Labour District Group accountable not to the District Labour Group but only to back-handers from local building firms, a moribund local Labour Party, do-nothing local councillors, and an unscrupulous careerist MP.

The campaign to prevent the privatisation of the Hutchesontown E scheme must also be the signal for launching an all-out fight to bring the Glasgow District Labour Group under the control of the Party, and to rid the Party itself of the careerists, time-servers and their



Too good to -be ignored!-

THE Au Pairs are one band that the cassalist controlled media cannot afford to make trendy.

The Human League can be trendy - kids'll start

having lopsided haircuts and buying synths. Spandau Ballet and Blue Rondo can be trendy - kids'll go down the clubs, buy the clothes, and drink the But the Au Paire'

hies liking a band that questions the whole basis of our exploitative, oppressive and warmaking culture. What do you want ... worsing class girls growing up thinking that they are something other than frivelous, inferior receptacies and cheap labour when and if the bosses reed them?

No, mate, that wouldn't be good for the profits and power of the few. Don't want to push this lot too

Unfortunately for the media, the Au Pairs' music (live and recorded) is too good, too popular with too many people to be ignored. So instead they may be banned (as the BBC did to 'Come Again'); their ideas may be pigeon-holed as 'feminist rock' (probably the most meaningless cliche currently

Dave Rommer reviews the new LP from the Au Pairs, 'Sense and Sensuality'

doing the rounds) or made 'safe' by hack writers (who talk of revolution as if it were something one could do after lunch, and be finished with by the late afternoon - you could even get back in time for Crossroads) in the national music press.

'Sense and Sensuality' the Au Pairs' second Quite a lot of the first side is about screwing.
'Grasp it and clasp it/

move in behind it/slide up, slip down...', from 'Instant Touch'. 'Don't lie back', That's when it's worth it', 'Instant Touch' and 'Sex without Stress' are all funky and sexy. Lesley's singing and

phrasing make the slower Kevin Rowland songs. sings about being passion-ate. Lesley Woods is passionate. 'Sex without Stress' is

particularly effective. Roles give you cramp

'cos you get only one...' Painfully true. I'd wager I hate my male stereotype as much as Lesley obviously hates her female one ... only I have a good deal

less to complain about. 'Fiasco' ends side one. and it's a very different sound. Along with Tongue in Cheek it shows how diverse Sense and Sensaabity is.

E Lesey The mase? dropped the lyncs and sang tra-la-la throughout all ten songs this would be the best dance LP of 1982.

The Au Pairs' musical development has been astonishing. Compare the variety of sounds and moods on Sense and Sensuality' with their debut 'Playing With a Different Sex' - or better still, compare it with You/ Kerb Crawler/Domestic Departure - their first 45.

Rhythm

Drummer Pete Hammond in particular has catalysed the development of the sound. His versatility and ability to handle complex rhythms has lifted the band above any others working in vaguely the same musical areas.

far together and the band chemistry tmusically personally) must be If some somes here show are rockier, direct and se

can't imagine An Pai

music if either Paul, Jane.

Pete or Lesley were to

They ve come so

the Au Pairs at their soulful sexiest, then the others सम्बद्धार कार्य प्राप्त फेक्स के ne ven r Second on a line

ETAR I Dec-Lystern neurotic with a problem it's better not to mention'.

If a woman takes 'too many' partners she is a slut/tart/whore. loose If she screws too few she is a 'tight cunt'.

If she doesn't make major decisions she is impractical/unscientific/ irrational/frivolous. If she feminine/an Amazon/a lesbian witch.

If she dares to fight her male imposed role then she's neurotic/hysterical/

Male ego insecurity and self-hatred is projected onto females ... it's the whole social basis of the capitalist patriarchal system. Au Pairs' songs paint the picture with alarming and beautiful clarity. Women must find self-images of their own. self-images of their own, rather than being pressed into male created moulds. 'Shakedown' is the beam

of optimism on the LP. 'I feel a shakedown in

the situation ... won't you hop on my wavelength ... go on and give it a little effort.' I certainly hope you're

right, Au Pairs. The band expose a situation that needs a total re-think -You can't a revolution. reform oppression/restriction/exploitation into equality, peace and freedom. A fight-back is the only conclusion anyone can draw from the Au Pairs ideas.

'America', the closing song, stands out even in this company.
'Why don't you get a

bayonet mince up a peasant ca is right behind you.'

As my 8c bus crosses the Hockley Flyover, the woman sitting next to me looks up from her Mirror and says,

...the way they let Charles and little William both on the same plane anything could happen those two men (well, one's only a child) are our next kings - it would be terrible if .., wouldn't it, love...'
State propagated myths,

State propagated myths, lies and roles must be smashed. We need to understand our current reality and change it quickly. 'Sense and Sensuality' is the Soundtrack for this change. I love it.

The Au Pairs are Lesley (vocals, guitar), Paul (vocals, guitar), (bass) and Pete (drums). Who are you?

Dave Rommer

Always tomorrow

TRANSPORT Minister David Howell is all for government intervention in the GLC's affairs, forcing Lond-on Transport to ditch its Fares Fair policy and double commuters' travelling costs.

When it comes to employment, however, it's a different story. 'It's not the government's task to create jobs", he told a recent meeting in Guildford at the openof an Unemployed

understood", he told his audience, "that in a lively he told his capitalist economy there are always new industries which will be tomorrow's big sources of wealth and jobs". This must be one of the

most impertinent remarks of got some work to do".

"It does not seem to be

any Tory since Norman Tebbit told a group of uenmployed youngsters. "I must go now. I don't know about you, but I've

Comeuppance TED JONES used to be so

staunch a Thatcher support-er that he paid £2,000 to place an advertisement in the Financial Times backing her economic policy.

That was two years ago

when Ted Jones owned five companies, was worth £2 million, and ran a £23,000 Mercedes. Now he's broke. The car has been repossessed and the receivers have sold off his firms. His 250 employees were

told that he didn't have the money to pay them — at least, not after Barclays Bank had been repaid — and were pitched onto the dole

"Businessmen like myself were led to believe that after twelve months things would pick up", complains Jones.
The fat cats still in busi-

ness are those who support Thatcher but unlike Jones don't believe a word of any of those promises about

Crisis? Save the

THE INHUMANITY of capitalism is amply conveyed by last Saturday's 'Guardian' headline. It reads: "Bonanza as debt erisis worsens".

As the countries of the Third World gasp for life, gripped by the stranglehold of imperialism, the Financial Times Index shot up 13.3 points to just one point below its all-time peak.

For financial speculators there were huge profits to be made without lifting more

than a telephone to their brokers. With the price of gold jumping \$ 46.5 an ounce, the rich and the super rich could set their sights on becoming richer and superricher.

Sir Geoffrey Howe's reaction was to restate the totality of Conservative wisdom on every subject under the sun: "This is not the time for questioning the importance of existing institutions".

Denis Healey's reaction

was less cool but in substance the same. He agreed that the only way to prevent a world-wide catastrophe was to protect the Western banking system

collapse.
Millions are starving, the banks continue their computerised plunder through a hundred tricks and swindles, the profiteers get fatter... and Denis Healey wants all hands to the pump to save the International Monetary Fund from collapse.

Oil workers of the world unite!

I WAS glad to see your oil and petrochemicals supplement last week. One point which could have been covered more was international links.

Typical of a chemical multinational, chopping jobs, is Akzo, where I work. In June of this year stewards representing various European locations met to determine how to combat the multinationals' destruction of jobs.

Akzo, which also operates in textiles as British Enkalon, has axed plants in Liverpool, Todmorden, Middlesborough, as well as the giant nylon site in N. Ireland.

That followed closely on the closure of the Ferenka site (textile cords for the tyre industry) in Eire, a combined loss of over 8,000 jobs.

Dutch stewards reported on the deterrent of statutory financial penalties, and the Union's legal right to oppose job losses as how they were successful in defending jobs.

Akzo's defeat at the hands of united action across Europe, when they tried to victimize seven Spanish trade unionists, and the successful defence of 10,000 textile jobs in Breda (Netherlands) by occupation, and sympathy strikes in various countries, determined the conclusion of the meeting - that united action on a scale that crosses national boundaries is necessary to stop multinaional giants like Akzo destroying jobs, and contact at international level is required to guard against trade unionists being divided along national lines.

The official movement as represented by the TGWU is putting out inadequate calls 'to halt the closures, reverse government policy, end the misuse of

Britain's oil resources which without the support of direct and united action is doomed to failure:

There are numerous combines, such as Shell, ICI and Akzo, but these are hampered from taking coordinated action by union structures, plagued by divisions deliberately created by the bosses organisation (Chemical Industries Association) to separate workers by the device of differing settlement dates and pay structures.

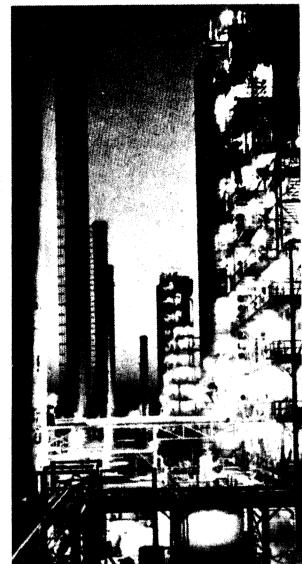
There have been att-empts, like the recent Chemical Combine meeting in Nottingham, to create a united shopfloor response to the industry's problems. Unfortunately the meeting spent most of its time on barganing structures, without coming to grips with producing a unifying response to job losses, although hopefully in the next meeting in October

will take up the issue.

Taking as a typical example the Greater Manchester area, job losses continue unabated, the largest of which is the threat to the Shell plant at Corrington.

Campaigning to stop job losses at the site must be organised not only on a basis of action obviously of a company-wide nature, but also by activating a co-ordinating response from the many other plants within the region, which includes multinationals like ICI, Ciba Geigy, Akzo. The blacking of Shell products by workers determined to stand together would cause havoc in the ranks of the bosses

Building such a campaign will require the backing of the mass membership at Shell, and involvement preparing and distributing broadsheets; speakers will be required to call on



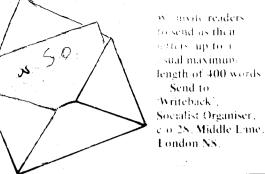
funds and backing.

A necessary call is for a joint meeting of stewards Manchester within the area, whose task must be to co-ordinate the defence of jobs, not just at Shell, but at any other plant threatened. A successful defence of jobs by broad united action, will then be a springboard for the shoporganising where with nationally potentially greater strength than the miners, Thatcher's destruction of oil/chemical jobs and her criminal wasting of our North Sea assets can be halted.

Tom Hart Rochdale

floor to take on the task of fellow trade unionists for

Writeback to send as their setters up to a sual maximue: length of 400 words



The views in the recent letter in S.O. from two comrades arguing that cricket simply reflects capitalism and that the Falklands war has led to a real reflection in this sport of chauvinism are dangerously simplistic, but unfortunately prevalent. I well recall S.O. supporters criticising my good self for attending Anfield to watch Liverpool every second Saturday on the grounds that I was succumbing to the opium of the masses, though I had nothing stronger than a few pints of Higsons and any post-match euphoria was to be put down to the exhilarating quality of Dalgleish Souness and Alan Hansen.

Brutes

our- modern sport sisting in our nasty society has nasty brutish aspects and react-Vinues ionary which ana reinfo express apitalist ethics, just like mu ic. literature or the cinema. It can and does reflect more progressive values such as teamwork, ce-operation, fairness. generosity.
As the Trotskyist C.L.B.

smos put it in his excellent 900k Beyond a Boundary which I would recommend to all comrades who take a one-sided view) cricket in its own way as with other sports 'grasps at a more complete human exist-

Apart from being a thing

James describes ive political values.

ground for fighting reactionary ideas. James chronicles the fight to achieve a black captain for the West Indies to take its place as the world cricket champions against the pre-

a natural sense of rhythin' argument, he points out that the greatness of Learie Constantine '....was not due to his marvellous West Indian eyes and marvellous West Indian wrist. It was d. . if you must have it, to his marvel-

At the moment for example, there is a tre-merdous battle opening up gainst sexism in port which SO supporters must not ignore when sexists ask what have women ever achieved? we should reply as we watch Andy Roberts, Colin Croft, Lillee or Taomino thundering to the crease Fast bowling!

For indeed the first overarm bowler was Christine Willes of Kent who bowled in that fashion to avoid her arm getting caught up in her crinoline!

Casper Gutman.

Trotskyism and cricket

cricket was an integral part of the West Indians attempt to find themselves as a nation and overcome the cultural inheritance of imperialism and racism, expressing very progress-Sport can be the battleWould

release

people?

Dear Socialist Organiser.
Raymond Attwell in his plea Defend the

his plea Defend the Kray Twins has placed his

finger on a central dilemma

facing any Socialist Govern-ment in the realm of social

The dilemma is this.

Whilst recognising the

social relativity of the con-

cept of 'criminality' as a

product of the barbarous

insanity of capitalism, we

must also grasp the dis-

equilibrium that would

exist for any progressive Government between re-

victed under capitalism, and the fact that in most

cases their political con-

correspond to socialist

This was indeed a prob-lem faced by the Bolshevik

Government of 1917, who

released convicts under an

amnesty, only having to re-

arrest most of them a few

months later for crimes

against people and socialist

Abbott

I have just read Jack Henry Abbott's 'In the Belly of the Beast'. Abbott

has spent thirty of his forty

years in a US Maximum

Security prison, and most of his life has been in

However, under an ironic

quirk of the US prison

system Abbott was allowed

to receive books. He read

all the great works of literature, philosophy, and

politics, becoming a committed revolutionary in

the process. An amazing

achievement for someone

who has 'never experienced

For Abbott, the only human beings in these

prisons were the mass murderers in solitary.

Abbott argues that by

defending human integrity

through violence against

warders who try to brutal-

ise them, this elite of

prisoners preserve the

basis for transcending the

sub-human condition of

becoming mere 'Pavlovian

'philosopher-prince'

human relationships'.

solitary confinement.

would

leasing 'criminals'

norms of behaviour.

sciousness

property.

and penal policy.

these

West Indies cricket and for ailing racist ideas. Against the blacks have

lous West Indian brains'

Yours sincerely,

Happy Birthday crisper and more arresting -

Dear Comrades,

As it is one year since the Organiser, I would like to

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overall standard maintained by the paper. In this context, and fully understanding the difficulties of producing such a paper regularly, I would like to several fraternal comments and criticisms.

First of all there is a real problem. Despite tremendous improvement in the layout - particularly the photographs - the paper still seems to packed. Changing this, however, would mean cutting back on vital coverage. There is no problem for committed readers but new readers might find the tremendous acreage of newsprint a bit forbidding. know what can be done about this.

Secondly, I would like to see a slightly more popular and simpler style in the writing. I think it is patronising to argue that workers will not read long articles. There must be a bit of a challenge and people will relate to the paper overall.

But I would like to see front and back page and page 2 and three made

then people will take longer articles in the middle pages

I would also like to see the writing made a bit more humorous and pop journalistic, as in Press Gang and Graffiti, without going to the level of the Socialist Worker.

Thirdly there has been a drop off in the debate content of the paper in the last six months. I would like to see a series of people SO writers and others such as Vladimir Derer, Reg Race, Chris Mullin, Tariq Ali, etc., asked to contribute on how they see the way forward for the Labour Party.

Debate

S.O.'s coverage on the industrial struggle has been improved in the past year but has also lacked a debate framework. How about a similar series of articles discussing the way forward here?

Whilst maintaining its own distinctive approach these suggestions could involve wider sections around S.O. Finally, I think that S.O. has been absolutely abominable in what might be called culture or the wider world.

Culture

Music, sport, literature, and art are political, yet they are just not covered in S.O. Whatever happened to the rock column? Why is there not a weekly TV column? Coverage of films is sporadic to put it mildly!

What readers appreciate here is regularity. S.O. should ensure that at least one and a half pages every week is given over to these matters.

They are vitally important. Politics is more than strikes and Labour Party meetings and this must find significant and regular recognition in the paper. Yours fraternally,

Rocky Sullivan. Ormskirk.

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dogs' which is the fate of prisoners who succomb to the regular beatings disbursed by these totalitarian institutions. Norman Mailer, rather like Attwell, took up Abbott's case and earned him a parole early this Relance However, after only a few weeks outside. Abbott murdered a waiter in a bar for serving him the wrong Everything went back to square one. Maybe a solution under the right sort of Govern-

ment would be a series of institutions that would facilitate a transition for such people to 'normal' What is clear, however, is that Ray Attwell and

Norman Mailer are pioneering a line of development that up until now has received scant attention from socialists. Yours fraternally.

Baz Haslam, Salford.

PHOENIX FALLS INTO THE ASHES

Another nail in the coffin for Sheffield steel jobs. John Cunningham reports.

THE merger between River Don BSC and Firth Brown will be yet another nail in the coffin of Sheffield's ailing steel industry. The merger to form the Sheffield Forgemasters Holding Company is in fact a job cutting and rationalisation exercise. Seven hundred jobs will go in Sheffield and a further 400 elsewhere, mainly at the Breadmore Forge, Glasgow, part of Johnson Firth Brown which owns Firth Brown, Sheffield, the largest private steel works in the country.

Steel, once the pride of Sheffield, has taken one hell of a beating since the recession started to really bite in Sheffield. Some 20,000 jobs in steel have gone since 1978 and the fall in manufacturing output in the area is now twice that of the worst year in the thirties.

In Sheffield 1 in 8 is now unemployed, and in nearby Mexborough the

figure is 1 in 5 - the blackest spot in the whole of South Yorkshire. On top of all this many are on short time working. In 1981, some 16,000 were only working 4 days or less.

merger, 'Phoenix 3' between Firth Brown and River Don, has to be seen in the context of this gloomy backcloth. It is not a particularly novel development - BSC and the private sector already overlap in many areas.

Phoenix plans number 1 and 2 are already past and gone - and slowly but steadily the Tories are achieving their aim of hiving off profitable parts of BSC to the private sector. BSC holds 50% equity stake in at least 4 private firms - Alloy Steel Rods, Round Oak Steel, Templeborough Rolling Mills and Firth Brown Fox.
BSC also has varying

stakes in a number of other private firms, including Bridon Wire (10%), Kiveton Park Steel (36%) and Lee Bright Bars (45%). So increasingly it looks like the Tories' plan is to blur the divisions between private and public sector



in order to facilitate their aims to do away with nationalised industries altogether. Phoenix 3 therefore is a part of the Tories' strategy, not an isolated incident.

As Thatcher said in the House of Commons earlier in the year, when defending her hatchetman, Ian McGregor; 'The aim is to get BSC into sound operating shape and when it is, I think perhaps we can denationalise it.' Getting BSC into 'sound operating shape' means running plants like BSC River Don down to such an extent that it has little hope of survival

on its own and is easy meat for the type of merger

being proposed.

BSC River Don was before nationalisation before Vickers - where famous Firth Sheffield revolutionary, once worked turning gun barrels while reading the works of James Connolly and Marx. A major supplier to the armaments industry, it has suffered badly from the turn to high technology armaments which need less steel plate, etc. It also lost many orders at the time of the overthrow of the Shah in

Over the last decade it has made steady losses of about £1,000,000 a year. Jobs have been eroded steadily. 78 jobs went in 1971, 29 in 1972, 80 in 1977 and approximately 400 in The plant is now

only a shell of its former self. 1972 the workers In staged a sit-in aginst the closure of sections of the plant. They were inspired by the example of UCS on the Clyde and were prepared to fight, but over the last few years the response to redundancy has not shown the same fighting

In November of 1979 a mass meeting voted to accept redundancies on a voluntary basis.

Firth Brown, by contrast, was fairly stable until quite recently, but in February 1981, a massive 1,250 redundancies were announced. A fight looked like developing, but a slight retreat by management on 100 jobs and offers of voluntary redundancies was enough to defuse the situation and the bulk of the redundancies went

through.
What Phoenix 3 involves isn't known exactly. Management and Govern-

ment have not revealed where and when the redundancies are to occur what is known is that Firth Brown together with River Don Stampings (despite its name part of Johnson Firth Brown) is to merge with River Don to make the country's largest forge-master with 'peripheral' forges like the one in Glasgow being shut. £27 million of public money is being put into the new venture, though the stock market price of Johnson Firth Brown is put at only £13 million. The profitable parts of the JFB set-up are excluded from the

merger. Requests Requests by Shop stewards and the Sheffield Shop City Council for information have been ignored.

Inadequate

The response of the trade union leadership, particularly the ISTC, has once again been woefully inadequate. Bill Sirs set out 4 options to fight this and other redundancies - overtime bans, limited stoppages, work to rule and refusal to talk about severance pay. As River Don's convenor Cliff Wright remarked, 'These options are not going to deter anybody from shutting down the steel industry. The union movement, including ISTC, has opted for soft options over the years, just doing next to nothing, which has no effect on those closing the industry down.

'We are either here as trade unionists to stop the destruction of the industry in this country or we are playing games. We want total industrial action that will stop the closures and make the government sit up and listen to what we are saying.

Stop Rot

Clearly Cliff Wright's words need to be put into action if the rot is to be stopped. Action is needed now if management's waiting game is not to wear down the workforce. The workers must demand full access to the management's plans and take action if details are not forthcoming. An occupa-tion is necessary to stop any movement of equipment and any closures; and a fight by the whole movement to prevent de-nationalisation.

SCIENCE Comfortless crumbs THIS WEEK'S column is

based on 'Abusing your loaf', the section on bread in the book 'Swallow it Whole', by Hannah Wright (New Statesman's survival guide to the food industry,

price £1.50).

The section looks first at what is taken out and put in to make your standard loaf which (according to the submission of the large bakers in the Monopolies Commission Report on Bread and Flour in 1977) "has no rival in the world for cheapness, nutritional value, and keeping quality".

make the white flour used in British bread, at least 75% of each of the 19 or more nutrients in wholemeal flour are removed.

Then four nutrients are added - vitamins B1 and B2 (removed during refinement) and iron and calcium. Of these, the iron compound used is probably not capable of being absorbed by the body, while the calcium is not nowadays necessary. So there are "two and a half useful nutrients'

On the other hand, there are 26 permitted chemical additives, of which some 15 or 16 are likely to turn up in a sliced white wrapped loaf, including "bleach, a mixture of several 'flour improvers', yeast stimula-tors, emulsifiers, various preservatives, and anti-

By Les Hearn

oxidants"

additives These supposed to be well-tested but the government food committees responsible for authorisation seem to be rather feeble. One case illustrates this.

In 1903, a bleach, Agene (methionine sulphoximide), was introduced as an additive to flour. In 1927 food committee called unsuccessfully for its withdrawal. Twenty years later, when it was found to cause 'running fits' in dogs, Sir Edward Mellanby (chair-man of another food committee) called again for its withdrawal.

Three years later, another committee called for its withdrawal (it was used in 90% of bread flour by this time). It was finally withdrawn in 1955. Only in 1965 did anyone test its effect on humans, finding that in high doses it caused hallucinations and dis-

orientation.
Testing of additives is carried out by the Flour Milling and Baking R. Association search (FMBRA), two-thirds financed by the industry



Swallowing it whole' means swallowing a cocktail of

The case of BHT (butylhydroxytoluene) shows how the needs of industry tend to be paramount.

BHT, which prevents the fat used in baking going rancid and helps bread keep longer, is an essential part of the highly profitable Chorleywood Bread Process', introduced in 1963.

In 1960, BHT was found to cause liver enlargement in animals. In 1963, the Food Standards Committee recommended its with-drawal unless "overriding technical need could be proved"

Though technical need

was never proved, in 1971 another committee established its use, because liver enlargement was not in itself thought to show a hazard to humans. The FMBRA were 'not ask-

ed' to work on BHT. On the continent, all food additives must be named on wrappings, and British bread would be banned anyway. Bleaching agents are banned from other Common Market other Common breads.

Interestingly, in France the word 'pain' (bread) is defined as a mixture of soft wheat flour, water, yeast, salt, and ascorbic acid (vitamin C).

British bread has some striking effects on British health. Starting with teeth: research shows that while white flour alone does not produce cavities, when mixed with sugar (as in bread and jam) it causes more cavities than sugar alone.

This is because white flour helps glue sugar to the teeth, giving it more time to attack the enamel. This combination of flour and sugar still provides around half the protein and energy of the very

Wholewheat flour actually contains a substance which helps prevent cav-

The vitamin E and four B-vitamins removed from and not replaced in refined flour all have important roles in health. Vitamin E in particular is chronically lacking in the British diet.

Constipation

Further down the body. we find that constipation is almost the norm in Britain, as a result of the low fibre content of refined flour. The bran removed during milling would otherwise provide bulk to, and keep moisture in, the other materials passing through the howels. This would cause a faster and easier through-

In a Third World diet, food passes through the body in only 1½ days, instead of between three days and two weeks in Westerners.

Diseases of the intestines are rare in Third Worlders. Constipation gives rise to piles and diverticulosis (infected ruptures in the walls of the bowels) as well as increasing the risk of bowel cancer, probably through allowing cancer-causing substances to remain in contact with the walls of the bowels for longer periods.

Your taste for white bread (I don't touch the for the bread industry, who also own the large millers. (And they have the nerve to charge more for unrefined flour!)

At every stage of refinement, there is an opportunity for further profit that's why you don't see many adverts for wholemeal bread!

Socialist Organiser Science Group Interested in science and interested in socialism? Contact: SO science

group, c/o Les Hearn, 28 Middle Lane, London N8.

Health workers back victimised boilermaker

GMWU hospital workers in Basingstoke have been on the gates at a local factory to support a sacked convenor

return to work. Brushing the man's arm off his shoulder health workers would be busy enough with their own was enough for management to dismiss Keith for assaultdispute at the moment - but in Basingstoke they are taking the lead in urging ing a foreman'. The day shift immediately walked out, and were followed by the night shift. By support for Keith Maynard victimised boilermakers' convenor at the Bagnalls Thursday morning, the other union leaders had acted to

stop the support for Keith

fork lift truck factory. And they're doing better than the union leaders at Keith's going any further. Keith is the one remaining leading militant in the Keith was reporting back from a meeting to some of his members last Wednesday factory not yet to have been removed by management victimisation. Peter Taylor, when a foreman told him to

the AUEW convenor at the plant, keeps a cosy relation with Pat Farrelly (ex AUEW official, Communist Party member, and currently Bagnalls personnel manager).

On Friday morning, Keith and local Socialist Organiser supporters put out a leaflet at the factory gate, urging the workers to stop and come to a mass meeting outside the factory.

SDP's plan to

members flocked out, but the boilermakers deputy convenor urged them to keep at their work. Faced with the sight of

Keith not even being supported by his own men, the AUEW members soon went back into the factory. Mean-while the Boilermakers' full time official appeared at the mass meeting, agreed with everyone, and arranged a meeting with management on the 13th. A meeting of the boilermakers decided to leave any further action

until then.

The delaying tactics of the Begnalls union leaders are put to shame by the actions of the GMWU branch at the local hospital.

Keith spoke at a hospital workers' rally in June. Last Monday, the health workers sent a delegation to leaflet the factory gate, urging support for Keith.

Their leaflet told Bagnalls workers how immediate all-out action at the hospital had resulted in the reinstatement of the victimised T&G convenor there within 24

The hospital workers themselves are going from strength to strength. Workers who previously had been unkeen to get involved in the national action are now organising lightning strikes and planning an escalation of action towards September

But if the unions at Begnalls cannot stand together, and allow manage-ment to pick off workers one by one, what chance do they stand in the future pay and conditions disputes and fights against mass redund-

Glendale settles

strike at Glendale Engineering, North-West London, has ended with a partial victory for the strikers.

After negotiations on Wednesday September 1, management conceded union recognition. Unfortunately we were unable to win reinstatement of two members.

This victory was not won by accepting the balance of forces at the factory gate, but by going out and app ealing for physical support from the labour movement in the shape of blacking, and by consistently ignoring the dictates of Prior's Law on the mass pickets.
Our thanks for this vict-

ory go especially to trade unionists in Glynwed Foundries, Telford, and Osmers, Hayes, whose threats of blacking were decisive, to Brent Trades Council, Brent Labour Parties, and Brent construction co-op, who were so effective on the picket lines, and to Socialist Organiser for the coverage in the paper and general

LINKS WITH TORIES NOW!

EBBIT

ORGANISING for all-out strikes on September 22 was the main topic discussed at a TUC fringe meeting organised by the Mobilising Committee for the Defence of Trade Union Rights and attended by 30 people.

All the speakers stressed the importance of coming in the fight against the Tebbit Bill. All secondary solidarity action on that day will be unlawful under Prior's 1980 Employment Act, so support for the NHS workers will by definition also be a nationwide act of defiance against the existing law.

It will also clearly prove, as the support for Sean Geraghty proved, that the Tories' law is unenforceable in the face of united massive strike action.

Speakers from Air India nd the Morkers Against Recent march pointed out now Texasts SA feeds on existing membersion and the SWEDTS SERVER FOLIS OF workers which the Tories त्रसम्ब अस्ता विकास गाउँ प्राराजस्कृत mer new Nationality Law and powdes against women.

The task now is. 1. To fight in the unions and Labour Party for a massive turnout on September

22. 2. To hold the union leaders to the pledge of action, not words, which was made at the TUC this

3. To step up the action as part of the same fight —
for the full 12% and for the scrapping of anti-union laws.
WENDY MUSTILL

India call to

convenors from the Air India strike in Britain went to Bombay on the invitation of the Air India unions there. A large meeting was held on Saturday, which resolved to send an ultimatum to management - if the strike in Britain is not resolved soon, the Bombay workers will take action, ranging from work to rules to stoppages. (The Gandhi government has declared the extension of the strike to India illegal.) Six strikers are at the

TUC in Brighton throughout the week. Fyrûz Daruwalla, chairman of the strike committee, Socialist Orga told Organiser: I have already spoken to Moss Evans (general secretary of the TGWU, the strikers' union) twice. His

response was most unsatisfactory. 'Mr Evans believes that it is not possible for him to come to our picket line. The head of such a mighty union cannot afford to go to

every picket line. Mr Evans ought to be reminded that if his members are defeated his union will cease to exist. Perhaps then he will have a lot of time to go on pickets.

What we ask of him is why, after 10 weeks, his union is union is unable to get the Heathrow fire brigade people, who are TGWU members, out in

support of us. Mr Evans has mentioned that he will support the NHS strike, and rightly Should he not then think of his own members who are sacked? We need immediate and severe blacking of Air India at his instruction to win our

The 100-odd strikers are demanding reinstatement and a commitment by management to abgle_by signed agreements. The strike was provoked by the bosses imposing new rosters and sacking a steward in breach of agreements, and Air India have since sacked 91 strikers The strikers believe that Air India bosses are out to break the union.

■ Picket lines — 24 hour picket at Heathrow Cargo Picket at the New Bond Street office, 8 am-7.15 pm Messages and money to TGWU Air Ihdia branch 1/1305, Transport House 7-9 South Road, Southall Middlesex.

Organise against the Tebbit Bill with the new broadsheet from the Mobilising Committee for Trace من- پ ने कृत्य स i ik o is 205

MOBILISING COMMITTEE TRADE UNION RIGHTS COST FOR 28 Wiode Lane London Na

Lothian fight looms

victimised

own factory.

THERE MAY still be a fight against the public service cuts which Lothian Regional Council is imposing on its unwilling employees.

An emergency meeting of 75 NALGO shop stewards from the social work department voted on the Wednesday September 1 to call a mass meeting of members for Friday September 10 in work time.

At this meeting the shop stewards' committee will recommend indefinite allout strike action until the council removes its threat to shed 300 jobs in the department through rede-

The new SDP-backed administration will welcome this probably welcome this opportunity to test out the Tory anti-union laws.

There is no doubt that these workers will be in a vulnerable situation unless there is immediate solidarity action from the other Lothian Region NALGO members and a national mobilisation by local government workers to develop this spark of resistance into a

There is some tradition of fighting government cuts in Lothian because the unions and Labour council tried to resist the government last year. Their failure was due to a half-hearted strategy that never took the fight to its conclusion — a failure which demoralised the Labour and trade union movement in Lothian, and which this NALGO action could reverse.

If they decide to strike,

these workers will need all the support you can offer. Messages of support: c/o Sylvia Crick, NALGO Lothian Region Social Work shop stewards' committee, 20 St Giles St, Edinburgh.

Leyland

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Action

clobber the unions Party is bidding to outdo

the Tories as the unionbashing party. Draft policies published last week by the SDP commit it to supporting almost all the Tory legislation against 'secondary' pickets and solidarity action

and to a lot more. The SDP would make strikes in many public services illegal unless the dispute had first gone to arbitration. It would also make a criminal offence of industrial action in breach of a procedure agreement.

A postal ballot on strike action would be compulsory if one thousand union members demanded it. And postal ballots would also be imposed for election of union executives and general secretaries, and (every five years) to decide on unions' political affilia-

The postal ballot is featured by the SDP as a democratic device. In truth it is the opposite. The structure of bran-

ches and committees offers some possibility for democracy in the unions i.e. for real control by the membership, based on collective discussion. If general secretaries and executives can appeal to postal ballots of inactive members against that structure, then democracy is weakened.

Look at the AUEW where top leaders elected by postal ballot have ridden roughshod over one of democratic most district committee structures 1 ment.

Moreover, the unions

are not debating societies existing in a vacuum. They live in a bitterly hostile - capitalist - en-To make vironment. possible control by the members rather than by the ruling powers of capitalism (and their press and media), the unions need to

have safeguards.

To have votes taken in situations where union members can listen to each other, rather than to the louder voices of the trade union movement's enemies, is such a safeguard.

No one should idealise poorly attended union branch meetings or heavily stage-managed factory meetings, complacent about the need

more open and demo-cratic. But SDP-imposed postal ballots are the last thing likely to improve

democracy.
Other SDP proposals aim to weaken the Labour Party and the unions themselves. Pre-entry closed shops would be unlawful; and trade unionists would have to opt into the political levy rather than (as at present) paying the levy unless they opt out.

The SDP working group that produced the antiunion proposals included, by the way, Sue Slipman, who joined the SDP when it was set up straight from the CP (and saying that she had not substantially changed her politics in

Post Office speed-up defeated

Basingstoke postman for stopping work at 9.30am has led to speculation that the Post Office may launch further attacks on its workforce in an attempt to save

There is a national agreement in force that postmen have a right to stop delivering letters at 9.30am. Basing-stoke post office management tried last week unilaterally to break that agreement.

It sounds very reasonable, doesn't it. why should a post worker stop at 9.30 if s/he's only got a few more letters to deliver? (Just like flexible rostering for train drivers, you might say). But it is the thin end of the wedge for demanding that postmen stay out delivering until 10am or 11am. What better way to make the postmen speed up their rounds, and get more letters delivered by fewer postmen?

But management had reckoned without the reckoned without ti strength of the workforce.

Over the past two years local branch officers have made sure that members have been consulted on al

the union. So when UCW branch officer Alan Fraser went work on Saturday morning, he found some 70 workers already demanding an immediate meeting. A proposal from the floor for an immediate withdrawal of labour was accepted, and the entire postal section (deliverers, sorters, etc.) walked out.

This swift action made management back down on their attempt to break the national agreement, and the victorious post workers were back at work on Monday.

But this attack on conditions is unlikely to have been just an idea in the head of one postal section management team. It has very probably come from regional level at least. If management elsewhere try this trick, postal workers must be

have promised backing to the Basingstoke beautiff if such a rock is repeated. But only the National Executive ma mai strike account. It is now in it nower workers in the last in the last workers in Evening to record med reary it fight has attack.

ready for them.

The UCW Regional HQ

'WOLVES WITH NO TEETH!

by Harry Sloan

SHEEP - in wolf's clothing. The TUC leaders' unaccustomed display of verbal milit-ancy on the opening weekend of this year's Brighton Congress has taken a few people by surprise.

It has been expected for some time by the more astute industrial correspondents that the TUC General Council would call for supporting action for the health workers' September 22 day of action - in order to pre-empt moves to raise an emergency motion to this effect from the floor, and keep the union officials in control of the speading waves of solidarity action. In the event, so great has

been the impact of the NHS struggle that the speeches have been stronger and more widereaching than many expected. There have been calls for action which would amount in effect to a 'mini general strike'.

Yet nobody would be more delighted than the union leaders - who have struggled since April to sell out the NHS pay claim - if such predictions of mass action prove to be gross exaggerations. The strong talk from top officials is not in general being combined with any serious preparation for action at shop floor level though the militancy is clearly there to provide an

immediate response.

On top of the NHS pay issue there has been the barrage of defiant statements against Tebbit's anti-union

At first Moss Evans grabbed the headlines with his seemingly heartfelt offer to go to prison sooner than

pay fines levied under the new Bill. Television technicians' leader Alan Sapper was

equally vociferous.
Yet nobody from the press seemed to ask these two why they had voted two months ago on the Finance and General Purposes Com-mittee of the TUC to knife the ASLEF strike – giving the Tory union bashers their biggest morale booster this

Question

When the question was ced – in the welcoming address from Brighton Trades Council - Sapper and Murray closed ranks in an angry response: the 'wolf' had no teeth!

Nobody from the mass media asked Evans and Sapper why both TGWU and were silent when Street electricians'

leader Sean Geraghty was hauled into the courts to face a possible jail sentence for the 'crime' of staging a solidarity strike with the NHS workers.

But then nobody seems to have asked right-wingers like Terry Duffy or former Labour leader Jim Callaghan how they square their effective calls to break the new law with their vicious witchhunting of propsective Ber-mondsey Labour candidate Peter Tatchell for advocating 'extra-parliamentary action'.

Evans' wolf-skin, how-ever, quickly began to slip loose, and a woolly ear was exposed, as he announced willingness to discuss a further round of wage con-trols under a re-elected Labour government.

The significance of this shift – a clear breach of TGWU policy – is that with the combined support of the

TGWU with the AUEW and other right wing unions, a resolution to make such discussions TUC policy could be carried today (Wednesday).

Council

And the implementation of such discussions would be placed in the hands of a General Council which from next year will be dominated ny an even more entrenched right wing majority, as a result of the undemocratic changes in its structure rammed through by the right

wing this week.
On top of that, next year's TUC could even be chaired by EETPU leader Frank Chapple, whose union is the only substantial one to abstain on the resolution calling for resistance to the

Tebbit law. a bleak prospect indeed for solidarity!

Behind a smokescreen of

'militant' rhetoric, TUC and Labour leaders are preparing a sick re-run of the 'social contract' which under Wils-on and Callaghan brought a catastrophic drop in working class living standards and prepared the way for the election of the Thatcher government.

Obliged

Yet the fact that they feel obliged to resort to such rhetoric is further confirmation of the level of militancy among health workers and other sections of the working class.

It is that militancy, and the ability which it offers to mobilise action at shop floor level and to confront the

Moss Evans - the wool's showing...

treachery of the bureaucratic official leadership, which is the most significant element underlying this year's TUC Congress.

Laundry sit-in wins concessions MARGARET S.O. supporter, talked to

one of the workers who carried out a successful occupation in the laundry section of Broadgates Hospital, near Hull.

On September 2, six machine operators in the laundry section carried out a pre-planned decision to occupy the department.

The decision to occupy was forced on them because after 3 weeks of strike action in support of the NHS national pay claim, the management had reneged on an emergency cover agreement.

The agreement was to provide 30 bags of clean linen to each of the 8 hospitals in the area per day. (Under normal conditions it is 80 bags for each

hospital.)
Management wanted to up the emergency cover from 30 bags to 60 bags per day to each hospital, i.e. almost full cover.

Management held talks

with the local NUPE full

ON FRIDAY 4th, 1000 people took the day off work to show support for the health workers arrested

for 'obstruction' while pick-

time official, Hardon, who in turn met the membership and told them that if they did not per day for each hospital. meet the management's demands, their wages, which were being made up

by donations collected from the local trade union movement, would be stopped, and that they would only receive normal

strike pay.
Under this threat the six machine operators saw that the only course of action left open to them was to occupy

On Friday August 27 management had approached the membership through the full time official, asking them to work over the Bank Holiday period to clear up some of the backlog of dirty linen which had built up over the weeks of strike three

On Wednesday September 1, after the Bank Holi-

hospital in Halifax, health

workers have been occupy-ing the admin building for

the last five days, and were

prepared to stay until the

eight were found not guilty.

About 50 demonstrators, led by six of those arrested,

persuaded the occupiers to

leave, reluctantly, for the

one of the eight was also charged with stealing four hospital biros. Now police are trying to drum up a case

about a sheepskin coat lost

from the hospital two years

theft charge sticks, clearly management are not after

keeping their biros but getting rid of good shop

Whether or not

As well as obstruction.

moment.

day, management were still insisting that 60 bags of clean linen were produced

The six machine operators decided to take action independent theNUPE full time official.

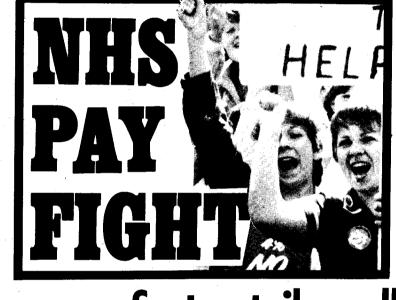
Immediately the occupation was made known, the NUPE full time official went down to the hospital to try to persuade operators to call off their action. This was unanimously rejected.

When the staff providing the emergency cover arrived for work, they were invited by management to sit in the committee room.

while talks were going on between management and the NUPE official.

After 36 hours of occupation management conceded to the demands of the occupiers. agreed to pay the machine operators for the duration of the sit in, and also to pay the wages of the rest of the workforce - who had supported the action to the full.

It was moved by one of the members that the occupation should continue in support of the national pay claim of 12%, and this fell only on a



Nevertheless, the occupation has shown the type of initiative that must be taken throughout the NHS, independent of the wheeling and dealings of the national full time officials, in order to win the full 12% claim.

Scots strike call

The Scottish TUC Special Conference for NHS and non-NHS shop stewards on Friday September 3rd, came out with a clear call for a 24 hour General Strike in Scotland on September 22nd.

The call did not originally come from the Scottish TUC General Council, rather as a result of pressure from shop stewards. At the conference, this was demonstrated by the support shown to health workers by stewards who said that their branches had already taken decisions to come out on 24 hour strike on September 22nd.

The General Council put a resolution to the conference, which was accepted, calling on all shop stewards and union officials to go out and campaign for maximum support for a 'stoppage of work on September 22nd'. (The '24 hour' part of it was only conceded at the end of the conference, when it became apparent that it would be 24

This call would never have been made if the shop stewards' conference had not been called, and pressure put on the STUC to make the call.

It remains to be seen whether this will be followed up by the STUC carrying the call to TUC conference. It could provide a major boost to demands for a 24 hour general strike in Britain.

Coventrystewards discuss strike

NHS UNION leaders in Coventry responded quickly to the TUC Health Services Committee's call for a day of action on September 22 by appealing to other unions to strike for the whole day.

Next Tuesday September 14 a meeting of stewards from throughout the Coventry labour movement will discuss how to maximise solidarity action.

Unfortunately the 22nd falls in the industrial holiday week, and this severely restricts the potential for supporting strike action. Plans have been laid, however, to leaflet bus drivers and a strike which brought public transport to a halt would obviously have a big Every angle is being

sought to maximise the action. Coventry South West CLP passed the following motion, proposed by Julia Redman, a Socialist Organiser supporter who is also a hospital worker.

'In line with the exist ing policy of support for NHS workers in their present dispute over pay this GC resolves to:

a) send an official delegation to the meeting called by the local TUC Health Service action committee for September 14

b) call on delegates to seek support in their workplaces for the TUC Health Service action committee appeal for sympathy strike action on September 22.

c) calls on Labour councillors to cancel all council business on September 22 and gather to show their

support. 'Furthermore this GC calls on councillors to show sympathy for any council employees taking industrial action on September 22, and pledge that no disciplinary measures will result".

Early indications are that councillors will be sympathbut a active support is needed, not just taking the day off.

Defend Notts militant

broken; bruising to testicles burst lips; severe chest pains: grazing, bruises.
These were the injuries

to Mick Docherty, a COHSE member and activist in the Nottingham Health workers for the full claim 'Health group, after he was stopped by police for allegedly stealing his own car. He was later charged with criminal damage and refus-

Highbury hospital management for 'professional misconduct'

Activists and militants have also been harassed in Halifax, Accrington, Liverpool, Bolton and Glasgow. The attack on basic union rights to organise is going ahead in other ways than the Tebbit Bill.

H.W.F.C. Nottingham have started a campaign to: ise the attack, ii) get Mick's suspension

iii) oppose all victimisations of trade unionists during

this dispute. Two Labour county councillors, Mohammed Aslam and Mick Warner, have agreed to take up Mick Docherty's case, and

Executive Committee are to

Nottingham Trades Council

Hospital.
Union branches and Labour Parties are asked to sponsor the campaign Write to 228 Queens Road Beeston, or phone Penny 603656 - home 45989 -work

the matter at an 'extended

trades council meeting

And there is a call for strike action on Tuesday

September 7th at Highbury

eting at North Owram hospital in Halifax during the three day action. The court was packed, the reception area straining at the seams, and there were hundreds outside the court. The judge was a little shocked by the standing ovation given to the eight defendants as they walked in. Since they asked for their rather than separately, the

hearing was postponed to October 19. All plead not guilty in law. Meanwhile, back at the

Socialist Organiser

Fight the Tories, not the Socialists! LABOUR MOVEMENT CONFERENCE

Open to delegates from all labour movement organisations. Saturday September 11, from 10.30am at Wembley Conference Centre, London.



from SO, 28 Middle Lane, London N8.

, John Bloxam -- who was National Organiser of the Rank and File Mobilising Committee for Labour Democracy in 1980-1 argues that what we need now in the fight against the witch-hunt is a new united model of the RFMC.

WHAT NEEDS to come out of the 'Fight the Tories, not the Socialists' conference this weekend is a new version of the Rank and File Mobilising Committee which led the final stages of the battle for mandatory reselection and election of the

Labour Party leadership. Whether it will is another question.

The conference will be Wembley Conference Centre will be full, and the Conference is backed by three national unions (ASLEF, Bakers, and FBU), unions the South Wales and Kent areas of the NUM, and many Constituency Labour Parties and union bodies.

The right wing has cause be concerned, because such a display of the strength and breadth of the opposition to the register, two weeks before Party conference, before the constituency mandating meetings and before the crucial unions have decided how they will vote, cannot fail to be an important boost to the Left.

The Conference 'Organising Committee', apparently dominated by Militant, has presented a statement for discussion and voting at the end of conference.

The preamble argues that the witch hunt will not stop at Militant, but threatens all the 'serious left'. It is the right wing's counter-offensive against rank and file gains, and especially the democratic reforms. And it's massive diversion from fighting the Tories.

The statement itself locuses on opposition and defiance:

This Conference of the Labour Movement resolves

1. Fight for a united struggle against the Tories to secure the election of a Labour government committed to socialist policies

2. Campaign for a total opposition to the register at forthcoming Labour Party conference and beyond,

3. Oppose any expulsion of Militant supporters or any socialists from the Labour Party for the ideas they hold, and the introduction of any bans, proscriptions or other witch-hunting activities, and defend the right of CLPs to select Parliamentary candidates of their choice,

4. Secure the election of

a National Executive Committee opposed to witch-hunts and committed to fight for Conference decisions and Labour's socialist aspirations as stated in Clause IV part 4

of the Party Constitution. Without points 2 and 3. 'opposition to the witch-hunt is at best waffle. Together with a boycott of the register and a commitment from CLPs to refuse to expel or discipline members, they are the basis for defeat-

ing the right-wing's intended civil war.

For those who want to know what the register is really about, and how 'fair' it is:

At an early stage in the campaign agairst the register the Labour Abortion Rights Campaign approached Labour Party headquarters with some questions about the criteria for finding groups unacceptable. The reported response from the general secretary, Jim Mortimer, says it all.

he said, and they shouldn't worry too much about the requirements' the NEC had laid down (for example, the condition that all meetings should be open to all Labour Party members, which could destroy LARC by flooding all its meetings with anti-abortion bigots).

file of their unions is the

only way they can be forced to back off.

Conference statement is that it begs the question of

who is going to coordinate

The register is not going to be defeated by a one-off

Conference, however large and militant, and it is not going to be defeated by

people afterwards just going

well organised. To win, the

The right wing is now

LARC should register,

their own way.

and organise the campaign.

The chief fault of the

After all, purred Mortimer, LARC was not the target - the register was meant for others.

The possibility of winning the vote at this year's conference depends not only on 'winning the argument' but also on persuading sections of the trade union leadership that the rank and file will bitterly resist the attempted counter revolution in the Party if the register goes through.

If the union leaders think that substantial sections of that substantial sections of the left will sit by while Militant and others are attacked, then they will go ahead and support Foot.

A commitment to fight and win, together with pressure from the rank and

left is also going to have to be organised both in the Labour Party and in the trade unions, both nationally and locally.

Reforms

That is how the Left won the democratic reforms. The problem now is that though opposition to the register is very widespread, it is almost completely uncoordinated.

The main effort so far at a united campaign - the Unregistered Alliance, which Socialist Organiser fully supports – is still weak, with both Militant and Trbune

own furrows.

ilising Committee was a joint committee of all the Labour

preferring to plough their

The Rank and File Mob-

"The heavy parent: 'My dear, if the violence of those Militants succeeds in establishing the excellent principle of the deportation of the politically undesirable, well, I for one will feel that they have not lived in vain."

Left - Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, Socialist Organiser, Labour Coordinating Committee, Militant, etc with each group retaining its autonomy but subordina-ting secondary differences to the common cause.

Unity magnified our strength then. It would do the same now. The September 11 conference ought to elect an ad hoc committee pledged to work with others to form a new Rank and File Mobilising Committee, and call on delegates to go back to their delegating bodies with a proposal to support this Mobilising Committee.

It should also endorse the October 30 conference of CLPs and trade union bodies against the witch-hunt, and resolve to use that con-ference too to build a new Mobilising Committee against the witch-hunt.

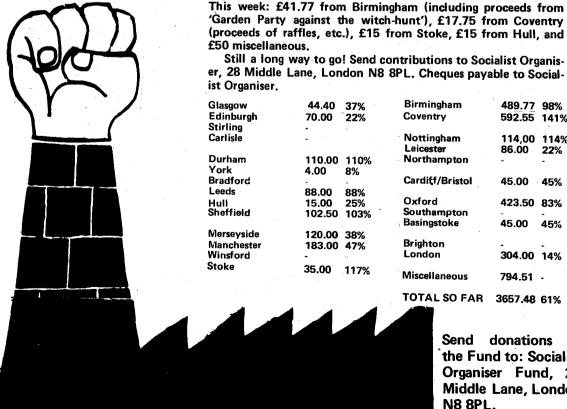
The possibility of considering these points_ rends on whether or not Conference will be able to amend

the statement. The Conference material gives no indica-tion that amendments will allowed, inquiries by Socialist Organiser to the Organising Committee have got no clear answer, and it looks like we will face a

take-it-or-leave-it statement.

Delegating bodies should certainly 'take' it, but should also put pressure on the Organising Committee to run the Conference democratically and permit amend-

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