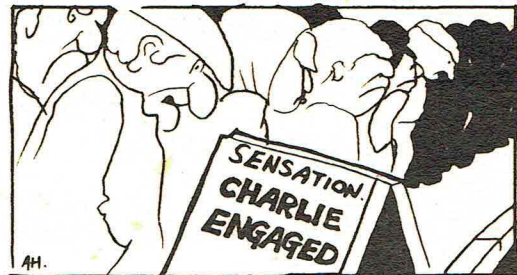


# Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH ISSUE 541 27 February 1981

20p



THAT'S HOW BAD IT IS - A BLOKE FINDS WORK - AND ITS HEADLINES

## Miners victory shows ...

# TORIES CAN BE BEATEN

## SPAIN



The state machinery in Spain is still riddled with Franco supporters



Photo: MILITANT

## Only Workers can defend Democracy

Hours after the collapse of the attempted coup by Colonel Tejero of the Civil Guard and the Governor of Valencia, General Bosch, the atmosphere in Madrid was still electric.

All the city newspapers were sold out and groups of workers had gathered to discuss the situation.

Meetings were held in all the factories and workplaces about the trade union response to the capture of the Parliament building.

Juan Carlos quickly intervened, scared of the possibility of a general strike, to stifle the coup.

But it is a scandal that the leaders of the Socialist Party and the 'Communist' Party have let King Juan Carlos pose as the "defender of democracy", who saved Spain from the ultra-rights. One of the effects of the failed coup will be the

temporary strengthening of the position and esteem of the King.

Party leaders Gonzales of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party [PSOE] and Carillo of the Communist Party, along with the General Secretary of the General Workers' Union [UGT] were all arrested by Tejero in the Parliament building.

Nevertheless, the call should have gone out from the national headquarters of all these bodies for a national general strike. Instead the remaining PSOE and CP leaders hesitated, and like the right wing parties lulled the

Continued on page ten

## Glasgow demo must start mass campaign

The tremendous victory of the miners proved that this vicious Tory government can be beaten.

The Tories came to power breathing fire about 'taming the unions'. They have been prepared to see unemployment hit new post-war

peaks to try to demoralise the working class, and boost their ailing profits.

This month saw another large rise in the

By Bob Wade

numbers on the dole queues—now 2,463,294. Workers' living standards have been viciously devastated by the Tories.

But the strength, the organisation and the

magnificent determination of the miners has made Thatcher and her crew stand on their heads.

They have been forced to promise new aid to the mining industry and give up, at least for the present, plans to run down pits.

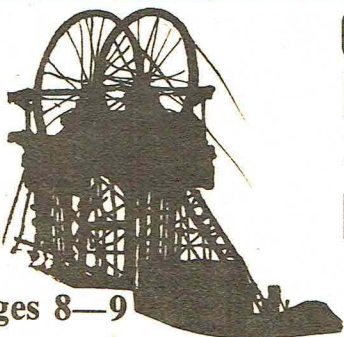
John Biffen the Secretary of State for Trade admitted the government had been scared of the spectre of widespread

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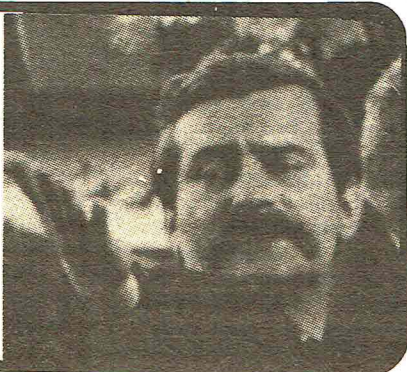
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Mines— import controls no answer

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# BONNIE AND CLYDE

violent new teaming ...



# Beat Tories

[continued from page 1]

## Industrial action.

The threat of a strike by one section of worker caused a nasty case of "rising damp" in Biffen, Thatcher and Co. A mass campaign by the organised working class could drown them.

A farmer in Yorkshire wants to 'solve' the unemployment problem by setting up a 'Land Army' of unemployed who could work at fruit picking etc. for low wages and in bad conditions.

Some solution! Our answer—"a workers' Army"—is the organised trade union movement united against the Tories—and determined to bring them down.

The TUC and Labour Party leaders should mount an all-out campaign now based on a struggle for:

- ★ No redundancies
- ★ A 35-hour week with no loss of pay
- ★ A useful programme of public works to provide much needed homes, schools, hospitals, etc.

Such a campaign must be squarely aimed at kicking out this hated Tory government and forcing a general election.

The fight must begin for a Labour government committed to socialist policies. British capitalism is in deep crisis (see editorial page 2). The desperation of the ruling class means they will continue to hit at our jobs.

Nothing short of a socialist plan of production based on the nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies under workers' control and management can stop the evil of unemployment for good.

# Big Ears Meets Snow White

Who says the powers that be don't understand the problems of the unemployed?

On Tuesday when the new unemployment figures came out, the mid-day BBC News devoted thirteen out of fifteen minutes to the engagement of Prince Charles who has never worked in his life.

The young couple will have terrible trouble in their married life, and will have to struggle along on Charles' proceeds from the Duchy of Cornwall.

This form of social security gives him at least £145,000 a year. It's a good job he had saved an estimated £3 million from the estate by 1976.

Rent would be a problem too if a grateful nation hadn't provided him with free lodgings.

Some people thought Charles was marrying a miner called Dai as part of a government scheme to placate the NUM. In fact she is a minor called Di. But she does know about unemployment.

Her landowning family the Earls Spencer have been causing it since the days of the enclosures.

Her mother's people the Shand Kydd wallpapering family have also helped to make Britain what it is today by their recent closure of a factory at Christchurch.

Aren't we lucky to have a Royal Family?

# Militant

1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## The beginning of the end for Thatcher?

The humiliating retreat forced on the government by miners last week marks an important turning point for the Tories, both as a government and as a party.

It may not quite yet signal the end, but it certainly is the beginning of the end for Thatcher herself, as all the apparent composure and unity of her Cabinet lies in ruins around her.

The Tories have been forced to publicly admit that they panicked in the face of a certain defeat by the miners, who would undoubtedly have been backed up by the overwhelming majority of trade unionists.

A strike by the miners would have almost had the significance of a general strike, especially if other unions were involved in solidarity action on a large scale, and the Tories could not possibly have faced up to that prospect.

There was not even the faintest hint that the government could have used the Employment Act against the miners or against solidarity action, and it is already clear that the episode has boosted the morale and confidence of other groups of workers such as the civil servants and water workers who are now preparing to take on the Tories over pay.

The serious journals of capitalism are almost unanimous in their present view of the government. The Telegraph referred to "the absence of a coherent industrial strategy"; the Financial Times said that the government is "bereft of any monetary or industrial policy," whilst the Times complained that by changing course without changing its rhetoric the Tories were "getting the worst of all worlds."

The ending of the government's confidence has come about on the one hand by the complete collapse of their economic strategy.

There is a crisis in capitalism world-wide but the Thatcher/Joseph strategy has worsened the crisis causing the biggest recession for thirty years.

This paper has carried on many occasions the statistics that show the collapse in production, in investment, and the corresponding rise in unemployment, but it seems that worse figures are released every week. It has recently been reported that in the key mechanical engineering industry, there could be further contraction during this year, with the loss of 180,000 jobs. If these fears are realised, then employment in this sector of the economy will have fallen by 30 per cent in three years!

But even after all this devastation, the main aim of Tory policy—reduction in the Budget deficit—will not have been realised. On the contrary, it is expected this year, because of higher unemployment payments and lower income taxes, to be over £13 billion—50 per cent higher than originally anticipated.

Further closures in steel or the closure of British Leyland [BL] would have dragged the economy even deeper into the mire. But on the other hand, the Tories are afraid of the possibility of serious clashes with the trade unions.

In the last period workers have been stunned by the shower of closures, but even the Tories can see that there would come a point where their policies would provoke a reaction. The closure of BL, advocated by some Tory backwoodsmen, would have caused massive unrest, especially in the Midlands. Similarly the Tories, at least



Above: a picket line in Wales last week

Photo: MILITANT

for the moment, are not able to stand up to the strength of the miners.

Recently the government have been almost operating on a day by day basis. As Malcolm Crawford commented in the 'Financial Times', "The government is run by ad hoc decisions by Mrs Thatcher. It has lost any coherent intellectual base."

Even before the miners' strike last week there was probably not even a majority in the cabinet which supported Thatcher's policies, and now Biffen, one of her staunchest supporters, has done a 'turn'. "For the second half of this Parliament," he said, "there will be a much more ready recognition that the government is pursuing a gradualist and a sensible and a practical policy, rather than a hard theological policy."

The Tories' economic strategy lies in ruins. They will probably now launch policies that will lead to lower interest rates and a lower pound. But these new policies will offer nothing for workers; they will accelerate the inflation rate and the government will probably have to bring in some form of incomes policy in the future.

The changes in policy will

also be reflected in cabinet changes and in more fundamental shifts inside the Tory Party. 'The Times' has already called for the replacement of Keith Joseph but in the longer run Thatcher herself will most likely be ditched as the Tories try to refurbish their image in time for the next election.

The British capitalist class has traditionally been the most astute and far-sighted of all capitalist classes; now they are the most stupid. In the past it would have been unthinkable for the Tories openly to show such splits and confusions. But that can no longer apply under present conditions; the deep economic crisis on the one hand and the strength of the labour movement on the other have shipwrecked the Tories' consensus of former years.

For the moment the "pragmatists", the "wets", are on the ascendant. But if Thatcher and Joseph were dumped, there will still remain a hard core in the Tory ranks who believe that the government should go to the brink, even to the point of a head-on clash with a group like the miners.

The deep divisions inside the Tory Party will only

intensify in the future. The crisis of capitalism has affected the Labour Party's rank and file, and provoked a split-off of the ultra-right from the Parliamentary Labour Party. The Tories will not be immune to these same pressures and splits in the future; around the hard-line monetarists will gather one wing of the Tories that looks to 'authoritarian' answers to the question of how to deal with the strength of the workers.

The ranks of the labour movement must draw the lessons from the Tories' climb-down. No matter what policies the Tories were to adopt, none offers a way forward for the working class. We should draw strength from the present indecision in the ranks of the Tories, to go forward onto the offensive.

The miners showed what could be done by bold and determined action, but if the Tories are allowed to do it, they will come back later with further attacks on workers' rights and living standards. The labour movement has enormous power at its disposal; that power and strength should be fully mobilised to sweep the Tories from office and bring in a Labour government committed to socialist policies.



Part of the 70,000 demonstration in Glasgow last Saturday

Photo: Militant

# THATCHER OUT!

**“We’ve got the Tories on the run. Now let’s kick them out.”**

That was the mood of many of the 70,000 marchers in Scotland’s biggest demonstration since the Second World War.

Every contingent of marchers seemed to have a special reason for being there. Their factories were being closed, their jobs axed. Or else they were striking for more pay. And after the miners defeat of the government they were more confident they would win.

Demonstrators did not only come from Scotland, but from all over northern

**Reports by  
Greg Oxley and  
Kevin Ramage**

England, and hundreds travelled up from London and the south-east. Over 4,000 came from Merseyside in two special trains and a fleet of coaches.

Despite the bitter cold the enthusiasm of the march was infectious. By 11 am. the starting point, Blythswood Square, was packed. From the top of the LPYS van it was a mass of waving red and gold banners.

It took nearly four hours

for all the demonstrators to leave the Square—so much for the predictable but ridiculously low police estimate of 30,000 marchers. The Labour Party and LPYS contingents from outside the Strathclyde area alone took half an hour to enter Queens Park (the end of the march).

The march was backed up by cheers, waves and shouts of support from workers in the streets. LPYS members got an enthusiastic response to short speeches and chants on the loudspeakers. Particularly well-received were the criticisms made of the last Labour government—“we need socialist policies” was the reply.

And LPYS speakers explained what that meant—35-hour week, £80 mini-

mum wage (“at least” shouted back some) and taking over the commanding heights of the economy.

Not surprisingly there was no support for the Council for Social Democracy. Their policies had been tried and failed, pointed out one LPYS speaker. The sooner they left, the better; they were only looking for careers.

The demonstration was so large that about half the marchers never got to Queens Park in time for the rally.

There Eric Heffer received thunderous applause when he said: “It’s not just the Tories we want to get rid of, but the whole capitalist system...Either we let the working people pay for the crisis, or else the next

Labour government carries out the socialist transformation of society.”

Frank White of the Scottish LPYS hammered out the need for the next Labour government to make a fundamental break with the past policies of maintaining and trying to improve the profit system.

Frank was well received by the crowd, but unfortunately this theme was not taken up by two following speakers, Clive Jenkins and Jimmy Milne of the Scottish TUC. They called for import controls as the solution to the problems facing British workers. Clive Jenkins commented “the lights are dying out in Britain, but they saved the lights in the rest of Europe.”

With unemployment at 8% in the Common Market and rising, this approach does not unite workers in a common struggle against the class enemy.

The urgency of the situation was pointed out by Michael Foot who stated that

Labour would need “a radical socialist policy” to resolve the crisis. Without being specific, he promised measures to restore living standards and create jobs and to wild enthusiasm called for a return of “a Labour government and the creation of a socialist society.”

This magnificent demonstration has undoubtedly given a major boost to the labour movement in Scotland. We must build upon this success and give concrete expression to the marchers’ demands to change society.

Bring down this disastrous Thatcher government as soon as possible and replace it by a Labour government which won’t tinker with the old system but create the basis for a new society by taking over the banks, and major monopolies and run them as part of an integrated socialist plan of production to provide jobs and decent living standards for all.

## Nothing wrong.....

According to the Earl of Ancrum, Tory MP for Edinburgh South: “Scotland is riding out the recession well.” Workers can only assume that this son and heir of the Marquess of Lothian and current chairman of the Scottish Tories, has defined the country as himself and is

giving a self-description.

He doesn’t exactly go short. He owns 1,100 acres on the family estate in Derby, 400 acres in Roxburgh and a caravan park in Jedburgh. He complements this by directorships in Portzim Ltd., an agricultural firm, Nisbet Millfarm Partnership, another farm

and Lilliardsedge Park Partnership, his caravan park.

And if he’s still short of the ready cash whilst waiting for his inheritance, he can always scrape a living on lawyer’s pittances, as he’s an advocate at the Scottish Bar.

## .....except the system

“When I left school four years ago, I searched for a trade. I was on the brew [dole] for about 6 months before I got a job—in the National Savings Bank Head Office [4,000 work there].

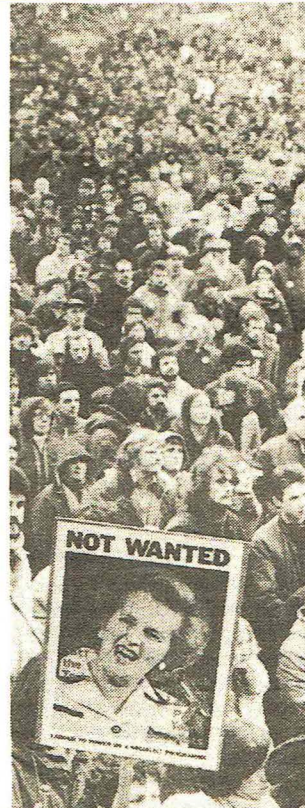
“That was a job—in the civil service—that you used to look down on. Now even the National Savings Bank

is hardly taking on anyone new.

“I’ve come back to this estate after several years away. Nothing changed much. There’s just more kids hanging around, in groups of 10 or 20 in the streets. Their only sport is dodging the odd police patrol. The Tories’ only answer is ‘short sharp

shock’.”—Pollock LPYS members.

“There are six lads in the estate despatch department in the factory where I work on Government Training Schemes. They get no training—some are even pushed into working overtime.”—Anne Petrie [Pollock LPYS]



Rally after march

## LPYS campaign gains

**By Willie Griffin**

The LPYS preparations before the march really paid dividends, 4,000 posters were put up around the city. LPYS speakers addressed meetings of miners, engineering and shipyard workers.

In Govan and Clydebank small demonstrations were held. Before the Govan LPYS meeting, houses, schools, dole queues, subways everywhere were leafleted. 30 new recruits were won at that meeting.

In the week before the march, the Stock Exchange was picketed, and a coffin symbolising the death of jobs under this bosses government was taken to local Tory Party offices.

On the day itself over 300 young people filled in LPYS application forms and expressed an interest in coming to future LPYS activities.

And the success was not confined to Scottish comrades. On one coach from Gosforth there were 14 young people, who previously had never been to an LPYS meeting, and now want to join.

**...plus £10 for a ‘Militant’**

And to prove that you can never get too much for selling ‘Militant’. Teesside seller Bill Hopwood was given £10 for a copy of the paper!

LPYS '81

# Come to Annual Conference

**Bridlington April 17-20**

**This Easter 2,000 young workers, students, and unemployed will come together in Bridlington for the Labour Party Young Socialists' National Conference.**

**It is the 20th annual conference and marks two decades during which the Labour Party has undergone dramatic changes.**

So too has the LPYS, which only 11 years ago had a Jenkinsite/Social Democratic leadership. Indeed, Roy Jenkins was reported as campaigning for the LPYS back in 1969!

You can bet he would not be seen dead near a LPYS meeting now. His friends, Sandelson, Horam, Thomas, Ellis and Marquand signed a letter in 1975 calling for action against the LPYS paper as being 'anti-Labour Party'. Now the real Judases are exposed.

The Marxist-led LPYS have gone from strength to strength transforming the LPYS from a Jenkinsite claret and evening dress organisation, into a genuine movement of working class youth.

Scores of young workers will attend the Easter conference through sponsorship from their trade unions. An increased number of young miners are expected, especially as Arthur Scargill, leader of the Yorkshire NUM, will be speaking.

Speakers from the socialist youth movements in Ireland, north and south, speakers from the black youth and trade union youth movements will also attend. Their fraternal speeches will add to the conference which will forge policies for the LPYS to adopt and fight for in the coming year.

The important role the LPYS play in the labour movement was shown unwittingly by the 'Daily Telegraph' on 22 March, 1976, who at that time with the rest of the Tory press was trying to whip up a witch hunt against the Young Socialists. Its editorial whined "the Labour Party's elan and sense of direction is supplied by the Young Socialists, who are concerned not with preserving a

**By Kevin Ramage**  
(LPYS National Chairman)

State but with making a revolution; and this, after all, is precisely what his (Callaghan's) party has always asked for." What more can we say!

There are a record number of resolutions on this year's agenda, ranging from the problems of apprentices to a call for higher death grants. Unemployment and housing—the key issues facing working class youth—account for a large number of resolutions.

On international affairs, the arms race, South Africa and Chile are featured. The National Committee are also presenting documents on Poland and Unemployment for adoption by the conference.

In other words, the conference is a must for every young socialist and every older socialist who wants to discuss Marxist ideas and hear the voice of the youth.

If this isn't enough, then on the Saturday night there is the annual Militant rally attended by over 1,500 people and which last year raised a magnificent £4,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund.

Just to make sure that everyone also enjoys themselves outside of conference sessions, a band has been booked and there will be discos every night, a performance by the 7:84 Theatre group and folk singing.

So how do you get to the LPYS Conference, April 17-20 in Bridlington? Contact your local LPYS branch or write to Andy Bevan, LPYS, Labour Party, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17 for more details.

Approach your union, Labour Party or Co-op for sponsorship. Join the local LPYS campaigns to raise funds for those who can't afford to pay the full whack. Book up now for the biggest ever LPYS conference.

"I can't describe the atmosphere in words. It's very optimistic and issues are debated so well. What a contrast to our YS Conference, where only 150 people attended and the Marxists are in a minority."

Roger Devos [Belgian YS]

"When it came up at my union branch I said 'right, I'll go to that'. I had the shock of my life when I found about 2,000 people wandering about. It gives you great confidence to go back and get on with the political work."

John Pulham [G&MWU shop steward, Tate and Lyle]

"I found the international debates so useful. The LPYS have a world perspective. They don't see the capitalist crisis in Britain as separate from the world crisis."

South African exile

"I've only been in the Dutch YS a few months, and this conference is so impressive. What impressed me was the high political level and the extremely democratic way in which debates were conducted."

"The comradely atmosphere is everything a socialist movement should be. You can't but feel the need to be active when you attend such a conference."

Ton Hesp [Dutch YS]

"A lot of people said it would be boring and I was a bit disillusioned. But when I got here, the very first night really woke me up. The speaker from Chile just shows you what it's all about. It makes you come alive."

Martin Fowles [Brentwood LPYS]



Above: part of the LPYS contingent at Glasgow, 21 February

Below: Frank White, Scottish chairman of LPYS speaks at rally

Photos: J McKittrick (MILITANT)



## POLICE HARASS LABOUR'S YOUTH

**The police and the Tories would deny that there is any conscious policy of harassing the labour movement activists. But a round-up of the cases of a few comrades in London towards the end of last year, makes this open to question:**

June; Five LPYS members arrested in Southall while leafletting and paper selling for 'willful obstruction'. After 2 adjournments the case was dismissed.

August; Two LPYS members arrested in Newham while paper selling, charged with 'obstruction' and given 2 year conditional discharge.

November: Four LPYS members arrested in Enfield following a protest against the New National Front on Remembrance Day. Only one comrade was found guilty. Fines and court costs totalled over £400.

In addition two YS members were arrested (but not charged) on SUS in South London. What were they doing? They were canvassing!

**By 'Militant' reporters**

There have been many other dubious arrests in other parts of the country recently. Perhaps the most outrageous was the case of an LPYS member arrested outside Everton football ground on a matchday charged with 'obstruction'—one against 20,000!

In Merseyside, the Tory controlled Wirral Council have put forward a series of draconian measures, which are a fundamental attack on 'free speech'. In Birkenhead the number of police patrols in the shopping areas has increased, with action being stepped up against labour movement activists—especially the LPYS.

Four YS members were arrested for fly posting a derelict building already plastered with ads for concerts and circuses. They were fined £90. Two comrades leafletting a school

were grilled for names and addresses by the Special Branch, and earlier an LPYS secretary was arrested and charged with obstruction while selling papers in Birkenhead precinct.

Clearly the spate of arrests and arbitrary harassment of leafletters and paper sellers is not an accident. Even if it is not a centrally co-ordinated policy there can be no doubt that many local police chiefs and local authority offices feel they have a freer hand under the Tories to harass 'troublemaking lefties'.

Once more we can see that for the Tories and capitalism, 'free speech' is O.K.—as long as you can't be heard. With working class people beginning to organise more and more to fight against cuts and falling living standards we can see the ruling class trying to restrict all our hard won democratic gains.

As Sir Ian Gilmour (a 'wet' Tory) put it in his book 'Inside right':—"Conservatives do not worship democracy. For them majority rule is a device...if it is leading to an end that is undesirable...there is a theoretical case for ending it."



The prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew, has a word of warning for Britain's rulers, the former masters of Singapore. "Social resentment has brought countries like Britain to its knees," said Mr Lee. "The lower classes feel resentment of the better-off... their unions are totally devoid of any sense of empathy or national solidarity."

Mr Lee's solution? Well, he doesn't mention it, but his government's powers of arbitrary arrest, detention and banishment, derived in part from former British colonial legislation, have removed all opposition from Singapore's parliament. Former leaders of the Seamen's and Busworker's unions have been imprisoned without trial for up to eighteen years, and the Busworkers union is now banned.

A word of warning to Mr Lee: British Tories have and would use the same methods—if they could. But as they have found to their cost, no prison walls are thick enough to incarcerate the class struggle.

"Far left loses in NUT election" a Guardian headline grinned recently. It explained how 'far left' Mr D Pickton lost to 'moderate' Colin Yardley. Their political persuasions? Mr Picton is a member of the Labour Party. Colin Yardley is a former executive member of the Young Communist League, and to the best of our knowledge is still a member of the Communist Party!

It's amazing the lengths the Tory press will go to to build up right-wing labour leaders. On the one hand they keep repeating how 'responsible' and 'moderate' they are, but at the same time try to build them up as real tough class fighters and raving radicals, to try and sell them to the working class. A fine example of this appeared in the Sunday Telegraph [February 15] in a half page article on Frank Chapple, the right wing leader of the EETPU. Having let him rant on with insulting remarks about the rank and file members of the Labour Party [e.g. "a lot of them are loonies"] they then try and restore his credibility. So the following amazing quotes from one of Chapple's former adversaries, are inserted. They come from Mark Young, now a leading figure in that vanguard of the industrial working class, the Airline Pilots Association: "I think he's [Chapple] a very radical man....certainly much more radical than some of his colleagues. He's got a bit of the Trot in him still." Ha Ha!

A local paper in Tamworth reports on the town's MP visiting a local engineering firm. With a picture of Tory MP John Heddle inspecting a piece of the factory's produce, it quotes him saying: "It's not all gloom and despair in the British industry when there are small highly motivated companies. These companies epitomise what's good about Britain." The piece of factory produce the MP admired so? A gun carriage for a Harrier jump-jet fighter.

Are you wondering what all the fuss is about over Prince Charles and Lady Diana? Why are the ruling class in raptures over it? Harold Brooks-Baker, managing director of 'Debrett' [the 'Who's Who' of the aristocracy] told 'The Times' why this marriage will be so important: "She descends five times from Charles II; four times on the wrong side of the blanket, and one on the right side. Of 26 dukes in England today, five are direct descendents on the wrong side of the blanket of Charles II. Prince Charles does not descend from that king." What this character is trying to tell us is that Lady Diana will be the first English queen since 1659. Must be something to do with the Nationality Bill.

# When 'civilisation' came to Africa

In a two part article, 'Militant' reviews:

Price £5 [including postage] from World Books, 1 Mentmore Tce, London E8 3PN

The 'grab for Africa' began in the 1870s. In all the major capitalist countries 'public opinion' was mobilised into a patriotic craze for colonies.

What produced the new mood was spelled out by the colonial adventurer Karl Peters: "a colony which yields a profit on the money invested is a laudable enterprise, whereas a colony which turns out to be unprofitable is an unpatriotic venture."

Imperialism in Africa came up against the native tribal communities which it then destroyed incorporating the remnants into the capitalist order.

No more horrible example exists of this process than the genocide of the Germans against the Hereros and Nama in what is now Namibia. The history of this genocide is the subject of "Let us die fighting".

The pioneer scouts of colonisation were the missionaries. The Rhenish missionary Society in South West Africa, aside from its spiritual concerns, set up a trading company specialising in the import of arms and ammunition.

Some of them used their influence among the tribal chiefs to sell the shady deals by which the tribal lands were stolen by the great financial syndicates.

Typical of such transactions was one made by Adolf Lüderitz, where he bought a long coastal strip 20 miles wide. What he didn't tell the natives was that he meant 20 geographical miles, equivalent up to 100 English miles!

Since the colonising forces were still weak, commissioner Goering resorted to shooting gold into rock and then using the resulting 'discovery' to get a gold rush and so populate the land with white settlers.

By Mick Brooks

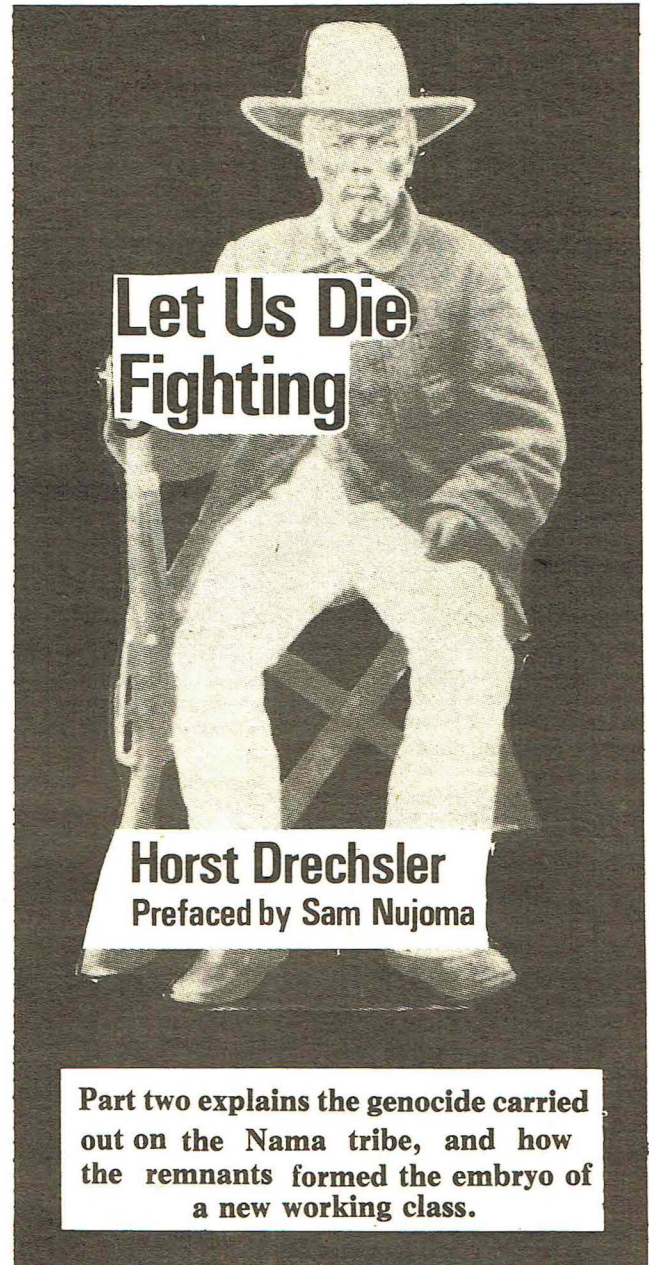
These formed the shock troops of German imperialism. Calling the Africans 'baboons' their attitude was summed up by one man of God, "I feel that once the Damara have had a taste of the whip they will become decent chaps willing to listen to their missionaries."

Colonisation proceeded cautiously at first, using the age old imperial tactic of divide and rule. The new commissioner Leutwin said that, "it is self-evident that a politically divided Herero nation is more easy to deal with than a united and coherent one." Playing off the chiefs (Kapteins) against each other, using flattery and punishments, they used them to maintain their own rule.

In 'Capital' Marx explained how the condition for capitalist exploitation is "the husband process of divorcing the producer from the means of production." The Nama and Herero had to be dispossessed of their land and cattle so, "if hunger forces large numbers of the natives to seek employment and pay, one can fix their wages...in an appropriate form."

The colonists carried this process out by force and fraud. by the time the chiefs had awoken from their dreams of collaboration, the tribes has been weakened too much to fight back on equal terms. Imperialism took the initiative and colonisation entered a new stage.

In 1893, a contingent of German troops surrounded the Nama encampment of Chief Hendrik Wittoosi firing 16,000 rounds in thirty minutes. The natives were compl-



Horst Drechsler  
Prefaced by Sam Nujoma

Part two explains the genocide carried out on the Nama tribe, and how the remnants formed the embryo of a new working class.

etely surprised and at least 78 people, mainly women and children were killed. Thus were the benefits of civilisation brought to the Nama 'savages' by the Germans!

Moving first against the smaller tribes, German imperialism by 1904 felt itself strong enough to take on the main force of the Hereros.

For this purpose General Von Trotha arrived from Berlin. He addressed a proclamation to the Hereros as follows, "the Herero people will have to leave the country. Otherwise I shall force them to do so by means of guns. Within the German boundaries every Herero, whether

found armed or unarmed, with or without cattle will be shot." This policy was carried out to the letter.

For those who escaped, a grimmer fate awaited. They were driven into the waterless Amaheke Desert, where thousands were penned in and left to die of thirst.

The Herero, on the other hand, fought according to the rules of war, sparing women, children and missionaries. The latter responded in characteristic fashion by winning the tribesmen under their influence away from the path of armed uprising, and used them for spying.

# The DUP's desperate moves

In a tragi-farsical episode, Paisley launched his 'Carson-style' campaign with a midnight parade in the Antrim mountains in pitch darkness.

Since then, Paisley has stage-managed his expulsion from Westminster and intends to hold a series of meetings in towns throughout the six counties where his supporters will be asked to sign a covenant.

In Ballymena, the response to Paisley's cavortings has been less than enthusiastic. In fact Paisley, now an object of humour in the town, has even been likened to the Grand Old Duke of York.

Young people in particular are noticeably absent from his meetings and many describe

By Ken Aiken

(Ballymena LTUG)

their MP as 'mad'. This was well summed up by West Belfast MP Gerry Fitt who, on hearing of Paisley's midnight display, said his first reaction was to draw the curtains aside, to see if there was a full moon.

But while the effect of such sectarian sabre-rattling in the build up to the local elections in May should not be underestimated in its attempt to promote violence amongst the working class, this is not the primary aim.

The capitalist economic recession is now hitting Northern Ireland very hard. Within the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) constitu-

encies of Paisley, Robinson and McQuade, firms are closing down each week. All these MPs are being exposed as unable to do the slightest thing to prevent this, and it has been left to the workers themselves to fight back, as in the cases of the seamen and the Euroweld occupation.

Such actions focus the attention of the working class and unite them as never before in the last ten years. Paisley knows that workers' unity spells out his end. He must therefore, try to push sectarianism to the front once again.

But Paisley is not alone in attempting to direct the workers' attention away from their own struggles.

The Provisional IRA have jumped on the bandwagon and have promised to step up their campaign. An example

of their mentality was the bombing and sinking of a coal boat near Derry, during the seamen's strike.

Only the trade union movement can cut across sectarianism; only they can field working class candidates in the elections, who will stand on a socialist programme.

Already in Antrim, a Labour League has been formed to put forward a candidate and other trades councils are expected to follow their lead.

The week of action against the Tories this April will only be of lasting benefit if the workers of Northern Ireland can elect people who will replace the bigots at present in control at the Town Halls.

# Refusing to accept bosses priorities

**'International Year of Disabled People' will undoubtedly be found as wanting as the UN's 'Year of the Child' in 1979. As I've found out, when a society is run for profit, disabled people come very near the bottom in terms of social priority.**

My path to disability began in 1972 when, after months of examinations, tests and endless hours in hospital corridors, a doctor told me that the minor ailment, I thought I had, was: 'A terrible disease called disseminated sclerosis.'

**By Alan Alberry**  
(Chesterfield CLP)

"Never heard of it," I said. "I've heard of multiple sclerosis. What does it mean? What treatment do I have?"

"None, it's incurable," was the reply.

Trying to comprehend the implication of this I asked "Is it hereditary?" My son was around eighteen months old at the time.

"It could be," he replied. "Well, how long have I got?"

"You should have a normal lifespan, but you could finish up in a wheelchair." With this information I left the hospital and have never been in one since.

In the weeks and months that have followed I tried to find out as much information as I could. On asking my own doctor if I should try for a less strenuous job (I was a fitter at the coal face), he replied "It may be a good idea."

A while later I found out by chance that 'disseminated sclerosis' and 'multiple sclerosis' were the same thing; one

doctor stated on a sick note that I had multiple sclerosis. For months I had been living a totally unnecessary illusion.

By the autumn of 1974 I was permanently off work and after fifteen months and a medical, at the age of 26, I was retired.

I immediately discovered that other than an initial five loads of coal, I would not be entitled to the 'retired miners fuel allowance'. To have been eligible for this concessionary coal I would have had to have worked at the pit for thirty years, and I only had ten years' service with the NCB.

After the first six months, virtually all the household income was coming via the Department of Health and Social Security, and with it all the problems of its bureaucratic structure.

Once they sent two weeks money in the form of one 'giro' cheque. Very efficient, you may think, but there was just one small problem. The

value of the 'giro' was such that it could not be cashed at the Post Office; it was worth around £55.

When my wife took it to a bank she was told because we had not got a bank account (which was not unusual as we had nothing to put in one), the bank would not cash the cheque. Apparently they did not trust the government to pay.

Off to the SS office to point out to them that the 'giro' was as much use as a piece of 'Andrex' and will they please only make weekly payments.

Eventually my physical condition deteriorated so that I had to use a wheelchair and with this event came all the attendant problems of access and mobility, particularly for the person propelling the 'chair'. The most restricting fact I find is the dearth of suitable toilet facilities for the handicapped; in fact in my opinion they are rare as 'rocking-horse droppings.'

One of the few places I come across suitable toilet facilities was, ironically, in the middle of the Forest of Dean, at the 1979 LPYS summer camp. Unfortunately even there the authorities had not seen fit to provide an adapted shower or signpost the toilets, which were hidden at the back of the shower blocks.

Alongside my becoming handicapped was a growing political awareness. This received a tremendous boost when my MP Dennis Skinner undertook a near thirty-mile



Disabled people determined to fight for their rights against the Tory government, on the recent Lambeth march against cuts.

Photo: Militant

round trip on his push-bike to encourage me to join the Labour Party. I cannot envisage any other MP doing the same.

At the next ward meeting of the local Labour Party my political understanding was taken even further forward by seeing two copies of the

'Militant'.

When you consider that at the time there were no local 'Militant' sellers, then one can see the tremendous influence just the paper alone can have on somebody like myself, who was striving for the ideas of Marxism.

The bosses' media are

currently hypocritically crying about the disabled, while at the same time praising Thatcher and her henchmen for all their cuts in social services.

Yet while the system of capitalism remains and profit is more important than need then the problems I have outlined will continue.

## "Would you put your children before your principles?"

I was asked the other day if I'd learned a lesson and in future would I be looking after number one.

My answer was, I am still 100% a trade unionist, 100% a Labour Party member, and a supporter of the 'Militant'. I will work harder than ever to transform society to a socialist one.

I am bitter at the suffering my family have endured but not bitter against my class. My bitterness is aimed at our enemy the ruling class and their puppets the Tory government, and those in the labour and trade union movement who either through ignorance or for gain maintain this decaying and rotten system.

Without their help the system could be transformed within weeks, towards a socialist one for the benefit of the people who produce the wealth of the world, the workers of the world.

"So you would let your children suffer for your principles?" was their retort.

My Dad came out of the second world war with shell-shock and a nervous breakdown. My Mother's hopes of a new start ended up with a nightmare of six in a bed (the whole family) in one room; promotion to Kings Mill workhouse Derby, then to Hartlepool workhouse.

**Last year after a bitter six-month dispute against victimisation workers at the Alan Smith group in Nottingham reluctantly returned to work, although their convenor Roy Bennett remained locked out. Throughout the dispute, including the final decision to return, Roy had been fully involved and agreed with his members in discussions on how best to proceed. Now, still out of work due to an employers' blacklist, Roy assesses these experiences.**

**By Roy Bennett**  
(Nottingham)

After more moves, the family eventually got a house of their own in 1960. Not Victorian memories—I'm 34 years old and I know many people with such memories.

Against these memories I see the savage cuts in council house building, health service, education, job annihilation and war-mongering. If I don't stand by my so-called principles, then my children will suffer: not only will they be without education, a roof, medicine, jobs, but maybe without their lives.

You may think the persons asking the questions were true blues—or liberal: no they were a couple of workers who voted Labour last time. They agreed with what I said; they hated this Tory government as much as I did, but had become disillusioned with the

Labour Party because they said they didn't see much difference: the MPs are all the same too (their words, not mine).

So they would look after number one!

My reply to them and every other worker disillusioned with the Labour Party is, become a member not just a voting statistic. Kick out the rot, and I'm not just talking about the gang of three. It's our Party, we built it through our fore-fathers.

I'm not cynical about these workers, I understand their feelings. They're disillusioned because of the lack of leadership in what they see as their party, the Labour Party. They've seen it stabled in the back time after time by so-called 'workers leaders'.

But with the sale of two 'Militant's' I'm sure they will be on the road not just to unity but also to socialism. Roy Bennett Nottingham

## MILLIONAIRES ISLAND OFF MERSEYSIDE

**Millionaire Island was how one English newspaper recently described the Isle of Man.**

**By Alastair Wood**  
Isle of Man)

It went on to describe the lifestyles of some of the 'tax exiles' who live here attracted by the big tax reductions given by the Manx government.

One millionaire described how he had moved here for tax and business reasons. But he moaned that he could not spend more than 90 nights a year in the UK before being subject to British tax laws.

He overcame this by having his own aeroplane. So in his eight seater turbo-commander or his twin-commander, he flies from the Isle of Man to Biggin Hill, spends the day in London and is still home in time for supper.

Another explained—"we did not move here just for tax reasons—what happened was that I had 650 acres of land in the Isle of Wight and I took one of the herdsmen to task because I did not think he was working properly:

"He gave me a run down on what and where he thought I

The highlight of the millionaires social life however is to be invited to dine at Government House with the Lieutenant Governor, Rear Admiral Sir Nigel Cecil and his wife, the final accolade of social acceptance.

The hypocrisy was well expressed by one tax exile who said: "I was born an Englishman and I shall die one, even though I have no regrets about bringing my family to live in the Isle of Man—it was not just the tax situation but the fact that there is political stability here. Your children can walk around in safety and you don't have to worry about them being mugged."

In other words even though it is the profit system which made his fortune, which breeds the social problems and most of the violence that occurs in society, it won't affect him because he is wealthy enough to be able to escape to any little safe corner of the world, to hide from the situation that he and his rich friends created.

Well let's make this one little corner of the world less safe for them to escape to. It is important for Manx working people to join a trade union and the Manx Labour Party and join with those in the rest of the British Labour movement fighting for a socialist transformation of society. Then the whole of the British Isles can be run on the basis of a socialist planned economy, to provide a decent standard of living for everyone and not just the idle rich.

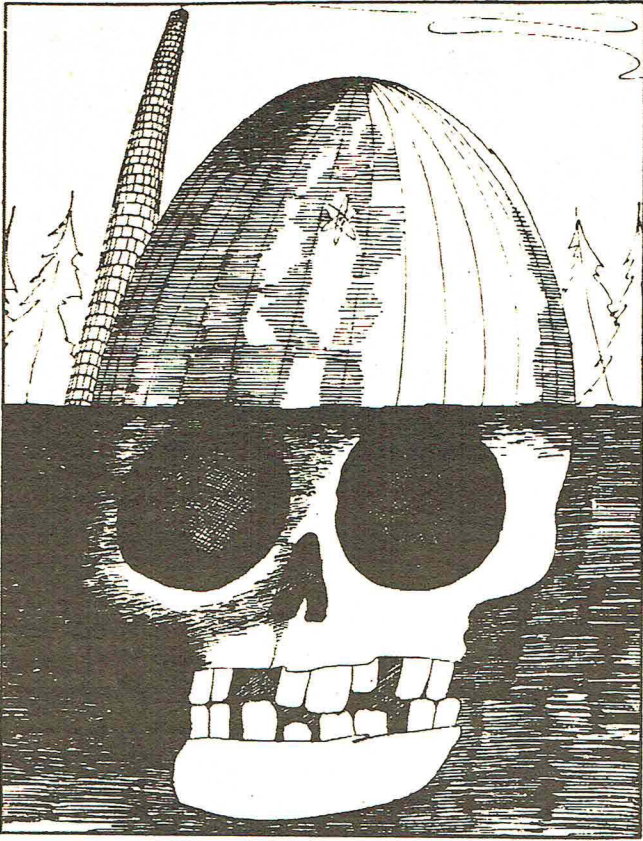
was going wrong which convinced me that I was no longer my own boss. So I decided there and then that I had had enough of that attitude and we moved here." (Obviously a fan of workers' control).

However both he and his wife still have a trace of nostalgia left for life in England, so they fly to Derbyshire twice a week in the hunting season, to chase foxes, and go shopping.

But of course the Isle of Man is not just a millionaires' island. For many of the Manx working-class life is a lot different.

In Douglas, the capital, there is a waiting list of 600 families desperately in need of housing. Yet the council has no plans for any further housing schemes.

It now costs over £20 to travel to the mainland, unemployment is rising steadily, and for working class youth there are hardly any decent leisure facilities.



Cartoon from W German newspaper

## End Nuclear Waste Threat

Stored at Windscale there are 9,000 tonnes of spent fuel-oxide waste, equivalent to the fall out from nearly 25,000 Hiroshima bombs. If there was a major accident at the plant it is estimated that at least an area of 40,000 square miles would be contaminated.

So why has the United Kingdom along with France decided to become a nuclear dustbin? In all the other major industrial nations reprocessing spent fuel has either been rejected or stopped. The United States of America have halted their programme, and in West Germany and Canada the opposition is too great to allow the programme to go ahead.

Yet in Britain the government believes the profits outweigh the risks although oxide waste has not yet been successfully reprocessed regularly. British Nuclear Fuels Ltd first attempt ended in 1973 when a serious accident contaminated 35 workers resulting in the shut-down and eventual abandonment of the reprocessing plant. The new plant will not be completed for eight more years yet Nuclear Fuels continue to ship spent fuel into Windscale to stockpile the most deadly waste known to mankind.

"Barrow and District Action Group Against the Import of Nuclear Waste" has been formed to voice the largescale public concern over these shipments, brought into Barrow by boat from Japan (spent oxide fuel) and Europe (spent magnox fuel). It is transported through the town by rail to Windscale and requires no planning permission, no consultation with the public and no public safety contingency plans.

The oxide waste is transported in gigantic flasks. According to the Atomic Energy Authority if one flask was broken an area of three miles would be contaminated and uninhabitable for 50 to 125 years. They claim this is highly unlikely but in 1976 a

Jean Emery [Sec., Barrow Action Group Against Import of Nuclear Waste] talked to Dave Cotterill

flask was derailed between Barrow and Windscale.

The boats are also declared "safe"—but the 'Poole Fisher' which had formerly carried magnox flasks hit a harbour wall and sank...luckily it was carrying potash.

The town of Barrow is virtually surrounded by nuclear hazards. First there are the waste dock facilities, and the nuclear submarines, then to the north, Windscale and Calder Hall atomic power stations and to the south Heysham nuclear power station.

From its beginning the committee has been linked to the labour and trade union movement. 90% of Barrows' ship yard workers have refused to work on refurbishing used nuclear flasks—despite an initial acceptance by the unions.

Contrast this with the attitude of the misnamed Health and Safety management who state "they (the flasks) are so clean that by law they are put on public transport and dragged across the country. They're parked in railway sidings. Kids go on them and all sorts of things." According to them the level of radiation is very low.

But no level of radiation is safe. There should be an immediate register of all workers in the nuclear industry, to be compiled by the trade union movement, and a regular monitoring of all the workers and people who come into contact with nuclear waste.

Yet nuclear waste itself cannot be guaranteed to be safe. They are playing with the lives of children yet unborn. Instead of nuclear fission, which produces waste, there should be a crash programme of research to produce alternative energy sources—including nuclear fusion, which could provide power without leaving contaminated waste.



West Riding regiment sent in to commandeer Pontypridd in December 1910

# When they shot the Miners Down

The four years before the first world war marked some of the greatest episodes in the history of the British working class.

This 'Great Labour Unrest', as it became known, involved seamen, dockers, railwaymen, transport workers, engineers and building workers in a massive strike wave, terrifying the bosses, and forcing them to desperate measures.

The South Wales miners were the first to join battle with the employers and their government after the relative industrial peace of the preceding decade.

Strikes began in the Cambrian Combine Colliery in September 1910, over piece-rate payments to miners working in 'abnormal places', ie. narrow, unproductive and poor quality seams. Miners had been demanding a decent minimum wage.

But when their leaders took the demand to the Conciliation Board (which comprised of union officials and employers), the employers rejected the demand and threatened to lock out any miners who did not accept the existing scheme.

The South Wales Miners Federation (SWMF) officials accepted this ruling and urged that the men take no action. But the miners picked up the bosses gauntlet and all 10,000 of them came out on unofficial strike.

Simultaneously, a strike broke out in Aberdare Valley when the mineowners withdrew the miners' entitlement to free timber from the Colliery timber yard. In all 30,000 workers were on strike.

The bosses were determined to teach the miners a lesson. The Metropolitan police were drafted into the area, and a large body of troops kept in reserve. Trainloads of scab labour were organised to smash their way into the mines.

By Greg Oxley

The Liberal government showed what liberalism amounts to when faced with even the most modest claims of the working class—a 'liberal' helping of shootings, baton charges, intimidation of workers and their families.

The Labour Party in parliament had a 'Pact' to keep the Liberals in office. In fact, that same year Lloyd George had approached Macdonald, Labour's parliamentary leader, to join the Liberals and 'moderate' Tories in a coalition. Macdonald agreed, but it came to nothing.

No help for the miners would come from that quarter. They could only rely on themselves.

From the outset the dispute was desperate, bitter, and extremely militant. Mass pickets were organised against blacklegs, scab trains were intercepted, and their occupants thoroughly questioned about the bosses' plans.

Local scabs were completely ostracised throughout the dispute and for years to come. The letters 'BL' or 'Scab' were daubed on their doors. Women and children smashed the windows of any household collaborating with the bosses, the police, or blacklegs. Scab transport was sabotaged.

On 2 November, blacklegs were attacked by strikers, some of whom were armed with revolvers. Telegraph wires used to co-ordinate breaking of the strike were cut.

On 7 November Noah Rees and W H Mainwaring of the Cambrian Combine strike committee aroused miners in Clydach Vale against scabs going into Glamorgan Colliery. The men were met with troops and police and savagely beaten

back. One striker was shot dead and scores were injured, some very seriously.

A riot broke out in the main square of the village of Tonypany. Shops in the square were attacked and looted. Strikers singled out for special attention the drapers shop, which belonged to T.R. Jenkin, the Rhondda Chief Magistrate.

This notable had declared: "Let them live on kippers and tea!" and was involved in legal actions against strikers. The strike committee opposed looting, but they were ignored by men who had been frustrated by armed force from pursuing their limited claims.

As the strike wore on, more desperate measures were to follow. Mine managers were beaten up, and in the case of one of them, an attempt was made to blow up his house.

These isolated incidents have often been used to hide the real character of the strike. Terroristic activities, were a blind alley which did nothing to further the strike and its cause. They arose from the ferocity of the government and the mineowners, and the absence of official support from the union.

The approach of the majority of strikers is really shown by the thirst for political ideas which developed during the strike. The Blaenclwydach Marxian Club reported in December 1910 that:

"The demand for 'Justice' (the paper of the 'Marxist' Social Democratic Federation) is so great that we failed to bring a single copy to the club from the railway station, the whole 500 copies being sold in half an hour."

Jessie Clarke of Tonypany, voicing the workers' attitude to the police, also showed the effect of socialist literature: "They were there to beat us and they were government men. Somebody wanted to tell me that the police are for the workers, but no, unless its a minor thing."

"It's just the same as Jack London said in his book 'The Iron Age' ('Iron Heel') they are out for the money people. Money people come first, you after."

The Cambrian miners returned to work in August 1911, on the terms first put by the employers before the strike. But the cause was not completely lost. The great national miners strike of 1912 demanding a minimum wage met with partial success in forcing the 'Minimum Wage Act' through parliament.

The South Wales miners also turned their attention to the SWMF and fought to democratise the union and turn it into a real fighting organisation. 'The Miners Next Step' was publicised locally in November 1911, and had an enormous impact on the union.

It called for an end to the remoteness and independence of union officials and for loyalty "not to an individual, or the policy of an individual, but to an interest and a policy which is understood and worked for by all."

The disaffection with the leadership was expressed by Mark Harcombe, one of the Cambrian strikers: "It is simply sickening to read of the half-hearted way the leaders are taking up the question of the minimum wage...and if the worker is to come into his own he must get rid of this present-day 'oligarchy' manifested by his accredited leaders."

It is this magnificent fighting tradition of the South Wales miners which will eventually rid the working people of capitalism. The Rhondda Valley miners of 1910 were conscious that the satisfaction of their immediate aims was not the end of the struggle. Their wider ideas are expressed in the manifesto of the Cambrian Combine Strike Committee of 16th June 1910:

Through all the long dark night of years  
The peoples cry ascendeth  
And earth is wet with blood and tears  
But our meek suffrance endeth,  
The few shall not forever hold sway  
The many toil in sorrow  
The powers of Hell are strong today  
Our kingdom comes tomorrow.

## CRISIS IN COAL INDUSTRY

The following article is the resume of a speech opposing coal imports made by *Mike Griffin*, secretary of Penrhioceiber Lodge NUM at the South Wales area conference. We welcome the article sent by comrade Griffin because it gives us the chance to reply to a view which we would acknowledge is widely held in the mining industry.

We would hope that the debate on import controls will stimulate a comradely and fraternal debate in the whole labour movement about the running and management of industry in a wider sense.

6 We have had discussions in lodge meetings on imports of coal and on what principles the question of imports and exports into and from the UK should be discussed.

We are aware that historically we have exported coal all over the world. It is only in recent years that imports of coal have posed a threat to jobs in the home mining industry.

We are aware of the fact that the UK must export large quantities of goods in order to import large quantities of food we need to live: that we, are in fact, very much a trading nation.

We are aware that as socialists we are not national socialist, but international socialist, conscious of the fact that policies in one country have an effect on workers in another country. This was a major concern in lodge meetings, as we were conscious of the need to be consistent both in theory and in practice.

There is always a tendency to be theoretically pure, but when directly affected to react out of self-preservation against the theory.

I make these points so that conference may know the background to our discussion in January on the resolution of the Lodge.

Again, there was consideration of the question as to what general political line should be followed in the question of elements of planning in the fields of imports and exports. The Tories say they believe in free market forces; that in the end the satisfying and fulfilling of market needs will be beneficial to the people of the UK.

They profess to believe that if we import an article more cheaply from another country that this will force us to be more competitive and more efficient. Do we, as socialists, really believe this? Is the whole of the UK industrial base to be evaluated on this basis?

Let us take the question of armaments. Do we import our guns, tanks and aeroplanes from the cheapest source, or do we use a political judgement as to where we should import arms from? Or do we say we will maintain an armaments industry in case of war? Would

the Tories argue for free market forces in the case of arms?

Again, we could import oil from Saudi Arabia more cheaply than we can get it from the North Sea. So why go to the trouble of drilling beneath the North Sea? These are just two examples where the national interest impinges on free market forces. Every country has the national interest to consider. We think an element of planning must be there.

As socialists, we should be interested in whether miners in open-cast mines in the USA are in a trade union, or whether the ships bringing in the coal or any other product are unionised? The NCB's involvement in the future importation of Australian coal should be the subject of an enquiry. It is evident that the NCB are looking for a profit from the importation of Australian coal.

The lifting of restrictions on the export of capital from the UK by the Tory government means that money that should be invested in the UK is going through the world looking for a quick profit. That in itself should give socialists food for thought on the need for clear thinking on import controls.

In South Wales what is at stake is at least eight collieries that can be wiped out by imports of coal, as is now the case in Margam steel works. On the doorstep of the coal-field it uses only imported coal.

There is a need for a full enquiry into the whole question of coal imports and subsidies, and we favour opposition to all imports of coal until such an enquiry is made.

As a union we should arrange discussions with the mining unions in the USA and Australia. The rank and file delegation of South Wales miners to the Appalachian coal-field in 1979 reported that one of the most immediate problems facing miners there was the importation of coal from West Germany and South Africa.

Additionally, 10,000 miners were unemployed or on short-time in West Virginia, its coking-coal market in Japan being lost to Australia and China. Again, the deep mines of the eastern coalfields of the Appalachians are threatened by western coal from mines in the USA which have not the union tradition of the eastern coalfields.

The ramifications of the effect of the search for quick profit by the coal owners, irrespective of social consequences, seems world-wide and needs much discussion between workers' representatives.

Opposition to imports of coal to the UK must be made a political issue, with full explanations to the general public. In the words of the composite resolution, it is the economics of the madhouse to import coal 12,000 miles to put British miners on the dole. 9

# IMPORT CONTROLS

## - A reply to a Welsh miner

By John Pickard  
Photos by Julian McKittrick

### Unemployment is the burning issue of the day. In the last year especially, closures and redundancies have rained down upon workers like a blizzard.

**Not one of the forecasts of the Tories themselves have offered even a mild respite: on the contrary, unemployment figures are expected to rise to the three million mark by the end of this year and even higher afterwards.**

The Tories' policies have been especially vicious as far as the public sector has been concerned—they have already destroyed important sectors of steel and have been prepared to slash the coal industry even further.

It was entirely predictable that sooner or later one key section of workers would take on the Tories over unemployment, as the miners are doing at the present time. In the last twenty-five years the number of NCB collieries has fallen from 840 to only 217.

The recent proposals for closures would have meant the beginning of the end for the coalfield in Wales and other areas. Whole communities would have been 'murdered' like Jarrow in the '30s. The trade unions have the duty to protect the jobs and the livelihoods of their members and the fight of the NUM at the present time deserves the support of the entire labour movement.

But at the same time we believe that there are great dangers in the slogan for import controls, a slogan that often assumes the form of a general economic panacea, with the implication that import penetration is the main or even the sole cause of economic decline. Thus, for example, unions like TASS produce pamphlets ('Import Controls Now!') which are almost wholly based on the one issue, and speeches are made like the one at the

Welsh Labour Party conference by Ednyfed Hudson Davies when he called for industrial action and even a General Strike until import controls were implemented!

While we fight pit closures and job losses we must at the same time tell workers what we believe is the truth—that import penetration is far more a symptom of economic malaise than its cause. Comrade Griffin points out that we have historically exported coal and that imports are a recent phenomenon. Next year we will once again be a net exporter. It is quite clear, then, that the historic decline of the coal industry—and that is what it has been—has a more complex origin than would be implied by a single demand for coal import controls.

Before dealing specifically with the mining industry, it is important that we make a few brief general points about the demand for import controls. The advocates of such controls do not satisfactorily answer the charge that retaliation against British exports would be a result.

### International solidarity

Britain exports well over £50 billion in goods and services annually and at the same time the world economic climate is creating a more and more competitive situation. It is completely illusory to believe that import controls would not result in equally stringent controls on our own exports.

It is important that this point is made because workers can easily be led to believe that import controls should apply to their own industry, even if not the others. The

even if not to others. The problem is that the generalised demand for 'selective' controls has come to mean all things to all men.

Miners apply it to coal, car workers to cars, textile workers to textiles, steelworkers to steel, fishermen to fish and even farmers apply it to French Golden Delicious! The slogan for import controls has thus become, among many lefts of the labour movement, a generalised panacea for all economic problems.

We have also to consider the effect of the demand on the traditional solidarity and international outlook of the miners themselves. Comrade Griffin points out in his article that there is coal produced in the USA from non-union labour.

The NUM will without a doubt support the American miners union in its attempt to unionise the mines. Similarly in Britain, it is not inconceivable that in the future the NUM will call for the assistance and solidarity of other international unions in its own struggles.

But it is one thing to engage in a campaign of solidarity—even including a boycott—with other workers in opposition to their own bosses. It is a completely different matter to blur over the class contradictions at home and then, alongside the British bosses, to blame other miners for the loss of jobs.

Neither is it a matter of simply being a theoretical 'purist'; Marxist theory has a highly practical value. The demand for import controls weakens the international labour movement in a very concrete way; it weakens and reduces any chance of international solidarity in any future struggles.

But that is not the end of the matter. The cry for import controls can seem an easy answer, but it only a short step to dividing the solidarity of the NUM itself. If the slogan gains a sympathetic ear in the coalfields and if it is not properly answered by the NUM leaders, then there may well be occasions where miners in the future, say in Nottingham, object to the 'importation' into their county of coal from Yorkshire.

That development would be disastrous for the NUM. Indeed as Comrade Griffin



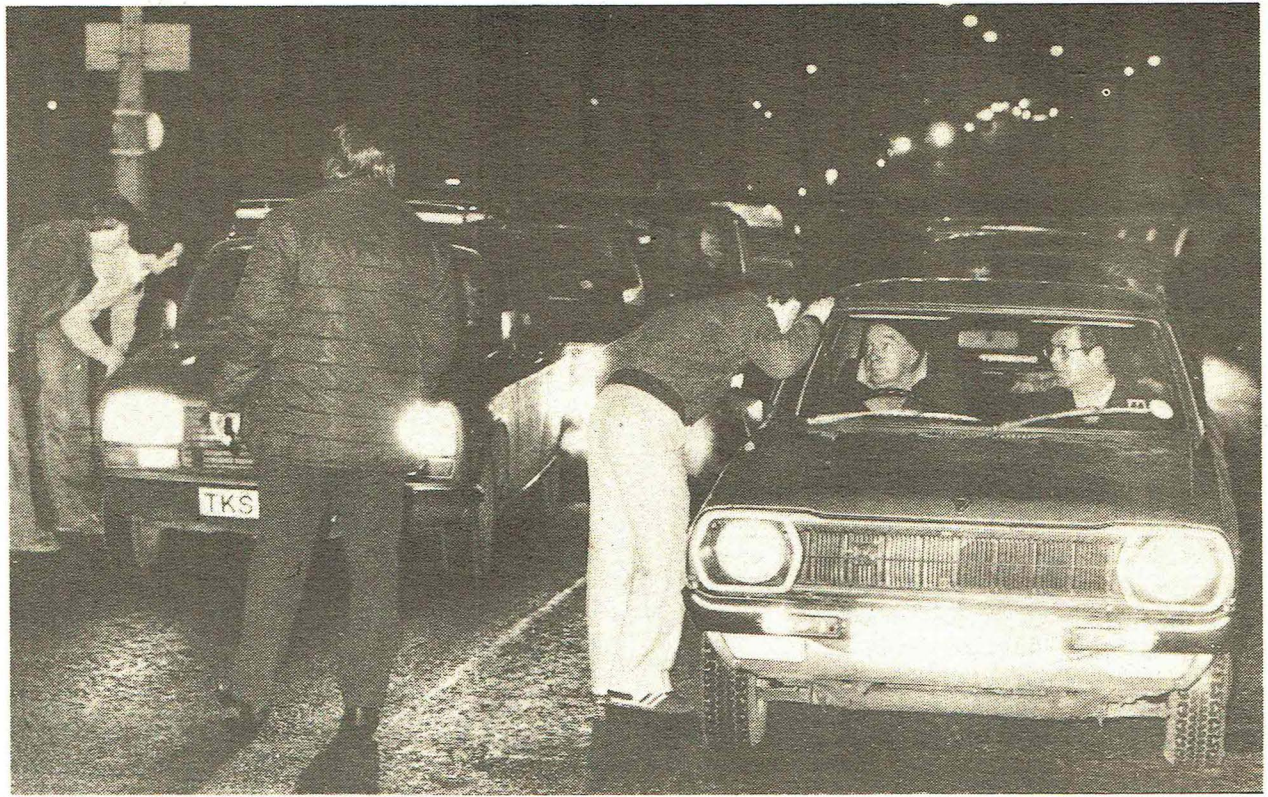
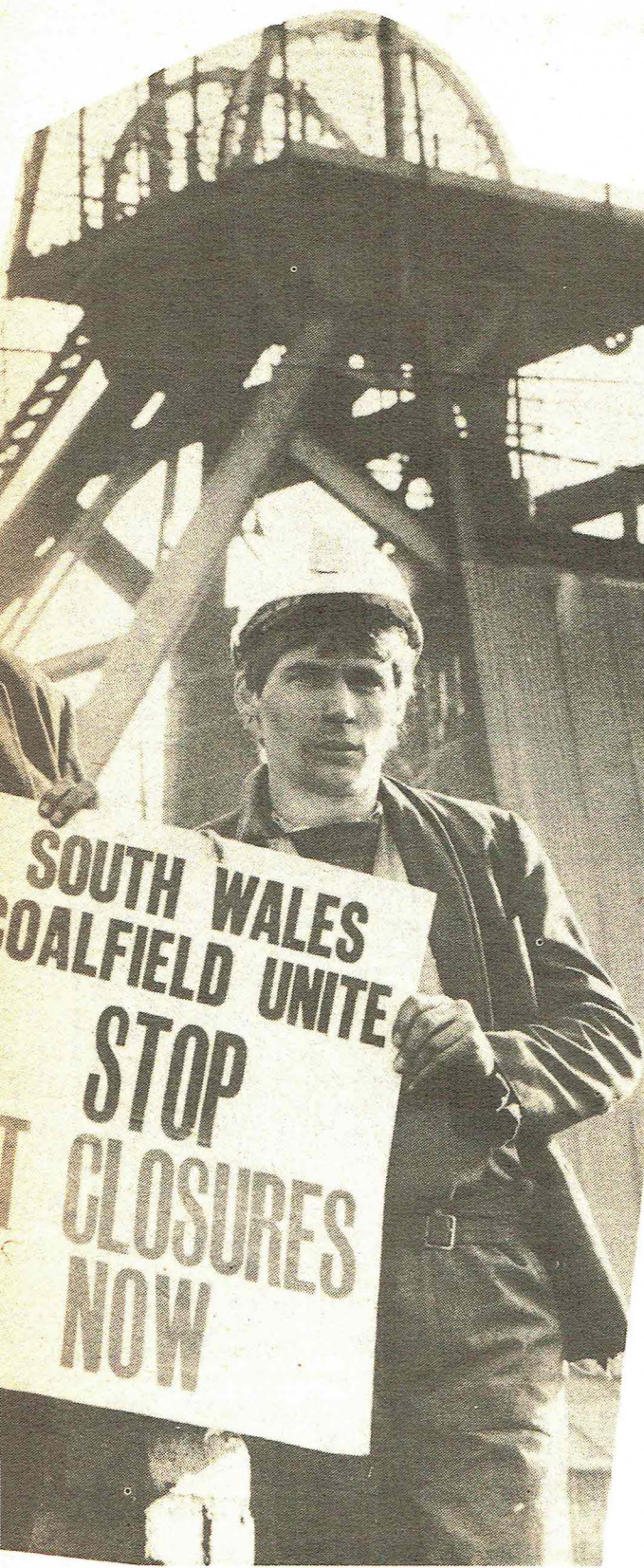
points out there is already the threat of this 'regionalism' in the USA.

But the main argument against import controls is that it quite simply does not attack the root cause of economic decline. It is wrong to say, as the comrades does, that "eight collieries can be wiped out by imports" when the real cause of the industry's collapse has been the private ownership before 1948 and the gross mis-management since, in addition to the Tories' calculated attack on the public sector.

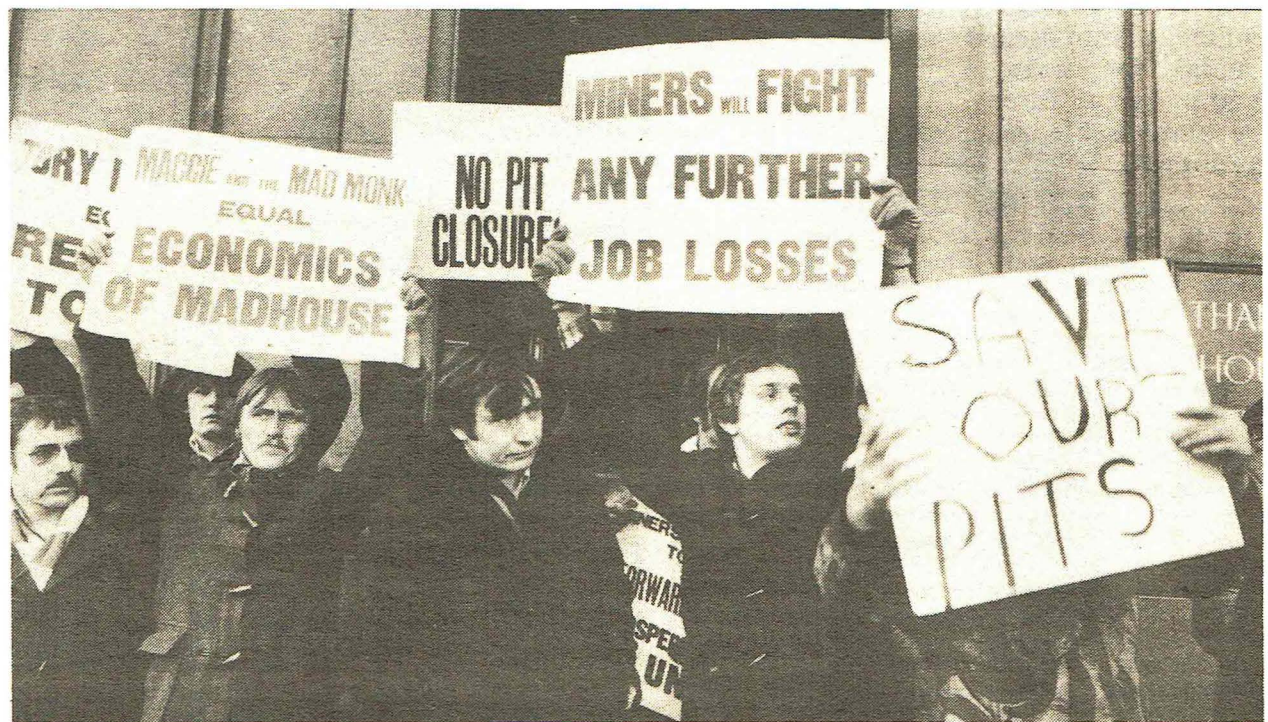
As comrade Griffin says, the Tories believe (for the moment) in free trade, implying, correctly, that socialists should not. But Comrade Griffin is only right in the sense that a socialist society would plan all trade: but what is being advanced in the slogan for import controls is not socialism, not a society in which free trade has been eliminated altogether, but, on the contrary, a capitalist system which limits the market in this only one tiny sphere.

Comrade Griffin's whole method of looking at society is shown to be wrong when he talks of "the national interest" and when he talks of "we" importing "our" guns and tanks. With their magnificent history of struggle, the miners especially should be aware of the fact that the ruling class dictate national and international policy not in the interests of the workers, but in their own, interest, always dressed-up, of course, as the 'national' interest.





Welsh miners on picket line and lobbying for jobs



Even in the importing and exporting of arms, the capitalists base their policy on what is in their own best strategic interest. The fact that the comrade can blur over the crucial class contradictions in this way is proof of the argument made earlier, that the call for import controls always risks leading to a situation where a worker siding with his own bosses against another worker elsewhere.

What is the position in regard to the mining industry in particular? The miners have increased productivity a great deal in the last few years. Productivity rose by 10% last year. Yet at the same time that the miners are producing record amounts of coal per worker, the industry has been hit severely by the economic recession.

In the last two years, the manufacturing industry has declined by 14%, more than the decline from 1929-31; taken as a whole, the 1970s has been the worst decade for industrial growth since 1810! The recession has had an inevitable effect on the coal industry.

The NUM point out in their own pamphlet that factory and plant closures have had a negative effect on coal sales. The pamphlet shows, for example, that the closure of Bowaters at Ellesmere Port has resulted in the loss of an order for 100,000 tonnes. Total energy consumption has fallen by nearly 10% because of the economic recession.

But the Tory government's constraints on the NCB and

the government-imposed pricing policy has made the position even worse. While British coal is the cheapest to produce, it has the lowest subsidies of any comparative coal on the market. Production costs per tonne in 1979 were £58 in Belgium, £45 in France, £41 in West Germany and only £29 in Britain. Yet the subsidy given to lower the price was (per tonne) £34 in Belgium, £18 in France, £15 in West Germany and only £1.62 in Britain.

It has been as a result of the subsidies that the European, Australian and American coal have penetrated the market. The British Steel Corporation and the Central Electricity Generating Board have turned to cheaper imports because of the ridiculous pricing policy imposed on the NCB by the Tories.

Even where the NCB have kept contracts with the CEBG it has often been on the basis that the coal has been supplied at a discount to match the foreign prices: these 'rebates' cost the NCB £22 million last year and will cost £47 million this year.

It has been the declining share of the home market and the growing productivity that has now given the NCB the excuse to attack the jobs of miners. The view that 'Militant' would take on subsidies is that **we would support subsidies of equal value being given to NCB coal in order to allow it to compete.**

The whole financial basis of the coal industry must be placed on a different footing. The difference between

supporting equal subsidies and the slogan of import controls is not a minor difference, either. Under present condition import controls would force up the price of coal and the price rises would be passed on in higher charges for steel (and most consumer goods contain steel) and electricity, further attacking living standards, whereas a subsidy equal to the others would have the effect of stabilising or even reducing the price of coal. Neither would the call for greater subsidies weaken international union solidarity as the call for import controls.

But even the imposition of subsidies is not a permanent answer. **The labour movement and the NUM especially, must address itself to the whole system of the running and the finance of the National Coal Board.** The bureaucrats in charge of the industry have been responsible over the years for massive waste and mismanagement, whereas the workers in the industry have had no say at all.

The bosses of the industry have no hesitation in buying new cutting equipment for a few millions, only to find that it does not work, they do not hesitate to sink millions of pounds into a new colliery development, only to close it down and flood it all later.

Many colliery yards are scattered with equipment, hired or bought from private enterprise (at inflated prices) and not used. And so the tale goes on endlessly. Because the workers have no say and no

control over the running of the NCB (and the same applies to other nationalised industries), there has been enormous waste over the years.

Similarly, a glance at the NCB annual accounts shows that huge amounts of money are still going in interest charges to the moneybags: this year the figure will be about £240 million and in the previous five years it totalled over £530 million.

These questions are not abstract theoretical questions that do not concern us "here and now". They are vitally important in any realistic fight for the coal industry. All the import controls in the world would not save the coal industry or miners jobs, if the structure and the management of the nationalised industries remained as they are now.

At the same time, the NCB and other nationalised concerns are run as completely separate businesses, with all the normal criteria as apply to private companies. From an overall social point of view (ie. taking into account redundancy payments, loss of taxes, loss of production, unemployment benefit etc) it is more expensive to shut down a factory or a pit than keep it open. The problem is that these other matters do not appear on the NCB balance sheet. Similarly, the different nationalised sectors are run separate from each other, and even in some cases in direct competition with each other.

Workers' control and management of these industries

would permit the BSC, and the NCB, for example, to be fully and properly harmonised into each other. Taking into account each others' needs and the best interests of the whole community; the combined national corporations would then be able to more effectively plan production as well as purchasing.

It would be perfectly normal under those conditions for the 'BSC' to use 'NCB' coal and for the 'NCB' to use 'BSC' steel and so on.

### Political campaign

The Triple Alliance of the NUR, ISTC and the NUM has an enormous power at its disposal. Comrade Griffin says that "import controls must be made a political issue." Quite true! But how much more valuable would it be for the whole future of British industry, if the leadership of the Triple Alliance fought for workers' control and management in their industries, and the complete harmonisation and integration of the energy, transport and steel sectors!

Such a political campaign by these trade union leaders would have a profound effect on the outlook of the workers concerned and on the whole future of their industries.

The Triple Alliance must fight for workers' control and management in their industries; for the cancellation of all interest charges; for the public ownership of all the

industries that supply the coal, steel and rail. On this basis, it would be possible not only to drastically cut the price of coal, but at the same time to increase the wages of the workers in the industry.

**It is already NUM national policy for a 4-day working week without loss of pay. The NUM must take up this call now especially where any jobs are under threat.**

But if the union were to fight for a democratic industry, then it would be perfectly possible to demand a 3-day working week or less. In the context of a socialist economy, the energy industry as a whole could be properly planned, taking all social and industrial factors into account.

The continuous, almost permanent economic recession would be overcome, with all that that means for jobs, production, living standards and so on.

Comrade Griffin says quite correctly that "it is the economics of the madhouse to import coal 12,000 miles to put British miners on the dole."

But the demand for import controls does as much to do away with the "madhouse" as a brick thrown through the window! It is the duty of Marxists to tell the workers the truth. The answer to the problems facing the workers in the mining industry is above anything else to tackle the questions of who runs the industry, in what way and in whose interests.



Photo right:  
Amsterdam car workers'  
protest at the threatened  
redundancies

At a meeting last autumn, most of the unions affiliated to the million-strong union Netherlands RADE agreed to accept wage restraint from the Christian Democrat/Conservative coalition. The alternative, they were told, was to risk job security.

What job security? That is the question asked by many Dutch workers today. More than 5% of the population are now out of work officially and many believe the real figures could be twice that high.

Living standards have fallen about 1% to 1½% in a year. This has not stopped redundancies. Ronald Portier from 'Voorwärts', the Marxist paper in the PvdA [Dutch Labour Party] reports from Amsterdam on the fight to save Ford's Amsterdam factory.

17,000 workers face the dole queues if Ford's Amsterdam closes. The management looked into three formulas for saving the firm, but all three were unrealisable, ie. unprofitable.

Management's reasons for the closure are not trusted by the workers. Bram Staats, chairman of the trade union group at Ford's Amsterdam said:

"All the figures are from Ford-Europe. According to the report Ford's wants to make a profit of 25% on all investment. If you want that, all investment is, of course unprofitable.

"Even if the plant is unprofitable, the figures given by the company cannot be trusted because it is Ford's itself which determines the costs of the parts used by the Amsterdam plant."

Henk Vos from the engineering workers union; "...Ford's itself determines whether it wants to make a profit on parts, or on complete cars. If they decide to make a profit on parts, then some losses on a complete car don't matter."

Imports of Japanese cars have been blamed, but we must not fall into this nationalist trap. Japanese cars are cheap because of the intense level of investment, leading to more efficient and higher quality production.

Ford's has not invested its

profits, part of the equipment dates back till before the war. Any moves towards protectionist measures can only guarantee super profits for Ford's, at the cost of high prices for the consumers, and unemployment amongst Japanese workers.

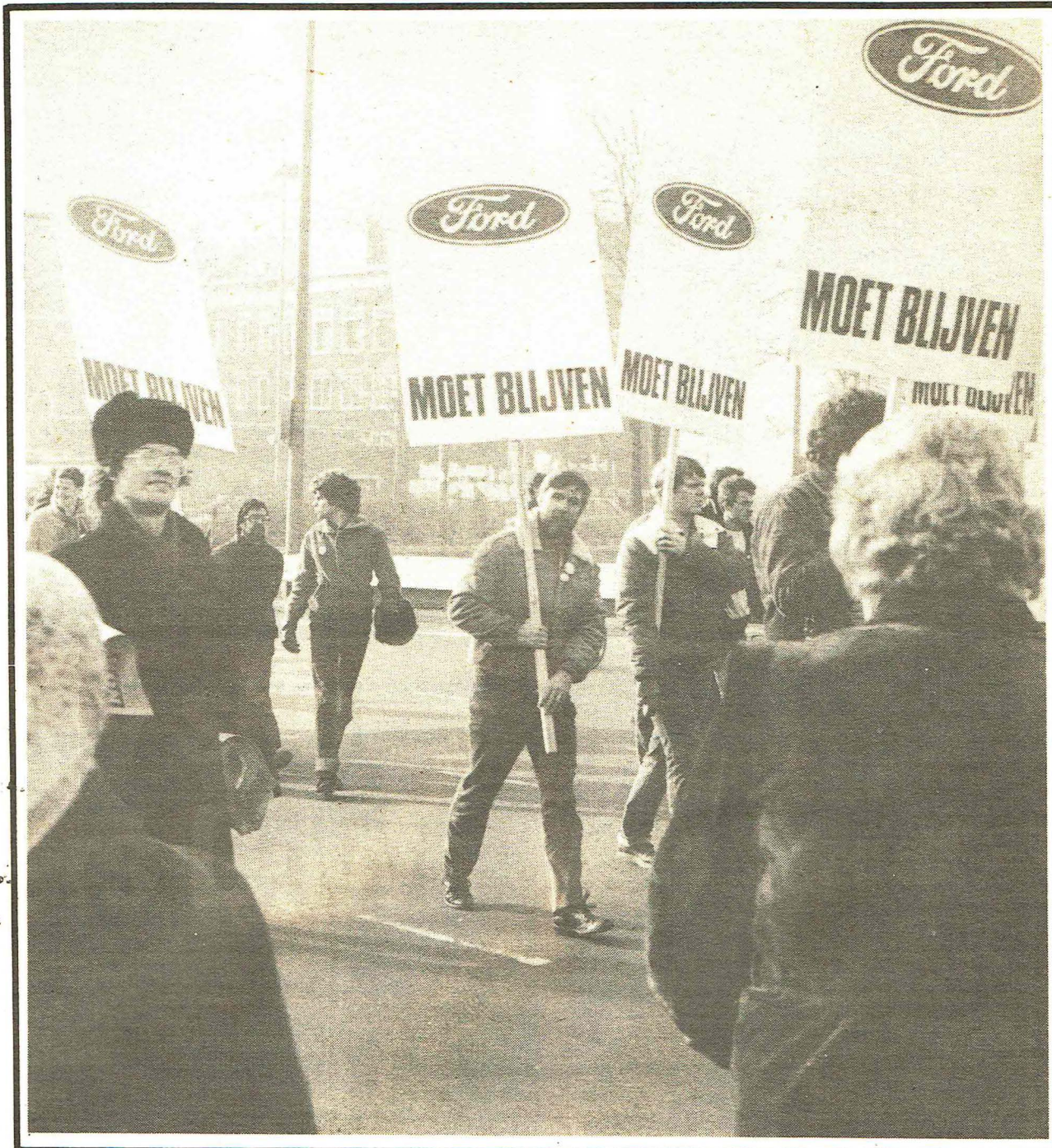
When Ford's has then squeezed out all the profits possible, they will pull out anyway, using the same tricks as now. Only a united struggle of Japanese and Dutch workers can save jobs.

The workers are not convinced of the 'inevitability' of the closure. One worker said "...An example that this (the action) can have success against a multinational corporation was the BATCO case (the closure of British American Tobacco Amsterdam was successfully stopped)..."

The mobilisation of the support of the local population is of course essential. But more is necessary. A multinational such as Ford's doesn't worry about 'public opinion.'

The first step for further action has already been taken. The international Metal Workers Federation will prevent blacked work being done outside the Netherlands. It is clear from the halving of production that work has already been transferred to other countries.

The Ford-European management are an "international action committee" in favour of closure. An international action committee against closure must be set up, with delegates from all



## DUTCH CAR WORKERS RESIST CLOSURES

the factories in Europe.

If the Dutch plant closes, which country will be next; Germany? Spain? Belgium? Britain? In the course of the action it will become clear that it will be necessary to occupy the plant to prevent management from dismantling it.

The struggle must go

further though. If there is not enough work, then it should be shared out without loss in earnings. An all-European struggle for the 35-hour week without loss of pay would be a major step in this direction.

If Ford really cannot be maintained on the basis of private ownership, then the plant should be nationalised

without compensation to Ford, under workers' control and management, based on a third from the internal unions, a third from the national trade unions and a third from the government.

The eyes of workers as well as the bosses are directed towards Ford's. A victory for the Ford workers would

boost morale of workers not only in Holland, but also outside in the growing fight against closures.

Send messages of support to: Ford Action Committee, Hemweg 201, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

## Spain

CONTINUED FROM  
PAGE ONE

workers to sleep with calls for 'calm'.

Precisely the same appeals for calm were issued when Franco's rebellion broke out against the Republic in 1936. The labour leaders were then themselves in government and took days even to publicly admit the revolt had taken place.

The same dangerous weakness was shown in the labour leaders in Spain this week. It was disgraceful, for example, that the Socialist MP who was released, phoned the King before anyone else!

But even despite the hesitation of the PSOE and CP leadership, in many areas the workers had begun to take action. The UGT in Alava province called for a general strike, as did the Catalan Socialist Party and the CP in the Basque Region.

'Nuevo Claridad' the paper of the Marxist wing of

PSOE brought out a special issue calling for a general strike.

The workers' movement can only rely upon the strength of its own organisations. No amount of appeals to the army and the king will guarantee the rights achieved by the workers over the last five years. The state machine is riddled with fascists. Colonel Tejero himself has only just finished serving a token sentence for his part in plotting a coup in 1978, the so-called Operation 'Galaxy', yet he resumed command of a company of the Civil Guard!

General Bosch was well known for his political views—he fought with Franco during the civil war and with the Nazi 'Blue Division' in the second world war. It was even openly suggested that he was moved to Valencia (as Franco was moved to Morocco) to 'keep him out of the way'. But these officers are only the tip of a very large iceberg.

It is likely that some

generals now parading as guarantors of democracy were themselves in on the conspiracy. The openly pro-Francoist paper 'El Alcazar' which believed to reflect the opinion in Spanish military circles, has been calling in unsigned articles for a military coup.

These elements in the state apparatus have never reconciled themselves to the democratic changes in Spain, and more to the point, they never will. The public fury at the police treatment of Basque suspects, and especially the torturing to death of a suspect two weeks ago, brought an equally furious riposte from the police chiefs, seven of whom resigned in what was obviously a concerted effort.

Whole sections of the state apparatus long for a return to a Francoist state where they would have the unchallenged right to shoot and torture suspects to death.

But if the labour movement leaders were to mobilise

the power at their disposal, they would have the strongest social force in Spain.

The outgoing prime minister, Suarez, was general secretary of the National Movement, the only political party legal under Franco; most of the UCD party (the party now in office) are former staunch supporters of the Franco regime.

Not one of these people has changed his political views. The rights of political activity, organisation and so on were only granted to the working class because if those rights had not been offered they would have been taken.

It has been the enormous pressure of the labour movement—the general strikes, the occupations, the demonstrations, even in the last years of the Franco era—that has pushed Spanish society forward.

If on this occasion the King and his generals did not support a coup, it was again for fear of the working

class. After the initial shock, workers would have brought Spain to a halt within 48 hours, if the King had not stepped in smartly to stop the coup.

Even despite the weakness of the labour leaders, the whole of Spanish society could have been propelled leftwards as happened in Portugal after the failed coup of the right-wing General Spínola.

Indeed, if the King had not gone on television at 1.15 in the morning, if he himself had shown even the slightest vacillation in public, then like Constantine in Greece, he would have been finished.

Significantly the Minister of the Interior immediately ordered all civil governors to explain the situation to trade union and political leaders in the provinces no doubt to forestall strike protests. Even as it is, the labour movement will probably move left anyway.

But the King and the Generals can be no guarantee for the workers. The

coups that they are not prepared to sanction today, they will organise themselves tomorrow, if they thought it was necessary to stop the workers' movement.

The only answer to the instability in Spain today is a workers' government.

The economic crisis, the mass unemployment, the inflation and the nationality question are all issues that can only be seriously tackled by socialist change and the labour leaders must address themselves to that task. Properly mobilised and led the workers have the power to sweep aside all the remnants of Francoism.

We would echo the demands made by the Marxist paper 'Nuevo Claridad':

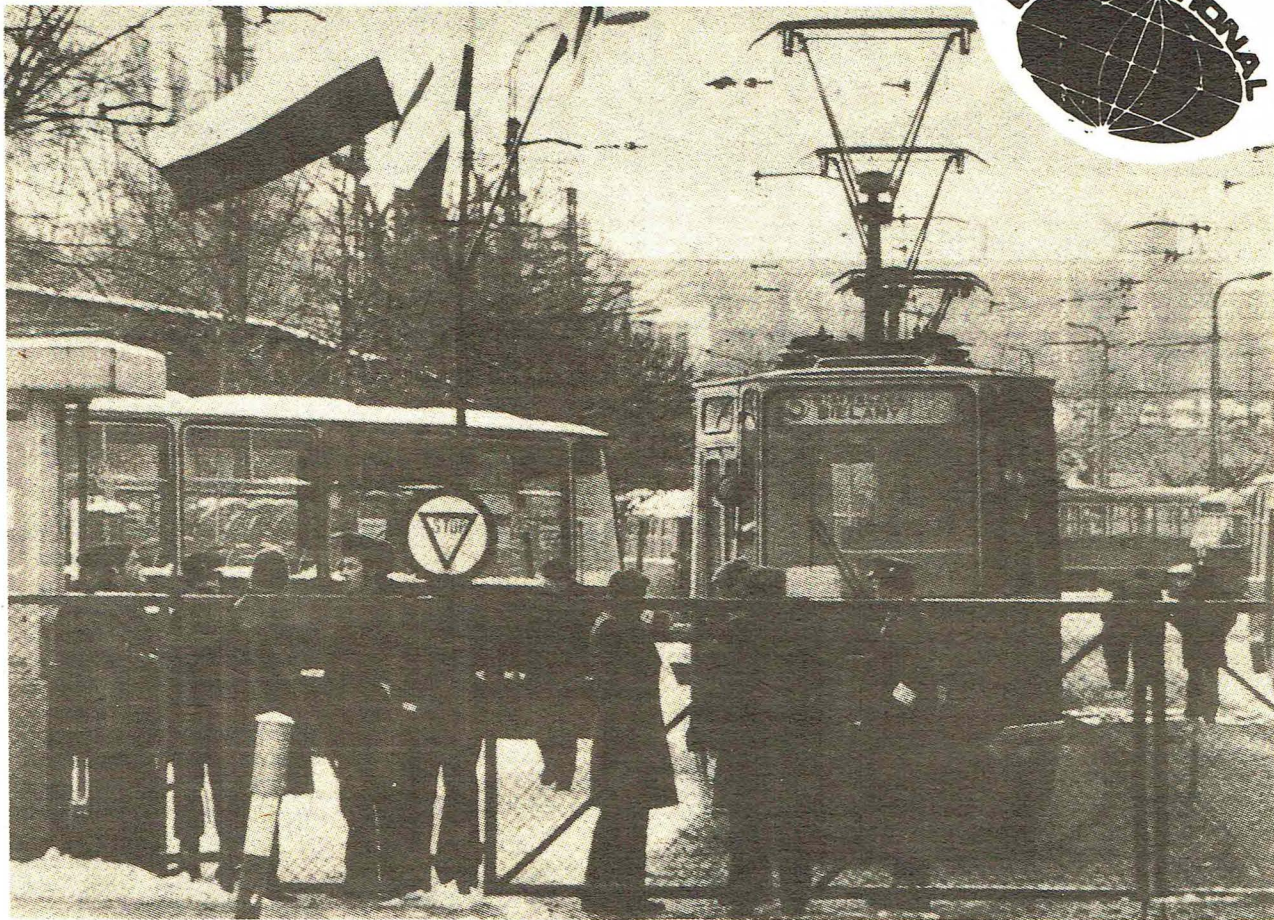
For a people's trial of all the conspirators!

For the dissolution of all repressive bodies and especially the Civil Guard;

For new elections and the return of a Socialist government.

A fuller article will appear next week.

# POLAND: Solidarity leaders brake on workers anger



Transport workers' strike in Warsaw—only the fighting spirit of the working class has prevented the bureaucracy attacking last year's reforms.

**What tenacity the Polish workers have shown in their struggle against the bureaucratic clique which governs the country!**

Last summer's strikes forced the leadership of the "Communist" Party to promise major concessions such as trade unions independent of Party and bureaucratic control.

Since then, workers have been forced into further strikes to try to ensure that these promises made in Gdansk do not just remain on paper.

'Militant' pointed out last summer that the bureaucratic rulers of Poland could not reconcile themselves to the existence of independent workers' organisations.

Even the simplest economic demands have raised in workers' minds questions about the privileged position of the bureaucracy and so the demands have been forcefully resisted.

Hence the demand for a 5-day, 40-hour week sparked off a nationwide strike in January which succeeded in obtaining for the first time at least three Saturdays in four off work.

But strikers' struggles have not been on economic issues alone. The working class are also presenting accounts for the Gdansk promises on political issues.

In Bielsko-Biala province, an eleven day strike forced the resignation of four local officials whom workers had accused of corruption. The national leaders of Solidarity eventually backed the local branch's action despite saying that "We want to stop these anti-corruption strikes otherwise the whole country would have to go on strike."

In the city of Jelenia Gora near the Czechoslovak border, up to 300,000 strikers demanded the resignation of the provincial trade union minister, the transformation of a sanatorium for Interior Minister employees into a public hospital and the turning of a CP Central Committee rest house into a public spa.

Other sections of Polish society have been in ferment too, encouraged by the magnificent example of the working class. Farmers have demanded a union, 'Rural Solidarity'—and have been promised an "association".

**By Roger Shriver**

The support throughout Polish society shows that if the dual power situation during last summer's general strike had been taken to a full conclusion, there could have been a peaceful political revolution in the country when the whole of industry and transport came to a halt.

The masses are still plainly behind Solidarity now. How much more so would they have been then with the programme and perspective of a healthy democratic workers' state?

**If the Polish workers do not press forward to overthrow the Stalinist bureaucracy, recent 'reforms' will come to nothing.**

But tragically, the leadership of the workers' own organisations, advised by the 'dissident' groups and the Catholic Church have acted as a brake on the movement. They have advised the working class that the trade union movement must remain "outside politics" for fear of provoking an invasion by the Soviet Union.

It is impossible, though, to wage a non-political, purely economic battle against the clique of bureaucrats who control Polish society. Failure to challenge the "leading role of the Communist Party" i.e. the power of the bureaucratic elite only increases the likelihood of armed intervention in the long term.

The regional strikes against corruption and privilege were initially opposed by Solidarity's national leaders.

At recent meetings of the union's National Consultative Commissions, it was only the burning anger of area delegates, embittered by millionaire-style rest homes for Party functionaries, that forced the leadership to back local action.

Even on the economic issues Solidarity leader Lech Walesa has urged 'diplomacy' and "moderation" on members. He initially opposed strikes in support of the five-day week, and again only conceded due to mass pressure.

The intellectual dissident groups are remote from the workers' day-to-day struggles. They too have called for caution, as have the leaders of the Catholic Church.

But it is to the Solidarity leadership that the regime looks most for calming the situation. Despite misgivings amongst the rank and file, the union leaders were prepared to give a guarded welcome to the government of General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the fourth prime minister in a year.

He asked for three months of 'peace' and a moratorium on strikes and the 'Solidarity' leaders have accepted, provided that their talks with the government start to "bear fruit".

The country, they thought, needed a period of calm and

they would judge the government on its merits. The national leaders of Solidarity now say they will only support strikes approved beforehand with the national committee and will disassociate themselves from other actions in what is a clear move to stop local initiatives. The union, said spokesman Karol Modzlewski, was a "sober, self-respecting organisation" which would act in partnership as long as the government kept its word.

The Russian and Polish bureaucracies mortally fear the growth of an independent working class movement, but at the present moment they prefer to rest on the new trade union leaders and the dissidents and the church rather than risk an intervention.

The titanic events of last summer have gravely undercut the social base of the bureaucracy which is suspended in mid air. Who would support them now? Not the peasantry or the rural workers, not the intellectuals or the students, and certainly not the working class!

Poland in 1981 is not like Czechoslovakia in 1968. The liberal bureaucrats of the "Prague Spring" were not prepared to intervene. On the contrary they feared their own workers more. The workers of the "Polish summer" would have no such inhibitions.

There would be bloody resistance by the workers, with all that it would mean to the Russian economy, Russian prestige and so on.

The bureaucracies of the USSR and Poland prefer to rest on the leaders of the trade unions by attempting to integrate them into the state apparatus, through material inducements if necessary, in an attempt to derail the movement.

In time they hope that the workers will become demoralised and inactive, perhaps turning to politically impotent forms of "protest" such as alcohol. Then, the most "dangerous" reforms could be taken back by the regime.

Nevertheless, there is still a highly charged atmosphere in Poland today. If the Polish bureaucracy were to take punitive action against protesters and a wave of actions against the regime swept the country then the bureaucracy of the USSR could be panicked into intervention.

As long as they can, they will try to use the Solidarity and church leaders as a brake: that is their "best option". But if they blundered and began to lose all control of Poland, they would not hesitate to intervene and even wade through blood to maintain their position.

For the moment, it is more likely that given the compliance of the union leaders some attempts will be made to paper over the problems. The Hungarian ruling caste, fearful of future trouble in Hungary, have experimented with a number of 'reforms' such as decentralisation of decision making.

## Papering over the cracks

Similar ideas, together with vague promises about "workers' self-government" in every factory and a limited profit motive for individual forms are being floated in Poland. The desperation of these measures is an admission that under a planned economy, the absence of market forces can only be overcome when the working class themselves can actively participate in and control the economy, acting as a regular check on production.

But even from an economic viewpoint, these reforms

wouldn't eradicate the problems. An ever-increasing amount of new machinery is already unused due to government cuts in investment—due to the lack of workers' management and control.

The decentralisation of local government in 1975 merely increased the number of administrative regions, all with regional chiefs who resorted to massive corruption to gain their own bureaucratic privileges.

What would be different in the industrial sphere? The one-party totalitarian state run in the interest of a bureaucratic clique would still exist. It would still be a serious brake on production and efficiency and still hostile to independent workers' movements.

Workers' management and control of the economy and the state would be no nearer. There would merely be a continuation of the policies of decentralisation and recentralisation that the bureaucracy in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have tried for years.

Even a 'stabilisation' of the regime on the basis of the Solidarity leaders and counter-reforms would only be a temporary respite. The social contradictions would all arise anew at a later date.

The Polish government regard the new government as a last chance effort. So do the Western imperialist powers.

The capitalist class fear the political ramifications of Poland. Capitalist leaders like Thatcher have good reason from recent experience to dread the power of the working class. Imagine the tremendous effect of a successful political revolution in Poland on the workers living under capitalism!

'The Times' recently commented that "the demands amongst strikers that corrupt local officials should be removed is understandable, but it is also dangerous since it implies that Solidarity has a right to control appointments in the Communist run administration."

The concern to maintain the 'stability' of bureaucratic control is borne out by the huge loans being negotiated to bolster the ailing Polish economy. But within Poland, the desperation can clearly be seen.

The Gierek government which fell last year developed the economy to a certain

extent. But the two main side effects have been a growth in the size of the working class—and an increase in the privileges granted the bureaucratic elite.

There can be no long term compromise between a genuine independent working class movement and the Stalinist regime. If the workers of Poland do not press forward to the overthrow of bureaucratic rule in Poland and Eastern Europe then the reforms of the past six months will come to nothing, strangled by a new bureaucracy in Solidarity or crushed by the tanks of the soviet government.

## Back to Lenin!

The working class have no wish to abolish the state ownership of Polish industry but the concessions wrung from a trembling bureaucracy can only be maintained by returning to the demands put forward by the Hungarian workers in 1956.

They demanded that all the bodies elected by the working class should have the right of recall over their officials, and that officials should receive no more than the average wage of a skilled worker.

They called for no standing army but an armed people, and for the formation of workers' committees to run both the economy and the state machinery.

All these demands for the end of the privileged bureaucratic elite who have usurped the gains of the planned economy echoed Lenin in 'The State and Revolution'.

We would add to this, after the experience of Stalinist totalitarianism the demand for the freedom of all tendencies excepting only the fascists to put forward their ideas.

Recession in the capitalist economy is making the advanced capitalist economies totter and the "third world" countries face deeper and deeper crisis.

The growing contradictions within Stalinism give an explosive world situation with a greater possibility for workers throughout the world to successfully take power than at any time for generations.

The success of the political revolution in Poland and Eastern Europe is a vital part of that struggle.

# Letters

IEWS? COMMENTS? EXPERIENCES?  
CRITICISM? WRITE ABOUT THEM TO:

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## The role of art

Dear Comrade

In Geoff Jones' letter (13/2/81) there were two somewhat different points made. One concerned the excessive financial rewards made to certain, and by no means all, artists. Of course, art, especially the more marketable kind, is used as a commodity. Of course it is hypocritical to enrich one artist whilst denying thousands the chance of any real participation. But the question of the artist's role in society cannot be answered so simply.

I do not agree that it is an "easy trap" to believe that art has a certain independence from the society in which it is created. Whilst it will obviously reflect to a greater or lesser extent that society and its conflicts, it is refracted through the personal vision of the artist; it is this that makes it art.

If poverty, exploitation or revolution are a part of that artists vision, his art will reflect that, as much art does. But it does not have to do so in order to be valid as art. Whilst not believing in "universal truths" I believe that human conflict and experience can, in the hands of a great artist, acquire a certain universality. If not, how is it, for example, that the experiences of the Russian aristocracy as portrayed by Tolstoy or the remote, royal or noble heroes of Shakespeare can have such powerful meaning for readers in a very different culture and society.

The same applies to modern literature and art in general. Marxists could not be expected to agree with what would seem to them the often pessimistic or idealistic viewpoints of many writers but that does not mean that they cannot understand the experiences and conflicts involved and appreciate the skill of the artist in evoking these experiences. To expect that an artist should portray a world other than the one he perceives would be an argument akin to those of Stalin in imposing the sterility of "socialist realism".

An artist in his work has a responsibility only to the world as he perceives it no matter how this might differ from the world as perceived by Marxists. It is up to Marxists, if they want artists to align themselves to a movement for social change, who have the responsibility, to convince artists of the reality of the need, and possibility of socialism in the world they experience. I cannot see how this could entail "destroying" their talents in any way whatsoever.

Yours sincerely  
Helena Wray  
Brighton.

## Be like Oliver Twist

Dear Comrade

I thought it was enough to concentrate on fighting cuts, then suddenly my son had the opportunity to join NAGC [National Association of Gifted Children].

At his disposal was Hamilton College, with various

## Gambling on your health

Dear Comrades,

Regular readers will no doubt be aware that the Health Service is short of money. The closures of hospitals and lengthening of waiting lists are reported regularly in these pages. But now comrades can take heart. The Tory government so often maligned as wanting to wreck the Health Service by underfunding it, have now drawn up plans which will ensure a massive influx of cash into the NHS.

These charitable gentlemen are now proposing that Health Authorities should supplement their budgets by raising money through raffles, bazaars and appeals to

the rich philanthropists! They do, however, draw the line at bingo, largely because this would involve a licence and Ladbrokes would probably object.

No doubt NHS staff will now be asked to give up their spare time to run these things in order to raise the money for their wages. That's about all the health of the working class of this country means to the Tories. If you're sick in future you'll have to rely upon the gambling instinct of the British public.

Yet another sign that the Tories must go and must go soon.

Yours fraternally,  
Pete Lee  
Leicester South CLP

## Labour—the party of envy?

Dear Sir,

I am a pensioner and have worked hard all my life. I worked when it was a weeks' holiday a year.

I did not work in a factory, but in a shop. My hours were 8.30am until 7pm and half day finishing was 1pm—a 5½ day week. The only way people are going to get anywhere these days is working for a better life, not like the way I had to work, at one extreme, but neither will it be achieved at the other extreme, with long holidays, shorter hours and

demanding more money for less work.

I have never been envious of people with more money. I had one increase in eight and a half years; now increases are expected every year.

I could not join your party, because your way is linked with envy. Mrs Thatcher could easily print money, but eventually there has to be a reckoning.

I did not vote Conservative, but it is the party of the majority vote and should be acknowledged.

Yours sincerely,  
M. Barnett  
Bournemouth



## Spreading the misery?

Dear Comrades

I have just read with interest Alan Mardghum's article on pit closures (13/2/81), which is especially relevant to the recent ridiculous proposals put forward by the coal board. However I cannot agree with all comrade Mardghum's ideas especially the one about sharing out the work available as this cannot be done without some loss of earnings. This is unfortunate but realistic for even in a depression with an inhumane government the people must stick together, and spread the misery evenly.

activities, such as art, crafts, football, electronics and many more activities. It therefore occurs to me that no child, bright or dim, could fail to develop with facilities such as this college and the Association have to offer, at weekends when students are not using them.

Yet the programme ahead for Hamilton and many other colleges in Strathclyde

is closure. These closures must be seen as criminal. A criminal waste of our children and our future.

From this point on, my programme will not simply be fight the cuts but I'll also have the courage of Oliver Twist and ask for more.

Yours in comradeship  
M W Dick  
Housewife  
Pollok CLP, Glasgow

## Stop the ruin

Dear Comrades

House building is at the lowest level since the 1920s. A quarter of a million building workers on the dole, yet council house waiting lists continue to grow.

It's not only confined to building work in the public sector, in the private sector, firms are finding it increasingly difficult to fund construction projects, and/or, having to abandon work on houses half built. First time house buyers are not able to afford a mortgage because of the unrealistically high level of interest rates, which affects how much they have to pay to the building society each month.

All of this can and should be changed, but this Tory government will not change its present disastrous policy, not disastrous for them but disastrous for you and me. We cannot afford to let this situation carry on much longer.

At present if this Tory government did do a so called 'U turn', in many areas it would take at least 3 years to reverse the damage already done.

We must ensure that the next labour government stops the ruin being done to the building industry and any other industry which has fallen under the hammer of this Tory government, by adequate investment as part of a socialist planned economy.

Fraternally yours  
C. G. Norton  
Senior Steward International Harvester Bradford.

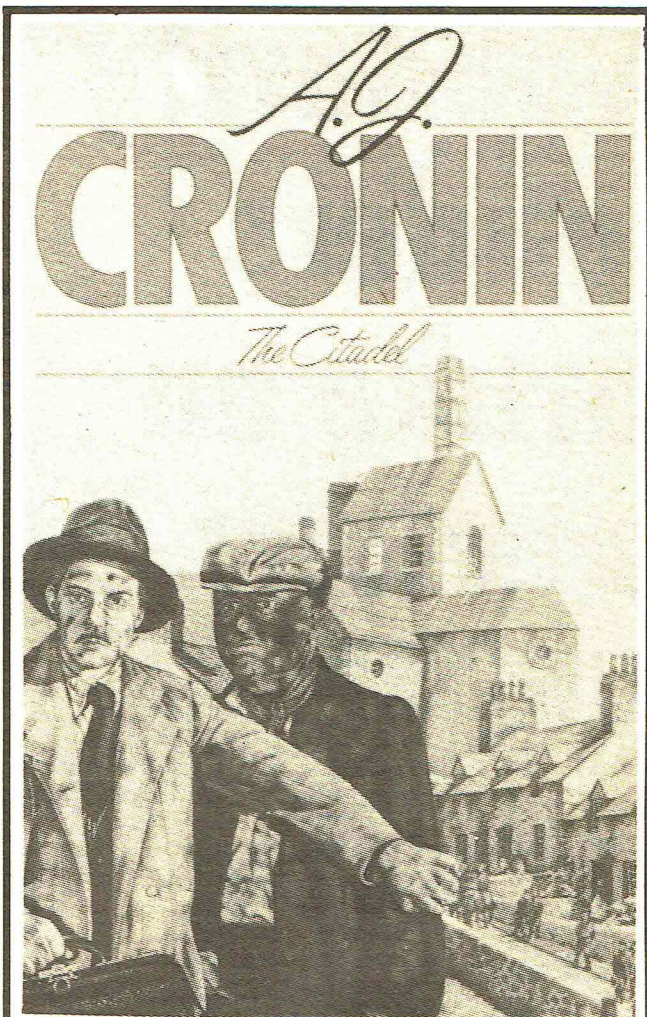
PS May I take this opportunity of thanking 'Militant' for its recent article on International Harvester. See you all in Glasgow!

## 'Utopia' for the bosses

Dear Comrade

I am enclosing part of 'Enterprise Zone Review' pointing out the sort of incentives on offer to employers in these zones. At a time when rates locally are being increased by 30% the boss class are being offered rate free factories plus all the other 'incentives' as you can see.

As you will know, these factories that are being given to employers have



'The Citadel' is available from World Books,  
1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN  
Price £1.10 [+15p post and package]

## Not just Dr Finlay

Dear Comrade,

9/Jan./1981 and the radio is announcing the death of A.J. Cronin. According to the radio he is to be remembered as the originator of the TV character 'Dr Finlay' of 'Doctor Finlay's Casebook'. They would obviously like us to forget his

magnificent novels "The Stars Look Down", which looks at exploitation and political revolt in a North-East mining community in the 1910s and 1920s, and "The Citadel", which looked at the cynical abuse of medical research to cover up pneumoconiosis in the 1920s.

Fraternally  
Ian Hunter  
Sacriston Labour Party.

been paid for by the taxes of ordinary working people (as I am convinced there are so many loopholes in the tax system, very few industrialists pay their share of taxes e.g. Vestey's over £2 million profit and only £10 tax paid.)

The local Labour controlled authorities are falling over themselves in an effort to attract any sort of employer for their empty factories, but surely employers moving into the Swansea Enterprise Zone and creating employment there, are more often than

not closing their factories down somewhere else thereby creating unemployment there. It is obvious the enterprise zone with all its handouts and incentives for employers is like a capitalist 'Utopia' and something the boss class has only been able to dream of until now.

One is tempted to ask who now are the scroungers in our society.

Yours fraternally  
John Davies  
West Glamorgan

## "How much is your future worth?"

Dear Comrades,

Recently my local paper, the 'Bath and West Evening Chronicle'—owned by Wessex Newspapers—notified their readers, using the slogan "How much is your future worth?" that they would be beginning a new column called, "I want to work".

The idea was for the unemployed to advertise themselves for jobs, giving details of the type of job they would like, and their qualifications—if any. The adverts would be available in

three sizes, and would cost from £2-£4 for one night.

It must be hard to think of a cheaper, more cynical way of making money out of other peoples' misfortune. by taking advantage of the desperation of the unemployed at not being able to find a job, Wessex Newspapers have cashed in hoping no doubt make a quick profit, leaving the already hard-up unemployed so much the poorer.

Unless, of course, the idea is aimed at the very few better off unemployed—middle management, redundant Euro MPs and that sort of person—who can afford this kind of luxury. If Wessex Newspapers

were really concerned about the plight of the unemployed, and not simply how to make a fast buck, they would print the adverts free of charge with priority for school leavers or those who have been out of work longest.

This small example of the lust for profit must surely reflect the inherent meanness and petty mentality of the whole profit system. Only when capitalism has been swept away, will unemployment become a thing of the past and people be freed from the degradation and indignity of toting for jobs.

Yours fraternally,  
Philip Bishop  
Bath

# ads

CLASSIFIED: 5p per word, minimum ten words  
SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per 2 column centimetres.  
All advertisement copy should reach this office by SATURDAY

**OLDHAM Militant Readers' Meeting.** 'Redundancy and Closure'. At The Sergeant at Arms Public House King Street, Oldham. On Saturday 8 March.

**WEST HULL Militant Public Meeting** 'Democratic Socialism or Social Democracy, which way for Labour?' Hear: Mike Foster (Louth CLP). Chairman: John Atkinson. Wednesday 11 March, 7.45 pm, Costello Sports Centre, Room 3, Pickering Road.

**TEESSIDE Militant Readers' Meeting** 'The Labour Party'. Speaker: John Pickard. Sunday 8 March, 7.30 pm, Eston Hotel, Fabian Road, Eston.

**CHESTER Militant Readers' Meeting** 'Labour's Future after the Social Democratic Split Off'. Speaker: Richard Knights (Liverpool District Labour Party). Wednesday 4 March, 7.30 pm at Chester Labour Club, 5 Upper Northgate Street.

**BRIGHTON LPYS Unemployment March** Southern Region LPYS's to attend. Saturday 7 March to Labour Party Southern Regional Rally, to hear Michael Foot. Later, 'Sack Thatcher' socials present: 7 March 8.00pm-2.00am. 'Ammonites' + 'Law Infringement' + disco. Tickets £1 only. Accommodation and tickets contact Jeff Riley, 11 Egremont Place, Brighton.

**SCOTTISH LPYS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
Hear: **Dennis Skinner MP Speaker Northern Ireland Young Socialists**  
Venue: **Partick Burgh Halls**  
On: **Saturday 28 February - Sunday 1 March**  
Time: 10 am to 5 pm

**SOUTH WESTERN Labour Party Regional Conference Militant Meeting** 12.45 pm on Saturday 21 March at Devonport, in Fore Street (50 yards along from the conference), Exeter. Speakers will include: Cllr. Pete Hammond (Member of Regional Executive); Robin Clapp (Delegate, Bristol South and Regional Executive member); Mike Sheaff (Delegate, Plymouth Devonport, shop steward COHSE)

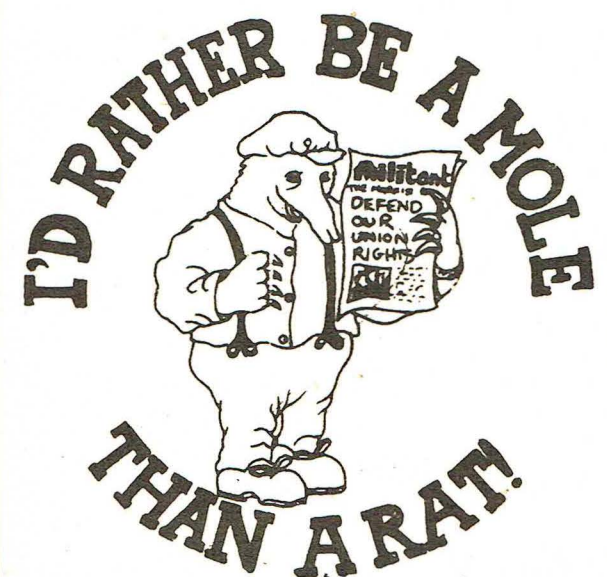
**BRACKNELL Militant Readers' Meeting** 'Which Way Forward for the Labour Party?' at Griffin House (opposite Red Lion Pub), Tuesday 10 March, 8.00 pm Speaker: Lynn Walsh (Militant Editorial Board)

**SOUTHEND LPYS Public Meeting** 'Unemployment in the 1980s'. Labour Hall, 40-42 Cambridge Road, Southend. Wednesday 4 March, 8.00 pm. Speakers: Angela Anderson (Southend LP) and Mike Waddington (LPYS Regional Committee)

**WEST LONDON MILITANT PUBLIC MEETING 'Labour's Future'**  
Speakers: Tony Saunois (Labour Party NEC) Bob Labi (Leading London Labour Party member)  
11 March, 8.00 pm Clem Attlee Community Centre, Clem Attlee Estate, Lillie Rd, SW6

**Militant Rally** 'For Labour Party democracy and socialist policies we stand firm'. Thursday March 12 7.30pm Wagner Hall, Regency Rd., West Street. Speakers: P Taaffe, Rod Fitch (PPC Brighton Kempton).

**Starry Plough Badges** 20p each, or 10p each for 20 or more. p&p add 25p for the first 20 badges and 12½p for every extra 10 badges. Order from V Seal, 15 Thornbury Road, London SW2 4DL.



Summer T-shirts. Colours—white, yellow, sky blue, dark gree, navy and black. All with red motif. Round neck and short sleeves.

Sizes—children's: 24, 26, 28, 28 and 30 inch chest. £2.80 each. Adults: small—32-34; medium—34-36; large—38-40; extra large (no dark green)—42-44. £3.25 each. Both costs include postage and packing. Please indicate colour, and size preferred. ALL PROCEEDS TO THE FIGHTING FUND:

Cheques and postal orders made out to R Harris. Send orders with payment to: R Harris, 35 Westminster Court, Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 1UR.

# Build

# Militant

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 11 April	Target for year
Eastern	440		1775	7100
East Midlands	331		1375	5500
Hants & Dorset	366		1300	5200
Humberside	123		875	3500
London East	670		1900	7600
London West	344		1200	4800
London South	178		1375	5500
Manchester & Lancs	508		1450	5800
Merseyside	340		1650	6600
Northern	526		2150	8600
Scotland East	241		1100	4400
Scotland West	243		1875	7500
Southern	652		1775	7100
South West	419		875	3500
Wales East	229		650	2600
Wales West	302		1150	4600
West Midlands	400		2150	8600
Yorkshire	604		2250	9000
Others	24		3125	12500
<b>Total received</b>	<b>6940</b>		<b>30000</b>	<b>120,000</b>

**Target for 11 April £30,000 Target for year £120,000**

## "IT'S ONLY MONEY"

—but we need more!

## THIS WEEK

# £1,453

**How many readers noticed a news item this week about one of our so-called 'wealth-creators' who received a tax demand for £2.9 million?**

His contribution to society is to "stroll down Bond Street and have afternoon tea at Fortnum and Masons." This great man means to pay the tax demand in full: "It's only money and I'm not short of £3 million." It's no secret, however, that the Militant is short of £3 million. Not that we're expecting a tax bill, but the lightning speed of events means that a weekly paper is barely able to keep up with the news, comment and Marxist analysis which is essential.

Take last week, for instance. We would have liked not only to be a daily paper, but to have more than one edition!

Unlike the Tories (or Liberals!) we don't have gifts from millionaires, expatriate or otherwise, but we do have thousands of working class supporters. We depend on our supporters, and no one else, to make up our income over and above the sales of the 'Militant' and Militant pamphlets.

Every week in this column we want to convince our readers that if they agree broadly with our analysis and programme in Britain and internationally, they should support us financially.

Over £60 including sales of badges etc. was raised at the Eastern Region LPYS Conference, and £59 at the South West Conference! We're expecting similar sums (at least!) from the Conferences still to come. In the Northern Region, £89 came from a Readers Meeting collection, while discussion groups in Nottingham,

By Steve  
Cawley

Blackley (Lancs) and Doncaster sent similar amounts. Also from Doncaster, our thanks to UCATT BC143 branch for their £10 donation. Other groups of trade unionists to assist us this week were members of IRSF (Edinburgh) and Merseyside Bowaters supporters. West Wales readers, obviously boosted by the resolution of the working-class contributed nearly £190! Special thanks to Neath supporters for what we hope will be the first of many.

Individual donations included G Beishon (Brighton LP) £20, W Coombes (Bristol SE LPYS) £16, L Evans (Merseyside) and B Rice (Dundee) tenners, with fivers from I Campbell (Carlisle), M Davies (Cardiff N LPYS), H Higgins (Bristol SE LP), and D Wevill, a Vauxhalls worker from Merseyside.

Amounts between £1 and £5 came from E Durant (Rossendale LP), S Russell (COHSE, Glouc.), S Aunger (Dagenham LPYS), K Williamson (NALGO, Cleethorpes), Nonny and Robert (Reading LPYS), K Stewart (W Derby LP) and D Reid (NGA, Merseyside).

However, sums of up to £1 add up to just as much, particularly if they are regular weekly sums. Thanks to T Pirie (NUM, Stirling) and A McEwan and E&M Mc Ginnis (Edinburgh) and to P Atkins (AUEW Eastleigh) and L Organ (Portsmouth Poly L.C.) amongst others. Collections at YS or Labour Club meetings (such as the £34 from Stirling) or arranging food (£10 from Reading

and area LPYSs) or a party (£16 from Pentland LPYS) are equally beneficial to our funds.

A St Valentine's Day social in W. London netted us £30, and over £30 came in from parties in both Birmingham and Brighton, with more to come. On the other hand, at least one Yorkshire supporter in the Barnsley area sent us £65 from his sponsored abstinence from alcohol, with a further £15 guaranteed!

Stockport banner-makers surplus of £67 shows a good initiative, and a high level of production, whilst from Blackpool came £17 from losing weight, and £8 from losing a beard. Your loss is our gain, comrades!

This week's total of

£1453.27, bringing the year's total to nearly £7,000 is not really enough to keep us on our target. We don't expect £3 million—just one hundredth of this amount by April 11th. We need £3,300 each week to keep us on our target.

If you were going to send us a donation, don't delay—each week the shortfall becomes more and more difficult to catch up. If you were going to ask your union, Labour Party or LPYS branch to hold a collection for the Militant, don't put it off till next month or even next week.

Events won't wait for us to take our own time. Unless we have your support NOW we may miss out!

**JANE AND GLYN JAMES** are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Claire Helen—forward to the new society!

**BRISTOL CND/TUC 'Jobs not Bombs' conference.** Shepherds Hall, Bristol, Sunday 7 March. Phone Bristol 559454 for details.

**SCOTTISH LPYS Annual Conference MILITANT PUBLIC MEETING**  
Hear: **Bob Wylie 'How to fight unemployment'**  
Venue: **Partick Burgh Halls Saturday 28 February 6.00 pm**

**GLASGOW public debate Young Conservatives v Labour Party Young Socialists**  
★ **Wednesday 4 March**  
★ **McLellan Galleries, Glasgow**  
★ **7.30 pm start**  
All welcome

**Sheffield Hallam LPYS Public Meeting 'The Fight Against Unemployment'**  
Hear: **Margaret Reavey (LPYS NC)**  
7.15pm AEU House, Furnival Gate. Wednesday 18 February.  
All Welcome

**PEOPLE'S PALACE —MERSEYSIDE SOCIALIST CENTRE**  
Socialism and Democracy: turning cynicism into mass activity  
A public discussion led by Audrey Wise, Hilary Wainwright, Tariq Ali  
Saturday 26 March 2-4.30 pm. AUEW Hall Mount Pleasant, Liverpool 1  
For creche ring 051-735 1725 by 13 March

**Leeds 50 Club winner— Pat Waite, ticket no. 11.**

**'For Workers' Democracy in Poland' Socialist Action Public Forum, Wednesday 4 March, 8.00 pm, Lansbury House, 41 Camberwell Grove, London SW16 1NN**

# Industrial

## in brief

After Wandsworth council in London announced its decision to sack 700 employees, NALGO's 2,700 members employed by the council staged a mass walk-out, followed by a strike which closed all council establishments for 36 hours, followed by selective strike action. This forced the council to back down and it reaffirmed its 'redundancy agreement'.

The strike at Mosedale brickworks near Manchester goes on. If the workers are to succeed in defending their jobs, the unions involved must block all oil and slag fuel supplies to the plant, which is a fundamental trade union principle.

A one-day strike will be held this Friday by council cleaning staff in Southend, in response to attempts by the council to put 350 of their jobs out to private contract. Dustmen, toilet attendants and roadsweepers will join the strike and take part in a demonstration and rally at the Civic Centre.

Striking members of UCA-TT and T&G at the Willetts Chiswell Street site in the Barbican are appealing for financial help. The strike follows management's failure to directly employ carpenters, instead using sub-contractors. Send donations to J McKinley, Strike Fund Treasurer, 11-13 Essex Road, Dartford, Kent.

NUPE in Essex has attacked the County Council's proposed budget plans for this year. Area Organiser Dave Smith said, "At a time of high unemployment the County Council plans to cut 520 jobs and reduce its services even further. This grim budget is totally unacceptable."

Workers at British Sugar Beet Refining plant in Felstead, Essex, are implementing a total ban on the movement of goods after management announced the sudden closure of the plant with the loss of 300 jobs. Opened in 1926, this plant is the major employer in this rural area. The workers have planned a national joint shop stewards' lobby this week in Peterborough.

Courtaulds in Merseyside say they will shed 1,500 jobs in an area already devastated by redundancies. The group will also drop jobs in Northern Ireland. But the workers, members of the T&G, have said they will fight the job losses at the plant in Aintree, and stewards there have declared support for the 'save Merseyside campaign' with a demonstration on 18 March.

# Kent miners stand firm

The Kent area of the coal industry has been threatened again by the Coal Board, with its attempts to close the Snowdown colliery.

They claim the pit is uneconomical—but this is due to the financial burdens put on the pit by government policies, through interest charges and changing financial accounting.

Our union has proved that with proper investment Snowdown could be producing good coking coal for another 30 years.

Ezra has already stated that the 23 pits named for closure throughout the country would be postponed; but only for the time being. But there is absolutely no way that the government will change its plans towards the coal industry—they will attempt to close pits over a longer period attempting to pick off one area after another.

By Joe North  
& Paul Byrne

(Tilminstone NUM)

However, if the mood of the Kent miners is anything to go by, the Tories won't get away with it.

### Mass meeting

At a mass meeting in Margate, despite the snow some 3,000 miners showed unity and determination in opposing any renewed NCB threat to close Kent mines.

It was the first time all mining unions joined together on a united plan of action. A resolution was put saying that the Kent area would resume work on the clear understanding that if the talks between board and

unions proved to be unsatisfactory, or if the board or the government went back on what they had promised, then the unions were empowered to call an immediate strike.

### Overtime ban

In the meantime the overtime ban, which started just before the strike, was to be continued until further notice. When the vote was taken the resolution was passed overwhelmingly.

Many members made excellent contributions from the floor, saying that in no way would they allow the NCB to close any pit in Kent, or in Britain.

One speaker stated that the only time capitalism takes any notice of the workers' demands is when they come out on to the streets, and if the strike had continued the miners would have been a vanguard for other trade unionists and the unemployed to rally behind.

In all the majority of the members agreed that the NCB and the Tories were



## Yorkshire

By Gary Horne

"Why was Yorkshire first to ballot and last out?" That was the first question raised at a packed meeting of Edlington miners, near Doncaster, addressed by Arthur Scargill last week.

Arthur Scargill said nearly every pit had been declared uneconomic at one time. Bentley Colliery, near Doncaster, was threatened with closure 20 years ago because the NCB said there was a lack of reserves.

The NUM fought the closure and that pit is still open and making a profit he said. The lesson is clear, where the NUM has taken a stand to prevent closures, pits can have a strong future.

Scargill received an enthusiastic response when he said, "There's only one coalfield in this country—that's the British coalfield."

But many miners immediately demanded to know why Yorkshire had not been called out when closures in other areas were announced. As it was 5,000 Yorkshire miners were already out, including at least one face at Yorkshire Main.

Kieran Mallin, a member of this face, told 'Militant': "We should have been out right from the start. The 86% vote was a clear mandate to be out from the beginning."

News of the government's change of line threw the meeting into confusion with many believing they had scored a victory. Without this news, pickets would have been mounted that night immediately after the meeting.

Some felt no trust or confidence should be placed in any government turn around, until cast iron guarantees had been given. Not only on closures, but also on reductions in manning levels.

# London Brick

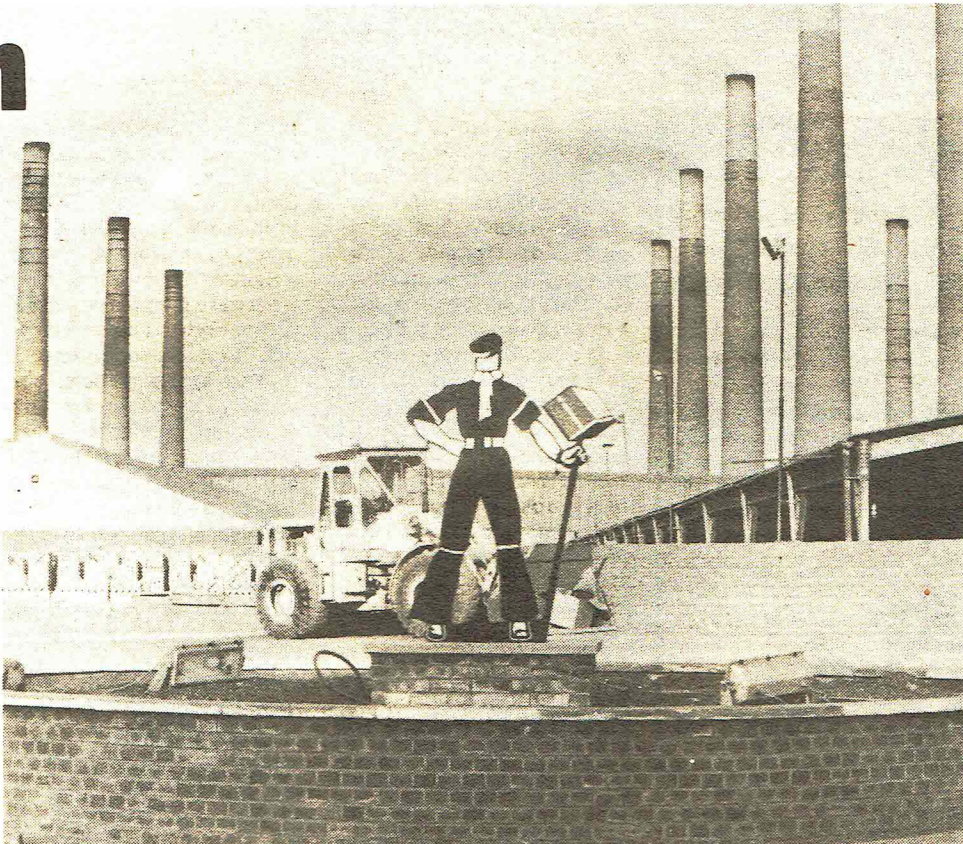
11,000 jobs will be lost in May when the London Brick Company sheds its plant at Ridgmont, Beds.

500 million bricks are stock-piled in the fields of the Marston Vale while there is a housing shortage—and 15% of the unemployed are building workers!

Workers have been on a four-day week since October throughout LBC, and will remain so after Ridgmont closes.

Many villages in the Marston Vale were built by London Brick Company for its workers. Villages like Brogborough, where all 100 workers are employed at the Ridgmont works, will become a ghost town overnight.

Not everyone will be sorry to see the brickworks close; its sulphurous smell can be smelt ten miles away. There



The brickworks at Ridgmont due for closure

have been accusations that the pollution accounts for flurosis in cattle (an effect like arthritis) and the higher than average infant mortality rate.

Because of these objec-

tions, when LBC applied for planning permission for a new "super-works" the (Tory) council insisted on pollution controls. LBC were unable to comply and scrapped the scheme.

Workers at Ridgmont reckon that LBC has now taken its revenge on Bedfordshire council.

By Ian Campbell

# Lambeth NUT

By Helen Bulaitis

Nine officers of Lambeth NUT have been suspended from union membership after carrying out their local association's wishes in calling for support for the local trade unions' 'Week of Action' against Tory cuts.

The union officers were instructed by the members to call on the Inner London

Teachers' Association seeking support for the action.

They did not receive a reply, but the union's general secretary instructed them to withdraw the call. The Lambeth officers said the national officers had no

right to do this and refused to comply. With this they were suspended from membership pending a hearing of the National Disciplinary committee.

On the half-day strike itself, as part of the Lambeth 'week of action', 150 teachers joined the mobilisation.

John Esterson, general

secretary of the Lambeth Teachers Association, said, "Our members view this with disbelief. We are receiving support from other associations, the Lambeth MPs and trade unions."

"In the past pressures have been increasingly mounted for policies which will defend teachers' jobs and conditions—the NUT

policy at present is only to lobby and leaflet.

"There was considerable criticism of the leadership over the failure to launch a national campaign to reinstate Eileen Crosby, during the Crosby affair."

Send messages of support for the reinstatement of the Lambeth officers to 12 Albion Drive, London E.8.

# Reports

## EUROWELD A 'raid' to save jobs

**"Like the raid on Entebbe."**  
This is how one shop steward described the successful re-occupation of the Euroweld factory in East Belfast last Friday.

By Peter Hadden  
(Belfast LTUG)

Since 28 January the workers have been occupying the factory to prevent its closure. No one stayed in last Wednesday night, and the next morning pickets found the gates locked in their faces.

"We had to either get back in or pack up there and then," said Fred Cobain, Plant Convenor. "Fight back" decided the stewards, and at 7 am the next morning, about 70 men turned up outside the gate.

"The harbour police were inside so we drove around, reversed cars here and there, to attract their attention.

"Then we charged through the factory next door and in through a gate behind the police, in seconds. It was a great boost to the men." So Joe Corrie, AUEW TASS shop steward summed up the re-occupation.

Only an hour later the RUC Special Patrol Group arrived and attempted to break the picket lines. Workers linked arms. One worker was kneeed in his "privates", and a shop steward was grabbed round the throat.

"It was heading for a riot," said one worker. "Leave us alone, or we'll bring the shipyard and Short's down to help us," promised another worker. Before things got totally out of hand, the Chief Inspector called his men off. "Another morale booster for us," said Joe Corrie.

Euroweld workers are fighting to preserve jobs in a city with an unemployment rate of almost 16%. There has been an attempt to isolate them with local newspapers giving scant coverage to the fight. Police have been used and there has even been a threat to call in the army.

Success for this battle

### Watneys

Workers at all three Watney's plants in London joined in a 24-hour stoppage on Wednesday (18.2.81) in solidarity with workers at the Whitechapel plant who are threatened with redundancies.

Last year management, after making 300 redundant, signed an agreement that no more jobs would be lost. Now they are placing the axe over 250 more.

now depends on support from other trade unionists.

"We're not getting any money," Joe Corrie pointed out. "I have a wife and child, and after nine weeks they are giving me £29 supplementary benefit. Some men have nothing."

Money has come in from some other factories such as the shipyard, Hughes Tools, Kilroot, and some workers in the electricity service. But to date union officials have done little or nothing in support.

Joe Corrie's local full-time official told him, "In public I'm not going to condemn you and I'm not going to support you."

Rumours are circulating about prospective buyers but the Receiver is refusing to give workers any information. The stewards are discussing buying the company and running it as a co-op.

However, it would be a scandal if the state made this necessary when the state has probably paid twice over for the firm in grants to past owners.

Workers should not have to sacrifice their redundancy pay. The firm should immediately be nationalised and re-opened without any job losses or victimisations.

Support the Euroweld workers in two ways. Firstly by demanding that the AUEW, AUEW TASS, EETPU and Boilermakers make the dispute official. Secondly by raising finance.

The miners' victory gave the Euroweld men fresh heart. "I cheered when I heard the news," said one steward. A victory at Euroweld would also be a victory for the thousands of workers now facing redundancy.

Messages of support and finance should be forwarded via the Labour and Trade Union Group, 4 Waring Street, Belfast.



Linwood workers join the massive Labour Party demonstration in Glasgow on Saturday

Photo: MILITANT

## SAVE LINWOOD

**"Former Linwood en Ecosse c'est absolument faux!"**

So a slogan on the wall ('to close Linwood in Scotland is absolutely wrong') showed the flavour of international solidarity over the Linwood closure at a public meeting against unemployment in Paisley.

The meeting, including

speeches from Michael Foot, Clive Jenkins and representatives from Talbot in France and Spain, attracted over 600 people.

Naturally, most of the meeting dwelt on the fight to stop the closure of Linwood. Representing Spanish Talbot workers, Adolfo Cuesta brought total solidarity to the Linwood workers to "counter the international

solidarity of the capitalists."

He explained that Talbot workers in Spain are working short time—they had been made the same promises as had been made to the Linwood workers.

Similarly support came in the form of telegrams from French Talbot workers and the CGT.

Speakers from the labour movement followed, but although they gave graphic factual statements as to why it was wrong to close Linwood—which should be

clear to any worker—they failed to give a clear solution, other than short-stop first aid policies which could only temporarily patch up the ailing capitalist system.

However, Mr Foot was correct when he told the Linwood workers, "The whole of the labour movement in Britain is behind you."

By R. Mitchell

(East Renfrewshire CLP)

## Civil Service

The campaign of one-day strikes by the civil service unions now appears to be going ahead as the Tories refuse to back down over their miserly 7% offer.

The Council of Civil Service Unions, representing 530,000 civil servants is asking for a mere 15% which would not even keep members' pay in line with inflation.

Civil service workers are determined to win this dispute as can be seen from the mass meeting of the

By Kevin McHugh  
(CPSA)

8,000 strong Longbenton branch in Newcastle. It voted to support the planned one-day strike with further strike action after that.

On a bitterly cold day members turned out to one of the biggest-ever mass meetings to hear John Macreadie move the motion. Barry Fuge, the branch secretary, also spoke, saying quite plainly, "You are either voting to strike or you are voting to accept 6 per

cent."

The vote was more than two to one in favour of the action.

Earlier in the day, branch officials from several civil service unions formed a deputation to meet Patrick Jenkin, Tory Minister for the Social Services. They reacted furiously to his comment that they should look at the private sector and "be glad to have a job".

That contemptuous attitude is now being answered by the civil servants. They feel they have been messed about too long.

Elsewhere in the north east, other branches of

CPSA were also voting to strike in support of the wage claim. The Department of National Savings in Durham (1800 members) voted overwhelmingly in support; the Child Benefit branch in Washington voted by three to one in support; the Newcastle City branch is in favour; Blyth voted four to one and the Stanley branch 14 to 1 in favour.

### STOP PRESS

The union's joint council meets on Thursday and will recommend support for industrial action.

## BRISTOL - BUSES STILL THREATENED

A thousand people turned out for Saturday's march in Bristol, called by the local T&G in support of their campaign against fare rises and redundancies.

This dispute has led to the busmen being locked out for two weeks. The latest fare rise is the 27th in 6½ years. And thanks to the Bristol Omnibus Company's mismanagement and the Tories' cash limits we have one of the country's highest bus fare levels, and a skeleton service.

At a crowded rally in Bristol's Corn Exchange, labour movement speakers linked the busmen's fight with the other struggles facing workers under this

Tory government, the loudest applause being given to Tony Benn when he pointed to the victorious miners' strike.

Tony Benn and Councillor Pete Hammond supported the demand of the busmen for the Labour City Council to run the buses in the interests of the workers, instead of allowing the National Bus Company to run it down.

However, on Sunday morning, at a mass meeting of 1,000 busmen, by a narrow majority it was decided to accept the deal worked out nationally between T&G national officials and the National Bus Company.

Fare increases have been postponed until 1 March, and all staff reinstated with two days' pay for the first

two days of the lockout. A joint approach is to be made by the NBC and the union nationally for increased subsidies for the Bristol buses.

These limited concessions from the company were only achieved by the unity of the busmen in resisting the attacks.

Had the regional and national T&G officials been prepared to extend the action to country services, and not allowed themselves to become isolated from the rank and file by conducting secret negotiations with the NBC, there is little doubt that the bus company would have been forced to back down completely.

Although the busmen are to be consulted about future fare rises, the threat to 500 jobs and cutting of services remains unaltered.

In preparation to fight this attack, the whole Bristol labour movement must launch a massive campaign to bring the bus service into the ownership of the Labour City Council with the running jointly in the hands of the council and the bus workers.

This struggle has shown the need for nationally co-ordinated action by busmen, for a national joint shop stewards' committee and on a local basis, a public sector alliance of trade unions for a joint campaign against the Tory cuts.

By Cllr.

Pete Hammond  
and Paul Moorhouse

(Bristol LPYS)

## DEPTFORD FIRE MURDER

# Fight Racist Attacks...

**The New Cross massacre is an outrage! Thirteen young blacks are now dead. Twenty-six others have been injured, many of them seriously.**

The mood among Britain's blacks is boiling over. This seething anger has been demonstrated at hundreds of meetings organised up and down the country.

Our brothers and sisters have become particularly incensed at the apparent sluggishness of the police inquiries into this affair. Senior police officers are on record as saying that they are engaged in one of the "largest man-hunts" ever to take place in South London.

Despite this claim, more than five weeks have now elapsed since the enquiry first began. And yet not one person has so far been apprehended in connection with this horrifying act.

The attitude of the police over the last period has led many of us to suspect that they are deliberately attempting to cover up the racial aspect of this case.

Forensic evidence showed that the ground-floor windows had been broken from the outside, probably by an object thrown. Despite the claim that the fire began in the middle of the front room, there was at least one witness who saw the flames spreading from the window towards the middle.

Neither does the theory about paint-thinners explain how inflammable liquid could

**By Bob Lee  
 [Secretary,  
 PNP Youth (UK)]**

be spread on the floor in a crowded room and set alight without someone seeing it being done and identifying the culprit.

Despite mounting evidence pointing to a racial motive for the attack, the police are continuing to avoid this line of enquiry. Instead, the police's efforts have mainly concentrated on the idea that the fire was started by accident, or was the result of a revenge attack following squabbles among those at the party.

The police now claim that the fire probably started in the middle of the downstairs room, caused by paint thinners spread on the floor (!).

Yet initially the police claimed that a petrol bomb was the most likely cause. So why did they take so long to change their minds?

The policy of the police in adopting an 'open mind' on this enquiry is neither unusual nor surprising. The authorities rarely acknowledge a "racial motive" behind the growing attacks on black people, fearing that this may lead to an angry backlash from our community.

But this atrocity has al-



**The police have been able to act decisively against blacks protesting at racism. But they have steadily refused to investigate racial motives for the Deptford fire**

ready led to a tidal wave of anger and revolt, which may yet explode into a movement making the Bristol riot seem like a trifle.

This is the calculation behind the present conspiracy of silence. The authorities fear a movement of blacks more than ever. That is why the Home Secretary recently announced a "crack-down" on fascist groups, hoping to pre-empt a movement by blacks to "take the law into their own hands."

But such hypocrisy from the Tories, who have never shied from stirring up racial hatred, will not placate the black community. The Tories'

Nationality Bill, presently passing through Parliament, is in fact a calculated "legal" attack on blacks.

Blacks everywhere realise now that our own personal safety is at risk, that our livelihoods are seriously threatened by this Tory government.

We also recognise that part of the fight against the immediate threat of physical attack, is the fight to bring down this bosses' government. The bosses have always attempted to use blacks as scapegoats for the ills of their own rotten system.

But the days of blacks sitting back and allowing

ourselves to be used and abused are gone forever! Our immediate task is to galvanise the entire black community around a campaign to stop the racist attacks.

Black organisations, trade unions, Labour Parties, tenants associations, and community groups must be drawn together to form defence organisations to counter the fascist menace, and to guarantee the safety of black people in their homes and on the streets. Shop stewards committees must ensure safety at work.

The real enemy of black people are not white workers or youths, but the bosses and

their government. Our struggle is ultimately bound up with the struggle of all workers to remove this government.

We must fight for a Labour government committed to the implementation of a bold socialist programme that must inevitably embrace the ending of all immigration control, and an end to state repression.

**DEMONSTRATION  
 Monday March 2nd 10 am.  
 Fordham Park, Pagnell St,  
 New Cross, SE 14.  
 No banners please**

# WATER WORKERS TAKE ON TORIES

Two hundred water workers have gone on indefinite strike in Lancashire as the battle for a decent wage rise drags on—as they said "we're tired of waiting."

North East workers have said they will strike from midnight Wednesday, and the unofficial action could spread if an official strike is not called.

As we go to press, leaders of the water workers' unions are meeting to decide on what action to take over the

employers' stand on wages.

In the North of England, water workers have rejected the 10% offer by the National Water Council and have called for strike action.

In the north west, representatives of 2,000 GMWU members voted 16-3 rejecting the offer and then calling for strike action. Similarly, for the same region NUPE delegates representing 1,000 members voted 2-1 against.

In the south and western regions, NUPE have said they are ready for an all out strike, and 1,300 NUPE workers in Wales have

**By 'Militant' reporters**

rejected the offer.

It is clear the determination of the water workers has been spurred on by the recent blow dealt to the Tories by the miners.

As north west regional TUC official Mike Fisher told the Financial Times [February 21] "The government has really got to come out now and increase the offer. It must step in to act, as it did with the miners."

However, the water workers must rely on their own industrial strength to force a decent living wage out of the employers, rather than wait for the Tories to step in.

And the water workers will be determined to win, as the comments by workers at the Beckton Water Works in East London show:

"Their offer, given my basic wage, wouldn't be worth a light. They've just put my rent up by £1.50.

"We pushed our unions for a decent pay rise. She's trying to pick us off one by one but she won't get away with it down here."

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