

# Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

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## 2750 JOBS A DAY: LABOUR MUST ACT

The death toll of jobs continues to rise remorselessly.

Since March 1980 the dole queues have increased by more than a million!

That's 2,750 workers thrown on the scrap heap every day, as sacrifices to the crumbling capitalist system.

This Saturday, the TUC and the textile unions have sponsored a march, in Bradford, against unemployment.

Not one region of the country is free from the statistics of despair.

In Yorkshire and Humberside unemployment has gone up by nearly 100,000 in the last

By Bob Wylie

year. In Bradford, 190 school leavers chase every job vacancy.

The textile workers marching on Saturday have every reason to demonstrate. Three hundred jobs have been lost every day in their industry in the last twelve

## Build campaign to kick out Tories

months.

In 1980, 200 mills were closed down. These redundancies give the lie to the arguments of Thatcher and Joseph that high wages cause unemployment. Textile workers are amongst the lowest paid in Britain.

In the past, workers in the "Soft South", in places like the Midlands and the South East, mistakenly voted Tory, because they were cushioned with higher living standards.

Those days are gone! Thatcher has thrown 580 workers in the Midlands on the stones every day since March 1980.

Towns like Stafford, in the Midlands, have felt hatred of the Tories grow daily with job losses.

Tony Parker, who works at Universal Grinding Wheels, told 'Militant': "People round here no longer ask, 'How's the family?' or 'What did you think of the football on Saturday?' Now they ask: 'Are you still working?' or 'How many days are you working?'"

There are now 3,000 unemployed in Stafford alone. The Council recently advertised for a mortuary attendant and

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Photo: Julian McKittrick/MILITANT

Teachers lobby Birmingham councillors, Tuesday 7 April

## BIRMINGHAM- Teachers fight 500 jobs axe

Education is a right, not a privilege! Fight the Tory cuts!

These were just some of the placards carried by up to 2,000 teachers, parents, school students and local trade unionists as they lobbied the Birmingham City Council last Tuesday.

All the teaching unions participated, with the National Union of Teachers calling out their members in 70 local schools and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers [NAS/UWT] in 20 for a half-day strike.

Under pressure from the Tory government, Birmingham is slashing £3 million from the education budget. It is a scandal that this is being implemented by a Labour-controlled council—contrary to Labour Party policy.

The cuts immediately

By Christine Bingham & Pauline Gorman

[BIRMINGHAM NUT]

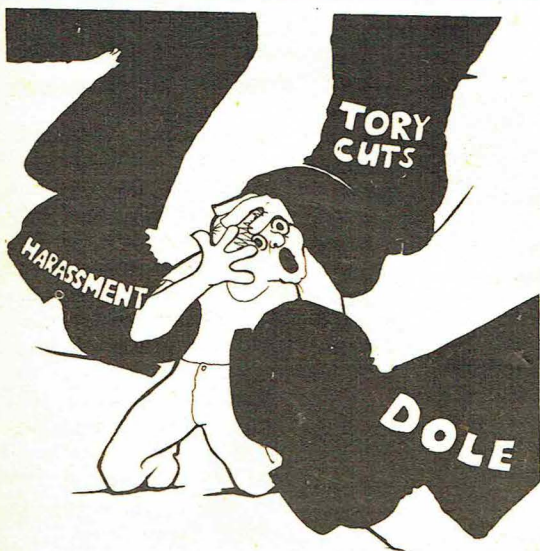
threaten 500 teaching jobs. The ratio of pupils to teachers will be pushed up [it has already been hard to keep up to the 35 to 1 agreed by the NUT], and the already inadequate funds for books and equipment will be reduced again.

From September, 'rising 5s' will not be admitted to primary schools, depriving thousands of children of the good start they need.

All the teaching Union speakers spoke of the

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### FIGHT BACK WITH THE LPYS



Only one week to go! But there's still time to join over 2,000 Young Socialists at the Labour Party YS Conference in Bridlington over Easter weekend [April 17-20].

Miners' leaders Arthur Scargill and Eric Clarke will be addressing the conference. Anwar Ditta will be speaking to conference and to an evening meeting

on 'The fight against racist laws.'

Delegates and visitors will also be able to see the 7:84 Theatre Group's latest production, "Night Class" [reviewed on page 6]. They will be able to hear 'Weapons of Peace', the 2-tone Reggae band which will be playing on two evenings. There will be Discos, too.

Everyone who wants to join the fight for socialist policies to kick out the Tories will be welcome at the conference.

Book now! There are still some places! Contact Andy Bevan [Labour Party Youth Officer] at 150 Walworth road, London SE17 [01-703 0833] for further details.

# Militant

## POLAND ON A KNIFE-EDGE

Poland is now balanced on a knife edge.

Terrified at the repercussions of the Polish events on the working class of their own countries, the Russian and East European bureaucracies are carefully weighing up the pros and cons of military intervention.

Until now, they have leaned on the Polish bureaucracy to undermine the Polish workers and Solidarity by a combination of concessions and attempts at repression.

Even now it is most probable that the bellicose threats of Brezhnev and his puppet Husak are calculated to exert pressure on the Polish workers and on the bureaucracy to rein in the movement.

However, the movement

and the demands of the Polish workers have grown enormously in the past few months. In fact, the real power has been in their hands. Every attempt to take back the gains of August 1980 have been vetoed by the workers [see 'Militant' 3 April].

Moreover, the lower and even middle layers of the bureaucracy have been drawn behind the Polish workers. According to 'The Times': "Officials are being elected by an unlimited number of candidates at all levels, in preparation for a national party congress to be held before July 20."

At the same time, Solidarity leaders are being challenged by younger workers for their collaboration with the regime. After the recent general strike was called off, proposals for future negotiations with the government to be rotated were accepted.

The 'liberal' wing of the bureaucracy calculated that they would be able to re-assemble the levers of the power in their hands by incorporating Solidarity leaders into the state. Solidarity would then be gradually emasculated and become impotent.

Instead, it has grown in power and has 'escalated' its demands. As 'Militant' has consistently argued, the Polish workers could have taken power peacefully in August.

Even now, with bold leaders and policies, this would still be possible. The toppling of Polish Stalinism and its replacement by workers' democracy would lead to the collapse of the bureaucracy in Eastern Europe and Russia itself.

Even without political revolution, the Polish events threaten to unleash a similar movement in Eastern Europe and Russia. This is the explanation for Husak's and Brezhnev's threat to intervene in Poland.

Militarily, all the plans have been carefully laid with the 'unlimited' Warsaw Pact manoeuvres as a convenient excuse to deploy troops on Polish soil.

The Polish army, which would undoubtedly fight with the working class against Russian intervention

has been effectively bottled up by official Warsaw pact troops, and left with no independent means of communication.

The Russian army, militarily, could undoubtedly take Poland in a matter of hours.

The prevarication of the Solidarity leaders has given the Russian bureaucracy the time to prepare the crushing of the Polish workers in blood if necessary.

But it is one thing to invade Poland; it is another thing entirely to hold it down. The Russian bureaucracy would be faced with the opposition of the whole Polish people. They would face resistance, probably armed, unlike Czechoslovakia in 1968.

The Russian bureaucracy would need at least a million men to hold down Poland.

They would face enormous repercussions internationally. They would be forced to take over the country's massive debts to the West and feed Poland as well.

A new bitter 'cold war' would break out, producing a spiralling of the arms race. This would have a disastrous effect on the Russian economy.

The Russian bureaucracy, therefore, will not lightly take this step. But if the rule

of the bureaucracy is in jeopardy they will not hesitate to intervene, no matter what the cost, economically or in blood.

The stark choice before the Polish workers is either to carry through completely their movement by establishing workers' democracy or once again see the yoke of the bureaucracy re-established, possibly by Russian bayonets.

If military intervention comes it would be fatal for the Polish workers to meet this by reviving the age-old national enmity between Poles and Russians.

### Class appeal to win victory

Only a class and internationalist appeal would guarantee victory to the Polish workers. The Russian bureaucracy have overwhelming military superiority. But their achilles heel is their own working class.

An appeal for Russian troops to emulate the example of their Polish brothers would find a response, as the 1956 Hungarian revolution demonstrated. The original Russian troops sent against the Hungarian com-

mune were won over. Only the use of backward, peasant troops from Siberia and the Asian provinces enabled the bureaucracy to crush the revolution.

The Russian bureaucracy no longer possesses such reserves of backwardness. Workers' democracy in Poland would spread like a prairie fire to the whole of Eastern Europe and Russia.

It would be absolutely fatal for Russian intervention to be met by an outburst of Polish nationalism. A passive general strike with the workers advised to peacefully occupy their factories, would also be fatal.

Only active resistance, fraternisation with Russian and East European troops, and the carrying through of the revolution would defeat the military might of the Russian bureaucracy.

The magnificent movement of the Polish workers can paralyse all the plots of Brezhnev, Husak, and Kania—but only by ending the rule of this bureaucratic caste and replacing it with workers' democracy in Poland.

This would be the first step towards a socialist federation of Eastern Europe and Russia, which would be a bridge towards a democratic Socialist United States of Europe.

# Labour's ranks will support Tony Benn

The press and television went berserk last week when Tony Benn announced his decision to stand for Deputy Leader of the Labour Party.

"Divisive, ambitious, jockeying for position, and fratricidal: the names Mr Benn's colleagues are calling him are true names..." This quote, from a 'Times' Editorial (3 April) is just one example of the biased, vicious attacks on Tony Benn, attacks which are directed at Labour's left wing as a whole.

The capitalist media have made little effort to appear impartial on reporting this issue. Their hypocrisy is blatant.

The bosses' media unceasingly campaigned to prevent the democratic reforms that have been carried in the Labour Party over the last year or so. Supporting the Social Democrats and the right wingers still within the Party, the media have hammered away at the need to reverse the decisions of last year's annual conference and January's special conference at Wembley. They are now denouncing Tony Benn for deciding to contest the elections under a procedure democratically adopted by Labour's conference.

The denunciations of the bosses' press have been echoed by Labour's right, particularly those grouped in the mis-named "Solidarity" group. No wonder 'The Times' says that Mr Hattersley's "barnstorming in the constituencies" should be reinforced, and urges Mr Healey to "bestir himself".

By now this is only to be expected from the social democrats still within Labour's ranks. But Labour Party members and trade unionists will have been

By Lynn Walsh

surprised and angered at members of the "Tribune" left joining in the efforts to dissuade Tony Benn from contesting the deputy leadership elections.

Writing to Tony Benn, in a letter published in 'The Times', Judith Hart urged him against creating more "internal party dissension".

Alex Kitson (this year's Labour Party Chairman) speaking for the Transport and General Workers Union's finance and general purposes committee, also urged Benn to stand down in the interests of "party unity".

Replying to Alex Kitson, Tony Benn pointed out that "If... 'party unity' now requires us to abandon the elections under the new procedure, the trade unions and constituency parties will have no say whatsoever in the choice of party leadership. This cannot be right since it would involve the trade unions abdicating the new constitutional role which they voted for at Wembley in January."

The decision to stand, Tony Benn continued, also involved political issues: "If this conference decision is to be so casually set aside we may be told next that other conference decisions on key policy questions should also be dropped in the interests of 'party unity'."

"It was in the interests of 'party unity' that we were asked to support the 5% pay policy, the IMF cuts, a Yes vote to keep Britain in the Common Market, and other departures from the 1974 Labour Party manifesto.

"Yet some of these very policies adopted by the last Labour cabinet lost us public support and paved the way for the Tory victory in May 1979 for which we

Photo: Militant



Tony Benn speaking at this year's London LPYS Conference

are now paying such a heavy price."

Not to contest the election, Tony Benn pointed out, would mean deciding the leadership by "a private agreement...reached amongst the presidents, general secretaries, or other senior officials, instead of the new democratic machinery." This, he said, "would really damage the reputation of the trade union movement."

Tony Benn's candidature is undoubtedly seen by Labour's ranks as a continuation of the battle to defend the gains of the Wembley conference and to fight for socialist policies. This is precisely why he is being attacked by the enemies of the labour movement.

Some union leaders are complaining at "being forced to choose" between Healey and Benn. But their members will want to know why, if they reject the 5% and other policies of the last Labour government, they are not prepared to vote against Healey and support

frantically to reverse the Wembley decision.

But they do not speak for a majority of Labour Party members, nor in most cases for a majority of their trade union membership.

In his letter to Alex Kitson, Tony Benn rightly said that he hoped "that the Transport and General Workers Union and all other affiliated unions, will invite all the candidates [for the deputy leadership] to address the conference this year so that delegates can hear them before deciding how the union votes should be cast."

Tony Benn's candidature will ensure that the issues facing the movement are in fact taken to the union conferences. Trade union members, in their branches, district committees, and shop stewards' committees should ensure that there is a full debate on the leadership and the key policy issues.

The right wing are opposed to Tony Benn standing and possibly being elected at the beginning of conference because they are planning, with the help of unions controlled by the right, to try to torpedo the new electoral system in the course of the conference. Arguments from some on the left that Benn should stand down can only play into the hands of the right.

In his original statement, Tony Benn said that he was standing to "commit the Parliamentary leadership to a fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of wealth and power in favour of working people and their families as set out in our constitution and conference decisions."

These policies undoubtedly have the support of the great majority of Labour Party members.

'Militant' has always made its position clear on Tony Benn's policies. We believe that Tony Benn has

pointed to the crisis in capitalism and rightly explained that a right-wing Labour leadership would not be able to solve the crisis for working people.

While supporting many of his policies, however, we believe that the conclusion which must be drawn is that only a socialist transformation of society could achieve the radical changes envisaged by his policies.

But there can be no question of Tony Benn's candidature or his policies "splitting the party".

On the contrary, by standing Tony Benn is raising the banner for left-wing policies which have the enthusiastic support of most Labour Party members and tens of thousands of trade union members.

If Tony Benn wins the election for Deputy Leader (which will take place on the Sunday morning before October's annual conference), it would be a great step forward for the whole labour movement.

If, on the other hand, Tony Benn fails to win this time, nothing will have been lost. The issues will have been taken to the ranks of the movement, and the real balance of political forces within the party will be made much clearer.

### Southern Region Labour Party Conference

'Party Democracy and the Struggle for Socialist Policies'

Speakers: Tony Benn MP, Rod Fitch [prospective parliamentary candidate, Brighton Kemp-town].

Sunday April 12, 12.30pm. Hastings Pier Tea Rooms.

Meeting organised by Brighton Kemp-town Labour Party.

# 20,000 MARCH AGAINST TORY RACISM



The growing campaign against the Tories' Nationality bill brought thousands of working people, mainly Asian, onto the streets of London last Sunday

Photo: Militant

## LPYS-WANTS REAL JOBS FOR YOUTH

**Last summer 1,000 young people left Kirkby's four comprehensive schools. The Job Centres could not offer them one job.**

**Since then the Job Centres have placed twelve young people.**

Several thousand however, are on the Youth Opportunity Programme (YOP). Misery and anguish on the dole—or the chance to earn a little more on YOPs. This is the stark choice facing thousands of youth in Merseyside and elsewhere.

No wonder there are several very hard-hitting resolutions on YOP for the Labour Party Young Socialists' conference, in Bridlington this Easter. Pentlands LPYS denounce YOPs as "purely cosmetic and totally inadequate." The situation in Kirkby bares this out, with youth unemployment still over 30%.

YOP was set up by the last Labour government, supposedly to train youth so that they would be fit for work. But the myth that youth were unemployed because they were inadequate has now been totally exposed.

No one dare say that a million young people are out of work because they are untrained. The fact is that, due to the crisis of the profit system, the bosses cannot make enough profit and at the same time pay people a living wage. Therefore, as Kirkdale LPYS branch says,

**By Lawrence Coates**

(LPYS National Committee)

"The YOP and other schemes are used by unscrupulous bosses, and even local authorities, to replace proper jobs and exploit young people."

Of the 440,000 youth on YOPs, the majority are employed on the Work Experience on Employers' Premises (WEPP) schemes. The Manpower Services Commission (MSC) pay the £23.50 pittance to the firms who then hand it to the YOPsters.

Instead of taking on trainees or staff directly, the employers go through YOP for free labour. That is why Liverpool had 4,200 YOPsters in July last year while the Careers Service only had twelve jobs on offer—for the 9,000 school leavers.

One YOPster pointed out that he was getting half the money of full-time employees for doing the same amount of work.

Very little was done about this report. Today a third of all WEPP employers actually admit to using YOP as a way of getting cheap labour or training and sifting

employees.

A firm in Leicester has 80 YOPsters but only three permanent full-time staff. In addition to being used as cheap labour the youth on YOP often face arbitrary fines and petty discipline.

The Kirkdale LPYS therefore propose training for trainees, and to ensure it is done properly, "trade-union control of all schemes on democratic lines."

Another type of YOP is that of Project Based Work Experience (PBWE) which is run by local authorities, voluntary groups and community groups to give youth a training in work which is of some use to the community. This includes making hospital beds, painting youth clubs, building community centres, counting dustbins and lamp-posts.

Worthwhile or not, these are jobs which should be done by the local authorities' full-time staff. The reason they are not done is because of the cuts in public expenditure. New cheap labour of youth is used.

As Wavertree LPYS says, we must have, "Trade union control of pay and conditions." YOPsters should get the full rate of pay and the 35-hour week being demanded by the trade unions.

The TUC must demand that every YOPster has the right to join a union and that the trade unions should negotiate conditions at national and local levels with YOPsters having the final say for the trade unions.

The LPYS National Committee are also putting to the LPYS conference a *Charter of demands*, in-

cluding the establishment under trade union control of a youth employment service funded by the government and ensuring that every youth gets a guaranteed job or training with full rate of pay at 18.

YOP has not led to youth getting work. Only 40% of YOPsters go straight into another job. Many find it more difficult because they have no time to look in the jobs centres and career services when they are on a YOP.

YOPs last up to a year, and then it's back on the dole—back to being hounded by the Tories as a "scrounger".

YOPs jobs should last at least a year and a permanent job should then be guaranteed.

But there is only one way to ensure that these demands are won. YOPsters should join the Labour Party Young Socialists. Come to our conference and join the struggle to kick out the Tories and bring to power a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

★ Trade union rights for YOP trainees, with trade union control over the schemes.

★ Proper training schemes of at least one year—with a guaranteed job at the end.

★ Trade union rates of pay—with a minimum of four weeks' holiday and a 35-hour working week.

★ The expansion of YOP schemes into a massive scheme of public works to build new schools, nurseries, hospitals and other much needed facilities for workers and their families.

## Link People's marches to union fight

The enthusiastic response that the 'People's March for Jobs' from Liverpool to London [13 May] is getting from the labour movement shows the angry mood of the working class. Workers, especially young workers, are searching for a lead in the fight against unemployment.

Many newspapers are likening it to the unemployed marches of the 1930s. And not surprisingly! In some areas of Liverpool unemployment reaches 50%.

Mass unemployment is not a "passing typhoon", but is here to stay. Secret Treasury forecasts are now expecting 3.7 million or more out of work by 1983.

But why are the marchers being called on to march? To take the fight against unemployment forward, the march must stand for clear, socialist solutions.

The march organisers, however, appealing for the "broadest popular support," have even gone to the lengths of appealing to the CBI!

The CBI, whose members are sacking workers at speed have generously donated £50.

Appeals have also been made for *green* banners only! The organisers seem frightened of losing the support of the liberals and Tories.

If church people and Liberals, and even former Tories, who are horrified by unemployment, want to support the march on the basis of the slogans and demands of the working class—we welcome their support. But if the price of their 'sympathy' is the abandoning of the only kind of policies that can end unemployment—then it is sympathy the unemployed.

What is needed is action and plans along class lines. This will not be done by alliances with the CBI, the bosses, the liberals and vicars.

The CBI have come out against Thatcher's economic policies, and are calling for 'reflation'. But it is wishful thinking to imagine that their demands can benefit trade unionists.

The CBI are calling for a modest £1,500 million increase in expenditure, mainly through capital investment in state industries, to provide more markets for private firms. The CBI favours even bigger cuts in public spending on schools,

By Kevin Ramage

(LPYS National Chairman)

housing, hospitals, and other social amenities which benefit working people.

The march must be linked to the clear call for the TUC to support all workers involved in struggles and occupation against redundancies, such as those at Lee Jeans in Greenock.

The Gardner workers and the miners have shown that the only language the Tories understand is the organised might of the working class.

The fight against redundancies must be linked to concrete demands and a clear strategy!

No redundancies—share out the work without loss of pay!

Open the books! If firms 'can't afford' to carry on and pay a living wage, the answer is not wage cutting, but nationalisation under workers' control and management.

These policies need to be linked to a socialist programme capable of ending unemployment! A 35-hour week with no loss of pay. An £80 minimum wage. An end to the slave-labour wages of the YOPS schemes. A massive scheme of useful public works at trade union rates of pay.

It is vital that these policies are raised on the route of the march, especially at the official march meetings.

In Coventry, the LPYS are pressing for the youth of the Labour Party to have a speaker at the mass rally. In the areas where no march rally is being organised by the movement, local LPYS branches, Labour Parties, or the Youth Campaign Against Unemployment should organise meetings with LPYS members, who are on the march, and local shop stewards speaking.

In many areas it is likely that there will be very large welcoming demonstrations and rallies.

Luton LPYS are organising a local demonstration for Saturday 23 May, two days before the march passes through the town.

If the meetings and events linked to the march adopt a fighting strategy against unemployment then the movement can be injected with a real fighting socialist programme that will be capable of taking forward the struggle to end the nightmare of unemployment.

For further details of march activities, contact North-West TUC, 222 Stamford Street, Ashton-Under-Lyme, Lancashire.

**Support the Hyde Park Rally for:  
REAL JOBS FOR YOUTH!  
Hyde Park, Central London 12 April  
Join the Labour Party Young Socialists  
contingent meeting at Speakers Corner  
at 1pm**

# LABOUR IN ACTION

SWANSEA READERS' MEETING

## UNITED AND FIGHTING FOR SOCIALISM

**"I've spent over 50 years in the Labour Party, more than Alan Williams the Swansea West MP, has lived. I've been his sub-agent in one election and a past president of the Swansea Labour Party.**

"Now Alan Williams has the affrontery to say to the local press that I should be ditched from the party, that I'm a subversive; to say that because I have called and worked for the Labour Party to adopt a socialist programme that I am an extremist."

So said Howell Bithell, political education officer of the Swansea Labour Party, to an audience of over 100 at a 'Militant' readers' meeting in Swansea and was greeted with magnificent applause. After the first warm day of spring the audience were treated to an exceptionally hot evening of political discussion. Peter Taaffe, editor of the Militant, was speaking to the meeting in order to reply to the unfounded and ridiculous allegations made by Alan Williams against supporters of the 'Militant' in the Swansea area.

Alan Williams had been

**By Ken Smith**

(LPYS National Committee, Wales)

invited personally to the meeting to put across his own point of view. He declined. Other right wing members of the Labour Party were asked to come along and explain what all the fuss was about. All of them turned down this offer by making veiled threats about expelling members of the Labour Party who supported the 'Militant'.

The scene set, Peter proceeded to show how the Social Democrats and the right wing of the Labour party were unable to explain the crisis of capitalism. Peter likened these people as to old men and women trying to recapture their lost youth.

Politicians who have no political ideas or initiatives, but have resorted to hamfisted organisational measures, trying to stop a process not started by infiltrators but by the repeated failure of right wing Labour governments to tackle the crisis of capitalism with socialist measures.

Many members of the Labour Party who supported the 'Militant', were certainly not infiltrators, said Peter.

The highpoint of the meeting was when a local party member, Tom Williams, spoke.

Tom, who had joined the ILP and the trade unions in 1913, said "We want 'Militant' to be an integral part of the movement, of the Labour Party, despite Alan Williams saying he believed proscriptions should be brought back. We want a party that is not split, but united strong and fighting for socialism."

Tom continued, pointing out that he was not a 'Militant' supporter but supported many of the ideas of the paper. Tom concluded by saying; "I don't believe in bloodshed, but if and when the capitalists do try to stop us taking power, I know which side of the barricade I'll be on!"

Everyone at the meeting left with the same feelings as Tom—a belief in fighting for the socialist transformation of society.

With £150 raised for the fighting fund everyone felt confident that neither the Tories nor Alan Williams and the right wing were going to stand in the way of the fight for socialism.

### BASILDON

Basildon LPYS held a day of action on Saturday 28th. Our successes actually began on the Friday night with our resolution being passed at GMC and over 30 Militants sold. Who says that the Militant does not have much support!

Saturday morning was spent selling papers in the local Pitsea market. A total of 14 were sold; this was a record for us and was largely due to a more enthusiastic approach.

To crown the morning's success we got a new person interested in joining the YS, and who will take the Militant regularly.

In the afternoon we held a jumble sale raising £60.

**By John McKay**  
(Basildon LPYS)

## NO TO RACIST LAWS!



Many LPYS members joined Sunday's march against the Nationality Bill

**The Centre of Brixton was chosen for the latest activity in the local LPYS branches' campaign against the Nationality Bill.**

Fifty people attended a public meeting in the town hall and heard John Tilley (MP for Lambeth Central) Sam Brown (LPYS Regional Committee) and Bob Lee (PNP [UK] Youth).

John told us that the fight against the Bill in parliament was by no means the most important part of the campaign against it. But he hoped it would serve as a delaying tactic while maximum mobilisation took place.

He pointed out that the Tories were about to formally repeal the 'Sus' laws—but that would by no means end police state harassment of black people.

Sam Brown put the Nationality Bill into context as the latest of a series of official, state supported and unofficial (NF or other fascist) attacks on blacks.

He argued that the ruling class were once again trying their time-honoured tactics of divide and rule at a time of mass unemployment and falling living standards.

Bob Lee developed John's points, explaining ways in which it would undermine the labour movement.

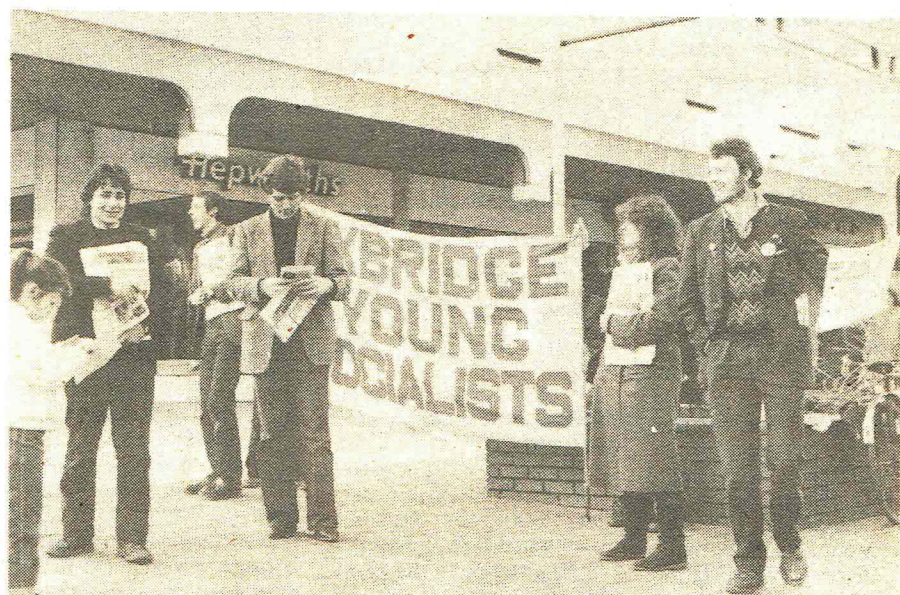
Workers not born here but wanting to register as British Citizens would have

to satisfy the authorities that their characters were good. Those active in trade unions and political parties, especially if they went on strike or on demonstrations, might well fail such a 'test'.

The meeting ended on a note of determination to make the next activity in the campaign a success, by organising the maximum turnout for the demonstration against the Bill, held on Sunday.

**By Vivien Seal**

## For a Labour GLC



GLC Labour candidate for Uxbridge, Jake McGee joins Uxbridge Young Socialists on a recent street canvass

"A bold, enthusiastic campaign and clear socialist policies to kick the Tories out of London on 7 May."

That is how Jake McGee, a 'Militant' supporter, and Labour's GLC candidate for Uxbridge summed up his approach to the forthcoming Greater London Council elections, at the launch of his election campaign in Uxbridge last week.

Jake, a factory worker for

many years and a member of the T&GWU, told a packed public meeting that "the vicious big business policies of the Tories, nationally and in Greater London which is devastating the living standards of working class people and their families, must be answered in a direct and clear fashion by the labour and trade union movement.

"We are fighting on behalf of all working class

people and their families, but particularly the old, the sick, and the young, to put an end to this Tory menace once and for all.

"A Labour GLC, meeting Thatcher and Co. head on will with real socialist policies, can provide a vital lead in that fight."

At the meeting a collection raised more than £40 for the campaign, with several people asking to join the Labour Party.

### Militant Readers' Meetings

The growth in the support for the policies of 'Militant' has been seen with the increasing attendances at readers' meetings throughout the country.

Two readers' meetings were held for the first time in two areas of Essex. In Braintree, Bob Edwards spoke on the role of Marxism and the 'Militant' in the Labour Party. A lively discussion followed on the role of rural workers. The well attended meeting raised £14 for the fighting fund.

Bob Edwards was again speaker at the first readers' meeting in Canvey Island. Here, members of the Labour Party and 6th formers from a local college

heard Bob speak on Poland.

And at the other end of the country, at a readers' meeting in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, John Dunn of Markham NUM and John Ingham of Leeds AUEW spoke on the fight against the Tories. John said he wanted to propose Sir Keith Joseph for shop steward—he has done a brilliant job in arousing working class anger against this Tory government!

Here, more than £20 was raised for the fighting fund.

Reports by Tim White [Braintree LPYS], Mike Levene [Canvey Island LP] and Roy Davies [Chesterfield CLP].

# WOMENS TUC A woman's place is in the union

Thatcher's government has been a disaster for working class women. This was brought home in speech after speech at the Women's TUC in Southport.

Of particular concern was the destruction of the NHS. Delegates from COHSE and NUPE described how 4,000 geriatric beds have been lost in the last 18 months.

Cuts in maternity care provoked anger at the Conference. A COHSE delegate described how 5,000-10,000 babies die or are handicapped unnecessarily because of a lack of intensive care units. There are only 176 compared with the 400 which would be a basic requirement.

Existing ones are unevenly distributed and often a baby in need of intensive care has to undertake long journeys by ambulance, during which many will die.

But as some delegates pointed out, it wasn't just a question of the NHS facilities, the infant mortality rate is a measure of the diet and housing standards of the working class. Twice as many babies from semi-skilled or unskilled parents are likely to die as in the rest of the population.

By Margaret Creear

One contribution by an ASTMS delegate who was herself a junior doctor brought to attention the long hours they work—80-100 hours a week. They are paid overtime at a rate of a third of time. Obviously this makes it cheaper to grossly overwork a junior doctor than to employ two doing a 40-hour week each, even though junior doctors are to be found now amongst the registered unemployed.

One of the main debates was on the lack of women activists in the trade union movement. Many demands were put forward—meetings in work time, creches and special courses for shop stewards with similar hours to schools, all of which will help women to become more involved.

A resolution calling for five resolutions from Women's TUC to be included on the agenda for TUC was rejected. Delegates speaking against it correctly pointed out that it was an attempt to find a short cut to raising the consciousness of the trade union movement on questions relating specifically to women.

The real aim should be to encourage activity at branch and district level and to democratise the unions, and to take up campaigns on recruitment, wages and conditions relating to women.

The most urgent debate was on unemployment. Amongst the many unemployed who don't appear on the register, 46% are married women, and this is rising dramatically.

This spells out a serious situation for many families. It's been estimated that the number of families living below the poverty line would

treble if the mother wasn't working.

The debate also highlighted the problems of the 40% of women who are part-timers. When at work they are amongst the most exploited with few benefits; they are outside practically all protective and welfare legislation and when the boss is looking for redundancies, it's often the 'twilight shift' which is first to go.

The USDAW delegate stressed the importance of trade unions taking in part timers but that would entail the unions taking a stand against redundancies, and fighting for equal rights for part-timers.

But delegates were only too aware of the effects of the crisis on the working class, especially women. What was missing was any analysis of the situation and

what could be done about it.

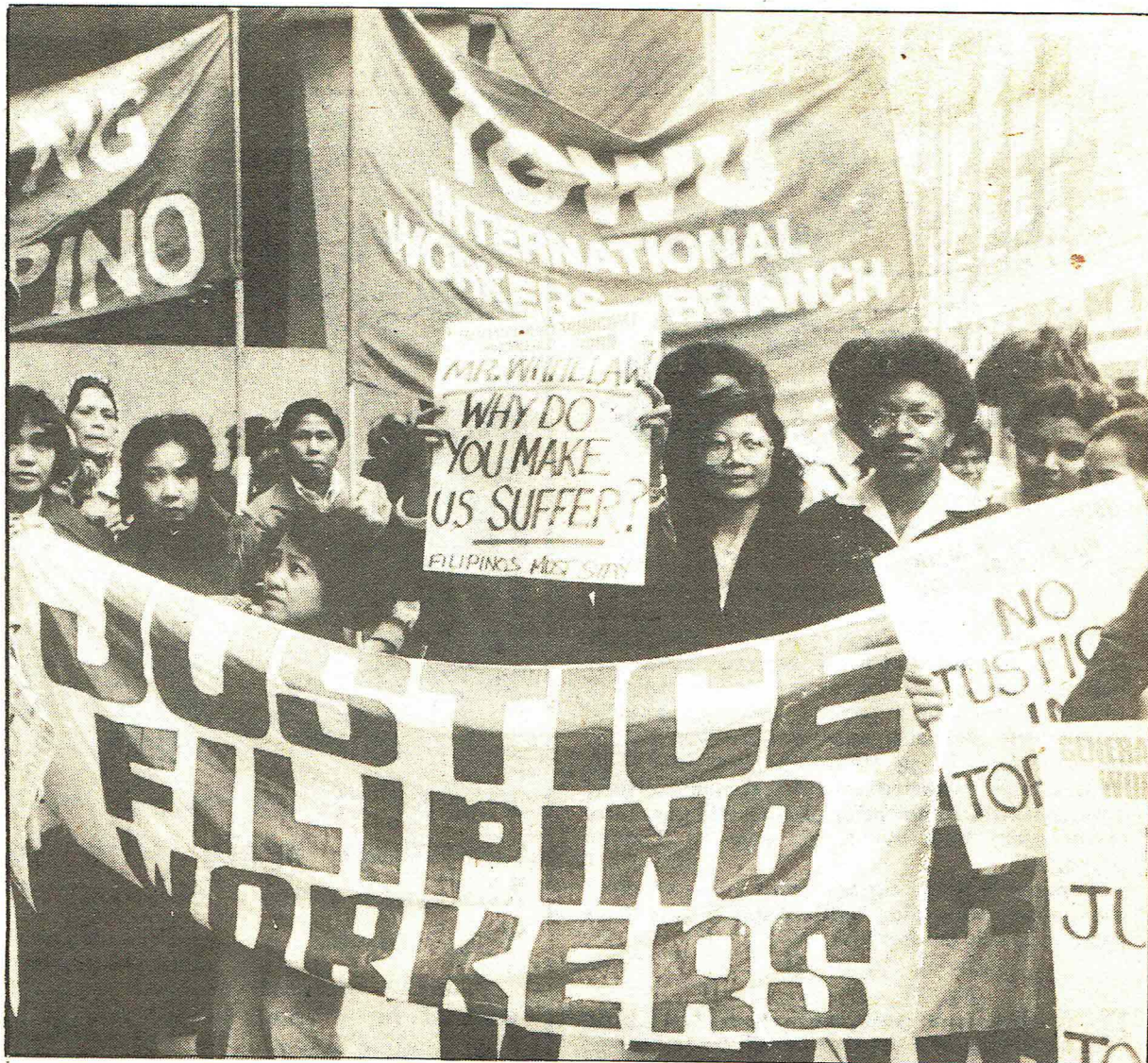
In the most important composite on unemployment and expenditure cuts, one demand on the General Council to "impress on the prime minister the serious effects of the government policies and to seek a clear public statement on her views on the right of women to work." Most working class women could save the General Council a visit. Thatcher has already made clear her attitude through the policies of the Tory government.

It's clear that women along with the rest of the working class have no right to work unless a profit can be made from them by the class Thatcher represents. Any 'assurances' she gave would simply be greeted with derision from working people!

If the Women's TUC is to

play a role in fighting for the rights of working class women and to give them a clear lead, they should understand that the cause of women's problems lies not in this Tory government, no matter how much worse it may have made their lives, but in the capitalist system.

Women trade unionists should fight along with the rest of the movement for an end to capitalism and for production to be planned under workers' control and management for need not profit, where it would be possible to implement equal pay, shorten the working week and extend the welfare state and social services to a level where they would meet the real requirements of working class women.



Women have been prominent in the struggle of Filipino workers against threatened deportation. Here they picket the Home Office on 30 March

Photo: Militant

## NOLS GAINS WITH CORRECT TACTICS

The success of the NOLS candidates in the National Union of Students elections is a complete vindication of the strategy of standing independent Labour Party candidates.

This strategy had been proposed for some years by 'Militant' supporters within NOLS (the National Organisation of Labour Students), despite bitter opposition from the NOLS leadership who preferred dubious 'alliances'.

At this year's NUS conference, NOLS won five places on the Executive with Alan Watson (Warwick University) winning the National Treasurer election by over 200 votes.

The NUS Executive results were a disaster for the Tories. Their Presidential candidate received only 58 votes out of 653; 89% of the

By Clive Heemskerck

(Leeds University Labour Club)

votes went to candidates on the left.

However, it was 54 of those Tory votes transferring to David Aaronovitch, current President of NUS, and a member of the 'Left Alliance'/Communist Party, which gave him victory by 16 votes over the NOLS candidate, Helen Connor.

Without that support from the Tories for the "Left Alliance", NOLS would have won the Presidency of NUS! This shows that the Tories fear a Labour leadership of NUS—they prefer to vote for a Communist Party member! All the other NOLS candidates were successful.

However, it has to be said

that NOLS did not organise any real campaign around these elections, and only put forward limited socialist policies and reforms.

A Labour Students election campaign on clear socialist policies, taking up the key issues, such as grants, housing and the cuts that directly affect students, combined with a series of mass rallies, could gain enormous support.

Support Labour not Liberals

Also, Helen Connor's past association with the "Left Alliance", and the NOLS leadership's scandalous support in one election contest for Liberal Leighton Andrews in preference to a Labour Party member, must have also raised doubts in some students' minds that NOLS were seriously break-

ing with the present leadership of NUS.

In fact, Leighton Andrews lost by 181 votes to a Labour Party member, Hank Hastings. 'Militant' supporters had advocated that NOLS support Hank Hastings in preference to supporting a member of the pro-capitalist Liberal Party. Again, our strategy was borne out by events.

This result shows how out of touch the NOLS leadership are with student opinion. Overall, these results indicate that students looking to the left are prepared to support Labour, and are looking to the labour movement for a lead.

The willingness to accept socialist ideas was shown when an amendment from Coventry Poly on further education was passed after a speech by 'Militant' supporter Mark Picksley.

It called for decent grants for FE students, opposition to cuts and a campaign for

Student Union autonomy, and the necessity to link up with the trade union movement to campaign for these ideas. This was passed—despite the present NOLS leadership voting against!

The time has come for NOLS to aim to win a majority on the NUS Executive by standing a full slate of Labour candidates. Not to do so implies that the present "Left Alliance" leadership of NUS, who

Militant Student Pamphlet

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Workers in Milton Keynes have often wondered about the intelligence of some of the new city's Tory councillors. This attitude was re-inforced recently when one Tory councillor moved the following resolution at a full meeting: "That, on behalf of the residents and voters of the borough of Milton Keynes, this council, bearing in mind future local elections, welcomes the increasingly clear evidence being offered by local socialists, that, if ever entrusted with the responsibility of government, their spending plans would guarantee them warm applause from many a London borough."

Apparently, this Tory was most angry when all the Labour councillors quite happily gave their support to this motion too!

"Nothing really surprising about Tony Benn announcing at 4 am that he will try to become Labour's deputy leader. That's the time the police state always swoops."

That was how Walter Terry, the Sun's Political Correspondent, unbiassedly reported the contest for Labour's deputy leadership (3 April). The Sun is prominent as a Thatcher propaganda sheet which wastes no opportunity to smear socialists.

But it's not just the gutter press which plugs away at Labour's left-wing being totalitarian dictators. In a Sunday Times political profile of Eric Heffer and Tony Benn, Peter Tadpole began [22 March]:

"Imagine the first few weeks of a left-wing dictatorship in Britain: Tories under house-arrest, sinister rumours about the disappearance of members of the Labour Party....First to go, and it is reported that he refused the blindfold, is Tony Benn. The execution order is signed by Eric Heffer." Later in the article we are told "Eric Heffer is Josef Stalin."

Presumably this is all meant as tongue-in-cheek public school humour. But this continuous drip by drip technique of linking Labour's left-wing with totalitarian butchers serves the bosses' clear aim of discrediting the ideas of socialism.

This week the Sunday Times had another 'profile', an eight-pager on Shirley Williams entitled "Is She Too Nice?"

Why did the Hungarian Stalinist regime allow David Irving to be the first western historian to have access to material on the 1956 uprising?

Irving has described himself as a 'mild fascist' who regards Hitler's house at Berchtesgarden "as a shrine". In previous books, Irving argued that Hitler knew nothing about the massacre of the Jews, that 'The Diary of Anne Frank' was a forgery, and that Hitler was a "dictator by consent [who] created a Germany of equal opportunity for manual and intellectual workers, for rich and poor."

In this latest book 'Uprising', he argues that Hungary in 1956 did not witness an attempted political revolution. It was just an anti-Jewish mob revolt, which threatened to become a pogrom until Khrushchev intervened to prevent it. The old fascist myth of a Jewish-Bolshevik conspiracy is given a modern coat.

Irving describes ex-Hungarian dictator Rakosi as the "ugly Jewish dwarf that he was" and the secret police are mostly controlled by "Jewish torture officials"; people are defined by whether or not they are Jewish; even if it means that a new category 'former Jew' is created.

The present regime must welcome this travesty of history, as it helps to hide the real truth about the heroic struggle by Hungarian workers to take real control of their society until they were brutally crushed by the Russian bureaucracy's tanks.

And just to return the affection, Irving describes Kadar, the current dictator, as "today one of Hungary's most genuinely popular citizens". Whilst this is as true as all his other claims, it does help explain why the Hungarian Stalinists were so keen to help Irving.

# NIGHT CLASS



Scene from one of the sketches

Photo: MILITANT

You're at the back of the classroom again with John McGrath and 7.84's new play 'Nightclass'.

This time as observers of an evening class course on the 'British Constitution'. On stage the four students face a cynical, mercenary and conceited "2nd rate tech lecturer".

By Julian McKittrick

Yet this is no dry academic discussion, but a show built around a set of ten song and dance routines; entertaining, sometimes poignant and above all, amusing. It is not so much the 'British Constitution' which is the subject of the play, but the capitalist state it upholds.

One character, is a Tory, Mrs Greenleas, who has power and influence (or so she thinks) and doesn't like to see the monarchy mocked or her prejudices challenged. Her lament about the state of affairs in this politicised classroom, baying for "some orderly behaviour", is set to a tango.

Another character is a white-collar worker, who finds his illusions challenged when he is thrown out of work and in a powerful song, explains: "I want to work living my life in the shadow of others."

In the end Mrs Greenleas gets her own back with a taste of the 'democracy' that is so dear to her (and unobtainable to others). Speech is free so long as it is safe and doesn't challenge her values or those of her husband—the self made man and magistrate. Conspiring with the college principal, she sees to it that these particular nightclasses come to an end, and in an insolent farewell, she expresses the desire to meet the other students again 'in happier circumstances'.

Perhaps inevitably, the sheer scope and range of the issues the play covers means that the questions are raised and tackled on a rather superficial level. So, sitting in the pub afterwards you may feel that you aren't very much wiser about 'the state' than you were at the box office. But even if it only helps provoke discussion, it will have performed a useful service for the labour movement.

APRIL  
Fr. 10

Sa. 11  
Su. 19

We. 22

Th. 23  
Fr. 24  
Tu. 28  
We. 29

Th. 30  
MAY

Fr. 1  
Sa. 2  
Mo. 4  
Tu. 5  
We. 6

Fr. 8-Sa. 9  
Tu. 12

We. 13

Th. 14  
Fr. 15  
Sa. 16  
Tu. 19  
We. 20

Th. 21  
Fr. 22  
Sa. 23

## VENUES

Cruddas Park Community Centre, Newcastle  
Middlesborough Little Theatre  
Labour Party YS Annual Conference  
Spa Theatre, Bridlington  
Scottish TUC Annual Conference  
Moat Leisure Centre, Rothesay  
George Square Theatre, Edinburgh  
Third Eye Centre, Glasgow  
AUE Social Club, Eccles  
Scotland Exchange Labour Club, Liverpool  
Connah's Quay Labour Party Club

Birkenhead Labour Club  
Regency Hall, Blackburn  
Lesser Free Trade Hall, Manchester  
Clock Face Labour Club, St Helens  
Castlefields Community Centre, Runcorn

Unity Theatre, Liverpool  
Kinsley Workingmen's Club, Nr. Pontefract  
Sheffield

Northern College, Barnsley  
Keighley Little Theatre  
Royal Park School, Leeds  
Norwich Labour Club  
St George's Arts Centre, Great Yarmouth

Basildon  
East Anglia  
Burnt Mill, Harlow

(Check time and dates locally)

Every visitor to LPYS conference, and in the towns the show is visiting before and after Easter, should make a point of seeing the play.

Its a fine, entertaining performance. The singing, both collectively and individually is impressive. The characterisation finely observed. You'll enjoy it.

# Find out about your M.P.

The newly published 'Business Background of MPs' is one of the best reference books around, even if some of those described within it may find disclosure uncomfortable.

By Roger Barnes

It details the financial links of every MP: directorships, landholding, houses owned, previous occupations etc. It should prove useful for all activists wanting to know more about their MP.

It makes it very clear who the Tories represent.

For example, John Farr (Conservative MP for Harborough since 1959) is a Lloyds underwriter, land-

owner, racehorse owner and farmer, with total holdings of 12,000 acres of estates in Northamptonshire, County Sligo and Zimbabwe. His wife's family have extensive land holdings in Northumberland. If that isn't enough he is also a shareholder (and former director) of the Nottingham based Home Brewery company.

Should that seem excessive then Keith Wickenden (Dorking) has almost a page and a half for his directorships, as well as being Chairman of European Ferries Ltd (Townsend Thorson Group).

Labour MPs are not

forgotten, and some of their business interests are revealing. Denis Howell (Small Heath) has his own public relations firm, Denis Howell Consultants, and has acted as a consultant to the public relations organisation Bagenall Harvey and as a director of two building firms. His wife owns 700 shares in Bryant and Sons Ltd.

Andrew Roth's introduction explains some of the workings by which business can influence MPs. A favourite method is to get MPs to act as consultants to firms or pressure groups. He shows how Maudling received hundreds of thousands of pounds from crooked architect John Poulsen, whilst claiming that he received no salary

from Poulsen's firm! (He was able to sue the 'Observer' and 'Daily Mirror' for calling attention to these facts!)

Roth also points to the relative failure of the register of members' interests and how it is circumvented.

He draws no conclusions from the information he presents, but any socialist will find the book invaluable in unravelling what lies behind our Parliamentary representatives. Unfortunately, it is very expensive, and no paperback is planned, so make sure this book doesn't become a victim of Tory cuts at your local library.

'Business Background to MPs' by Andrew Roth [published by Parliamentary Profiles, £12]

# BRADFORD TUC RALLY

## Only workers strength can save jobs

**The TUC march in Bradford will bring together tens of thousands of workers, particularly those from the textile industries.**

Every section of industry has experienced the devastating effects of the Tories' economic measures. But for the textile industry, in particular, the medicine prescribed has brought the patient close to death.

The textile industry, of course, was never known as one of the more benevolent industries. Wages have traditionally been low, conditions are generally very poor, and trade unions weak or non-existent.

Therefore, it is very good that the labour movement, through the TUC, has raised its banner in this area.

The fight is of course to protect and create jobs. But what will be crucial in this struggle are the demands raised.

For some, the textile industry is the perfect example of an area where the idea of import controls should be raised.

**By Dave Cotterill**

In the past period we have seen joint demonstrations of workers and bosses calling for such demands. Workers have been given time off work to attend these demonstrations.

Of course, it seems immediately attractive and practical to demand import controls and save jobs. But what is the real situation, and what would be the result of such a policy? Would it actually save jobs?

Firstly, let's take the actual situation; a recent government paper showed that between 1970 and 1975 Britain's textile and clothing industry suffered a loss of 100,000 jobs, of which 85,000 were due to competition from abroad.

But of these lost jobs, 57,000 were attributed to imports from the advanced countries—not the cheap-

wage, poorer countries.

Similarly, the flood of imports coming in are from the industrially developed countries, with similar or higher labour costs. Imports from these nations have increased in volume by 58%. Even against the so-called underdeveloped countries, the position is similar. The import of £10 million worth of Indonesian shirts and trousers was stopped. This led to the Indonesian government stopping orders on British goods worth £150 million.

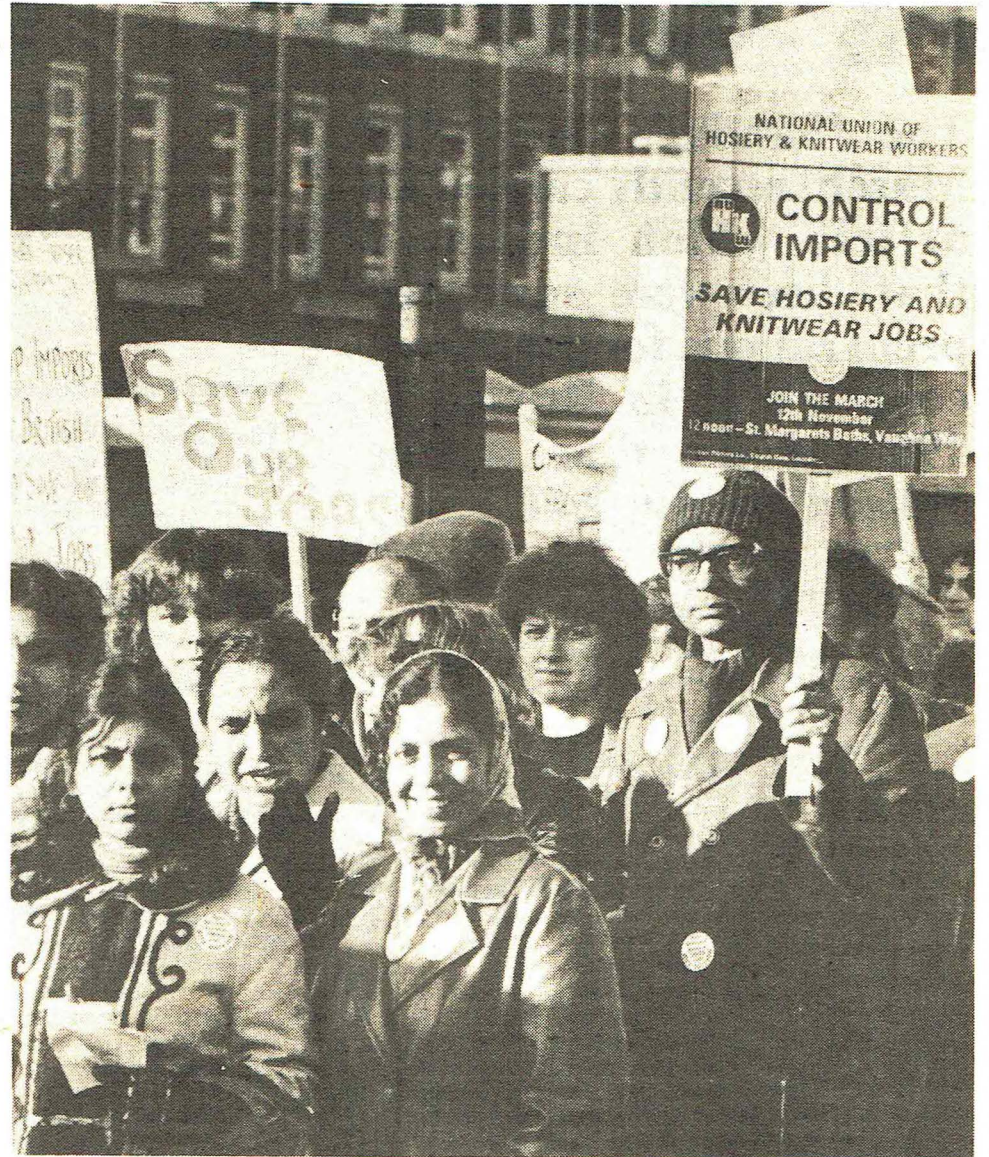
The decline of the textile industry and the loss of jobs is not due to imports—its cause lies with the owners of this industry.

For decades, they allowed their plant and machinery to fall further and further behind. Then, when they at last saw the crunch appearing, they turned to ruthless 'rationalisation'. Their belated efforts to cut costs, raise productivity, and dump unprofitable mills has cost thousands of jobs.

Unfortunately, the demands for import controls detracts away from this.

The sight of textile union leaders and textile barons going to meetings together, to demand import controls, somewhat clouds the issue. The real enemy is hidden.

For the campaign to be successful the TUC must mobilise the textile unions around a real strategy.



Import controls offer no way out. Above, textile workers on demo in Leicester last year

Photo: MILITANT

Britain's textile bosses have mostly failed to keep up with their capitalist rivals abroad, falling way behind in terms of new investment, new processes, and new technology. For years, they were prepared to milk the maximum profit out of clapped-out machinery—and the sweat of their workers.

It is not surprising, then, that they have been outstripped by overseas competitors, even in their own home market.

The imposition of tariff barriers on goods coming from the industrial nations is bound to lead to retaliation. Jobs would then be lost in the

export market.

Britain has imposed quotas against the imports of synthetic fibre products from the USA. The Americans have said that if this persists they will take action against British woollen goods sales to the USA.

The fight against all redundancies would be a real start. TUC backing for all workers involved in struggle—put the whole movement behind their fight. A campaign for trade union rights throughout the whole industry. An immediate campaign for a 35-hour week and a national minimum wage of £80.

The bosses have demonstrated clearly that their only talent is to run down industry. The fight must be waged for the nationalisation of the industry, with compensation only to be paid on the basis of proven need.

On this basis, a democratic plan of production with control and management in the hands of the workers in the industry could be introduced. Massive re-investment and expansion could take place.

This is the only real solution. A wall around chaos will never work!

## Historic struggle for socialism

**Bradford was founded on the textile industry, and its early growth was paralleled with an early growth of trade unionism.**

**By Pete Watson**

(Bradford Labour Party)

Some of the biggest protest meetings on behalf of the Tolpuddle martyrs were held here. This town saw the birth of the Ten-Hours Movement, fighting for a shorter working week, and also of the Anti-Poor Law Movement.

In 1848 the Chartists controlled part of the town for several weeks during a rising; the police were allowed to patrol only with the Chartists' permission.

Bradford also saw the first strivings towards an independent working-class political party, to which early Marxist and socialist leaders left their mark. Julian Harney, the famous Chartist leader who was a close friend of Marx and Engels, was invited to stand for Bradford in the general election of 1852.

In 1867 a demonstration of 400,000 called for the universal right to vote. Ernest Jones, a leader of the First Inter-

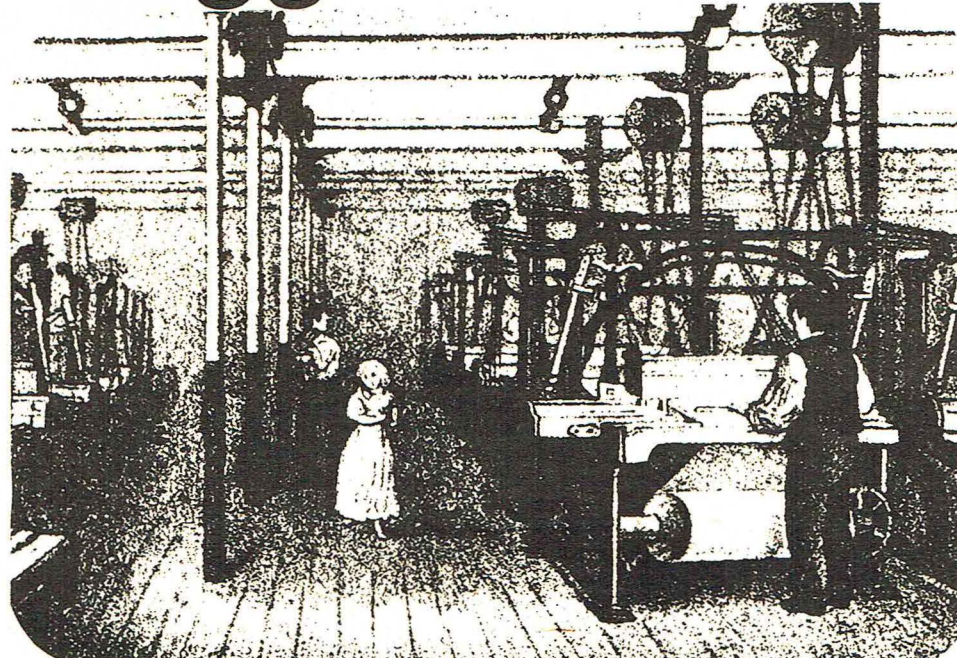
national, was one of the main speakers.

The real break came with the great Manningham Mills strike of 1890-91. The liberal mask of the capitalist politicians slipped down, and it was seen that an independent party of labour was needed.

In 1891 the Bradford Labour Union was formed. This could claim to be the first party of labour in Britain, and from that political union sprang the Independent Labour Party, formed at the Bradford Conference of 1893.

The programme of the ILP was not Marxist. It was much the same as that of the Social Democratic Federation which claimed to base itself on Marxism but whose policies on a number of important issues were a crude distortion of Marx's approach.

Within its ranks, the ILP included working-class fight-



ers such as Tom Mann, who had left the SDF because of its sectarian approach to the trade unions.

In 1892 Ben Tillet nearly won Bradford West's seat for Labour. By 1914 the Labour Group formed 43% of the City Council and finally in 1910 Fred Jowett was elected

as MP with a huge majority.

Such are the roots of socialism in Bradford.

Yet ironically, the town is now known for fostering the defection of Edward Lyons MP to the Social Democrats. The explanation for this lies in the experience of workers in struggle.

In its earliest stages the working class movement had to struggle for its very existence. That is why it produced such giants.

In turn the struggles of the last decade have forced workers into activity. The conclusions they have drawn are the same as their ances-

**"The capitalist and profiteer and the money-lending usurer—these are the real enemies of the workers all the world over."**

Fred Jowett, Bradford's first Labour MP.

tors. A campaigning, socialist party is needed.

For the careerists and self-seekers this is too much. They, therefore, find themselves uncomfortable in a party, surrounded by people who want to do what the party was formed for—the socialist transformation of society.

In the words of Fred Jowett, Bradford Trades Council and first Labour MP, "the capitalist and profiteer and the money lending usurer—these are the real enemies of the workers all the world over."

# A COUP IN BRITAIN

The 'Sunday Times' [29 March] recently carried an article which indicated that there were suggested preparations for a military coup d'état in Britain in 1968 at the time of the Wilson government.

In 1975, there were military manoeuvres at London's Heathrow Airport, allegedly directed against 'terrorists'. Lady Faulkender, Harold Wilson's secretary, was quoted as saying: "Harold was worried about the business when the troops did an anti-terrorist exercise at London Airport. He said to me, 'have you thought that they could be used in a different way? They could turn that lot against the government—totally'."

She (Lady Falkender) named the late Earl Mountbatten as a prime mover in the plan, assisted by elements in the army and the City. Mountbatten had a map on the wall of his office showing how it could be done. Harold and I used to stand in the state room at Number 10 and work out where they would put the guns. We reckoned they would site them in the Horseguards, she said."

The 'Sunday Times' also reports that the autobiography of Hugh Cudlipp (King's successor as boss of the Mirror group of newspapers), "Walking on Water" says, "Cecil King asked Mountbatten to serve at the head of an alternative government once Wilson had been ousted. Cudlipp also described how Lord Zuckerman stormed out of the room crying, 'This is rank treachery. I'll have nothing to do with it.'"

Naturally, because of the furore aroused, all the parties to the plot have attempted to deny the facts. Wilson, who would have been asked for an explanation in the labour movement, first kept quiet about it and then later attempted to deny what happened.

But Zuckerman let the cat out of the bag when he confirmed that he made the statement attributed to him by Cudlipp. A mere tête-à-tête among friends would not have provoked such an outburst.

Just like the attempted coup d'état in Spain, which despite its serious character had aspects of comic opera about it, so the lunatic attitude of these gentlemen in suggesting a coup in Britain, at that time, is an indication of the lengths that the ruling class will be prepared to go under difficult and serious conditions. The ruling class at the top is split, as the recent statement of the 368 academic economists opposing the

government's monetarist policy shows. There is no agreement as to which way to turn.

On the one hand, Margaret Thatcher correctly points out that all the other policies have been tried out and found wanting. The only difference with hers is that it will have an even more disastrous effect than the policies of the last thirty years.

Those policies, based on Keynesian economics, were introduced because the deflationary policies of the kind now being adopted again by Thatcher and Joseph led to the catastrophe of the slump of 1931. Their present policies have now led to a deepening of the slump of 1980-81.

They threaten to lead to a catastrophe for British capitalism with unemployment of over 3 million.

Deflation and inflation are merely two sides of the same coin. They saw they on the road of capitalism there is no way out for the economy or for the working class. No capitalist policy can solve the crisis of capitalism.

## Top officers involved—but not charged

Yet, in 1968 and again in 1974, there were serious elements of the ruling class already suggesting a criminal conspiracy against a right-wing Labour government, we can imagine what will be the position in the future.

In the recent article in the 'Militant' (6 March 1981) we showed how Airey Neave, the Tory MP assassinated in 1979, had suggested to MI5 and the secret services that they should act to prevent the coming to power of Tony Benn, if he were to replace Callaghan as Party Leader. This was at a time when the situation was far less serious than it is now.

According to the 'Sunday Times', one major-general and a number of military men were involved, and as the paper comments, "none was subsequently charged, none of the military men involved in the plot were disciplined." When Callaghan, who was then the Home Secretary, was asked by reporters, he refused to make any comment on the allegations. This indicates that the allegations are correct.

Had a grouping of ordinary working-class privates conspired against the government of the day they would have

By Ted Grant

been disciplined, and possibly even sentenced to long terms of imprisonment—whereas these military gentlemen were not even charged!

This shows the situation that could possibly develop in Britain at a time of economic and political crisis. In 1968 the situation was not at all of the serious character that it is at the present time. Yet even against the right-wing Wilson government, plots of this character were actually being organised by elements of the military and the City of London.

In the plot of Cecil King, it has been revealed in an article in the 'Evening Standard', Sir Oswald Mosley, the former fascist leader, was to be included in a government with Mountbatten! Thus the web of the conspiracy spread quite far.

The splitting of the Labour Party by the Council For Social Democracy, now the Social Democratic Party, has been a deliberate plot on the part of capital to try and weaken the Labour Party and prevent it coming to power. This is because the Labour Party membership and that of the trades unions have begun to move towards the left.

In 1974 there were articles in 'The Times' which indicated vaguely suggestions of a coup to try and keep the working class in order at the time of the miners' strike. A whole series of inspired articles appeared in 'The Times', and an extremely reactionary conservative journalist in the United States, William Buckley wrote an article suggesting that the military in Britain were preparing for a coup.

Suggestions of this sort evaporated when in 'The Times' one of the capitalist historians pointed out, in effect, what Napoleon had long ago explained: that you can do anything with bayonets except sit on them.

The historian wrote about the Kapp putsch, when the military attempted to seize power in Germany in 1920. The reply of the workers was a general strike which paralysed the government. Even the civil servants participated. Nothing moved, there were no communications and the government did not even have a typist or clerk.

The army generals were compelled to march out of Berlin and hand power back to the Social Democratic government. This douche of cold water put a stop to the talk of a coup at that particular time.

Nevertheless on the television, General Kitson has been interviewed, indicating

that it might be necessary for the military to "take over against terrorist plots and conspiracies" which might develop in Britain! This could be the pretext on the part of the military, as it was the pretext for action on the part of the military in Spain.

Again a cold douche of reality was given to this situation when 'The Times' correspondent interviewed some non-commissioned officers, sergeants and corporals, and some of the privates in the army. The soldiers, preserving anonymity, explained that their officers were incapable of organising a dance never mind a coup d'état! All the work of the army, they explained, was done by the rank and file, especially the non-commissioned officers, the sergeants and corporals.

However, while the reports might seem a question of fantasy and childish infantile dreams on the part of the military officers in Britain, and of those elements of the City and big business who would like to try and discipline the working class as they have been disciplined in Chile, nevertheless it is necessary for the advanced, active layers in the labour and trade union movement to take such warnings seriously.

World capitalism is entering a new period of crisis unexampled since the 1930s. The economic boom and upswing of the 1950 to 1975 period is now definitely at an end. A long period of crisis, of short booms and slumps, opens up.

## Sections of the ruling class desperate for a way out

The ruling class can no longer allow themselves the luxury of increases in the standards of living of the working class, except for very temporary periods. This will mean an intensification of the class struggle to a level never reached in the history of Britain and of other countries in the West in the past.

The same instability which has affected the colonial or ex-colonial countries during the course of the last 30 years—with a whole series of coups, counter-coups, revolutions and counter-revolutions—now also opens up for



## The Army moves down Baker Street

The arr  
26 June  
feature

the countries of the West. This is shown by what happened in Spain in the recent period.

In the past, the argument has been that while these things happen in other countries it is impossible to happen in Britain. Yet these revelations of conspiracies and plots on the part of various military generals and big business personalities are an indication that with deepening crisis of capitalism, the ruling class in desperation could take to this road, if they saw that there was no other way out.

The fact that a Conservative member of the Shadow Cabinet, Airey Neave, who was very close to Margaret Thatcher, should raise the question of a conspiracy to prevent Tony Benn from becoming prime minister is an indication that Tory politicians would be prepared to take action along these lines.

In 1912 the Tory Party actually supported the treason of Carson in Northern Ireland from getting Home Rule. Under new historical conditions, the tops of the Tory party could behave in exactly the same way.

The fact that it was Mountbatten who was involved in this projected conspiracy is not an accident. Mountbatten was very close to the Royal Family, an uncle in fact of the Queen's consort, Prince Philip.

The ruling class has been very careful to preserve the monarchy's powers of veto. This was shown when it was used in Australia to dismiss the Labour government led by Gough Whitlam. In the same way in Britain, the monarchy still formally has the power to select who should be prime minister and the power to dismiss a prime minister and the government.

In the event of a royalist plot of the character that has been suggested, the monarchy could be used at a time of desperation on the part of the ruling class exactly as it was used in Australia to dismiss the Labour government there.

What is really revolting is the hypocrisy of the press, and especially of the television and radio. These hypocrites have retailed the statements of the Council for Social Democracy—Shirley Williams, Rodgers, Owen and the others—in attacking the 'Militant' tendency as being 'undemocratic'.

Yet these gangsters would be quite prepared to turn to the use of force against the working class if that seemed to be the only way to preserve the profits, income, power and privileges of the capitalists.

The one thing that blocks the way for a peaceful transformation of society in Britain is the attitude precisely of the Social Democrats and of their counter-parts in the Solidarity

# A WARNING FOR



# NORTHERN IRELAND

**There has been a dramatic collapse of support for the sectarian organisations on both sides of the divide in Northern Ireland.**

Paisley's "monster" rally at Carson's statue at Stormont, "phase 2" of the so-called "Carson Trail", was a flop. Paisley claimed there would be up to 100,000 on the march, but there were well under 10,000 (despite police and press claims that there were 30,000).

The class issues have been brought to the fore, particularly unemployment, which is approaching 100,000 in Northern Ireland.

## Collapse of support for sectarianism

Three trades councils, (Derry, Antrim, and Fermanagh) have decided to contest the NI local elections on 20 May, with independent workers' candidates standing on socialist policies.

The Northern Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (like the TUC) is organising a Week of Action in NI, culminating in mass demonstrations on 11 April.

There was solid united class action in both the seamen's strike and the continuing civil servants' pay campaign. The fight of the Euroweld workers against closure of their plant is now in its eleventh week.

It is against this background that the renewed hunger strike of the Republican prisoners in H-blocks at the Maze prison (formerly Long Kesh) must be seen. Bobby Sands, who began a hunger-strike on 1 March, may reach a critical condition by Easter time. He has since been joined on hunger strike by three other prisoners.

The most significant aspect of this protest action, compared to the hunger strike that ended shortly before last Christmas, is the absence of any big demonstrations like the previous demos called by the National H-Blocks campaign. This time, far fewer have supported the protest, with less than 1,000 on the biggest demonstrations.

On St Patrick's Day (17 March), for instance, which this year became identified with the H-Blocks campaign, many community organisations in West Belfast who usually parade, did not turn out, leaving a much smaller parade than in previous years.

The low level of support for the hunger strikers is because, from the very beginning of this new campaign, the protest movement has been identified with the Provisional IRA. The main issue has become "political status" for Republican prisoners, and this time the five demands for the improvement of prisoners' conditions have been pushed into the background.

Last time, there was widespread sympathy in the Catholic areas for the prisoners' protest against the brutal conditions in the Maze, and for their demand for improvements.

When the last H-Block

## By Dennis Tourish

hunger strike was called off, the Provisional IRA declared a great victory—on the basis of vague promises of concessions (of the right to wear civilian clothes, a liberal interpretation of prison 'work', etc).

The Provos declared that they had won a victory on the issue of 'political status', when clearly no such thing had been conceded by the Tory government and the prison authorities.

Subsequently, the Provos have themselves admitted, "the H-Block committees had burned themselves out by the end of the hunger strike."

This admission makes it clear that when the Provisionals, inside and outside H-Blocks, realised that the concessions meant nothing and the authorities were maintaining an inflexible attitude, they could find no alternative to renewing the hunger strike, beginning with Sands.

But these moves demonstrate that the Provisionals, or the H-Blocks campaign through which they are working, are completely incapable of mobilising mass support, and of exerting mass pressure on the authorities to force concessions.

But if the Provos now swing to a new campaign of bombings and shootings, this will rebound on them, particularly on the prisoners themselves. A crack-down by the army would also mean an intensification of the repressive regime inside the prisons.

In the present situation, the labour movement cannot afford not to take up the issue of repression.

The movement, while implacably opposing the tactics of individual terrorism, must defend all prisoners from brutal and inhuman treatment. There is also the very real danger that the methods now used against the H-Blocks prisoners, unless they are stopped by the labour movement, will be turned against labour activists in the future.

But above all, the labour movement must act to prevent an escalation of sectarian violence, and counter this with moves to achieve class unity, on the basis of socialist policies which can provide a solution to the problems of the workers in Northern Ireland.

There is no solution for the prisoners through the H-Block committees, or other sectarian front-organisations. Only the labour movement can secure the prisoners any significant and long-term advance.

## Provos' H-Block campaign no way out

This means explaining the brutal treatment they receive in class terms. Recently, for instance, the RUC special patrol groups were used to harrass workers in Euroweld, mainly Protestant workers, as they fought to avert closure.

Prior to the last hunger strike, the National Execu-

tive of the British Labour Party came out in favour of the right of all prisoners to have writing materials, access to television and newspapers, and two visits and two food parcels a week.

They also supported the right of prisoners to negotiate their choice of work, to receive trade union rates of pay, and to elect representatives to negotiate on their behalf.

This programme offers a way forward, but it can only be fought for by the labour movement.

The conditions which have developed in Northern Ireland in the recent period are much more favourable for the intervention of the labour movement. The mood has turned against sectarianism. But there are serious dangers if the labour movement does not act promptly and boldly.

Sands is being put up as a candidate in the parliamentary by-election in South Tyrone/Fermanagh. There is the danger that this campaign will raise sectarian issues which could temporarily cut across the labour movement, particularly the trades councils' socialist campaign in the local elections.

Paisley, on the other side, has had no real support for his 'Carson Trail' campaign. But he has made ominous threats of a 'Phase 3', which could mean a new twist to the spiral of sectarian violence.

## Workers need a party of Labour

It is vital that the various initiatives of the labour movement in the recent period are drawn together in a united, concerted movement.

A great step forward would be the formation of a mass labour party, based on the trade unions. The need for this is already recognised by many activists in the movement in Northern Ireland.

With a clear political voice and organisation, the trade union and labour movement would be much better equipped to fight for a socialist solution to repression, sectarianism and particularly the mass unemployment and poverty produced by the decline of Northern Ireland's archaic capitalist economy.

It is high time that the workers were united to deal a fatal blow to sectarianism. Then the powerful forces of the organised workers in Northern Ireland could be turned against the real enemy, big business and their political spokesmen, the Tories.

## Militant Irish Monthly

The April 'Militant Irish Monthly' will be a special 12-page issue with a centre-page poster for the elections.

Details of the campaign, candidates' policies, and reports from Derry, Antrim, Belfast and Fermanagh.

Order copies [out 3 April] now. Put up the poster in your workplace and party rooms.

Photo: Mike Sheridan (IFL)



ured vehicles above were photographed in Baker Street, London W1, on 1978. Appropriately, the No. 2 bus carries adverts for 'The Wild Geese', a film about mercenaries organising coups in darkest Africa.

group of Labour MPs.

They do not wish to provoke the ruling class by suggesting a change in society. Yet all the developments of the last decade have been an indication of the stormy road that lies ahead for the working class.

Millions of unemployed, no way out for the youth. Lowered real wages for the working class as a result of inflation, or as a result of an 'incomes policy,' as advocated as an alternative by Healey and the Solidarity MPs.

Even powerful sections of the working class like the miners, the water-workers and others have not gained wage increases to compensate for the rate of inflation, especially when one takes into account the tax deductions from their wages.

A new period opens up in which only the transformation of society will solve the problems of the working class. What is necessary is for a Labour government to operate on the policy which is advocated by 'Militant'. Break the power of big business by taking over the major companies and organise production on the basis of a plan.

Unless this is done it will be inevitable that in desperation the ruling class will try and solve the problems of their shattered system at the expense of the standards of living and of the rights of the working class.

The price of liberty is eternal vigilance, it has been said! All the rights which the working class possesses, the right to strike, the right to organise, the right to free speech, the right of free press, were not granted by the ruling class, but were only gained as the result of the struggle of the working class.

Even the right to vote freely can be taken away by the Tories and the ruling class when it threatens their system. We see already how they have prepared to abandon the old system and return to proportional representation in a desperate attempt to put a brake on a left-ward moving Labour government.

## The working class will fight dictatorship

The working class, in defence of its rights and interests, can only rely on the trade unions and the Labour Party. The working class can rely only on their own power and strength, their own organisation and their own consciousness and solidarity.

It was only this power which led to the defeat of the Heath government by the miners.

Thatcher in panic drew back from a confrontation with the miners, because the working class is a thousand

times more powerful than it was at the time of the general strike in 1926.

What is necessary is the realisation among the active layers of the trade union and labour movement of the need for a socialist change of society as a pressing problem.

This in its turn can be carried to the mass of the working class and prevent this nightmare of plots, of counter-plots, of conspiracies and the other developments which show, as far as the ruling class is concerned, what is lurking in the background. They are thirsting for revenge to try and teach the working class a lesson.

If they have failed to do so up to the present time it is because of the fear of the strength of the organisations of the working class.

Unless this strength is organised to change society then inevitably, not only in Britain but in other countries of the West, similar conspiracies will take place. Failure to transform society can lead to a situation where civil war in Britain becomes possible.

The working class will never tamely accept the taking away of their rights. They will react as the Spanish workers reacted at the same time of the civil war in 1936. They will defend all their rights, including the right to vote, and will not accept their being taken away without a struggle.

# THE FUTURE

# TECHNICAL PROGRESS SLOWS TO A SNAIL'S PACE.....

**The nineteen eighties began where the 1970s left off. The capitalist world economy is passing through yet another recession.**

**Industrial production fell at an annual rate of 5% in the second half of 1980. Workers' consumption has stopped growing as real incomes were cut by rising inflation.**

Oil price increases in particular have worsened the "terms of trade" of the advanced capitalist countries. This means prices of imports such as fuel and raw materials that have risen faster than the prices of industrial exported goods to pay for them.

The capitalists have been able, to a certain extent, to restore their battered profit margins by keeping their prices rising ahead of wage costs. Public expenditure has stopped rising at all, as even programmes to cope with rising population are being cut back. Exports have stagnated.

Capitalists' investment in new factories fell slightly in 1980, and in the second half of the year there was a massive rundown of stocks of commodities due to tight monetary policies and the prospect of stagnant demand.

Could this develop into a major slump along the lines of 1929-31? Almost certainly not.

## Stagnating investment

The only basis on which this could happen would be if there were a massive credit crisis throughout the capitalist world. This would force through major bankruptcies of firms currently trading at a loss and unable to obtain credit to tide them over. Stocks would be liquidated on a tremendous scale, production cut, and workers laid off.

Most important, new investment by the capitalists in factories and equipment would be slashed—in the USA between 1929 and 1933 it was cut by nearly three-quarters.

Such a credit crisis would be possible. Borrowings, both by the capitalists in the advanced countries and by the 'third world' countries, are at record levels. But the most likely outcome is that the credit system will weather the storm.

Investment, instead of crashing will continue to stagnate. Between 1963 and 1973 it grew by 6.1%; in 1981, however, it will be at about the same level as in 1973.

But even if there is no crash, this does not mean that a sharp upswing will follow.

The OECD (Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development) the major capitalist nations, says that the "recovery is expected to be extremely attenuated"

By Andrew Glyn

('Economic Outlook', December 1980). In plain English: "feeble".

They expect the capitalist governments to continue their policies of cutting public spending and increasing taxation—policies which they say will cut production by 2% next year. But they hope—and they admit this is optimistic—that there will be no further rise in "real" oil prices (that is, oil prices will not rise faster than prices generally).

## Waste of resources

This would allow inflation to subside a little (from about 10% now to, say 8%) and thus consumption would grow a little. Exports should also gain as the spending of oil producing countries catches up with their revenue from oil sales.

But even the OECD cannot manage to produce a forecast of an upturn in investment in 1981. All they can drag up is an end to the cuts in stocks. By the first half of 1982 the best they can hope for is that production will be expanding at 3% a year.

*Even without a crash there is a monstrous waste of resources involved in the stagnation.*

Between 1963 and 1973 production in the capitalist world rose by 5.1% a year. Between 1973 and 1981 the average increase will be slightly over 2%.

## Youth unemployment

If the increase had been maintained at the previous rate of the 1960s and early 1970s, production would have been 25% higher this year than it will actually be.

*This is around \$2,000 billion, that is, just about exactly the total production of Germany and Japan. This is what is lost by the insane logic of capitalism which dictates that resources should lie idle.*

One aspect of this waste of resources is the steady rise of mass unemployment.

The OECD expects that total unemployment in the capitalist world will be about 25½ million by mid-1982, or around 7.5% of the labour force. This is more than double the rate of the 1960s, and half as much again as the seventies.

Young people will be the worst hit, as the OECD's forecasts show.

Table I shows the OECD

predicts horrifying rates for youth unemployment (people under 25) in Canada (14%), USA (15%), Britain (16%), and France (17%). It predicts a catastrophic 30% rate of youth unemployment in Italy.

Not only are millions of workers unemployed, but the productivity of those at work is rising much more slowly than in the past.

Japan, which had the highest growth of productivity between 1963-73 experienced a fall to only 3.8% annual growth between 1973-81. The United States, which had one of the most sluggish annual rises in productivity between 1963-73 (1.9% pa), has seen its productivity fall to a mere 0.2% between 1973 and 1981. As the OECD figures in Table II show, other countries with levels of productivity growth in between Japan and US have all experienced a similar decline from the 1963-73 period to the 1973-81 period.

In none of the major countries is productivity growing much more than half as fast as in the 1960s. Part of the explanation lies in the stagnation itself.

Under-utilised capacity lowers labour productivity, since the capitalists find it very difficult to trim down their labour force. This partly for technical reasons: machines operating slightly more slowly may require the same manning levels, and office staff, sales staff, etc. are still needed.

## Productivity slowdown

But it is also because of trade union opposition. "Rationalisation", by closing down the less efficient plants, is aimed at overcoming these "difficulties".

Moreover, the stagnation of investment means that the stock of capital grows more slowly and new techniques are less rapidly introduced.

In the USA productivity growth has ground to a halt. Since the USA has the technological lead in many sectors, this carries frightening implications for the other countries like Japan, where many of the possibilities of increasing productivity simply by catching up with the USA have been used up.

In the USA a first response to this productivity slowdown was, not surprisingly, to blame the work-force. In particular, the capitalist spokesmen blame the increasing proportion of less experienced women and young workers.

## Pace of invention

This was soon shown to be quite false. A recent article by a US government economist, Michael Boresky ('Challenge' Nov/Dec, 1980), argues that the pace of invention has slowed down.

What he calls "pivotal US inventions" used to come forward every few years:

"Since 1958, however, we have had only two. One of them, optical wave guides, introduced in 1967, is of

rather limited importance. The second, the development of the electronic microprocessor in 1970, though of immense importance, is really an extension of the improvements in electronic resistors developed in 1947, and therefore is likely only to revolutionise the electronics industry, rather than originate an entirely new industry."

## Post-war developments halted

He produces a table showing "key advances in productivity enhancing technology in the US."

Boresky's table lists 25 "pivotal" inventions, usually in the centre of many related or "satellite" inventions. He shows that in the period 1945-65, 18 out of these 25 went through "very intense (rapid and broad) diffusion", in many cases leading to the development of entirely new industries.

These included crucial developments like the growth of the private-car and truck industries; the application of large-scale machinery and automated processes to civil construction, electricity generation, steel production, and mining. It also included the development of synthetic fibres and the replacement of natural raw materials like rubber, wood, etc., by synthetic substitutes, like plastics, synthetic rubber, fibre glass, etc.

There was also the replacement of piston-powered aircraft by jets and the mechanisation and "chemicalisation" of agriculture. The growth of electronic computers and calculators, and different forms of electronic instrumentation and control also began in this period.

By the 1966-1979 period, however, the number of "pivotal" inventions experiencing "very intense diffusion" had fallen to 8.

Boresky lists no major "pivotal" inventions which will experience "very intense diffusion" in the period from 1980 onwards.

## Socialist planning

He concludes that not only will many of the technologies have less effect in the 1980s than previously, like the "chemicalisation of agriculture", but that some of the earlier productivity improvements, like the substitution of gas and oil for coal, will actually be reversed.

Boresky's view is that even computers will have less effect on productivity in the 1980s than in the 1970s, despite the microchip.

Has mankind reached the limit of its ingenuity? Not at all.

The OECD in a report in 1977 said that in the USA real expenditures on research and development were growing at 12% a year during 1953-64. But between 1971-75 expenditures did not grow at all. This they attributed principally to "a more pessimistic outlook for profits and corporate cash



## SLUMP MEANS MASS UNEMPLOYMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

flow" (McCracken Report, p.148)

Boresky also comes as near as a government economist decently can to blaming the short-term profit-grabbing strategy of the capitalists: "At present, the role of management is overwhelmingly seen as control of cash flow sufficiency and quarter-to-quarter targetting of returns on investment. This is the philosophy promulgated by business schools in the last 25 years or so".

As even its own spokesmen admit, capitalism is incapable either of using the resources currently available or of developing the forces of production in the future at anything like the rate possible.

What greater condemnation is there of a social system?

Historically, capitalism played a progressive role in developing industrial production and the world market, though at enormous cost to the working class and the exploited peoples of the world. After the Second World War, because of the political settlement that the great capitalist powers managed to achieve, capitalism was given a new lease of life, particularly in the advanced industrial "West", Western Europe, North America, and Japan.

Now there is every indication that the development of science, technology, and production is reaching the limits of development in a system dominated by the private

ownership of production by a small class of profit-makers, and fettered by the narrow limits and contradictions of rival national states.

The world is crying out for socialist planning, with democratic control of production by the producers and the world-wide planning of resources and production.

Table I: 1981 Youth Unemployment %

USA	15
Japan	4
Germany	6
France	17
Italy	30
UK	16
Canada	14

OECD Economic Outlook, December 1980, p25

Table II: Productivity growth

	% per year	
	1963-73	1973-81
USA	1.9	0.2
Japan	8.7	3.8
Germany	4.6	2.9
France	4.6	2.6
UK	3.0	1.5
Italy	5.4	2.1

OECD Economic Outlook, December 1980, p23.

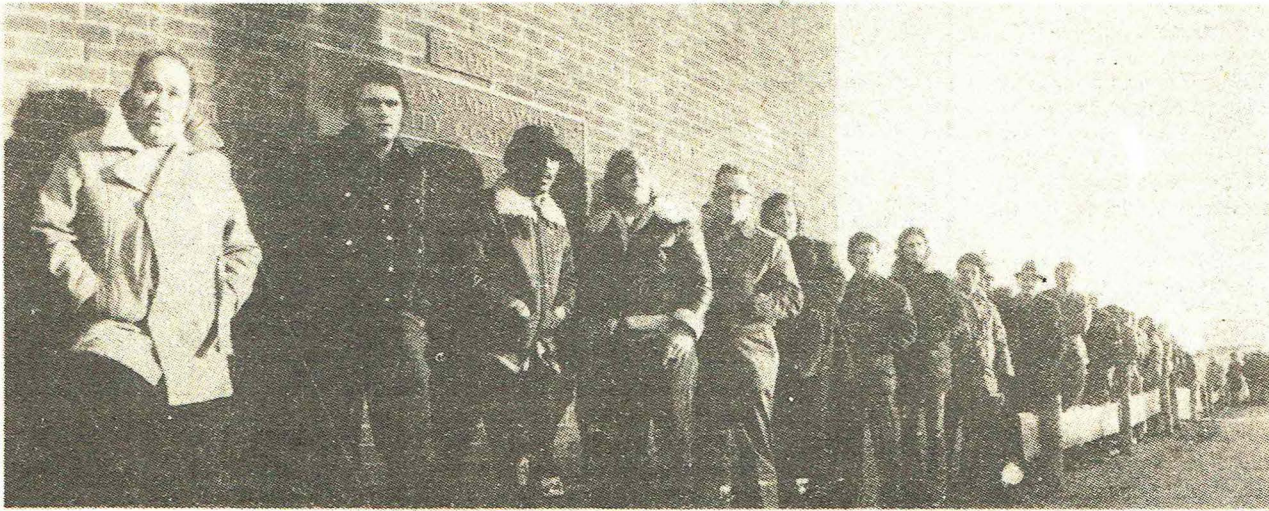
# USA - FIGHTING THE CRISIS FIGHTING FOR JOBS

Pressures are growing within the labour movement in the USA for action as the crisis bites into workers' living standards.

Already the miners' strike over wages and Reagan's attempts to cut federal funds for black lung disease shows the developing mood.

Now, ninety-seven union leaders from eight states, including Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Michigan and Illinois, met at Buffalo, NY on 13 March to establish a National Organising Committee to plan a nationwide labour-led march for jobs in Washington, DC, provisionally arranged for 28 August.

They represented 37 locals from 16 international unions including the United Auto Workers, the Steelworkers, the Electrical Workers and machinists.



Detroit dole queue—benefits are sparse, but jobs are even rarer

They will serve until May when a national planning conference will be held to serve as the co-ordinating body for the march.

Last Monday's demonstration by the United Mine Workers Union served as an example—with the 10,000-strong demonstration in Washington against the attack on black lung benefits.

Calling the time ripe for militant mass protests, trade union leaders declared it "is time to reach out, time to organise, time to move, time for the labour movement, in the best interests of the vast majority of American people, to pull up its sleeves and use its muscle."

In order to co-ordinate plans, the unionists agreed

to establish city and regional committees and coalitions to carry out the work of pulling together the march in Washington.

They will also organise a national petition and letter writing campaign in the shops, communities, and unemployment offices to support the programme of the union body.

Even as the nationwide march for jobs is getting off the ground, grass roots protests for jobs are continuing. A National Young People's lobby for jobs is scheduled for 14 April in Washington. Michigan state labour leaders and Chicago steelworkers are also protesting against joblessness.

The drive for a national

march for jobs was kicked off last May at the national convention of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. The unemployment rate for black teenagers, at 35.4%, is nearly five times the national average.

The call was picked up in June by 1,000 delegates to the United Auto Workers Union Convention. In late September both the Illinois AFL-CIO and the Minnesota AFL-CIO annual state conventions passed resolutions endorsing the march.

Since then many locals (branches) of steel and auto unions have gone on record for it. Local protests will continue until it is all tied up in a national march.

By Betty Traun  
in New York

## SOUTH AFRICA Workers unity against apartheid

"The 1980s are certain to witness the overthrow of apartheid and racism in Southern Africa. Zimbabwe is already independent and the freedom of Namibia is fast approaching. Within South Africa, the freedom struggle is reaching new heights."

This quotation from a new sanctions campaign declaration launched at the recent Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM) conference showed an awareness that the growing confrontation in Southern Africa marks the beginning of the end for apartheid.

How best to aid this struggle was the dominant theme at the conference attended by over 200 delegates.

Class confrontation in Southern Africa is increasing. The apartheid regime has intensified its internal repressive apparatus and its military forces have taken action against neighbouring black states.

Delegates were also reminded that the election of Reagan in the USA meant the likelihood of stronger US government support for Botha's regime than before.

The strategy to fight the South African bosses and

Report by  
Tim Harris

(Greenwich Labour Party)

their allies, put forward by the AAM leadership, called for economic sanctions and arms embargoes to be implemented by the United Nations. They spoke in vague terms about broad based campaigning and the boycott of South African goods.

Many workers in the labour movement, though, have seen that the demand for sanctions against South Africa has been made for many years without implementation. There is a growing realisation that only the labour movement has the strength to ensure that sanctions are implemented.

The leaflet from Coventry South East Labour Party (see Militant 20 March) set out clearly the need for a class-based fight recognising the enormous potential strength of the working class.

The demands included speaking tours where ANC and South African Congress of Trade Union (SACTU) representatives would speak to meetings of workers, particularly in companies with strong links with South

Africa; a delegate conference called by the TUC to decide on a national programme of sanctions together with a national demo to publicise the struggle.

Essential to any successful struggle is the building of fraternal links between British trade unionists and the independent unions in South Africa.

Judging by the applause these proposals received, the majority of delegates supported them, and the executive committee has agreed to discuss them at its next meeting.

We cannot afford to rely on the completely mythical 'neutrality' of the United Nations and of 'international law'. Apartheid has always been a weapon in the bosses' fight to keep capitalist control over Southern Africa's wealth. We must fight on a class basis.

Sanctions should be an issue when reselection of MPs comes round and a future Labour government must be prepared to isolate the South African regime.

"An injury to one is an injury to all". This historic slogan of the international working class has been proclaimed by SACTU. Workers throughout the world have the same bosses, the same multi-nationals and the same wage slavery. The end of the hated system of apartheid is completely tied in with the fight for socialism internationally.

## INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Trinidad's prime minister Eric Williams' death came at a time of increasing anger at the conditions within the country. The oil-rich Caribbean island was, according to Williams, "neither capitalist nor socialist", but there is no doubt that it is a capitalist country.

Williams' People's National Movement has been in power for 25 years. After an uprising by workers in 1970, Williams and the island's

rulers tried to develop an industrial base for Trinidad which could reduce dependence on the loss-making sugar industry. Apart from oil there has been limited success.

But the working class has grown and important sectors of the economy have been affected in recent months by strikes. The declaration of public mourning until 17 April in fact cut across a planned general strike after

chemical workers, cane cutters, teachers, bus drivers, nurses and even doctors and lawyers had been on strike.

The poor state of the health service, education, housing and transport have aroused protests and there have been allegations of corruption after the planned building on Trinidad of a horse racing complex with air conditioned stables costing \$100 million when basic services are left to rot.

The crisis in Belgium continues. Large strikes, in particular in French speaking Wallonia earlier this year over plans to limit wage increases to the cost of living occurred despite the 12% unemployment rate, the highest in the EEC. Proposals were made for a wage freeze by the coalitions Social Christian and Socialist Party government.

Pressure from trade unionists and rank and file Socialist Party members caused the Socialist Party leader Cools who was in the government to announce that he was to stand down as Party leader.

Now the coalition has split again over the wage freeze proposals and Prime Minister Wilfried Martens has resigned to be succeeded

by the Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens, also a member of the right-wing Social Christian Party. The replacement of one Tory leader by another is unlikely to resolve the issue as workers accustomed to a moderately high standard of living will continue to fight against restrictions on their bargaining power.

British Foreign secretary Lord Carrington has been trying to square the circle of industrial decline during talks in Japan. Ignoring the realities of capitalism, he wants Japanese industrialists to restrain exports, open up their home market and invest more in Britain.

Meanwhile, the American government has come to a 'gentlemen's agreement' which has left US car firms sitting pretty. Japan is to

'voluntarily' restrain exports to the USA, while the American car giants, behind the protective wall round the home market, continue to help themselves to government relief of up to \$5 million. Even when competition is restrained, the capitalist world's biggest car firms cannot survive without handouts.

Last week, the Industrial Bank of Japan estimated that the 20% cuts in car

exports to the USA being demanded in the American Senate, would reduce Japanese production by \$3 billion and cost 45,000 jobs.

As the screws of profitability and recession tighten world-wide, all the capitalist states are scurrying for cover. Workers' interests have nothing in common with their employers' nationalist rivalries.

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MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## 'Militant' wrong about WOLS?

Comrades

The Welsh Labour Students Regional Committee (RC) wish to reply to the rather negative and misleading comments (Militant, 20 March) that give a false impression of the Welsh Organisation of Labour Students (WOLS) Conference and Regional Committee's work.

It is not true that three clubs have collapsed in the past year. One new club has already been established and at least three more will be, by the end of the academic year. The Conference report claimed that non-'Militant' delegates argued that "Clubs couldn't be built in FE colleges." This is not what the present RC were suggesting.

They merely injected cold realism into the debate by pointing out the organisational difficulties of creating clubs in FE colleges lacking a students union through which political development can be encouraged. A WOLS RC member amended a 'Militant' delegate's resolution so as to make FE development a WOLS priority. The 'Militant' writer calls this 'elitist rubbish.'

It was claimed that WOLS received "a political pasting" over their work on unemployment. The RC reject this slur. They have publicised every Labour Party demo—including the Welsh YS—and have made unemployment a priority issue in all recruitment literature.

Some criticisms of conference organisation are justified. They fail to appreciate that this reflects the tremendously growing influence of WOLS. Future conferences may well be weekend events to facilitate more debate.

In the past WOLS was merely a means of gaining influence within NOLS. Past RCs never met from one conference to the next. This year the RC has tried to meet at least twice a term and has become a more efficient body for mobilising students to socialism.

A clear sign of WOLS' growth was seen at the NUS Wales Conference. Three years ago there were no independent Labour student delegates in NUS Wales. This year due to WOLS' work, nearly 15% of delegates were independent Labour Students, more than the Tories, and hope next year to supplant Plaid Cymru as the largest political grouping.

Chanel Stevens—chairperson of WOLS—successfully stood for the NUS Wales Executive. By the continuation of effective campaigning work and through co-ordination with the trade union movement and Labour Party, WOLS can hope to successfully win youth to democratic socialism.

Gwilym Bury

## Reply

Steve Davies [WOLS RC] and Alan Watson [NOLS NC] reply:

It is true that only one Club collapsed, with another (Coleg Harlech) not re-affiliating to NOLS. But now all WOLS clubs are in the University sector, although there were Clubs in five non-university colleges in the past.

The one new Club set up was organised by 'Militant' supporters: the RC played no part in it.

A lot is made of WOLS' work in NUS Wales. But Chanel Stevens (their NC member), wrote a revealing letter to the President of University College Cardiff Students Union: "I'm writing to ask you whether you would be at all interested in helping to get off the ground an idea that we in Wales and a couple of left wing Liberals have had, that is a broad anti-Tory alliance in NUS Wales..."

This directly contradicts the policy of the last NOLS Conference, which rejected such alliances. Only Social Democrats make deals with Liberals.

Why has Chanel Stevens never approached the Labour Club at UC Cardiff to help organise WOLS' work in NUS Wales? Doesn't this rather contradict talk of "independent Labour Student" work?

The attack on past Regional Committees, when 'Militant' supporters had a majority, is completely unfounded. They published regular recruitment and political literature, and met regularly.

The Aberystwyth ULC—of which Gwilym Bury is a leading member—recently passed a resolution calling for the circulation of the 'Underhill Report'.

Lord Underhill's reports were all aimed at launching a witch-hunt against the 'Militant' and the left in general. The capitalist press has suppressed evidence of CIA and big business backing for Labour's right-wing, but has campaigned for the re-opening of Lord Molehunter's dossier so as to have a pretext for a new burst of propaganda to discredit the Labour Party.

Gwilym Bury and his friends claim to be on the 'left'. But what kind of game are they really playing?

## Right-wing exclusion

Dear Comrades,

Many of us in the Labour Party and in the trade union movement were shocked at the recent decision of the Scottish Council of the Labour Party to exclude Michael McGahey, President of the Scottish NUM, from the platform at the recent unemployment demo in Glasgow on 21 February. Sad to say some supposed lefts voted for this incredible decision. Why didn't they carry things to their logical conclusion and have Jimmy



East Kilbride LPYS members carry the jobs coffin on Labour's anti-Tory demonstration through Glasgow, 21/2/81.

Photo: Militant

## LPYS 'win' unemployed centre

Dear Comrades,

'Cafe for Young Jobless': The East Kilbride Labour Party Young Socialists were delighted to see this headline in the local newspaper recently. It marked the successful outcome of a campaign which the YS had initiated as far back as July last year.

Unfortunately the campaign has only been a partial success because the premises will only be available for a month. The new annual lease is due and the rent is rumoured to be around £15,000—a figure much too high to spend on the 5,000 unemployed in the

town, 300 of whom are under 18.

However the YS will not just be letting the matter drop. We never gave up that easily at the start when we were told the whole idea was 'totally impractical' giving young people 'false expectations.' Instead we campaigned to get hundreds of young people to sign a petition. We put resolutions to the GMC and the Labour Group and we questioned councillors at Labour Party branch meetings.

The whole idea is not impractical—our Labour councillors have proved this by co-operating with other groups to use resources that already exist to pay for staffing and equipment. We are sure that, with persistence, ways could be found to overcome the financial

difficulties. At the very least the large property development companies who charge extortionate rents for property in the town should be exposed publicly for the way they ignore the real needs of ordinary people in their frantic rush for profits.

The YS and Militant are often accused of empty sloganising. I think this campaign by East Kilbride YS has shown the YS does work for short term gains as well as explaining that the only long term answer, a permanent solution for the problems of the workers, is to take control out of the hands of the money-grabbing whizz-kids.

Fraternally  
Jeanette Wylie  
Youth Officer  
East Kilbride LPYS

## Introducing the 'Redundancy Guarantee plan'

Comrades

Any redundant steel or car workers thinking of moving to find work might like to try coming to Poole to live. Brosely Homes are offering a nice line in 1, 2 or 3 bedroomed houses from £17,995 upwards. If you're a bit worried about buying a house in these troubled times Brosely could be just what you're looking for.

Not only do they offer a frozen mortgage rate of 11¼% and a bargain 5% deposit scheme but, even more considerate, they relieve the anxiety of paying

the mortgage if you lose your job by thoughtfully providing a 'Redundancy Guarantee Plan.'

Even if the capitalist system can no longer ensure full employment and a decent standard of living for workers, the bosses are still determined to get their hooks into them for 25 or 30 years of mortgage repayments. Of course some people might think a home should be provided as a right and not something working people have to struggle for years to pay for. That's not being very realistic, is it?

However, the significance of a redundancy clause in a mortgage should not be missed. This is another example of the lack of confidence the capitalists have in their own system. They recognise that they have no solution to the

continuing economic slump and therefore they see no alternative but to try desperately to adapt their system to absorb mass unemployment and redundancies.

The only way they can do this is to drive down the living standards of workers, in a futile attempt to increase the profitability of British industry.

By the way, if you are thinking of moving to Dorset to find a job, I'd advise you to think again. Youth unemployment has trebled in the past year, redundancies are averaging two to three hundred a month and short-time working is also increasing.

Yours fraternally  
Dave Backwith  
Poole LPYS

## Sickness = profit

Dear Sir

Recently BUPA approached our Chief Officer with an offer of group membership of their private health service for all members of the Fire Brigade. In line with TUC and Fire Brigade union policy, our officials objected to their members being approached and they are now attempting to infiltrate their obnoxious scheme through our Sports and Social Club.

Firemen, as an essential part of the working class community, must see this

## Where Tory priorities lie

Dear Comrades

A debate at a borough council meeting on the increases in council rents and the question of a dumping site for radioactive waste prompted some local YS and Labour Party members to turn up at the meeting and show the overwhelmingly Tory-dominated council what we thought.

The item of nuclear waste came first and a number of Tories said that they were worried, because of it being a recorded vote, that various pressure groups had said that if they voted for the test site these groups would use it against them in the next election. Such an important discussion revolved around the Tories being frightened about their careers. When it came to the vote the Tories were split and the motion was lost by 26-23.

The item of council house rents prompted one of the three Labour councillors into a rousing speech to a great ovation from the public gallery.

He explained that the call to increase rents arose from the crisis of the capitalist system which the Tories are trying to maintain despite its brutal conclusions for working class people who would have to pay up to £7 a week more. The councillor was promptly stopped by the Tory mayor and told not to use the council chamber as a political platform and if he persisted he would be rejected.

The Tories then commented about the proposals to increase rents. They said that some council tenants could easily afford the extra cost and that they had been getting away with cheap rents for years.

When it came to the vote the Tories unanimously passed the proposed increases with the three Liberals abstaining.

Labour Party YS activists in the county council elections should expose the nature of the Tories who don't share the aspirations of ordinary working class people.

Fraternally  
Ged Talty  
Rushcliffe LPYS  
and Co-operative College  
Labour Club

move for what it really is: another would-be Tory nail in the coffin of our National Health Service and its sale to the piranhas of the profiteering health companies.

The workers and their trade unions are the only people who can stop this happening and as firemen, we must play our part in this and throw out BUPA and demand a reversal of the Health Service cuts and to campaign for the workers taking control of their own National Health Service.

Fraternally  
A.A.C. MacDougall  
Branch official  
Fire Brigade Union

# ads

**CLASSIFIED:** 5p per word, minimum ten words  
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**ISLE OF WIGHT Labour Party and Militant supporters** welcome visitors to the island. Copies of Militant and details of meetings etc., Cathy Wilson c/o 10 Fairlee Road, Newport. Tel. 526318

LEEDS 50 Club. Winner: Mr C Piper, No. 3

### SIXTH SOUTH WALES MILITANT SUMMER CAMP AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY 1981

#### POLITICAL PROGRAMME:

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- ★ The Spanish Revolution—Ted Grant
- ★ The Hungarian Revolution—Pat Wall
- ★ Marxism & the Labour Party—Ted Grant

Cost: £8.00 per camper  
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Any family interested in hiring a caravan for the period please get in touch with Howell Bithell [0792] 464013.

## MAY DAY GREETINGS IN MILITANT

We invite your trade union, Labour Party or LPYS branch, shop stewards' organisation or trades council to place in 'Militant' fraternal May Day greetings to the labour and trade union movement.

'Militant' is read by thousands of labour movement activists in Britain and internationally. Unlike the capitalist press we have no rich backers or big business advertisers. We rely on individual workers and workers' organisations like your own to support our newspaper.

Send your greetings of solidarity with the labour movement. Help build a paper that fights for socialism. The closing date for copy is Tuesday 21 April.

**RATES FOR GREETINGS:** Semi-display: 3 column centimetres (up to 15 words)—£3; 6 column centimetres (up to 25 words)—£6; Display: one-sixteenth page—£10; one-eighth page—£20; one-quarter page—£40.

#### POOLE LPYS

Unemployed? Then organise! Discuss how at our meeting. Speakers: Dave Archibald (Newcastle Trades Council Centre for the Unemployed); Nick Brooks (Southampton Labour Party in a personal capacity). 8.00pm, Monday 13 April, at Retreat Hotel, Ashley Road, Parkstone, Poole.

#### REIGATE LABOUR PARTY AND TRADES COUNCIL

Anti-Tory march and rally. Speakers: Pat Byrne, CPSA, Dick Miles, UCATT, Reg Race MP. Assemble 10.30 am, Saturday 11 April at 'Progress House', Garlands Road, Redhill. Rally: Town Centre. Bring your banners! Tel: Horley 73408 for details

#### LAMBETH LPYS

Trial of Margaret Thatcher. 4.00 pm, Saturday 11 April, Stockwell Hall, Stockwell Park Road, SW9. Sentence her before she sentences us!

#### Ruislip-Northwood Labour Party Young Socialists PUBLIC MEETING

Socialist Policies for London Come and hear Keith Goldsworthy (GLC Candidate) 8pm Tuesday 7 April Cavendish Pavilion, Field End Road, Eastcote.

**AND NOW! Plunder Woman carrier bags.** Let Thatcher carry the load for a change! A great way of making money for the fighting fund. Prices: £2.00 for 12—minimum order including postage and packing. £10 for 75 etc. Money with order please. Bulk orders: prices on request. Contact: J Nicholson, 25 Grotto Road, Margate, Kent. Tel: 291293. Please allow 21 days for delivery.

# Build People's

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 11 April	Target for year
Eastern	1009		1775	7100
East Midlands	732		1375	5500
Hants & Dorset	768		1300	5200
Humberside	444		875	3500
London East	1318		1900	7600
London West	799		1200	4800
London South	759		1375	5500
Manchester & Lancs	959		1450	5800
Merseyside	848		1650	6600
Northern	937		2150	8600
Scotland East	636		1100	4400
Scotland West	801		1875	7500
Southern	1252		1775	7100
South West	580		875	3500
Wales East	381		650	2600
Wales West	590		1150	4600
West Midlands	951		2150	8600
Yorkshire	1415		2250	9000
Others	207		3125	12500
<b>Total received</b>	<b>15386</b>		<b>30000</b>	<b>120,000</b>

Target for 11 April £30,000

Target for year £120,000

## Follow the miners - help the Militant

**THIS WEEK**  
**£1,589**

The clearest answer to those in the labour movement who claim that the ideas of Marxism cannot win a response came from S Wales this week. Whilst the right wing are trying to introduce a witch-hunt, the Executive Council of the S Wales miners have made a £100 donation to our fighting fund.

We've also had a £5 donation from Roseheyworth Lodge, and a note that another £5 donation from Lewis-Merthyr Lodge is on the way. We would particularly like to thank the EC members of S Wales for their help. Their assistance is an indication that Militant is being regarded by more and more active trade unionists as a source of valuable news and analysis in their struggle.

But our socialist programme also appeals to the Labour Party—at every level. This week we've had a £70 donation from Ron Brown MP (Leith). Supporters on Merseyside forwarded £15.67 collected at the North West LP Conference, and £2.30 was collected after a meeting of Valley Ward in Liverpool.

Every £2 is a vital help to us but of course £20 is ten times the help—and that's the sum Cathcart LPYS sent us this week. £10 also came from Perth YS Militant supporters.

There was cash from public meetings in York, Oxford and Canvey Island, and discussion groups in Nottingham and Burnley. Eastern region supporters are trying to push their line along: £2 from Braintree AUEW (ES), £1 each from NUPE Area Officers B

### By Steve Cawley

Wilcox, T Wright and D Smith, and £2 from J Hull, Colchester: "Please excuse only the £2, but what with contributing to the CPSA strike fund and losing a day's pay things are a bit tight."

Individual donations included a £25 tax rebate from J Brooks (Southampton), "reward for getting married", £20 (Anon., Manchester), £6 Andover reader (expenses from shop stewards' course), £20 from 'Jag' (E London), a keen student of form, and a fiver from G Park (Tyneside).

Although many LPYS branches will be saving up for Annual Conference, we have had donations this week from a few branches. Altrincham LPYS, for example, ran a raffle at the regional LPYS Conference and sent us £5.85 from the proceeds.

West Midlands readers have been relatively backward with their line in the recent past, but M Smith and R McDermott (NAT-FHE, Birmingham) and D Nellist (TGWU) supplied tenners as a start to rectify the situation; other Birmingham readers supporting us included B Geogawagan (TGWU) and B Murray, both of whom contributed between £4 and £6 and Edgebaston LPYS donated nearly £2.

Back in South Wales, proceeds of a Cardiff curry evening came to over £23, and there's another curry 'on the way'. A Rhondda supporter also sent us £2.60 in advance of the Pontypridd meeting which the comrades predict will be an outstanding financial and political success.

From the North, where

Newcastle students sent us £6.58, to the South where Brighton readers' £37 included fivers from R Brookes, A Prodder and M Singleton, our readers are responding to our appeal. In some places, such as Medway, Kent, there are jumble sales and sponsored swims

organised. In others local trade unionists have been approached for help.

If you read this page before mid-day on 12 April, then phone us and tell us what you're contributing. £14,000 is our aim—see how far you can emulate the South Wales NUM!

## Militant Readers Meetings

#### BLACKPOOL

"The Labour Party and 'Militant'"  
 Speaker: Malcolm Clarke  
 YS National Committee elect, 7.30pm Wednesday 15 April, Beevers Arms, Cookson Street.

#### CHESTER-LE-STREET

'Poland—the struggle for a workers' democracy'.  
 Speaker: Dave Cotterill.  
 Chester-Le-Street Labour Club, Sunday 26th April 7.30pm. Further details phone Wally Scott 0385-887603

#### SOUTHERN REGION LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

'Social Democracy or Democratic Socialism?'  
 Speaker: Rod Fitch, Brighton Kemp-town Prospective Parliamentary Candidate 7.30pm Saturday 11 April, Cambridge Public House, Cambridge Road, Hastings.

#### EDINBURGH

Defeat the Tories. Socialist Policies for Labour'.  
 Speakers: John Hepburn, Deputy TGWU Convenor, Talbot, Linwood. Ted Grant 'Militant'. Wednesday 22nd April 7.30pm. Trade Union Centre, Picardy Place, Edinburgh.

#### SOUTHERN AREA SCHOOL

Sunday May 3 and Bank Holiday Monday May 4. Three speakers, social and food. Hotel Bed and Breakfast at Danville Hotel (on sea front), Cliftonville, Margate. Only £7.50 (same as last year). Please book early as capacity limited. Write/phone K Nicholson, 25 Grotto Road, Cliftonville, Margate, Kent (0843 291293). Speakers: Ray Apps 'What is Marxism?', Dudley Edwards '1926 General Strike'. Debate—Militant versus Communist Party, 'Perspectives for Britain'.

#### SUNDERLAND

'Poland—the struggle for workers' democracy' Speaker: Bill Hopwood; Sunderland Supporters Club, Wednesday April 15th 7.30pm. Further details phone Ray Physick. 0783-653994

#### SHEFFIELD

'Which Way forward for the Labour Party?'  
 Hear: Terry Harrison (prospective parliamentary candidate, Liverpool Edge Hill) 7pm Thursday 23 April AEU House, Furnival Gate, Sheffield 1

# LABOUR **trial**

## In brief

# Our action is biting

**The fight of 1,400 workers on London Transport Building Department against 80 redundancies is now in its sixth week.**

**Our total ban on overtime and picketing of London Transport [LT] properties where contractors are working are increasing with great success.**

**By John Greenhalgh**  
(AUEW, Assistant Senior Convenor, LT Builders)

The Building Department has always been looked on as unorganised. If this was so, it could only have been due to there never having been a true trade union lead.

In this dispute, the rank and file put the ban on overtime, organised the mass meeting and have manned the picket lines.

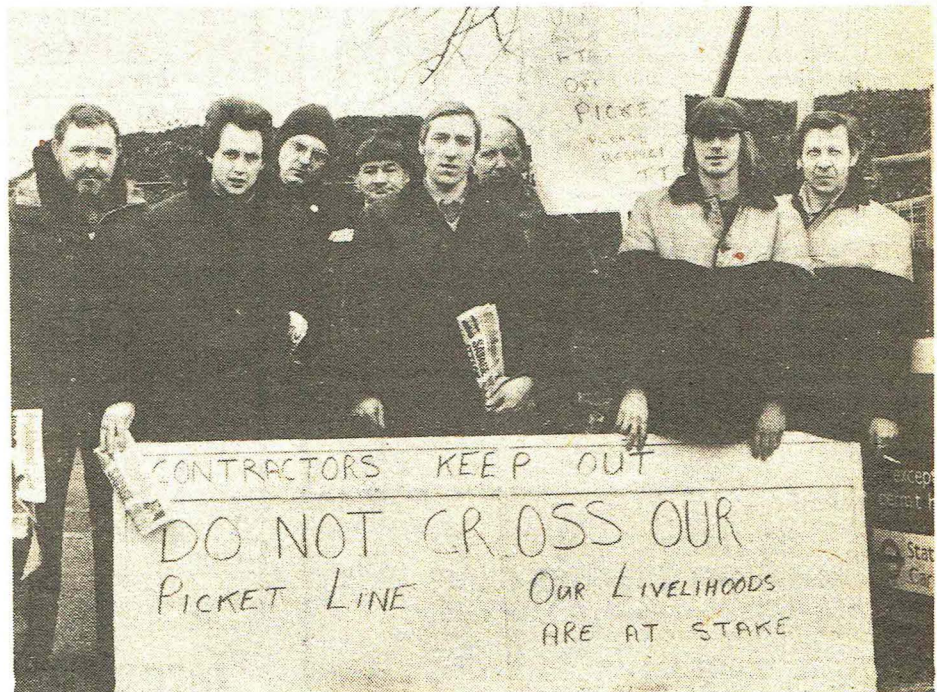
It was interesting to note that in the first week of the overtime ban approximately 5,000 hours were "saved". This constitutes about 100 full-time jobs—how disgusting at a time when we have 2½ million unemployed! I continuously complained prior to this dispute that all overtime should be control-

led and restored by the trade unions.

At present, work is almost at a standstill anyway due to mismanagement. Work allocated to the districts has been withdrawn.

When I enquired if the work was deliberately being held back to create a wage reduction, I was told by management that it was not deliberate—but that it had been allocated at the wrong time of the year! Surely the person who is responsible for this, and who cannot tell the difference between winter and summer, should be the first to go up the road if they are talking of redundancies.

The statement made by Horace Cutler about unqualified administration in the



Building Department workers on the picket line at Loughton

Building Department on LT is the only thing I can agree with him on!

This unqualified management is now instructing men to sign in and out at their district offices. This means that the biggest percentage of the working day will be spent in travelling instead of working!

The joint shop convenors discussed this ridiculous attempt at management reallocation, and moved the

following resolution to be put to their members:

"To ignore management's instruction and continue to sign in and out at place of work which has always been the custom and practise, and so avoid further squandering of public money, and show this incompetent management up for what they are—unqualified."

I feel that the men must remember that the decision

taken at our first mass meeting was to ban overtime and picket LT properties where contractors are working, until all threats of redundancies—and that means compulsory or 'voluntary'—are withdrawn.

Our action is biting. Signs are that management and not the men are now looking for a way out. So, stay firm, keep up the pressure and resist all redundancies!

Tony Parker, a GMWU member from Stafford, told Militant of the disgraceful way in which management at the Lotus shoe factory made 130 redundancies. "One morning, down came management onto the shop floor with a clipboard, and began walking along the line. They went past one or two workers and then tapped one, 'You', again past one or two then 'you'. Imagine the terror of the workers further up the line!" Tony said the workers wondered how the hell the union let the management get away with such terror tactics. But he added, when the workers restore their confidence in their ability to fight back, the bosses will pay for this arrogant display.

A mistake appeared in last week's in brief column in the report of the Mosedale's dispute. We said "the Labour controlled corporation in Norfolk are allowing their contractors...to use Mosedale bricks..." This should in fact be "the Labour controlled corporation in Salford", not Norfolk.

Workers at Alexanders Coachbuilders in Falkirk have forced management back over pay. Management made its final offer of 7.5% on all rates after pay talks. The workers began taking lightning strikes, and management came back with their final 'final' offer of 9%, with the threat of a lockout if normal working wasn't resumed. A mass meeting decided 4 to 1 to reject the company's offer, and the workers were prepared to fight the lockout. However, management then agreed on a 10% final, final, final offer, which was accepted, although redundancies may be threatened.

The fight to save 120 jobs at CWS printing in Reading is on. The two unions, NGA and SOGAT, have put forward a joint survival plan to prevent closure. They are urging the company to use the £4½ million redundancy money to move to a more suitable, smaller rented property nearby, with the rent paid by Co-op Estates. Unfortunately the plan also accepts a number of voluntary redundancies, and even a wage cut which is the wrong basis to start negotiations from, and will not solidify the opposition from the workers. However the management have even rejected this plan! The unions are now calling on the Labour movement to pressurise the Co-op. Messages of support etc. to: Co-op Committee, Oxon & Berks. NGA, Horseshoe Rd. Pangbourne, Nr. Reading.

## BIFU

By Richard Knights

**160 BIFU members on Merseyside heard Assistant Secretary Alan Piper outline the latest stage in the pay claim.**

This meeting was one of the biggest ever held on Merseyside; it clearly shows the depth of feeling amongst bank workers.

Stage one of the action has involved one day strikes at Lloyds and Barclays computer centres, these were tremendously successful in spite of the presence of leading officials of the so-called Clearing Bank 'Union' (an amalgamation of staff associations) who instructed their members to cross the picket line.

Such is the strength of feeling now that even the CBU are opposing the latest Bank Federation offer. Stage two of BIFU's industrial action is selective action in different areas of the country. For the first time in the history of the union,

counter staff could be coming out on a one day strike; Merseyside National Westminster and Merseyside Midland Bank are being balloted at the moment.

After Alan Piper's contribution, a motion was unanimously carried to support strike action. Apparently even a couple of personnel officers from one bank voted for the motion!

And it is in this mood of growing anger that the BIFU Annual Delegate Meeting is held this week in Blackpool.

Resolutions to ADM reflect the growing militancy of the union. Composite A points to the need to discuss 'political' subjects, a sign of an end of the union's past adolescence.

This, and if the present pay dispute is carried to a successful conclusion, will strengthen the union, which is essential as a strong union is needed in the coming battles over new technology and job security.

## Littlewoods

For the first time ever, Littlewoods workers have come out on strike.

Women at Derby Lane, Old Swan, came out on a one-day protest strike as part of USDAW's campaign against the closure of the site [see Militant 545].

A lively picket turned away mail, electricity men and even the milkman! Even part-time cleaners refused to cross a picket.

Karen Dalton, steward explained that the picket

was timed to coincide with the Joint Negotiating Committee, where an USDAW accountant was to be shown the books.

Pickets pointed out that John Moore's accountants have no doubt only showed what John Moore wants! The 'estimated trading profit' is expected to be a mere £4 million.

John Moore obviously wants a sympathetic hearing from his workforce, when he explains he made £41 mil-

## FBU DEMO

**Once again the membership of the FBU showed their determination to fight over the issue of pay and cuts.**

They held a march through London last week—about 10,000 firemen attended, representing a national turnout of about 60%, considering only 2 of their 4 shifts would have been able to attend.

Time after time firemen indicated the necessity to explain to the public what the 'green paper' really means: fire deaths are on the increase yearly, yet the Tories want to cut manpower and fire cover.

As living standards fall, so fires increase (through workers being forced by price rises to use unsafe heating fuels, through electrical repairs being left undone, etc.) Surely this is a case for recruitment, not reduction!

lion last year. The girls picking up £46.50 a week basic take home pay had a few things to say about that! The Moore family pose as philanthropist 'do-gooders' for the Merseyside area. They can afford to, as John Moore alone is worth £500 million!

But philanthropist or not, workers in Merseyside cannot afford to lose one more job. Send donations and messages of support to Littlewoods Fighting Fund, USDAW, Edge Lane, Liverpool 7.

The march, though on a very serious issue, did have its lighter moments. The unusually large police presence was swelled when some firemen from Strathclyde obtained some plastic police helmets and funny noses and proceeded to police their own march! They no doubt remembered the role the police had played during their strike.

A rally and lobby of parliament followed. There were cheers for Tony Benn when he came out to meet them, indicating who they think their union's vote should go for in the election of deputy leader at this year's Labour Party Conference. And at the rally, Roy Hattersley received a very rough ride when he said a

## FINDUS

The giant frozen food firm Findus has closed its gates, laying off 2,000 process workers.

The company claim the 240 engineers electricians and fitters are on strike. But in fact their contracts have been terminated for refusal to work a new shift system imposed upon them by Findus management.

The rest of the workforce have been sent home.

The men feel they have been set up by management in order to create a strike.

Now the gloves are off. However, the fight is on to the finish. As Jim Harty told Militant, this is a blatant attempt to break the union.

Labour government should again pursue the disastrous policies of wage restraint.

All in all the day was a tremendous show of strength by the firemen and should produce a lively conference in Bridlington in May.

**By Mick Cotter & John Allington**

(Chairman, Merseyside FBU)

## COVENTRY

**Over 150 city engineers in Coventry went on strike this Tuesday over crew and rounds reduction. This is the third time in 11 years that the Labour controlled council have increased their work load.**

"We expected these attacks would come with the election of a right wing Tory government. If this one is lost, the union's power will be nil.

"We've seen redundancies and lay offs all over the area. But now its time to stand and fight.

"We want to resist all cuts. The men are more determined now than ever."

The stewards have organised pickets on a 24-hour basis and approaches have been made to UCATT, AUEW, and EETPU national officials to make the dispute official.

Messages of support and donations to:— Mr J. Hardy 55 Daubney St. Cleethorpes.

By Ian McEwan

# NUR — make it official

**Railway guards stationed at depots in Cardiff, Rhymney, Treherbert and Barry voted last week to take industrial action.**

This was the result of BR management's insistence on introducing new reduced timetables on the Cardiff/Barry service.

Also substantial alterations to the work programmes and train crews on these routes were made.

The guards' decision was unanimous, yet the NUR indicated they were not prepared to make the dispute official, despite the union executive publicly stating opposition to all cuts in rail services.

The NUR area organiser even condemned the guards' meeting as illegal "and unconstitutional". He urged the men to return to normal work and negotiate from there; in effect to ask management not to make cuts after cuts have already been made!

After management went ahead with their plans, after refusing a request for 14 days for further negotiation, the train guards withheld co-operation, worked the previous timetables, banned rest day working and worked no more than 8 hours a day.

But last week guards reporting for duty were refused permission to sign on, unless they gave an undertaking to work the new programme. Those who refused were ordered to remove themselves from BR premises.

**By Alan Mumford**

(National Union of Railwaymen)

By mid-day all guards at the four depots withdrew their labour, and there was a total shut down of all passenger services, freight movements, and the main line passenger trains to all parts of the country began to be disrupted.

On Saturday the men voted to remain on strike until management recognised and resolved their grievances.

A 24 hour picket line has been set up and despite the refusal of the NUR executive so far to make the strike official, 132 out of the 145 workers are on strike. The guards at Rhymney depot have sent a coachload of members to Unity House in London to demand that the NUR makes the dispute official.

In the Cardiff area and in other parts of the country, there is a strong feeling that the officials of the NUR should throw their full weight behind the men's stand to preserve railway services, rather than condemning their efforts as "unconstitutional" and illegal.

After all, as one guard commented during this dispute when hearing that the NUR headquarters has been withholding official backing: "We are the NUR."



Bus queues will worsen if the London busmen do not win this fight

## London Busmen

**By Fred Warwick**

(T&GWU 314 branch)

London busman in east London stopped work on 27 March to save jobs that management were refusing to cover, in spite of having crews able and willing to work. Garage managers were instructed to inform depot inspectors not to cover work on a rest day or overtime basis.

After a meeting between union reps and the central bus committee, it was agreed that depot inspectors would not implement the

cuts. The depot inspectors walked out of Upton Park garage, when the acting garage manager took over the allocation job after two of them refused to cut jobs.

When the crews were informed of this action, buses were left in the garage and those on the road were returned to the garage. Seven Kings and West Ham crews also stopped work to show solidarity.

Normal work was resumed only after manage-

ment had agreed to be more flexible in their approach to the cuts.

As usual the media stated that the strike was because crews would not be able to work overtime. This is not true. Upton Park crews are asking the central bus committee to ban all overtime and attempt to make London Transport employ more crews.

It is important that in future where jobs are in danger, concerted action by all grades in London Transport should take place and action should not be left to isolated garages. If crews become redundant it is only a matter of time before other grades of employees also have to start worrying about their jobs.

## A step back for U.C.W.

**By Brian Beckingham & Chris Mays**

(UCW Broad Left)

The first day of the Union of Communication Workers' special conference on the "Improved Working Methods" report was locked in battle over whether to accept the unanimously recommended 'IWM' document from the executive.

The IWM introduces local productivity bargaining with all the dangers that this entails.

Delegates argued powerfully against the scheme pointing to the main reasons to oppose; UCW members should be defending every job and not selling one single job; divisions would be opened in the union between sections and areas, as management used IWM to split the union.

The National wage deal would become far less meaningful.

Eddie Thrope (Oldham Indoor Branch) described the EC report as "the most divisive document that has been put before any conference of post office workers.

national officers, and management, under the auspices of ACAS.

It has to be said however that if some of the T&G officials responsible for Ansell's had entered the London marathon not only would they have come in

behind that 78 year old bloke, they would still be running, and in which direction could not be said with certainty.

If these negotiations don't bring about the re-opening of the brewery and a return to the status quo, an

However, many of the delegates who voted for the IWM scheme did so very reluctantly out of a lack of being able to see any way forward.

When the vote was taken on an amendment, the IWM was rejected. But a card vote was called for, and by the narrowest of majorities (145) the IWM scheme was accepted, 5,812 to 5,957! Many members showed their displeasure, including the majority of Scottish delegates, by leaving the conference.

However, vocal and real support for the recently formed Broad Left in the union at this conference indicates the awareness of growing numbers of UCW members.

Many of the delegates sporting UCW Broad Left badges are determined to go back to the branches and continue to help build a fighting UCW, and support the call for a socialist leadership, capable of leading the members forward.

escalation of the dispute will be necessary.

Then the confident words of one picket will become a reality, "Everybody wants to get back to work, and we'll get back. Everyone is convinced of that view."

**victory!**

Southampton dockers have won a great victory after their month long lock out.

Management originally locked them out following two 24 hour strikes in support of a pay claim. They had demanded a no-strike pledge from the dockers before allowing them to work.

This constituted an attack on the entire national Dock Labour Boards Scheme. Dockers responded by sending out flying pickets all over the country which would have gone through Southampton.

Management have now caved in completely. They have withdrawn the no-strike demand and have agreed to pay the men for the whole period of the lock-out. The dockers have again shown their strength, with a notable victory over their employers.

**By Henry Williamson**

(Shop Steward, RDW T&GWU)

## Witton - James

Electricians at Witton-James Ltd in London are not prepared to be used as cheap labour by the company.

They have been on strike since the beginning of February after refusing to accept a wage offer which would leave them 41p under the general rate—and Witton-James is a subsidiary of the massive GEC group.

In December, negotiations commenced regarding the 1981 wage claim. The sum offered was 22p per hour on the existing £2.25 per hour, thus raising the rate to £2.47 per hour, which was 41p below the general rate of £2.88 per hour. This offer was totally rejected by the shop.

Management then said 22p was the final offer, and if anyone didn't like it they should find another job!

In response, a total withdrawal of labour on all Witton-James sites was effected. On 12 February 1981, the management requested a meeting, and various offers were put forward. The outcome being £2.40 for electricians and £2.60 for senior electricians plus an extra 10 per hour for a selected few senior electricians, which was clearly seen as an attempt to split the shop. This offer was totally rejected by the shop.

The dispute is still on and the electricians, members of the EETPU are appealing for financial support. Send to Witton-James Strike fund c/o Alan Jenkins [treasurer] 85 Hunters Grove, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex.

**By Witton-James EETPU members**

## Ansell's

**Twelve weeks out, yet a quiet mood of confidence conveys the mood of most of the workforce.**

1,000 workers have had to endure financial penury, media jibes, management insults, and police protected scabs. Although sacked, or made redundant, depending on which management letter you read, the DHSS are refusing to pay benefit to most Ansell's workers. So without a job and no income, support from the movement is essential.

The 'Evening Mail' has excelled with its usual run of scare stories. On the 18 March, emblazoned across its front page was the

headline "Ansell list of 'Sabotage'."

It then went onto list allegations by Ansell's management of 50 incidents involving pickets.

Not surprisingly this story was long on innuendo but short on fact.

But this smear campaign, as one shop steward correctly called it, will not intimidate the strikers. Following a delegate conference of union members of the Ansell's group, Romford Brewery, [which did not send a delegate] was picketed because John Bull Bitter has been coming into the West Midlands via scab-drivers.

But this action has now been suspended pending negotiations, involving T&G

# EDINBURGH HOUSING: DEMOLISH THE TORIES

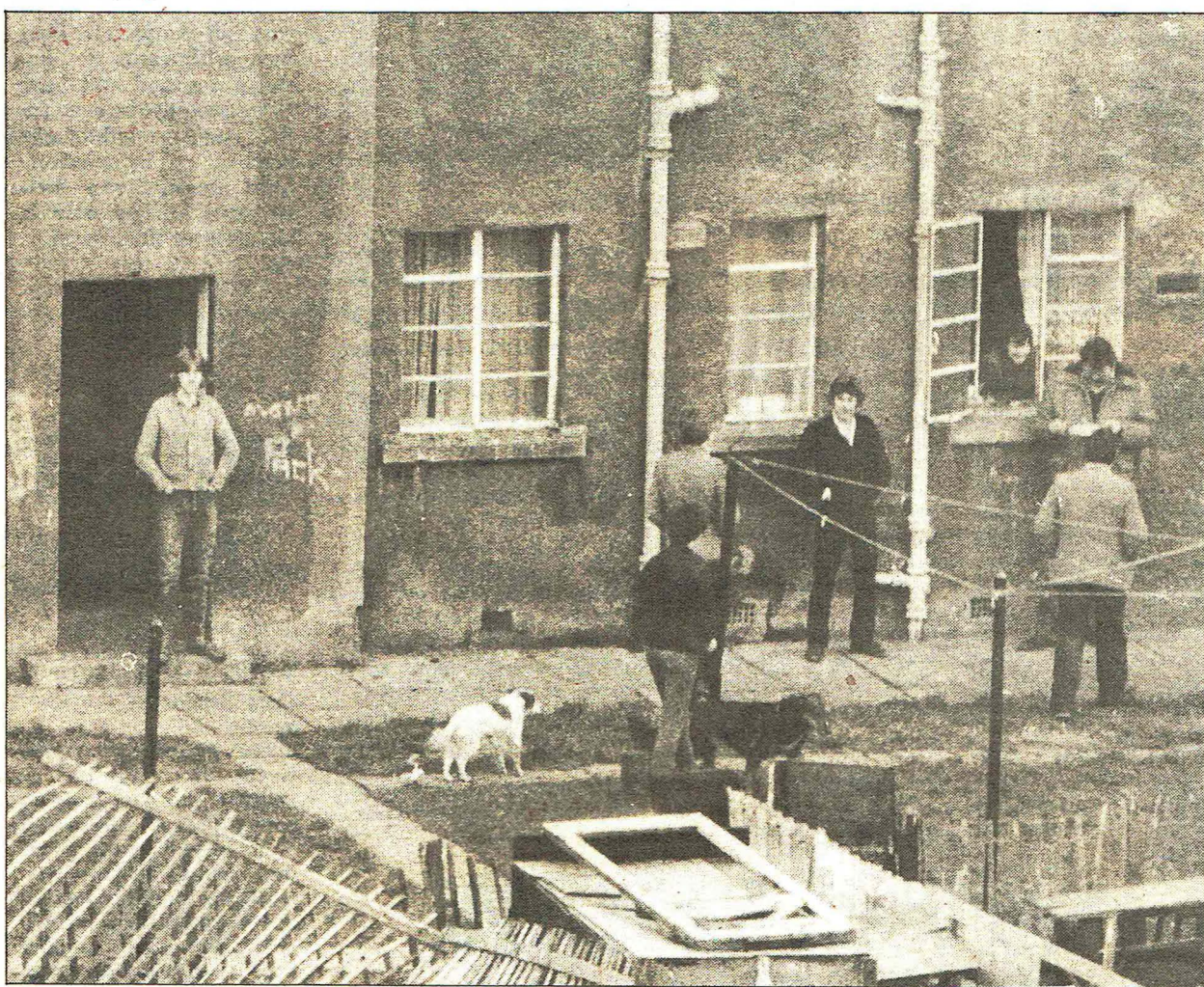


Photo: Militant

Many areas of Edinburgh suffer from bad housing. Yet the Council builds no council houses—and knocks down present stock

## Edinburgh Tories have a new answer to the housing problem: demolition.

In the city's Pilton district they plan to knock down between 250 and 500 council houses to make way for access roads to a private estate. The Tories intend to re-house evicted council tenants in empty, sub-standard accommodation.

This is all the Tory housing Chairman, Cornelius Waugh, can offer. Edinburgh has over 12,000 people on its housing waiting list, and there are another 9,000 tenants waiting for transfers.

Not one single council house has been built in the whole of Edinburgh during the last 18 months. Instead, they have sold off 600 and plan to sell a further 500 this year.

"Horrific!" was the comment of Barbara Smith, of West Granton Residents'

Reports by Dorothy Weir (Chairman, Pilton Muirhouse Labour Party) and Michael Harkness

Association: "When there are no more council houses being built, to take any away from the housing stock is criminal."

As soon as the local Labour Party heard of the plan, we called a public meeting in Pilton to organise opposition. We've decided to fight it all the way.

"The Tories have gone too far this time," said one tenant: "They will have some fight on their hands. If it comes to it, we will be out in the fields when the bulldozers come."

Tenants are sick to death with being moved around like cattle on the whim of profiteers. Even before our meeting, one street had set up its own committee to fight the demolition.

To beat Cornelius—"Eviction-is-good-for-you"—Waugh and his henchmen we must forge a united struggle involving all the labour movement. An Action Committee with representatives from tenants' associations, trade unions, Labour Party and other local groups was set up at the Labour Party meeting.

For years, the Tories and their big business backers have neglected this area ever since the estate was built in 1938 and just let the place rot.

The bosses want us to work for them—they don't care how we live.

In West Pilton the tenants have ironically called their association TIP (Tenants in Pilton). In a recent study of social deprivation in Edinburgh by the Medical Research Council, Pilton came top in four categories of deprivation, second in eight, and was prominent in all the rest.

Vast improvements could be made—if the proper resources were devoted to the area. All the Tories are offering is demolition and the removal of the only park and play-area.

We are going to link the

fight against demolition with the struggle for a socialist alternative. That is the only way forward for working people. Instead of destruction, a socialist plan would undertake a massive plan of reconstruction.

If the construction industry was nationalised, with workers' control and management, the 300,000 building workers currently on the dole could help to build decent new council houses, and make existing dwellings habitable.

If the banks and finance institutions were taken into public ownership instead of accumulating vast profits for the money-lenders, the funds could be put to use for the needs of working people. Sky high interest rates mean that councils have to fork out over 60p in every £1 of their housing budgets in interest and debt payments to the banks.

What do the Tories offer us? Decay and demolition for us, rich pickings for their wealthy friends. They must be stopped.

Send messages of support (including financial) to: Dorothy Weir, 44/2 West Granton View, Edinburgh EH4 4LD.

## TEACHERS FIGHT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

determination of the members. Teachers were not prepared to 'sit idly by and watch the education service dismantled,' said Gordon Green of the NUT Executive.

Schools in Birmingham were already deteriorating in terms of maintenance, repairs and decoration, and 'they are being sold short in vital areas of the curriculum.'

There can be no doubt that if all the schools had been called out, almost all the teachers in the city would have been out demonstrating against the cuts.

Many NUT members are angry at the lack of a real lead from the leadership. The current 'no cover' policy does not go far enough. Moves to step up the action locally and get national backing were blocked at the

last well-attended meeting of the NUT's Birmingham Association.

However, the co-operation of the three main teachers' unions in organising a joint action is a splendid step, and Tuesday's strike and lobby (even bigger than the previous week's) point the way forward.

Bill Mullins of the Birmingham Trades Council Executive told the rally: "This is a political fight. Thatcher is responsible for the cuts, but unfortunately the Labour council is falling in line."

Bill called on the education unions to join in the battle for the City Council to resist all cuts. "We can stand up to the Tories. It could be the beginning of a massive onslaught by Labour councils throughout the country."

## 2750 jobs a day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

they got 97 applicants! All of this carnage takes a terrible toll in the health and peace-of-mind of every worker under threat.

Dave Brooks, an ASTMS rep, at Fisher Controls in Leicester told 'Militant' how things changed in his factory when redundancies were announced in January.

"When we heard the bad news, I noticed a change in my workmates. The usual happy smiling faces looked worried. People began to look their age. Lines seemed to appear on faces over night.

"One day I saw a fellow worker taking pills. When I asked him what

for, he told me the doctor had prescribed them for his nerves.

"I know I'll be on the list," he said. 'I've only been here a year, before that I was unemployed for 14 months. We've only just paid the debts off. Now we'll have to start all over again. I just can't sleep at nights thinking about it'."

Dave Brooks has some questions that need to be answered:

"How many more worried faces do we have to look at? How many more pills have to be swallowed? How many more industries have to die?"

The "People's March," policies to fight unemployment, page 3.

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