

Tories drive down wages

THE TORIES' latest target are the 2.7 million workers whose pay is covered by Wages Councils. Most of them are on £60 to £70 a week if they are full time. Thatcher's cabinet think they are overpaid.

The Wages Councils are not a left-wing "luxury". They were set up by Winston Churchill in 1909 to prevent sweatshop conditions in jobs without strong unions.

In 1982, 9,000 employers were found guilty of breaking the law by underpaying. Many more were not investigated. Yet this government of law and order fined just seven bosses a grand total of £1,425. The level of infringement has gone up, but the level of prosecution has gone down. But even this is too much for Thatcher.

Page boys

Once more a major target will be young workers. One of those to benefit could be Dennis Hearn, deputy chief executive of Trust House Forte who recently wanted to "bring back the style of the 1930's with 16 year-old page boys in his hotels. He also wants to pay 1930's wages. He became discouraged because "starting rates of pay are too high".

Forty per cent of all careers offices have ten or fewer jobs on offer. In Scotland 144 school leavers chase every vacancy. The Tories are using YTS schemes to lower pay expectations and offering Toytown jobs with Mickey Mouse pay.

The Tories claim that ending wages councils will give bosses the incentive to create jobs. Yet since 1979, average wages for school leavers have slumped. Relative to those of other workers' wages, their pay is down 8 per cent for boys and 12 per cent for girls. Youth unemployment has trebled.

One in nine of all workers are covered by wages councils and thanks to the Tories'

By Roger Shives

destruction of decent jobs with apprenticeships, twenty per cent of all young workers. Women working part time, increasingly bringing up a family on one income, are also hard hit.

Poverty is already growing. Dave Nellist MP told parliament last week of the many letters he had received after an article in *Just Seventeen* magazine. One nineteen-year old girl working for a stockbroker earned £30 for a full week while training and £32.50 when she was taken on permanently.

Dave Nellist is sponsoring a private member's bill for a national minimum wage of £115 a week for a 35 hour week, with pro rata pay for part time workers, a £55 minimum for government trainees and three quarters of full adult pay at the age of 16.

The unions must start fighting back through a massive recruitment campaign amongst the low-paid and young.

Young workers on YTS or other slave labour schemes should join the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign. All workers should unite in ditching this "two nations" government and the sweatshop owners who back them.



The faces of Thatcher's "two nations"—left, racegoer at Epsom on Derby Day, right, young Asian in East London sweatshop. Photo: Philip Gordon (Reflex)

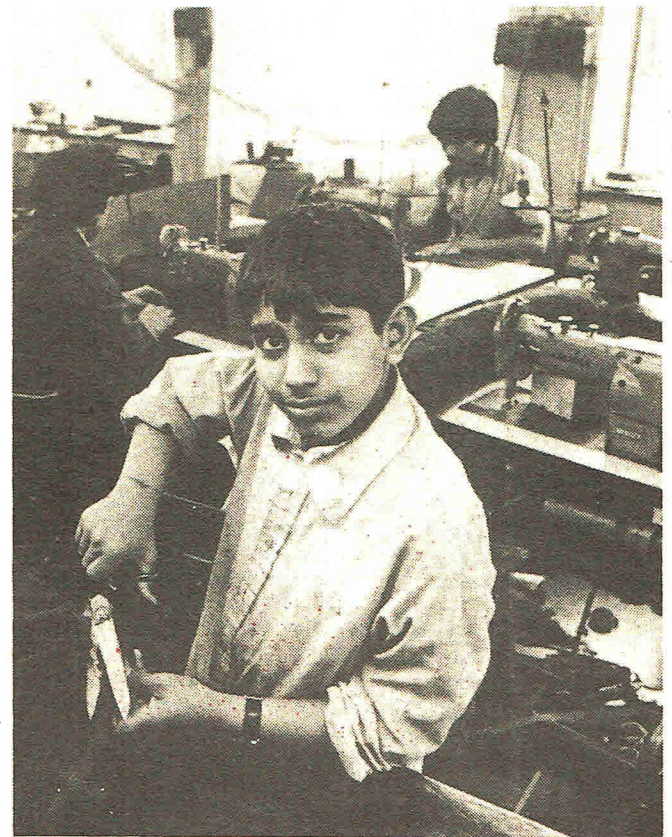


Photo: Jacob Sutton (Reflex)

Springsteen boosts miners

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN has donated \$20,000 to the miners' wives support groups in Durham. Miner's wife, Brenda Hopper was one of six who received complimentary tickets sent by Bruce to the Durham Federation of Miners' Wives Support Groups.

"As far as we were concerned we were just there for the show," Brenda told *Militant*, "but about half an hour before it was due to start, Barbara Carr, Bruce's assistant, came over and asked if a couple of us would like to meet him; we couldn't

believe it; a superstar wanted to meet us! So we drew lots and I won.

"We were taken to his mobile, introduced and then left completely alone. I can honestly say the nerves disappeared as soon as we met. It was like talking to an old friend. He wanted to know all about the support groups, how they started, when they started, what we did, where we got the money from, who helped us. He was really interested when we told him all we did. I think he had thought we just ran soup kitchens during the strike.

Continued Page 3

MASS MARCH FOR JOBS LIVERPOOL ♦ JUNE 29

11am Shaw Street - March to Pier Head for rally + bands + lots more

Part of Merseyside County Council's Peoples' Festival.

Militant

Liverpool and Lambeth councils face battle

AS WE go to press, only two councils, Lambeth and Liverpool, still stand out against the Tory government's attacks on jobs and services.

Liverpool was the only one of the defiant councils that was not rate-capped and it was only out of solidarity with the others that it went along with the common tactic of "no-rate" or "non-compliance". The policy advocated by Liverpool—of setting a deficit budget—would have been a far better means of mobilising working class support since it would have publicly emphasised the financial shortfalls created by Tory cuts.

However, the other councils, disregarding this, went for a "no-rate" option, which effectively became a tactic of rate *deferment*. Now, after persuading Liverpool council to adopt a tactic it didn't want in the first place, the other Labour councils, one by one, have dropped out of the fight.

If they had stood together and co-ordinated a national campaign, they would have forced the Tories to retreat. But that was not to be. The Local Government Information Unit, set up on the initiative of Liverpool to co-ordinate a national campaign was not used effectively.

The necessary determination and resolution have not been present in most of the Labour councils. The desertions of the GLC and ILEA were particularly hard blows to the united struggle. Moreover, these desertions were led by those, like Ken Livingstone, GLC leader, who were most strongly in favour of the "no-rate" policy. When the crunch came, the parliamentary ambitions of some erstwhile "lefts" took precedence over the interests of the working class.

What should Liverpool Council now do in this position? It has made great advances even in two years, in jobs, housing and in other areas and these reforms, gained through struggle, have to be defended.

There has been no serious mass struggle, in any way comparable to Liverpool's, led by the other councils. Lambeth, being rate-capped, is in a different position to Liverpool where rates are being collected and councillors remain technically in a "legal" position up to Friday.

In Lambeth, councillors are *already* in an "illegal" position for non-collection of rates. There councillors have no alternative other than defiance of the swingeing cuts demanded by the government. The councillors in that borough must now spell out how a mass campaign can be launched to defend the borough and themselves from Tory-imposed bankruptcy.

But the no rate position as a *national* strategy is dead. In Liverpool the battle to defend jobs, services and the gains of the past two years will best be continued by setting a deficit budget.

This will clarify the issues by presenting a bill to the government for the needs of the city. It will enable the council and the labour movement to step up the campaign to demand the return of the millions of pounds stolen by central government.

The gap between government spending limits and the council budget must not be met by a high rate. If setting a budget and low rate is illegal then so be it.

The needs and interests of the working class of Liverpool and Lambeth have a higher priority than Tory legality.

In Lambeth the councillors face draconian surcharges and penalties. Given the social problems in that borough and the bitter opposition of the council workforce, an explosive movement could develop in defence of council services, jobs and the councillors themselves.

In Liverpool also the Tories will be prepared to attack the council for an "illegal" budget. With the miners' strike now out of the way, Thatcher would dearly love to avenge last year's defeat, suspend the council and dismantle the reforms that have been won.

Preparations must now be made for a mass campaign based on Lambeth and Liverpool, in defence of the councils. In Liverpool there is still a colossal reservoir of support after the campaign conducted by the council last year.

Local authority workers must be organised and prepared if necessary for an all-out strike. The National Local Authority Shop Stewards' Committee, set up on the initiative of Liverpool workers, must be convened to organise solidarity action. Workers in the private sector must be involved in the struggle in Liverpool and Lambeth.

If the Tories place councils in a position where a confrontation is inevitable, then, in defence of working class living standards the whole working class must be mobilised. The Tories were forced to back down in 1984. A mass campaign can force them back again.

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Mass demonstration in support of Liverpool Council in 1983—part of the campaign leading to concessions forced from the Tories last year.

Liverpool's record: more jobs, new housing

THE RECORD that the Labour council is defending in Liverpool is second to none, over the last few years.

The Liberal/Tory regime between 1979 and 1983 increased rents by 120 per cent and rates by 100 per cent. From having the lowest council rents outside London, Liverpool became the highest outside the capital. In the last year of the Liberals' regime, there was no council-house building whatsoever.

Neither were the huge rises imposed in these years used to create jobs or improve services. They were simply to

compensate for cuts imposed by the national government.

The election of a Labour administration in 1983 resulted in a complete turn-around in policies and priorities. Despite the fact that the council was completely isolated last year—with no backing from any other Labour council—a magnificent campaign won significant financial concessions from the Tories.

The reforms introduced by the council include:

- ★ 1,000 new, permanent jobs created.
- ★ 2,000 jobs saved as a result of refusing to carry

out cuts proposed by the previous Liberal/Tory administration, and by filling vacancies, previously left open.

★ 2,000 new council housing starts in 20 months, more than all other councils put together. This has created thousands more jobs in the construction sector.

The council is still committed to a policy of introducing a 35-hour week and a £100 minimum wage.

Even in the last few weeks, another 100 YTS jobs have been created, but with the council policy of 'topping-up' to trade union rates of

pay and conditions.

Liverpool council remains firmly committed to its principled policy of no cuts in services and no job losses.

Because of the significant financial gains squeezed out of the Tories last year and because of an extra £30 million gained by the sale of council house mortgages, the council is not faced with as big a deficit as last year. But faced with a choice of a big rate rise—hitting hard at workers in Liverpool—and setting an illegal deficit budget, socialists will have to go for the latter.

Strategy to return the stolen millions

THE LIVERPOOL council went along with the tactic of other defiant Labour councils, of a "no-rate" policy, despite serious misgivings.

The no-rate option merely deferred any real struggle with the government and provided no concrete focus on which to base a mass campaign.

Liverpool councillors advocated a policy of deficit budget, like last year, when a big victory was gained over the Tories. On that occasion, the council explained what *was necessary* for the Liverpool working class and put the onus on the government to make up the shortfall from the money plund-

ered from local authority finance.

Liverpool council fought a magnificent campaign against the Tories. The mass of the Liverpool working class came to understand the issues and supported the council against the Tories. The council won the propaganda battle hands down.

Scores of meetings

At every stage of the struggle meetings were held in workplaces (local authority and in private industry) and on the housing estates. Scores of meetings were held altogether. The closest possi-

ble co-operation was established between all council employees, the District Labour Party and the Labour Group of the council. At no point did the council act on its own initiative, without consulting and being guided by the movement. Two giant demonstrations and a general strike were called as an indication of the massive local support.

The Tories were forced to back down.

But if the Tories force Liverpool into an "illegal" budget position, a mass labour movement campaign will need to be mobilised once again, in defence of the council.

Camden renegades join Tories

TEN LABOUR councillors, joined together with the Tories at Camden Town Hall on Wednesday last week to set a legal rate and thereby collaborate with government attacks on working class living standards.

The council voted by 34 votes to 23, with the mayor abstaining, to set a legal rate. This followed seven hours of debate when the packed gallery was witness to the sicken-

ing sight of right wing Labour councillors and Tories trying to cobble together a mutually acceptable rate. The Labour rebels were all the more nauseating for their hypocrisy in claiming they were really trying to defend jobs and services.

At one point the council meeting had to be moved from one hall to another after angry council workers occupied the councillors' seats: "We are not going

to let 10 scabs sign away our jobs" one said.

But as one Labour councillor warned at the end of the meeting: "This is not the end—from tonight the labour and trade union movement in Camden must work to make sure that no Tory rate is implemented in Camden—and these traitors must be hounded from the labour movement".

National campaign by council workers

THIS YEAR there has been the beginnings of a mass movement of local authority workers. The stand of many local authority workers—for example in Camden, Hackney and Southwark, opposing the setting of a rate—has indicated a very high consciousness of the issues involved in the struggle and the need for a united campaign.

There has been a clear recognition that unless a combined stand and struggle was undertaken this year, they would be faced with vicious cutbacks and mass redundancies next year or the year after. Better to fight together now than to go down separately later.

The formation of the National Shop Stewards' Committee of local government workers—now officially recognised by the NALGO Local Authority conference—was an historic recognition of this fact. This is a priceless gain for council workers which will be used in the struggle in the next period.

Springsteen donates to miners wives

(Continued from page one)

"He told us about America, the destruction of the steel industry and whole communities being wiped out.

"He said it was disgraceful when we told him about the slave labour YTS schemes and what the Tories were doing to young and old alike. He was especially interested about the YTS. He is just an ordinary caring man.

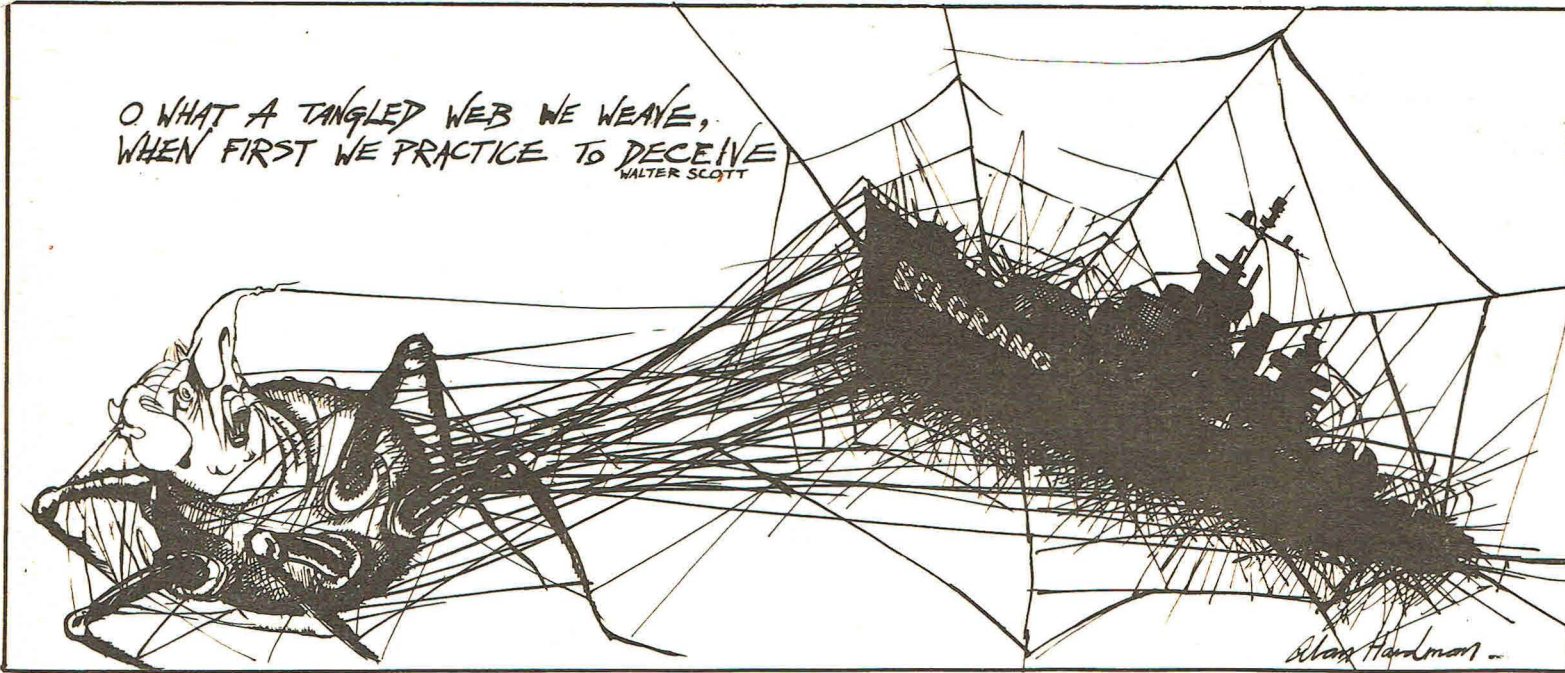
"He told us to keep on and wish us all the best in our struggle.

"We all really enjoyed the show but the biggest shock was yet to come. During the interval, Barbara Carr came back and handed us an envelope from Bruce. In it was a cheque for \$20,000. The six of us needed a drink after that. We dashed down to the bar and were astounded when we worked out into pounds how much he had given. I will never forget that night. He is a great man and he has won one fan for life!"

Hospital workers fighting privatisation at the Royal Victoria Infirmary are also grateful to Bruce Springsteen. Concert goers donated hundreds of pounds to pickets at the gates near St James' Park: "We were given £5 and £10 notes as well as words of support, it was fantastic" remarked a picket. "It shows the kind of fan Bruce Springsteen attracts" said the local press.

Twenty young unemployed protesting at the Tories attacks on Housing benefit are camping out in the Newcastle City centre. Bruce Springsteen heard about this 'tent city' and sent them complimentary tickets for his concert.

By Margaret Reavey



CP loses Star vote

THE PRO-MOSCOW supporters of the Morning Star have convincingly beaten back attempts by the Communist Party leadership to win control of the paper which was until now the Party's official voice.

In recent elections in the Peoples Printing Press Society, which owns the Morning Star, the Star faction maintained control of the management committee by majorities of a thousand-plus votes, underlining the divisions within the Party and its organic decline. The Eurocommunist wing had

secured a firm grip on the Party at its recent special Congress at which leading members of the Stars' editorial board and its supporters were expelled.

The unbridgeable gap between the Party's two factions is further highlighted by the fact that the Morning Star only remains financially viable by its sales to Eastern Europe, and through assistance from the Soviet Union, which has recently paid for a year's supply in advance, as opposed to the previous practice of paying quarterly in arrears. This has put £800,000 at the disposal of the Star to pay

for its expansion plans. But circulation is still falling and now is at less than 14,000 a day in Britain, fewer than the 15,000 sold to Eastern Europe.

It is possible that the paper could become the mouthpiece of a Moscow-backed split-off, but it is unlikely that the Communist Party will give it up without a struggle, and could resort to legal action to try and win back control. Whichever way, the crisis will further sap the energy of both varieties of Stalinism and consign them to a future of growing insignificance.

Newham 7 rally

AS THE Newham Seven trial continues, the campaign is building momentum. On 13 June at 7 pm a major rally will be held at East Ham Town Hall with speakers from the campaign, local MPs and Anne Scargill for the miners' wives.

A day of action is being held on 20 June. In East Ham a lunchtime rally will be held with appeals for shops to shut between midday and 1 pm. Nationally, Newham 7 Campaign support groups will be holding benefits and pickets of police stations and courts to protest at the trial.

At the trial itself the pickets are being maintained, and the defendants are now on bail at lunchtime and can view the demonstrations from the court windows, a good morale booster. Also the campaign are asking supporters to protest to Judge Dennison, at Court 2, of the Old Bailey, urging an inquiry into the beating up of Parvaiz Khan while being held in custody (see Militant 751).

Gala highlights sackings

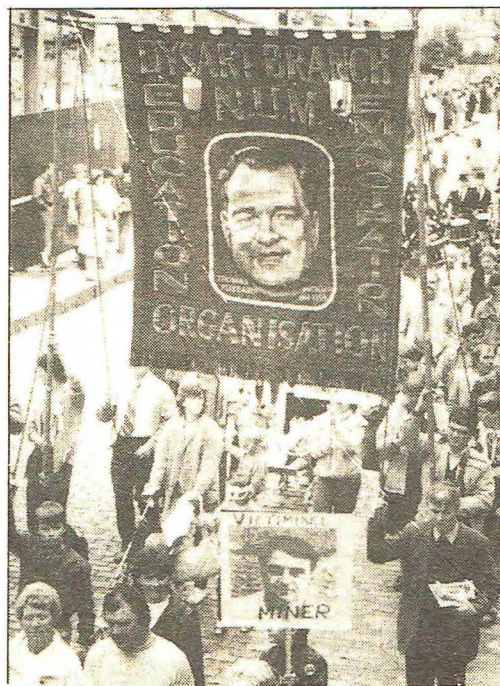
LAST SATURDAY'S Scottish Miners' Gala, which took place in the aftermath of the strike leaving around 200 Scottish miners sacked, was addressed by Neil Kinnock and Norman Willis.

Many miners were surprised that they were invited considering their less than full support for the NUM during the strike. Several miners and their families actually boycotted the gala.

The issue uppermost in everyone's mind was the campaign to reinstate sacked men. The LPYS had one of the noisiest contingents on the demonstration and they made clear their solidarity with the sacked men.

Sales of Militant went very well and a petition which Militant supporters launched against any expulsions of socialists from the Labour Party or any attempt to back-track on party policy also received an excellent response. Already in the last few days over 60 sacked miners have signed the petition and backed the campaign against expulsions from the party.

By Andy Clachers



Scottish miners' Gala and rally in Edinburgh.

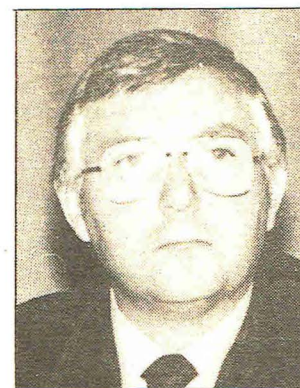
Photo: Rich Matthews (IFL)

Shops vote in balance

WITH VOTING now into its fifth week, the election for General Secretary in USDAW the shopworkers union, is reaching its climax. With many branches, including some large branches still to vote, the USDAW Broad Left believes that the election will be won or lost over the next week.

Bill Connor's policies are gaining widespread support, at meetings all over the country. His commitment to regular elections for General and Deputy General Secretary every four or five years is proving to be very popular.

Many members are still unaware of the fact that if the right wing candidate Garfield Davies wins, they will have to wait seventeen



Bill Connor, Broad Left candidate for USDAW General Secretary.

years until they get another chance to vote again.

In the crucial Scottish Division all the indications are that Davies will not even manage second place.

Moreover, he appears to be trailing third in the North Western, Midlands and Southern Divisions.

Some of the branches voting for Bill Connor include the Empires Stores (Mail Order) branch in Wakefield with its 1,076 votes and the Leicester Central Branch (1,074 votes). He also received the support of the big Weetabix branch in Northants and the Oxford and Swindon Co-op (1,260 votes).

The election is there for the winning. If every Broad Left supporter and every USDAW member attends their union branch until 24 June and votes for Bill Connor, then a historic victory will be won.

Scab acquitted of attack on striker

IN ALL the time of the miners strike very few 'working miners' were charged with offences by the police. A Lancashire striking miner, Michael Spreadbury, was viciously assaulted at St Helens Technical college where he attended the course in mining crafts. His alleged assailant, a scab, was charged with criminal assault.

Contrast

When summing up the case in court the judge contrasted the characters of the accused and the victim. As they were both on the mining course he asked who should be believed—a striker who attended college half a

day each week who clearly had 'no interest in his industry or bettering himself or the working miner who went to his work regularly as well as his studies.

Needless to say the scab was acquitted.

On the 4th June the results were announced for individual projects on this mining crafts course. Michael Spreadbury came second in the class and the first and third places were also achieved by miners who had stood by their union throughout the strike.

As the scales of justice are supposed to be impartially balanced will the judge now apologise as the evidence clearly shows that the strikers had the real interest

in their industry?

More likely the judges will continue to support the interests of the boss class and remain blindly prejudiced against workers who are

Hackney leader snubbed

A MOTION of no confidence was passed in Tony Millwood, the new right-wing leader of Hackney Council, by the local Labour Party. The motion was passed at a reconvened Labour Party Borough Conference by 106 votes to 19. It condemned the cuts budget passed in May and named the 24 Labour councillors who voted for the budget and voiced no confidence in them.

prepared to struggle to better their class as well as themselves.

By Gerry Lerner

'Hippies' attacked

There's been almost universal incredulity at ferocious attacks by police recently on the 'Peace Convoy'—a small group of nomadic hippies who travel the country in buses and caravans. They were clearly singled out by the police as the 'hardcore'. If they could be given a good battering, it would deter the thousands of others who dared to contemplate turning up at Stonehenge at what has been the largest free festival for many years, on what is common land. The National Trust had sought a court order to get the festival banned.

Using the methods learnt in the miners' strike, with visors down, shields raised

and their batons flailing the police charged the convoy smashing windows and immobilising the vehicles and arresting over 500 people.

What has prompted the authority's attacks on the Convoy and the Stonehenge festival is not so much their abhorrence at this non-conformist group, but their fear that they will become a focal point of opposition to the government's plans to build up the country's nuclear arsenal in the area.

By Mat Southwell-Saunders (sec. WSIHE Labour Club, personal capacity)

Mortimer leaves legacy of witch hunt

JIM MORTIMER retired last week as general secretary of the Labour Party.

In his farewell message he adopts the tone of the party's socialist theoretician. He laments "the culminating consequences of our failure in Britain to bring to an end the capitalist system. In our society", he writes, "the dominating motive is the pursuit of private profit. That is why the readily available resources of labour and equipment are not mobilised to meet unsatisfied human needs."

"The case for radical and remedial change—for socialism—is thus the most relevant of modern political messages," he says. "So long as there are working people there will be a natural breeding ground for a labour movement;

the development of a socialist orientation, however, depends upon the injection of ideas by active socialists".

Marxists in the Labour Party would not disagree with a word of this. Mortimer will not however be remembered in the party as a socialist theoretician, but as the man who masterminded the expulsion of Marxists from Labour's ranks, and the reintroduction of the proscribed list.

Register

Since taking office in 1982, he has been pre-occupied with purging the party of precisely those active socialists who have done most to inject ideas in the party...the supporters of *Militant*.

It was Mortimer who moved the adoption of a "register of

non-affiliated groups" in order to clear the ground for the expulsion of the *Militant* Editorial Board. His "arguments" consisted of distortions and insults.

He alleged that *Militant*, because they are "profoundly mistaken in their attitude to the efforts, which so many of us share, towards detente and relaxation of international tension," are "ideological allies not of the right wing of the labour movement but of the right wing of the Conservative Party".

Next year in 1983, it was Mortimer who justified the expulsion of the five Editorial Board members, posing as a defender of Marxism—"Marxism is an honoured source. There are many, including myself, who have been strongly influenced by Marxist ideas in

bringing us to the labour movement."

Good advice

Mortimer gave at least one good piece of advice. In *Labour Weekly* in March 1983 he wrote, "What can we do, then, to mark the centenary of the death of Marx? There is no better way to pay tribute to his memory than to go to the public library or a bookseller and then to read something of what he wrote".

By taking this advice, Labour Party members will arm themselves politically against the Mortimers in the party, who hide behind "Marxist" phrases while driving out the best fighters for Marx's ideas.

By Pat Craven



Jim Mortimer, outgoing General Secretary of the Labour Party.

Purge prompted by NUPE branch

THE RECENT conference of the National Union of Public Employees passed a resolution calling for a witch-hunt against supporters of *Militant*.

It was moved by Liverpool City Branch. Given the leading part that *Militant* supporters have played in the successful campaign of the city council to defend jobs and services and to defeat the Tory attacks on local government, the attitude of this NUPE branch seems incredible.

The main reason for the success of the campaign has been the marvellous support given to the council by working people and especially the overwhelming backing of the Liverpool corporation workers.

Sadly, one of the few small exceptions to this support has been the City branch of NUPE. This branch has gone out of its way to attack the Labour council.

They publicly supported the six renegade 'Labour' councillors who voted with the Tories and Liberals last

year in an unsuccessful bid to wreck the campaign. The secretary of the branch and then member of the City Council Joint Shop Stewards' Committee Executive appeared on television opposing the campaign one day before the one-day strike and demonstration on 29 March last year which was overwhelmingly supported by the rest of the council workforce.

Record

Compare the record of *Militant* in Liverpool to that of those who are now seeking to launch a witch-hunt in NUPE to see who really fights in the interest of working class people in Liverpool.

They are not going to divide us nationally in the same way as they have tried in Liverpool. What is needed now is not witch-hunts but unity to save jobs and services and to defeat the cuts.

By Nick Toms

Attacks may harm levy debate

PETE BALLARD has been a NUPE member for 15 years. He is a chef at the Walton Hospital, Liverpool and has been the NUPE branch secretary there for ten years. He spoke to *Militant* about the decision of NUPE Conference to back a witch-hunt of *Militant* supporters.

"I was surprised at the EC supporting the resolution because it is a complete turnaround from our previous position. Our LP NEC representative, Tom Sawyer, had always voted against witch-hunts. I'd really like to know why the policy was changed.

"I was a particularly surprised at the branch that sent the resolution—the Liverpool City Council branch. There's a lot of *Militant* supporters on Liverpool City Council and they've done well for low-paid workers in general, and that will include many members of NUPE.

"I'm concerned at the effect that resolution could have on the forthcoming ballot on the political levy. I think it could change the complexion of the debate, which should be about maintaining our political fund and our links with the Labour Party and deflect genuine debate by the use of scare tactics about *Militant*.

Birkenhead bans *Militant*

AT A TIME when the Tories are persecuting the poor, right wingers in Birkenhead Labour Party have decided to persecute good socialists in the party.

By a tiny majority, the GMC recently decided to "forbid sales of *Militant* on the premises...before, during or after the GMC or EC". It also declared that "the *Militant* Tendency Organisation should not be provided with any facilities on Labour Party occasions" (an open-ended formula to justify any witch-hunt)... and "sales be prohibited at Labour Party meetings".

This persecution of local party activists flies in the face of Labour's traditions of championing free speech. Many party members fear that it is the first step towards expulsion of socialists from the party. Frank Field MP, according to the *Liverpool Echo* (4

June) "is now odds-on to win a comfortable re-election victory...he talks not just of saving his neck but of kicking the *Militants* out of the town for good".

Those who moved the resolutions to ban *Militant* sales falsely claimed it was Labour Party conference policy. Yet Jim Mortimer, told the January 1983 NEC that the NEC actions "should not preclude Labour Party members from reading, selling, purchasing, publishing or writing for newspapers including *Militant*".

Canvassers

In 1979 and 1983, *Militant* supporters organised scores of canvassers in the elections, despite fundamental differences with Frank Field on policies.

Those who have banned sales of *Militant* have never been known to sell any socialist papers to combat

the capitalist press—not even in general elections, and not even *Labour Weekly*!

At this GMC, *Militant* supporters asked about the Wirral branch of Labour Solidarity—a secretive, right wing group within the Labour Party, which circulates letters to selected members of the party. It seems that the right wing will allow themselves to organise with impunity because they voted down this request for a debate on the matter.

The loyalty of *Militant* supporters to Labour is not matched by those who ban our paper. Frank Field himself has treacherously called for an alliance with the SDP/Liberals—in a 'Rainbow Circle'.

He has blackmailed Birkenhead Labour Party members that if they exercise their democratic right to choose somebody else as Parliamentary candidate, he will force a by-election and

stand against the chosen Labour candidate.

Frank Field MP has repeatedly, publicly opposed both national and local Labour Party policies. He recently voted FOR the reactionary Powell Bill. Those comrades who call themselves radical, left wing socialists, who speak frequently about peace and women's rights, but who have been allies of Fields on crucial votes, have a lot of explaining to do for women, the peace movement, and the working class generally.

The right wing may have a temporary majority on the GMC partly by courtesy of the assistance they've received from a section of alleged "lefts". But this attack has re-doubled the determination of *Militant* sellers to expand the influence of Marxism amongst local people.

By Richard Venton



Last years Labour Party conference decisions have since been distorted by the executive and right wing constituencies in order to launch a general attack on *Militant*.

Expelled for doubting delegates

IF THE RIGHT wing were successful in creating a climate of fear and intimidation in the Labour Party, then their witch-hunting activities will not stop with supporters of *Militant*. Other lefts and opponents will be forced out of the party.

This has been shown in Middlesbrough Labour Party where a member who is not a *Militant* supporter is threatened with expulsion.

Andy Wilson, recently elected county councillor, has been recommended for

expulsion by the party executive, on the pretext of a dispute over printing election addresses. Andy, like many party members, believes that the real reason for his expulsion lies in his questioning the credentials of some GMBATU delegates on the General Management Committee of the party.

These include: ★ Stuart Bell MP, delegate from GMBATU local authority branch. Bell, a barrister and a member of Lloyds insurance underwriters, has never been a

local authority worker in his life, as far as most party members know.

★ A delegate from the GMBATU health branch, previously representing the Tees Gas branch, who in fact works for the local authority.

★ A student at Hull University who represents the local authority branch.

Even the Middlesbrough *Evening Gazette* was moved to comment that the party was acting with "undue haste" in expelling Andy.

Support from Bakers

THE ANNUAL conference of the Bakery, Food and Allied Workers' Union, unanimously passed a resolution condemning witch-hunts in the party.

Yorks miners face new battle

WE PROVED them wrong—all the intellectuals who said young miners would never strike have had to eat their words.

For 12 long months we were the backbone of the strike. Day after day we faced the full force of the state on the picket lines.

We collected money, spoke at meetings and organised and attended rallies and demonstrations all over the country.

This weekend we will be together again in Yorkshire at our annual gala in Rotherham. This will be the first major demonstration in Yorkshire since the strike.

The spirit that kept us going for 12 months will be on display again. Scargill said the other week that we are going to have to fight again. In Yorkshire the NCB have been putting the boot in. New laws are being brought in for use against us and other workers in disputes. We need to use the gala to show the NCB that we are not finished and are prepared to fight on.

MacGregor tackled the steel industry over a three year period. Even today closures are still occurring—witness the attempts to shut Tinsley Park in Sheffield.

The NUM must organise a massive campaign of weekend schools, meetings, rallies and demonstrations to prepare our members for what is to come.

The young activists should also join their local LPYS branches and the wider struggle against the system. But most importantly all the young miners who became politically active in the strike must be organised into a youth section of the NUM so that our energy and enthusiasm can be fully harnessed to defend our industries and communities.

By Richard Clarkson
(Prince of Wales NUM,
personal capacity)



Young miners, young socialists and their supporters march through Castleford to support those arrested during police riots in Yorkshire pit villages last summer

THE NCB in Yorkshire have plans to butcher 9,300 in the Yorkshire coalfield, a fifth of the workforce.

In the Barnsley panel, Darfield Main and Emley Moor pits are to close and Woolley and North Gawber are to merge; as are Bullcliffe Wood and Calder Drift, and Caphouse and Denby Grange. Altogether 3,000 jobs are to be lost.

In Doncaster every pit except one is to lose men, although no pits are expected to close; yet. In the North Yorkshire panel 1,000 jobs are to be lost with the closure of Ackton Hall, Glasshoughton and Savile. South Yorkshire are to lose 2,800 jobs including 806 with the closure of Cortonwood and 665 with the shutting of Brookhouse.

Workshops

Other pits in this area are to lose up to 200 men. Finally, local press reports suggest that 300 jobs will be lost with the NCB wishing to close Carcroft Workshops in Doncaster; and it is likely that another workshop will be closed in the Barnsley area.

The NCB claims that all these jobs will be lost on a voluntary basis. But even if this is correct, it means that many miners' sons will never find employment in the pits. In many villages the levels of youth unemployment in particular are already gruesome.

Whilst some of the closures have been expected for a number of years due to near exhaustion, others have been a total shock.

Restrictions

As well as the closure programme, management have imposed petty restrictions and attempted to ignore agreements with the NUM. The atmosphere in many pits is bad.

Many miners are heard to comment how the fun has gone out of the job. Overall

the NCB are attempting to cow and bully the NUM into submission. But the proposed job losses and redundancies are undoubtedly only the beginning of a massive programme of "rationalisation"

At a recent public meeting organised by Allerton Bywater NUM, the implications of the NCB strategy for creating super-pits with new technology was spelt out. Using work done by the Working Environment Research Group at Bradford University it is possible to calculate that the NCB are aiming to produce 93.6 million tonnes of coal in the financial year 1987/88 from 93 pits plus the Selby complex, with only 79,000 being employed.

But even this is not the end of the story. The introduction of new technology in the super-pits produces a massive rise in productivity. Therefore it is envisaged that if predicted Selby production levels were achieved nationally, the present total output of the NCB would be produced by 40,000 miners.

'Peripheral' areas

The so-called "peripheral" fields of Kent, Scotland, and Wales and the North East are being starved of investment, and the NCB are undoubtedly planning to destroy the industry in those areas.

Even now the drastic impact of new technology can be shown by a look at the Selby complex. The NCB hope that by 1987, ten million tonnes of coal will be produced by only 4,000 miners.

Michael Eaton has been quoted as saying that it would take 20,000 men to produce that amount of coal by traditional methods in ordinary pits.

At the end of the strike Arthur Scargill made it plain that the battle against pit closures must continue. But

unfortunately the Yorkshire leadership do not seem to have taken him at his word.

When South Kirkby called for support for their dispute over four sacked men and when Darfield Main requested assistance for their battle against closure, the area leadership provided little or no support. But a strong and determined lead is now more important than ever.

Strike action

Many activists have been demoralised by the lack of a clear lead, particularly in response to the proposed closures. Before the redundancies and closures were announced, many pits had and were taking strike action.

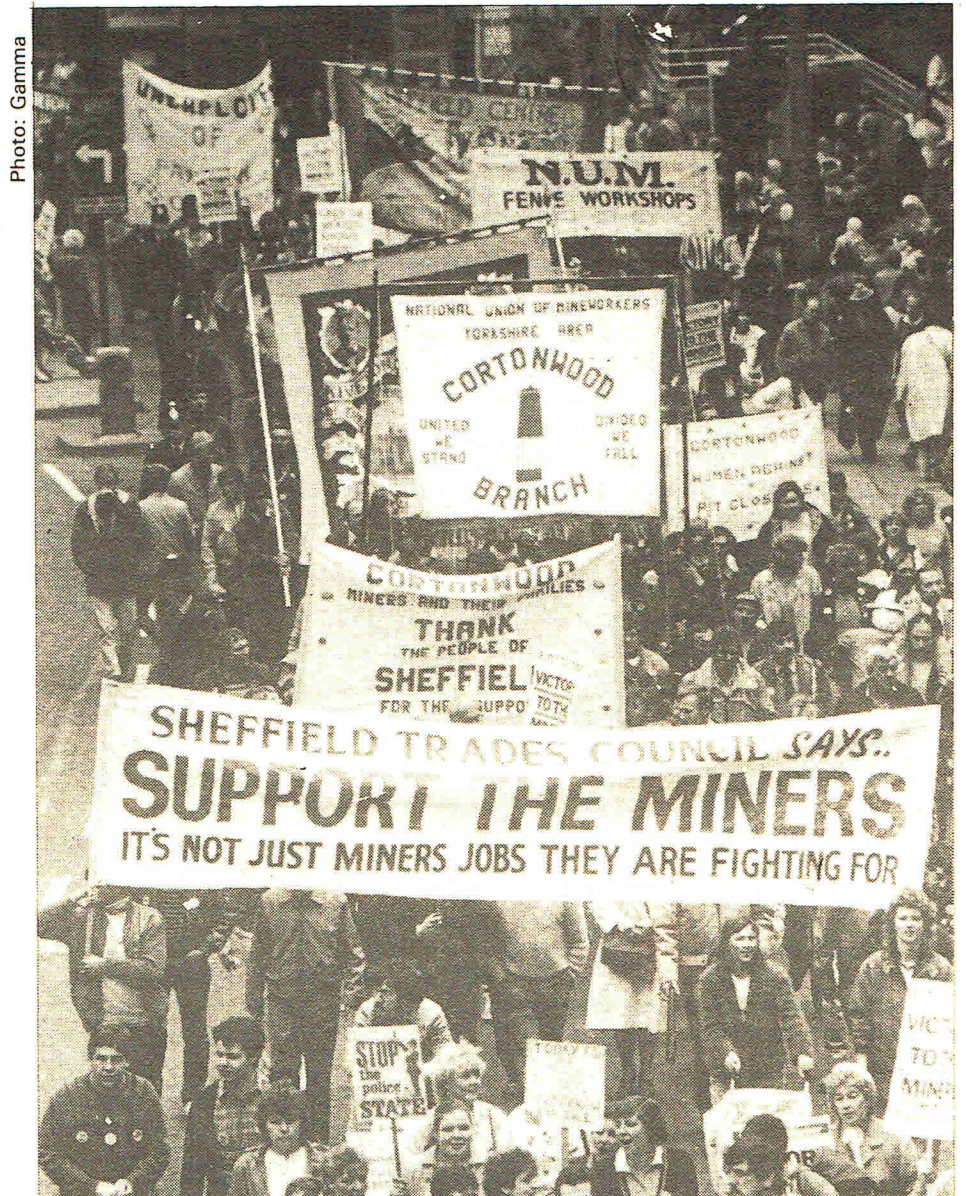
This shows that many miners, despite the tremendous hardships of a year on strike, are keen to continue the fight.

Coal stocks are still very low, and if power and transport workers were convinced that proper solidarity with the NUM was the best means of guaranteeing their jobs, they could help bring a quick victory.

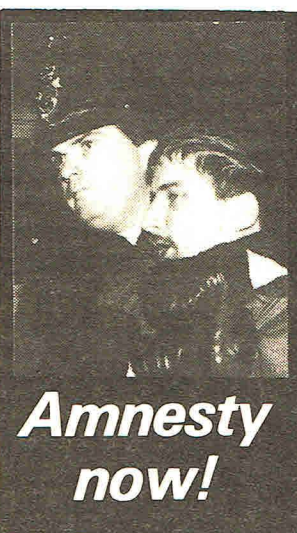
Therefore the NUM leadership must organise a massive campaign of leafletting, public meetings, rallies and demonstrations to explain the link between new technology and super-pits with the proposed pit closures. The message must be taken to every pit, every village, support group and mining community.

NUM members, particularly in Nottinghamshire, must be approached in a firm but fraternal manner, and convinced of the need for further industrial action to roll back the NCB's onslaught. A similar approach must be taken with the workers in the power and transport industries.

By a Yorkshire miner



Banners from Cortonwood, the pit at the centre of the miners' dispute, on the march in Sheffield, May last year



ALL OVER Yorkshire miners have been sacked, often on fabricated evidence, for fighting for the right to work.

On top of the immediate financial problems their future looks grim as jobs are becoming as rare as diamonds in most mining areas.

The labour and trade union movement must not forget these men. All must be reinstated and compensated for loss of earnings.

Brian Lancaster of Houghton Main NUM is one of many who have suffered:

"I was arrested because I was the only coloured miner on a picket line of over 1,000. Before arrest I was picked out and taunted by the police. I was charged with assaulting a police officer. I weigh 11 stone, the officer weighs 17½ stone.

"In fact I was hauled out of a surge against police lines and it was me who was subjected to violence. Despite appealing against my

Remember the sacked miners

sentence I had to serve two months for a crime I didn't commit.

"Whilst in prison I was sacked for breach of contract. On release I went to see the manager to ask for a meeting. The request was refused but my case has been taken up by the union.

"I served my time in two jails, Armley and Durham. In Armley the doctor who examines new arrivals taunted me saying it was Arthur Scargill's fault I was inside.

"During my time in Armley I was due to appear in court in Nottingham on an obstruction charge. As I was pleading not guilty I had been assured that I would be allowed to go to court. But when the day came I remained locked up. I was found guilty in my absence and fined £100. That's your great British justice.

"Letters from home usually took three or three and a half days to arrive. But my letters took eight or nine days causing much worry to my wife.

"I was sent to work in the laundry working seven hours a day for five days to earn £1.25 a week. This went up to £1.55 if I worked on Sundays.

"But if conditions in Armley were bad, Durham

was appalling. I had been warned it was bad before I was transferred. I shared a cell 12 foot by 6 with two other prisoners. There wasn't room to move. All the cells were damp, fusty and smelly.

"Because of staff shortages we were locked up 23½ hours a day in cells infested with cockroaches. The food was appalling.

"Virtually every inmate supported the strike. Probably because of the strike they were all anti the 'system'.

"I was still in Durham when the strike finished. It was the worst day of my life. I didn't receive a letter then for two weeks. I just didn't know what had happened. During those two weeks my wife sent me two letters which I didn't receive.

"When I came out I was covered in spots. I had scabies and I was filthy. As my wife said: 'I had to be decoated'.

"But I haven't been reinstated. I believe we should not be forgotten. The sacked lads were heroes during the strike and we need the support of the rest of the movement to get jobs back. I'd urge everybody to join the Miners' Amnesty Campaign and raise our fight in their organisations."

Labour Women's Conference 1985

Women fight fo

THE DESTRUCTION of jobs and the attacks on health and social security are hitting working women hardest of all. Everything they have depended on—a job, a home, enough money to live on, decent education and health care for families and benefits for the needy are being whipped away.

There must be more than hand-wringing and crocodile tears from the trade union and labour leaders. They must act now, to give hope and determination to women, to organise them and draw them into activity in the labour movement.

This week's Labour Women's Conference can start to build a fighting organisation, that can give heart and confidence to women and help to build a decent future for everyone.

In this special conference feature, leading rank-and-file activists in the Labour Women's organisation examine some of the key issues to be debated.

Asian women combat racist laws

BLACK AND Asian women will welcome the ruling by the European court of Human Rights against the government's immigration laws.

These rules affect 2000 women, every year, separate them from their husbands, and cause great suffering for black and Asian families. Only women born in Britain, or with one parent born here, have the right to bring their husbands into the country; the majority of those 2000 women are black.

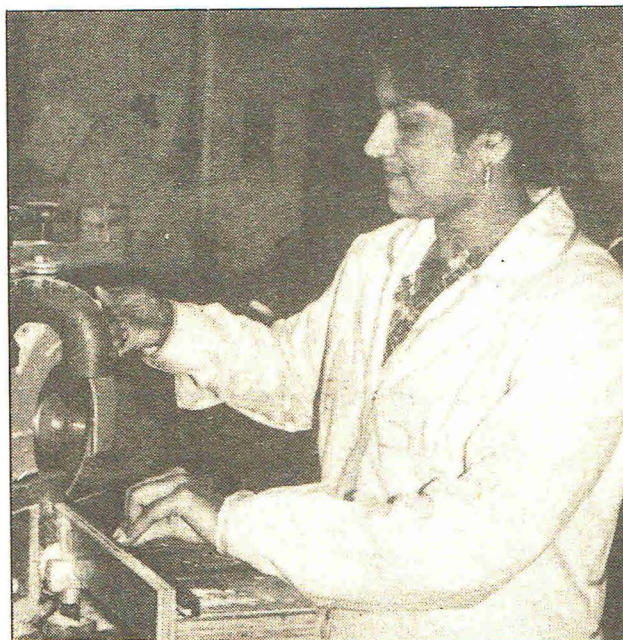
Racist controls

The *Guardian* on 29.5.85 exposed the racist nature of these controls when it commented on how the government could respond to the ruling: "The government can either be more liberal about allowing in foreign husbands, or it could exclude all foreign wives. The second course would lead to a political furore, as it would mean large numbers of white women being banned. Of the 16,000 foreign wives admitted last year only 6,750 were from the Indian sub-continent."

The next Labour Government must be committed to the repeal of all the racist and sexist Nationality and Immigration Acts. This is a matter of urgency for Asian women, as they face the most barbarous treatment on entering Britain.

One such case took place in October 1976, when a young Asian woman, Zahira, arrived in Britain with her husband. They were both detained for eight hours before her husband was permitted entry. Zahira was told she would have to return to India. She was expecting a baby and was quite far into her pregnancy.

Zahira was forced to wait for another 12 hours without food or water, and then she was taken to Harmondsworth detention centre. When she arrived there she began to have labour pains, which were even more severe in the morning. She was examined by a doctor but



Asian women workers are fighting for their rights.

nothing came of it.

Her pains increased rapidly to such an extent that she began screaming uncontrollably. Her husband was stopped from calling for a doctor while officials watched amused, believing it was all an act so that Zahira could stay in Britain.

Nothing was done to help Zahira until there was crystal clear evidence that she was giving birth. By the time the doctor arrived the child was half born. Zahira was finally taken to hospital. Her daughter was born prematurely with "abnormalities" and died. Zahira was given permission to stay in Britain.

So children have to die before a wife is given the right to live with her husband? Under this rotten system yes, they do!

Such horrific cases have not been eliminated, but intensified under Thatcher's rule. Asian women entering Britain face the daunting and humiliating prospect of virginity tests and test for venereal disease. These tests have been carried out on young Asian women entering Britain to join their parents! They are often carried out by immigration officials and not medical officers. The whole event is degrading and inhumane.

The basis of the racist and sexist immigration legislation lies in the decay of capitalism, a decrepit economic system which cannot provide the necessities of life. All it offers is bad housing, mass unemployment and crumbling services.

More emigrate

The ruling class, however, through the media, perpetrates the idea that blacks are the cause of unemployment, and that the only way to solve the problem is by keeping blacks out. Yet more people emigrate from Britain then immigrate into the country.

Asian women, who suffer the worst from these laws, have organised fightbacks against deportation. It is vital that they get organised in the labour Party, the LPYS and the trade unions to campaign for the repeal of racist and sexist laws.

Asian women must raise their voices loud and clear to commit the next Labour government to this and to implement socialist policies that are the only avenue for the liberation of Asian women and the working class as a whole.

By Nina Rahel

Powell hypocrisy

THE SECTION of the Labour Women's Conference agenda coyly entitled "Women's Reproductive Rights" promises a lively debate.

15 resolutions are to be debated on the "Gillick" ruling against contraception for under 16s, on in-vitro fertilisation, surrogacy and embryo experiments and on abortion.

Clearly, the Labour Women's organisation must take a positive class stand against the "moral right" like Enoch Powell and Andrew Bowden who took over Powell's Private Member's Bill to ban experiments on human embryos.

It is just as important however, to take a political and class position in contrast to the equally "moral" point

By Viv Seal
(Delegate, Manchester Women's Council)

of view from some feminists from the left, that these issues are about women's rights and sexual politics and therefore not (as they would have it) a "crude class issue".

All Powell and his supporters have to offer us is Tory hypocrisy. They preach about the sanctity of human life when opposing a woman's freedom to make a real choice, whether or not to have, or to be given a

chance to have, a child.

This moralising is quickly forgotten when it comes to life-threatening cuts in the NHS, or allowing employers in the name of profit to avoid making their workplaces safe and healthy.

Frankenstein

Powell and co have used the crudest hysterical tactics to win support, talking about cutting-up babies, Frankenstein or Nazi experiments, cloning, cross-breeding with animals, breeding a race of super-heroes, etc. Not surprisingly most working class people are revolted by all these and are quite rightly demanding

No case for positive

THIS YEAR'S Conference will discuss both a document and resolutions on positive discrimination.

By Margaret Creear

Unfortunately, the document is based on an unbalanced and mistaken analysis of the problems confronting women in the Labour party.

It claims that "the rules and procedures under which the party operates were designed by men for a male party".

It is worth reminding the NC of the Labour Women's Organisation that the Labour Party is a class organisation. It was formed to fight for the interests of

the working class and to reorganise society on socialist lines (Clause four).

The document calls for positive discrimination, asserting that: "the lack of understanding" of Constituency Labour Parties, "has led to a situation where women feel that only by constitutional change will any real improvement come about."

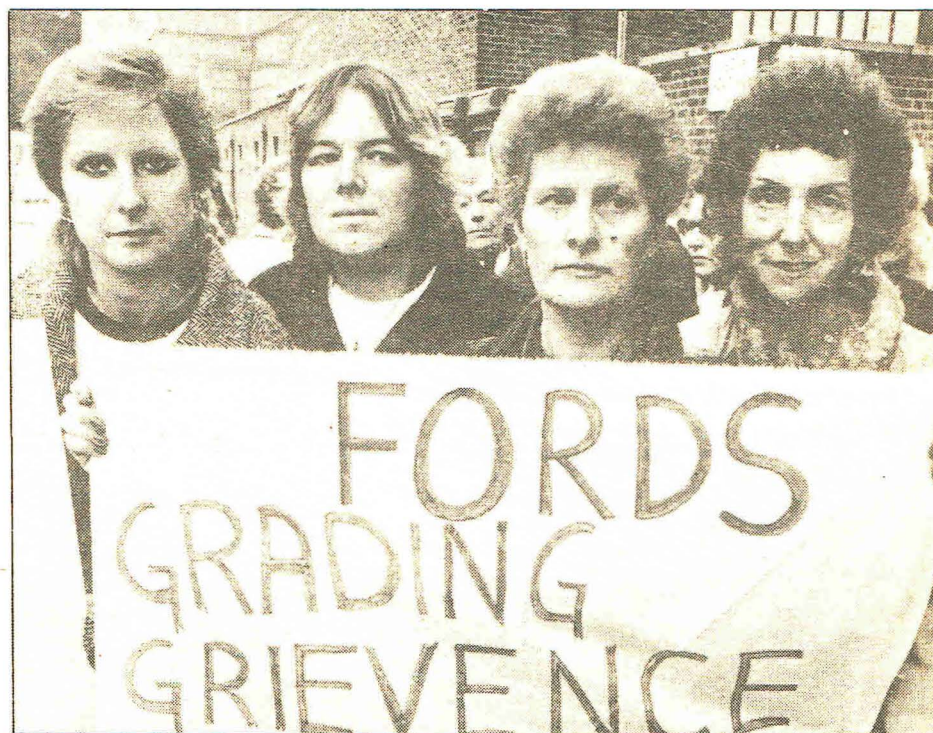
It is hoped through organisational changes to overcome a serious political problem—the neglect of women's problems in the Labour Party and the absence of special measures to help women develop and represent the movement at all levels—not by political education, argument and persuasion, but by compulsion.

Such an approach is likely to reinforce prejudices rather than overcome them and encourage a cynical attitude to women who are advanced in this way.

In relation to mandatory inclusion of women on shortlists, it is now being suggested that local parties should be able to add a woman to the shortlist after nominations had closed.

Apart from the humiliation most women would feel at finding themselves shortlisted because they were women rather than because of the support they had gained on merit, these proposals will only ensure token women on shortlists. They will not ensure more female MPs.

Amongst both working class men and women there



Striking Ford machinists lobbying last year's annual pay negotiations. This year they won a notable victory. Photo: Carlos Guarita (Reflex).

...a future for all

that there be some control over research.

The resolution from Manchester Women's Council demands labour movement control over research. This would be an entirely different matter from the sort of control that exists now, for example in the case of drug testing. The Committee on the Safety of Medicines is composed of experts who not infrequently leave the committee for leading positions in drug firms.

A Marplan poll conducted for *Panorama* recently revealed that a majority of people were opposed to experiments on human embryos, but when it was explained that this research was necessary to enable the prevention or cure of congenital or hereditary diseases, then a majority supported the research.

In-vitro fertilisation would have been impossible

without the experiments, and a ban would threaten future work on infertility in this and other areas. Diseases caused by gene defects or chromosomal abnormality, often only found in humans, could be cured as a result of these sort of experiments.

Permission

One of the more iniquitous aspects of the Powell-Bowden bill was that any woman requiring IVF treatment must have the permission of the Secretary of State. Not many delegates to the conference or readers of this paper would be given such a blessing!

Like the issues of contraception and abortion, these are class questions. Powell and his like can be defeated if we treat them as such, and win the support of the whole labour movement.

discrimination

is an immense scepticism about Parliament, the lifestyle of MPs and the effectiveness of Parliamentary activity. Only socialist policies and a movement fighting to implement these, of which MPs on workers' wages would be a part, would encourage more working class men and women to come forward.

Anomalies

Although delegates should support calls for a rules revision conference for the LWO, it should be made clear that the main task of this conference should be to put right anomalies and confusion in the rules of the LWO itself, as outlined in resolution 105 from Warrington Women's Council.

Any attempt to use such rules revision to push the LWO towards the status of an affiliated organisation by changing the basis of trade union affiliation and the levying of membership fees should be resisted.

On the one side the supporters of positive discrimination want the LWO to have more say and be a more integral part of the LP at all levels. On the other they want it to be autonomous, with its own finances (and presumably its own apparatus) not needing to convince the party of its policies and approach and able to change its rules without reference to the party as a whole.

The document and resolutions refer to the miners' wives movement as if in some way this reinforces the argument for positive discrimination. Just the opposite! It demonstrated that women will come forward in large numbers, fight for

themselves and develop as leaders when they see a struggle being waged which affects their daily lives.

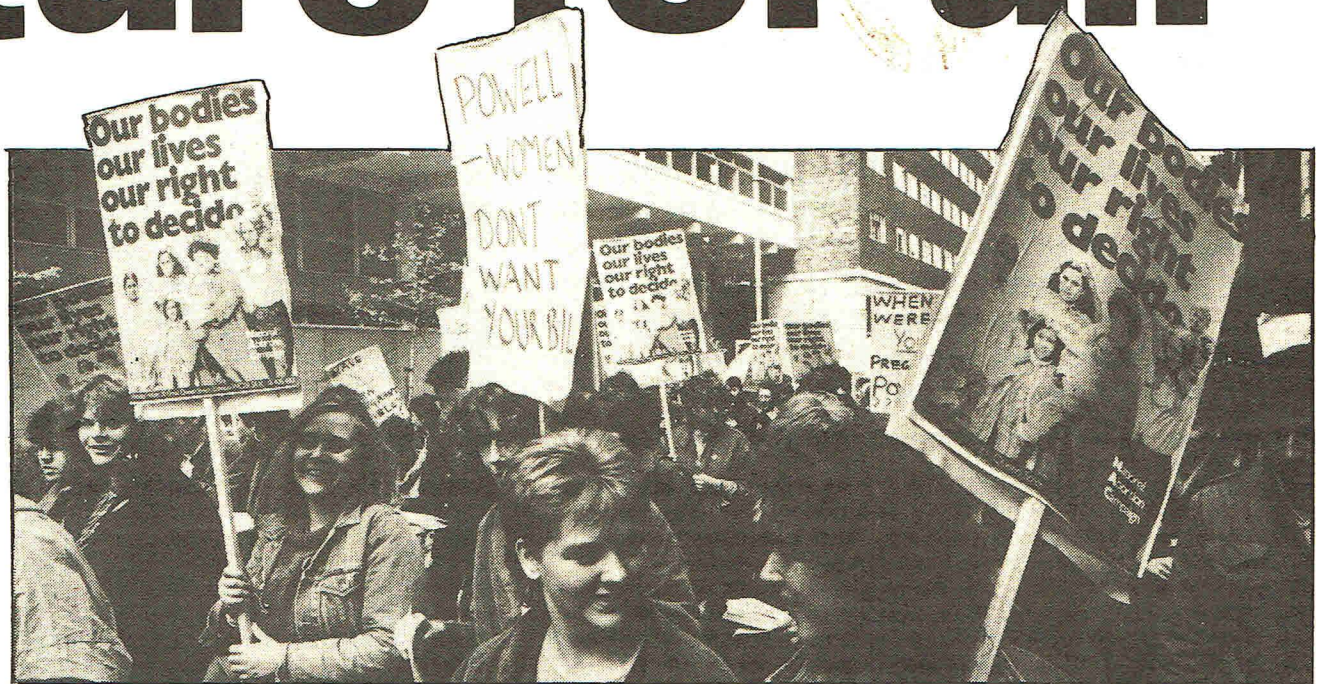
It also demonstrated that the acceptance of secondary status by women and the prejudices of men will mainly be overcome in the course of such struggles.

This makes even more serious the omission of any references in the document to the role the LWO could play in developing more female representatives at all levels and attracting more working class women into the party by campaigning on the issues of vital importance to them such as unemployment, low pay, housing, the NHS, childcare, etc.

This neglect was reflected in the official "low key" approach of the NC in relation to the miners' wives, typified by the lack of any organised intervention at the Chesterfield rally and no national demonstration called in the name of the LWO in their support.

Fortunately many rank and file women recruited miners' wives into the LWO as well as turning the women's sections' activities towards winning the strike.

It is only by rebuilding the LWO on a firm commitment to socialist policies which can transform the lives of women along with their class, by fighting alongside women wherever they are under attack, and by conducting a tireless political campaign for these policies and approach to be adopted by the rest of the movement that the LWO can really establish itself as an important political force making a major contribution to the liberation of women and the working class as a whole.



March against Powell's bill. Photo: Tom Picton (Reflex).

Fight for minimum wage

BY PASSING resolutions 69-74, Labour Women's Conference will give working class women the fighting programme they need. These resolutions defend the interests of working women and provide a basis for drawing thousands into struggle and political activity.

By Ann Bannister

Resolutions 69 and 70 take up the need for a £100 minimum wage, which would lift women workers out of poverty. Trade unions such as the TGWU and NUPE have already taken up campaigns against low pay and for a minimum wage and this campaign should be extended to the whole trade union movement. Only industrial action will win higher pay for women workers, but the Labour Party must also commit itself to legislating for a £100 minimum wage, as an extra lever, but also to show to women workers that the Labour Party is serious about ending the exploitation of women at

work.

The recent victory of the sewing machinists at Fords, who have been upgraded after 17 years of struggle, demonstrates the need for trade union control of grading schemes to ensure women are not discriminated against and to end the divisions between men and women workers. These are deliberately fostered by the bosses to ensure that the workforce is not united against them.

There has been a massive increase in part-time working over the last two to three years. Employers have exploited the fact that women are having to work because of financial necessity but cannot take up a full-time job because of domestic responsibilities. Trade unions must fight for decent conditions for part-time workers as taken up resolutions 74 to 78, ensuring that they have the same rights as full-time workers, and pro rata rates of pay.

Job-sharing may appear attractive to some women workers. However it

can be used by the employers to reduce the number of full-time jobs available. It avoids the real issues that should be taken up by the labour movement of fighting for shorter hours for women and men and for adequate child-care facilities. Job sharing also assumes the continued dependency of women on their 'husbands' and that women should still have the main domestic responsibilities. Resolution 79 should be opposed and the amendment to resolution 73 supported.

Resolution 80 calls for wages for housework—which should be opposed. The whole idea that women would be paid a decent wage to stay at home is totally utopian under capitalism. Women isolated in the home are completely unorganised and have no industrial muscle to fight with.

The introduction of a wage for women to stay at home, without any protection, under capitalism, would only reinforce women's secondary role in society.

Welcome for charter

TRADE UNION activists will welcome the recently published document *Charter for Women Workers*, which has been sponsored by a number of Labour Women's Councils.

At a time when women at work are facing attacks on their wages and working conditions, many women see the trade union leadership as failing even to defend past gains let alone fighting to improve living standards or conditions of work.

When even the strongest and best organised sections of the trade union movement are under attack, it is even more important to strengthen our movement by offering a way forward for women.

The Tories are attacking the Wages Councils, the Equal Pay Act, part-time legislation and so on. These attacks have gone effectively unchallenged by the labour and trade union leadership while rank and file trade unionists are driven into fighting desperately in defence of their jobs and living standards.

The charter looks at issues such as sexual harassment and the effects of new technology, as well as larger issues like low-pay, equal pay, part-time work and training it provides a basis for discussion to be taken up within the trade union and labour movement, particularly within the Broad Lefts.

Gains can only be made through struggle. Our strength as trade unionists lies in drawing women into the movement to fight alongside male trade unionists. The document points to the need for women to reshape our organisations into fighting democratic bodies capable of fighting for and defending our interests.

The charter should be welcomed by all activists as a valuable tool with which to draw women to our movement and to arm ourselves in the fight against the Tories and their system.

By Audrey White

(TGWU Women's national and regional advisory committee and 6/612 branch, in personal capacity)

A CHARTER FOR WOMEN WORKERS



Liverpool, Manchester and Rochdale Labour Women's Councils

Organisations wishing to sponsor the charter or obtain copies (price 40p) should contact: Ann Bannister, 55 Lunt Road, Bootle, Merseyside L20 5EZ. Cheques payable to Women's Charter.

Labour 'left' move

THE LABOUR Co-ordinating Committee (LCC) is one of the left groups which have dominated many of the Labour Parties in London and Scotland since the 1979 general election. They have attained a temporary importance because Neil Kinnock's "advisers" have been drawn from this organisation.

However, since the 1983 general election the LCC has steadily shifted towards the right, in sharp contrast to Tony Benn, Eric Heffer and Dennis Skinner on the NEC who have defended the left gains on programme and democracy made between 1979-83. This has provoked the hostility of the LCC who have dropped them from their NEC slate for the next Party conference.

Despite their call for an "honest, thorough and comradely debate" after the end of the miners' strike, in Scotland the LCC has formed a coalition with the right wing on the Scottish Executive Committee to discipline the Labour Party Young Socialists. Their "crime" is daring to organise strikes of school students against Thatcher's slave-labour YTS scheme. Roy Hattersley has been the right boot while the LCC has been the left boot in Neil Kinnock's shuffle to the right.

The miners' strike was an acid test for all trends of opinion within the labour movement. The LCC says of the strike: "no matter what the leadership did correctly or incorrectly, they were not in themselves responsible for the way the strike was won or lost" (Our emphasis-PT). This is a classical statement of reformism. It is an attempt to shift responsibility for defeat from themselves and their leadership onto the working class.

Militant believes in telling the working class the truth. The miners' strike was lost because of the failure of the leaders of the labour movement to come to the assistance of the miners. The right wing trade union leaders did not want the miners to win because of what they perceived as the threat of "Scargillism", that is the growth of a fighting militant alternative leadership within the unions.

Vicious class war

The left trade union leaders proved incapable of organising the colossal support which existed amongst the rank and file of their unions. The miners' leadership is undoubtedly the best national leadership within the British trade union movement but even they showed big deficiencies in terms of strategy and tactics at decisive stages of the strike.

Moreover, Neil Kinnock, by his ambivalence during the strike, directly assisted the Tories to prevail over the miners. Now in the aftermath, like Kinnock himself, the LCC ascribe the rise in support for Labour to the ending of the "unpopular" strike. They say in their broadsheet: "it is true that the strike damaged Labour's electoral standing, at least until the closing stages of the dispute. It is true that the strike was unpopular with large sections of the British people".

The miners' strike brought to the

By Peter Taaffe

First of a two-part feature

fore all the last five years festering discontent with the policies of the Thatcher government. The strike ended with opinion polls showing that 75 per cent of the population believed that the gap between rich and poor had widened since Thatcher came to power, 80 per cent believed that riots "including revolutionary violence" were inevitable if Thatcher's policies were maintained.

The "defeat" of the miners resulted in an eight per cent swing towards Labour. It was the titanic struggle of the miners and the vicious class war conducted by the Tory government which has caused this enormous shift towards the left amongst the British working class. If Neil Kinnock comes to power at the head of a Labour government after the next election it will be directly attributable to the marvellous struggle of the miners and their families.

Trendy lefts

But the ending of the strike has resulted in those on the right and some on the left, drawing entirely wrong conclusions. The working class has shifted towards the left but the leaders of the labour movement have moved rightwards. An attempt is being made to install "new realism" once more as the dominant views of the movement. The middle class trendy left, epitomised by Livingstone, and the LCC in a much more guarded fashion, are seeking to accommodate themselves to the rightward moving leaders of the labour movement.

The LCC have combined with the rapidly dwindling "Communist" Party, in a vicious campaign of persecution against the supporters of *Militant* in Scotland. This rightward evolution is not accidental. Ideas do not drop from the sky.

Lacking a clear analysis, firm principles and a worked-out socialist programme, the LCC has inevitably capitulated to the right. It sees its main task to court and "win over" Neil Kinnock from the right.

Thus, *Tribune* its main mouthpiece, on January 4 said "the centre of gravity in the Party has shifted to the left in recent years. Neil Kinnock is the product of that and while it is depressing to see him sliding to the right so consistently, it should not be impossible to construct a majority centre-left coalition around the Party leader."

This "centre-left coalition" has resulted in the right-wing shifting policy away from the democrati-

Photo: Rick Mathews (IFL)



The struggle of the miners caused a shift to the left in the working class

ly elected NEC and conference towards the unaccountable Parliamentary Labour Party. Labour Party spokesmen also demand that the next Labour government should not repeal all the Tories' anti-trade union legislation. Jeff Rooker, parliamentary spokesman on housing and a standard bearer of the right has already abandoned Labour's policy not to sell council housing.

Seeking to justify his shift to the right on the battle in local government, Ken Livingstone declared in *The Guardian* 20th May: "to characterise Neil Kinnock as another Gaitskell or Wilson is simply wrong". Livingstone further argues: "to consider his (Kinnock's) position on nuclear weapons alone, or the stand he has taken on Nicaragua demonstrates an objective difference".

It is not unusual for reformist leaders of the Labour Party to take a radical stance on international issues, the better to cover their rightward position on domestic policies. In any case it is virtually ruled out that a Kinnock led Labour government in which Hattersley, Healy and the right wing will be the dominant force, will carry through unilateral nuclear disarmament.

Livingstone seeks "an objective difference" in the "sincerity" of Neil Kinnock and of his supporters. But we do not possess a special "sincerometer", to judge the sincerity or otherwise of political leaders. The bible says "by your deeds shall ye be known".

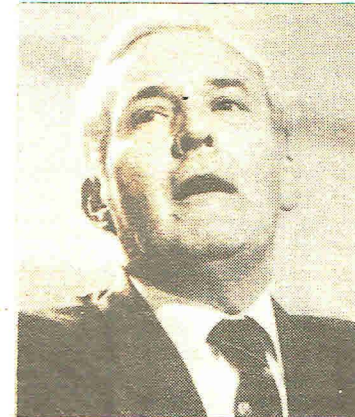
It is true that there is a big objective difference between Kinnock and the other leaders of the Labour Party mentioned by Livingstone. But this speaks against Livingstone not in favour of him. It is to be found in the enormous worsening of the conditions of British capitalism today in comparison to the situation which, for instance,

confronted the Wilson government when it came to power in 1964.

Laws of capitalism

Both that government and the 1974-79 Labour government, after an initial period of reforms, was forced to move to a policy of counter-reforms. This was not due to the lack of will or sincerity of Wilson or Callaghan. Those Labour governments were forced to work according to the laws of capitalism.

If a new Kinnock-led Labour



Tony Benn, no longer on the LCC slate for the NEC

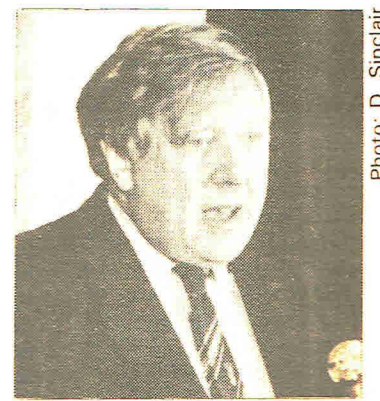
government comes to power it will be against the background of a catastrophic collapse of British capitalism. The leadership of the labour movement—the left as well as the right—has not the slightest conception of the gravity of this crisis and how little room it leaves to carry through any serious and lasting reforms in the interest of working people within the framework of capitalism.

Militant has consistently explained the character of the world crisis of capitalism within which we have the special crisis of British capitalism. On the basis of this analysis we have shown the impossibility of seeking to advance a

programme for an improvement or even a defence of existing living standards without at the same time posing the socialist transformation of society.

Under the blows of Marxist criticism the LCC has sought to give a "left" gloss to the left reformists' "alternative strategy". In reality, however, on closer examination, their programme is to the right of the more sincere supporters of *Tribune* and the "traditional" left.

Thus, in a little booklet produced by the LCC in conjunction with



Roy Hattersley who lost the leadership contest but whose policies dominate the leadership

the "Campaign of Socialist Economists" (The Alternative Economic Strategy—A Labour movement response to the Economic Crisis) an analysis is made of British capitalism. In almost tortuous fashion the LCC seeks a "middle way" between reformism and Marxism. It states: "It is necessary to 'think' beyond the how and why of socialism to go beyond the abstract polarisation of revolution and reform or of insurrectionary and parliamentary positions and to study the forms of transition, and the ways in which the outcome is conditioned by the means of its achievement".

What this gobbledegook means

Photo: D. Sinclair

Photo: D. Sinclair

s right



Photo: D. Sinclair

Labour leader, Neil Kinnock, whose policies have gravitated further to the right

in practice is shown when it deals with the issue of a shorter working week. It states: "unless we are prepared to see a substantial fall in profit and take the consequences, 'worksharing' means wage sharing". This is an obvious aside against *Militant* which has been foremost in campaigning for a 35-hour week with no loss of pay.

"The latter approach perhaps draws on the clearer understanding of the consequences, but is based on a political strategy of 'exposing capitalism' by mobilising people around popular but unrealisable slogans which we reject."

These wisecracks who pretend to have a profound knowledge of the history of the Labour movement are in fact completely ignorant of it. Under certain circumstances when capitalism is faced with the direct threat from the working class it can be forced temporarily to concede a lot more than it can really afford.

Thus in the German revolution of 1918 the 40-hour week was temporarily conceded by the ruling class. We saw a similar development in the Russian Revolution, in the Spanish revolution and also to some extent in the Chilean events of 1970-1973. *Militant* has never advanced a demand which we consider to be "unreasonable".

Marxists fight for reform

It is capitalism, and now it seems the LCC, who consider that modest and legitimate demand of working people for a 35-hour week as "unreasonable." What is "realisable" is not determined by the economist's slide rule but by the class struggle. Marxists fight for an improvement, even the slightest amelioration, in the conditions and the rights of working people.

the reformists is not in fighting for reforms—which includes also a defence of past gains—but of pointing out that these reforms cannot have a lasting character under capitalism. The LCC on the other hand, by asking for just what capitalism can afford to give, end up, in effect, supporting counter-reforms, cuts in living standards.

Thus they state; "we would argue for a much more positive approach which recognises that work sharing under capitalism cannot be an answer to the short term crisis of unemployment but which sees reduced working time, and more flexibility in working hours as important ways of making sure that expansion under an AES has the maximum impact on employment."

In so far as it is possible to disentangle what is said here, the LCC is proposing "reduced working time and more flexibility" in other words job sharing without the specification that *Militant* always makes, ie. "without loss in pay".

The authors of this document also regurgitate policies which have been tried and failed. Thus they state quite bluntly; "in rejecting monetarist deflation we want to rescue certain basic ideas from Keynesianism which we see as extremely valuable for the labour movement, and integrate them into our new approach."

Import controls

At the same time they state "an essential part of the industrial strategy is to reduce the role of profit in the economy, both as a source of funds to finance investment and as the criteria which determines where investment should and should not be made".

Like many middle class socialists before them the LCC seem to want capitalism without the capitalists. To eliminate "profit" is to destroy capitalism's reason for being. The capitalists produce for profit not for social need. Destroy profits and you destroy the incentive to invest, factories will close and unemployment will spiral.

In this terribly "new" LCC analysis is contained the old discredited ideas of Keynesianism, that is deficit financing, boosting public expenditure to overcome the crisis of capitalism. This was the main plank of the right wing during the era of Gaitskell, of Wilson and Callaghan.

Militant has pointed out many times that in the final analysis public expenditure comes from two sources. If a Labour government boosts public spending by increas-

ing taxes exclusively extracted from the working class this merely cuts the living standards and thereby cuts the market. If the government attempts to introduce a wealth tax the capitalists will go on what Harold Wilson called a "strike of capital". Investment will plunge, factories will close and the benefits of increased public expenditure in terms of jobs will be cancelled out.

If the government resorts to the printing press to produce pound notes not backed up by extra production of goods and services this will merely fuel the fires of inflation so also cancelling out the net benefit of increased public expenditure.

Moreover, as the authors concede, a boost in public expenditure, given the collapse in the competitive position of British capitalism *vis a vis* its rivals internationally, would not result in a massive increase in job creation but in a flood of imports coming into the British market. They therefore see as an essential part of their strategy, the introduction of import controls.

Yet many former supporters of import controls have now abandoned this proposition under the hammer blows of the recession. The Cambridge group of economists first popularised import controls. They now argue that in the early 70's when there was no world crisis of capitalism import controls may have temporarily offered some succour to ailing British capitalism.

Even then, as we pointed out, it was bound to lead to retaliation from the rivals of British capitalism as the introduction of Harold Wilson's import deposit scheme in 1965 demonstrated. Such was the outcry from Britain's rivals that this mild form of import control had to be abandoned.

Marxism has opposed import controls because they offer no solution to the problems which faced the working class. They would protect the already inefficient British capitalists behind a tariff wall. Given a protected and monopolised market there would be no incentive for them to retool, reinvest and prepare for the competition of international rivals.

On the contrary, as the experience at the time of the 1967 devaluation showed the British capitalists would merely use this to increase their prices, and thereby their profits.

If the result of import controls is a rise in prices for protected goods which it inevitably would be, this would merely transfer the problem from one sector to another.

If prices go up the working class in general has less to spend on other goods. The capitalists in these other sectors would be forced to cut production and lay off workers. In other words unemployment would be transferred elsewhere.

The Cambridge group now argue that no national policy for "import controls" would work. They now concede the case of Marxism that "import controls" would be bound to trigger off retaliation which would lead to a contraction of world trade which in turn would reinforce the coming world recession.

They have therefore attempted like the LCC to propose "internationalising" the AES. Such a schema is completely utopian on the basis of capitalism. Stuart Holland and others have proposed a scheme which involved the coming to power in the early 80's of socialist governments first in France, Spain, and Italy to be followed by a Labour government in Britain in the 1983 general election.

However, the brutal reality of capitalism has intervened to upset this beautiful schima. The various socialist governments of France, Italy, Spain and Greece have not presented a very edifying spectacle of "internationalism". Because they have remained on a capitalist basis they have echoed the various nationalist claims of the ruling class of their own country.

Witness the vicious in-fighting between the Socialist/Communist government of France and the Felipe Gonzalez-led socialist government of Spain over wine production.

Trade war

How then would it be possible, given the insurmountable barriers of the national state and the national interests of each capitalist power to organise an international plan for controlled "imports"? An attempt by one of the powers, particularly in the key field of manufacturing, would trigger off a trade war which would result in the collapse of world trade.

Import controls would have the opposite effect of what the proponents of the AES intend. The alternative is not "free trade" as the LCC argues but a socialist plan of production as the first step towards a socialist united states of Europe.

The feature will be concluded next week



Kinnock and the right wing are shifting policy decisions further away from the conference

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

South Africa

Smash apartheid Smash capitalism

WHEN THE Anti-Apartheid Movement marches through London this weekend, the main support will come from trade unionists and socialists.

The labour and trade union movement has always opposed the racist and repressive South African regime. Workers are repelled by the vicious legislation designed to keep black workers in subjection.

On the other hand that is precisely what makes South Africa so attractive to capitalist investors. On 5 June, South African businessmen and ministers met in the Hilton Hotel, London with representatives of 60 British companies and a Foreign Office minister (Malcolm Rifkind) to discuss improving South Africa's investment climate.

If the capitalist powers do move against apartheid, their action is only forced by revolutionary struggles in South Africa. On 5 June the US House of Representatives passed a programme of sanctions which they hope will squeeze more reforms out of the Pretoria government. The measures would ban

new bank loans to the SA government and stop new US investment, end sales of nuclear technology and of computers for the security services.

Marxists support the isolation of the apartheid regime but these measures are not enough. Remembering the way big business bludgeoned its way through sanctions against Smith's racist minority Rhodesian regime in the '70s, South Africa's ailing economy will survive this attack.

Reason for 'reforms'

The prime concern of the more far-sighted US capitalists is to build a buffer between the South African masses and a revolution which would bring the private profit system crashing down as well as apartheid.

Apartheid was built around the needs of big business, its basis is the migrant labour system. Black workers, particularly on the mines, the main source of SA's wealth, are regarded as temporary labour. They are separated from their families who are herded into

poverty-stricken reserves. They stay in barrack-like compounds while the bosses need their labour power then sent back to the townships. The system is designed to stop the growth of trade unionism, to keep workers isolated and weak. It is as essential to South African capitalism as state repression.

Opposition to apartheid has reached a new pitch in the past year or so. Week after week the world's TV cameras record police brutality as black workers brave tanks and guns. Young blacks in the townships have seen friends and relatives gunned down but fight on. Most important of all, they have organised.

Community organisations have survived repression, political groups such as the United Democratic Front have not been destroyed by treason trials and police attacks. And most frightening of all for the ruling class, trade unions have grown in numbers and power and threaten to give a powerful working-class base to the entire movement.

The mineworkers were forced to make concessions to the NUM to

avert a strike last September. After a recent strike, mineowners sacked NUM members and selectively re-employed workers. Miners were killed by police. A Chemical Workers' leader, Andries Raditsela, died in police custody in April. But the unions fight on.

The American capitalists are trying to prevent a revolutionary confrontation by encouraging reforms. The Pretoria government are like men breakdancing on hot coals, mixing savage repression with an endless succession of minor reforms—but to little avail.

The fake black local authorities are detested. Last year's sham elections for Asian and Coloured (mixed race) "parliaments" were overwhelmingly boycotted.

Know your enemy

The government have promised blacks the right to join multi-racial parties. But Africans are still not allowed to vote!

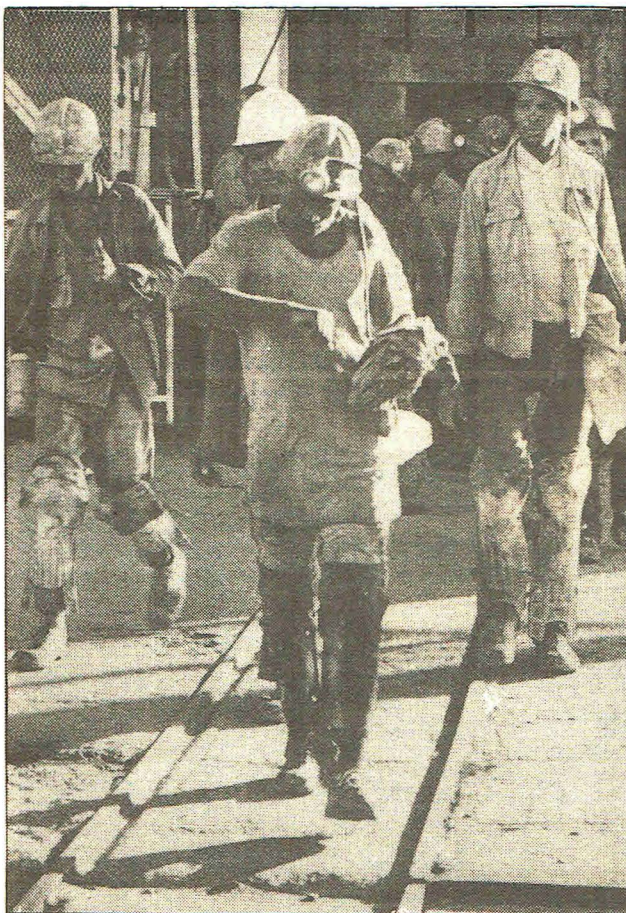
The government may also be prepared to amend apartheid to allow black workers to take skilled jobs (there is a shortage of skill-

ed labour in South Africa).

But there is little support for compromise. May Day speeches and chants in South Africa showed that workers almost all saw capitalism as their main enemy alongside apartheid. One union, the Federation of South African Trade Unions (FOSATU) had a song "capitalism, capitalism is our enemy". Another trade union leader told a huge audience: "We are fighting against the forces of capitalism. We are not fighting to replace whites with blacks but for the end of the system of exploitation".

The organised black working class is ready to become the focal point of all opposition to apartheid, drawing behind itself the Asians, the coloureds, the unemployed, the youth, the middle class and students. It can even start to draw sections of the white working class from their reactionary leaderships.

The movement must look to a socialist solution of its problems. Any compromise with capitalism entails a compromise with apartheid.



Miners in South Africa have organised despite great danger. They deserve and need international working class solidarity.

Isolate bosses, back workers' struggles

WHEN Staffordshire miner Roy Jones visited South African mines during the British NUM strike, he was convinced of the need for international links in the struggle against capitalism.

By Simon Kaplan
(NOLS NC, personal capacity)

"The other message I bring back from South Africa is: build, build, build direct links between the British and South African NUM at rank and file level", he told British workers in his tours after the visit.

The combined membership of the independent trade unions is now 500,000. Their struggles for better wages and conditions have been linked to the fight for freeing of political detainees, for a decent education system and for an end to apartheid.

Out of their struggles against the big monopolies blacks have understood that the struggle against apartheid is linked to the struggle against capitalism internationally.

In 1979 foreign investment in South Africa totalled £22 billion. By linking up with British workers and sharing their experiences in struggle, the strike movements in South Africa can be supported by British trade unionists morally, financially and by sympathetic

action.

Many trade unionists in South Africa have already begun to form direct links. A FOSATU statement in June 1984 called for "the building of international workers' solidarity in the struggle against the economic, social and political oppression of workers". It was for this reason also that the South African NUM invited Roy Jones to visit them.

Unfortunately, the right wing of the British labour movement and the leadership of the SACTU union federation and the ANC in exile, have opposed direct links in one form or another. At first, they claimed that any union allowed freedom to function in South Africa was a stooge union. This showed their complete lack of understanding of the development of the workers' movement. The NUM has 120,000 members alone—the harassment and imprisonment of its leaders and the murder of black miners in their last strike by the apartheid regime hardly qualifies it as a stooge union!

Direct links

The Southern African Labour Education Project (SALEP) has been at the forefront of campaigning for direct links. Those opposing such links claim that SALEP is putting black trade unionists at risk from the security police and from corrupt trade unions abroad.

Again this shows a remarkable lack of understanding. Anyone with a brain in their head would understand that all aspects of any visit to South Africa are under the control of trade unionists there, who have had to build their organisations in the teeth of vicious opposition of the apartheid regime and therefore understand what steps to take.

To suggest that black workers do not realise the dangers of right wing trade union leaders is to insult their intelligence! The real reason for opposition to direct links is the fear some leaders of the international labour movement have of rank and file links between workers in different countries. They would rather have negotiations with liberal capitalists to reform apartheid than links between workers for international socialism.

The Labour Party has had to realise the reality of direct links by supporting them. However, since then the attacks on SALEP have increased, especially since Roy Jones' visit, eventually leading to the banning of SALEP. The report to Labour's NEC claimed that SALEP was not building direct links at all levels, that Roy Jones was a "white unrepresentative miner" and that SALEP was diverting resources from the liberation movement.

Roy Jones has visited the leaders of the NUM, two

regional conferences, shop stewards and the rank and file members in the mines—At how many more levels do direct links have to be built before such links become legitimate for the NEC?

Do the NEC also oppose the visit of Senator Edward Kennedy to South Africa which was supported by the ANC? Does the NEC know that as a result of Roy's visit a black trade union made a donation to the British NUM—the first time ever.

Workers' education

The claim that SALEP is diverting resources is ridiculous—the money that SALEP raises (£5,000 per annum) goes to filling a vacuum in South Africa—the desperate need for workers' educational material. The ANC receives one million Kroner a year from the Swedish government alone as well as grants from many other governments.

Direct links will go ahead. The young in the townships of Sebokeng and Soweto, the unemployed in the homelands and workers in the factories will unite for national liberation and socialism. Those leaders who oppose international backing for this struggle will be judged harshly by the rank and file workers involved.

THE SOUTHERN African Labour Education Project has published a pamphlet in reply to the Labour Party NEC's decision to prohibit it.

SALEP's socialist education work—why does the Labour Party NEC want to ban it? (60 pages), 40p plus p&tp, from World Socialist Books, 3-13 Hepscoot Road, London E9.

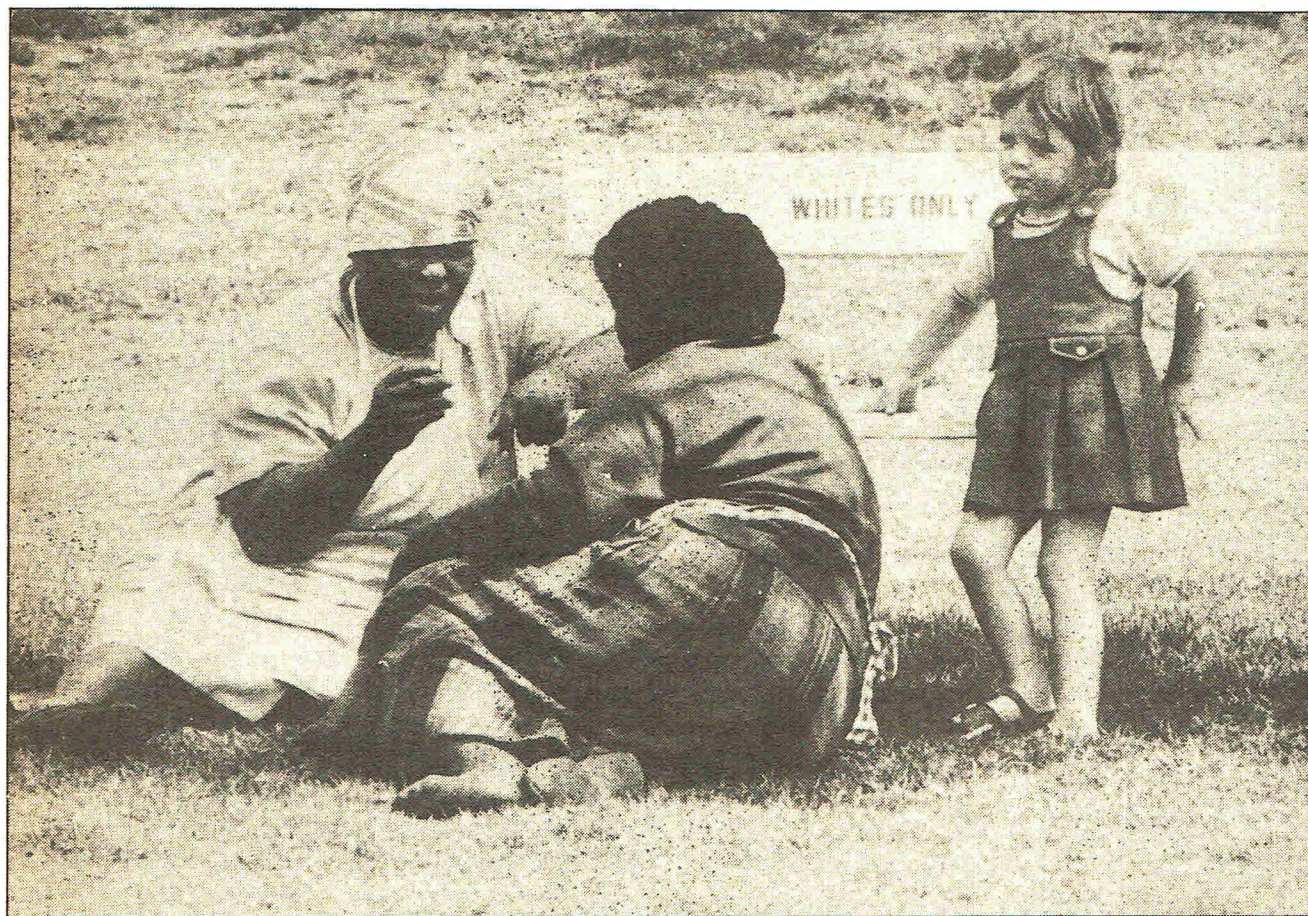
SALEP's socialist education work—



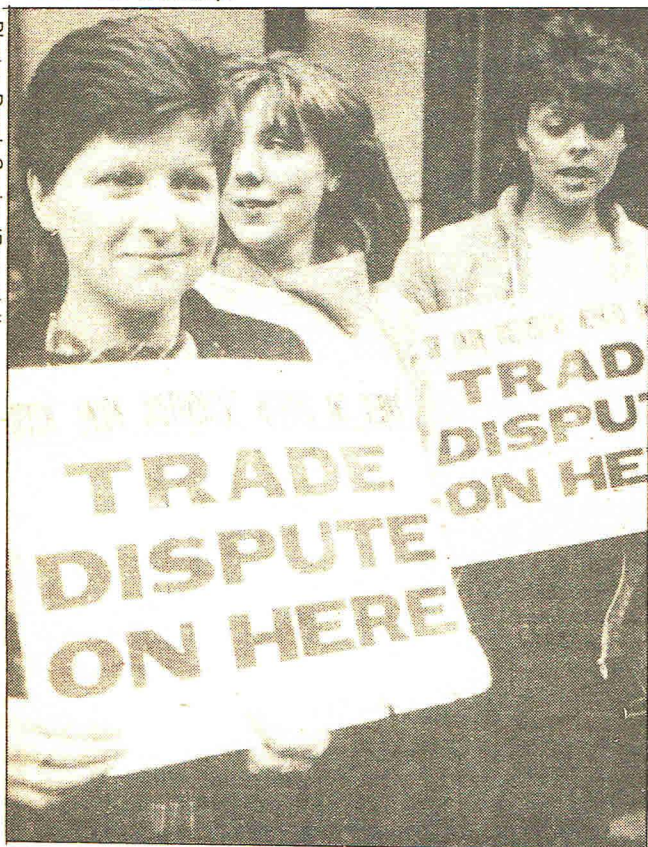
why does the Labour Party NEC want to ban it?

SOUTHERN AFRICAN LABOUR EDUCATION PROJECT

South Africa, Nigeria, USA



Top: "Petty apartheid", the degrading racial segregation etc. may be modified but apartheid continues. Below: angry youth at Crossroads township.



Picket of Dunnes, Dublin. International solidarity in action.

ON 19 July 1984 Mary Manning a check out operator at Dunnes' Henry Street supermarket in Dublin obeyed a union instruction and refused to handle South African produce. Management immediately sacked her and the majority of the unionised workforce came out.

Mary Manning was reinstated but the right not to handle South African goods was not conceded, so 11 months later, the strike is still on. Throughout all this time the workers have shown great determination, despite intimidation from management, gardai (police) and special branch.

A major reason why the workers have held out has been the huge level of support throughout the labour movement. Thousands of pounds have been collected at workplaces, and at concerts and socials from youth eager to support.

However, Dunnes' management have not come under any real pressure. A recent Labour Court (arbitration) recommendation found entirely in their favour. Dunnes are the largest private company in Ireland, with a notorious anti union and pro-apartheid history.

The leadership of the Irish Distributive and Ad-

ministrative Trade Union (IDATU) have so far failed to escalate the dispute, no attempt has been made to black the scab companies delivering to this or other Dunnes' stores. Workers in supply companies and transport have expressed willing but have not been asked to help. IDATU and the ICTU have made no serious attempt to campaign for even limited industrial action in support of the strike.

The union, supported by the Church and liberal groups, have largely tried to portray this dispute as simply one of conscience. This has only played into the hands of management. Pious declarations will not win this strike. Dunnes will not be embarrassed into submission.

By harnessing the support which does exist; by achieving the closure of the Henry Street store with backing from other sections of the labour movement, a great victory for international workers' solidarity can be won.

Strikers from Dunnes' have been invited to South Africa in July to meet trade unionists and other opponents of the apartheid regime.

By Ray McLaughlin

Workers question their leaders

WE PRINT below a part of a letter from Nigeria. When the military regime of Major General Buhari seized power at the end of 1983 a corrupt civilian administration was replaced by a corrupt junta.

As the letters shows, not only the military are losing support now. The Nigerian Labour Congress, (the TUC) labelled as cautious even by *The Times* are being criticised for not standing up for workers' interests.

The May Day celebrations in Nigeria gave a powerful picture of the working class here as elsewhere in the world in this age of permanent revolution.

During the celebration, the Lagos workers, the advanced section of the Nigerian working class proved they can express themselves about their conditions and needs without the aid of their corrupt conservative bureaucratic national leadership

Workers came to the rally with placards and banners swarming over their heads, some wore their posters, all were the self-expression of the workers. The attendance was lower than in previous years. Redundancies and other social problems have taken their toll. Some are demoralised, losing all confidence in the Nigerian Labour Congress leadership. But those who came represented those who could not come.

Drowned out

The workers went into wild cat action on NLC, disregarding the leadership just for that day. The programme of activities the latter had drawn up for the rally was not followed at all. Workers themselves dictated the pace of events.

NLC President Chiroma's speech was drowned in angry shouts that his leadership was a monstrous failure. His speech was inaudible. He should have stopped speaking mid-way, it was senseless to say what nobody hears.

When it came to government minister Maj. Gen. Onojokum's turn (one worker carried a placard calling him—Minister of Labour Retrenchment!) the demonstrators surged at him

as if they wanted to pull him to pieces. They booed and jeered and sang and chanted at him.

One thing was made clear, both Chiroma and Onojokum were put in a common basket labelled 'enemy' by workers. Both were given a public show-down.

After Onojokum's blabbing the traditional march past could not be held. The official band was unable to perform. When it played the



Military dictator Buhari.

'National Anthem' workers replied with the American workers' song 'Solidarity for ever'. At that point they were forced to pack their things and go. Then Onojokum followed. And thus, the celebration was forced to a good end by the workers.

It was like a revolution. One newspaper observed that only the presence of armed police saved the state representatives and Labour misleaders from being manhandled by the workers.

Government repression continues. Barely a day after the Prime Minister's warning on the activities of three left-wing 'subversive' groups, security men came to abduct away Ola Oni, a longtime socialist activist. He was released after some five days stay in Abeokita and Lagos detention camps. Upon his release however, he made a political score out of his detention giving interviews to journalists from *Punch* and *Vanguard* newspapers.

Yours Fraternally
A Nigerian socialist

California strike comes to an end

WORKERS IN the East Bay Municipal Utility District (the Water Board) in the San Francisco area voted on 7 June to return to work after a strike lasting thirty days (see *Militant* 17 May).

Management had been trying to impose a contract forcing major concessions from workers on rights over union membership, overtime, sick pay etc. Workers rejected two contracts, the second being backed up by almost all the local's (union branch) leadership. The workers stood out despite attacks on the union through

court injunctions.

The concessions wanted by management remain after the return to work but management attempts to victimise strikers were forced back by staying out on strike another week.

A future issue of *Militant* will analyse the lessons EBMUD trade unionists and other workers have learned. This was a local dispute, but the lessons are vital to absorb, as EBMUD's fight will be mirrored throughout the USA in the months and years to come.

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LETTERS

Militant welcomes letters from readers. Send us your views, comments or criticism. Write to *Militant*, 3/13 Hepscoot Road, London. E9 5HB

Brussels tragedy -your views

It is certain that we were all deeply shocked by the appalling scenes of violence displayed at the UEFA Cup Final in Brussels on Wednesday (29 May) which resulted in the loss of 38 lives. A terribly high price to pay for such pointless antagonisms.

The result of this will be a huge wave of anti-British feeling. At Bolzano in the South Tyrol a 13 year old school boy was savagely attacked though he had no connection whatsoever with the violence, merely because his mother is English. And many more similar incidents are bound to follow in the coming months.

Thatcher and her ministers care nothing about the deeper social consequences of the incident. What does it matter to them if the working classes of different countries are further alienated from each other? As we all know, they revelled in the antagonisms brought about during the Falklands crisis between British and Argentine workers.

We cannot allow such divisions to stop us from moving towards a socialist future.

Jackie Haslam
Hastings and Rye LPYS

Listening to the soft, gentle voice of Mrs Thatcher on the radio and TV, speaking about soccer violence, and the tragic events in Brussels, must have made millions of people feel ill, realising that violence and force are the strategic policies of this Tory government.

Tom Hopkins, Retired miner, Caerphilly

As I did not go to Brussels myself, I interviewed a close friend who did, Billy Tringham said:

"The Juventus supporters had one whole end to themselves, in the opposite end we had half, we were cooked like sardines, women and children were near fainting point and they were still letting them in to our end". He went on to say "That's when the trouble flared, the segregation wall to keep us apart was only four feet high, that fell in and the fighting began, it must be said that the Liverpool supporters were more after air than fighting".

Paul Cairns
Liverpool Riverside LPYS

Liverpool fans have a record abroad of good behaviour second to none. In fact prior to the match Liverpool fans were swapping colours and joking with the Juventus fans. What's not been reported is the fact that NF supporters were over there with their Union Jacks, a lot of them were fighting Liverpool fans before the game.

This has been used to slur the people of Liverpool and Liverpool City Council. Already we have had people saying 'What do you expect, Militant Tendency' etc. Tories like Maxwell have said that.

Chris Fernandez
Derby County supporter

So what was the suggested answer? (of TV commentators to soccer hooliganism) Yes, National Service. Untrained hooligans would be turned into trained killers.



Juventus fan during the riot in Heysel Stadium.



The aftermath of the riot, 38 dead, hundreds injured.

To injure and kill others at a football ground was seen as diabolical, which of course it is. But to put lads in a uniform and train them to kill in defence of capitalist profit and prestige is seen as commendable.

Neil Toyn
Southampton

To treat hooliganism as a soccer problem is typical of the hypocrisy of the capitalists. The fact is that if the hooligans were unable to get into football grounds, the violence would just turn up somewhere else, for in reality, soccer violence is a symptom of the continuing decay of capitalist society.

Duncan Harris
South Normanton LPYS

As someone who has traveled all over the country watching football matches, 99 per cent of the time where there has been no trouble, I was horrified at the scenes

during the European-Champions Cup. The filthy press in this country is just interested in selling papers, while the television instead of going off the air, showed the tragic scenes and even showed the match itself, which should have been cancelled.

The bureaucrats in charge of football, or the big business chairmen cannot solve the problems of violence. They are in the game to either make a profit or for the prestige of running a club.

J Reid
Norwich CLP
QPR supporter

I, like the large majority of people, can only condemn violence at football matches. But what I found distasteful was the way so many people who spoke on TV were so ready to punish the culprits, but nobody seemed willing to examine the roots of the

problem.

There is only one way to deal with soccer hooligans and that is the sharp, shock treatment—give them a job with the minimum pay of £100, and the maximum of 35 hours a week. Give them the chance to join a union, have decent housing conditions and a decent Health Service and Welfare State. That'll shock them.

Karl Osborne
Brentford and Isleworth LPYS

The ruling class are surely the biggest hypocrites on this earth, they bleat out crocodile tears for the workers who died in Brussels yet what is the background? Regarding football grounds in Southampton a stand was burnt to the ground in 1929, partial blame was recorded to litter under the stand, as in Bradford.

The Rolls-Royce brigade beg young people to drink

their cocktails, but when things go wrong they say drink must be banned.

Mike King
Southampton

Thatcher's recent concern for the victims of the Bradford and Brussels disasters will not fool workers into believing that she cares one damn about their lives. If Thatcher is so concerned about the deaths of people why didn't she set up an emergency fund for the 40,000 victims of the Bangladesh tidal wave last week?

Thatcher is only concerned with her bad public image. In stamping out soccer hooliganism she hopes to reassert herself as a strong and determined leader. She is out to make political capital out of these tragic disasters.

Ged Grebby
Benton LP

Ripping yarns

Dear Comrades,
Reading the article (Issue 751) about working in a library reminded me of my old Saturday job. For the wonderful sum of £5.30 a day at the age of 17, one of my main jobs at the library was to tear up books.

In a back room shelves were piled high with mainly romances, westerns and science fiction novels which make way for newer ones. Many economics, political and social books for which newer editions had become available, were stacked in their hundreds.

My job was to spend the

whole day stamping books in three places with "Disregarded by Hackney Public Libraries" and then ripping off the outside cover and tearing the centre in two.

We were told "This is so nobody can steal them and sell them off second hand". I must have destroyed thousands of pounds worth of books while working there—why weren't they donated to hospitals, kids homes, schools, old people's homes? Because it wouldn't have helped the rich profiteers in the big publishing houses. It's the same old story.

Yours fraternally
Dave Webb
Hackney South LPYS

No Leninism allowed

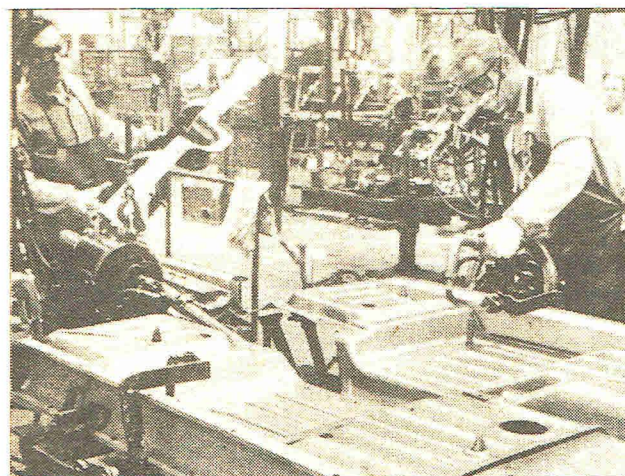
Dear Comrades,
After my holiday in Budapest last year I took the opportunity to pick up some cheap hardback copies of Lenin's works. Trying to find anything by the great revolutionary is more difficult than trying to find a western record shop.

Every book shop I went into gave me another address to go to. Finally one English speaking assistant asked me to go to either the Soviet

Union or East German Embassy. When I arrived at these places they always seemed to be closed or locked up.

The conclusion I draw is that the bureaucratic parasites must be so frightened of the workers that they hide even the Marxist works that the country is supposed to be built on in order that the working class don't get any funny ideas.

Yours fraternally
Ian Woodland
Andover LPYS



Conditions for workers are far more stressful than those for executives. Photo: Angela Phillips (IFL)

Heart disease—a myth exposed

Dear Comrades,
Are you sick of hearing all those sob stories about the poor company directors who work so hard, under such stressful conditions, that despite their huge salaries, they are dropping like flies from heart disease, stomach ulcers, etc?

Ever felt a little sceptical about these allegations? Well, surprise, surprise, you were right all along!

Recent studies of civil servants have challenged the myth that top executives are more prone to stress-related

diseases. The study found that staff in the lowest grades of the civil service are four times more at risk of premature death from heart conditions than the civil servants in the top positions.

To quote a leading specialist in stress research Professor Cooper of UMIST: "The same thing (ie. higher risk of heart disease etc) applies to the car assembly line worker at British Leyland, or any other shop floor. The symptoms aren't just heart disease, but mental illness, absenteeism and marital difficulties."

Yours fraternally
Nick Worth
West Bromwich East CLP

LEFT and RIGHT

Sick as a parrot

CRYSTAL PALACE chairman, Ron Noades, agrees with Thatcher's sentiments in banning alcohol at football matches, but thinks she's going a bit too far. He told the *South London Press* (4 June): "... Mrs Thatcher has forgotten about the other spectators, the ones who pay thousands of pounds to use an executive box or those who are members of certain bars in grounds. If they aren't able to socialise in a normal way or entertain business clients with a drink, they will stop coming here".

Hooray Henry boot boys

THIS MONTH'S newsletter of the Cambridge University Conservative Association carries an article condemning soccer violence and strongly supports electrified fences, a la Chelsea. An article on the next page is titled 'Wrecking a Restaurant', complete with instructions.

Down on Maggie's farm

SCHOOL LEAVER Robert Wick, 17, from Cambridge, got 'on his bike' and found a job 50 miles from his home. But a job's one thing. He gets only £69 gross pay a week and cannot afford the humblest of bedsits. So to keep his job he is having to live in a tent in a farmer's field. (*Mirror*, 6 June).

SACRIFICE HAS always been an inseparable part of workers struggles. It is an absolute necessity to a paper like ours if we are to continue to expose the lies of the Tory media and campaign for a better future.

A daily paper is vital and our supporters are prepared to fight for it. The donations received this week truly reflect the level of sacrifice of some of our supporters. Donations, from the 20p donated by Melanie Reid a school student from Sandwell to the redundancy pay of £4,500 donated by Dave Cartwright an East London supporter (cash to come in the next two weeks), all mean our readers going without.

Another donation includes a two week dole cheque of £60.30 donated by Leslie-Ann Barrett a South London supporter. Such is the inspiration of our ideas and programme. What other paper can inspire such examples of sacrifice?

Don't delay

Whether a school student supporter donates her pocket money or an unemployed supporter donates her dole money, these sacrifices represent the will of workers to change society. How willing are you to make a sacrifice? It can be a large "one-off" donation or a smaller regular contribution. All donations are welcome. The "extras" being col-

FIGHTING FUND

This week
£2,074

| Area | Received | % of target achieved | Target |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Eastern | 487 | | 3200 |
| East Midlands | 217 | | 2900 |
| Humberside | 285 | | 1900 |
| London East | 265 | | 2850 |
| London West | 338 | | 2650 |
| London South East | 242 | | 1950 |
| London South West | 159 | | 1100 |
| Lancashire | 175 | | 1100 |
| Manchester | 96 | | 2650 |
| Merseyside | 598 | | 6200 |
| Northern | 721 | | 4650 |
| Scotland East | 345 | | 3000 |
| Scotland West | 240 | | 3800 |
| Southern | 756 | | 5000 |
| South West | 170 | | 2150 |
| Wales East | 303 | | 2450 |
| Wales West | 321 | | 2150 |
| West Midlands | 621 | | 4350 |
| Yorkshire | 312 | | 5950 |
| Others | 3056 | | 10000 |
| Total received | 9709 | | 70000 |

lected by our supporters from the movement continue to show our growing support and workers' commitment to build our paper. We particularly thank those who contribute regularly as at British Aerospace. Preston, workers at British Gas, Eastington, Walthamstow Dust Depot; Rosyth Docks East Scotland. Other donations include sums from Ford's Dagenham; Walsall APAC (Patternmakers); and the CPSA DHSS Regional Committee.

Other extras collected

within the labour movement include Southampton LP and South Normanton LP. There is still time to get your money into us in time for the push to reach 50% of our target by 18 June. Do not delay—send your cash to us now.

Kim Waddington

Donations

Des Worth unemployed ASTMS Walsall £1; Bill Newton, Kensington NALGO

gives £1 each week for his paper; Shadaz Ali, Barnet £1; G. Mitchison, Pegswood NUM £1; T. Walsh Wolverhampton AUEW £2; M. Dunnington NUT Lea Valley £2; £2.50 raised in Extras from factory visits in Oldham; A. Woloncewicz Blackpool CPSA £5; Sean McGrath a student Camden NUS £5. Charlie Hegarty Woolwich £10; Cardiff supporters raised over £16 on the Miners Demo against Jail sentences; West Mids supporters raised £27 in rattling tins at a Littleton miners social; M. Wilson Anfield Ward Liverpool £40.

for paper sales. "Each estate is being systematically leafleted and then followed up with door to door paper sales. Over the last two weeks we have sold 85 papers on estate sales, and are steadily building up a list of regular buyers."

Send details

But reports of sales successes are coming in from all areas. 20 copies were sold last week to just one shift at Bold Colliery, Lancs, while two sellers in Maltby up in Yorkshire sold 30 last week and 34 the week before on street sales. Send us details of your sales and any new ideas for boosting our circulation still further.

By Jeremy Birch

ly used the *Mirror* to demand the expulsion of *Militant* supporters from the Labour Party. What he could never understand is that a real workers' paper like *Militant* builds its sales on clear explanation of socialist policies, on genuine reflections of workers' lives and on devoted, self-sacrificing sellers. And when Maxwell or anyone else on Labour's right attacks *Militant*, our sellers are spurred to greater activity. This is how sellers in Newcastle-under-Lyme have responded to the expulsion from their constituency Party of Dugald McKinnon: "A regular paper sale is now being held in the centre of Newcastle every Saturday, and we have adopted two estates in the area to canvass

Marxist Daily Building Fund

| | £ | | £ |
|---------------|------|---------------|--------------|
| Eastern | 2731 | Scotland East | 2249 |
| East Midlands | 2899 | Scotland West | 2546 |
| Humberside | 1595 | Southern | 3814 |
| London NE | 3073 | South West | 770 |
| London NW | 3905 | Wales East | 1829 |
| London SE | 1953 | Wales West | 1453 |
| London SW | 2160 | West Midlands | 1948 |
| Lancashire | 518 | Yorkshire | 1473 |
| Manchester | 2255 | National | 1292 |
| Merseyside | 4896 | | |
| Northern | 2727 | Total | 46085 |

tions in for precisely this purpose. £60 has come from readers in Nottingham and £67.50 from Garston in Merseyside. Kath Newman, a member of the Executive of the North West Regional Labour Party has given £37.50. Italo Savastio, a supporter from Battersea has sent his week's income of £100.

The sooner we can get a socialist society in Europe, the better will we be able to help the third world and expose capitalism for the

hypocritical sham that it is.

By Dave Campbell

MAKE some Fighting Fund for your Area! *Militant* "No Slave Labour On YTS" stickers now available. Price: £1.50 for 100—but they must be sold for a donation! Send order to *Militant*, 3-13 Hepscoth Rd, London E9. Cheques/Po's made payable to *Militant*.

CO-OP STAMPS for F/F wanted: whole books, half books or loose stamps. All proceeds to F/F. Send to Circulation Dept, 3-13 Hepscoth Road, London E9 5HB

ads

CLASSIFIED: 15p per word, minimum 10 words. SEMI-DISPLAY: *2 per column centimetre three weeks for the price of two. *Militant* meeting ads free. All advertisement copy should reach this office by Saturday.

DEFEND SALEP against Labour Party proscription! Buy a SALEP T-shirt! £3 & postage. Also still available: SALEP bulletin with NUM member Roy Jones report on his visit to SA NUM. 20p & 13p postage. Available from: Southern African Labour Education Project (SALEP), 28 Martello Street, London E8. Phone: 01-241 0434.

"LIVERPOOL MILITANT Labour" badge with Labour logo, "Black and white youth unite" badge with red *Militant* logo, 25p each plus 25p minimum p&p. FF cheques payable to P Cooper, 31 Balmoral Road, Fairfield, Liverpool, L6 8NB.

EAST SUFFOLK BLOC meeting. Friday 14 June, 7.30 pm. Speakers: John Tocher (AUEW Presidential Candidate) and Bill Connor (USDAW General Secretary Candidate). Ipswich Town Hall.

PECKHAM LPYS present BAND DISCO BAR, Sat 22nd June, 7.30pm Wyndham T A Hall Wyndham Rd Camberwell SE5. £1.50 Waged 75p unwaged. Sponsored by Southwark Labour Party Trade Union Committee.

LP Compilation of songs from the '84 Miners Strike. All proceeds to womens' Support Groups. Send Cheques or P/O's of £5 (inc p&p) payable to "Which side are you on", 23 Brighton Grove, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE4 5NS.

SIGBRITT AND Andrew Herbert are pleased to announce the birth of a daughter, Ingrid on 26 May, 1985.

Militant Meetings

MALTBY MILITANT Readers's Meeting, Thursday 20 June, Maltby Library. Speakers: Jeremy Birch, Paul Shawcroft (expelled member of Mansfield CLP). Chair: Pete Hawley—TGWU.

TGWU BIENNIAL Delegate Conference *Militant* Meeting, Tuesday 25 June, 7.30pm. Speakers: Dave Nellist MP and Christie McVicar (delegate to Conference, personal capacity). Wessex Hotel, West Cliff Road, Bournemouth.

SOUTHAMPTON: Marxist Discussion Group meets every Sunday, 7.30pm, 206 Honeysuckle Road, Bassett, Southampton. Tel: 551420 for details of subjects or any further information.

DOVER: Marxist Discussion Group meets on Wednesday evenings at 8.00 pm at 36 Priory Hill, Dover. Subjects and dates as follows: 19 June: Trade unions and leadership. For further details ring (0303) 43541.

GRAYS Militant Readers Meeting. Fight Back against the Tories, build a Socialist Labour Party. Speaker—Lynn Walsh—Militant Editorial Board. Thursday 20 June 8pm. Thameside Theatre, Orsett Rd, Grays.

HARROW Militant Marxist Discussion Group. Monday 24 June, Britain in Crisis; Monday 8 July What *Militant* Stands for; Monday 22 July, The State; Monday 5 August, Northern Ireland; Monday 19 August, Russia; Monday 2 September, The Communist Manifesto. All at 11am at 172a Kenton Road, Kenton. Near Kenton B.R. Station.

Dave Nellist MP and NUPE speakers will address North Bedford CLP on "The Low Paid". Wednesday 19 June, 7.30pm. Silver Jubilee School Hall, Acacia Rd, Bedford.

Marxist Weekend School 1985

London 14/15 September

Courses on: Marxist Philosophy, Marxist Economics, The Russian Revolution, Marxism and the state, Black workers and the struggle for socialism, the Colonial Revolution, The Trade Unions—the 1920's and Today, The lessons of Popular Frontism, Women and the struggle for socialism.

Plus a rally/debate on Saturday and disco. Professionally run crèche Put the date in your diary and make your transport plans now!

Only £7 (£5 unwaged). Book now! Cheques to "Marxist Weekend School" 3/13 Hepscoth Road, London E9.

I would like to register for the course on ... at the Marxist weekend school (Reading guides will be sent out from July)

I will need accommodation (Bring a sleeping bag) for Friday/Saturday nights.

I will require the crèche for the following children (name and age)

I enclose booking fee.

Manchester *Militant* Weekend School. June 22nd/23rd Sat + Sun Theory of Marxism—Historical Materialism—Dialectical Materialism. Speakers include Roger Silverman.

Overnight Accommodation. Cost £1 unwaged, £2 waged. (includes study guide) Further details contact: Gordon, Tel. 061 969 4383 or write to 17 Catterick Ave, Sale, Manchester M33 4GQ. Crèche available.

South Wales Summer Camp

THIS YEAR'S *Militant* Summer Camp has an international theme, with talks planned on Britain, Chile, South Africa, Northern Ireland and Marxism and the Labour Party.

What better way to spend your August Bank Holiday than at the Gower Peninsula. Price is still £12.50 per adult and £2.50 child (5/15 years). Because of the ever increasing numbers attending the camp, we will be operating on a strict first come, first serve basis. BE SURE to send your bookings early to Roy Davies, 181 Hanover Street, Swansea—Telephone Swansea 463623.

MILITANT SUMMER DRAW

- 1st Prize—Holiday worth £500 in resort of your choice
- 2nd Prize—Portable Colour TV worth £200
- 3rd Prize—Camera worth £100
- 4th Prize—two prizes—a Cassette Recorder worth £50 and a Personal Stereo worth £50
- 5th Prize—five prizes of £20 worth of socialist books

Price of ticket: 10p
Get your ticket now from local *Militant* sellers.
To be drawn 27 July.

GET

Militant

WHILE MILITANT'S sales go from strength to strength some other papers claiming a link with the labour movement are not doing so well.

Robert Maxwell's *Mirror* Group has had its own sales campaign, at far greater expense than *Militant*'s recent sales drive. £3 million was lashed out in Maxwell's first seven weeks in charge. But the net result for his three

titles—*Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror* and *People*—was a one million drop in May's sales over the same month last year.

Baffling

It must all be so baffling to the 'socialist' millionaire. Didn't he give workers everything they want—bingo, pin-ups and regular attacks on the left, especially *Militant*. He has regular-

crisis in the first place. None of the papers tell of the crisis of capitalism that causes these horrors or the fact that every time aid is sent to the third world by governments of the industrialised countries, so many strings are attached that the third world nations end up worse off than if they don't receive aid at all.

Resources

In the early 1920's, the Communist International under Lenin and Trotsky discussed the problems of the ex-colonial world and pointed out that only the victory of socialism in the industrialised world would enable proper resources to be devoted to developing living standards in the continents ravaged by imperialism.

This is even truer today. All the resources of new technology and science are wasted under capitalism. So it is even more urgent today that we provide the resources to ensure the victory of socialism in Britain. Still our supporters are sending dona-

THE TRAGIC famine in Sudan and other parts of Africa is the latest issue to be used in a cynical campaign by the Tory press to make out they really care about the conditions of the poor.

Working people never fail to be moved by the distressing pictures of starvation, homelessness and disease on our TV screens and in the papers—but as always, it is working people who are expected to, and do, make the largest sacrifices to help the prisoners of want in the "third world".

The Tory press ignore the politics of world hunger. They sometimes expose examples of corruption in the third world in the distribution of the miserable quantities of aid sent to the ex-colonial world—but they do this to avoid the real issue of who is responsible for the

This week:
£495

Industrial Reports

Telecom union left makes gains

By a Militant reporter

THE NATIONAL Communication Union's brass band gave a lively welcome as the new union assembled for its first national conference. The new union—an amalgamation of the Post Office Engineering Union and the Posts and Telecommunications Section of the CPSA—saw gains for the left in the elections to the group executives.

The NCU Engineering Group returned a left Executive Council by 16 members to seven, including *Militant* supporters Phil Holt and Donald McDonald. This result was a slight shift to the left by two members over last year. This was an excellent result, a good indicator for the forthcoming general secretary election.

In the Clerical Group (NCU is a federated union of engineers and clericals) the left swept the board, in the process unseating the ultra-right wing ex-CPSA leader Charles Elliott. *Militant* supporter Anne Jones ousted Elliott as a lay Assistant Secretary, and was also elected to the NCU NEC along with five other left wingers.

Affiliation

The Clerical Group decided to ballot on a political fund while simultaneously campaigning for Labour Party affiliation—a great victory for the left. In the present climate it is probable that both

ballots will be won.

The NCU Clerical Group also adopted the "Broad Strategy", the Engineering Group's strategy on jobs—for a 32 hour, four-day week with no loss of jobs.

Unfortunately the Engineering Group conference decided to defer the date for the beginning of action on the Broad Strategy. While this is a setback, the NEC must not be allowed to wriggle out of a fight on jobs. With battles at present in progress or looming in British Telecom, for factories' grades and cabling grades the fight cannot be avoided.

Conference deferred the fight on jobs due to advice from the NEC that the real fight this year will be on pay. British Telecom has offered 6.75% with strings. It is divisive because it attempts to destroy national pay bargaining in the communications industry. Conference rejected the offer but decided not to put a day on the implementation of a national overtime ban, pending further talks with management.

The NEC will now be expected to implement the action promised by the Group Executive on the strategy which conference adopted in the shorter hours debate. Whichever the membership decide to fight on, a struggle on pay or jobs cannot be artificially separated—a fight for one means a fight for the other.

During the debate on the political committee it was announced with confidence that the NCU had voted overwhelmingly in

favour of retaining its political fund. This magnificent result is due to the work put in by political activists campaigning to ensure that the NCU plays its full role in determining the future policy for the Labour Party and the policy of the next Labour government.

To this effect Phil Holt stood as the Broad Left candidate for the Labour Party NEC against Golding, markedly increasing his vote.

NEC vote

He was unsuccessful in defeating right-wing witch-hunter John Golding, but the right wing have little to celebrate as the Broad Left took six out of the seven Labour Party delegation seats. This result underlies the desire for unity against the Tories by the majority of delegates who saw the policies of the left as the real alternative.

There was a real mood of hatred for the Tories and a mood to fight on pay and jobs. However a motion of outright opposition to the Tories' anti-trade union laws was heavily defeated. The demand in the motion that the union would never be represented in court in the event of action by the Tories was seen as unrealistic. Conference agreed that while the laws must be fought, flexibility must be used to ensure that the Tories did not destroy the union by massive fines.

The failure of the TUC General Council to fight and to unite the whole labour movement in concerted opposition to the Tories'



The old POEU march against the BT sell-off. The new NCU will also fight the Tories. Photo: Militant

laws has led to individual unions being picked off. Delegates listened and received well the contributions of *Militant* supporters Phil Lloyd and Colin O'Callaghan who pointed out that battles on pay and jobs could not be separated from the issue of raising the consciousness of the membership in preparation to fight the Tories.

To ballot members (after all the traditional methods of the union have been used) in order to preserve the union's funds and assets was a tactical move as far as the delegates were concerned.

A mass campaign must be run amongst the membership to endorse the policies of the conference.

In the debate, to much applause, it was demanded that the next Labour government must completely repeal the legislation.

The Broad Left of the NCU, a very strong and well organised force in the union, faces many tasks in the coming year. The most important campaign, besides those on pay and jobs, will be that for the

general secretary, when Bryan Stanley retires within the next few months.

Phil Holt, *Militant* supporter, was adopted in May of this year as the BL candidate. Despite being adopted unopposed, the Communist Party have already begun disgraceful back-door approaches to other people in a desperate attempt to find another 'left' candidate.

In the NCU these antics have been greeted with derision. Phil Holt is the candidate of the left. What the CP are doing is preparing the ground for a call to vote for one of the other right-wing candidates—probably David Norman, the general treasurer.

With a united Broad Left behind him, Phil can win, thus ushering in a new period of progress for the NCU. With the growth in the influence of the ideas of socialism in this union, a socialist general secretary is inevitable; if the hard work is put in by all socialists in the NCU that victory can be assured.

Ballot campaign chaos

ONE OF the major issues for discussion at the national conference of ASTMS, the white collar union, this weekend will be the organisation of the political fund ballot.

By an ASTMS member

Whereas other unions have got on with the job with successful results, ASTMS organisation has been total chaos. Divisional officers are receiving contradictory orders week by week, while the date of the ballot is receding all the time.

Scandalously, the union's general secretary has

sidestepped the Campaign Committee set up by last year's conference.

This reflects the failings of the organisation of ASTMS. Members will recall the badly handled APEX dispute last year and the recent mishandling of union finances, which resulted in the demotion of a national officer.

On the question of Tory anti-union law generally, delegates should back motion 52 which reaffirms ASTMS opposition to such laws. Conference should also reject paragraph 130 in the Annual Report which indicates that the union's executive has abandoned con-

ference policy, and is seeking to persuade the TUC to take government money to pay for postal ballots.

Conference should show its opposition to this by backing an amendment from London Publishing, to allow work-place balloting for elections. We all want members to vote in elections but we also want members to make informed decisions.

South Africa

Delegates should also support motion 118 from Bristol Insurance and the London Publishing amendment which calls for direct links



Clive Jenkins general secretary of ASTMS

with South African trade unions. Direct links will assist SA unions in their growth and will in turn lead to a greater level of political awareness in Britain.

Tories looting public sector

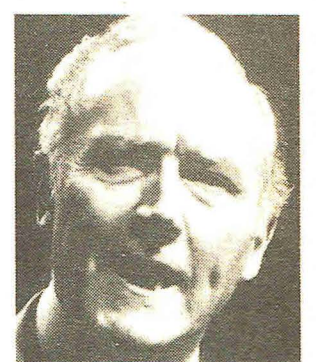
THE NEXT Labour government must renationalise any publicly owned industries hived off by the Tories. That was the call from the General and Municipal and Boilermakers' Union at its conference last week in Blackpool.

In the key debate on privatisation and local authority cuts, Dennis English of Wandsworth local authority branch made the call for renationalisation. He explained the Tories were helping their friends in big business by looting the public sector. Seconding his call Terry North said the next Labour government should go further, drawing up a strategy for a planned economy.

Joined CND

The tactics adopted by Liverpool City Council was debated, but a motion supporting its stand was unfortunately lost, after Harry Robertson of the GMBATU executive said although they supported Liverpool they could not lay down a blueprint on how councils should fight.

In the call for a return of a Labour government, there were appeals for unity, as well as the 'radicalism' of the 1945 Labour government. However, GMBATU members must be on their guard against a short resolution, pushed through on the last



David Basnett, retiring GMBATU general secretary.

day with no discussion from the floor. It supported Kinnock "in statements opposing ultra-left actions, violence and conduct of so-called Labour members." The vague motion must not be used as a blank cheque for a witch-hunt.

Generally, although conference was strictly controlled, a shift to the left was visible, typified by conference voting to affiliate to CND, in opposition to the executive. It was also noticeable that the leadership were coming out with left-wing phraseology, especially the three main contenders for David Basnett's post, who resigns as general secretary this year. It reflects the fact that if a candidate came out openly with right wing policies, there would be little support from the union's rank and file.

By a GMBATU member

Defend jobs, services, conditions

THE NATIONAL conference of the local authority white collar union NALGO this week shows the determination of the union's activists to develop a united campaign to defend jobs, services and conditions.

By Dave Griffiths

In face of the government's attack there was support in the union's local government group for NALGO branches and the growing number of local Authority Joint Shop Stewards Committees to back the National Local Authorities Co-ordinating Committee.

The motion moved by

Roger Bannister of Knowsley NALGO was opposed by the National Local Government Committee but faced no opposition from the floor. It was clear that delegates recognised the need for unity in action—not just in glossy bulletins from committee meetings.

Rate-capping

On Tuesday morning conference referred back the National Executive's annual report because of its weak approach to the campaign against privatisation. But the key debate in the morning was on rate capping and abolition. The composite passed by conference—with

only four votes against—included the demand that "the next Labour government rescinds all (rate-capping) legislation" and "restores belongings and the democratic right to stand for public office to any councillor who may be surcharged, disqualified, (or) jailed for refusing to make cuts".

It "reaffirms support for the authorities who are forced to approve deficit budgets in order to avoid cuts in jobs and services or massive rent and rate increases."

The NALGO branches concerned have said that any budget must include no cuts in services and jobs, and no rent or massive rates increases. They will take in-

dustrial action to back the authorities and will carry on the campaign whatever the authorities do.

Reinstate

Rank and file delegates campaigning along with staff unions for the reinstatement of Jimmy Roberts have met growing support—at an NUJ fringe meeting between 3-400 attended to show their support. Meanwhile the setbacks in the recent NEC elections have strengthened the commitment of NALGO Broad Left members to build their organisation.

BR unions under attack

LAST WEEKEND saw the British Rail Board throw down the gauntlet with two actions aimed at provoking the rail unions.

Firstly they said they would sue the NUR and ASLEF rail unions over the recent one-day strike action. Then they told the Sunday press that they intend to end the closed shop in the rail industry.

The BR Board are clearly on the warpath, seeking a show-down with the rail unions. They are making up for the relatively soft line they peddled during the miners' strike when—no doubt on government instructions—they did not want to provoke a 'second front' for the Tories. *Militant* supporters in the rail industry at the time warned of the consequences of not going on the offensive alongside the miners.

The closed shop must be defended. Our union strength has been the only defence against the avalan-

By Bob Russell
(NUR)
and Andy Viner
(ASLEF)

che of redundancies that have been continually hurled at our industry.

New Tory legislation calls for statutory ballots in which the closed shop can only be retained if 80 per cent of the total workforce or 85 per cent of those who vote support it. These incredibly high figures can be obtained with a proper campaign, but it shows the total hypocrisy of the Tories when they talk about 'democracy'.

Neither must our unions bow down to the law courts. We must stand firm and refuse to pay any fines imposed on us, and demand that the TUC carries out its conference policy and backs

us all the way.

With the miners' dispute finished the BR Board—and behind them the Tory puppet masters—think now is the time to take on the rail unions, to use the trade union issue to divert attention from their onslaught on jobs through workshop closures and the introduction of Driver Only Operation (DOO) trains. Modification of units for DOO will begin on 29 June, and the first trials will begin on 15 July.

It is vital that all these issues are linked up to defend jobs and the industry, and trade union organisation. The Rail Federation must come to the fore, uniting the rail unions in a joint campaign with mass meetings, propaganda and bulletins, along with mass meetings called by District Councils to ensure the active support of the rank and file. We must rise to the challenge.



BR workshop trade unionists march against closure threats

Photo: John Arthur

Fight for health jobs

THE CONFERENCE of the hospital workers' union COHSE meets next week at a time of the worst assault on the National Health Service since it was formed in 1948.

By Peter Howarth
(Secretary,
COHSE Broad Left)

Three main issues form the backdrop to the conference. We are now three months past the date when would-be pay settlements were due for NHS workers, and absolutely nothing has

been done to campaign against government pay cuts. The five per cent pay award for nurses made last week has been meekly accepted by the leadership.

Massive cuts and closures are decimating the health service. All services—acute geriatric, psychiatric, ambulances, etc.—are stretched to breaking point.

The most important issue will be the question of privatisation. Many services have already been privatised without a struggle, but more

and more as the lessons are learned there have been a series of successful strikes, as seen in Liverpool and the four week strike at Littlemore hospital in Oxford.

Now is the time for a national fightback. With practically all the areas in the country affected, if COHSE and other NHS unions had a leadership worth its members, privatisation could now be defeated with a national campaign, drawing on the enormous public support that exists for NHS

workers.

Resolution 50 on the conference agenda which calls for such a campaign will no doubt be the centre-piece of the conference. Whether or not this is passed, the task for the NHS trade unionists must be to build Broad Lefts in NUPE and COHSE to fight for a national campaign to defeat privatisation and cuts, and to ensure that our unions have a socialist leadership capable of fighting for the future of the NHS.

Strike solid

THE STRIKE by domestics at Scarsdale Hospital, Chesterfield to stop private contractors taking over their jobs continues. Anne Denman, NUPE Chair, Chesterfield Hospitals Branch spoke to John Douglas:

"It's more solid than it was when we first started, 8 weeks ago. About 115 are still out—47 at Scarsdale, 50 or so at the Royal, (the main North Derbyshire hospital), and the laundry workers at Whittington Hall."

Recently, a group of the strikers attended the NUPE National Conference to try to raise support. Anne was asked how they'd been received.

"For want of a better way of putting it, we were bloody ignored! We found out that

most NUPE branches didn't even know there was a dispute in Chesterfield. When we arrived, nobody met us off the bus, nobody announced to the conference that we were there, our kids were kicked out of the creche. We're following NUPE guidelines that we fight privatisation, but nobody seems interested from NUPE in London."

Asked if the Health Authority was going ahead with its plans to privatise other services in North Derbyshire, Anne replies, "No, with us coming out on strike they've actually been put back. The contractors were supposed to move in on 1 June, we've now heard it's the end of September."



COHSE members protest against privatisation in Liverpool

Photo: Militant

Outrage at AHA privatisation meeting

THERE WAS uproar at the Northumberland Area Health Authority meeting last week when health workers demonstrated against privatisation plans.

The meeting was to discuss private contracts for domestic services at Northgate hospital, including an 'in-house' tender. There was widespread anger when it was discovered that the 'in-house' tender would be worse for domestics than the proposals offered by

private contractors.

Northgate domestic Irene Boden said: "Morale is very low at the hospital. None of us want to work for contractors, although very few of us will even get the chance—they want to cut staff from 54 to 29."

A demonstration and lobby of the AHA meeting was organised by the unions and the Northumberland Campaign Against Privatisation (NORCAP), made up of delegates from Trade

Unions, Labour Party and LPYS branches.

At the AHA meeting there was uproar when the authority chairman introduced the issue and then tried to move straight to a vote—health workers saw their jobs and conditions being 'discussed' in a matter of seconds. After jeering and chanting, the chairman then allowed only five minutes discussion, but then moved on to next business, making the original vote

stand. There was so much outrage and anger the AHA walked out. The healthworkers took their chairs and worked out a strategy to defend their jobs. Twenty year old Julie Shephard, a member of the LPYS and the shop steward at Northgate who led the strike said: "I am absolutely disgusted at what I have seen today. These people have treated us with absolute contempt."

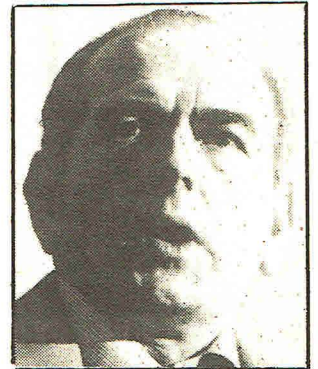
By Mary Murphy
(Secretary, Wansbeck
LPYS)

Mardy miners struggle goes on

"INDUSTRIAL blackmail" is how Emlyn Williams, President of the South Wales NUM, described the Mardy Colliery survival plan to link the pit with neighbouring Tower Colliery, at the Mardy NUM General Meeting last Saturday.

An agreement was reached by the NUM South Wales Area and the NCB on the proposed link-up in January 1984, before the 12 month strike. The NCB then shelved the link-up plan in an attempt to demoralise the workforce in one of the most militant pits in South Wales. Now it has re-introduced the plan, trying to force more redundancies. The link-up would mean all mineral being brought to the surface at the Tower end and the closure of the Mardy washery.

In an act of sheer dishonesty, the NCB announced to the media that a number of surface redundancies had been agreed at Mardy, when in fact any redundancies are still subject to negotiation. The number of redundancies proposed by the NCB in January 1984 was approximately 200—but recent NCB proposals put the figure at 400.



Emlyn Williams, President South Wales NUM

● Miners at the Prince of Wales Colliery in Yorkshire are on strike. Last Friday the night shift struck against management's proposals to use contractors for tunnelling work. Management refused to talk to the union until the shift returned to work. However, when the night shift returned a man who broke the Friday strike was deployed with them, but they refused to work with him and went out again. On Tuesday the day shift came out in support. As one of the day shift miners put it: "It's not so much the issues involved as us showing solidarity with the night shift".

Brixton DHSS action

BRIXTON SOCIAL security staff are taking industrial action against management's attempts to undermine union policy.

Fifty members of staff, members of the civil service unions CPSA and SCPS, are taking action and on Monday they were joined by another 350 civil service staff who walked out at Camberwell, Peckham, Streatham, Battersea, Balham, Bloomsbury and Westminster offices.

The action was taken after management at-

tempted to introduce overtime to clear a backlog of claims, without consulting the unions. There has been no overtime worked at Brixton for eight years, nor casual labour used for five years. The unions point out that the overtime would give management the ability to sack staff and that the only real way to clear the backlog is to employ more workers.

By Duncan Corrie
(Brixton DHSS)

Militant

Labour left moves right



See centre pages

Workers fight Apartheid

Militant Public Meeting.
"South Africa—How can apartheid be smashed?"
Tuesday 18 June. 7.30 Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1.
Admission 50p.
Speakers: Dave Nellist MP, speaker from Inquaba (Marxist wing of ANC), Lynn Walsh (Militant), David Hemson (socialist recently deported from Zimbabwe).

TENS OF thousands will be marching through London on Sunday to express their solidarity with South African workers. The police shootings in black townships and the treason charges against leaders of the United Democratic Front have aroused the anger of workers throughout the world.

By Pat Craven

Faced with the prospect of economic sanctions by American big business, President Botha has pretended to carry out "reforms". How empty these are is revealed by the report on wages in the Qwa Qwa "homeland" in *The Observer* (9 June 1985). Workers there are being paid as little as £5.54 a week, less than a fifth of the minimum wage which is supposed to apply in South Africa.

Qwa Qwa is officially an "independent" state, not part of South Africa and therefore exempt from its industrial relations laws. Just how independent is shown by the fact that 95 per cent of these starvation wages is paid as a subsidy by the South African government, which also pays the employers 75 per cent of the rent for their factories.

In some cases the wages are held down so low that they are entirely covered by the subsidy. Some firms are paying as little as £1,000 month for a labour force of 500. White factory managers are paid £275 a week, 50 times as much as the black workers.

Black workers are fighting back against their virtual slavery. A wave of strikes

has swept through the mines. In April, Anglovaal and Anglo American sacked 18,000 miners, but were forced to re-instate the majority. The SANUM is fighting for a 40 per cent wage rise.

School students and unemployed young people have been demonstrating in the streets of the black townships, despite the risk of being shot by the police. A powerful trade union movement is being forged in the heat of class struggle.

Build links

Solidarity in the form of direct links between trade unionists of every country with their comrades in South Africa is now crucial. More is required than pious condemnations of racism and Apartheid. Political and material support is needed for those fighting the capitalist system which has bred Apartheid.

American and European big business want to force their South African colleagues to abandon Apartheid in order to save capitalism from the in-



Last year's massive demonstration against Botha's visit to Britain.

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

evitable retribution from the workers it has enslaved. For the international labour movement, the alternative is not a non-racial form of capitalist exploitation, but the socialist transformation of South Africa by the workers, to rid society of all the human misery which both capitalism and Apartheid have inflicted on it.

**Fight apartheid
Fight capitalism
See page 10**

Supplies of *Militant* will be available from 11am Sunday 16 June at the *Militant* stall and banner in Jubilee Gardens, near County Hall, London.

LPYS in Luxembourg

MEMBERS OF the Labour Party Young Socialists received a tremendous welcome at the recent International Union of Socialist Youth festival in Luxembourg. Their Marxist ideas and infectious enthusiasm won support and friendship from all corners of Europe.

Except from one small corner. John Mann, representing the National Organisation of Labour Students, told the Labour Party's Youth sub-

committee on Tuesday that he was "concerned about the contribution of the LPYS throughout the festival."

Ovation

"Delegates from the LPYS" he said, "sold the *Militant* newspaper, staffed a stall with *Militant* literature and organised a *Militant* fringe meeting with *Voran*, their West German counterpart. We were extremely concerned that Frances Curran, LPYS representative on the NEC, was a platform speaker at this meeting."

He omits to point out that Frances Curran received a

standing ovation at the festival. In contrast, the NOLS representatives played no part in the political discussions. One was even seen taking photos of people from the LPYS. Was that the only purpose of their visit?

Discussion of Mann's statement was put off until the next Youth sub-committee on 9 July. All sections of the Party should let that meeting know how well the LPYS intervened in Luxembourg and how angry they are at these carping criticisms.

By a Militant reporter



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